

Humanity 381

Chapter 381 Who Says a Healing Cultivator Doesn't Kill?

The young leader immediately sensed something was wrong. He didn't know what they had encountered this time, but it was clear that his group was afflicted with an extremely covert and severe poison. No one had realized it before the onset of symptoms.

This was truly petrifying.

His first reaction was to swiftly leave this place. However, as soon as the thought arose, he felt his spirit force dissipate and instinctively reached for the arm of Hua Ci, gasping, "Save..."

His eyes suddenly widened as he saw over a dozen points of red light flying in from all directions and landing on the back of the healing cultivator's hand.

He was all too familiar with this—it was a sign of earning merits after slaying enemies.

The dozens of people who died from the poison were all killed by this healing cultivator!

Disbelief flooded the young man's eyes as he stared at Hua Ci in horror, "You..."

He suddenly looked down, noticing his own hand. In his desperation, he had grasped the arm of the female healing cultivator, but now that hand was completely numb.

It dawned on him, recalling the words the female healing cultivator said before they entered... He really had entrusted his life to her now.

"Why?" the young man ground out, truly unable to comprehend why this female healing cultivator would strike so ruthlessly at them, people with whom she had no quarrels or grievances.

Hua Ci smiled gently, "I forgot to introduce myself, I am a disciple of the Righteous Blood Sect!"

The young man's pupils contracted sharply, his expression flickering between emotions, unsure whether to cry or laugh.

A Righteous Blood Sect disciple...

He had actually brought a healing cultivator from the Righteous Blood Sect into the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest to search for Lu Yiye's tracks; no wonder she took the opportunity to poison them.

But how could someone from the Righteous Blood Sect dare to appear so brazenly outside the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest? He was now full of regret for not verifying Hua Ci's allegiance before, but given the situation at the time, he didn't even think to check such information.

"I'll kill you!" As his consciousness blurred, the young man mustered all his strength to lift his palm and strike at Hua Ci.

Hua Ci merely drifted back a few steps, easily avoiding the blow.

Thump...

The young man's body fell heavily to the ground, with a red light flying out and landing on the back of Hua Ci's hand.

Looking around at the corpses strewn everywhere, Hua Ci couldn't help but feel a sense of unreality... She knew the inheritance she had received was powerful, but now it seemed even stronger than she had imagined.

Before, she only had various mushrooms as a means to deal with enemies, and those methods would work against low-level cultivators but become less effective as cultivators' strength increased. If cultivators were to fly with weapon control, her methods would hardly have any room to play.

However, after acquiring the complete inheritance, her methods of killing were no longer limited to planting mushrooms. She could poison someone whenever she desired.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators accompanying her had long been silently poisoned.

Looking down at her hands, Hua Ci could feel her heart pounding fiercely in her chest.

Who says, a healing cultivator, cannot, kill!

Dropping the protective spirit force, Hua Ci took deep breaths of the poisonous mist surrounding her, a mist that cultivators from the Core Circle avoided at all costs, yet to Hua Ci, it was even better than nature's spiritual energy, with a sweet taste filling her mouth...

She collected her emotions and started to gather the storage sacks scattered around, one by one.

Moments later, Hua Ci departed, leaving behind rapidly decaying corpses.

...

Deep inside the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, Lu Ye, who was being carefully nursed back to health by Yiyi, suddenly looked down at the back of his hand, feeling something unusual from his battlefield marking.

He quickly checked it out.

It wasn't a message from someone but rather a challenge issued to him!

Lu Ye then remembered that it had been three days since he had climbed onto the Spirit Stream Ranking.

His Second Senior Sister had mentioned this when they communicated earlier.

A cultivator who had just landed on the Spirit Stream Ranking had a three-day grace period to adjust before they would be eligible to challenge those ranking higher and be challenged by those ranking lower.

In other words, a cultivator who had just joined the ranking would not be challenged, nor able to challenge anyone else, within those three days.

The range of challenge was within five ranking positions.

For example, since Lu Ye was now ranked thirty-three, the strongest person he could challenge was the one ranked twenty-seven. Correspondingly, among the cultivators ranked below him, those ranked from thirty-eight to thirty-four could challenge him while thirty-nine could not, as that would exceed the five-position limit.

The challenge of the Spirit Stream Ranking was a very interesting affair, since Heaven's Augury was involved and maintained it, there were many unbreakable rules.

This type of challenge didn't require a face-to-face confrontation, as most cultivators of the Spirit Stream Realm were active on the Spirit Stream battlefield, and some stayed within the Nine Provinces. If someone always hid in their home or in their sect headquarters, it would be impossible to challenge them in person.

The challenge could be initiated simply with the help of the battlefield marking, with Heaven's Augury operating behind the scenes. It was very convenient.

Take the current moment for instance, even though he did not know who launched the challenge against Lu Ye through the battlefield marking, Lu Ye now had four hours to prepare himself, to adjust his condition to the best state to face his opponent.

When the time came, Heaven's Augury would transport Lu Ye and his challenger directly into a specially created small space, where the two sides would fight. Moreover, this type of small space offered many kinds of terrains to choose from. As others came to challenge Lu Ye, he would have the right to choose the terrain, selecting one that would give him an advantage.

If Lu Ye were to challenge others, then the right to choose would be in the hands of his opponents.

Of course, one could also refuse a challenge.

However, refusal was equivalent to admitting defeat, and the challenger would replace him in the Spirit Stream Ranking.

Lu Ye had only heard about such things and had never experienced them. He was somewhat surprised to suddenly receive a challenge.

However, after giving it some thought, it was probably because the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had grown impatient with waiting. He had been hiding in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, out of reach of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, and since he hadn't died of poison, they likely wanted to use the challenge to probe his condition. If possible, they would even prefer to use this method to kill him, so they would no longer need to risk delving deep into the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest.

After carefully examining the various pieces of information transmitted by the battlefield marking, Lu Ye found the situation to be just as Second Senior Sister had described. He had two choices: to accept the challenge or to decline.

After contemplating for a moment, Lu Ye made his decision and accepted the challenge. In the darkness, Heaven's Augury descended, and more information emerged from the battlefield marking.

Currently, he had four hours to prepare. Additionally, he could choose the terrain where he would fight his enemy.

Upon examining the terrains, a rough idea of each unique small space appeared in Lu Ye's mind, including their exclusive features, size, and so on...

There were about a hundred various small spaces in total, including ruins, wilderness, deserts, jungles, and seas.

The sizes of these spaces varied greatly, with the largest encompassing several miles in diameter and the smallest being only a few dozen yards...

Since this was his first time experiencing such an event, Lu Ye naturally wanted to gather as much intelligence as possible.

He tried to use the marking to probe for information about his challenger, but regrettably found nothing. For some unknown reason, Heaven's Augury offered an invisible protection to the challengers.

He then checked the Spirit Stream Ranking, glancing at the five individuals ranked from thirty-four to thirty-eight.

Among those five, three were from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge and two from the Haotian Alliance, all with the cultivation of the 9th Heaven. The one who challenged him was certainly one of those three from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Yiyi looked on curiously, "Lu Ye, is someone looking for you?"

"No, someone on the Spirit Stream Ranking has issued me a challenge," Lu Ye responded casually.

"Someone is challenging you?" Yiyi was surprised, "Did you accept?"

"I accepted."

"But your current state..." Yiyi looked worried. Although three days had passed, the aftereffects of Lu Ye's use of the Fire Phoenix had not subsided, and he was very weakened. He probably couldn't even exert half of his usual strength.

"I'm not going to fight him; I'll just watch."

Accepting the challenger's request did not necessarily mean that he had to fight. Once the four-hour time limit was over, he would simply concede.

It was nothing more than being replaced by somebody else in the Spirit Stream Ranking.

Upon hearing Lu Ye say this, Yiyi was reassured.

Lu Ye then checked those ranked within the top ten in the Spirit Stream Ranking. These individuals were all from the 1st grade sects of the Nine Provinces. A brief scan of the entire ranking revealed that the top fifteen were almost exclusively from 1st grade sects. After the fifteenth place, cultivators from 2nd grade sects began to appear.

Only beyond the fiftieth place did cultivators from 3rd grade sects sparsely start to show up, and even then, they were not many.

Lu Ye saw Yooi Lianzhou's name, ranked seventh on the Spirit Stream Ranking, which was quite high.

The first rank belonged to an individual from Tianzhou's Daoxuan Sect named Szi Guang. He wondered if this person used to be ranked fourth.

With Yanh Xing, who was the second rank, dead, and both Feng Yuechan and Li Baxian having advanced to Cloud River, the three major thorns of the Spirit Stream Ranking were gone, and the fourth rank was automatically promoted to first rank. In truth, he should be thanking Lu Ye. If Lu Ye hadn't purchased two orifice repair pills for Li Baxian, it's unlikely that he would have ever achieved the first rank.

After understanding the various aspects of the Spirit Stream Ranking, Lu Ye retracted his focus and continued to recuperate.

He didn't waste any time while recuperating: he read a book he had brought from Madam Yun and continuously swallowed elixir pills for his cultivation.

Because there was a Protective Array in place, it was inconvenient to build a spirit energy gathering array or to lay out Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes within his spiritual orifice. The flow of nature's spiritual energy, if too swift, would cause the poisons surrounding him to erode the array more severely, increasing the burden on the array.

Luckily, even just by swallowing elixir pills, his cultivation speed wasn't slow – in fact, it's fair to say that this has always been his main method of cultivation.

Soon enough, the four-hour time limit arrived.

Lu Ye connected his mind to the battlefield marking and forfeited the fight.

Looking at the Spirit Stream Ranking again, he had slipped from the thirty-third place to the thirty-seventh, with the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator having taken his place.

Lu Ye narrowed his eyes slightly, committing the name and background of this person to memory.

Before his focus returned, information about another challenge came through the marking.

Lu Ye accepted once more, then set it aside.

Meanwhile, news quickly spread throughout the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge camp: in the Spirit Stream Ranking challenge, Lu Yiye was avoiding combat, suggesting he might be in a dire situation!

Chapter 382 Hua Ci Comes Looking

Just as Lu Ye had guessed before, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge was indeed using this method to probe his situation.

After waiting for three days, Lu Ye still hadn't been poisoned to death. Those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge dared not delve too deep into the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest and, unable to find Lu Ye's whereabouts, could only resort to challenging him through the Spirit Stream Ranking.

Lu Yiye accepted the challenge, but forfeited two hours later, which undoubtedly indicated one thing—his condition was absolutely not good; otherwise, there was no reason not to fight before forfeiting.

You see, a challenge on the Spirit Stream Ranking doesn't necessarily have to result in death. With the operation of Heaven's Augury, if one realizes they are no match, they merely need to shout surrender to escape the small space of the challenge and thus preserve their life.

Now, Lu Yiye did not dare even show his face, clearly fearing that those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge would scrutinize his true condition...

Once the news spread, the previously anxious cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge suddenly calmed down, all believing they just needed to wait it out, and Lu Yiye would certainly die!

In the blink of an eye, another four hours passed, and Lu Ye's ranking had slipped from thirty-seventh to forty-first.

Those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge showed no signs of relenting and someone else issued a challenge to Lu Ye.

Deep within the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, inside the protective array, Lu Ye was growing impatient. He was quietly recuperating and studying cultivation in peace, but people kept initiating challenges through the Spirit Stream Ranking. Although he could delay each challenge for two hours, such continuous interruptions were quite troublesome.

Thus, the third time he was challenged, Lu Ye didn't agree and flatly refused it.

Then his ranking dropped to forty-sixth!

In the next period equivalent to one incense stick's time, all the cultivators eligible to connect with Heaven's Augury and check the Spirit Stream Ranking could only watch as Lu Ye's name slid from the forties to the bottom of the list, and then disappeared from the Spirit Stream Ranking altogether!

Since three days ago, when Lu Ye reached thirty-third place on the Spirit Stream Ranking with his 7th Heaven cultivation, creating an unprecedented record in the Nine Provinces, he rapidly dropped out of the list in just a short span of three days, his rise as fleeting as a morning glory.

The Spirit Stream Ranking became clear!

No more was there the irritating 7th Heaven level cultivator to agitate the cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Lu Ye also found peace, no longer disturbed by challenges through the Spirit Stream Ranking.

Just when he thought he could rest peacefully for a while, Lu Ye suddenly frowned and called out softly, "Yiyi!"

Yiyi, who was roasting beast meat for Lu Ye that wafted a savory aroma, looked up upon hearing him, "Here."

She then realized Lu Ye's expression was off. He was gazing intently in a certain direction, slowly standing up with his spirit force subtly surging within him.

Yiyi swiftly dived underground, and Amber leaped onto Lu Ye's shoulder and crouched down, seemingly inauspicious but in fact ready for battle.

It was utterly unexpected for Lu Ye that someone would venture this deep into his location.

Given that the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest was now sealed by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, anyone able to enter must be an enemy from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. The courage to venture this deep into the area meant the intruder's strength was undoubtedly formidable.

He didn't know which cultivator from the Spirit Stream Ranking it was.

Lu Ye pressed one hand on the hilt of his knife and clutched an array banner with the other. Although his strength was currently hard to utilize, he had set up an array here. No matter how powerful the intruder was, killing him wouldn't be easy.

Crunching sounds...

In that direction, the sound of someone stepping on dry leaves came, moving step by step toward the array amidst the thick green poisonous fog.

Even though Lu Ye activated the Insight Spirit Runes to enhance his vision, he couldn't see through the poisonous fog to discern the face of the newcomer. Judging by the attractive curves of their figure, it seemed to be a woman.

This woman appeared to be around the same height as Sister Hua Ci, and her physique was also very similar.

After a moment, the visitor stood outside the array, looking through the barrier at Lu Ye, eyes brimming with laughter.

Lu Ye was stunned.

"Sister Hua Ci!" Yiyi also emerged from underground, her face filled with disbelief as she gazed at the visitor. She couldn't believe they would encounter Hua Ci here; no, Hua Ci must have deliberately come for them.

Saying this, Yiyi dashed toward Hua Ci but was pulled back by Lu Ye.

Yiyi turned her head, looking at him puzzled.

Lu Ye's eyelids slightly lowered as he looked outside the array at Hua Ci, "The healing cultivator of my household doesn't have the ability to reach here under the siege of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Who are you, really?"

Upon hearing Lu Ye's words, Yiyi realized something was wrong.

When she first saw Hua Ci, she was only overwhelmed with joy and hadn't considered this aspect. Now thinking it over, Lu Ye was right—Hua Ci didn't have the capability to travel alone to such a place. Anger

surged in Yiyi as she stared at Hua Ci outside the array, "Who are you, and what methods are you employing to impersonate Sister Hua Ci!"

Hua Ci laughed mirthfully, looking at Lu Ye somewhat reproachfully. Then she sighed softly, her hand resting on her abdomen, her eyes beginning to tear up, "Oh, the poor child, your father doesn't recognize us anymore. What shall we do now?"

Yiyi's eyes widened dramatically, utterly astonished, "What do you mean?"

Lu Ye felt as if he had been struck by a lightning-attracting talisman, standing rooted to the spot.

Upon seeing Hua Ci, his instincts told him this person was an imposter, but Hua Ci's words made him second guess.

In this world, apart from that woman, who else would talk so unreservedly in front of him?

He quickly recalled something and hurriedly sent a message to Hua Ci through his battlefield marking. Outside the array, Hua Ci responded, "The father of the child, I've come to find you. Are you happy or not?"

A twitch ran through the corner of Lu Ye's eye. He waved the array banner, opening a gap in the array, and Hua Ci flashed inside.

"Lu Ye." Yiyi asked uncertainly from the side, "Is she Sister Hua Ci?"

"Yes!"

"Sister Hua Ci!" Yiyi ran over and embraced Hua Ci, bouncing around joyfully. Seeing Hua Ci in this place made her incredibly happy.

Lu Ye sat back down, sizing up Hua Ci, still feeling somewhat surreal.

Because no matter what, he had never expected Hua Ci to come here looking for him, and she had indeed succeeded.

Observing the spirit light on Hua Ci's body, it had clearly reached the Level 9 extent, and the speed of her cultivation improvement was obviously not normal either.

Once Yiyi had calmed down from her excitement, Lu Ye finally asked, "How did you get in?"

"I walked in," Hua Ci replied as if it were the most natural thing in the world.

"The people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge have withdrawn?"

"No, many people are surrounding the area outside, thousands both above and below the ground, and more are continuously entering the forest to search for your traces. This time, you are trapped with no way out."

"Then how did you walk in?"

"I am a healing cultivator. A squad from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge needed a healing cultivator to accompany them, so I walked in with them."

Lu Ye wanted to ask where that squad of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators had gone, but he suddenly caught sight of a string of storage sacks hanging from Hua Ci's waist, no less than thirty or forty...

There was no need to ask. The fate of that squad of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators was clear.

Lu Ye felt shocked. He didn't know what kind of legacy Hua Ci had acquired on Mount Ying. She, a Level 9 healing cultivator, had actually annihilated a squad of Core Circle cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge in one fell swoop! Judging by the number of storage sacks, at least twenty of those cultivators had died at her hands.

What puzzled Lu Ye even more was that even though this woman was an outstanding healing cultivator, how had she withstood the erosion of the poisonous fog and toxic barriers.

He could withstand it because he had the Talent Tree by his side, and it wasn't just withstanding; the violent poison that entered his body was burned away.

It seems that this was related to the legacy she had acquired on Mount Ying.

"Yiyi, the meat is burning," Hua Ci suddenly said.

"Oh!" Yiyi hurried over to the campfire to turn over the roasting meat.

Hua Ci looked at Lu Ye, sizing him up, "You're not poisoned?"

The sole reason she had insisted on coming here to find Lu Ye was her fear that he would be poisoned to death in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest. However, looking at Lu Ye now, there wasn't a single sign of poisoning, although it seemed like Yiyi was poisoned.

"I'm immune to all poisons," Lu Ye countered, "How come you're not poisoned either?"

"It's mutual," Hua Ci smiled kindly, stepped over to Lu Ye, crouched down, and ordered, "Stretch out your hand!"

Lu Ye obediently stretched out his hand.

Hua Ci raised two fingers and placed them on his wrist. Although it appeared that Lu Ye indeed showed no signs of poisoning, many poisons were extremely concealed, and how could she be reassured without checking personally?

After a careful examination, she confirmed that Lu Ye was truly not poisoned.

"Open your mouth."

"Ah..." Lu Ye opened his mouth wide.

"Stick out your tongue and let me see."

"Enough!" Lu Ye resisted.

"Hehe, that's not up to you." Hua Ci suddenly grasped Lu Ye's hand. Her hand was soft and warm to the touch, like warm jade.

Lu Ye immediately felt a numbness in his hand, as if he had been stung by a poisonous bee, but that sensation vanished in an instant. Hua Ci raised her hand to pinch Lu Ye's mouth, intending to pull out his tongue for inspection.

But before she could make a move, Lu Ye had already grabbed her cheek!

The touch felt good.

Hua Ci's mouth formed a round shape.

As their eyes met, Hua Ci blinked, her eyes filled with confusion.

That shouldn't be... The moment she had grabbed Lu Ye's hand, he should have become immobile!

"What are you doing?" Lu Ye asked, his words muffled.

"You..." Hua Ci didn't know what to say.

Yiyi, standing aside, stared as the two pinched each other's cheeks, pursing their lips and gazing affectionately at each other from a close distance. Remembering Hua Ci's previous words, Yiyi stomped her foot, turned her body, and transformed into a spirit light rushing into Amber's body.

She couldn't stand it anymore!

Amber, squatting on Lu Ye's shoulder, also covered her eyes with her paws...

"Did you poison me?" Lu Ye didn't realize it until now, because there was an anomaly on the side of the Root Spiritual Orifice Talent Tree. A great deal of ashen fog had risen and then dispersed, a sign of the poison being burned away.

"Why aren't you affected?" Hua Ci was most puzzled by this.

"I told you I'm immune to all poisons!"

"Impossible!" Hua Ci clearly didn't believe it, as no one in this world could be immune to all poisons.

"Let go first!"

"You let go first."

"Alright, alright, I'll let go first."

Lu Ye released Hua Ci's face, and only then did she withdraw her hand, but their other hands were still tightly clasped together, the ashen fog on the Talent Tree becoming more intense.

Chapter 383 You Vile Woman

Lu Ye glanced at the Talent Tree within his Root Spiritual Orifice then looked at Sister Hua Ci in front of him.

"Why did you poison me, you venomous woman!"

Hua Ci was incredibly surprised, "Are you truly immune to all poisons?"

"Do you think I'm joking with you?"

"I don't believe it!"

"What legacy did you actually receive?"

Lu Ye didn't believe that Hua Ci wanted to kill him with poison, but given the current situation, there seemed no significant difference in Hua Ci's appearance except for a level advancement in her cultivation. However, it actually appeared she had the ability to administer poison undetected. No, that's not right... It seemed more like she was inherently carrying a deadly poison.

She hadn't made any noticeable move to administer poison, and merely by holding his hand, the toxin had entered his body.

If that was truly the case, then his casual remark calling her a venomous woman had indeed become a prophecy fulfilled.

Lu Ye grew even more curious about the legacy she had received in Mount Ying!

It was supposed to be a healing cultivator's legacy, so how come it was related to poison?

But thinking about it, those mushroom tactics she used before were also obtained from that legacy, so it didn't seem too strange.

Moreover, many healing cultivators in the Nine Provinces are indeed adept at using poisons since poison is also a type of medicinal theory.

The healing cultivator who left the legacy... seemed somewhat unorthodox.

"Are you really alright? Please don't push yourself."

The two were very close, hands entwined, their posture intimate. Hua Ci spoke softly and gently—if one were to ignore the green sheen that kept appearing and vanishing on Lu Ye's wrists, anyone seeing them would think they were a couple reunited after a long separation, sharing their heartfelt thoughts.

"How could I possibly be okay?" Lu Ye raised his other hand to grasp Hua Ci's small hand in his palm, gently caressing it, "But you, you must have had a hard time coming here."

Hua Ci smiled sweetly, "It's not hard, it's what I should do." She secretly vowed, determined not to believe that he could resist the poison!

She had thought that with the legacy from Mount Ying, this man could no longer act so arrogantly in front of her. Yet, who would have thought he really seemed to be impervious to all poisons? She had traveled thousands of miles only to be overtaken so easily the moment she met him.

She believed herself to be deadly poisonous, lethal on contact, yet he seemed utterly unaffected.

The green color kept appearing and vanishing on Lu Ye's hands, while in his Root Spiritual Orifice, the toxins burnt off the Talent Tree, sending up thick smoke, a spectacle indeed.

Gradually, Hua Ci couldn't stand it any longer and gritted her teeth, "Let go!"

Lu Ye looked at her with a smile. He didn't know exactly what the legacy she obtained in Mount Ying was about, but it was clear she had been trying to intimidate him initially. She hadn't expected that he would be protected by his Talent Tree and be immune to all poisons, turning her attempt at stealing a chicken into losing rice, stuck in an uncomfortable situation.

"Yiyi!" Hua Ci turned her head and called out to the side, "He's being a rogue, do something about him!"

Only then did Lu Ye let go of Hua Ci's hand, saying earnestly, "Let's spar properly when you're free next time, and no calling for help allowed."

Hua Ci glared at him, shaking the hand that Lu Ye had held, which had become a bit sore.

She stood up and looked around, "If I had known this is what it was like here, I wouldn't have hurried over. Where's Giant Armor? Didn't you say he was with you guys? Why don't I see him?"

"He advanced to Cloud River and returned to the sect headquarters."

Hua Ci was shocked, "Giant Armor advanced to Cloud River? Wasn't he just at 7th Heaven before?"

"He has extraordinary talent."

He didn't elaborate much; the fact that there was a demonic pill inside Giant Armor was something only he and Yiyi knew, not something to broadcast widely.

Hua Ci nodded slightly, then called out again, "Yiyi."

Yiyi appeared in a flash, her head bowed, cheeks red. The scene from just before had been quite shocking for her, and she still hadn't recovered.

She had never seen anyone behaving so affectionately in front of her in her life.

Hua Ci smiled and stepped forward, grabbing Yiyi's hand and examining it slightly: "It's not a big deal."

Saying so, she sat next to Yiyi, holding her hand. Not clear how she did it, but in a short while, the green poison on Yiyi's body disappeared at a visible rate, soon completely vanishing.

As someone who could both administer and cure poison, Yiyi's contamination was minor and easily resolved by Hua Ci at the moment.

If Giant Armor had still been there, Hua Ci could have easily treated him as well, but at the time, his condition was not suitable for delay. No one knew how long he could last, and besides, at that time, Lu Ye didn't know Hua Ci would come, nor did he know she had such a bizarre ability, so sending Giant Armor to advance to Cloud River and return to the sect headquarters was the best option.

"Thanks, Sister Hua Ci," Yiyi said, smiling sweetly.

Hua Ci held her hand, gently patted it, and looking at Lu Ye, who was eating grilled meat, asked, "What are your plans now?"

"Heal and cultivate."

"It's certainly safe."

Currently, the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest had been completely sealed off by the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, and with their strength, there was no way they could break out unless Lu Ye activated the Fire Phoenix again. But with his previous experience, Lu Ye was unwilling to use the spirit runes lightly again due to the severe aftereffects.

Although the environment here was not very good, at least there was no threat to their lives, and now that Hua Ci had also arrived, they did not have to worry about the surrounding poison fog and barriers threatening them.

Lu Ye communicated with Yooi Lianzhou that he wanted to cultivate here until he reached the 9th Heaven before leaving the mountain, which was naturally impossible. Currently at the 7th Heaven cultivation level, he did not know how long it would take to reach the 9th Heaven.

The temporary goal was the 8th Heaven. Lu Ye felt that with the cultivation of the 8th Heaven, he should be able to break through the encirclement.

While Lu Ye was chatting with Hua Ci, Yiyi sat beside her, occasionally glancing at her abdomen, and finally couldn't help but reach out and touch it...

The arrival of Hua Ci undoubtedly added an extra layer of protection for both Lu Ye and Yiyi.

Within the Protective Array, Lu Ye was resting and cultivating.

Hua Ci took Yiyi outside the big array, and in just one day, a simple three-story wooden building was erected, complete with a fence encircling a small courtyard outside the building.

Lu Ye then re-set up several formations outside the building, and they moved inside to live, instantly improving their living conditions significantly.

This made Lu Ye quite emotional, having women around was indeed different.

As for Yiyi... she could only be considered a little girl after all.

Lu Ye's days passed uneventfully, but Hua Ci was very busy—rarely seen a few times a day, and Lu Ye didn't know what she was busy with. However, he was certain that since Hua Ci came to the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, the losses of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had greatly increased.

Every time Hua Ci returned, she brought several storage sacks, sometimes as few as ten or so, and sometimes as many as twenty or thirty, which she handed over to Lu Ye to unlock the restriction locks, retrieving the good items inside the sacks.

Lu Ye grew increasingly curious about what heritage Hua Ci had obtained at Mount Ying, she, a Level 9 healing cultivator, slaughtered those Core Circle cultivators as easily as slaughtering chickens and dogs, and the number of storage sacks accumulated inside the building rapidly increased to over a hundred in just a few days.

Time passed...

The cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were not having a comfortable time these days.

Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer, who was trapped in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, was still not dead!

Although he was no longer seen in the Spirit Stream Ranking, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge could still investigate his life and death through other channels. They assumed he couldn't live long, yet there he was, perfectly fine. How could Ten Thousand Demons Ridge accept this?

Since Lu Ye was trapped in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, nearly half a month had passed. How could he still be alive?

Regarding this situation, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had two guesses. One was that Lu Ye had a way to resist the deadly poison of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, but this possibility was not large as the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest was a forbidden region for cultivators, and a Spirit Stream Realm cultivator entering it had no means of resisting the poison for so long.

The second possibility was that he had found a safe place which might not have poison fog and barriers, and that's why he had survived until now.

If that were the case, then this guy's luck was simply too good. In the whole Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, where poison fog and barriers were everywhere, how could he just happen to find a safe place?

In these days, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had been constantly organizing manpower to enter the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest to search for Lu Ye's traces. The first few days, although exploration was difficult, there were no losses, and the cultivators entering the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest could safely evacuate in time.

But from the third day on, things started to go awry.

First, a team of more than twenty people was completely annihilated in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, and by the time someone found them, they had become nothing but bare bones.

A day later, more cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge went missing in the forest.

After that, each day saw a varying number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators dying in the forest.

This forbidden region for cultivators seemed like a ferocious beast that had been awakened from its slumber by the many cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, seeking to quell its rage with the lives of those cultivators.

No one knew how those who died from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had died because, according to the initial exploration experience, the places where they died were not considered very dangerous and were only a few miles into the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest.

Because of Lu Yiye, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge suffered heavy casualties.

By this time, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge was somewhat caught in a dilemma.

Thousands of cultivators gathered outside the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, all from the Core Circle, and this definitely affected their cultivation significantly. They could not stay here for a long time. If they did, their cultivation levels would not increase.

To continue staying, no one knew how long Lu Yiye could hold out and not die, and with the current situation, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge did not dare to casually send people into the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest to explore anymore.

But just leaving like this, they were not willing to give up either.

What made them feel even worse was that the Haotian Alliance was constantly causing trouble. Although the manpower the Haotian Alliance had gathered was not as much as theirs, it was spread out around the outskirts, continuously attacking the support or straggling cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, also causing them tremendous trouble and losses.

The cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge racked their brains but could not understand how a simple encirclement and reinforcement battle, using the Giant Armor to lure Lu Yiye into exposing himself, had turned into the current situation!

Even more disheartening news came!

The Giant Armor, which was supposed to be trapped with Lu Yiye in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, had appeared on the Cloud River battlefield!

The cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were going crazy...

Chapter 384 Hua Ci's Soup

In the pavilion, Lu Ye was reading by candlelight through the night.

Hua Ci came up holding a pottery jar, knelt beside Lu Ye, and took a bowl, from which she ladled out some milky soup.

The enticing aroma immediately filled the room.

"Time for soup."

Hua Ci's tone was as gentle as water, like a virtuous wife, she brought the bowl filled with the milky soup up to Lu Ye.

Lu Ye put down the book in his hand and looked at the strange thing in the bowl, which resembled a scorpion's tail, causing the corner of his eye to involuntarily twitch.

Since Hua Ci's arrival, his physical condition had been improving by the day. It was undeniable that having a genuine healing cultivator looking after him sped up his recovery far more than he could have managed on his own. A few days ago, his health had greatly improved, and by now his strength had fully recovered.

And all this was thanks to the medicinal soup that Hua Ci painstakingly prepared every day...

Not only was the soup extremely nourishing, but it also tasted great. If it weren't for the fact that the Talent Tree would raise a great cloud of burnt fog each time he finished drinking it, Lu Ye might truly believe it had been made from some precious medicinal ingredients.

However, in reality, the ingredients for the soup were all found by Hua Ci in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest.

In the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, toxic creatures were everywhere. Spiders, toads, scorpions, snakes, centipedes, and the like... had all made an appearance in the pottery jar of soup.

The ingredients used for the soup were indeed a bit unusual, but the effects were genuinely good.

According to Hua Ci, since Lu Ye was immune to all poisons, she naturally should bring out all her skills to take care of him.

Lu Ye suspected that this woman was taking revenge on him and wanted to see him make a fool of himself.

He took the bowl handed over by Hua Ci, drinking slowly and methodically, while Hua Ci also served herself a bowl and enjoyed it together with him.

Suddenly, he turned his head toward Amber, "Do you want some?"

The tiger-eyed Amber, who had been staring over at them without a second thought, quickly leapt up and jumped out through the window.

Amber, who feared neither heaven nor earth, had lately been avoiding Hua Ci whenever she saw her.

"Oh, this is for you," Lu Ye suddenly remembered something and took a bracelet from his storage sack to give to Hua Ci.

Hua Ci narrowed her beautiful eyes: "What for? A token of affection?"

"It's a Lu family heirloom, traditionally given only to the eldest daughter-in-law!"

Hua Ci took it, tried it on, and after a brief experiment to understand the bracelet's function, she took it off and handed it back, "You need it more than I do."

This bracelet had the ability to conceal one's figure and aura. It was precisely the trace-erasing bangle that Madam Yun had given to Lu Ye in the past.

Lu Ye then activated the Concealment Spirit Runes on himself in front of her.

Only then did Hua Ci reapply the trace-erasing bangle to her wrist. Recently, she had kept going out to hunt down Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, so the bangle was indeed useful.

When she killed enemies, she relied on secretly using poison, and with the special environment of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, people would often die without knowing the cause of their death. Having the trace-erasing bangle on hand was certainly a great advantage.

As for Lu Ye's words about it being a Lu family heirloom traditionally given only to the eldest daughter-in-law, Hua Ci dismissed them as if he were merely talking nonsense.

Soon, the two of them had finished the medicinal soup in the pottery jar. Hua Ci cleaned up and left the wooden house, finding a place nearby where she could cultivate in peace.

As she breathed in and out, the surrounding greenish poison fog was drawn into her body.

Ever since fully inheriting the legacy from Mount Ying, Hua Ci's method of cultivation became different from ordinary people. Now, if she wanted to quickly enhance her strength, she didn't need much Spiritual Energy, but her need for poison was great.

In simple terms, the more potent the poison, the more it could enhance her strength.

The Ten Thousand Poisons Forest was a forbidden zone for cultivators, but for Hua Ci, there was no better place to cultivate in the entire Spirit Stream battlefield.

On the third floor of the pavilion, Lu Ye flipped through the pages and saw a new spirit rune. He scrutinized it carefully, and his previously indifferent expression immediately became focused, straightening his body as well.

The spirit runes he now mastered came from two sources. One, naturally, was the spirit runes carried on the leaves of the Talent Tree. He could execute these types of runes at will, almost without worrying about the risk of construction failure. In fact, to date, he had never failed an attempt to construct, even in the case of the Fire Phoenix. Although he succeeded on his first try, the consequences were quite serious.

The other source was from the ones he learned from books.

Compared to the first kind, the runes from this second source carried a significant risk of failure when constructing. The more complicated the rune, the higher the risk of failure.

Therefore, in battle, Lu Ye only used the spirit runes he obtained from the Talent Tree, never daring to use the ones learned from books, as any mistake during a fight could lead to irreversible disaster. He couldn't afford the consequences of failing to construct a spirit rune.

However, these learned spirit runes were quite useful, like setting them up within a formation to exert their effects.

Spirit runes are different in complexity, and depending on the number of Yin-Yang Dual Origins required for construction, they can be divided into different grades.

No one had ever done so simply because, regardless of the kind of spirit runes, if used well, they could produce extraordinary effects.

Lu Ye had, in his mind, classified spirit runes into different levels based on their difficulty.

Those spirit runes that consisted of more than one hundred Yin-Yang Dual Origins were considered first-level spirit runes.

More than two hundred would be second-level...

And so on and so forth.

As for the level of the Fire Phoenix spirit rune, it had exceeded Lu Ye's own standards since constructing this spirit rune involved around a hundred thousand Yin-Yang Dual Origins—an astounding number.

Up until now, the spirit runes Lu Ye had mastered basically required only several hundred Yin-Yang Dual Origins to construct, with a few needing just a hundred or two. But aside from the Fire Phoenix, no other spirit rune had broken the thousand mark.

It wasn't until this moment that he had come across one in a book.

The construction of this spirit rune required nearly three thousand Yin-Yang Dual Origins, undoubtedly making it incredibly difficult to establish.

However, the description of this spirit rune in the book, and the various functions it could perform, piqued Lu Ye's interest.

This spirit rune was undoubtedly a very powerful one. Although it had little use in combat, if employed at the appropriate time and place, the effects it could produce would be absolutely unimaginable.

Lu Ye immediately immersed his mind, following the teachings of Madam Yun, and began to break down the spirit rune.

It was an essential process. To successfully construct a spirit rune, one must first familiarize oneself with its structure, knowing how much Yin Origin and Yang Origin was needed, and how the Yin-Yang Dual Origins fit together. Any small error could lead to the failure of the spirit rune's construction.

This was why spirit runes masters were rare, and most of them only specialized in one area of spirit runes. For example, the array cultivators' regular cultivation of spirit runes suited for array setup, artifact refiners' for Artifact Refining, and battle runes masters' for combat.

It wasn't that they didn't want to cultivate more spirit runes; they simply lacked the energy and ability to do so.

Perhaps with the advancement of their cultivation and continuous accumulation, those who specialized in a particular area could master more spirit runes. Yet, the Path of Spirit Runes was profound and vast; no one dared to claim they were all-capable.

Lu Ye was working toward that direction—not because he was arrogant, but because he had a unique advantage that no one else possessed, and that was the Talent Tree.

After spending a whole day, Lu Ye finally completed breaking down the entire spirit rune and became familiar with all of its structures.

What followed was the attempt to construct it. He took out a jade tablet from his storage sack and began to construct the spirit rune on it using his spirit force.

Using a jade tablet to construct spirit runes made it easier to observe and summarize; it also allowed for more stability during the construction. Moreover, if the construction failed, it wouldn't cause any harm to oneself. All these benefits had been taught to him by Madam Yun.

If he didn't use a jade tablet, a failure in construction could cause the spirit force to explode, potentially threatening his well-being.

Time passed, and the days went by.

The Ten Thousand Poisons Forest remained tranquil, while the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators continued their siege, unwilling to leave lightly. No one knew if they would have another opportunity like this to capture Lu Yiye again, so even though the cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were growing impatient, they had no choice but to continue the stalemate.

Within the wooden hut in the forest, Lu Ye did not neglect his own cultivation while familiarizing himself with the spirit rune, consuming large quantities of elixir pills and continually opening new spiritual orifices.

When he entered the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, he had only opened up to the 248th orifice, which was merely eight more than when he had set out from the Righteous Blood Sect's base.

Now, after being trapped in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest for a month, he had reached the 275th orifice, almost maintaining a pace of opening one orifice per day.

This rate of opening orifices was enough to make all Spirit Stream Realm cultivators in the Nine Provinces envious. With an abundance of elixir pills and ample fuel for the Talent Tree, apart from the six to eight hours of rest each day, Lu Ye was almost continuously in a state of cultivation and reading.

Looking at it this way, being trapped in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest might not be such a bad thing for him after all.

Especially after Hua Ci's arrival, Lu Ye had set up a spirit energy gathering array in the wooden hut and also constructed Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes within his own spiritual orifices, significantly increasing the efficiency of his training.

He hadn't done this before due to concerns that the movement of nature's spiritual energy might overload the array, potentially leading to damage. Should the array break, Yiyi and Amber would definitely be poisoned.

But with Hua Ci around, there was no need to consider these concerns; even if the array was broken, Hua Ci could detoxify them.

This was the Core Circle, where nature's spiritual energy was still rich, although not as exaggerated as when enhanced by the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

With only the last twenty-five orifices left to advance to 8th Heaven cultivation, he had originally planned to make his escape from the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest after the ascension. But ever since

he saw that complex spirit rune in the book, he had more ideas. Whether or not they could be executed would depend on how things played out at the time.

Currently, Lu Ye was able to construct that intricate spirit rune from the book, although the success rate was not yet guaranteed. This was something that required constant practice and couldn't be rushed.

Days passed by swiftly, and in the wooden hut, Lu Ye looked in astonishment at Hua Ci, who walked in carrying a clay pot. He focused his Ocular Power to inspect her spirit checkpoint, confirming he hadn't seen wrong.

"7th Heaven already?"

"Mm, I just advanced today," Hua Ci replied, while handing Lu Ye a bowl of medicinal soup.

Lu Ye truly couldn't believe it.

Chapter 385 8th Heaven and the Void

For a long time, with the support of the Talent Tree by his side, and the assistance of the Bestial Gluttony Feast, Lu Ye could endlessly consume elixir pills to enhance his own cultivation; thus, he had always been very confident in the speed at which he opened his spiritual orifices. Among the Spirit Stream Realm cultivators across the Nine Provinces, when it comes to the speed of orifice-opening, probably no one was faster than him.

With a 7th Heaven cultivation, maintaining the pace of opening one orifice each day in such an environment—who could compare?

Until he saw Hua Ci today!

When Hua Ci left her residence to go to Mount Ying, she was only at Level 8.

Entering the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, she advanced to Level 9, which could be explained by her obtaining enough benefits in that land of legacy to progress her cultivation.

But from the time she entered the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest until now, it had only been a little over a month, and she had actually advanced from Level 9 to 7th Heaven!

One must know that after Level 9, advancing each level required the opening of sixty orifices. In just over a month, to open sixty orifices was almost the pace of opening two orifices a day.

There's no comparison...

Lu Ye knew somewhat how Hua Ci had been cultivating during this time; she spent most of her time not in the wooden hut, for there was no poisonous mist inside due to the barrier created by the Formation.

However, Lu Ye did not expect that Hua Ci's unconventional cultivation method would speed up her cultivation advancement so rapidly.

Now everyone had attained a 7th Heaven cultivation. If it continued like this, it was only a matter of time before Hua Ci's cultivation surpassed his own.

Lu Ye felt a sense of urgency!

Giant Armor had advanced to Cloud River earlier than him, for he had amassed enough and was in possession of a unique demonic pill long before, already having the capital to advance to Cloud River.

If someday Hua Ci also advanced to Cloud River before he did...

However, thinking about it from a different angle, this wasn't necessarily a bad thing for Hua Ci, and his sense of urgency instantly dissolved into nothingness.

As days passed by, Lu Ye still maintained the speed of opening one orifice per day.

In a blink of an eye, more than a month had passed.

Crack! A sound rang out. Accompanied by the surging of spirit force, the spiritual orifice barrier shattered loudly, and a trickle of spirit force flowed into the newly opened spiritual orifice.

Three hundred orifices!

Being trapped in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest for roughly two months, he forcefully opened his spiritual orifices from two hundred forty and some to a full three hundred.

Having reached the required number of orifices, the next step was to advance his cultivation.

He stimulated his spirit force, connecting those sixty disorganized orifices to form a new Minor Circumambulation cycle. When the spirit force began to circulate back and forth in this mini-system without Lu Ye's prompting, waves of energy swept through the area, and the 8th Heaven inherently solidified.

Lu Ye then sat calmly for an entire day to consolidate his cultivation, ensuring that no issues arose in the newly formed Minor Circumambulation system before he stood up.

He stepped out of the wooden hut and started busying himself in the courtyard outside, driving down one array banner after another to construct the framework of a Formation.

Yiyi watched curiously from the side, "Lu Ye, what sort of Formation are you setting up?"

"A fun Formation," Lu Ye responded casually. It wasn't that he intended to conceal anything; it was his first time setting up this type of Formation, and he wasn't sure if it would work. If he couldn't make it happen after boasting in front of Yiyi, wouldn't that be embarrassing?

When the framework of the Formation was formed, Lu Ye once again stimulated his spirit force to enrich the internal structure of the Formation. After a bustle of activity, he finally constructed the core of the Formation.

The core was that one array of over three thousand Yin-Yang Dual Origins spirit runes, which he had spent a great deal of time and effort learning from books.

These days he practiced this spirit rune daily, and now that he was constructing it, even though there was a chance of failure, the success rate had indeed increased significantly.

This time he was rather lucky, and it formed on the first try.

Having followed Lu Ye for so long, Yiyi had some understanding of the Path of Spirit Runes. Seeing the core spirit rune of the Formation before her, she couldn't help but marvel, "Lu Ye, this spirit rune is so complicated. What kind of rune is this?"

"Void!"

"Void?"

"Yes, the name of this spirit rune is Void!"

This was a spirit rune related to space. Depending on how it was used, it could have different impacts. If it was constructed within a Formation as the core, with certain special techniques applied, it would become the famous teleportation array!

In the Nine Provinces, there were teleportation arrays, but not in large numbers, for the cultivators of the Nine Provinces found it convenient to travel using the Heaven's Augury Pillar provided by the Alliance Sect.

The Heaven's Augury Pillar itself had the effect of teleportation, so unless necessary, no one would spend the time and effort to set up a teleportation array.

Besides, teleportation arrays required regular maintenance, which was nowhere near as convenient as using the Heaven's Augury Pillar. The Heaven's Augury Pillar was a divine object granted by Heaven's Augury, very difficult to damage.

The teleportation array Lu Ye was setting up now was quite rudimentary because it used array banners as the framework, built with his own spirit force. To maintain the operation of this Formation, Lu Ye also made some modifications to this teleportation array, giving it the ability to gather spirit, ensuring that it could collect nature's spiritual energy from the surroundings and maintain itself over a long period.

With his current mastery in the Array Path, he was capable of accomplishing this.

Actually, if one had an array disc, that would be the best option. Using an array disc to set up a Formation would result in a more stable Formation—a field in which array banners were much inferior. However, using array banners to set up a Formation was more flexible. With thirty-two basic array banners on hand, various combinations and changes, Lu Ye could set up all the Formations he had mastered.

Array discs were different; each one corresponded to just one or a few Formations and couldn't compete with the versatility of array banners.

Although this Formation was set up, whether it could function properly was still uncertain in Lu Ye's mind.

...

However, everything requires a first step. Now that he has reached the 8th Heaven of cultivation, he already has the means to fight his way out of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest. But what then? He would still be hounded and intercepted by countless Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators. Even if he took refuge in any Alliance Sect's Core Circle stronghold, he would only bring disaster and trouble to others.

It could be said that the dread Ten Thousand Demons Ridge held for him made it very difficult for him to find a foothold in the Core Circle.

The Ten Thousand Poisons Forest is a good place; it's a forbidden zone for cultivators. No matter how powerful and numerous the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge might be, as long as he hid in the forest, no one would dare to come in and make trouble for him. If anyone dared to enter, Hua Ci would surely teach them a lesson.

So before leaving, he had to make arrangements for a way back, ensuring he could return here any time he wished.

This was also the plan he came up with after seeing the Void Spirit Runes.

The teleportation array was his way out, and this Ten Thousand Poisons Forest was his refuge. Indeed, the Spiritual Energy here was much inferior compared to the sect strongholds, but as long as he had enough elixir pills, he didn't need to worry about his cultivation, even if the efficiency was somewhat lower.

Others rely on inhaling and exhaling nature's spiritual energy for their cultivation, which demands a high-quality environment. But he was different...

After briefly inspecting this teleportation array and confirming there were no problems,

"Stay here and watch over this,"

Lu Ye instructed Yiyi, and then he left and entered the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest.

There were several types of teleportation arrays. One was random teleportation; once activated, the array would teleport a person to a nearby location at random.

There were also targeted teleportations. Within these, there were single-point-to-single-point transmissions, single-point-to-multiple-points transmissions, and multiple-points-to-multiple-points transmissions...

Simply put, single-point-to-single-point meant that two teleportation arrays would resonate with each other and enable teleportation between them.

Single-point-to-multiple-points referred to a parent teleportation array resonating with multiple child arrays, enabling teleportation between the parent and each child array, but not between the child arrays themselves.

Multiple-points-to-multiple-points meant that all arrays could function as both child and parent arrays.

The array setup for different types of teleportation arrays vary greatly and each has its intricacies.

At present, Lu Ye was setting up a teleportation array for single-point-to-single-point transmission; the array outside the small courtyard of the cabin was the parent array.

He still needed to set up a child array somewhere else to test whether this teleportation array was functional.

Night fell, and Hua Ci returned from nearby cultivation. Seeing Yiyi squatting in the courtyard with Amber beside her, she couldn't help but be curious, "What are you both doing here?"

"Lu Ye set up an array and asked me to watch over it for him," Yiyi replied truthfully.

"Where is he?"

"I don't know, wow."

Moments later, Hua Ci and Yiyi squatted together in the courtyard, gazing eagerly at the teleportation array in front of them.

"Yiyi, did he mention what this array is for?"

"Nope."

"All so secretive."

Meanwhile, twenty li away, in an open space, Lu Ye stood upon the newly set up child teleportation array. He activated the spirit force to power the array beneath his feet. In a moment, he felt a resonance from the direction of the cabin suggesting that something was responding to the array beneath his feet.

Very smoothly!

The two teleportation arrays had achieved resonance, indicating his array setup had no issues. The next step was to see if he could teleport successfully.

Continuing to channel power into the array, the space around Lu Ye suddenly began to distort. An indescribable force enveloped him, giving him the illusion of stepping into an abyss with no bottom.

That feeling came quickly and left just as fast. By the time he came to his senses, he had already appeared at another location.

Simultaneously, outside the cabin, Yiyi and Hua Ci, who were guarding the parent teleportation array, pricked up their ears upon hearing some strange noises not far away.

"What's that sound?" Yiyi asked curiously.

"Maybe some creature passing by?" Hua Ci tilted her head and responded. It must have been fairly large, she thought; otherwise, it wouldn't make such a commotion. Likely it was a venomous python. Hua Ci had encountered many of these creatures in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest recently; most had ended up in her soup pot.

"What's wrong with the array?" Yiyi asked again.

Just then, the array in front of her had some activity—the space enveloped by the array became extremely distorted, and immediately after, the spirit force within the array became chaotic and completely collapsed.

"Yiyi, did you hear someone shouting for help?" Hua Ci asked while listening intently.

"Did I?"

"Listen carefully!"

Yiyi also strained her ears to listen, her expression quickly turning peculiar, "It seems to be Lu Ye's voice?"

The two women exchanged glances, quickly stood up, and headed towards the source of the sound. Moments later, on a large tree a few dozen zhang from the cabin, they found a figure hanging like a rag doll.

"Lu Ye!" Yiyi exclaimed in shock, quickly leaping up to him, and brought Lu Ye down. Upon closer inspection, his clothes were tattered, streaked with blood; some cuts were so deep that bones were visible, he was completely drenched in blood.

Chapter 386 Teleportation Array

Lying in bed, recalling the experience after the teleportation array had been activated, Lu Ye's face turned pale green.

He had actually gone through teleportation many times before, each time entering or returning to the sect headquarters with the help of the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

That kind of teleportation was extremely peaceful and fast; after a brief change in vision, the teleportation was already complete.

Therefore, Lu Ye had never thought that teleportation could be such a horrible experience.

After he activated that child array, he immediately felt like he had stepped into an abyss with no bottom, and the process was lengthy. During it, it seemed like a force was twisting him into a long strip, then flattening him repeatedly...

He was quite experienced, having fought forty-three consecutive battles at Golden Light Peak with his Level 5 realm cultivation, fearless even when completely exhausted.

But just thinking about the terrible sensation of the previous teleportation made his heart palpitate. Throughout the whole process, he felt like a leaf adrift on the waves, unable to muster any spirit force, which left him feeling very insecure.

What was even more frustrating was that he got injured!

During the teleportation, it seemed as if sharp weapons were slicing through his body, cutting him all over and shredding his clothes, but fortunately, his physical body was strong. The injuries were only superficial, and with some treatment from Hua Ci, he recovered quickly.

However, the psychological shadow was somewhat difficult to erase.

A day later, wearing a clean set of clothes and looking spirited, Lu Ye returned to the small courtyard.

Yiyi and Hua Ci watched him anxiously from the side.

"Still going?"

"There was a slight issue before that needs adjustment, but this time it'll definitely be fine," Lu Ye promised confidently, patting his cheeks and silently cheering himself on. As long as the formation I set up is positioned accurately enough and operates stably, such incidents won't happen again!

Under the worried gazes of Yiyi and Hua Ci, he rearranged the damaged teleportation array in the courtyard and then quickly headed to a location twenty miles away.

He was relieved to find the array banner he had left there yesterday still intact.

This place was deep within the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, where cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge would not venture, and the numerous venomous creatures in the forest had no interest in an array banner, so naturally, it wasn't lost.

Two hours later, in the small courtyard, Yiyi and Hua Ci suddenly heard some noises. The two exchanged glances and ran towards the source of the sounds, in perfect sync.

Shortly thereafter, they saw Lu Ye, tattered and bloodied...

"Help... me!" Lu Ye, with a face as pale as paper, lay on the ground, stubbornly lifting his head and reaching out a hand to the two women. His vision swirled, making it impossible for him to stand.

Another day later, inside the small courtyard, Yiyi and Hua Ci looked at Lu Ye expressionlessly.

"This time it definitely won't be an issue. I've identified the problem, just a slight adjustment needed!" Lu Ye said sternly.

More than two hours later, Hua Ci carried the blood-covered Lu Ye back to the wooden hut...

On the fourth day, the same place, the same trio.

"Anyway, whatever I say, you won't believe me. You'll see it for yourselves," he said.

Amber curled up on the windowsill of the third floor, casting a pitying glance at Lu Ye before retreating back, her claws dexterously pulling out a Spirit Stone from the storage sack around her neck and crunching it noisily between her teeth.

On the fifth day, facing the inquiring looks of Yiyi and Hua Ci, Lu Ye's lips moved slightly but he said nothing, turning away instead.

After he left, Hua Ci asked Yiyi teasingly, "Guess from which direction he'll come this time?"

Yiyi paused thoughtfully, touching her red lips, then pointed in a certain direction, "From over there!"

Hua Ci smirked slightly, "Then I bet he'll be over there."

They waited quietly, listening intently.

Soon, unusual noises came from not too far away.

Hua Ci smiled, "You won!"

The noises were coming from the direction Yiyi had pointed to.

"Time to save someone." Hua Ci said this and started walking towards that direction.

Over the past few days, both women had gotten used to it: every time Lu Ye would get himself into a terrible state, then they would carry him back to the wooden hut for treatment and recuperation, and the next day he would go out again to continue his experiments...

But before they had gone far, they saw Lu Ye staggering towards them as if he were drunk, a departure from the previous times.

This time, although still pale, there were thankfully no signs of injury, and even his clothes were intact.

Yiyi quickly went up to support him, and Lu Ye grinned at her: "It worked!"

Although the effect was slightly different from what he had anticipated, the adjustment of the teleportation array was finally complete.

However, the teleportation array at present couldn't accurately locate the teleport, because logically, Lu Ye should have appeared directly on the teleportation array in the small courtyard, yet in reality, he materialized more than ten yards off target.

It wasn't that there was a problem with the array he had set up, but rather that the array wasn't stable enough. Thus, during the process of teleporting, there were some minor deviations. The extent of these deviations would increase with the distance of teleportation.

Solving this issue was quite simple—either enhance his cultivation or increase the stability of the array. Currently, Lu Ye was unable to resolve this.

Moreover, Lu Ye vaguely sensed that the best span between the child array and the parent array that he currently laid out should not exceed about 30 miles; beyond this distance, it might cease to function.

After all, his power was still too low. In the future, as his power increased, the teleportation arrays he laid out would be more stable and capable of spanning greater distances.

After tuning the teleportation array, Lu Ye took a day to meditate and restore himself to his peak condition, then shared his plans with Yiyi and Hua Ci.

Without surprise, both women wanted to accompany Lu Ye. Hua Ci, now a 7th Heaven cultivator, had unpredictable offensive methods, fully capable of venturing alone into the Core Circle.

Yiyi and Amber's strength had also advanced rapidly during this period. Although it was hard to determine their exact level of cultivation, they definitely wouldn't hold Lu Ye back in terms of power.

"I'm going alone this time; it's easier for me to act. Also, believe me, you wouldn't want to experience that kind of teleportation... Besides, the carrying capacity of the teleportation array I've set up is limited. Teleporting just myself isn't too problematic, but I can't guarantee it'll work with even one more person."

Upon hearing Lu Ye talk about the teleportation array and recalling his experiences over the past few days, the two women couldn't help but feel alarmed.

Coming out covered in blood and in tattered clothes, the scene was indeed not very pleasant to the eye.

"Then you must be extremely careful," Hua Ci instructed.

"I know, just wait for me here," he responded.

With nothing left to prepare, Lu Ye immediately set off on his journey.

First, he went to recover the array banners he had left twenty miles away, and then he directly summoned his spirit ark and soared into the sky.

It had been a full two months since Lu Yiye had been trapped in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest!

Initially, when Lu Ye was trapped in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators thought his end was near, but to this day, he was still alive and well. They were certain that Lu Yiye must have found a safe place within the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, otherwise, he couldn't have stayed hidden for so long and survived.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side had long lost their patience, yet they were unwilling to just leave. Around the entirety of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, a large number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were stationed, and even the airspace was constantly monitored to prevent Lu Ye from escaping using weapon control.

Within the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, Lu Ye soared dozens of yards into the sky before he escaped the dense poisonous fog.

As the azure sky and bright sunlight entered his field of vision, Lu Ye felt a sense of seeing the sun after a long time!

He took a deep breath, feeling completely relaxed.

Slowly turning around, within his field of view, about several dozen yards away, a man was staring at him in shock and confusion.

This person was clearly one of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators responsible for patrolling the air in search of Lu Ye. After two months of fruitless searching, the sudden appearance of Lu Ye left him unable to react immediately.

Not until he met Lu Ye's gaze did the man shout in surprise and joy, "Lu Yiye!"

As the words left his mouth, Lu Ye had already charged toward him.

The man's face instantly turned pale; he was well aware of Lu Ye's martial prowess and achievements. In his excitement, he had forgotten this. Although he possessed a cultivation of 8th Heaven, he knew he was no match for Lu Ye, the Sect Destroyer.

Realizing the danger, he immediately waved his hand, sending a weapon control flare towards Lu Ye, and simultaneously retrieved a Spirit Talisman from his storage sack, slapping it onto his body. In an instant, bright golden light enveloped him.

Spirit Talismans, these things, are used more by low-level cultivators, because low-level cultivators have very limited means of combat, and Spirit Talismans can often play a significant role.

From when Lu Ye set out from Qingyun Mountain towards the Righteous Blood Sect's base, along his journey, many cultivators he encountered would use Spirit Talismans against their enemies.

But that does not mean high-level cultivators do not use Spirit Talismans.

Once cultivators reach the Level 7 realm, they seldom use offensive Spirit Talismans.

That is because, having reached the Level 7 realm and possessing weapon control abilities, compared to one-time-use Spirit Talismans, using weapons is naturally more cost-effective during combat.

Beyond the Level 7 realm, the talismans used by cultivators are mostly for protection or assistance, and they are also of higher quality than those used by low-level cultivators.

For example, the 8th Heaven cultivator right now is using a mid-grade Golden Body Talisman.

With this talisman to protect him, even a 9th Heaven cultivator would struggle to break through the golden light's protection in a short time.

Of course, there are no absolutes. Core Circle cultivators may also use offensive talismans, and if that is the case, one must be extremely careful, for those talismans are all incredibly powerful, often the prized assets of their owners.

This 8th Heaven cultivator launched his weapon control attack at Lu Ye and protected himself with the Golden Body, acting in one smooth motion. Although his initial reaction was slightly delayed, his extensive experience in combat taught him how to best protect his life when facing a stronger opponent.

Then he saw a flash of blade light sweep past his eyes, and in an instant, his vision was filled with dense, fiery red.

His mind was instantly engulfed by boundless fear. The mid-grade Golden Body Talisman that he had depended on shattered under this single slash, and the sharp long blade cut through his neck as if slicing through tofu, severing it effortlessly!

Chapter 387 Break Through the Encirclement

As his consciousness began to blur, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator realized that Lu Ye had reached the 8th Heaven level of cultivation.

As a fellow 8th Heaven cultivator, he couldn't even take a single strike from his opponent.

Why was the opponent's saber so sharp? Its power was so formidable that even a mid-grade Golden Body Talisman couldn't withstand it... It was baffling!

Blood spurted from his neck, his head flew off, and the headless corpse tottered before falling down. A light streaked out from the supplies box at Lu Ye's waist, lightly circling around the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator's waist to retrieve a storage sack before returning.

Killing and looting treasures, done in one fell swoop.

More figures rushed over from all directions, accompanied by waves of shouting.

"Lu Yiye has come out!"

"Lu Yiye is here!"

Suspended in mid-air, Lu Ye's eyelids drooped slightly as he held the Boulder Mountain Saber with its tip pointing diagonally at the ground. He watched as a group of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators rapidly closed in on him. With a light tap of his foot, powered by spirit force, he became a flash of light, darting forward.

When he previously broke into the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, he was at the 7th Heaven level of cultivation. Now, having advanced even further, his strength greatly increased, he was eager to see if he could break through the encirclement on his own.

Having been trapped here by so many people from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge for over two months, it was only natural for Lu Ye to return the favor.

Even if he couldn't break free, it wouldn't matter, as the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest was right beneath him. All he needed to do was to dive in there, and no matter how many cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge came, they couldn't do anything to him.

There were only five cultivators blocking the way ahead. When they saw Lu Ye approaching, they each summoned their controlled weapons and bombarded him. The lights from the controlled weapons zigzagged and intertwined, extremely agile.

With the spirit ark beneath his feet, Lu Ye dodged the incoming attacks with ease, using the Boulder Mountain Saber to block those he couldn't avoid. The distance between them quickly narrowed.

The expressions on the faces of the five ahead gradually turned serious.

Before Lu Ye could actually get close, they quickly scattered.

However, as soon as they made a move, nine rays of light had already shot out from Lu Ye's supplies box, hitting the five with unerring precision. The speed and lethality of the nine rays far exceeded the methods used by the five.

The moment the sizzling sounds of tearing through the air began, blood splattered, and screams rang out. Three of the dispersed five fell into the poison forest below, and the remaining two were injured.

Lu Ye had already reached one of them. The man looked like a physique cultivator, with robust and vigorous blood Qi, and a big shield spirit artifact on his arm, which he swung down at Lu Ye.

The Boulder Mountain Saber chopped down, and at the moment it clashed with the shield, the physique cultivator's eyes bulged in horror, feeling an overwhelming force sweep him off his feet and send him flying.

Shocked and bewildered, he thought, is this guy a combat cultivator? His physical strength is even greater than mine!

Before he could recover his senses, a scorching force was already upon him, and the image of a splendid Vermillion Bird appeared in his field of vision.

It was the Fire Phoenix Technique cast by Lu Ye.

This technique, stemming from the Red Lotus Soaring to Sky Technique, had its power greatly enhanced after Lu Ye acquired the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes. The Vermillion Bird image created by the Fire Phoenix Technique he now employed was so detailed, even the feathers were clearly distinguishable, resembling a miniature version of the devastating Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes.

The Fire Phoenix Technique hit the physique cultivator, engulfing him in scorching flames that pierced through his blood Qi and protective spirit force. The physique cultivator screamed in terror and followed in the footsteps of his three companions.

Lu Ye then turned his head, and the last Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator was seen clutching his abdomen, blood trailing behind him as he fled.

He didn't pursue the kill; the man was severely injured, and whether he would live was uncertain. Chasing him would only be a waste of time.

The spirit ark once again transformed into a streak of light, speeding off into the distance, as the nine controlled weapons flew back under Lu Ye's command, entering the supplies box at his waist.

Lu Yiye had revealed himself!

This news spread rapidly in all directions. Ahead of Lu Ye's path, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators continued to take to the skies with their controlled weapons, converging towards him.

Having waited for two months, they finally forced him out. Now, those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge aimed to use all their might to slay him and eliminate future troubles!

In an instant, a vast expanse of dazzling lights filled the sky, converging in the direction Lu Ye was heading.

Above the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, Lu Ye dashed like the wind, hardly pausing his swift movement. He clashed with groups of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who patrolled the airspace of the forest.

Along the way, bodies continuously plummeted to the ground below, blood staining the sky.

Shortly thereafter, a vast expanse of shimmering lights came into view—it was the main force of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, nearly a thousand strong, dense and numerous, filling the horizon.

Even now that Lu Ye had ascended to the 8th Heaven level, and his strength increased drastically, he could not possibly withstand so many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators by himself, unless he reconstructed the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes.

However, having already suffered a great loss at his hands two months ago, how could Ten Thousand Demons Ridge not be prepared for this?

As the distance between them rapidly closed, the shouting from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side began to reach his ears, with many arrogantly calling for Lu Ye to come forth and meet his death.

When they were about two hundred zhang apart, Lu Ye's figure suddenly surged diagonally upward!

It seemed he was trying to avoid the large force of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge by escaping through the less defended higher altitudes.

Realizing this, the cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge quickly reacted and changed direction, also aiming to cut him off diagonally above.

Standing on the ground and looking up, one could see numerous strands of light dragging long trails, rushing towards the sky, flying higher and higher; soon, the leading strands of light had passed through the clouds and out of sight.

Just how high the skies of the Spirit Stream battlefield or the Nine Provinces actually were, nobody could really say, as to this day, no one has ever flown out; even the strong cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm have a limit to how high they can fly through air.

This limit, however, is not due to their own limitations, but rather the ninefold Divine Lightning that looms above. Once you reach a certain altitude, it draws down ninefold Divine Lightning, and the higher you fly, the more powerful it becomes, until even the great cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm can no longer bear it.

There are rumors claiming that breaking through the pressure of the ninefold Divine Lightning can take Divine Sea Realm cultivators to a higher level. Thus, throughout history, many strong cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm who have reached the limit of their cultivation challenge the ninefold Divine Lightning, but so far, none have succeeded.

Naturally, cultivators at the Spirit Stream Realm level can't fly as high as those in the Divine Sea Realm.

At this moment, Lu Ye had a clear sensation—the higher he went, the more an invisible pressure weighed upon his body, slowing down his weapon control-flying speed until he couldn't fly any higher.

Beyond, almost within the veils of mystery, there was even a faint sense of danger and, if he was not mistaken, that would be the crisis brought by the legendary ninefold Divine Lightning.

Turning his head, he saw dozens of streaks of light furiously closing in on him, their speed unimaginable; and amid those streaks, the clear sounds of swords ringing began to arise. His keen senses gave Lu Ye the feeling of being targeted by sharp swords, causing his skin to tingle with pain.

Each one of those dozens of streaks of light was the figure of a sword cultivator!

In the Nine Provinces, in terms of killing power and speed of weapon control, none could outmatch these 'Sword Madmen'. Sword cultivators and Ghost cultivators were both naturally adept at fighting above their level. Sword cultivators, compared to the elusive and assassination-skilled Ghost cultivators, achieve their cross-level combat capabilities because they focus all their cultivation on the path of slaughter.

It is because of this single-minded focus that they can 'Break Sword through the Nine Provinces'.

And for that reason, among all the martial sects, there are fewer sword cultivators than any other, even less than healing cultivators; like the Beixuan Sword Sect, a 1st grade sect in Bingzhou, from top to bottom, barely numbers a thousand people, an unimaginable contrast to any other 1st grade sect in the Nine Provinces.

But when eight hundred sword cultivators descend from Mount Tian, it's a matter grave enough to shake the entirety of the Nine Provinces—it signifies that Beixuan Sword Sect has emptied its nest!

The Haotian Alliance has sword cultivators, and naturally, so does Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. These dozens of sword cultivators who have now gathered from various forces are the main pursuit force and hope in hunting down Lu Ye.

When Lu Ye first entered the Core Circle, the cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had a taste of his weapon control-flying speed, so to keep up with him in terms of speed, only the sword cultivators would suffice, other cultivators of different sects were simply not in the same league.

These dozens of sword cultivators did not disappoint; indeed, they were much faster than everyone else, even faster than Lu Ye.

Lu Ye might have been curious to test the mettle of these sword cultivators, but he was not ill in the head—he couldn't possibly confront the killing-famed dozens of sword cultivators by himself. If he got entangled with these sword cultivators, he was destined to end badly.

Thus, as he reached his highest point, Lu Ye quickly fell back. In a flash and to the bewildered eyes of those dozens of sword cultivators preparing to close in, Lu Ye flew downward faster than before.

Ordinarily, Lu Ye might not outpace these sword cultivators, but he had Move-Like-The-Wind Spirit Runes ready to enhance his speed at any moment...

Seeing Lu Ye's actions, the multitudes of cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge immediately sensed something was awry!

At this instant, due to the chase, the originally tight formation of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators had become clearly stratified, the strongest at the top, the middle in strength at the center, and below, the slowest in weapon control-flying, were the weakest.

In less than a mere ten breaths' time, Lu Ye plunged downwards like a meteor falling from the sky, now only thirty zhang away from the poison barrier below. The spirit ark beneath his feet flashed with light, the Move-Like-The-Wind Spirit Runes constantly activated, turning into a streak of light that abruptly changed course and charged forward.

At this location, the majority of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were of 7th Heaven level, with only a few of the 8th Heaven level.

As Lu Ye swept toward them, numerous cultivators made their move. In an instant, a vast array of lights and magic and spells bombed towards where Lu Ye was.

Combat through air with weapon control is different from fighting on the ground. Not to mention the mental exhaustion and restriction of weapon control-flying for the cultivators, fighting in the air offers

more space and flexibility to maneuver. Those with strong mental power undoubtedly hold a significant advantage in aerial combat.

Like a swift swooping and weaving through a raging storm, Lu Ye's form was elusive, avoiding the most concentrated areas of attack. He dodged past various incoming magic and spells, his Boulder Mountain Saber constantly waving to deflect more random attacks, as he broke into the enemy formation.

The supplies box hummed as nine weapons flew out, turning into nine trails of light, bringing a storm of death and the breath of destruction.

Chapter 388 - A Great Humiliation

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Blood spurted in clumps, accompanied by whirling lights, while screams rose incessantly.

Where Lu Ye passed, a sickening storm of blood raged, with limbs and flesh flung wildly. Behind him, as the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators fell, bits of red luminescence flew out, chasing after his figure like stars in pursuit of the moon.

By the time Lu Ye had effortlessly broken through the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators' formation, there were already thirty red luminous points chasing after him.

Each of those points of light represented the fall of a cultivator—thirty points meant thirty had fallen...

And many more were injured.

The glows one by one vanished into Lu Ye's battlefield marking.

The corpses of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators fell from the sky like dumplings, plummeting into the virulent green barriers below.

Although the loss was not insignificant, compared to the number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, it hardly mattered.

The sound of sword cries rose, signaling the return of the sword cultivators.

A plethora of dazzling flying swords filled the sky, more agile and deadly than the weapon control of other cultivators. Before they even drew near, they brought great peril to Lu Ye.

The speed of the flying swords was unmatched by cultivators' weapon control-flying, and in the blink of an eye as the sword light surged, a multitude of flying swords were already upon him.

Lu Ye's figure suddenly plummeted downward, falling directly into the boundless poison barrier and disappearing from view.

The sword lights pursued him closely, diving into the poison barrier. However, they quickly realized something was off, as once their flying swords entered the poison barrier, they became sluggish and their connection to them weakened, draining the spirit of the swords.

Inside the poison barrier, the intense toxicity had a strong eroding effect, undoubtedly restraining the spiritual artifacts controlled by the cultivators.

The situation turned dire.

The expressions of the sword cultivators grew solemn; no matter how numerous or powerful they were, in the domain of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, the initiative was always in Lu Ye's hands.

Lu Yiye dared to charge directly into the boundless poison barrier. Did they dare?

Several hundred yards away, the dense poison barrier burst open, and Lu Ye shot up into the sky. In that direction, some Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were hovering in the air observing, and their strength was not too formidable.

Taken completely by surprise, upon noticing Lu Ye's appearance, they scattered in all directions. However, some were too slow to react.

Another round of unstoppable slaughter ensued, and one figure after another fell from the sky amidst screams.

Dozens of sword cultivators split into two groups: one group flew close to the poison barriers with their swords, cutting off any chance for Lu Ye to escape into them, and the other group pursued relentlessly.

In this way, it became much harder for Lu Ye to take refuge in the poison barriers again, unless he could break through the blockade of the sword cultivators.

Obviously, Lu Ye did not intend to confront these sword cultivators head-on; he fixed on a direction and controlled his weapon to escape.

From all directions, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators hurriedly chased after him.

As before, those with higher cultivation and faster weapon control speed were at the forefront, while those with lower cultivation and slower speed gradually fell behind. Over time, the distance between them grew wider and wider.

Watching Lu Ye make a large detour and suddenly turn back to attack, the expressions of those at the rear of the pursuit changed dramatically.

They had already been played by Lu Ye in such a manner before, resulting in the loss of dozens of people. Now, facing the same threat, they worried how many might die.

Although the sword cultivators were desperately chasing after him, when it came to the speed of weapon control, they were still no match for Lu Ye who was enhanced by Move-Like-The-Wind Spirit Runes. They could only try to keep up, not letting him completely shake them off.

With the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators' formation in complete disorder, and seeing Lu Ye returning to the fray, the cultivators with lower cultivation naturally refused to sit and wait for death.

Most of them scattered and fled, while a small group banded together, defensively operating various protective spiritual artifacts and magic and spells.

Lu Ye's figure flashed past not far in front of them, and as he released nine weapons in rapid succession, a flock of Fire Phoenixes spread their wings and flew out.

None of the cultivators' defenses could withstand his attack. A strike enhanced by Double-Sharpness Spirit Runes was too much, even for physique cultivators with spiritual shields to bear.

More Fire Phoenixes followed closely behind him and swooped down.

The scene turned somewhat farcical as a large number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators chased after Lu Ye, while he in turn pursued a few scattered escapees. Those who were chasing Lu Ye had no good way to deal with him, but those he targeted met with no good end.

One body after another continuously fell from the sky.

It wasn't until many more Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators arrived to support their comrades, that Lu Ye's frenzied actions were restrained.

One must know that around the perimeter of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, there were as many as thousands of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators gathered. Lu Ye had only seen about a thousand before because that was the number in the direction he had gone; many more from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had not yet arrived.

Now that thousands had all converged, the sky above the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest was suddenly filled with a multitude of spiritual artifacts.

Lu Ye had long since fled in one direction.

Against just over a thousand people like before, his methods might work to fend off the enemy for a while, but with all the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators amassed, the sudden increase in their numbers meant that this tactic could no longer be effective.

...

Moreover, even though the engagement with the enemy was brief, his consumption of spirit force was considerable, especially the massive drain from empowering the Move-Like-The-Wind Spirit Runes on the Flying Spirit Artifact.

It could be said that sixty percent of the spent spirit force was due to this aspect alone.

What dissatisfied him was his lack of flexibility in controlling weapon-flying. He found it hard to perfectly control the Flying Spirit Artifact under his feet, like Giant Armor could, and struggled to fight while using weapon control-flying, always feeling a slight lag.

Giant Armor didn't have that issue; the guy possessed a skill in weapon control-flying that was hard for ordinary people to match.

Compared to most cultivators, Lu Ye's ability in this aspect was very good, but there was still a gap compared to Giant Armor.

This might also be a matter of talent.

A large group of pursuers were still hot on his heels, particularly those sword cultivators, each one stubborn to the core, clinging like relentless parasites that couldn't be shaken off.

While Lu Ye could empower his speed with the Move-Like-The-Wind Spirit Runes, they each had their secret techniques. Although these couldn't last long, they ensured for a short time they wouldn't lose sight of Lu Ye's shadow.

For the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side, this experience was a huge humiliation.

After waiting anxiously for more than two months, Lu Yiye finally reappeared, but over a thousand people were led around by him as if they were walking dogs, and even with the combined efforts of the sword cultivators, they failed to achieve significant results.

Lu Yiye emerged unscathed and had broken through the encirclement. In contrast, they had suffered over a hundred casualties.

This filled the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators with immense resentment, cursing Lu Ye for bullying the weak and fearing the strong, only targeting those with lower cultivation while never confronting those with high cultivation head-on.

What made the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side even more fearful was that this person had now advanced to the 8th Heaven!

If he's at the 8th Heaven now, how far could the 9th Heaven be?

Compared to his previous encounter at the Fog-shrouded Mountain, Lu Yiye's strength had undoubtedly increased a lot since ascending to the 8th Heaven.

In the Fog-shrouded Mountain, Lu Ye largely relied on formations set up in advance to kill his enemies, but this time, he didn't use any external means, relying solely on his own abilities.

Even though he indeed chose only the easy targets, from another perspective, being able to avoid the tougher enemies was also his skill!

In the past two months, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side mobilized thousands of people to besiege the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, drawing much attention. Everyone wanted to know what Lu Ye's ultimate fate would be.

When today's news spread throughout the Nine Provinces, many people were greatly shocked.

Lu Ye had single-handedly fought his way out, breaking through the encirclement set by the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side. Although the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were still in pursuit, anyone could tell that since Lu Ye had escaped the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, it meant that the two-month-long siege by the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side had ended in failure.

In the future on the Spirit Stream battlefield, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side would probably find it very difficult to threaten Lu Yiye's life, unless a really good opportunity arose!

The only consolation for the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side was that they had already lost all face in dealing with Lu Yiye, so they weren't afraid to lose it one more time.

The saying goes, "One feels no itch from too many lice."

The pursuit continued; even though most people could no longer keep up, a small number still persisted, especially those sword cultivators. Even so, the distance between them was gradually widening.

After two hours, these sword cultivators had completely lost track of Lu Ye.

Despite their reluctance, the sword cultivators had to admit that they were outpaced by a combat cultivator in weapon-flying speed!

It was utterly irrational how fast this fellow was running.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators are now all searching for traces of Lu Ye. Although the chase failed, the operation against Lu Ye is far from over.

This is an order from the high-ranking members of all the major sects of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge!

Compared to these Spirit Stream Realm cultivators, those in the True Lake Realm and the Divine Sea Realm could better appreciate the threat that a person like Lu Ye posed to an entire faction.

The Righteous Blood Sect had once dealt with a Feng Wujiang; they did not want a second one to emerge!

The Thousand Wings Sect's Qin Zheng had previously formed the Lu Ye Extermination Alliance at the Fog-shrouded Mountain, aimed at killing Lu Ye. It was a temporary and loosely organized group that disbanded after the events at the Fog-shrouded Mountain.

Today, the organization reemerged, this time as a formal entity, led by Szi Guang of Daoxuan Sect, who came from a 1st grade sect and topped the Spirit Stream Ranking. In just half a day, hundreds of core circle sects declared their membership in the alliance, almost all powerful Spirit Stream Ranking figures from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side were included, vowing to kill Lu Ye before his ascension to the 9th Heaven!

On one hand, the higher echelons behind these sects had already given orders to ensure Lu Ye was dealt with on the Spirit Stream battlefield; on the other hand, these Spirit Stream Realm cultivators felt they could no longer afford to let Lu Ye live.

If he's this problematic at 8th Heaven cultivation, wouldn't he be walking sideways through the battlefield once he ascends to the 9th Heaven?

With a large force fanning out in search, countless cultivators from the Lu Ye Extermination Alliance prepared for battle. Even the most dedicated cultivators temporarily gave up cultivation, ready to attack as soon as there was a clue to Lu Ye's whereabouts.

A thousand miles from the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, there was a Heaven's Augury Marketplace.

In the outer circle of the battlefield, many marketplaces formed by independent cultivators could still be seen, but in the inner and core circles, they were scarcely found; the markets there were generally established under the leadership of the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union.

Chapter 389 - I'm Not Here for Refuge

Within the inner and core circles, Heaven's Augury Marketplaces were everywhere, with even a city named after Heaven's Augury called Heaven's Augury City.

Although cultivators could enter the Heaven's Augury treasure vault using the Heaven's Augury Pillar if they had sufficient merits to purchase anything they desired, merits were hard to come by, and no one would use them carelessly.

Under normal circumstances, when cultivators wanted to purchase items, they predominantly opted for the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union, as transactions there were conducted using Spirit Stones. Only in urgent situations or when desiring rare items would cultivators use their merits.

The existence of Heaven's Augury Marketplaces and Heaven's Augury City made transactions incredibly convenient for cultivators, and also provided a foothold for independent cultivators who yearned for freedom, while also housing many commoners in those numerous cities of Heaven's Augury.

This particular Heaven's Augury Marketplace was not small. It could be said that within the core circle, no marketplace was insignificant, as the cultivators here practiced Heaven Rank techniques, making business transactions frequent. This, in turn, contributed to the wealth of the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union.

At the entrance of the marketplace, a youth carrying a sword stepped in, immediately greeted by a maid.

In the outer circle, these welcoming maids were not highly cultivated, but here, their cultivation started from Level 7-8, and each one's appearance was exceptional, giving anyone who entered an instant feeling of returning home.

As the maid saw the young man's face, her smile briefly stiffened, but she quickly recovered, bowing gracefully, "I have seen the martial brother before. Are you here to buy or sell?"

"Both."

"Please come inside, martial brother."

Sometime later, in a private room, a Mercantile Union manager responsible for transactions entered. The manager was not young, appearing around forty or fifty years old, but his cultivation was only at Level 9, with spirit light that was pure and bright, clearly an experienced Level 9 cultivator, though it was unknown if he had any hope of advancing to Cloud River in this lifetime.

The manager greeted with a fist and palm salute, "Fellow Daoist Yiye, I have seen."

In the compartment, Lu Ye sipped his tea delicately.

Being recognized at a glance was something he had grown accustomed to, for his image had long been circulated across the entire battlefield by the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, so how could the people of Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union not pay extra attention?

"What is your honorable surname?"

"My surname is Zhou."

"Fellow Daoist Zhou."

As Lu Yiye spoke, Manager Zhou said, "Having Fellow Daoist Yiye come to the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union is an honor for us. Please accept this humble gesture," while presenting a storage sack and pushing it towards Lu Ye.

Lu Ye looked puzzled. He had visited the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union many times, but this was the first time someone presented a gift right away.

Manager Zhou smiled and explained, "The Mercantile Union is a place of business, unable to withstand clashes between two major camps; it's not anyone's refuge. Please understand, Fellow Daoist Yiye."

Lu Ye knew the other party had mistaken him for seeking refuge at the mercantile union.

"I've heard of the Mercantile Union's foundation. There's no need for Manager Zhou to belittle it; moreover... both the Heaven's Augury Marketplace and Heaven's Augury City have always been places of truce. Others have sought refuge here before, why should it be different with me?"

Manager Zhou replied, "People should not be compared. The enmities involved with those people were trivial, but now, Fellow Daoist Yiye, you're indeed causing the involvement of two major camps. Of course, if you insist on staying, the Mercantile Union won't refuse. As long as you remain within the

Union, the Union will ensure your safety. Nobody would dare harm you here. We strive for wealth through harmony, yet we do not abstain from thunderbolt measures."

These words were stated neither obsequiously nor haughtily, clearly conveying the stance of the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union: they did not seek trouble, but were not afraid of it either.

Lu Ye had long sensed that the background of the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union was not simple, evident even from its name; across all of Nine Provinces, this was the only power that dared to name itself after Heaven's Augury. No other forces from either the Haotian Alliance or Ten Thousand Demons Ridge used the name 'Heaven's Augury'.

"I didn't come for refuge," Lu Ye said as he pushed the storage sack back towards Manager Zhou.

Manager Zhou was stunned, "Then I have indeed misunderstood you, Fellow Daoist."

Lu Ye took out another two storage sacks and a jade slip, "I want to sell some items and also buy some array banners and other things."

Manager Zhou took the storage sacks and the jade slip; after a brief check, his eyes involuntarily twitched in shock. How many people had Lu Yiye killed to possess such an extensive and varied collection of spoils? As for the items listed in the jade slip he wanted to buy, they were nothing major—mostly common array banners that Lu Ye could purchase in any amount.

"When do you need them, Fellow Daoist?"

"That depends on when you want me to leave. I don't want to be blocked here, I just went through such a situation a few days ago and it left a bit of a psychological shadow!"

"Please wait a moment, Fellow Daoist!" Manager Zhou said, as he was about to turn and leave.

"Lend me the Heaven's Augury Pillar of your mercantile union for a moment."

"Please follow me, Fellow Daoist."

Following Manager Zhou out of the private room, and under the guidance of another maid, they entered the Heaven's Augury Hall of the Mercantile Union.

There was also a Heaven's Augury Hall within the union, containing a Heaven's Augury Pillar. The pillar in the union was not restricted by faction or alliance pact, and anyone could use it, but it was said that each use required the payment of some merit.

Essentially a usage fee.

The Heaven's Augury Hall was empty. Lu Ye approached the Heaven's Augury Pillar, activated the mark, and connected to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault.

As expected, using the Heaven's Augury Pillar of the mercantile union to access the Heaven's Augury treasure vault required the expenditure of fifty merit points.

Although 50 merit points are not considered a lot, they are by no means insignificant. Calculated by the lives of cultivators, with Lu Ye's current cultivation, he would need to kill several Heaven rank cultivators.

Checking his own merit points, 9,843 points remain after deducting the 50 points for service fees.

In the Three Saints Sanctuary, to purchase array banners for array setup, he spent all his remaining merit points; in just under three months, he had nearly ten thousand merit points again.

Across the entire Spirit Stream battlefield, in terms of the speed of acquiring merit points, perhaps no one has ever surpassed Lu Ye since ancient times.

The main reason is that he killed enough, especially when he fought enemies while at the 7th Heaven cultivation, killing a Level 7 earned only ten merit points, but killing a Level 8 earned twenty-two points, and killing a Level 9 earned a full thirty-six points.

The merit points gained from defeating higher-level enemies multiplied several times over the base number.

After some consideration, Lu Ye spent 8,000 merit points and bought forty portions of Earth's Core Fire, thus leaving only 1,843 merit points.

For him at this moment, the largest use of merit points was to buy Earth's Core Fire, then to have the Talent Tree consume it, unlocking new spirit runes.

It was always necessary to save some merit points for emergencies, so he rarely spent all his merit points.

Having just stepped out of Heaven's Augury Hall, Manager Zhou was already waiting outside. It must be said, to prevent Lu Ye from staying too long in the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union, their efficiency here was also extremely high.

Handing back two storage sacks, Manager Zhou said, "These are the array banners you need, Fellow Daoist please check them."

Lu Ye opened the storage sack and briefly checked, giving a slight nod of approval.

He didn't calculate the value of these array banners compared to the items he sold; in the current situation, the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union certainly wouldn't take advantage of him.

They would rather he leave quickly, to avoid attracting disaster to this place.

Having secured the storage sacks, Lu Ye strode outside.

Inside the hall, several pairs of eyes were fixed on him; they were evidently Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who had rushed over after receiving the news. The number was not very large, only four to five people.

Since he entered the mercantile union, it had only been half the duration of a cup of tea, but the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had already received the news. It could be foreseen that at this moment, a large number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were rushing over.

If he didn't leave now, he really would be surrounded again!

Exiting the mercantile union, Lu Ye summoned his spirit ark and with a surge of spirit force, soared into the sky.

No sooner had he left, those few Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators followed right behind. At the same time, a large group of cultivators from outside the marketplace hurriedly chased after him.

In an instant, streaks of light raced through the sky, the momentum staggering. During the pursuit, those Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators continuously sent messages all around, calling for reinforcements.

"Be careful, he's coming back!" suddenly, someone shouted loudly.

The numerous Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators looked up and saw Lu Ye indeed turning around, boldly charging towards them on his own.

Even though the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators had gathered tens of people, they couldn't help but feel somewhat panicked at this moment.

The battle above the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest had given them a real sense of Lu Ye's terror; a thousand people encircling and chasing him had failed to subdue him—how could a few dozen now succeed?

But avoiding battle was absolutely impossible. The speed of their weapon control wasn't fast enough, and if they avoided battle, they would be picked off one by one.

Therefore, a leading Level 9 cultivator immediately roared, "Prepare for battle!"

Dozens of people immediately arranged their formations, anxiously watching the rapidly approaching figure.

Weapons and spells struck first. Lu Ye nimbly weaved through the attacks, with the glow of Defense Spirit Runes appearing on his body from time to time to block the unavoidable attacks.

From the supplies box, nine spirit weapons flew out, clearing the path in front, quickly closing in on the enemy formation.

In the front, several physique cultivators stood at the forefront, each holding their protective Spiritual Artifacts, looking solemn.

Lu Ye collided with the lowest level physique cultivator there, and at the same time a long saber wreathed in flames slashed down.

That physique cultivator instantly crashed downward like a meteor falling from the sky, and Lu Ye's figure, unimpeded, directly broke through the enemy lines with the Boulder Mountain Saber, drawing a trail of blood.

As he passed through the enemy lines, several more followed the fallen physique cultivator, plummeting downward.

In a single encounter, several were killed, rendering the expressions of the dozens of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators even graver.

The Level 9 cultivator shouted lowly, "Don't panic, he can't last many more times!"

Although they had lost a few people, during that momentary clash, Lu Ye also endured many attacks, all of which were blocked by Defense Spirit Runes, allowing him to emerge unscathed.

But such combat was hugely draining on his spirit force, and the Heaven rank cultivators were not fools; they naturally knew that Lu Ye couldn't keep up this ferocity indefinitely.

Moreover, if they could delay Lu Ye here until more of their companions arrived, even a few deaths would be worth it.

Chapter 390 - Where Is the Person?

Just when the 9th Heaven cultivator finished speaking, Lu Ye changed direction and attacked once more.

As before, dozens of people attacked him, but most of their weapon controls and magic and spells missed. Only a few hit him, but they were blocked by the Defense Spirit Runes, leaving him unharmed.

Enveloped in searing spirit force, he once again cut through their formation, leaving several dead from his blade or by weapon control.

In midair, Lu Ye paused and looked down at his spirit ark.

He had nearly failed to dodge an attack just now, which left a dent on the spirit ark. Fortunately, it didn't affect the overall performance of the spirit ark.

These small Flying Spirit Artifacts weren't very robust defensively. If they were hit too many times in a short period, they definitely wouldn't hold up. In such a situation, if Lu Ye didn't have a Flying Spirit Artifact, he would be essentially left waiting to die.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators clearly realized this too, and after some whispered discussions, as soon as Lu Ye came near, they targeted his Flying Spirit Artifact, knowing that destroying it would be a significant achievement.

Just as they were thinking this, Lu Ye raised his hand and, despite the distance of several dozen zhang, he gathered scorching spirit force to form the outline of a Fire Phoenix, flapping its wings as it swooped towards them.

Dozens of cultivators scrambled to defend together! However, they barely blocked one Fire Phoenix Technique when a second came flying in, quickly followed by a third, incessant and unstoppable!

Each technique was surprisingly powerful, the scorching force twisting the space around and sending sparks flying.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators went pale with shock, momentarily confused whether Lu Yiye was a combat cultivator or a magic cultivator.

Even a 9th Heaven level magic cultivator couldn't cast spells as quickly, and the power of his techniques was outrageously strong.

What shocked them further was that under the cover of the Fire Phoenix Techniques, successive weapon controls stealthily came at them, catching them entirely off guard!

Their solid and tight defense was breached, and the glint of weapon controls darted through, resulting in continuous screams.

In just a moment, more than ten people had died.

With fewer numbers, their defensive strength greatly diminished. Seeing Lu Ye pounce towards them, the 9th Heaven cultivator could no longer hold out and shouted lowly, "Run!"

As he spoke, he was the first to run out.

Seeing this, the remaining Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, one after another, all scattered and fled.

Lu Ye was about to give chase when he saw a large group of Liu Guang rushing towards him from afar, clearly the nearby reinforcements of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge arriving. Left with no choice, he had to leave first.

The Lu Ye Extermination Alliance, reorganized under the leader from Daoxuan Sect's Spirit Stream Ranking, began operating efficiently.

Messages continuously spread in all directions, and as soon as someone spotted Lu Ye, nearby Lu Ye Extermination Alliance cultivators would rush over immediately, giving him no chance to catch his breath.

Over the past few days, Lu Ye had erupted into dozens of skirmishes with the Lu Ye Extermination Alliance cultivators, averaging seven or eight battles a day.

If the number of enemies wasn't large, Lu Ye would try to kill as many as possible; if there were too many, he would escape first.

The Lu Ye Extermination Alliance suffered significant losses, including some 9th Heaven level cultivators.

In a forested mountain area, with many cultivators searching back and forth in the sky and others in groups on the ground, they investigated Lu Ye's whereabouts.

Under the massive manpower mobilization of the Lu Ye Extermination Alliance, even if Lu Ye could temporarily evade pursuit, he would struggle to remain hidden for long.

All the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators in the Core Circle now made killing Lu Yiye their primary task, putting everything else aside.

Half an hour earlier, a group from the Lu Ye Extermination Alliance had encountered Lu Ye and fought a fierce battle. Soon after, Lu Ye escaped, and the alliance lost track of him.

It was certain that he was still in the area, but his exact hiding spot needed to be searched for.

To be honest, Lu Ye's performance over the past few days had shocked all the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators. Not to mention his absurdly strong personal strength, he had the capability to kill 9th Heaven cultivators when he was only at the 7th Heaven. Now that he had reached the 8th Heaven, ordinary 9th Heaven cultivators were no match for him.

What puzzled the Ten Thousand Demons side even more was his endurance!

Lu Yiye had only recently advanced to the 8th Heaven, and his orifice-opening should only be over three hundred. His spirit force should be limited, and without time to recover over these past days, how could he possibly keep going?

Even someone at the Cloud River Realm should have run out of energy by now.

But, in the battle half an hour ago, Lu Ye still appeared at ease, albeit looking a bit wearied.

One thing was for sure, no matter how he restored his spirit force, after dozens of battles these past few days, he must be nearing his limit.

Therefore, killing Lu Yiye was set for today!

In a hidden cave in the woods, Lu Ye set up a teleportation array.

The decision by the Ten Thousand Demons side was correct; Lu Ye indeed was nearly spent, feeling both physically and mentally exhausted. Although he could endlessly swallow elixir pills to replenish his spirit force, the high frequency and intensity of the battles caused his spirit force to exceed what he could replenish.

At this moment, his spirit force had dwindled to less than 20 percent. Although he still had the strength for another battle, he simply wasn't in the mood anymore.

After several days of fighting, even though he had Defense Spirit Runes, it was inevitable he would get hurt, and additionally, his spirit ark was nearly wrecked.

For a Spirit Stream Realm cultivator without a Flying Spirit Artifact, the situation basically equaled awaiting death.

Therefore, he had to return to the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest to recuperate urgently.

He was less than fifty miles from the outskirts of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest and about thirty miles from the parent teleportation array he had left behind. If everything went smoothly, he would be able to teleport back.

Actually, Lu Ye could have chosen to fight his way back into the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest. Having made it out once, he certainly had the ability to fight his way back in. However, by doing so, he would have exposed his tracks. If Ten Thousand Demons Ridge then surrounded the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest again, it would make his next escape more troublesome.

Using the teleportation array eliminated these concerns. No one would know where he had gone. It could be said that it was done without anyone being the wiser.

By the time he had rested well in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators would still be searching for his whereabouts, like headless flies buzzing around in confusion.

The feeling of manipulating countless enemies in the palm of his hand was quite good indeed.

After setting up the array banners and constructing the framework of the teleportation array, Lu Ye activated his spirit force to perfect the interior structure of the formation, centering it around the Void Spirit Runes and then made some adjustments.

Standing in the teleportation array, Lu Ye activated his spirit force, stimulating the formation.

The next moment, he felt as if the array under his feet was calling out to another array far away.

Everything went smoothly, and the child array under his feet established a connection with the parent array in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest.

However, recalling the sensation of teleportation made Lu Ye's face slightly bitter.

Clamping his teeth, he completely activated the formation!

His mind suddenly sank, that sensation of stepping into a bottomless abyss and continuously plunging downwards appeared again. At the same time, a formidable pressure surrounded him, as if an invisible giant hand was constantly squashing and rounding him. Throughout this entire process, he was utterly powerless to resist and could only activate his spirit force to protect his body...

The feeling was indescribably bitter yet thrilling.

Almost the moment Lu Ye activated the child teleportation array, a team of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators patrolling the sky detected the spiritual force fluctuations here. Quickly, the news spread in all directions, and cultivators from nearby rapidly converged here.

In just a moment, the concealed cave entrance was filled with the figures of cultivators, and even the sky was covered with a net aimed at capturing Lu Ye the instant he showed himself!

"Are you sure he's here?" a 9th Heaven cultivator suddenly asked.

The cultivator who first noticed the activity here replied, "Our people haven't entered this place, yet there was a fluctuation of spirit force emanating from here; it must be that Lu Yiye without a doubt."

"It seems like there's no trace of recent human presence..."

"Should I go in and check?" A burly physique cultivator asked.

"Be careful, it might be a trick!" the 9th Heaven cultivator shook his head, "That Lu Yiye is skilled in Array Path; rashly entering could fall right into a trap he has set. Is anyone here from the cover armorer or beast-taming faction?"

"I am a cover armorer." A plain-looking cultivator stepped forward.

"Check what's inside."

The cover armorer nodded, took out something from his storage sack that looked like a cat, activated it with his spirit force, and the cat agilely rushed into the cave.

The next moment, a violent fluctuation of spirit force burst out from within, as if something had exploded, and fierce flames gushed out from the cave entrance, frightening the group of cultivators, cursing that Lu Yiye was truly cunning, and this was indeed a trap. Had it not been for the cover armorer sending a mechanical beast to scout, anyone who entered would have had a bad fate.

Fortunately, they were cautious enough to have the cover armorer send a mechanical beast to scout the way.

"Do we have an array cultivator?" the 9th Heaven cultivator asked again.

This time, quite a few people stepped forward.

He casually pointed at a few: "Come in with me and check."

Under his lead, a group of several people stepped into the cave.

They soon came out.

Inside, they couldn't find many useful clues, the only certainty being that Lu Yiye had indeed been there and set up a great explosion array. As for the rest, they couldn't tell, as the inside had been blown into chaos by the explosion array, even the array banners left behind were completely destroyed.

About one hour ago, this side of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had lost track of Lu Ye's whereabouts, and then he had stayed here. This raised the question...

Where is he now?

In this entire zone, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators sealed the heavens and locked the earth; Lu Ye wouldn't be able to escape even if he were incredibly skilled, yet they couldn't find him.

This left the people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge utterly baffled.

They eventually concluded that Lu Ye probably had some mysterious method of concealment, escaping their detection.

The matter became troublesome; if Lu Yiye indeed possessed such an extraordinary method of concealment, how could they ever find him?

Meanwhile, deep in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, under a canopy of poison barriers, the figure of Lu Ye suddenly appeared. Unsurprisingly, the teleportation had some deviations and did not land him on the parent array, but it should not be too far from the parent array.

At that moment he was suspended mid-air, and as soon as he appeared, he plummeted rapidly downwards.

About thirty feet from the ground, a height that Lu Ye could still withstand.