

Humanity 341

Chapter 341 Harvest

"Senior Brother, don't rush off. It's rare for you to come back; I have some matters I want to consult with you about."

Li Baxian laughed, raised his hand to touch his battlefield marking, "Just message me at any time."

"It seems that Second Senior Sister has made a lot of delicious food."

"I haven't visited the old man for a long time. Now that I'm back, I should go see him."

With that, Li Baxian stepped towards the direction of Heaven's Augury Hall.

Lu Ye gave Hua Ci a look, and Hua Ci led Yiyi and Giant Armor to follow him.

Shortly after, they used the Heaven's Augury Pillar to return to the Nine Provinces sect headquarters.

Lu Ye stayed behind and pressed his hand against the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

After spending so much time running around and fighting outside, the time to reap the rewards from the blessings plundered through the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge augment had finally arrived.

This kind of plundered blessing could only be converted into a corresponding amount of sect merit at one's own Heaven's Augury Pillar. With the experience of the Chess Sea, Lu Ye was very familiar with this process.

With the authority of a Governor, he checked the number of sect merits on the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

There were just over two thousand points.

Currently, the only type of enhancement on the Righteous Blood Sect's Heaven's Augury Pillar was the one that increased the local Spiritual Energy. There were nineteen paths of this enhancement, and each one could improve the local Spiritual Energy by ten percent. Taking into account the ten percent increase provided by the Heaven's Augury Pillar itself, the Spiritual Energy within the Righteous Blood Sect's base was now double that of the outside world.

If the concentration of Spiritual Energy in the wild was one, then the concentration within the Righteous Blood Sect's base was three.

Lu Ye used to think that the nature's Spiritual Energy in the Righteous Blood Sect's base was fairly rich, but after visiting the bases of various big sects, he realized that the Spiritual Energy here was actually nothing special.

With a thought, the enhancements that had been plundered into his battlefield marking shattered one after another, turning into specks of light that fell into the Heaven's Augury Pillar. For a moment, the entire pillar was surrounded by a swarm of fireflies, a sight that was quite beautiful.

And the number representing the sect merits within the Heaven's Augury Pillar also changed at an exaggeratedly fast rate.

Fifty thousand, one hundred thousand, two hundred thousand, five hundred thousand, one million, two million, three million...

Lu Ye didn't know if other people's Heaven's Augury Pillars stored such an exaggerated amount of sect merits, but surely no sect in either the outer circle or even the inner circle had such a terrifying number. As for the Core Circle, that was uncertain.

Calculating based on the value of a typical Level 9 cultivator being nine merits, three million merits is a staggering concept. It meant that with Lu Ye's current cultivation, he would have to kill exactly three hundred thirty-three thousand three hundred thirty-three people...

That number is quite horrifying. Although Lu Ye had also killed quite a few people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, he was far from even a fraction of that number.

Of course, the sources of merit are not limited to just killing enemies. Dealing with the Insect Plague also earned merits, as did selling items to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, along with other less common methods.

But for the general populace, killing enemies is the most common way to obtain merits.

The number of sect merits finally settled at over three million and one hundred thousand.

Having such an exaggerated number was not considered outrageous since the first Allied Forces led by Lu Ye had broken through over a hundred different Ten Thousand Demons Ridge powers' bases. Aside from the first three where Lu Ye did not partake in the plunder, he had a share from every single one of the rest.

Since the Allied Forces were rallied by Lu Ye, his share exceeded that of everyone else, at least ten percent, sometimes even five percent.

The sects in the inner circle had been developing for many years, and the number of enhancements on their Heaven's Augury Pillars was enormously vast. Hence, the bounty from such plundering could not be meager.

The number of bases broken by the second Allied Forces was fewer, but there were still twenty to thirty.

Especially the last battle at Golden Clouds Tower, where he monopolized all the enhancements.

With these small accumulations adding up, such an exaggerated harvest was possible.

He had worked hard for so long, and even when he heard that discussions for a ceasefire between the two Divine Sea Realm powers had begun, he fervently started to carve out a second battlefield, all for this moment.

It was enough, with plenty to spare.

Lu Ye did not rush to increase the sect's nature's Spiritual Energy. Instead, he used his authority as Governor to grant himself a monthly salary.

Previously, he thought the amount of one's monthly salary was related to the total number of sect merits and could not exceed ten percent of the total. But later, he realized it also related to one's personal contributions. Without sufficient personal contributions, no matter how plentiful the sect merits were, it would be impossible to get any significant benefit.

That was why issuing his and Hua Ci's monthly salary had been so smooth before because they had earned those merits together in the Chess Sea.

With over three million and one hundred thousand merits, the maximum monthly salary he could issue was three hundred ten thousand. With a thought, the battlefield marking on the back of his hand immediately heated up and grew hot, as if a branding iron were pressed against his skin.

This heat came quickly and left just as fast, disappearing in an instant.

Lu Ye checked his personal merits to confirm he had received the three hundred ten thousand before he began to increase the Spiritual Energy of his base.

The more enhancements bought on the Heaven's Augury Pillar, the higher the cost, with each path costing five hundred more merits than the previous one. Lu Ye only needed five hundred merits to purchase the first enhancement, but now he would need ten thousand to buy another.

The proportion of increased Spiritual Energy remained the same, so in the later stages of base development, to increase the nature's Spiritual Energy concentration, the cost in merits is extremely substantial. It can even be said that the development of the base is like a bottomless pit.

Lu Ye didn't care and directly spent his sect's merit to start buying, his remaining two million seven hundred and seventy-nine thousand merits decreased at a visibly rapid pace, while the Heaven's Augury Pillar twisted and changed continuously, emitting a dense series of crackling sounds within.

Inside the stationed area, cultivators of the Righteous Blood Sect were still immersed in the joy of Lu Ye's triumphant return when suddenly the heavens and earth began to change.

For some reason, the spiritual energy of heaven and earth throughout the stationed area became extremely abnormal. Before the cultivators could investigate this anomaly, the sky above the stationed area became stormy, followed rapidly by the formation of large expanses of dark clouds.

The dark clouds, like thick cotton, blocked out the sunlight shining from the sky, as if a shadowy behemoth was slowly pressing down from the heavens.

A sense of oppressiveness that made their hearts pound in fear caused the disciples of the Righteous Blood Sect to panic, and what made them even more terrified was that the already thick dark clouds were still becoming denser and thicker.

Guk Yang, the Deputy Governor, hurried out from his residence, looked up, and realized the situation was grim. While swiftly sending a message to Lu Ye, he took out the jade cluster to control the big array and hurriedly dismantled it.

No matter what this anomaly was, if they didn't dismantle the protective array, once those dark clouds descended, the big array would likely collapse.

A moment later, he rushed into the Heaven's Augury Hall and said urgently, "Fifth Senior Brother, something's wrong. You need to go out and see."

Lu Ye, who had been buying enchantments and was becoming somewhat impatient, turned his head, "Hm?"

"There are some strange phenomena in the sky."

Lu Ye frowned, flashed out of the Heaven's Augury Hall, and after looking up for a moment, gestured to Guk Yang, "It's nothing."

He then went back into the Heaven's Augury Hall and continued buying enchantments.

Guk Yang was somewhat dumbfounded. How could such an obvious celestial phenomenon, which resembled the coming of the apocalypse, be nothing?

But if Fifth Senior Brother said it was nothing, then perhaps it was... nothing?

While he comforted the sect's cultivators, he entered the Heaven's Augury Hall and immediately heard the dense crackling sound.

Slowly approaching Lu Ye, he asked doubtfully, "Fifth Senior Brother, what are you doing?"

He had been an independent cultivator previously and hadn't been the Deputy Governor for long, so naturally, he was clueless about this.

"Here, you try buying, get familiar with it," Lu Ye lifted his hand, gesturing for Guk Yang to take his place.

Guk Yang did as told, and upon checking the numbers representing the sect's merit on the Heaven's Augury Pillar, his eyes nearly popped out.

He couldn't believe it and counted again, making sure he hadn't seen incorrectly.

Turning to look at Lu Ye, he seemed to seek confirmation.

"Buy!"

"Oh," Guk Yang immediately got to it.

Crackle...

Once again, the Heaven's Augury Pillar emitted a dense series of sounds from within.

Lu Ye also placed his hand on the Heaven's Augury Pillar, his mind connecting to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, and with a thought, he soon found what he wanted.

It was an elixir pill that could only be bought within the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, even the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union did not have it in stock. Each pill was worth an astonishing one hundred and fifty thousand merits!

He had previously checked this elixir pill and was shocked by its high price, thinking that it would be difficult for him to gather enough merit to buy it. His plan was to accumulate merit over time until he had enough, but his journey to the inner circle had allowed him to accumulate sufficient capital quickly.

Thanks to those sects stationed at Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, whose bases had been breached!

In the treasure vault of Heaven's Augury, there were not many of these elixir pills, totaling only eight. According to what Second Senior Sister had said, when she had been at the Spirit Stream battlefield, there were over thirty of these pills. However, as time passed and more people bought them from here, their number gradually decreased.

No one knew where these elixir pills had come from because no one in the Nine Provinces could refine them.

There were many such treasures within the Heaven's Augury treasure vault that were difficult for Nine Provinces cultivators to obtain or refine. Some speculated that these items were remnants of the previous era's cultivation world, so these treasures were being depleted as they were used.

With each elixir pill costing one hundred and fifty thousand merits, Lu Ye didn't even blink as he directly purchased two pills.

The abundant merit he originally possessed shrunk dramatically, leaving only a small amount, but even this small amount was more than ten thousand.

Withdrawing his mind, he now had two ancient-looking wooden boxes in his hand, their age indeterminable. Lu Ye opened them to check the elixir pills inside to make sure they weren't damaged before he carefully stored them away.

"Fifth Senior Brother, I can't buy any more," Guk Yang's voice came.

Lu Ye placed his hand on the Heaven's Augury Pillar, checking the sect's merit. From an original two million seven hundred and seventy-nine thousand merits, only four hundred thousand remained.

But the enchantments on the Heaven's Augury Pillar amounted to an incredible ninety-nine!

Lu Ye attempted to buy more and found, just as Guk Yang had said, that he could no longer make any more purchases.

"Ninety-nine enchantments really are the limit," Lu Ye raised an eyebrow. He had heard from Li Baxian that the enchantment limit for a big sect's Heaven's Augury Pillar in the outer circle should be ninety-nine, but throughout history, no outer circle big sect had ever achieved this level of enchantment on their Heaven's Augury Pillar. Therefore, whether ninety-nine indeed was the limit, no one could say for sure.

Chapter 342 Tenfold Increase

The crackling sounds continued to emanate from the Heaven's Augury Pillar, and above the sect's encampment, the heavy clouds bore down so thickly that the entire encampment began to darken.

Everyone looked up, and although there was still some unease in their hearts, since Guk Yang had already soothed his cultivators, there was not much panic.

The moment the sounds from within the Heaven's Augury Pillar ceased, the dense clouds suddenly sank lower, and from a distance, it looked as if a massive wad of cotton had crashed down upon the Righteous Blood Sect's encampment.

Gale-force winds arose, causing the disciples to squint their eyes.

When the clouds dispersed and the sun shone through once more, the nature's spiritual energy within the entire encampment underwent a revolutionary change.

Being extremely sensitive to such changes, the cultivators let out cries of astonishment throughout the encampment, and all the disciples wore looks of disbelief.

Because the nature's spiritual energy within the encampment had suddenly become much denser.

Previously, the enhancement from the Heaven's Augury Pillar was only at 19th Dao, but now it reached 99th Dao, making the disparity with the outside world's spiritual energy concentration a full tenfold.

This change was exceedingly obvious.

The disciples cheered and jumped for joy, for they all came from backgrounds as independent cultivators, with no fixed abode, clinging to the outskirts of the Righteous Blood Sect's marketplace. It was only after Lu Ye arrived at the encampment that he took them under his wing, allowing them to enjoy the treatment and privileges that normal cultivators were entitled to.

Not long ago, when the spiritual energy of the encampment had been enhanced, all the disciples were thrilled, because this meant that the efficiency of their cultivation would also increase.

Now, the increase was even more exaggerated, soaring from a twofold difference to tenfold.

Everyone knew that the good days had come.

Even if their talents were not exceptional, practicing cultivation in such an environment meant their efficiency would not falter compared to cultivators from other sects.

While the disciples of the encampment were celebrating, Lu Ye had already used the Heaven's Augury Pillar to return to the Nine Provinces sect headquarters.

The encampment was bustling, but the atmosphere at the sect headquarters was still desolate, for the Righteous Blood Sect currently had very few official disciples. Aside from the few that Hua Ci had originally brought over, only a handful of people like Guk Yang and He Xiyang had been added, most of whom spent their time cultivating in the encampment and seldom returned to headquarters.

Lu Ye first went to pay his respects to the sect master and listened to the sect master's teachings.

"This time, the matter in the inner circle has become such a big deal. The two Divine Sea Realm cultivators have already agreed on terms, and Ten Thousand Demons Ridge will compensate us with some items as a condition for you to back off. You should avoid going out for a while and stay out of the limelight," the sect master said.

"Yes," Lu Ye responded, then asked, "Sect master, does this mean I should no longer freely break through other sects' encampment arrays in the future?"

"Who said that?"

"Didn't you say that the two Divine Sea Realm cultivators have already agreed on terms?"

"That was the condition for you to back off this time. After backing off, can't you emerge again? However, everything will have to wait until the compensation from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge is in place. Moreover, if the recent incident in the inner circle were to happen again, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge would not let it go without a fight with the Haotian Alliance. They have already suffered such a big loss and will not allow a similar event to occur. Therefore, in your future actions, you must find the right balance—do not provoke Ten Thousand Demons Ridge too much. If we really push them to the brink, neither Ten Thousand Demons Ridge nor the Haotian Alliance will fare well," the sect master explained.

After pondering for a moment, Lu Ye said, "I understand, master."

The sect master's intention was clear: Lu Ye could still use his own methods to take over the encampments of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge in the future, but it was best not to involve thousands or even tens of thousands of Haotian Alliance troops as he did this time, as it could easily trigger a backlash from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

"Then I will take my leave," Lu Ye said.

"Yiye."

Lu Ye turned around.

The sect master looked at him with a smile: "Having you join Evil Moon Valley back then was fortune for this old man, and a blessing for the Righteous Blood Sect."

Lu Ye bowed deeply, "It has also been a blessing for this disciple."

"Go on," the sect master said.

Looking back, Lu Ye realized that being able to smoothly join the Righteous Blood Sect was part luck, and in part due to Pang Dahai. It was Dahai's detailed explanations and covert guidance that day that led Lu Ye to decide to join the Righteous Blood Sect.

Back in Evil Moon Valley, it seemed like Pang Dahai was being deliberately cryptic, but now it seemed that his intentions were truly benevolent. Moreover, since he was the nephew of Pang Zhen, the Deputy Leader of the Haotian Alliance, and a disciple of the Righteousness Sect, in hindsight, it was clear that he did not wish to see the Righteous Blood Sect removed from the Alliance, which is why he had subtly pointed Lu Ye towards joining the Righteous Blood Sect, to help ensure its survival.

If the opportunity arose, he must go to express his gratitude.

Every time Lu Ye returned from an outing, Shui Yuan would prepare a feast of delicious foods, and this time was no exception.

At the dining table, everyone feasted heartily, especially Giant Armor, who had never experienced such delicious medicinal cuisine. Once he sat at the table, he did not stop, eating so much that he nearly swallowed his tongue.

He was of a reticent nature, and even though he had been following Lu Ye for a while, he had a laid-back attitude toward everything and did not pay much attention to others. But at this moment, he held Shui Yuan in the utmost respect.

Lu Ye and Li Baxian clinked their glasses, as the Fourth Disciple glanced uneasily at Shui Yuan, only to realize that Second Senior Sister was not paying him any heed, which allowed him to let loose all at once.

There was wine, and they drank heartily until they were slightly tipsy.

After the meal, everyone went their separate ways.

On Moon Lake, Lu Ye and Li Baxian floated at the center of the lake on a boat, each with a fishing rod in front of them, engaged in fishing.

Yiyi was brewing tea beside them, the fragrance filling the air.

Fishing wasn't something Lu Ye was good at—he usually just caught fish by diving into the lake. However, his fourth senior brother was quite skilled in this area and particularly enjoyed the feeling of angling.

Every time he returned, he would inevitably come to Moon Lake to fish for Blood Red Trout.

"Blood Red Trout can be considered a cultivation resource of our sect. Have I ever told you that these spirit fish are used for disciples' body refining?"

"You have."

"Every disciple has a certain quota, but as a kid, who understood these things? Whenever I craved it, it was always the first senior brother or second senior sister who would bring me here to catch one. Sometimes we did it without anyone noticing, and other times the old man would find out, and I'd get an inevitable thrashing. That's why I particularly disliked the old man when I was young. But now that I think about it... with the old man's cultivation in the Divine Sea Realm, there wasn't much within the

sect that could be hidden from him. The things I thought were done without his knowledge, in reality, he simply couldn't be bothered to care. And whenever I was punished, it was the first senior brother and second senior sister protecting me."

"The First Senior Brother... what kind of person is he?"

Li Baxian fell silent for a moment before saying, "Like you, he was a prodigious talent. But he was different from you, remaining obscure while in the Spirit Stream Realm. It was only when he reached the later stages of the Cloud River Realm that he suddenly showed his extraordinary talent, and then he advanced to True Lake and Divine Sea at an incredibly fast speed, pushing the Righteous Blood Sect to the top tier of sects. However... success and failure both lay with him. Little junior brother, you're growing up in a far harsher environment than we did, and you will face even greater dangers. Therefore, I hope you remember one thing, don't ever follow in the first senior brother's footsteps."

Lu Ye nodded, "I won't."

Yiyi served two cups of tea and sat quietly beside them, watching the float bob up and down in the center of the lake.

"Did you notice anything different about second senior sister this time you came back?" Li Baxian suddenly asked.

Lu Ye thought for a moment, then said, "She hasn't been nagging you about drinking?"

Li Baxian chuckled wryly, "When she's in a good mood, she nags less." He looked around, then spoke in a low voice, "Second Senior Sister has ascended to Divine Sea."

Lu Ye was stunned!

Before he arrived at the Righteous Blood Sect, the entire sect had only two people, the sect master and second senior sister, one in the Divine Sea Realm and one in True Lake. If it wasn't for the high esteem of the Righteous Blood Sect in the past, it would have been delisted long ago.

Now that the second senior sister had also ascended to Divine Sea, the Righteous Blood Sect had two strong cultivators in the Divine Sea Realm. Shui Yuan's ascension at this time probably had something to do with the Soul Cleansing Water he had provided her earlier.

However, when speaking of it, the personnel structure of the Righteous Blood Sect had some gaps. Below the two Divine Sea Realm powerhouses, there wasn't even a True Lake, let alone a Cloud River.

The development of the sect was a long and arduous task.

"The news hasn't spread yet, so only a few of us know about it."

As they talked, Li Baxian suddenly pulled his rod, and a dark red Blood Red Trout leapt out of the water. Yiyi clapped her hands excitedly by the side, her cheeks flushed with excitement as if she was the one who had caught the fish.

Lu Ye also pulled his rod, but ended up catching only loneliness.

Li Baxian laughed, "Fishing may seem simple, but it really tests one's patience and also requires seizing those fleeting opportunities. Little Junior Brother, don't be too hasty in some matters; just let them take their natural course."

He obviously saw something, and said meaningfully, "The development of a sect isn't dependent on one person alone. The first senior brother is a lesson from the past, which is why I said not to follow in his footsteps."

"Understood."

"The reason you asked me to stay wasn't just to have dinner, was it? Was there something else?"

"I wanted to ask Brother for guidance on the Weapon Control Technique. I heard that brother can control a hundred swords. Is it true or not?"

"What do you think?" Li Baxian countered instead of answering.

"It sounds exaggerated," Lu Ye replied honestly, because his psychic power far surpassed cultivators of the same level, which is why he could make such a comment.

In terms of psychic power, Lu Ye was confident that he was superior to Li Baxian, but even at his own current limit, he probably couldn't control ten Spiritual Artifacts, let alone a hundred swords—it was simply too terrifying.

"I didn't expect that Senior Brother would be underestimated by me," Li Baxian laughed, then suddenly patted the gourd at his waist.

When the mouth of the gourd opened, the ringing sound of swords filled the air, and behind Li Baxian, streaks of Liu Guang floated, the afterglow of the setting sun casting colorful lights on them, creating a beautiful sight.

Lu Ye looked over and was shocked.

The rumors... were actually true.

With his cultivation at the 8th Heaven, Li Baxian could control a hundred swords!

"How did you do that?" Lu Ye was very puzzled.

"I'll teach you."

Moments later, by the shore of Moon Lake, Lu Ye and Li Baxian stood forty zhang apart, attacking each other with controlled weapons, the clanging and clinking sounds incessant. As they exchanged blows, Li Baxian's voice intermittently reached Lu Ye's ears.

In the center of the lake, in the small boat, Yiyi tended to the two fishing rods, now and then pulling this one up, then that one, busy all the while, yet without catching a single fish, puffing her cheeks out in frustration.

She looked around,

Chapter 343 Gifts

By dawn, Li Baxian had left.

One night's teaching had reaped great rewards for Lu Ye, who finally understood the secret of how his Fourth Senior Brother was able to control hundreds of weapons with his 8th Heaven cultivation.

Only when he truly understood did Lu Ye realize that Li Baxian's method of weapon control didn't entirely suit him, as it required some innate talents that he lacked.

However, learning from others can help one improve, and this night's teaching was enough to elevate Lu Ye's Weapon Control Path by one level.

In mid-air, a sword light streaked across the majestic peak; Li Baxian headed towards the rising sun, controlling his sword, his hand clutching a storage sack.

This was given to him by Lu Ye before he left, claiming it was a gift he was bringing along.

As a gift from his Junior Brother, he naturally had no reason to refuse and accepted it graciously.

The storage sack had no restriction lock, so Li Baxian easily opened it, reached inside, and pulled out a bottle.

The bottle was sealed and had a label attached to it. Li Baxian looked down, and his expression shifted subtly when he saw the three bold characters written there.

Soul Cleansing Water!

Li Baxian's eyelids twitched. Having cultivated for so many years, he naturally knew what Soul Cleansing Water was and was also aware that Second Senior Sister Shui Yuan's rapid promotion to the Divine Sea Realm was related to the Soul Cleansing Water that their Junior Brother had given her.

But he hadn't expected that he would have a share of such a treasure!

How much Soul Cleansing Water had his Junior Brother managed to produce?

After opening the bottle and checking it, he found it was half-filled with Soul Cleansing Water. The distinct smell that entered his nose immediately gave him a refreshing sensation, and his perception became a bit clearer.

Such a half bottle of Soul Cleansing Water contained at least over a dozen drops. Such a treasure was extremely attractive to strong cultivators in the Divine Sea Realm.

This gift was indeed too precious.

Lu Ye had brought out about three and a half bottles of Soul Cleansing Water from Xianyuan City. After using a few drops from one bottle, he had given the rest to Shui Yuan.

The other half bottle, apart from what was given to Bai Qian, was used up in the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

Two bottles remained; one was given to Yiyi. Since Yiyi was a Spiritual Body, the Soul Cleansing Water had the best effect on her. With her cultivation improving over time, she could use it slowly to gradually strengthen her psyche force.

The last bottle was divided into two parts by Lu Ye, one half of which was in Li Baxian's hands, and the rest was kept by Lu Ye for emergencies.

With that, the Soul Cleansing Water he had brought from Xianyuan City had been clearly distributed.

Holding the Soul Cleansing Water in his hand, Li Baxian shook his head and chuckled, realizing that his Junior Brother had given it to him in a storage sack, especially to avoid his possible refusal.

He solemnly stored the Soul Cleansing Water and discovered that there was still something else in the storage sack.

Pulling it out, his expression suddenly became serious when he saw that it was two very antique wooden boxes.

He had seen this kind of wooden box before—more than once!

As he often checked the remaining quantity of such items in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, he had witnessed these treasures, available only in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, gradually dwindle until recently only eight were left, which he could not afford to buy.

Even with Li Baxian's calm disposition, holding the two wooden boxes, his hands couldn't help trembling slightly.

If this item was indeed what he had been watching in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, then its value was immense. Compared to the half bottle of Soul Cleansing Water, these two wooden boxes were what he needed the most.

After taking a deep breath, he opened one of the wooden boxes and saw a well-preserved, sealed elixir pill inside. He checked the other box and found the same thing.

Li Baxian's sword light halted, feeling the weight in his hands, both literally and figuratively heavy.

He confirmed that these were indeed the treasures he had often paid attention to in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault.

Orifice repair pill!

As the name implies, this elixir's function was to repair damaged spiritual orifices.

A cultivator's spiritual orifice could be repaired if damaged; it's just that the cost of repair was far too great. An orifice repair pill was valued at 150,000 merits, a price unaffordable for most.

That was why, after Dong Shuye's spiritual orifice was damaged, he had become dejected, knowing that with his abilities, he would never be able to repair the damage in his lifetime.

Li Baxian's prolonged stagnation at the Spirit Stream Realm for over a decade was due to his damaged spiritual orifice.

Was it that he couldn't ascend to the Cloud River Realm?

It is not so. After a cultivator switches to cultivating a Heaven Rank technique, they can choose to advance to the Cloud River Realm. In other words, the lowest requirement for a cultivator to ascend to the Cloud River Realm is to open two hundred and forty orifices.

However, advancing to the Cloud River Realm in this manner can greatly impact one's strength and one's future potential will not be very great.

Therefore, in the inner circle of the battlefield, one can still see some old cultivators of the Spirit Stream Realm who are of advanced age, but in the Core Circle, such individuals are basically unseen. This is because those who mix in the Core Circle have all switched to cultivating Heaven Rank techniques, and upon reaching a certain age and having opened two hundred and forty orifices, they almost always choose to advance to the Cloud River Realm.

The Nine Provinces cultivation world once conducted a statistic: those who advance to the Cloud River Realm with less than three hundred orifices have only a thirty percent probability of advancing to the True Lake Realm later on, and there is absolutely no chance for them to advance to the Divine Sea Realm. For those above three hundred orifices, the probability to advance to the True Lake Realm is as high as seventy percent, and there's a certain chance to achieve the Divine Sea Realm.

If one can advance to the Cloud River with three hundred and sixty orifices, then as long as one does not fall midway, the chances of advancing to the Divine Sea Realm are as high as eighty percent!

Li Baxian merely had one spiritual orifice destroyed, the other three hundred and fifty-nine orifices had long been opened. If he wanted to, he could have ascended to the Cloud River Realm long ago.

The reason he did not ascend was mainly due to his unwillingness.

After all, he was once a prodigy of the Nine Provinces, with 8th Heaven cultivation controlling a hundred weapons, holding the third position on the Spirit Stream Ranking. How could Li Baxian be willing to advance to the Cloud River Realm in such an imperfect state, reducing his future potential?

For more than a decade, he had been accumulating his own merits, and the number of one hundred and fifty thousand was not far off.

His only concern was that the orifice repair pills would sell out before he accumulated enough merits.

Now, all his worries had vanished because he had already obtained two orifice repair pills in his possession—and not just one, but two!

With a value of a full three hundred thousand merits, it was a tremendously large number. With these two orifice repair pills in hand, he was completely confident in repairing his damaged spiritual orifice and ascending to the Cloud River Realm in the most perfect condition. As for the years he awaited, he could completely make up for them with his talent and speed of cultivation.

For a time, Li Baxian was overwhelmed with emotion. He never expected that the so-called gift from Lu Ye would be so precious.

Whether it was the Soul Cleansing Water or the orifice repair pill, any one of these was worth a city's ransom and certainly not something that a cultivator of the Spirit Stream Realm could offer.

After some thought, he raised his hand and touched his battlefield marking to send out a message: "Junior brother, thank you!"

In the Loyal Heart Sect headquarters, Lu Ye, who was discussing the sect development plan with Shui Yuan, checked the message and smiled faintly. He did not reply, nor did he need to reply. There was no need for such formalities between brothers.

"I noticed that there were two less orifice repair pills in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault just now, was it you who bought them?" Shui Yuan suddenly asked.

"Yes, didn't Senior Sister say before that due to Fourth Senior Brother's spiritual orifice being damaged for too long, one orifice repair pill might not be sufficient? So, I bought two."

When Lu Ye first heard that his Fourth Senior Brother, with 8th Heaven cultivation, had been in the Spirit Stream battlefield for more than a decade, he was quite surprised. After some inquiry, he learned of Li Baxian's damaged spiritual orifice.

This was not a secret. One could easily find out by asking around.

Later, during a casual chat with Shui Yuan, he mentioned it, and she told him that there were elixir pills in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault that could repair spiritual orifices, but they were incredibly expensive. If Li Baxian were still with the Righteous Blood Sect, the sect would have used all of its resources to help him, but things at his current Loyal Heart Sect were complicated. He couldn't get any help from outside, and it was even difficult to accumulate merits, which was why Li Baxian had not gathered enough merits to buy an orifice repair pill all these years.

At that point, Lu Ye became determined.

He remembered how his Senior Sister stood under the punishment of the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning on top of Golden Light Peak, arriving in time to save his life, and how his Senior Brother used Sword Control from the Core Circle to protect him completely.

Even then, while Li Baxian was still accumulating his own merits, he did not hesitate at all in front of powerful enemies, despite the fact that killing cultivators from the outer circle would deduct a lot of merits for someone with his 8th Heaven cultivation.

Lu Ye still remembered that originally, Weh Ying had warned Li Baxian to be careful not to deplete all his merits with his kills.

Prior to that, Lu Ye had never met either Shui Yuan or Li Baxian. They had simply protected him at great cost because he bore the name of a Righteous Blood Sect disciple.

It was at that time that Lu Ye knew he had people behind him and that he would no longer be alone.

It was then, too, that Lu Ye realized that in the vast cultivation world, he now had a home.

Since Li Baxian's spiritual orifice had been damaged for too long and one orifice repair pill might not suffice, then buy two! What counted the merits spent.

That was also why Lu Ye had been eager to accumulate merits because the amount he needed was so immense. Originally, he planned to slowly accumulate them while seeking vengeance in the inner circle.

But breakthroughs in the Array Path and techniques for array destruction had given him a way to rapidly accumulate merits. That, too, could be considered a stroke of luck.

"You've worked hard," Shui Yuan said, her head lowered so that her expression could not be seen.

Just like Li Baxian, she often kept track of the remaining quantity of orifice repair pills and would not have noticed their depletion had she not been paying attention.

"We're family," Lu Ye shook his head, then changed the subject, "Senior Sister, about the matter I mentioned just now, can it be done? If the sect wants to grow, we definitely can't do it with just the people we have now. Currently, most of the sect disciples come from independent cultivators with not-so-great aptitude. Their future achievements are mostly limited. The sect needs to continuously replenish new blood, especially those disciples with outstanding talents. Only then can our sect have enough cultivators in the Cloud River and True Lake Realms in the future."

"You're right," Shui Yuan nodded in agreement, "I'll take care of it. Let's organize a grand disciple recruitment ceremony. In the past few decades, the Righteous Blood Sect has not taken in new disciples. Every time there are some with decent aptitude in the vicinity, they end up benefiting other sects."

"Then I'll leave this to Senior Sister." As he spoke, Lu Ye took out several storage sacks and handed them to Shui Yuan, "These are spoils of war from when we took over the forces of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Senior Sister, see to their disposition. The sect will need a lot of resources for development, and the disciples' cultivation expenses won't be small."

Chapter 344 Residency Planning

Before, when various factions occupied the outposts of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, the only gains in the late stages were the enhancements from the Heaven's Augury Pillar, because no power under Ten Thousand Demons Ridge dared to resist when the Haotian Alliance's allied forces attacked. They all evacuated early, and whatever could be taken from the outpost was taken; whatever couldn't be removed was destroyed on the spot.

However, in the early stages, there were still quite a few battles.

Where there were battles, there were casualties, and where there were casualties, there were spoils of war, along with some supplies confiscated after taking over an outpost.

Lu Ye didn't take much of these spoils, because most of them were used to compensate the sects of the cultivators who had died in battle.

Yet even so, the accumulations from each instance were quite substantial.

The most valuable among them were several complete sets of protective arrays—acquiring these from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault would cost over ten thousand merits, and naturally, selling them would not be cheap.

The sect needed to develop, disciples needed to cultivate, and cultivation required Spirit Stones and elixir pills.

Considering the current output from the Righteous Blood Sect's station, it could just barely meet the basic cultivation needs of the disciples; if they had more elixir pills and Spirit Stones, the disciples could cultivate faster.

Especially now, when the nature's spiritual energy at the station had greatly improved, this too significantly accelerated the cultivators' cultivation.

Currently, the Righteous Blood Sect had few people available, so Shui Yuan was in charge of these supplies, distributing them to the disciples monthly.

Leaving the matter of recruiting people to Shui Yuan, Lu Ye entered the station using the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

Inside the Heaven's Augury Hall, two disciples were on guard, cultivating in meditation; perhaps startled by Lu Ye's arrival, they both opened their eyes, and seeing it was Lu Ye, they hastily greeted him, "Fifth Senior Brother."

Lu Ye nodded slightly, stepped out of the Heaven's Augury Hall, and looked outside, but saw no one.

Curious, he sent out a message.

While waiting, he took several Blood Red Trouts from his storage sack, lifted his hand to his mouth, and whistled.

A huge shadow descended from the sky. Little Gray flew down from a nearby spirit mountaintop, and Lu Ye fed it several fish as a reward.

"Fifth Senior Brother," Guk Yang's voice rang out, having apparently rushed over immediately after receiving Lu Ye's message.

"Where is everyone?" Lu Ye asked.

"They're all in cultivation," Guk Yang explained.

Only then did Lu Ye understand why there were no people around—the tremendous boost in nature's spiritual energy had ignited the disciples' passion for cultivation, with everyone meditating in their own residences or the training room.

Now the spiritual energy of the Righteous Blood Sect's station had already reached a limit, so the effect of the spirit energy gathering arrays in the training room was almost negligible, and not just the arrays, but also the Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes Lu Ye previously constructed.

The effect of gathering spirit was greatest when the spiritual energy was neither too high nor too low; with the current situation at the Righteous Blood Sect's station, it was practically useless.

That is to say, the Righteous Blood Sect's station no longer needed any training rooms; as long as one was still in the station, no matter where they were, the efficiency of their cultivation would be the same.

"Hua Ci mentioned that you guys properly planned the station while I was away," Lu Ye said while grooming Little Gray's feathers.

"It was Sixth Senior Sister's idea, also considering Second Senior Sister's opinion. We just helped out, doing the tough work."

"Show me around," Lu Ye patted Little Gray, signaling it to return to its own spirit mountaintop, then summoned his own spirit ark, called to Guk Yang, and took him up into the sky together.

Guk Yang was clearly experiencing weapon control-flying for the first time, and found it novel; however, he was a rather steady person. Without such a disposition, Hua Ci wouldn't have appointed him as Deputy Governor. He quickly steadied his mind, stood on the spirit ark, looked down, and pointed to a building, "This is the newly built Council Hall. Before, we used to hold meetings in the Heaven's Augury Hall, but Sixth Senior Sister said that wasn't quite appropriate, so she had us build a Council Hall."

"Over there is the visitors hall. If there are guests visiting, they can be received there."

"This area is the Spirit Plant zone. It's not small; Sixth Senior Sister said that our sect has been declining for many years with not much saved up. Initially, the Spirit Stones and elixir pills distributed were subsidized by Second Senior Sister, and later by you, Fifth Senior Brother, from defeating enemies. So, we opened up a Spirit Plant area here, where we can plant some medicinal herbs and spirit flowers and rare herbs, thus reducing the sect's burden. If there is a disciple interested in this, they can also claim a zone to plant whatever they want. However, after the harvest, part of the yield needs to be turned over to the sect."

"This here is the residential area. Sixth Senior Sister said that the living places don't need to be very fancy, so she chose this area. Anyone who is an official disciple of Righteous Blood Sect can come here to build their own house. As for disciples in name and dependent independent cultivators, they are located over there."

"This area is for more special lodging, the environment is better, all are separate small buildings. Sixth Senior Sister said that inevitably, many people will come to visit the Righteous Blood Sect in the future, so we built ten buildings in advance. If necessary, we can still add more since there's enough space reserved."

"Over there is a place for disciples to spar..."

As the spirit ark continued to sweep through the sky, Guk Yang slowly explained, revealing the entire face of the Righteous Blood Sect's station to Lu Ye.

It must be said, the station had really transformed during his absence. After this uniform planning and setup, the entire station had a feeling of being stable, orderly, and thriving.

The spirit ark carried Lu Ye and Guk Yang to land in front of the Council Hall. Lu Ye stepped into the hall, where a center chair, ridiculously large, awaited, surrounded by rows of chairs with plenty of space between them. This Council Hall could easily accommodate a hundred people.

Lu Ye walked over to that center chair and took a seat, the surroundings feeling sparse; calling it a chair seemed less accurate than calling it a couch, entirely suitable for sleeping.

Guk Yang stood in front of him.

"Guk Yang."

"Present."

"Do you know what your biggest problem is?"

Guk Yang thought for a moment, then honestly shook his head, "I don't know."

"You just led me along, explaining how Second Senior Sister did this and that; of course, I'm not saying that's wrong. The sect's plans are made by Hua Ci, and it's understandable that you talked to me this way, but being overly cautious isn't necessarily a good thing. Your Second Senior Sister is no longer the Deputy Governor. Now, you are the Deputy Governor, and who knows who will be next."

"I am now at Spirit Stream Level 9. Once I advance one more level, I will enter the core circle. By then your Second Senior Sister will surely leave as well. With neither me nor her in the garrison, you will have to take charge, and you will need your own opinions and judgments even more."

"Governor, Deputy Governor, they sound nice, but they aren't particularly good positions, as you must have already realized. In the early stages of cultivation, time is the most precious, yet Governors and Deputy Governors need to worry about the sect. Of course, our sect doesn't require much attention, but there will always be times when duties interfere with your cultivation. Just make sure you don't neglect your own cultivation."

Guk Yang replied earnestly, "Don't worry, Senior Brother, I will redouble my efforts."

"Another thing, you're already at Spirit Stream Level 7. You need to start looking for someone who can take over your roles soon because once you reach Spirit Stream Level 8, you'll be leaving the outer circle."

"Yes."

"Do you have the sect's disciple ledger with you?"

"I do."

"Let me see it."

Guk Yang quickly handed over a ledger, which Lu Ye took and perused.

Although there were six or seven hundred cultivators in the station, there were fewer than twenty official disciples. The rest, about two hundred, were disciples in name, and many others were independent cultivators.

After a brief search in the ledger, Lu Ye recognized some names, but most were unfamiliar. He handed the ledger back to Guk Yang. "Give me two days to filter out a hundred people from this list. The sect will accept new official disciples, and we should also include the independent cultivators who performed well during this period as disciples in name."

Guk Yang received it seriously, "No need for two days; half a day is enough."

"Go ahead."

Guk Yang turned and walked outside.

"By the way, where is Phong Yue from the Phong family?" Lu Ye's voice suddenly rose.

Guk Yang stopped, saying, "She's usually over by the Spirit Plant area, taking care of the spirit plants. Nobody asked her to do it; she took it upon herself. Second Senior Sister used to give her some Spirit Stones and elixir pills seeing her plight. When disciples get injured during sparring, they also go to her for healing. Besides, she has been meticulously instructing those who wanted to become healing cultivators."

"Now she seems quite opinionated, doesn't she?"

Guk Yang's face turned red.

"Have her come see me."

"Yes." Guk Yang turned and left.

Soon after, a timid figure appeared in the Council Hall, resembling a bullied young bride, standing three yards away from Lu Ye, head bowed, silent, her breathing suppressed to the utmost.

With Lu Ye's victorious return, the entire Righteous Blood Sect was jubilant, but if anyone was terrified, it was undoubtedly Phong Yue.

During Lu Ye's absence, she had integrated into the Righteous Blood Sect. Though without an official title, her identity as a healing cultivator and her own skills had won over most of the sect's cultivators.

Technically speaking, she was considered an auxiliary member of the Righteous Blood Sect.

In the presence of any other member of the Righteous Blood Sect, she could converse freely, but in front of Lu Ye alone, she didn't dare to breathe heavily.

Having heard earlier that Lu Ye had returned, she had hastily hidden, afraid of being seen by him, because usually at this time, she would be tending to the spirit plants, which Lu Ye and Guk Yang would have seen during their inspections of the Spirit Plant area.

Upon hearing Guk Yang's message that she should come to the Council Hall to meet Lu Ye, Phong Yue was so frightened she almost died on the spot.

But she couldn't escape this situation. Arriving here terrified, she didn't know what miserable fate awaited her...

"Level 8 now?" Lu Ye's voice resonated in the empty great hall.

Phong Yue's face drained of color, her body shivering more intensely, "Yes."

"Come here!"

Phong Yue turned pale, wanting to refuse, but lacking the courage. Despite the many days that had passed, the memory of the blade swinging toward her at the Phong family station was still her nightmare. Had she not knelt quickly that day, she would have been under three feet of weeds by now.

Chapter 345 Supplies Box

After much hesitation, Phong Yue finally approached Lu Ye.

Lu Ye reached out and grabbed her hand.

Phong Yue's body shivered, flustered and closing her eyes, she mustered her courage and gritted her teeth, "Even if you have me, you won't have my heart..."

"Ha..." A strange sound came from Lu Ye, and as Phong Yue squinted to look, she saw the young man in front of her taking out a big seal and breathing on it before stamping it onto the back of her hand.

The moment the big seal was pressed down, something ethereal changed; Phong Yue distinctly felt a hidden connection form between her battlefield marking and the Righteous Blood Sect's Heaven's Augury Pillar.

Her eyes widened in shock.

"What did you say?" Lu Ye put away his Governor's big seal and gave her a curious look.

"Nothing... nothing at all." Phong Yue felt happiness come so swiftly she was momentarily at a loss, remembering her previous misunderstanding, her face flushed red.

As a former Deputy Governor of the Phong family, she understood better than anyone what Lu Ye's actions meant.

That stamp signified that she was no longer a nameless cultivator; she no longer had to worry every day at the Righteous Blood Sect.

Emotionally stirred, she felt the joy of clouds parting to reveal a bright moon.

"Am I a Disciple in name?" Phong Yue asked tentatively.

"Official Disciple."

Phong Yue felt dizzy.

She had thought being accepted as a Disciple in name by Lu Ye was already a good outcome, but the reality was even better than she had expected.

"You should understand what it means for me to accept you as an official disciple."

Phong Yue nodded her head vigorously like a pecking chick, "I understand!"

"Go then."

Phong Yue bowed respectfully and then turned to walk out of the hall. As she exited the great hall, the bright sunlight shone down, clearing the gloominess of her mood and giving her a feeling of rebirth.

Ever since she was captured by Lu Ye and brought to the Righteous Blood Sect's headquarters, her condition had been poor, not to mention whether the Phong family would be willing to spend a large sum to ransom her, even if they were willing, she dared not return to the Phong family. After all, the headquarters that the Phong family had managed for decades were lost under her watch, and if she dared to return, she would only face two outcomes: either a severe punishment from the Phong family, or being used as a bargaining chip in a marriage to another family.

Neither outcome was something she could bear.

Fleeing to another power from the Righteous Blood Sect was even more unrealistic, so she could only stay here.

This time, she seemed to have blended into the Righteous Blood Sect, and the cultivators stationed there were quite nice to her, but without a proper status, she had no future.

Not to mention, she couldn't earn merit by herself, being a healing cultivator, she couldn't possibly go and kill enemies, right?

Now that the power of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge near the Righteous Blood Sect had been suppressed, even disciples of the Righteous Blood Sect didn't have places to earn combat merits, much less her.

Without the ability to earn merit, that meant she had no resources to buy Heaven Rank techniques, and her cultivation would be stuck at the 180th orifice.

But the Righteous Blood Sect wouldn't easily include her, given that she originally came from the Phong family and was a healing cultivator.

Capturing a healing cultivator from an enemy camp is something that could be settled with some cost; it's an unspoken rule in the Nine Provinces cultivation world.

Her being a nameless person in the Righteous Blood Sect didn't matter much, and if Ten Thousand Demons Ridge pursued the matter, it could be explained that the terms for her ransom weren't agreed upon with the Phong family.

But if the Righteous Blood Sect dared to include her, that would be breaking the rules.

Once this precedent was set, if everyone started doing this, it would create chaos.

Thus, Phong Yue had never imagined that she would be included by the Righteous Blood Sect one day.

Although Lu Ye hadn't explained clearly, she knew very well. Recently, Lu Ye had stirred up major trouble in the inner circle, nearly inciting a full-scale war on the Spirit Stream battlefield between the two major factions.

Compared to what he had done before, what was accepting an enemy sect's healing cultivator?

Who would dare to object? Those who did might find their stations in jeopardy the next day.

Furthermore, aiming at Lu Ye, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had not just broken the rules once or twice; even if the news spread later, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had no position to criticize Lu Ye.

It can be said that throughout the Spirit Stream battlefield, only Lu Ye had the capital and the courage to do such a thing.

Official Disciple!

It's not just a status, but also tangible benefits. Not to mention the monthly salary she could now receive from the sect headquarters; she would also be eligible for merit rewards in the future.

But what Phong Yue wanted to do the most now was to build her own house in the area where the official Disciples' residences were located.

She still had some connections. After sending a few messages, about seven or eight Righteous Blood Sect disciples came to help her. Learning that she was now officially taken as a disciple by Fifth Brother, everyone offered their congratulations.

Guk Yang's efficiency was high, and it took him less than half a day to prepare the roster of named and official disciples, which he handed to Lu Ye. Lu Ye asked Hua Ci to help review it, and upon confirming that there were no issues, ordered Guk Yang to summon the disciples listed on the roster.

In the following time, the disciples gleefully entered the Council Hall one by one, where Guk Yang, with the authority of the Deputy Governor, elevated their ranks and registered them officially.

After today, the Righteous Blood Sect would gain a hundred official disciples and two hundred named disciples.

While they were busy, within the sect headquarters, Shui Yuan found the sect master and relayed Lu Ye's thoughts.

The sect master nodded upon hearing this, "It's indeed time to recruit more people. Yiye is right; just selecting from the independent cultivators will eventually create gaps in Cloud River-True Lake, which is detrimental to our sect's development."

"Shall we hold a grand disciple recruitment ceremony then?"

"No need. Right now, only you and I are available in the sect. The preparations for the ceremony are too troublesome. Let's consider this matter when Yiye and the others have advanced further in their cultivation."

"How shall we select talents without the ceremony?"

"I will think of a way."

Once Shui Yuan left, the sect master searched around and found a gilt invitation from a 2nd grade sect in Bingzhou named Three Saints Sanctuary.

Bingzhou was a chaotic region since it was a provincial state where two major sect camps were in opposition.

This resulted in many powerful sects in Bingzhou, including five from the Haotian Alliance and five from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge among the top ten 1st grade sects.

Although Three Saints Sanctuary was a 2nd grade sect, it had a significant foundation with quite a number of cultivators in the Divine Sea Realm.

Such a major force would hold grand disciple recruitment ceremonies every two or three years, selecting outstanding talents from all directions to join the sect and replenish its foundation, ensuring the continuity and heritage of the sect.

Essentially, each power had its own range for selecting talents, which could be regarded as the territory influenced by that power. If some talents with exceptional abilities emerged within that range, they would naturally be picked up by these powers more favorably due to their proximity.

Big sects always care about face. Whenever they hold such ceremonies, they symbolically send out invitations in all directions, inviting esteemed individuals to attend the event. This not only creates momentum for themselves but also strengthens their connections with other sects.

The sect master had received many invitations over the years, but he had never attended any—until this time when he decided to go!

Why bother organizing our own ceremony when we can simply attend others'? Over the years, many talents had left the territory of the Righteous Blood Sect; Three Saints Sanctuary wasn't too far from the Righteous Blood Sect and had consequently picked up many advantages.

A moment later, from the main peak of the Righteous Blood Sect, Righteous Peak, a streak of light soared into the sky and vanished in an instant.

The disciple recruitment ceremony of Three Saints Sanctuary was about to begin; there was no time to waste!

At the Righteous Blood Sect's site, within the Heaven's Augury Hall, Lu Ye was searching in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault and found a palm-sized box with nine holes, resembling a beehive.

This unassuming object was actually a mid-grade spirit artifact containing eighteen restrictions.

Under nine restrictions were low-grade spirit artifacts, under eighteen were mid-grade, under twenty-seven were top-grade, and thirty-six full restrictions were considered supreme grade.

Further up was the realm of Magic Artifacts, containing even more intricate restrictions.

Above Magic Artifacts were spirit treasures. For instance, the Nine Worlds map was a spirit treasure with immeasurable value.

For cultivators at the Spirit Stream Realm level, low-grade spirit artifacts were generally sufficient because the more hidden restrictions a spirit artifact contained, the more spirit force it consumed during use.

Of course, if one had enough financial resources and was confident in their spirit force reserves, purchasing a mid-grade spirit artifact could also be considered based on personal needs.

Apart from the Nine Worlds map, which was a spirit treasure, Lu Ye also had a Magic Artifact longsword in his possession, a spoil of war from a previous defeat of a cultivator in the True Lake Realm. He hadn't rushed to sell it because it might be useful later.

The beehive-like box in his hand was called a supplies box, a spirit artifact used in conjunction with weapon control.

Since his return from Xianyuan City, Lu Ye had been able to control up to four weapons. Now, he could handle even more, estimating that controlling six or seven weapons would not be a problem.

Additionally, his requirements for weapon control were stringent; it wasn't merely about controlling the weapon but also embedding spirit runes into the spirit artifact during control, which immensely taxed his mental strength.

If it were simply controlling the tool, Lu Ye felt that managing around ten to twenty weapons wouldn't pose an issue.

Compared to cultivators of the same level, this number was terrifying, but he still had a substantial gap compared to his fourth senior brother.

The reason for purchasing this supplies box was based on Li Baxian's recommendation.

Lu Ye had previously realized that although using controlled weapons to kill enemies was convenient, there was one significant hassle—extracting the spirit artifact from the storage sack before being able to control it.

In battle, any delay could affect the final outcome of a fight or even life and death, which was why Lu Ye hadn't kept the Boulder Mountain Saber in his storage sack. Having the saber in hand meant he could draw it any moment to strike down an enemy, while storing it in the bag would require fetching it out, which was ultimately troublesome.

Another point was that the spirit force used for weapon control was stored in advance within the spirit artifact and needed to be replenished once it was depleted.

These two reasons alone significantly diminished the threat weapon control posed to cultivators.

To solve these issues, the supplies box was the best choice!

Chapter 346 The More You Hold It In, the Angrier You Get

Strictly speaking, the wine gourd around Li Baxian's waist can also be considered a type of supplies box, only with a rather unique shape, and its functions are far more powerful since all of his Spiritual Artifacts are nurtured within the gourd.

Lu Ye's supplies box was undoubtedly inferior to Li Baxian's wine gourd, but it was already sufficient for his use.

This item could be tied around the waist without hindering movement, and on normal days, Spiritual Artifacts were nurtured within the supplies box, ready to be summoned and activated whenever necessary.

It was much more convenient than taking them out from a storage sack, especially since Lu Ye was preparing to increase the number of Spiritual Artifacts he could control.

The beehive-like supplies box had nine holes, each capable of nurturing one Spiritual Artifact.

Lu Ye had long prepared the backup Spiritual Artifacts, which only needed to be refined before they could be used.

He bought the supplies box from Heaven's Augury treasure vault and also acquired fifty portions of Earth's Core Fire.

Even though Lu Ye had not encountered the situation where the Talent Tree lost its effect of burning off pill poison again, he vaguely felt that the stored fuel in the Talent Tree was not very abundant.

That was because, as his cultivation gradually increased, his consumption of elixir pills became much greater, especially at the Level 9 Realm; opening a single orifice would cost him about forty Spirit-Nurturing Pills if he relied solely on elixir pills for cultivation.

With larger consumption of pills, more pill poison would accumulate, and naturally, the consumption of fuel by the Talent Tree would also increase.

Moreover, after being poisoned by someone at the Tianyan Sect, a good amount of fuel in the Talent Tree was consumed in just that instance.

It had been a long time since he last replenished the Talent Tree's fuel or obtained new spirit runes from it.

Because he had been accumulating merit to buy a Heaven Rank technique for himself and orifice repair pills for his Fourth Senior Brother.

Orifice repair pills were so expensive mainly because they were nearly extinct; with every use, one less remained, and if someone in the world could refine orifice repair pills to replenish the stock in Heaven's Augury treasure vault, the price would surely drop dramatically.

Now that he had a Heaven Rank technique and had purchased the orifice repair pills for his Fourth Senior Brother, other than waiting to ascend to the Cloud River Realm and then replacing the Spiritual Artifacts with a better batch, he had no more needs.

Buying Earth's Core Fire was thus no longer a pressure for him.

A mid-grade Spiritual Artifact supplies box cost Lu Ye over nine hundred merits, which was not too expensive for him, but for an average cultivator at Level 9, it was still worth weighing carefully.

After all, even the worst Heaven Rank technique only cost just over a thousand merits, so this supplies box was almost equivalent to the worst Heaven Rank technique.

Not all mid-grade Spiritual Artifacts were so costly; low-grade Spiritual Artifacts in Heaven's Augury treasure vault were generally priced between thirty to one hundred and fifty merits, mid-grade ranged between two hundred to five hundred, and only top-grade Spiritual Artifacts reached nearly a thousand merits.

Supplies boxes are a special kind of Spiritual Artifact, so their pricing could not be calculated using the normal figures.

The pricing of items in Heaven's Augury treasure vault was very fair, and with Heaven's Augury as the standard, taking advantage or finding a bargain was absolutely impossible.

Fifty portions of Earth's Core Fire cost Lu Ye ten thousand merits.

Checking the remaining merits he had, there were only over two thousand left.

Thinking back, he used to have three hundred and ten thousand merits...

Merits truly couldn't withstand spending.

Looking at his own spiritual orifice, he had opened two hundred and twenty-five, only fifteen short of switching to a Heaven Rank technique.

He already had two hundred and eighteen orifices open when he emerged from the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, and in the more than a month and a half since then, he only opened seven orifices, mostly because he had been busy leading the Allied Forces in battles from east to west, leaving little time for cultivation.

However, if truth be told, even this pace of orifice-opening was not slow compared to the normal cultivation of other cultivators at Level 9.

A supportive Cultivation Technique like Bestial Gluttony Feast, which was almost useless to others, combined with the Talent Tree's effect of burning off pill poison, was immensely helpful to Lu Ye, unimaginably so.

After securing the supplies box and Earth's Core Fire, Lu Ye headed to his dwelling.

Yiyi and Giant Armor were nowhere to be seen, even Amber was out of sight; with the nature's spiritual energy so rich at the garrison, no one wished to waste time on cultivation when idle.

Lu Ye's dwelling was initially built by Chen Yu with his men, and next to it lived Hua Ci; it could be considered one of the best scenic locations within the entire garrison.

To speak the truth, Hua Ci and Chen Yu were already unfit to remain in the outer circle since they had both ascended to Level 8.

They should be heading to the inner circle by now.

But the turmoil within the inner circle hadn't fully settled down yet, and moreover, the density of the spiritual energy at the sects' garrisons in the inner circle might not even match that of the Righteous Blood Sect.

So delaying their entry into the inner circle wasn't too consequential.

Upon returning to his dwelling, Lu Ye refined the several Spiritual Artifacts he had left behind one by one to complete the set of nine, then placed them in the supplies box to nurture.

Finally, he tied the supplies box close to his waist and stood up to move around, adjusting the position to ensure it wouldn't hinder him.

When previously consulting his Fourth Senior Brother about the Weapon Control Path, Lu Ye came to understand the secret behind his ability to control hundreds of weapons.

Weapon control is a matter of talent, but it also depends on the strength of one's psyche, which is directly related to the psyche's robustness.

Someone with a strong psyche like Lu Ye would undoubtedly be greatly aided in weapon control, which also explains why he could continuously increase the number of weapons he could handle, as the power of his psyche was constantly growing.

Li Baxian's ability to control hundreds of weapons relied not only on his innately vigorous psyche but also on his capacity to simplify his mind and divide his psyche into finer distinctions, an innate talent that, even with diligent postnatal efforts by others, would be hard to achieve to the extent of Li Baxian.

His current methods of weapon control were based on an innate starting point higher than others, continually honed through cultivation.

Lu Ye didn't need to control hundreds of weapons, otherwise he wouldn't have chosen a supplies box with only nine sockets.

Mastering the ability to control nine weapons was enough, and with his current resources, he was capable of achieving this level.

The best practice is real combat!

Lu Ye took out the Breath Fruit Core, which he hadn't used for a long time, and channeled his power into it.

He hadn't entered the Mirage Realm since reaching Level 9, and he was now ready to temper his weapon control in the Mirage Realm.

The view before his eyes changed as he entered that familiar small space.

Lu Ye was slightly taken aback as he looked up to survey the figure shrouded in mist not far ahead.

This was an encounter he had never had before; this strange little space had always been a transitional area when entering the Mirage Realm. Lu Ye would usually pass through here and spend fifty merits to push open a door, and then he would enter the Mirage Realm.

He had never found anything out of the ordinary here before, but this time there was a figure present.

Was it one of the beings from the Mirage Realm, or did someone else, like him, enter this place using a Breath Fruit Core?

The other party had apparently also noticed him, and for a moment, they both stood still, stupefied.

Moreover, Lu Ye discovered that he was also enveloped in a layer of mist, unable to see the other person's appearance clearly, and undoubtedly, the other person could not see him either.

Just as Lu Ye was vigilantly assessing the other person, they suddenly raised a hand, and from within the mist, a red glow shone through.

This bastard is from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge!

With no need for niceties, the moment Lu Ye thought this, several streaks of light flashed out from the supplies box at his waist, whirling and crisscrossing like a pair of scissors, attacking the figure.

"Spirit Stream Realm!" An androgynous voice came from the opposite side, and then Lu Ye saw the figure wrapped in mist slowly slap out with a palm.

The controlled streaks of light flew back the same way they had come; that palm not only repelled several Spiritual Artifacts but also, before Lu Ye could react, struck his chest.

Then Lu Ye's vision blurred, and his consciousness returned to reality.

Killed?

Lu Ye was stunned for quite a while, struggling to accept such an outcome.

The moment the other party made their move, he knew he was no match, because the spirit force fluctuations from the other party were not what a Spirit Stream Realm cultivator should possess; at the very least, it was someone from a superior Cloud River Realm or even the True Lake Realm.

But to be killed so unclearly and unfairly like this irritated Lu Ye.

He hadn't even managed to land a single blow!

Who was that person?

In that strange little space, neither could see each other's faces clearly. All he knew was that the person was a cultivator from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, but their cultivation, gender, and everything else were unknown.

The fact that they could enter there meant they surely possessed a Breath Fruit Core as well.

This was not surprising. The Chess Sea in the Spirit Stream Defense Battle had appeared more than once, and although the Breath Fruit Tree did not appear every time, over the years, there must have been more than one Breath Fruit Core that could connect to the Mirage Realm.

The reason Lu Ye had never encountered it before was mainly because the timing of their entries into the Mirage Realm was different; those who entered didn't linger in that transit space.

This time, by chance, Lu Ye entered at the same time as the other party, leading to the encounter.

With growing annoyance the more he thought about it, Lu Ye channeled his spirit force again and entered the small space.

The other person was pressing against the door leading to the Mirage Realm, yet to enter.

Lu Ye drew out the Boulder Mountain Saber from his waist and cleaved with a single strike.

Then, as the world spun around him, his consciousness was ejected from the small space.

The third time he reappeared, the other person wasn't in a hurry to enter the Mirage Realm anymore. It seemed they were waiting for him. As soon as Lu Ye appeared, a streak of light shot towards him and then... Lu Ye was gone.

The fourth time, the fifth time...

It wasn't until after the seventh attempt that Lu Ye slowly calmed down.

He was completely outmatched, and this couldn't continue; moreover, due to the frequent deaths inside, his head was starting to ache.

This was where he could see the benefit of having a more resilient psyche. Before, every time Lu Ye died and left the Mirage Realm, he would be in excruciating pain, but now, it took several times before he felt the reaction.

Currently, Lu Ye was frustrated that he had no way to ascertain the identity of that scoundrel, not even knowing who to seek vengeance from in the future.

In the small space, after a long time without Lu Ye reappearing, the figure shrouded in mist chuckled, pushed open the door before him, and entered the Mirage Realm. In their opinion, that cultivator from

the Haotian Alliance's Spirit Stream Realm was utterly foolish, acting recklessly to show off their bravery, and having been killed so many times, their psyche must have been damaged. What was the point?

Meanwhile, at the Three Saints Sanctuary in Bingzhou, a second-grade sect welcomed a distinguished guest...

Chapter 347 The Old Thief's Excessive Bullying

The Three Saints Sanctuary's disciple recruitment ceremony is basically held once every two years, which is not a very frequent occurrence; some sects in the Nine Provinces even take in a batch of disciples every year.

Because the mortality rate among cultivators at the Spirit Stream Realm is very high, even if one survives the Spirit Stream Realm, there are no guarantees of safety when reaching the Cloud River, True Lake Realm, and even the Divine Sea Realm.

The constant confrontation between the two main factions means that the Nine Provinces are destined to experience unending strife.

To ensure that a sect has sufficient heritage to continue its legacy, it must constantly absorb new blood.

Generally speaking, the recruitment ceremonies of sects of the 2nd and 3rd grade not only involve themselves but also concern nearby sects of slightly lower grades.

The standards for recruitment by 2nd-3rd grade sects are very stringent; each session only takes in a limited number of people, but many apply. Those who are eliminated are not necessarily unworthy of being cultivated; many excellent talents are unearthed this way.

Therefore, whenever there is a recruitment ceremony held by a 2nd-3rd grade sect, the minor sects are happy to attend the event for two reasons: first, as a show of support and second, to prospect among those eliminated and see if they can find any potential candidates worth nurturing.

Essentially, as long as one demonstrates one's abilities in such ceremonies, it is possible to be accepted into a sect, whether large or small.

The people who come to participate in the ceremony are different from the situation Lu Ye encountered in Evil Moon Valley. Many in Lu Ye's original group had not even opened their spiritual orifice and were merely tested for their potential to cultivate.

Many of those who come here have some foundation in cultivation, which makes it easier to assess their future potential.

For the Three Saints Sanctuary, this recruitment ceremony is destined to be a fruitful one, for even in the registration phase, they have already discovered quite a few promising candidates, making the cultivators overseeing the event very happy.

As guests arrived one by one, they were warmly received.

When news came that Sect Master Thang Yifeng of the Righteous Blood Sect had personally arrived, even the Three Saints Sanctuary had to treat him with great solemnity.

After all, more than thirty years ago, the Righteous Blood Sect was a banner of the Haotian Alliance.

Though it declined over the past thirty years, a lean camel is still bigger than a horse, and recently, with Lu Ye's actions, the Righteous Blood Sect clearly showed signs of resurgence.

Upon hearing the news, Yooi Ganju, the Sect Master of the Three Saints Sanctuary, personally came forward to receive the sect master, as they were old acquaintances, and there was thus no need for excessive formality.

"Brother Thang, what brings you to our sect for the ceremony this time?" Yooi Ganju was somewhat puzzled.

"What, am I not welcome?" the sect master asked with a light chuckle.

"How could that be? It is our sect's honor to have Brother Thang here. It's just that you haven't been involved in such minor affairs in these years."

The sect master then heaved a soft sigh, "The times have changed. Before, I thought that if the Righteous Blood Sect was to be renounced, then so be it. After all, there weren't many of us, and it wasn't so bad to live a peaceful life thereafter. But now, with some young ones to consider, the Righteous Blood Sect can no longer afford to disband. We can't disband, so we might as well develop it properly. Yiye suggested that I recruit more disciples for the future. But you know, it has been more than thirty years since the Righteous Blood Sect recruited anyone, and I've never been involved in it, so I'm completely ignorant about the ins and outs and the processes. I'm here to observe while you are organizing the event."

"I see," Yooi Ganju realized, finally understanding why the sect master had come to the Three Saints Sanctuary to observe.

"So go ahead with your affairs, I will just walk around and observe; no need to mind me."

Despite his words, the sect master was, after all, a leader of a sect and also a strong cultivator of the Divine Sea Realm. The proper respects had to be given. Yooi Ganju immediately ordered a True Lake Realm servant to accompany and take care of him throughout the event.

The recruitment ceremony was not considered a major event for a sect like the Three Saints Sanctuary; it generally didn't require the involvement of strong cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm level, and even those of the True Lake Realm were seldom called upon. At most, four or five were responsible for receiving guests and ensuring the smooth running of the ceremony, with all the miscellaneous tasks naturally handled by cultivators of the Cloud River and Spirit Stream Realm levels from the Three Saints Sanctuary.

While the sect master was being accommodated by the Three Saints Sanctuary, Lu Ye was struggling for survival in the Mirage Realm.

After being killed seven times in a row by that scoundrel from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, Lu Ye waited an hour before daring to enter again, and the person was indeed gone.

Spending fifty merit points to enter the Mirage Realm to refine his method of weapon control, Lu Ye cut down several cultivators shrouded in mist, which greatly unburdened his mind.

After two hours, Lu Ye was killed out of the Mirage Realm feeling refreshed and clear-headed.

This experience had improved his skill in weapon control, but most importantly, Lu Ye had tested the limits of his current abilities.

After taking some time to rest and replenish his energy,

Lu Ye appeared beside Moon Lake shortly after, caught a few fish, brought out his spirit ark, and headed straight for Bright Heart Peak.

Upon reaching Bright Heart Peak, he descended his fleeing light, strolled up to Madam Yun's dwelling, and before he could speak, the mute maid came out, flashed Lu Ye a smile, and gestured with her hand.

Lu Ye looked at her, a hint of surprise flickering in his eyes.

When he had encountered this mute maid before, he simply found her a bit odd, but couldn't put his finger on what exactly was strange until his psyche grew significantly stronger today, finally noticing something peculiar.

No wonder she had never spoken; it seemed that there was more to this mute maid than met the eye.

After passing the fish he had brought to her, he followed the maid through a corridor and came to the place where he often discussed and learned matters with Madam Yun.

Madam Yun was reading a book.

"I have seen Madam Yun," Lu Ye stepped forward to greet her with a bow.

Madam Yun sized him up, smiling warmly, "Not bad, you've returned completely unscathed."

"The two treasures you bestowed upon me were a great help," he said.

"No matter how good the treasures are, they are merely external objects. I've heard about your situation. It's rare for someone to have such a talent in the Array Path as you do. You've certainly caused a lot of trouble for Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Do you have any intention to focus on mastering the Array Path in the future?"

"I'll leave it to fate. I didn't expect things to turn out this way. It was mainly because I gained too much from the Hundred Arrays Pagoda," the Disciple responded.

"The Hundred Arrays Pagoda is a good place; I've been there too. But back then, I was too young to understand its mysteries. Although I made some gains inside, they were not considerable. So, you still want to focus on the Path of Spirit Runes?"

Lu Ye said, "The Path of Spirit Runes encompasses various domains. I have a legacy in this area, so I want to put more effort into it."

"That's a fair point. Once you learn the Path of Spirit Runes well, learning anything else will be much easier, just like your recent achievements in the Array Path. Let's begin. I want to see how proficient you are in the Path of Spirit Runes now."

While saying this, Madam Yun took out a jade tablet and handed it to Lu Ye.

Having undergone such tests frequently before, Lu Ye knew exactly what to do. He immediately began channeling his spirit force, doing his utmost to construct spirit runes on the jade tablet.

The spirit runes he chose were not those acquired from the Talent Tree but learned from books.

A moment later, looking at the dense Yin-Yang Dual Origins runes on the jade tablet, Madam Yun nodded her approval, "You've made significant progress."

Lu Ye also felt that he had made great strides. Although he had been focusing on the Array Destruction Path recently, the enhancement of his own strength, the increase of his psyche power, and his exquisite control over his spirit force had all invisibly elevated his mastery of the Path of Spirit Runes.

The more he delved into spirit runes, the more he realized the profundity of this path.

Having gained a certain understanding of Lu Ye's current proficiency in spirit runes, Madam Yun made some preparations before starting the lecture. Lu Ye sat upright and listened intently, occasionally answering Madam Yun's questions or solving the difficult problems she posed.

It was as if time had reverted to the past when Lu Ye would study the Path of Spirit Runes with Madam Yun during the day, and at night he would take some books back to read.

He had finished all the books he previously took from Madam Yun, so this return was a good opportunity to exchange them for a new batch.

Days passed by.

The recruitment ceremony at the Three Saints Sanctuary was coming to an end. It was never considered a major event, so the results were available within a few days. The True Lake Realm Dean in charge of this year's ceremony had ranked the participating Disciples based on their performance.

The top fifty ranked would undoubtedly be accepted into the Three Saints Sanctuary. As for the rest, it would depend on whether the visiting sects were interested in taking in disciples.

Generally speaking, those ranked within the top five hundred could find a place in a suitable sect, provided they weren't too ambitious.

Night fell, and the youngsters who participated in the ceremony were both excited and anxious, for tomorrow the results would be announced!

The next morning, everyone was waiting, but the Three Saints Sanctuary did not announce the results on time. Moreover, it seemed that something major had occurred. Figures of strong cultivators at the True Lake Realm could be seen shuttling back and forth between the Three Saints Sanctuary's sect headquarters and its outer courtyard.

The visiting guests from various sects were confused until, after two hours, concrete news finally arrived.

In this year's ceremony, the fifty young people who had performed excellently and ranked in the top fifty had all disappeared!

This news frightened everyone considerably.

Over the years, recruitment ceremonies held by major sects had occurred numerous times, but such an incident had never happened before. Some speculated whether this could be the work of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, but after careful consideration, it seemed unlikely. To silently abduct fifty people overnight would require at least the capability of someone at the Divine Sea Realm.

Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's Divine Sea Realm cultivators coming over to the Three Saints Sanctuary for such a deed just didn't make sense.

Meanwhile, within the Three Saints Sanctuary, Yooi Ganju's face was grim as he looked over the reports coming in from all directions, his eyelids twitching, "That old scoundrel, Thang Yifeng, has gone too far!"

While outsiders were still unclear about what happened to those fifty youngsters, the Three Saints Sanctuary initially didn't know either. However, as a 2nd grade sect, they quickly ascertained the whole story.

Those fifty had been abducted, and the abductor was none other than Thang Yifeng, the Sect Master of Righteous Blood Sect, who had attended the ceremony a few days ago.

Recalling the conversation he had with Thang Yifeng that day, Yooi Ganju belatedly realized why that old man had come to witness the ceremony.

What a farce his visit was – he came to steal talents! And he had gone too far. The rankings had been out only yesterday, and today, all the disciples who made the top fifty were abducted without a trace.

He had never seen a Divine Sea Realm master so shameless!

Chapter 348 The Weight of Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer

At the Spirit Stream battlefield, located at the Righteous Blood Sect residence, in front of the Heaven's Augury Hall plaza, Lu Ye looked at the young boys and girls before him and thought to himself that the sect master had acted with surprising speed.

Just a few days ago, he had spoken to his Second Senior Sister, Shui Yuan, mentioning that if the sect wanted to grow, they needed to recruit disciples with outstanding talent. In just a matter of days, fifty people had been sent over.

These youngsters before him were mostly around thirteen or fourteen years old, some even younger, appearing to be just over ten, with the oldest being no more than fifteen.

Among them, some already had a foundation in cultivation; at least eighty percent had opened their spiritual orifices, and although the remaining twenty percent had not, their bodies were full of spirit.

Even without expertise in judging people, Lu Ye could tell that these disciples were of high quality.

Where had the sect master and his Second Senior Sister found these people?

However... the youngsters looked somewhat distressed, and even a few of the girls were sniffling quietly; he didn't know what grievances they had suffered.

Just then, a message from the battlefield marking came through, and Lu Ye checked it to find it was from his Second Senior Sister, Shui Yuan.

After reading the message, Lu Ye's eyes twitched slightly.

Only now did he understand why the quality of these disciples was so high; they were all among the top fifty from the Three Saints Sanctuary's disciple recruitment ceremony. How could they not be?

If things hadn't gone awry, these people were supposed to join the Three Saints Sanctuary, but now they had ended up being brought to the Righteous Blood Sect.

The sect master could actually do such a thing? This somewhat overturned Lu Ye's longstanding impression of the sect master.

He had thought that these were geniuses gathered by their sect from various places, but it turned out that the sect master had gone to other sects and abducted them instead, which gave Lu Ye a bit of a headache.

But since the people were already here, it was definitely not feasible to send them back; such a revered and respected old man as the sect master had staked his reputation on this act. Returning them would betray his painstaking effort.

Moreover, his Second Senior Sister had mentioned in her message to settle these people down first. Even if the disciples were resistant now, it would improve over time.

"We want to go back to the Three Saints Sanctuary!"

As Lu Ye pondered, a young boy suddenly shouted loudly from below. He seemed somewhat frightened, but shouting out this statement clearly showed his courage.

"Send us back to the Three Saints Sanctuary, we don't want to stay here!"

The boy shouted again.

With his encouragement, his companions started shouting as well, and some of the timid girls who had been quietly sobbing were startled into crying louder.

For a moment, the area in front of the Heaven's Augury Hall was in complete disorder.

They didn't know who had abducted them or which sect's residence this was. All of them had been about to join the Three Saints Sanctuary, a 2nd grade sect. No matter which sect this was, it could hardly be better than the Three Saints Sanctuary, unless it was one of those 1st grade ones.

But none of the 1st grade sects in Bingzhou would act like this.

Lu Ye watched expressionlessly as the young boys below shouted and vented until everyone joined in the loud cries that disturbed many Righteous Blood Sect disciples who were cultivating, drawing them to converge and see what the fuss was about.

When they saw a group of young boys in front of the Heaven's Augury Hall, they were initially surprised.

The leading boy continued to shout, simultaneously staring at Lu Ye as if trying to use his firm gaze and expression to pressure Lu Ye into acknowledging their desire to return to the Three Saints Sanctuary.

"Shut up!"

Lu Ye's calm voice rose, and though not loud, it easily drowned out everyone's cheers with the help of Spiritual Energy.

The shouting abruptly stopped, and pairs of eyes turned towards Lu Ye. These fifty individuals, after all, had not experienced much adversity; observing Lu Ye's unfriendly expression, they dared not provoke him further.

"Since you have entered the Righteous Blood Sect residence, from today onward, you are disciples of the Righteous Blood Sect. Forget about the Three Saints Sanctuary or the Four Saints Sanctuary; even if you think about it, it won't help. If anyone still wishes to leave..."

"Righteous Blood Sect?" The boy who had been leading the shouting suddenly interrupted Lu Ye, "Did you say this is the Righteous Blood Sect?"

Lu Ye raised his eyes to look at him.

"Yes!"

The boy couldn't help but size Lu Ye up and down, his expression becoming increasingly frightened:
"Then you are..."

"The Righteous Blood Sect's Governor of the Spirit Stream battlefield residence, Lu Ye!"

"You are Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer?" The boy's face drastically changed, and after speaking, he involuntarily shrank his neck, his previously pumped-up bravado deflating like a punctured balloon.

Lu Ye remained expressionless.

It wasn't the first time he had experienced how bad news could travel a thousand miles faster than good. However, what surprised him was that even the youngsters before him had heard of the moniker "Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer."

This was not unusual, as for some time recently, Lu Ye's activities within the inner circle of the battlefield were the hot topic of discussion across the Nine Provinces. These young boys and girls, following their elders around daily, naturally absorbed a lot of this information through exposure.

Over the many years at the Spirit Stream battlefield, there had only been one "Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer." The Haotian Alliance, benefiting from this, naturally didn't hesitate to publicize it.

The plaza became slightly quieter for a moment before whispers erupted once more.

Whispers about how "Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer" was best at slaughtering entire sects, that he was responsible for the deaths of no fewer than eight thousand people, that he had a terrible temper and held grudges, ensuring those who provoked him met a dire end, and so on...

Occasionally, someone would sneak a glance at Lu Ye and, upon noticing he was aware, quickly avert their gaze, pretending nothing had happened.

"Are you finished?" Lu Ye was somewhat impatient.

Since he began his cultivation journey, he had only encountered cultivators older than himself, and even the few who were younger weren't much younger.

Suddenly having to interact with such a group of youngsters was quite unsettling for him.

The noisy clamor immediately quieted down; even the previous sobs were no longer audible, and the breathing was suppressed to the utmost.

The young man who had been leading the shouting earlier turned pale, his heart filled with trepidation, uncertain if his family behind him would live to see the sun tomorrow.

Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer, a name whose intimidation was not limited only to Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, but even these youngsters from the Haotian Alliance felt the bloody, heavy weight of this title.

"Continuing the previous topic, if anyone insists on leaving, I'll give you a chance. One year from now, I will personally assess your cultivation achievements. Those ranked in the top ten will have a chance to leave the Righteous Blood Sect."

"Really?" someone instinctively replied.

Lu Ye glanced over at him.

"Never mind... forget I asked," said the youngster as he shrank his neck.

"Any other questions?"

After a moment of waiting, no one spoke.

Lu Ye nodded in satisfaction, "Very well, it seems there are no issues, Guk Yang!"

"Fifth Senior Brother."

"Take them down and settle them properly. After they get familiar with their accommodations, find some people to teach them cultivation."

"Yes."

Guk Yang waved to the fifty people, "Come with me."

The fifty kidnapped youngsters, as if granted a great pardon, quickly followed Guk Yang, their breaths heaving.

Hua Ci walked over from the side, watching the departing figures of these youngsters and quipped, "It seems that sometimes having a notorious reputation isn't such a bad thing."

Lu Ye, feeling weary, said, "I'll return to our sect headquarters to check on things."

He turned and entered Heaven's Augury Hall, using the Heaven's Augury Pillar to return to the sect headquarters. He had just appeared in the Heaven's Augury Hall of the sect headquarters when he felt the vibrations of intense fighting nearby.

Lu Ye flashed out.

Second Senior Sister was standing outside, looking up into the sky.

Lu Ye joined her and followed her gaze to see two figures crisscrossing in the sky, continuously clashing. One wielded overwhelming magic and spells without pause, while the other held a longsword, slashing out beams of sword flashes, making the scene incredibly lively, with the fluctuations of spirit force violent and chaotic.

"Second Senior Sister, this is..."

"The Sect Master of the Three Saints Sanctuary has come," she said.

Lu Ye found this embarrassing.

The Sect Master had just sent the fifty kidnapped people to the accommodations, and immediately the forces from the Three Saints Sanctuary had shown up at Righteous Blood Sect. Clearly, the secret was out!

But considering the Three Saints Sanctuary was a 2nd grade sect, the Sect Master shouldn't have sneaked into their territory during a disciple acceptance ceremony to stealthily kidnap people; the Three Saints Sanctuary wouldn't have failed to investigate this.

"Is everything alright?" asked Lu Ye, a bit concerned.

"The old man will definitely be fine. The Sect Master of the Three Saints Sanctuary is no match for him," she reassured.

Indeed, the other party was not a match. He was cursing while they fought, evidently unable to gain the upper hand physically and thus not sparing his words either. The Sect Master allowed him to curse, probably aware he was somewhat in the wrong, thus he was quite restrained in his attacks.

"Don't worry, I've sent word to Master Uncle Pang; he'll be here soon," Shui Yuan said and then asked, "Have the people brought back been settled?"

"Everything is settled, no issues," affirmed Lu Ye.

"That's good."

"But Second Senior Sister, don't you think our actions were a bit improper?"

Shui Yuan smiled, "I know what you're thinking. There's nothing improper about it. Righteous Blood Sect hasn't taken in disciples for many years. Previously, many promising talents emerged from our territory and all went to others, benefitting the Three Saints Sanctuary a lot. Sect Master Yooi is aware of this too. If he really wanted to take the people back, he wouldn't have come alone. He knows once those people were at Righteous Blood Sect, they won't be going back. He's just here to make a statement; don't worry about it."

While they were talking, another streak of light rushed from afar and instantly broke into the fray, separating the battling Sect Master and Yooi Ganju.

The newcomer showed himself—it was Pang Zhen from the Righteousness Sect.

"Brother Pang, you've come just in time. Please mediate this. This old thief took advantage of the ceremony to kidnap fifty disciples from my Three Saints Sanctuary when we were unprepared. Is this reasonable?" Yooi Ganju demanded.

"There were so many disciples attending your ceremony; I only took fifty. Didn't I leave you several hundred?" the Sect Master replied.

"Those were the best fifty! With them gone, what use do I have for the remaining few hundred?" Yooi Ganju fumed, clearly frustrated. Thang Yifeng really meant to kidnap people, taking twenty or thirty would have been sufficient, yet, he scooped up the top fifty in one go, which was somewhat excessive.

Chapter 349 - Conditions of the Three Saints Sanctuary

If it were not for the sect master acting so excessively, Yooi Ganju wouldn't have personally come to the Righteous Blood Sect.

And Pang Zhen, who rushed here after receiving Shui Yuan's message, also found himself in quite a headache.

Not to mention this kind of incident, where someone swooped in and took away fifty people during someone else's discipleship ceremony, had never happened in Bingzhou alone, the entire Nine Provinces had never seen such a thing either.

Especially since it was the 2nd grade sect that got raided.

On his way here, he had already prepared for the worst, but upon arrival, he realized that things were somewhat simpler than he had imagined.

The Three Saints Sanctuary did not wage a fierce battle, the mere personal arrival of the sect master Yooi Ganju already symbolized the attitude of the Three Saints Sanctuary.

Therefore, solving this matter shouldn't be difficult; now it just depended on what conditions the Three Saints Sanctuary would propose.

Under Pang Zhen's mediation, the Sect Master and Yooi Ganju then descended to the visitor's hall, where Shui Yuan, accompanying Lu Ye, served tea, and was about to leave when Yooi Ganju suddenly spoke, "Are you that Lu Yiye?"

Lu Ye glanced at the Sect Master, and, receiving a nod, he respectfully saluted with a fist, "Lu Ye pays respects to Sect Master Yooi."

Yooi Ganju, who had been fervently quarreling with the Sect Master, now looked at Lu Ye with a warm smile, stroking his beard, "Good."

He just said 'good,' with nothing more to add.

Lu Ye, confused, withdrew.

After speaking briefly with Shui Yuan, Lu Ye summoned his spirit ark and sped toward Bright Heart Peak.

Two hours later, Pang Zhen and Yooi Ganju left together. Before departing, Yooi Ganju looked at the Sect Master, "Brother Thang, let's agree on this matter then."

The Sect Master responded, "Since I promised you, I will surely handle it."

"Farewell."

After Pang Zhen and Yooi Ganju had left, Shui Yuan came over, frowning, "Old man, Sect Master Yooi seemed quite interested in Junior Brother just now. Does he want Junior Brother to help with something?"

Lu Ye didn't notice much before, but Shui Yuan obviously had some insights.

Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer might be well-known currently, but he was still just a Spirit Stream Realm cultivator. Yooi Ganju was the head of a sect, moreover a strong cultivator of the Divine Sea Realm, it didn't make sense for him to be so concerned about a Spirit Stream Realm cultivator.

"Three Saints Sanctuary is facing some pressure at the Spirit Stream battlefield lately, so they hope your Junior Brother can later cultivate at their station and help them through this tough time."

Shui Yuan was puzzled, "Junior Brother is so high-profile; once he reaches the Core Circle, he will definitely be targeted by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. With the Sanctuary under pressure, they still want Junior Brother to go there; aren't they afraid of bringing fire upon themselves?"

The Sect Master laughed, "This is where Yooi Ganju's wisdom lies. Your Junior Brother alone isn't enough to interest him, but if your Junior Brother really finds himself in trouble once he reaches the Core Circle, would his fourth Brother just sit idly by? If his fourth Brother intervenes, then that girl Yuechan will definitely not be able to keep still."

"So if Junior Brother goes to the Three Saints Sanctuary's station, it's like they have also drawn over the top and the third ranked warriors on the Spirit Stream Ranking without having to pay anything. Such a clever trick." She was somewhat annoyed, "You know what kind of situation the fourth Brother is in at Loyal Heart Sect, so knowing all this, why would you still agree?"

The Sect Master slowly said, "Didn't you say that Yiye bought two orifice repair pills for the fourth Brother?"

Shui Yuan suddenly realized, narrowing her eyes at the Sect Master, "You old fellows are all so cunning, but old man, have you considered this? If the fourth Brother was really going to advance to Cloud River, he should have done so already, but so far, no news has come out."

"Yes, according to the time, the fourth Brother should have advanced to the Cloud River Realm by now, why don't you send a message to ask?"

"No need to ask," sighed Shui Yuan, "the fourth Brother might not choose to advance at this time.">

The Sect Master frowned and, after a moment's thought, he realized that if that was the case, the conditions he had agreed to with Yooi Ganju appeared to be somewhat hasty.

The Righteous Blood Sect suddenly had several dozen young ones, making the station much livelier than before.

Under the arrangement of Guk Yang, these youngsters were all well taken care of, and there were specific people designated to teach them cultivation.

After a brief period of resistance and adjustment, the abducted youngsters gradually discovered that the Righteous Blood Sect's station was actually a great place.

To say nothing of the other aspects, just the nature's spiritual energy here alone was so dense that it astonished people; none of the sect stations on the outer circle of the Spirit Stream battlefield could compare, and even those in the inner circle rarely reached this level.

It could be said that the spiritual energy at the Righteous Blood Sect's station could rival those in the core area already.

For the young boys and girls who had just started cultivating, this undoubtedly held great appeal. Each of them was exceptionally talented, and now with such an excellent cultivation environment, they could improve their cultivation at an extremely fast pace.

The cultivation environment was excellent, and their living and eating arrangements were well taken care of; there were also handsome, stable senior brothers and beautiful, gentle senior sisters to teach them cultivation. They could inquire freely about anything they didn't understand, and the resources needed for cultivation were also abundantly supplied.

It could be said that the Righteous Blood Sect was treating them like treasures at the moment.

However, while enjoying the best cultivation conditions, they were also faced with very strict challenges.

Guk Yang decided to set up a monthly assessment for them, determining the scores by comparing the progress in their own cultivation. Those who met the requirements could stay on; if they didn't, they would be sent back to where they came from.

All fifty were outstanding talents; they had been abducted to the Righteous Blood Sect, but who could bear being returned?

So after a brief adjustment period had passed, all fifty put aside various distractions and focused on cultivating earnestly.

Several others secretly steeled themselves, determined to enter the top ten next year, and then, in front of Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer, they would leave the Righteous Blood Sect and rejoin the Three Saints Sanctuary.

At this age, cultivators haven't seen too much of the maliciousness of human hearts, do not harbor complicated thoughts, and haven't participated in brutal battles; this period is the most wonderful time for cultivators.

Lu Ye's days passed without ripples, still studying the Path of Spirit Runes from Madam Yun during the day and returning to read books and practice cultivation at night.

Twenty days after he returned from the inner circle to his station, the resources compensated by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge arrived.

The sects that had followed Lu Ye into battle had almost all received plenty of benefits, which led to widespread celebration.

As the sect of the instigator who stirred up the situation on the Spirit Stream battlefield, the Righteous Blood Sect received particularly significant benefits.

Just in low-grade Spirit Stones alone, the Righteous Blood Sect received five hundred thousand, along with a considerable number of mid-grade and top-grade Spirit Stones and various elixir pills used for cultivation.

Within the sect headquarters, Lu Ye looked over the list of resources and was momentarily dazzled.

He knew that the Righteous Blood Sect was sure to receive a lot of benefits, but he had not expected them to be this substantial.

"These are all earned by you; how you use them is up to you," Shui Yuan said from the side.

Lu Ye handed the list of resources to Shui Yuan, "I can't use this much alone, let's keep it in the sect. As the number of disciples increases, the expenses will also grow. These resources might seem plentiful now, but they might not last when really needed."

"Then I'll keep them for you," Shui Yuan nodded and casually asked another question, "Have you contacted your fourth senior brother recently?"

"Not lately, has something happened to fourth senior brother?"

"Nothing's happened, just asking casually. What would you like to eat for dinner?"

"Whatever senior sister prepares, I love it all."

After having a hearty meal with Shui Yuan, Lu Ye entered his quarters.

"Fifth senior brother," a voice called out, and Lu Ye turned to see Chen Yu.

"Is there something?"

Chen Yu was waiting here, clearly for him.

"There is indeed something."

"Let's talk while walking."

The two walked shoulder to shoulder out of Heaven's Augury Hall; beneath the hazy moonlight, the night scene was enchanting.

After walking a bit, Chen Yu said, "Fifth senior brother, I've come to apply to enter the inner circle."

Chen Yu had long been able to enter the inner circle, not only him but Hua Ci as well. The reason for the delay until now was somewhat related to Lu Ye.

Before, when Lu Ye was performing vigorously in the inner circle and Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer was considered a thorn in the side by all the powers of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, he didn't dare leave lightly, fearing that if the Righteous Blood Sect's station was targeted by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, his presence at Level 8 would at least be somewhat useful.

Now, almost a month had passed and the turmoil had gradually subsided. He felt it was time to leave.

"Do you cherish the cultivation environment here? The environment in the inner circle's sects may not be better than in Righteous Blood Sect."

Chen Yu smiled bitterly, "Naturally, I cherish it, but fifth senior brother, I need to go out and earn merits. Otherwise, what if one day I advance to Level 9 and don't even have the merits to purchase a Heaven Rank technique? Wouldn't that mean cutting off my own future? Coveting the present means giving up on the future; this is not what I desire. Moreover, every cultivator in the sect has to go through this step.

I never expected that I could reach this stage; previously being an independent cultivator, I had no high ambitions, just thinking that practicing cultivation quietly to Level 9 would suffice. But now, I want more!"

"It's good to have ambitions. Do you know where you want to go?"

"I'm not very familiar with the situation in the inner circle and wanted to ask for fifth senior brother's advice," Chen Yu replied.

Lu Ye pondered for a moment and then asked, "Do you want a stable option or a more aggressive one?"

"What do you mean?"

"If you're looking for stability, you could go to the Silver Light Island station. There are also people from there who come here for experiences. If you go to Silver Light Island, they will surely look after you considerably, and since the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge station near Silver Light Island was previously captured, you would face less risk if you train there."

"Lower risk means fewer gains?"

"In terms of merits, that's certainly the case."

"Then let's choose another place."

"I'll arrange it," Lu Ye nodded. "Tomorrow, let Little Gray send you on your way."

"No need, fifth senior brother. Since I started cultivating, I have been hanging around the Righteous Blood Sect's station and never strayed too far. Now that I'm also at Level 8, I can fly by weapon control. I want to walk around and see more."

"It's all up to you," Lu Ye stopped, patting Chen Yu on the shoulder. "Besides me, you are the first one from Righteous Blood Sect to step out. Remember to be cautious in your actions outside. If possible, try not to reveal your origin; this situation was caused by me."

Chapter 350 Return My Pure and Innocent Sixth Sister

If the people of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge knew that Chen Yu was a disciple of the Righteous Blood Sect, they would certainly target him more.

"When Fifth Senior Brother acts on behalf of the sect, it brings honor to our sect. There is no question of it dragging us down... I will definitely not disgrace our sect either."

Before dawn had even broken, Chen Yu had departed, taking along some Spirit Stones and elixir pills he had gotten from Shui Yuan.

There weren't many to see him off, only Lu Ye and Hua Ci. Chen Yu had a good relationship with most of the sect disciples, as he had previously managed the marketplace for the Righteous Blood Sect; hence, he didn't want the farewell to be too sorrowful.

This departure was heading into the unknown, he would either achieve great success or die in exile.

Throughout history, countless cultivators had left their sect and then vanished without a trace, but as Chen Yu had said earlier, this was a path every cultivator must walk. No one could avoid it.

Those top sect disciples might have noble identities, but they too must leave the protection of their sects and venture out to temper themselves.

Every cultivator is like an uncut jade, only through the trials and tribulations can they lead a dazzling life. Dreams are aspirations with wings; Only one's own efforts can give the wings the power to soar.

Chen Yu was the first disciple of the Righteous Blood Sect to leave the station after Lu Ye. Following him, more disciples from the Righteous Blood Sect would continue to leave, scattering like seeds onto the battlefield.

"I need to make a trip back to Mount Ying."

In the morning breeze, Hua Ci suddenly spoke.

"What are you going back to Mount Ying for?"

"To retrieve some things."

"I'll go with you."

Hua Ci shook her head, "You can't come with me."

Lu Ye turned to look at her profile. The breeze tousled her hair which added a lazy beauty to her appearance.

"Didn't you ask me once where I learned those mushroom techniques?"

Lu Ye had indeed asked this question. Although previously his cultivation was not high and his understanding of the cultivation world was not vast, Hua Ci's unique mushroom techniques were truly extraordinary. Healing cultivators were known for saving and helping others. Perhaps some healing cultivators practiced other sects to fight, but Hua Ci's abilities were not something just anyone possessed.

Especially since she was an independent cultivator.

"I once received a legacy left by a healing cultivator; those techniques were all part of the legacy."

"Is the legacy in Mount Ying?"

"Near Mount Ying."

Lu Ye understood.

In the Spirit Stream battlefield, obtaining a legacy from a powerful figure is nothing unusual. The Spirit Stream battlefield is filled with countless opportunities which many may not encounter in their lifetime, but for certain individuals, these seem almost destined for them.

Those who obtain such legacies invariably have a bright future.

Lu Ye himself was once mistaken to have obtained the legacy of a spirit runes master in the Spirit Stream battlefield; although the legacy of a spirit runes master was real, he did not attain it in the Spirit Stream battlefield.

"Dangerous?"

"A bit."

"Then there's no rush, after a while I will be entering the Core Circle, then I'll contact a sect within the Core Circle and have both you and Phong Yue transferred there. You two are healing cultivators, there's no need to fight others; it's better to go directly into the Core Circle. You can visit when your cultivation is higher."

Healing cultivators earn their merits not through killing enemies, but mostly through healing others.

For instance, if someone from the Righteous Blood Sect gets injured, a healing cultivator would treat them, and then merits would be allocated as a reward by the governor or deputy governor.

They can also complete some special missions assigned by the sect.

Hua Ci tilted her head to look at him, "Are you worried I might die out there?"

"Of course, I'm worried," Lu Ye answered as he looked back at her.

Hua Ci's gaze suddenly became flustered, and she hurriedly averted her eyes.

Lu Ye stepped forward and grabbed her hand.

Hua Ci's eyes widened in surprise as she looked at Lu Ye and tried to pull her hand away, but couldn't.

"You cannot undertake dangerous tasks."

"Let go of me!"

"Promise me, and I will let go!"

"I'm calling for help!"

"Go ahead! I want to see how loud you can be."

"I'm really going to call for help!" Hua Ci took in a deep breath, pretending to shout, but facing Lu Ye's nonchalant gaze, she ultimately didn't go through with it.

"If you like holding me, then keep doing it, so that the junior brothers and sisters can see clearly what kind of person their Fifth Senior Brother is." Then she stared continuously at Lu Ye, the corners of her eyes twinkling with amusement.

Lu Ye also stared back at her, maintaining his position motionlessly, just inches apart, eyes locked...

Seeing who would falter first.

As the dawn spread across the sky, the sun began to rise in the east, and the quiet station was about to come back to life.

"You don't understand the matters of healing cultivators; this is not something that cultivation levels can resolve. Even if my cultivation were higher, going there would still be dangerous for me."

"Then don't go."

"That's not an option."

"It seems I can't persuade you."

"How about I agree now and then sneak out later to save your face?"

"What use do I have for that face?"

He sighed softly and released Hua Ci.

Hua Ci immediately stepped back two steps and shook her hands, which had gone numb from being grasped.

Then she summoned her Flying Spirit Artifact and said to Lu Ye, "I'm leaving now. I will give birth to the child in my belly and raise him well. Take good care of Spirit Jade and Kong Niu!"

Lu Ye's eyes twitched as he watched her transform into a beam of light and soar to a nearby spirit mountaintop, then the silhouette of Little Gray soared into the sky and vanished in an instant.

The creaking noise arose nearby. Lu Ye turned his head and saw He Xiyang with reddened eyes, standing there grinding her teeth at him, her eyes full of hatred, as if Lu Ye had committed some unforgivable sin against her.

"What is it?" Lu Ye asked with a stern face.

"You bullied Sixth Sister!" He Xiyang burst into tears, and then lowered her head and charged towards Lu Ye, yelling, "I'm going to fight you!"

Lu Ye raised his hand to hold her head and immobilized her, "You actually believe the nonsense your Sixth Sister spouts!"

"Wuwuwu... I don't care, return my pure and innocent Sixth Sister!" He Xiyang spun her arms like windmills, apparently trying to hammer Lu Ye's head, but her arms were too short to reach, making it frustrating and embarrassing for her.

After a moment, a thoroughly beaten He Xiyang sat on the ground, crying bitterly.

Lu Ye had already left, these people one after another were so troubling to deal with.

On Little Gray's back, speeding like lightning, Hua Ci couldn't help but smile slightly remembering Lu Ye's astonished face.

As a healing cultivator, she knew very well that Lu Ye's arrangement was the best; she and Phong Yue could entirely skip the inner circle and go directly with Lu Ye into the Core Circle. Healing cultivators weren't refused by anyone; after all, no need for fighting meant that a lower cultivation level didn't matter much.

Lu Ye asked her not to rush, but her biggest reason for rushing was that Lu Ye progressed too quickly.

The first time they met, her cultivation was somewhat higher than Lu Ye's. But as of today, Lu Ye was close to advancing to 7th Heaven, while she was still at Level 8.

She felt the pressure and urgency that Yiyi had once experienced. Yiyi's current pace of cultivation could barely keep up with Lu Ye, but if she continued like this, she would eventually only become a passerby.

It was not about romantic affection but simply not wanting to continue in this way.

Having been brought out of Mount Ying, she slowly integrated into the collective of the Righteous Blood Sect, but she did not wish to be left behind one day.

News of Chen Yu and Hua Ci's gradual departures slowly spread. Although they knew this day would come, when it did, the disciples of the Righteous Blood Sect were somewhat affected emotionally.

Phong Yue proactively approached Lu Ye, indicating she was also ready to train in the inner circle and so wanted to request a batch of cultivation materials to take from him.

She had never considered this before, as there was no justification for it, and it seemed hopeless even with cultivation reaching Level 9.

But ever since Lu Ye had accepted her as an official disciple, her life seemed bright again.

She could now earn merits and prepare for her future cultivation journey.

Lu Ye told her to scram.

Phong Yue walked away dejected, a belly full of grievances with nowhere to air them. What the heck, even being accepted as an official disciple didn't mean she was favored.

That Lu Yiye was undoubtedly the most vicious person in the world!

She found He Xiying, whose eyes were swollen from crying, and together they wept yet again.

In the Lowe, Lu Ye asked the Talent Tree to absorb the last bit of Earth's Core Fire. Watching that leaf completely catch fire, he immersed his mind to examine, not gaining a spirit rune, but the techniques of embedding spirit runes.

Previously, Lu Ye hadn't seen much use in these techniques, but recently, as he learned the Path of Spirit Runes with Madam Yun, he began to see the benefits.

The interlinking and embedding between different spirit runes required various techniques. The more techniques mastered, the more perfectly different spirit runes could be integrated. Also, through these techniques, he could delve deeper into the mysteries of the Path of Spirit Runes.

Before, he had purchased fifty portions of Earth's Core Fire from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, and now having absorbed them all, he had six types of spirit runes, although they didn't much help him in combat.

These six spirit runes were audio message, image message, spirit energy storage, Explosion Spirit Runes, Underwater Breathing, and concealment.

Audio message and image message were generally used together to record images and sound; cultivators of the Spirit Stream Realm rarely encountered such things, but higher levels of cultivation gradually exposed them to it.

Spirit energy storage needs no explanation; every Spiritual Artifact's restriction includes this spirit rune.

Explosion Spirit Runes were useful for array setup.

Underwater Breathing was a rune for breathing underwater; although Lu Ye tried it and didn't find it very good, it was indeed useful.

Concealment was somewhat superfluous due to the trace-erasing bangle gifted by Madam Yun, but if concealment was used in array setup, arranging some concealment arrays would also be nice.

Overall, there were no useless spirit runes, it all depended on the timing and location of application.

If used at the right moment and place, even the most trivial spirit runes could produce miraculous effects.

To this day, Lu Ye realized that the spirit runes gained from the Talent Tree had no discernible pattern; they covered a variety of aspects, but that was not necessarily a bad thing. The more spirit runes he acquired, the richer his future arsenal of methods would be.