

Humanity 411

Chapter 411 Who Do I Look Like?

The Three Saints Sanctuary's residence was on high alert, with Governor Situ Han and Deputy Governor Shi Lei anxiously awaiting news. It wasn't until Phong Yue finished relaying the message that Situ Han hurriedly asked, "Junior Sister Phong, what did Fellow Daoist Lu say?"

Phong Yue conveyed Lu Ye's original words.

Only then did Situ Han breathe a sigh of relief. With Lu Ye's assurance, even if the sect's residence was breached, it wouldn't be of much consequence—they could simply retreat to the Nine Provinces sect headquarters. After all, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators couldn't possibly pursue them to the Nine Provinces.

Within the inner circle, there was once a sect called Tianyan Sect, whose residence was breached due to Lu Ye, but in the end, after following Lu Ye through wars in the east and west, not only did they make up for their own losses, they even profited greatly. It turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

Therefore, Situ Han had no doubt in Lu Ye's abilities.

Meanwhile, in front of the wooden hut in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, Lu Ye summoned his Flying Spirit Artifact and soared into the sky, with Amber crouching on his shoulder.

In the courtyard, Hua Ci watched him leave.

This departure was different from the last. Previously, he had only gone to the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union to purchase some items and was expected to return soon. This time, however, he was heading out on a mission, so after consideration, he decided to take Amber and Yiyi with him.

Hua Ci also wanted to go, but since Lu Ye left the parent teleportation array in the wooden hut, someone needed to stay behind to guard it, and that task fell to her.

Currently, a large number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were laying siege to the Three Saints Sanctuary's residence, intending to force Lu Ye to show himself. Of course, Lu Ye wouldn't be foolish enough to actually go there.

Normally, as soon as he showed himself, the crisis at the Three Saints Sanctuary would resolve itself. However, there was the possibility that Ten Thousand Demons Ridge might not stop halfway and instead directly breach the sanctuary's residence—a matter beyond Lu Ye's control.

Midair, Lu Ye took out his ten-part map to survey the surroundings and selected a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge residence located about 30 miles from the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest.

This was a 3rd grade sect known as the Lianshan Sect. Having determined the direction, Lu Ye set off straight towards it.

After receiving the baptism of Heaven's Augury, his body and mind had been strengthened, and his weapon control speed had also improved.

Half a Shichen later, Liu Guang descended, and Lu Ye appeared outside the Lianshan Sect's residence.

Immediately, a cultivator on alert detected the activity and swooped over, calling out to Lu Ye through a big array's light screen, "Which Fellow Daoist graces us with their presence?"

Under normal circumstances, such an uninvited visit would come from a friend on good terms with the sect, and a simple notification would suffice to let them in.

But who could have anticipated that a cultivator from an opposing camp would come alone, so brazenly?

At that moment, Lu Ye was activating his Insight Spirit Runes to enhance his eyes and identify the big array's nodes.

Hearing the question, he turned his head expressionlessly to look at the cultivator, "Who do you think I am?"

The cultivator was taken aback, and upon closer inspection, his complexion changed dramatically, and he pointed at Lu Ye, "You... you..."

Then, he channeled his spirit force and shouted, "Lu Yiye is here!"

In an instant, the entire residence boiled over. Streaks of light soared from all directions, converging here, while others flew over with skeptical expressions, wondering if they had heard wrongly.

How could Lu Yiye, who had been unheard from recently, suddenly appear at their residence?

By then, Lu Ye had already implanted several array banners into the big array, and with a series of manipulations, the spot covered by the banners on the light screen of the big array stopped flowing with spirit force.

He then raised his hand and, as if lifting a curtain, peeled back a corner of the big array and casually strode in.

This was the same tactic he used when he went to the Loyal Heart Sect with Giant Armor and Phong Yue; if the big array of a 2nd grade sect like the Loyal Heart Sect couldn't stop Lu Ye, then neither could the Lianshan Sect's.

However, this method wasn't about destroying the big array; strictly speaking, it didn't have much impact on it and was only suitable for the infiltration of a single person or a small group.

In a matter of moments, dozens of people had gathered around, with even more streaks of light rushing from the vicinity. Just as Lu Ye stepped into the array, a barrage of attacks rained down on him.

Lu Ye was prepared and hastily activated Defense Spirit Runes to protect himself while also enhancing his speed with Move-Like-The-Wind, darting to one side.

Even so, the Defense Spirit Runes were directly shattered. Lu Ye reestablished them, but they were broken again, enduring five consecutive breaks before finally managing to escape being targeted.

The supplies box buzzed, and nine weapon control artifacts shot out as flashes of light, followed by the splattering of fresh blood and screams.

As the residence of a 3rd grade sect, most of the cultivators inside were at the 7th Heaven or 8th Heaven level, with very few at the 9th Heaven level, and even if there were, their strength was not enough to rank on the Spirit Stream Ranking.

Such cultivators were naturally no match for Lu Ye.

Fortunately for them, the Lianshan Sect cultivators reacted very quickly. In just a short ten breaths' time, the entire residence was mobilized.

Suddenly, the residence was awash with flowing light and became extremely lively.

Lu Ye might have charged into the residence alone, but from beginning to end, he knew that he couldn't possibly conquer a sect's residence with his strength alone; he just wanted to cause enough commotion.

More Lianshan Sect cultivators fell at Lu Ye's hands, but his situation gradually became more precarious.

Charging through the enemy residence might look impressive, but in reality, it was fraught with danger, and a single misstep could lead to a disastrous end.

Even the strongest Defense Spirit Runes could not withstand the combined attack of many cultivators, and throughout the ordeal, Lu Ye was more on the defensive than the offensive.

Gradually, the Lianshan Sect cultivators stabilized their formation and suddenly realized that this notoriously violent thug was not invincible after all.

One-on-one, none of them might match Lu Yiye, but with all the cultivators working together, this thug would certainly not have it easy.

After the initial panic, the Governor and the Deputy Governor of the Lianshan Sect slowly steadied their minds and coordinated their junior brothers and sisters to encircle and block Lu Ye, with various arrangements made in an orderly fashion.

Within less than the time it takes to finish half a cup of tea, Lu Ye was forced to leave the Lianshan Sect's quarters.

In the battle, the Lianshan Sect lost twenty or thirty people, and Lu Ye was also battered and disheveled.

However, he did not leave but brazenly stood outside their protective array, while swallowing elixir pills and eying the inside menacingly.

In such a situation, the cultivators of the Lianshan Sect didn't dare to open the big array to chase after him.

Inside the big array, Lu Ye's spatial maneuverability was limited, and he was restrained at every turn, but if they were to open the big array, then Lu Ye would be unhampered and free to unleash his full potential.

This point was naturally clear to the Governor and the Deputy Governor of the Lianshan Sect.

However, being blocked by a single person in such a way at their own base, the cultivators of the Lianshan Sect felt incredibly suffocated, and for a time, through the array's light screen, many Lianshan Sect cultivators incessantly hurled insults at Lu Ye.

Lu Ye didn't talk back.

Only children quarrel.

The news that Lu Yiye from the Righteous Blood Sect showed up at the Lianshan Sect quarters and stirred up trouble within their big array spread rapidly, and nearby Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators hurried over one after another.

Although Szi Guang had advanced to Cloud River, the Lu Ye Extermination Alliance was not disbanded. It was a loosely organized group created solely to eliminate Lu Yiye, and whether Szi Guang was present or not didn't matter too much, as long as the cultivators intent on slaying Lu Ye maintained contact with each other.

More and more cultivators gathered towards the Lianshan Sect, and the Spirit Stream battlefield, quiet for half a month, became bustling once more.

After blocking the Lianshan Sect's base for two hours, Lu Ye controlled his weapon and left.

He had achieved his goal, so there was no need to linger any longer.

At this moment, many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were converging on the Lianshan Sect in groups. As Lu Ye left, they encountered each other head-on.

With Lu Ye's current strength, the average Core Circle cultivator couldn't stand against him without a group of twenty or thirty, and this wasn't a Spirit Stream Ranking challenge with all sorts of limitations and geographic disadvantages. An outdoor fight depended on one's own foundation and means of killing the enemy.

Lu Ye lacked neither of these.

He bulldozed his way forward, and few of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators he encountered managed to escape with their lives.

He had no specific destination; he simply moved forward, killing any Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator he encountered.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge intended to force him to show himself, so he granted their wish, only hoping they could bear the dire consequences of his emergence.

After suffering several setbacks, many from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge retreated, but even more joined the pursuit of Lu Ye, continuously reporting his whereabouts.

Lu Ye felt extremely fortunate to have brought Yiyi and Amber with him; otherwise, in the current situation, he would have had no time to rest.

Ever since leaving the Lianshan Sect's quarters, he had not had a moment's respite; wherever he went, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators came chasing after him.

It was only because Yiyi and Amber shared the burden that Lu Ye could keep going.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's current tactic was clear: they aimed to exhaust him. No matter how strong Lu Yiye was, he had his limits, and once worn out, it would be easy to kill him.

It must be said, while this method might be a bit foolish, it was the most effective one.

Lu Ye had the Talent Tree and the Bestial Gluttony Feast; replenishing his spirit force was not an issue, but without rest over a long period, his mental and physical stamina couldn't hold up.

So, when he realized he was nearing his limit, Lu Ye started flying towards the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest. At present, within the Core Circle, only the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest could offer him refuge. Anywhere else, he would not be left in peace.

As long as he got within about 30 miles of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, he could use the teleportation array to return to the cabin.

Once he rested and recovered within the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest for a while, he could come out again to hunt the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators.

His battlefield marking suddenly received a message, and Lu Ye immersed his mind to check. It was from Phong Yue.

"Fifth Senior Brother, we can't hold onto the Three Saints Sanctuary's base any longer. I am going to retreat back to the Nine Provinces with Senior Brother Situ and the others. Take care of yourself, Fifth Senior Brother!"

Seeing this message, Lu Ye fell silent; the Three Saints Sanctuary's base ultimately couldn't be held.

It made sense. With a large number of people from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge gathered outside the Three Saints Sanctuary, possessing the strength to breach it, they naturally wouldn't leave empty-handed.

Lu Ye tried to send a message back but found that his messages could no longer get through. Phong Yue's mark hadn't disappeared, indicating she wasn't dead but had returned to the Nine Provinces.

With the Three Saints Sanctuary lost, what about the Loyal Heart Sect?

It's likely that the Loyal Heart Sect didn't fare much better. Previously, with Fourth Senior Brother and Senior Sister Feng presiding, no one dared to provoke them, but now that both had advanced to Cloud River, the overall strength of this generation of Loyal Heart Sect cultivators wasn't strong. If targeted, keeping their base would be difficult.

Chapter 412 The Three Calamities of Spirit Stream

Just as he was thinking this, a message from the battlefield marking came through—it was a message from his Second Senior Sister.

"If you're available, come over to Green Emperor City's base."

Lu Ye promptly replied, "Is something the matter?"

"Someone wants to meet you."

Lu Ye felt a bit puzzled.

If he was not mistaken, Green Emperor City should be a 2nd grade sect in Bingzhou, its overall strength only slightly inferior to the 1st grade sects, quite similar to the current Loyal Heart Sect.

However, Lu Ye had never had any dealings with the people from Green Emperor City, nor did he know why his Second Senior Sister would have him go to their base.

Second Senior Sister didn't elaborate, and Lu Ye didn't ask for details, because if Shui Yuan truly wanted to explain, she surely would have told him.

"Understood."

After replying, Lu Ye took out the ten-part map to check, and found that his current location wasn't too far from the base of Green Emperor City. If he were to travel there using weapon control-flying, it wouldn't take half a day.

But... turning his head back, he saw streaks of Liu Guang relentlessly chasing after him like maggots on bone—Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were unrelenting in their pursuit of him.

In this situation, it wouldn't be good to fly directly to Green Emperor City.

He needed to find a way to shake off the tails following him.

If he truly wanted to get rid of them, Lu Ye had methods. Continuously activating the flight spirit runes, even the sword cultivators known for their speed would be left eating his dust.

Making up his mind and about to take action, Yiyi, who was standing behind Lu Ye, suddenly let out an exclamation. Before Lu Ye could react and understand what had happened, he felt the spirit force around him suddenly solidify, and his body uncontrollably plummeted diagonally downwards. Amber, who had been crouching on Lu Ye's shoulder, also widened her beastly pupils and clung tightly to Lu Ye's clothes to prevent being thrown off.

Despite the sudden turn of events, Lu Ye was not the slightest bit panicked and immediately surveyed his surroundings. He did not spot any signs of someone ambushing him, and instead saw the cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge who were following him—one and all, they were also shrieking as they fell diagonally downwards, which was a very pleasant sight to behold...

Sky Prohibition, huh?

The thought immediately popped into Lu Ye's mind.

If there were a Sky Prohibition restriction in this area, then indeed, Flying Spirit Artifacts passing overhead would lose control.

But the fact that his own spirit force was also shackled meant it was more than just the effect of Sky Prohibition!

If it wasn't Sky Prohibition, could it be spirit prohibition?

That wasn't quite right either; the affected area was too vast, a simple spirit prohibition couldn't achieve such an effect.

In the span of a moment, numerous thoughts raced through Lu Ye's mind.

Before he could figure out what exactly was happening, the shackled spirit force within him recovered, and Lu Ye hurriedly activated his spirit force, causing his body that had been plummeting to soar upwards once more.

"Lu Ye, it's probably the Yuan Magnetic Howling approaching!" Yiyi's voice came from behind him.

With that reminder, Lu Ye finally understood.

Since he had initially stirred the pot in the inner circle, leading the Haotian Alliance's Allied Forces to occupy residences of a hundred or two of the sects from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, he had heard some rumors about the Three Calamities of Spirit Stream battlefield.

The so-called Three Calamities of the Spirit Stream battlefield refer to the Spirit Stream Heavenly Thunder, the Yuan Magnetic Howling, and Yiye's Gaze.

The Spirit Stream battlefield rarely echoes with heavenly thunder, but when it does thunder, much of the time it signals an approaching Insect Plague, which is when all cultivators are busiest, as no matter the camp or sect, they all must wholeheartedly combat the insect waves near their residences.

The Yuan Magnetic Howling, on the other hand, is another disaster, even more unpredictable than the Insect Plague.

The Spirit Stream battlefield would experience a turmoil of origin magnetic field howling every few to about ten years or so.

Lu Ye was not unfamiliar with the origin magnetic field. Back in the Evil Moon Valley mine, it was by using the origin magnetic field that he, as a mortal, was able to slay Manager Yang and hence embarked on the path of cultivation.

The origin magnetic field deep within that mine was not very powerful; it was mostly just the invisible field generated by some origin magnetic ore. But there, Manager Yang was utterly unable to utilize any spirit force and was confusedly killed by Lu Ye in the end.

What if that kind of origin magnetic field were magnified a thousandfold, or even ten thousandfold?

What if such a force howled past, sweeping across the entire Spirit Stream battlefield?

That is the true nature of the Yuan Magnetic Howling of the Three Calamities.

Whenever this occurs, the entire Spirit Stream battlefield is inundated with the origin magnetic field, the nature's spiritual energy of the colossal battlefield solidifies, and even the spirit force within cultivators is difficult to mobilize.

During such times, cultivators can no longer practice by breathing in and out nature's spiritual energy. Even the spirit force within them cannot be activated in the slightest.

During this period on the Spirit Stream battlefield, all cultivators have to rely only on their physical strength!

For cultivators who rely on spirit force for combat, this is undoubtedly a great disaster.

But correspondingly, it is spring for physique cultivators, and combat cultivators also have some room to play; as for magic and ghost cultivators with fragile physiques... they generally hide within their residences, shivering.

There are signs before the Yuan Magnetic Howling, just like what had happened earlier. When such signs emerge, the volatile origin magnetic field will soon envelop the entire Spirit Stream battlefield.

Lu Ye could only feel fortunate that this natural disaster came with signs; otherwise, if it came without any warning, quite a number of cultivators flying back and forth in the sky would probably fall to their deaths.

As for Yiye's low bowed head among the Three Calamities, Lu Ye felt that this was entirely slander by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge...

So, when he heard such ridiculous statements, he only laughed it off and did not take it too seriously.

Yiyi was a Spiritual Body and was extremely sensitive to the origin magnetic field, so she noticed it earlier than Lu Ye.

"Return to Amber's body," Lu Ye said hastily.

When the origin magnetic field enveloped the battlefield, the only effect on cultivators was that they were unable to mobilize their spirit force; however, the impact on Yiyi was significant. If she didn't hide inside Amber's body, she might very well disperse entirely.

"Okay." Yiyi replied and immediately vanished from sight.

"Amber, show your true form!"

Amber responded with a low roar, leaped from Lu Ye's shoulder to stand where Yiyi had just been, and under the surging Demon Origin, revealed its true form.

Lu Ye took the opportunity to lower his altitude, flying less than fifteen feet above the ground, so that even if the same situation occurred again, he wouldn't fall to his death.

For a cultivator, dying from a fall from a high place would be the most tragic death imaginable.

No sooner had he dealt with that, than Lu Ye once again felt as if the spirit force within his body was restricted, unable to be used, and he fell from a height of fifteen feet along with the tiger.

Scrambling to his feet as his spirit force recovered, he continued onward, controlling his weapon for flight.

After several such occurrences, the origin magnetic field finally pervaded the entire Spirit Stream battlefield. In an instant, all cultivators were unable to mobilize their spirit force, the nature's spiritual energy also solidified, and not only that, but even the protective arrays of the various encampments shattered without attack.

The only thing the cultivators could still use were the various functions associated with their battlefield markings, as these were tied to Heaven's Augury and were thus unaffected by the origin magnetic field.

Lu Ye had already mounted Amber and was swiftly leaving a trail of dust. The cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge who were chasing after him could only watch helplessly as he escaped from their grasp.

At this moment, Lu Ye had only one thought: bringing Amber along on this trip was indeed a wise decision.

Otherwise, he would have had to rely on his own ability to run, and he couldn't bear to imagine that scenario.

When the origin magnetic field swept over the Spirit Stream battlefield, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge suddenly realized this was an opportunity!

An opportunity to kill Lu Yiye!

Ever since he was promoted to 8th Heaven, he became very difficult to handle; nowadays, as the leader of the Spirit Stream Ranking and having received another baptism of Heaven's Augury, he had become even stronger than before.

With too few people, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge couldn't kill him; with too many, they couldn't catch him. They had always been at a loss on how to handle him.

But now, with spirit force prohibited and everyone relying solely on their physical prowess, if they could trap Lu Yiye somewhere, even just a few dozen people could kill him!

Realizing this, many of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, long frustrated by Lu Ye, almost wanted to shout for joy to the heavens—this was a stroke of luck!

However, the cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge quickly realized a new problem.

That was, Lu Yiye had a mount!

The White Tiger that could use the roar of a tiger to shake the minds of its enemies!

Truth be told, cultivators with lower cultivation levels liked to tame and keep mounts, since at lower levels, mounts were not only used for travel but also provided assistance in battles against enemies.

However, once cultivators reached Level 8 and gained the ability to fly with weapon control, they generally stopped taming mounts. They could fly on their own; what need was there for a mount? Even those tamed in their weaker days couldn't keep up with the cultivators' growth in strength and were eventually discarded.

So if they wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to kill Lu Yiye, they would need adequate mounts capable of catching up to him.

Luckily, there was a beast-taming faction among them; cultivators of this faction specialized in combat using tamed beasts, with their strength dependent on the might of the demon beasts they commanded.

When Lu Ye was climbing the rankings, he encountered a guy who brought four demon beasts to battle, only for Lu Ye to kill them all cleanly in one go, man and beasts alike. The corpses of those beasts later became a source of nourishment for both Lu Ye and Amber.

Suddenly, in all of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge encampments, the beast-taming faction cultivators became in high demand. Some demon cultivator sects even allocated many bird-type demon beasts, searching for Lu Ye's whereabouts both in the sky and on the ground, according to his last known location.

It was imperative to find him before the origin magnetic field's howl ended so that they could eliminate him completely!

During this time, Lu Ye had already ridden on Amber to the Green Emperor City encampment.

What normally would have been a half-day journey by controlling a weapon, took two days on Amber, even after her strength had greatly improved and her speed had increased. If it had been before, this journey would have undoubtedly taken four or five days.

Weary and covered in dust.

In the Green Emperor City encampment, the protective array had already been nullified by the origin magnetic field's howl, and all cultivators had returned to their encampment, standing ready for anything, as no one knew if enemies would take advantage of the situation to attack.

No sooner than the figure on the White Tiger appeared outside the Green Emperor City encampment, was he spotted by the cultivators of the city, and they quickly relayed the information.

By the time Lu Ye reached the outskirts of the encampment, a cultivator approached him: "Are you Fellow Daoist Yiye from the Righteous Blood Sect?"

"Indeed, it is I!"

Lu Ye replied.

The cultivator gestured with his hand, "Please, Fellow Daoist Yiye."

Chapter 413 The Third Senior Brother's Insights on Saber Skills Cultivation

After a short while, in the visitors hall of the Green Emperor City's encampment, Lu Ye met with a young man in flowing robes, whose demeanor was refined and courteous. This youth seemed one or two years younger than him, and under the current envelopment of the origin magnetic field, where a cultivator's inner spirit force was restricted, it was impossible to discern another's level of cultivation through their emitted spirit light.

Yet, since this person resided within the Core Circle, it was safe to assume that he had at least converted to cultivating a Heaven Rank technique, and was at the very least a cultivator of the 7th Heaven.

Approaching Lu Ye, the youth bowed deeply, "Xiao Changhe pays his respects to his fifth uncle in the sect!"

This form of address... and this name...

"What relation is Xiao Xinghe to you?"

With a genteel smile, Xiao Changhe replied, "My father indeed."

Lu Ye understood immediately.

Before he joined the Righteous Blood Sect, the only members had been the sect master and his Second Senior Sister. As for the eldest senior sister Weh Ying who had shown herself on the Spirit Stream

battlefield... she was actually the same person as Shui Yuan, though for some reason their personalities were profoundly different, even their appearances were not the same.

These facts had slowly come to Lu Ye after he joined the Righteous Blood Sect.

Aside from his eldest and second senior sisters, who were actually one and the same, there were two more senior brothers above Lu Ye. One was his fourth senior brother Li Baxian, and the other his third senior brother!

Lu Ye had never met this third senior brother and only knew him by the name Xiao Xinghe.

So, when the youth before him introduced himself as Xiao Changhe and called him his fifth uncle in the sect, Lu Ye naturally associated him with the third senior brother whom he had never met.

Although their ages were similar, the distinction of seniority existed between them: Xiao Changhe calling him fifth uncle was quite appropriate given their positions in the sect.

So his third senior brother had joined the Green Emperor City's sect! It was not until today that Lu Ye learned of this, having previously known only that his senior brother had joined another sect, though its name had been unknown to him.

Upon closer inspection of Xiao Changhe before him, Lu Ye noted that his third senior brother was indeed accomplished, as evidenced by his son's considerable size and the clear signs of exceptional talent.

"Is third senior brother looking for me?" Lu Ye inquired.

Previously, Shui Yuan had sent a message asking him to come here, saying someone wanted to meet him. Now it appeared likely that this someone was his own third senior brother.

Xiao Changhe nodded, "Yes, originally my father hoped to invite Uncle to our sect headquarters in Green Emperor City. However, with the roar of the origin magnetic storm and a chaotic force field, it's currently impossible to use Heaven's Augury Pillar for transportation, so uncle might not be able to reach the Green Emperor City's sect headquarters."

Transportation using Heaven's Augury Pillar required the activation of Spiritual Energy. Now, with Spiritual Energy in the Spirit Stream battlefield being suppressed, the pillar naturally lost its capability for transport.

As he spoke, Xiao Changhe handed over a small booklet, "Upon detecting the impending roar of the origin magnetic storm, my father instructed me to return to our headquarters for a brief visit to bring this object, meant to be passed on to uncle."

Lu Ye accepted it and looked down. The booklet was palm-sized, not very thick—perhaps only about a dozen pages—and appeared to be bound in animal hide.

Casually flipping it open, he saw densely packed script. After scanning just a few lines, Lu Ye raised his eyebrows.

This turned out to be third senior brother's saber skills cultivation insights!

Indeed, he faintly recalled something. The first time he had returned from the Spirit Stream battlefield to the Righteous Blood Sect headquarters, his fourth senior brother had accompanied him. At that time, while teaching him some combat tactics, the fourth senior brother had grumbled about why Lu Ye didn't choose to learn swordsmanship from him but instead insisted on practicing saber like third senior brother!

Lu Ye still remembered the look of grievance on his fourth senior brother's face when he said that.

Since ancient times, those who practiced the saber looked down on those who trained in the sword, and vice versa. Each disdained the other, even among fellow sect brothers. Li Baxian had hoped that Lu Ye would pursue swordsmanship like himself.

"These are the summaries my father has made about his saber skills throughout the years. He hopes they will be of some assistance to Uncle. Since he cannot provide guidance in person, this booklet is all he can offer," Xiao Changhe explained.

"This item will be of great use. Please convey my thanks to third senior brother."

Such a summary of insights into saber skills was indeed a treasure for Lu Ye, as he had been practicing saber techniques for a while now. However, he often felt that many of his ideas were hard to realize. Sometimes he would have ideas but couldn't find an appropriate entry point, nor did he have anyone to discuss and explore cultivation with.

He felt like a blind man trying to cross a river, relying solely on his own groping for progress.

The gift from his third senior brother was perfectly timed. Having someone to guide him was entirely different from fumbling on his own. This compilation of saber skills insights could save Lu Ye a significant amount of time that otherwise would have been spent groping in the dark.

"My father says we are family, and there's no need for thanks," Xiao Changhe responded with a smile, then paused before adding, "Uncle, my father had been tempering himself and cultivating in the Cloud River battlefield for three years, without returning to the Nine Provinces. He had only advanced to True Lake and left Cloud River battlefield a few days ago, so he is completely unaware of anything outside the Cloud River battlefield."

Lu Ye's expression shifted slightly, understanding the implication of Xiao Changhe's words, and he nodded, "I understand. Tell third senior brother not to worry about it. When the opportunity arises, I will visit him. Also, let him know that Lu Ye has great luck and a strong fate. The people of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge can't kill me!"

"My father is very much looking forward to meeting Uncle."

Despite Xiao Changhe's attempts to persuade him to stay longer, Lu Ye did not linger in the Green Emperor City's encampment.

Currently, the cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were undoubtedly searching for him everywhere, and his presence in the Green Emperor City's encampment would only bring disaster if the news leaked out.

Especially now, with the origin magnetic roar and the unavailable transport by Heaven's Augury Pillar, if a large number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators should attack the Green Emperor City encampment, their hopes of retreating back to the Nine Provinces would be in vain.

Mounting Amber, Lu Ye left the Green Emperor City encampment, heading towards the direction of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest.

He now missed that small wooden hut in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest immensely and couldn't wait to return to it, then delve deep into the gift the Third Senior Brother had given him.

Although he had only glanced at the first page just now, he was already greatly moved. If he could fully comprehend the saber skills and cultivation insights from Third Senior Brother, Lu Ye felt his strength could climb another rung.

Above the clouds, a hawk soared with flapping wings, its eagle eyes reflecting the image of a young man riding a White Tiger. Using the cover of the clouds and an incredibly high altitude, it was nearly imperceptible—even if Lu Ye looked up, it would be very difficult for him to spot the hawk.

Particularly now, with the origin magnetic field howling, his spirit force was imprisoned within his body, preventing Lu Ye from stirring spirit force to enhance his eyes and fully employ his Ocular Power.

With his spirit force restrained and in the midst of the chaotic origin magnetic field, Lu Ye's sense of warning considerably diminished, which allowed certain plans of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side to proceed incredibly smoothly.

This was the last golden opportunity to eliminate Lu Yiye. If they failed this time, there likely wouldn't be such a good chance again. Therefore, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge forces were currently led by the Lu Ye Extermination Alliance, with a large number of sects and cultivators joining forces.

Amber's speed was extremely fast, galloping along the way. To Lu Ye's surprise, he hadn't seen a single person from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge on this journey.

This puzzled him and also made him feel somewhat uneasy.

Abnormal occurrences must have an undercurrent; no matter how he traveled, it was impossible not to encounter a single Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator unless they had all retreated to their base.

On further thought, that seemed quite possible.

In an environment where the origin magnetic field was in turmoil, cultivators who relied on spirit force as their source of power naturally lacked a sense of security and would prefer the warmth of the group.

Although his spirit force was bound, Lu Ye's strong mind also felt some impact. However, if there were enemies nearby spying on him, he would be able to detect them.

As Lu Ye passed a canyon, he suddenly received a signal from his battlefield marking. He quickly checked and found that someone was challenging him.

His mind connected to the Spirit Stream Ranking to check the five people ranked behind him. Among them were the female archery cultivator and Spectral Shadow; the last one was a physique cultivator.

Yooi Lianzhou and Szi Guang had ascended to the Cloud River battlefield, so these people's rankings had naturally improved.

Eliminating the female archery cultivator and Spectral Shadow, who relied too heavily on the terrain to utilize their full strength because of the challenge, it meant that Lu Ye had the initiative to choose the terrain.

If Lu Ye chose the kind of combat field he always did, with a range of only a few dozen yards, both the female archery cultivator and Spectral Shadow would be beaten to tears!

Therefore, the only option was the physique cultivator named Zhu Pang!

Challenging him at this time... Lu Ye turned his head to look around and also looked up into the sky, his brows furrowing.

Coincidence?

Lu Ye did not believe this was any coincidence. If he were to be drawn into the combat field by Heaven's Augury now, the canyon he was currently in would be too suitable for an ambush.

If the people of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge blocked the way out, then he would be trapped!

His senses did not detect the feeling of being watched, which indicated either no one was observing him or the observer was too far away, beyond the reach of his perception.

Recalling the eerie situation of not encountering a single person from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge on his way, Lu Ye made a judgment.

He decisively accepted the challenge, but Lu Ye did not choose the terrain, thus granting himself preparation time of four hours.

As if sensing Lu Ye's intentions, Amber beneath him increased his speed another level and darted out, quickly leaving the canyon behind.

He continued to advance.

In the shadows, messages were exchanged secretly.

"Lu Yiye has accepted the challenge; have Brother Zhu Pang ready at all times!"

"Zhu Pang is ready. The challenge hasn't started yet; it seems Lu Yiye wants to delay the time."

"Too bad. If we could have blocked him at that location, his death would be certain!"

"Don't be anxious; there's still a chance. As long as Brother Zhu Pang can hold out for one incense stick's time, we can encircle him. By then, Lu Yiye won't be able to escape even if he had wings."

"Ask Zhu Pang if he can withstand one incense stick's time."

"He says he'll do his best, but we need to move quickly too."

"Don't just do your best, you must hold out for one incense stick's time. We're too far away from him now, and without enough time, it will be hard to form an encirclement. He's a physique cultivator; doesn't he have even this bit of confidence?"

"Zhu Pang says, why don't you try?"

"He's our Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's last hope, how can he speak such irresponsible words! If I were qualified to challenge Lu Yiye, I'd certainly go. But now I'm not qualified, am I?"

"Stop the nonsense. Calculate his speed and direction to predict where he will be after four hours and prepare in advance!"

Chapter 414 Cover Armor

According to Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's calculations, Lu Ye should enter a mountain valley in four hours based on his current pace.

Although the terrain there isn't as good as the canyon they had just passed, it's still quite suitable for forming an encirclement.

Messages were relayed, and many cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge rushed towards the valley to prepare for an ambush. Once Lu Ye entered the valley and accepted the challenge, as long as Zhu Pang could hold on for one incense stick's time, the encirclement would form. At that point, even if Lu Ye had extraordinary abilities, he wouldn't be able to break out of it. The only thing awaiting him would be death!

The plan of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge was well thought out...

However, after just two hours, new information emerged.

"Zhu Pang has entered the combat field!"

"What? Lu Yiye didn't wait for the full four hours? Where is he now?"

Once they figured out Lu Ye's location, they were all dumbfounded.

The place where Lu Ye had been was actually an open plain—a vast flatland!

This kind of terrain was clearly not suitable for an ambush.

"He must have realized something. Hurry, hurry, hurry! We don't know how long Zhu Pang can last. Send people to Lu Yiye's current location immediately."

The people of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge weren't foolish; by choosing to enter the combat field from a plain, it was without a doubt that Lu Ye was on guard.

The best approach now was to quickly encircle him and form a tight ring before the fight between Lu Yiye and Zhu Pang ended. That way, they could still get the job done.

A large number of cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge hastily took action, feeling incredibly frustrated. It was supposed to be an opportunity for them to covertly plot against Lu Yiye, but now, somehow, it seemed as if they were being led by the nose!

While the cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge hurriedly mobilized, Lu Ye and Zhu Pang simultaneously appeared within a few dozen Zhang radius in the combat field.

Logically speaking, since Lu Ye had sensed the intentions of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, the safest response to such a challenge would naturally be to decline.

But if he truly declined, others would challenge him until he was driven off the Spirit Stream Ranking!

If that were to happen, he would have to start the whole process of climbing the rankings again, and a month's worth of accumulated effort to receive Heaven's Augury's reward would all be in vain.

That's why Lu Ye had accepted the challenge. As long as he could win this battle, no one would be able to challenge him after that, and the female archery cultivator and Spectral Shadow certainly wouldn't seek trouble without cause.

However, to avoid being truly surrounded by the people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, Lu Ye had to decide quickly; a swift victory was required to not give Ten Thousand Demons Ridge any chance to take advantage.

As the white light in his vision dispersed, Lu Ye immediately spotted the tall figure not far ahead.

During his last ranking battle, Lu Ye hadn't actually crossed hands with this Zhu Pang because the latter had directly declined the challenge. At that time, Zhu Pang was ranked in the thirties, and Lu Ye didn't know how he managed to rise to the sixth spot in such a short amount of time.

In the Spirit Stream battlefield, the origin magnetic ore howled and force fields ran wild, causing the spirit force in a cultivator's body to be restricted.

But in this combat field, they were unaffected.

Without any words, Lu Ye first carefully stored the saber skills manual that his third senior brother gave him into the storage sack and then stimulated the Move-Like-The-Wind Spirit Runes to enhance his legs. Leaving a trail of afterimages behind him, he charged straight towards Zhu Pang.

Zhu Pang seemed to want to greet Lu Ye and stall for time, but seeing Lu Ye come at him with such an imposing manner, he dared not waste words.

With a clattering sound, a strange and rare object draped around him. It looked like a mechanism with a massive round disc on the back. From the two sides of the disc extended four mechanical arms, two on each side, each arm grappling a Spiritual Artifact.

Ordinarily, these mechanical arms should hold different types of Spiritual Artifacts to increase lethality, but at this moment, Zhu Pang had exchanged them all for big shields. Not only that, but he also gripped an even larger shield in his two hands, twice the size of the others, nearly capable of hiding his burly figure.

Considering the mechanical shield on his back and the shields in front and behind, a total of six defensive spirit artifacts surrounded him tightly!

Lu Ye had never encountered such an opponent before; this guy was clearly determined to take defense to the extreme! The intention to stall for time was too obvious.

Moreover, this was the first time Lu Ye had seen a cover armorer on the Spirit Stream Ranking.

This Zhu Pang was not only a physique cultivator but also a cover armorer—a combination of both schools that made his defenses impenetrable.

Undeniably, when Zhu Pang brought out the cover armorer's creation, Lu Ye was intrigued since the mechanical arms appeared fearsome, like spiders' limbs, but were incredibly intricate at the same time.

Among cover armorer schools, this type of creation had a collective name: cover armor.

Zhu Pang's cover armor was clearly the half-body type, as it only covered the upper body. Lu Ye knew that in the Nine Provinces, cover armorers could make full-body cover armor.

That was the kind of cover armor that could completely envelop a cultivator. There were humanoid cover armors and even beast-shaped ones!

Lu Ye had seen these things in books he took from Madam Yun, and since cover armor was filled with numerous spirit runes inside, creating a good set of cover armor required learning suitable spirit runes first.

At the time, Lu Ye had taken a great interest in cover armor but understood that biting off more than one could chew was folly, so he hadn't devoted much attention to it.

Now, as Zhu Pang donned the cover armor, it was fair to say that he was the person with the strongest defense on the entire Spirit Stream Ranking.

In an instant, Lu Ye reached Zhu Pang's front, leapt high into the air, unsheathed the Boulder Mountain Saber, and with fiery red spirit light climbing on it, he slashed down.

Spirit force crazily poured into the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Single Flash!

For this strike, Lu Ye utilized saber skills that he was not yet proficient in.

Facing such an opponent who interpreted defense to the extreme, only the most ferocious attack could slay him in the shortest time!

Zhu Pang's mechanical arm brought up a shield to block his front, and as he stimulated his spirit force, the shield lit up with spirit light, clearly also going all out.

"Roar!" Amber bellowed.

When Lu Ye had previously fought on the rankings, Amber only used Tiger Roar Intimidation when the enemy tried to concede, but this time it knew the need for a swift victory, so it started coordinating with Lu Ye from the beginning.

The sound waves, visible to the naked eye, slammed hard on Zhu Pang's body, shaking his frame slightly and causing the spirit light on the raised shield to dim a bit.

This was clearly an impact of Amber's howl, resulting in some sluggishness in the circulation of his spirit force.

With a boom, the Boulder Mountain Saber struck the spiritual shield, and the brute force of the blow caused Zhu Pang's stature to buckle slightly, nearly kneeling to the ground, while simultaneously, with a clattering snap, the spiritual shield shattered into pieces.

Even the mechanical arm holding the shield was smashed!

Zhu Pang was absolutely horrified!

The last time he was challenged by Lu Ye, he had directly refused because he was under the guidance of a Master Uncle from his sect, crafting his half cover armor, and at that time, he had no confidence in fighting Lu Ye, and his ranking wasn't that high.

After completing the half cover armor, Zhu Pang's strength greatly increased, and he rose rapidly on the Spirit Stream Ranking, charging from over thirtieth all the way to the sixth place, qualifying him to challenge Lu Ye.

When he challenged Lu Ye, he was confident he could at least delay Lu Ye for the time of one incense stick's burning, but as Lu Ye's saber came slashing down, that confidence was shattered!

A defensive spirit artifact of nine prohibitions was split by someone's single slash, along with the mechanical arm becoming useless—was this a blow that a Spirit Stream Realm cultivator could deliver?

He now only felt fortunate that he hadn't underestimated his opponent; in activating the cover armor, he hadn't used any offensive spiritual artifacts, but had chosen all defensive ones instead, otherwise there would truly be no need to fight at all.

In the moment Zhu Pang was distracted, Lu Ye slashed down with another saber strike!

The same imperfect Single Flash Saber Technique!

Zhu Pang reacted extremely fast, hurriedly raising another shield to block.

With another clatter, the second shield was shattered, and the second mechanical arm was ruined.

Zhu Pang's heart bled!

A substantial part of his strength was in this cover armor; with two mechanical arms out of commission, his power was reduced by at least twenty percent, not to mention the substantial cost to repair the armor later.

After two slashes, Lu Ye's arm, wielding the saber, began to throb with pain.

This imperfect saber technique put an enormous strain on him; during his practice, Lu Ye would rest for a long time after each slash before releasing a second one.

Executing two consecutive slashes without a break, he was no longer able to perform the same third strike; otherwise, his entire arm might lose power, or even worse, sustain a discreet injury.

However, the shattering of two shields had already exposed a flaw in Zhu Pang's airtight defense.

In mid-air, Lu Ye raised a finger, and as spirit force surged, a fiery red Vermillion Bird quickly took shape in front of him and charged toward the breach in the defense.

Zhu Pang saw trouble coming and hurriedly tried to dodge aside; yet, at that moment, the Tiger Roar reverberated, causing his body to falter slightly, and the Fire Phoenix Technique was already upon him.

With no other choice, he had to use a shield to block in front, and as the figure of the Vermillion Bird collided with the shield, a blaze erupted, sending out a scent of singed flesh and Zhu Pang's muffled groan.

Lu Ye discovered that with the opponent wearing half cover armor and bolstered by his strong physique as a physique cultivator, the defense was indeed formidable, but correspondingly, his agility was lacking. Against a combat cultivator like himself, if one couldn't defend against the attacks, it was easy to suffer a loss.

At this moment, employing weapon control wasn't the best tactic; it was better to use magic and spells because their power could more easily penetrate the opponent's defenses.

Lu Ye had already swept to Zhu Pang's side, and the heavy footsteps made Zhu Pang wary; he quickly turned his defense in that direction, wanting to block the attack coming from Lu Ye.

However, just then, Amber's nimble figure had already pounced, and a huge tiger paw slammed onto a shield, causing Zhu Pang's body to stagger.

Amber's abilities were never limited to Tiger Roar Intimidation; it was a powerful ferocious beast with a metallic element Demon Origin that underscored its murderous nature.

However, there had rarely been a need for it to take action until now; generally, when facing an enemy, Lu Ye could handle it himself, and if Lu Ye couldn't, Amber's intervention would be futile.

But this time was different; Lu Ye needed to resolve this defensively enhanced opponent in the shortest time possible, and that's where Amber had room to shine.

Chapter 415 Siege

Before this combat, Zhu Pang made a crucial mistake by deciding to allocate all his strength to defense.

In reality, had he performed normally, his situation might not have been so awkward. However, the complete abandonment of offensive tactics in exchange for defense hardly provided him any safety.

This was because Lu Ye's reputation was too ferocious, and even with Giant Armor at his side and greatly increased strength, Zhu Pang still lacked the confidence to defeat Lu Ye.

He indeed fortified his defenses to be impenetrable, but once a flaw in this impenetrable defense appeared, he no longer had any room to counterattack.

As Amber's massive tiger paw struck down, Lu Ye also launched his attack from the side, enveloping the killing intent with sharp saber light, sending a cold shiver through Zhu Pang.

He concentrated all his attention in the direction of Lu Ye and Amber, doing his utmost to channel his strength into defending against the attack from this human and tiger duo.

However, at that moment, furious spirit force surged by his side.

A vast impact swept towards him, striking from the breach in Zhu Pang's defenses and violently crashing into him. In that instant, Zhu Pang felt as if his entire body was about to be torn apart. Had it not been for the robustness of his physique cultivator's body, that strike could have been fatal.

Even so, the sharp attack ripped through his blood Qi and spirit force defenses, leaving wounds where flesh was flayed open, and even a glimpse of wriggling organs could be spotted!

He swiftly turned his head to look in the direction of the attack's origin, his eyelids snapping shut.

In his field of view was the reflection of a girl's figure, her body roiling with spirit force, forming a tumultuous magic spell!

The attack that hit him had indeed come from this girl!

How could this be...

What was happening?

Zhu Pang was confounded.

In the Spirit Stream Ranking combat, it was always one-on-one. That Lu Yiye had a beast pet and brought it inside was one thing since Heaven's Augury permitted it, given that there's a beast-taming faction among cultivators that use tamed demon beasts in combat. If cultivators weren't allowed to bring beast pets, then those from the beast-taming faction would hardly possess any combat power.

But what was the deal with this girl?

She surely couldn't be a beast pet.

It made absolutely no sense.

The first thought that sprang into Zhu Pang's mind was that Lu Yiye had employed some inconceivable methods, bypassing Heaven's Augury's surveillance, and had brought a magic cultivator to gang up on him!

But soon he felt that was impossible. Heaven's Augury, always lofty and impartial, especially in Spirit Stream Ranking challenges, there had never been any issues since ancient times; it didn't make sense for such a significant oversight to occur.

But soon, he no longer needed to ponder these incomprehensible issues, as under Yiyi's barrage of spells, Zhu Pang's burly figure swayed chaotically, like a canoe drifting in the open sea during a storm.

Moreover, Lu Ye and Amber kept up their relentless assault.

As another Spiritual Artifact shield shattered, a tremendous crisis enveloped him, and the scent of death hit him head-on.

Amber's ferocious roar, its soul-shattering impact, caused Zhu Pang's face to contort in pain, his nostrils bleeding. A vague thought urged him to admit defeat quickly, but he couldn't concentrate enough to voice it.

More spells battered his burly body, and a sharp long saber pierced through the defensive gap, stabbing upward from below through his jaw, and exiting at the crown of his head!

In that moment, the tumultuous fluctuations of spirit force abruptly calmed, Yiyi dispelled the spell she was consolidating in her hands, and Amber also retreated to one side, crouching slightly, ready to strike at any moment.

Drip...

Drip...

Blood dropped onto the ground.

Zhu Pang's eyelids drooped as he gazed at the youth close at hand, his eyes filled with lingering thoughts of life and dismay at his plight.

Lu Ye withdrew his saber, blood spurted out, and Zhu Pang's burly figure thudded to his knees, then gradually collapsed, the ground beneath his body quickly stained red with blood...

His life force faded away.

Yiyi quickly moved forward to gather the spoils, putting the damaged cover armor into the storage sack and then tossing the storage sack to Lu Ye, before flashing back into Amber's body.

At that moment, Lu Ye had already taken out many bandages and Healing Medicine from his own storage sack, then wrapped them and tied them onto Amber's back.

Accepting Zhu Pang's challenge was just the start; if predictions were right, they would probably have to fight a bloody path forward!

Under the howling of the origin magnetic ore, spirit force was forbidden, and storage sacks couldn't be opened, so it was necessary to prepare these healing items in advance.

Not only that, but Lu Ye also specifically chose several long sabers resembling the Boulder Mountain Saber from his previous many spoils for backup use.

With everything prepared, Lu Ye stuffed a few healing pills into his mouth, mounted Amber, and then had Heaven's Augury teleport them out of the combat field.

As they returned, it was still that endless plain.

Just as his vision restored, a gust of wind slammed into Amber, causing even the robust tiger to stagger slightly.

The angry roar of a tiger resonated as its claws struck down in the direction of the attack, accompanied by a piercing beastly howl as the sharp claws scraped off a layer of flesh.

At the same time, a fierce attack targeted Lu Ye, who almost instinctively swung his sword in retaliation.

Amid the clanging sound, the Spiritual Artifact aimed at Lu Ye was sent flying, and the surprised cries of the cultivator could be heard.

It was only then that Lu Ye clearly saw who was attacking him and Amber. It was a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator riding an ox demon beast.

The beast that collided with Amber was the same one, and the attacker of Lu Ye was indeed the cultivator on the back of the beast.

However, both the beast and the cultivator on its back had suffered a great deal. As their figures crossed each other, the cultivator even fell directly from the ox's back.

Lu Ye raised his long saber, about to end the life of the cultivator, when several huge figures charged from various directions toward him, each one a cultivator riding a different demon beast.

Although he had swiftly slain Zhu Pang in the combat field, cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge who were quick to act had arrived at his original location and launched an attack the moment he appeared.

Fortunately, there weren't many of them.

Without Lu Ye's command, Amber had already leaped high on the spot and jumped out of the encirclement of those several beasts. While mid-air, Lu Ye bent down and swung his sword.

It struck directly at a cultivator's spear aimed at Amber's waist and abdomen.

The crisp clanging sound was followed by Amber landing about thirty feet away and sprinting forward, with the cultivators behind rushing to turn their mount's direction to chase.

For a time, across the plain, a snow-white figure dashed forward, pursued relentlessly by the followers who shouted and called out behind.

"Lu Yiye is here!"

"Kill Lu Yiye quickly!"

"Don't let him escape!"

Viewed from above, more cultivators riding demon beasts converged towards the area, and although the numbers were not vast, there were still over thirty.

Lu Ye was merely relieved that he had killed Zhu Pang quickly enough. If he had emerged from the combat field even just a few moments later, he might indeed have been surrounded by people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

The sounds of swooshing broke the air as attacks descended from above.

This time, both Lu Ye and Amber were somewhat caught off guard, and although Lu Ye reacted quickly, using his long saber to block some attacks, some still landed on him and Amber.

However, a comical scene occurred. Although those attacks hit both him and Amber, the damage they caused was almost negligible.

Lu Ye looked up only to see more than ten bird shapes in the sky, with Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators on their backs, all wielding long bows and continuously shooting arrows downward!

However, how powerful can arrows without spirit force be?

Both Lu Ye and Amber, relying solely on their bodies, could withstand them. The arrows could only cause some superficial scratches on Lu Ye, and as for Amber, even those scratches wouldn't leave a mark.

"How can Lu Yiye's physique be so strong?"

Seeing that the arrows failed to harm Lu Ye, the cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were all greatly surprised. They had thought that having flying mounts would guarantee Lu Ye's demise, but now it seemed, that idea was too naive.

Lu Ye's physical strength was somewhat excessive.

Strictly speaking, the change in his physique began gradually after the Dragon Spring Body Tempering. The effect of the Dragon Spring Body Tempering itself was not very intense, but Lu Ye brought back a piece of Scale Armor from the spring, which was rich in blood Qi and had the effect of enhancing physique.

Lu Ye would frequently use the scale to temper his physique whenever he could, strengthening his blood Qi. By now, the blood Qi in that scale had been completely depleted.

Moreover, each time he returned to the sect headquarters of the Righteous Blood Sect, the dishes prepared by Shui Yuan had the ability to strengthen the physique.

You must know, the Blood Red Trouts in Moon Lake were initially used by the Righteous Blood Sect to temper the bodies of its official disciples, with each disciple entitled to only one. Lu Ye had eaten more than his share during his time at the sect headquarters.

In addition, since he had cultivated the Bestial Gluttony Feast, his appetite had been much larger than that of an ordinary person. The food he consumed was transformed into his blood Qi, making his physique naturally and slowly stronger.

Yet, he had never adopted the method of physique cultivation, so his body size didn't appear as bulky.

Not to mention the baptism rewarded by Heaven's Augury previously...

With all these accumulations, Lu Ye's physique, though not as innately outstanding as Giant Armor's, was certainly not inferior to an ordinary physique cultivator and was even stronger.

As for Amber... that's even less of an issue. The blood Qi in the scale had been mostly devoured by Amber. If the blood Qi in the scale were to be divided into ten parts, Amber would have taken half, Lu Ye roughly three to four parts, and Giant Armor swallowed one or two parts!

Moreover, Amber was inherently a demon beast and had also learned the method of cultivation that involves absorbing the essence of the sun and the moon from Giant Armor.

In terms of physical strength, Amber could match two to three Lu Yes. When driven by Demon Origin, even if a cultivator used a Spiritual Artifact to strike it, it might still not be able to injure it.

The benefit of being resilient with tough skin and flesh became apparent as ordinary cultivators facing such an onslaught with arrows would certainly be injured, and accumulating too many injuries could be life-threatening.

But neither Lu Ye nor Amber were affected by the arrows. Initially, Lu Ye still used his long saber to block the attacks from above, but upon realizing that these attacks were about as bothersome as tickling, he simply ignored them.

Chapter 416 Breakthrough

...

Lu Yiye broke through and fled!

The news spread quickly, and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, to their great surprise, checked the Spirit Stream Ranking only to find that Zhu Pang, who was originally ranked sixth, had vanished without a trace!

From the moment Lu Ye had entered the combat field to the moment he reappeared, it had been less than thirty breaths of time, yet Zhu Pang's name had already been erased from the Spirit Stream Ranking, which undoubtedly indicated one thing... Zhu Pang was killed!

What a waste Zhu Pang was!

With Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators constantly setting up arrays ahead to intercept, Lu Ye's escape was expected. With Amber's current pace, ordinary demon beasts could not catch up with him, but there were over a dozen flying demon beasts in the sky that they couldn't shake off, continually broadcasting Lu Ye's whereabouts in all directions.

The nearby Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators could naturally make some preparations in advance based on the direction of Lu Ye's flight.

In the face of these interceptions, Lu Ye avoided them when he could, and when avoidance was impossible, he would simply carve a bloody path through.

After traveling for half a Shichen, another group of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators blocked his way ahead. There weren't too many of them, about thirty or so, but their calm and composed demeanor indicated they had been stationed here for a while.

By looking at the physique and attire of these Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, it was clear that they were physique and combat cultivators without a doubt.

With the origin magnetic ore whistling and spirit force forbidden, the fragile magic and ghost cultivators dared not show their faces outdoors, let alone the healing cultivators.

Facing the young man riding the White Tiger, the frontline physique cultivators spread out to intercept, while the combat cultivators behind them tightly gripping their Spiritual Artifacts.

Some of the physique cultivators even shouted loudly, "Lu Ye, come and meet your death swiftly!"

Lu Ye couldn't be bothered to respond. Without needing his orders, Amber charged to one side. Though he was not afraid of these Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators and was confident he could kill quite a few of them, he was alone after all. He needed to avoid any fight he could, conserving his strength and energy as much as possible.

However, just as Amber dashed out thirty zhang, Lu Ye suddenly felt an alarm in his heart.

At the same time, as Amber galloped forward, it stumbled and a pit collapsed beneath its feet — the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators had dug a pit in advance, and it was filled with Sharpness blades.

If Amber were to fall into such a pit, although it wouldn't be fatal, it would undoubtedly be in a sorry state. If the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge people then attacked, escaping would be difficult.

In an instant, Lu Ye understood the plan of those Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators; they had been blustering on that side deliberately to lure him to take a detour. If he had chosen that route, he would have fallen right into their trap.

Because no matter which side he would have taken, there would be pits with such a trap laid out.

Luckily, Amber's reflexes were extremely quick. The moment it sensed something wrong underfoot, it leapt high into the air.

With a rustling sound, several excellently concealed figures suddenly emerged from the smooth ground before them. As those people appeared the ground suddenly turned over to reveal a series of barriers resembling caltrops, with Sharpness spikes angled toward the direction Amber had leapt.

Not just that, from further back, six more individuals also leaped into the air, drawing out a huge net that swept down from above.

The meticulous preparation from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side began to reveal itself.

Now, with Amber in mid-air and nowhere to leverage, if it were to just fall like that, it would definitely hit those caltrops with Sharpness, and even if Amber was thick-skinned, it would surely be injured by such an impact, possibly even being pierced through.

With a tiger's roar shaking the heavens, Amber clearly sensed the crisis, but it was powerless to change anything.

Though sentient and understanding of human nature, Amber was after all just a demon beast; it didn't know human cunning.

As Amber began to fall, the eyes of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators lit up with anticipation.

Just then, Lu Ye suddenly flipped down from Amber's back, grabbing one of its large ears. While in mid-air, he forcefully turned his body by leveraging the spin, and with that momentum, he flung Amber away, altering its landing spot.

He himself, however, headed straight for the caltrops.

In an instant, as he neared them, Lu Ye acted quickly, grabbing hold of one Sharpness spike. He pushed off it with his palm, vaulting over the Sharpness barrier, and upon landing, he slid for several zhang before stabilizing his figure.

"Roar!" Amber roared angrily as it landed heavily, just as a large net was sweeping over its head!

The net, conjured by several Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, was originally aimed at Lu Ye. But Lu Ye's movements were still more agile than those of Amber. The cultivators couldn't target him for the moment and had to settle for capturing Amber first.

No sooner had Lu Ye steadied himself than he was surrounded by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, with the same thirty-plus cultivators he had seen before rushing towards him quickly!

Meanwhile, Amber was roaring in rage, trying to break free from the net. If it had been an ordinary item, Amber's immense strength would have easily torn it apart. But that net was clearly a Spiritual Artifact,

and though the cultivators were currently unable to use spirit force to bring out its full power, its toughness was a given. Amber was trapped and could not escape immediately!

"We need more people here, quick! We can't hold it down!" someone shouted in panic.

The people of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had truly underestimated Amber's strength. Six Core Circle cultivators working together, all physique and combat cultivators, using a spirit net, still could not contain the enraged Amber, and they were almost injured by its powerful charge.

The supportive thirty-plus cultivators immediately rushed over, each taking hold of a corner of the net, exerting pressure on Amber.

...

While Amber was trapped, Lu Ye had already engaged the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators surrounding him!

Knowing his time was limited, he naturally wouldn't foolishly stand still. If he couldn't rescue Amber and break through the encirclement quickly, he feared this might indeed be where he would fall.

What he could see was only the numerous Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, but out of his sight, even more enemies were rushing over, so the longer he delayed, the more it played against him.

The Boulder Mountain Saber had been unsheathed, charging towards a physique cultivator. In an instant, he closed the distance and brought his saber slashing down upon the cultivator!

This physique cultivator was also holding a sabre-shaped Spiritual Artifact, but it was a conventional cleaver that was wider and shorter than Lu Ye's Boulder Mountain Saber.

As the saber sliced down, the physique cultivator met it with a slash of his own.

A clanging sound echoed as the physique cultivator's eyes bulged with shock, and his cleaver was sent flying from his grasp!

Without the ability to channel spirit force, the cultivators could only rely on their physical strength. Under normal circumstances, the 8th Heaven physique cultivator would never dare to clash directly with Lu Ye. Who didn't know that Lu Yiye of the Righteous Blood Sect could slaughter cultivators of his own level as easily as chopping chickens?

But now was the time for physique cultivators to shine, and he thought he could at least hold Lu Yiye back a bit.

The result, however, was shockingly devastating.

He couldn't match the opponent's strength at all. In the moment his cleaver flew out of his hand, the web of his thumb split open.

Then a flash of sabre light whipped past his face, and the physique cultivator clutched his throat as he staggered backward. Blood trickled through the gaps between his fingers.

With two slashes, Lu Ye killed a physique cultivator, but at the same time, he was struck by several Spiritual Artifacts. As his body shook slightly, pain signals indicated he had been injured.

His physique was indeed strong, but it wasn't to the extent that he could completely ignore sharp weapons, especially when wielded by Core Circle cultivators.

Paying no mind to his own wounds, Lu Ye swung his sabre towards another enemy, this time aiming at a combat cultivator holding a long spear.

As the sabre light barreled towards him, the combat cultivator panicked, clearly trying to retreat to avoid it, but the strike was too swift. As the thought to dodge formed, the sabre had already slashed across his chest.

Struck as if by a massive mountain, the man was launched into the air. His chest caved in, flesh rent and bones shattered, blood spouted wildly, and he fell backward to the ground, life or death unknown.

Lu Ye well knew that in such a situation, being attacked on all sides if he remained stationary, he couldn't stand still. If he let the enemies form a circle around him, they would lead him by the nose.

So his sabre continuously slashed as he moved with it, targeting one direction to break through. As long as he killed quickly enough, the enemies would never be able to attack from behind. As for the attacks coming from the front and sides, he could block or ignore them depending on the situation.

In most cases, he chose to ignore... because he needed to repel these people in the shortest time possible, so he could only opt for a strategy of exchanging injury for life!

One sabre strike per combat cultivator, two for a physique cultivator. When Lu Ye cut through the ranks of the many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, seven or eight had already fallen along his path!

Not even ten breaths of time!

The Boulder Mountain Sabre dripped with fresh blood, and Lu Ye was covered in wounds.

Turning around, he flicked the blood from his Boulder Mountain Sabre and once again charged towards the crowd from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

His formidable physique gave him strength and speed surpassing that of a Spirit Stream Realm cultivator. In an environment where spirit force was forbidden and all cultivators were unable to channel their spirit force, the advantage of having a strong physique was inherently amplified to the limit!

Watching the blood-soaked young figure with drooping eyelids and an expressionless face, even though there were dozens from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, they couldn't help but feel a chill.

Having slaughtered seven or eight in one charge, at this rate of killing, it was feared that in less than a pot of tea, everyone here would be wiped clean.

"Hold on, many Fellow Daoists are on their way here!" A physique cultivator, closest to Lu Ye, called out loudly to boost morale despite his panic.

Immediately, someone echoed, "That's right, if we don't kill him now, we might never have another chance again. My Fellow Daoists, do not be afraid. If we can hold him off, we've won!"

No sooner had their words fallen than Lu Ye charged at them again.

"Kill!" The physique cultivator who had just shouted roared furiously, being the first to meet Lu Ye, fearlessly charging at him.

However, as the long sabre slashed through, the physique cultivator's head soared into the sky.

After another round of charging, the number of Lu Ye's wounds increased even more, his whole body drenched in blood, some his own and some his enemies'.

Wherever he passed, nearly ten more Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators lay fallen.

This time, however, Lu Ye did not stop, instead charging towards where Amber was trapped.

Although he was capable of killing everyone here, doing so would come at a great cost to himself. The injuries left on him by the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators might not have been severe, but their sheer number was overwhelming. Nearly every person he killed added several wounds to his body.

Chapter 417 I'm Here to Pick You Up

The most pressing issue was that Amber was in a dire situation.

Nearly ten Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were controlling that spirit net, trapping Amber within it. No matter how it struggled, it could not break free from the restraints.

There were also two cultivators, one with a crushed head lying on the ground lifeless, and another with a sunken chest, severely injured and fallen.

Clearly, these two had been attacked by Amber in the process of controlling it. With Amber's enormous tiger claws coming down, no Spirit Stream Realm cultivator could withstand it without the ability to mobilize spirit force.

These were two unlucky souls.

If there were only this one spirit net, Amber wouldn't be in much danger. The key problem was that there were cultivators mounted on flying beasts in the sky.

These people originally intended to kill both Lu Ye and Amber with arrows, but things did not go as they wished. They had been playing the role of scouts, monitoring Lu Ye's movements and relaying information in all directions.

As Lu Ye was reaping lives nearby, they did not dare to come down and provoke him.

However, they could indeed do something about Amber.

Amber, engulfed by the spirit net, became a target for those cultivators to control their mounts to grab onto one corner of the net, evidently intending to lift Amber into the air.

Arrows could indeed not kill Amber, but a sufficient altitude might just be enough to crash it to death!

By the time Lu Ye charged over, Amber was already wrapped in the spirit net and lifted three Zhang from the ground!

Heading towards Amber, Lu Ye exerted force under his feet, leaped high, and fiercely slashed at a claw of a flying demon beast.

That demon beast seemed to sense the danger, and before Lu Ye's attack could land, it quickly flapped its wings to ascend, simultaneously releasing the held spirit net.

Lu Ye took advantage of the momentum to climb onto the spirit net, stepping on the knots of the net, and with a few leaps, rushed to the other side, eyeing the flying demon beast there and lifting his knife, ready to slash.

The cultivator on the back of that beast could not afford to let Lu Ye actually make the cut and immediately had his mount release the spirit net and took to the air.

Amber struggled within the spirit net and finally broke free from the restraints, falling towards the ground heavily, and Lu Ye did not linger any longer, jumping down alongside Amber.

Below, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who had regained their senses had set up their array once again. As Amber and Lu Ye descended, they came upon them, swords and knives drawn.

Amber roared, Lu Ye grunted, and in an instant, more wounds appeared on both man and tiger.

"Let's go!" Lu Ye climbed up onto the tiger's back and gritted his teeth, growling lowly.

Amber focused on one direction, starting to sprint. If there was an obstacle in the way, it either got knocked aside by its charge or slain by Lu Ye's blade.

After a brief entanglement, drenched in blood, they broke out of the encirclement and fled straight ahead.

The remaining Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators did not pursue but watched with trepidation as the duo escaped!

In the moments of the clash, nearly half of their thirty to forty members perished, and yet they failed to keep Lu Yiye there!

This battle profoundly demonstrated to them just how unreasonably powerful one person can be.

They were without mounts, hence unable to chase, and their mission was already over. Although they had suffered heavy casualties, Lu Yiye was not in good shape either. The rest was up to the Fellow Daoists ahead.

They did not chase, but the cultivators riding the flying beasts still trailed them from the sky. Within dozens of li, if a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator looked up, they could spot where Lu Yiye was.

Lu Ye knew that continuing this way wouldn't work, if they did not find a way to shake off those flying beasts, they would never have peace wherever they went.

In facing such a situation, he had considerable experience.

The enemy had air superiority, able to monitor his movements, so he only needed to escape into the deep mountains and dense forests. By leveraging the advantage of the terrain, he could conceal his tracks and thereby shake off those omnipresent watchers.

Unable to open his storage sack or use the ten-part map, Lu Ye recalled from his memory and quickly thought of a destination, directing Amber to change direction.

Half a Shichen later, man and tiger burst out of the vast plain and plunged into a dense forest.

While this place did not offer the exceptional environment of the Fog-shrouded Mountain, the forest was deep and the trees high and dense. It wouldn't be easy for the people of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge to find them riding on flying beasts in such a place.

Tiger entering the forest, they sped all the way to its depths, eventually shaking off those flying pursuers in the sky.

After finding a cave, both man and tiger lay there, utterly exhausted.

A long while later, Lu Ye finally stood up, tore off his bloodied shirt, and took down the bundle from Amber's back.

Fortunately, this package prepared for the combat field was not lost. Inside were plenty of bandages and ointments, healing elixirs, and some living supplies.

First, he administered healing pills to both himself and Amber, then Lu Ye took out the ointment and applied it to his wounds, wincing in pain.

After the hustle, Lu Ye bandaged himself up like a mummy and then treated Amber's wounds.

Unable to start a fire, he took out the jerky from the package and shared it with Amber.

After slightly filling their stomach, Lu Ye began to feel somewhat better. He leaned against the cave wall, closed his eyes to rest, while Amber lay beside him, its belly rising and falling rhythmically.

Not half a Shichen later, Lu Ye opened his eyes as some noise seemed to come from outside. Amber also lifted its head, obviously sensing something.

Endless pursuit!

Lu Ye stood up, mounted the tiger's back, and Amber leapt out of the cave to face several Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators heading their way.

Upon seeing each other, those few clearly froze for a moment. Before they could react, Amber had already charged to their front, and with a huge sweep of her tiger paw, Lu Ye's hand rose and blade fell simultaneously.

Brief screams rang out, and several Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators lay in pools of blood.

After hastily gathering the spoils of war, Lu Ye once again mounted Amber and began to flee.

Everyone from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge knew that this was the best opportunity to kill Righteous Blood Sect's Lu Yiye. Now that his whereabouts were exposed, and with the origin magnetic ore's howling assistance, as long as they could surround him, his death was certain.

No one wanted to miss such an opportunity, so the pursuit this time was with full force.

Even though Lu Ye fled into the deep mountains and forests with Amber, they could not find peace. Over several days, turning and dodging across a vast area, no matter where they hid, enemies would find them within half an hour.

Continuous battles gave Lu Ye and Amber hardly any time to rest, both the man and tiger were exhausted physically and mentally.

The high-quality honey brought from Fog-shrouded Mountain proved extremely helpful, having a significant effect on restoring physical strength.

But Lu Ye knew that continuing like this was futile. He had thought that just by entering this place and avoiding surveillance from the sky they could be safe, but now he realized he had underestimated the enemy's determination and courage to kill him. The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had adopted a do-or-die attitude.

He still had to return to Ten Thousand Poisons Forest!

Only by going back there and utilizing the geographical advantage could he truly shake off the pursuit from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

With a plan in mind, Lu Ye and Amber took the time to replenish their strength and spirit, before setting off once again on the path of escape.

Half a day later, Amber broke through the woods with Lu Ye on her back, heading straight for the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest!

Shortly after, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge faction noticed Lu Ye's movements. A large number of cultivators withdrew from the dense forest; those capable of pursuit joined the chase, while most who lacked the ability did not, seeing that not every cultivator had a beast pet.

A relentless chase.

Throughout the escape, there were occasional battles. To return to Ten Thousand Poisons Forest as quickly as possible and also to prevent encirclement by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's forces, Amber hardly stopped at all en route.

Towards the end, steam rose from Amber's entire body.

After three days, the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest was finally in sight.

By this time, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge party also realized Lu Ye's intent.

Although they didn't know how this guy survived the last time in Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, he was clearly planning to do the same thing again and enter the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest.

If he really managed to break into the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, their operation would end in failure once more.

So at all costs, they could not let Lu Yiye enter Ten Thousand Poisons Forest again!

With the convenience of flying demon beasts, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge party quickly shuttled troops back and forth in an incredibly short time.

When Lu Ye riding Amber arrived at the edge of Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, nearly two hundred cultivators had already formed a dense defensive line!

Steam billowed from Amber, and her charging figure gradually came to a halt, her beastly eyes glaring at the dense mass of enemies ahead, emitting threatening growls from her throat.

On the tiger's back, Lu Ye let out a soft sigh.

Alone against more than two hundred enemies, if he could have used spirit force, he might have had some confidence in breaking through, or at the very least, he could have used Move-Like-The-Wind or Wings to escape when the battle turned against him, but with spirit force prohibited, there was no way he could fight through.

Especially after three days of continuous fleeing and fighting, both he and Amber were nearly depleted of energy.

"Lu Yiye!" an angry shout came from the other side. "Come and fight!"

Though bullying the few with the many was not a matter of pride, recalling the fact that thousands of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators had died at the hands of Lu Yiye, as far as they were concerned, killing Lu Yiye was all that mattered now, whether it was honorable or not was irrelevant.

If he lived, more Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators would suffer in the future.

Amber paced back and forth, while Lu Ye touched his battlefield marking and sent a message out, "Might not be able to come back for now. I have to take a detour, see if I can get in from another direction."

The chances were slim. If he could move around, so could those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. As long as they kept an eye on him, he could forget about entering Ten Thousand Poisons Forest.

With the vast Spirit Stream battlefield at present, the only other place he could go besides Ten Thousand Poisons Forest was the Righteous Blood Sect stronghold, where Little Gray was stationed. The deterrent of an Overlord-level flying demon beast was terrifying, and it would be reckless for those Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators to provoke them.

But the Righteous Blood Sect stronghold was on the very outskirts of the outer circle, extremely far from this location. Even with Amber's speed, it would take a month to reach there, or maybe not even in a month.

So, his hope still lay within Ten Thousand Poisons Forest.

To do one's best and leave the rest to fate!

Just as Lu Ye was thinking this, his battlefield marking received a response, "Wait there, don't move, I'm coming to get you!"

The one who sent the message was naturally Hua Ci. She had been keeping an eye on Lu Ye's movements and knew he was being pursued.

Outside Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, Lu Ye frowned, unsure of Hua Ci's intentions.

Chapter 418 Repeating History

It cannot be denied that after obtaining her own inheritance at Mount Ying, Hua Ci completely cast off the shackles of being a healing cultivator. She, a healing cultivator, could not only heal the world with her medical skills but also kill enemies and eradicate invaders. Moreover, she always killed without anyone noticing, like a ghost.

But in the current situation, Lu Ye didn't know how she could be of help.

Outside the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, Lu Ye and more than two hundred Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were standing off against each other across several hundred feet. Lu Ye remained stationary, and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators also didn't make a move. It wasn't that they didn't want to kill Lu Ye, but simply that they didn't have enough hands. If they were to attack now, Lu Ye would definitely flee.

Continuing the standoff was to the advantage of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side, because the longer they waited, the more cultivators would gather there.

Of course, they would prefer it if Lu Ye took the initiative to attack; in that case, they could lay in wait with ease. No matter what, two hundred people would be able to kill the star of disaster that made all the cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge restless.

In the sky, demon beasts kept flying to and fro, transporting Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators from afar, constantly augmenting the ranks of more than two hundred people.

Some Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators started shouting, "Lu Yiye, you can't escape! Just accept your death."

Lu Ye remained unmoved, silently chewing on healing pills.

Suddenly, his expression changed, and he looked up at those cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. For some reason, the gathering enemies seemed to be showing signs of agitation.

At the same time, at the place where the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were gathering, some were listening intently, others looked uncertain.

Because from behind them, within the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, there seemed to be some unusual noises coming through.

"What's that noise?" the person who had spoken turned to look back, but the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest was full of poison barriers and the environment was harsh. Without venturing deep, what could one see?

More people started listening, and soon, a dense rustling sound entered their ears. The sound was similar to many things crawling over the ground and the faint beating of wings.

Whoosh...

A swarm of colorful moths and butterflies burst out from the poison barriers, hurtling directly toward the place where the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were gathered, swarming over them.

The cultivators assembled there all changed color.

The Ten Thousand Poisons Forest was not only filled with dense poisons and poison barriers, but also swarming with poisonous creatures.

Last time Lu Ye was trapped in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators had ventured deep in search of him. In the end, not only did they not find Lu Ye, but they also ended up in all sorts of embarrassing situations due to the poisonous creatures within the forest, and some even died as a result.

These colorful moths and butterflies are the most common poisonous creatures in the forest. Their toxicity isn't too strong, but if one accidentally gets their dust on their skin, it would cause unbearable itching.

That is definitely a terrible experience.

So, upon seeing the overwhelming swarm of moths and butterflies, the group of cultivators panicked, scattering to evade, with some wielding their Spiritual Artifacts to continuously wave and strike at them.

"Don't hit them, get out of the way!" someone shouted in panic.

Initially, not attacking these moths and butterflies wouldn't have been a problem, but once they started attacking, the dust from the flapping moths and butterflies increased.

Without spirit force to protect their bodies, even if the cultivators moved swiftly, they couldn't prevent the tiny dust particles from sticking to them. In no time, many were itching all over their bodies, scratching uncontrollably!

While the commotion due to the large number of moths and butterflies was at a peak, a cry of alarm suddenly came, "Spiders!"

A Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator who was desperately scratching shouted angrily, "This is the outskirts of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest; what's so strange about seeing a spider!"

Before he finished speaking, he too froze, his face gradually turning to terror.

It's indeed not strange to see a spider outside the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, but what if the ground was covered in spiders?

Not just spiders, but scorpions, ants, poison frogs, and venomous snakes, and other poisonous creatures, both familiar and strange to the cultivators, were all running out of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest.

The ground was a dense mass that couldn't be counted, and among all the poisonous bugs, there were several venomous pythons over a dozen yards long, flicking their tongues and spewing out green fog. A cultivator who carelessly inhaled a breath had his entire face turn green in an instant, falling to the ground rigid and stiff-limbed.

With poisonous bugs all around, the cultivators yelled and scrambled to dodge, making the scene utterly chaotic.

Some poisonous bugs were stepped on and exploded into a green fog, causing even more misfortune for many others.

Lu Ye had already ridden Amber and rushed to one side.

Although he did not know what means Hua Ci had used, those poisonous creatures that had burst out of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest were obviously driven by her.

He truly did not know Hua Ci had such miraculous abilities.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were thrown into complete disarray. Without being able to ensure their own safety, who would have the spare energy to worry about Lu Ye?

Only those cultivators riding flying demon beasts noticed Lu Ye's movement. However, their numbers were few, and they couldn't prevent Lu Ye's actions. They could only watch helplessly as Lu Ye steadily moved closer to the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, until he rushed headlong into it and disappeared from sight.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's pursuit of Lu Yiye once again ended in failure. Last time he escaped into the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, and this time he fled into it again—the history seemed to have repeated itself.

The difference was, last time, he used some bizarre method to directly enter the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, but this time he was extremely lucky. Somehow, the poisonous creatures inside the forest went into an uproar, completely wrecking the well-prepared formation of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators.

But is this really just good luck?

Some couldn't help but suspect the commotion among the poisonous creatures was related to Lu Yiye, but thinking it over and over, they couldn't figure it out.

At that time, Lu Yiye was several hundred yards away from the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest. Aside from riding on the tiger's back, he hadn't done anything extra. Even if he really had some means to command the poisonous creatures, it couldn't have been deployed out of thin air.

But to say there was no connection—the timing was too coincidental.

Moreover, how exactly had Lu Yiye managed to enter the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest and stay for dozens of days without being poisoned to death?

Last time he was trapped in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were full of anticipation, waiting for the day he would succumb to the poison. But this time, no one held such expectations anymore.

Not long after Lu Ye rode out on Amber from the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, he saw a familiar figure waving at him from a distance.

Who else could it be but Hua Ci?

Amber approached, and Lu Ye pulled Hua Ci onto its back. Hua Ci's expression tightened, "Is it serious?"

Both Lu Ye and Amber appeared riddled with scars, especially Lu Ye, whose bare upper body was covered in wounds, and his pants stained with blood.

"They're just superficial injuries."

Hua Ci breathed a sigh of relief.

They continued forward, and after half an hour, the group finally returned to the wooden house.

Originally, the wooden house was covered by a big array. As long as there was enough spirit force to support it, the poison mist from outside couldn't erode inside.

Lu Ye had also left a parent teleportation array in the small courtyard.

But now, with the spiritual energy of nature restrained, the big array had long stopped operating. Without the array, the poison mist had crept in.

Lu Ye had the Talent Tree by his side. As long as the Talent Tree's fuel reserves were sufficient, he was immune to all poisons. But Amber didn't have the same capability.

It was unreasonable to expect Hua Ci to stay by its side to detoxify it continuously.

"Amber can't shape-change, can it?" Hua Ci asked.

If Amber could transform into the size of a small cat, then Hua Ci could always carry it around, and there would be no need to worry about it being poisoned.

"Wait," Lu Ye connected his mind to the Spirit Stream Ranking, and checked the list.

Currently, he was ranked first on the Spirit Stream Ranking. The second place was held by the female archery cultivator whom he had previously encountered in combat, and in third place was a cultivator from the Haotian Alliance who hailed from a 1st grade sect in Dingzhou, known as Han Tiejun.

However, Lu Ye hadn't had any intersection with this person.

It didn't matter. He just needed to pass a message to someone he had interacted with.

Indeed, in the Spirit Stream battlefield, one couldn't employ spirit force, so Amber couldn't change shape at will; however, it would be different on the combat field, where the origin magnetic ore's howling had no effect.

Searching through his battlefield marking, he sent out over a dozen messages.

Shortly after, movement came from the battlefield marking—an individual on the Spirit Stream Ranking challenged him.

Lu Ye accepted the challenge, chose the terrain, and his figure swiftly disappeared.

In the combat field, both Lu Ye and the jade-green Amber appeared simultaneously. A young man with a formidable presence stood before them.

Lu Ye clasped his hands in greeting, "Is this Fellow Daoist Han Tiejun?"

"Indeed, it is Han."

"Thank you, Fellow Daoist," Lu Ye expressed his gratitude.

Being ranked first on the Spirit Stream Ranking had its disadvantages, as he couldn't actively challenge others, so he had to wait for others to challenge him. To enter the combat field, he thus had to ask for help.

"Fellow Daoist Yiye is being too polite. I've heard about the earlier incident, how is Fellow Daoist fairing now? Do you need any assistance?"

"I've taken refuge in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest again. Those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge can't do anything about me."

Han Tiejun looked on with admiration, "Fellow Daoist is truly formidable."

As they talked, Amber shook its body by the side. The surge of its Demon Origin caused its bulky form to shrink rapidly. Transforming into the size of a kitten, it lightly jumped onto Lu Ye's shoulder.

Han Tiejun left shortly after. His challenge to Lu Ye wasn't out of a genuine desire to compete for rankings but for Lu Ye to use it as a means to enter the combat field.

Before departing, they exchanged battlefield markings, as Lu Ye felt he might need his help in the future. Having each other's markings would allow for direct communication—a more convenient alternative to passing messages through others.

Moments later, Lu Ye too exited the combat field.

Hua Ci took Amber in her arms, first detoxifying it, then she began treating Lu Ye's injuries. However, without the ability to mobilize spirit force, many of the healing techniques were unfeasible.

Fortunately, Lu Ye's physical constitution was strong, and although he had many injuries, they were mostly superficial. With Healing Medicine applied and some days of recuperation, they would naturally heal.

The clamor of the outside world once again settled down.

Now that the Three Saints Sanctuary had been breached, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had no other means to force Lu Ye out of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest.

Lu Ye gritted his teeth in resolve, determined not to leave the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest until he had achieved the 9th Heaven level of cultivation!

With the foundation he now possessed, if he could advance to the 9th Heaven level, he would truly be able to move unhindered throughout the entire Spirit Stream battlefield, and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge wouldn't even dream of troubling him again.

Within the wooden house, Lu Ye focused on healing and conditioning, while repeatedly studying the saber skills insights entrusted by his third senior brother, Xiao Changhe.

The gains were enormous!

Chapter 419 Man-Sword Synthesis

Based on the saber technique insights recorded, Senior Brother Xiao Xinghe used a spiritual artifact that was also a saber, but it was a large saber with an exaggerated shape, different in type from Lu Ye's Boulder Mountain Saber.

Therefore, much of Xiao Xinghe's experience in cultivating saber skills was not applicable to Lu Ye.

However, there were many common aspects, after all, regardless of the shape, everyone was practicing the saber.

These common cultivation experiences were undoubtedly what Lu Ye needed most at the moment. Those that were not applicable could also give some insights, as the saying goes, "Sages from another mountain can refine one's jade."

Speaking of which, Lu Ye's path of cultivation wasn't complete, because since he had opened his spiritual orifice, it was mostly through his own exploration of cultivation. Within the sect headquarters, whether it was Shui Yuan, the sect master, or Madam Yun, the help they could offer was not substantial.

Especially in the area of saber skills, no one had ever systematically and comprehensively taught him.

Normally, when a cultivator joins a sect, there would be a mentor to teach the cultivation techniques, for instance, if Lu Ye wanted to learn saber skills, there would be a mentor proficient in saber skills to impart various experiences.

But did the Righteous Blood Sect have such resources?

When Lu Ye joined the Righteous Blood Sect, there were only two people in the entire sect, including him that made three, Shui Yuan was a healing cultivator, the sect master was a magic cultivator, and there was no one who used sabers.

His mastery of saber techniques was accumulated through numerous battles, lacking a systematic framework and powerful methodologies, entirely based on convenience for defeating enemies.

This was purely a killing skill, which was not bad in itself; against weaker enemies, it often allowed for the quickest defeat. However, correspondingly, it lacked explosive trump cards which made it difficult to face opponents of the same or superior strength.

Not having a trump card was Lu Ye's shortcoming.

His battle with Szi Guang made him realize this, so after that, he intensely practiced the Single Flash Saber Technique, but he had yet to perfect this technique.

The saber technique insights sent by Senior Brother Xiao Xinghe undoubtedly inspired him greatly, and this was exactly what he needed at the moment.

If it weren't for the sudden eruption of the origin magnetic field, Xiao Xinghe had planned to have Lu Ye visit Green Emperor City for personal guidance, but the eruption cut off the transportation between the Nine Provinces and Spirit Stream battlefield, leaving them no choice but to have Xiao Changhe deliver the insights to Lu Ye.

In the third floor of the wooden hut, Lu Ye sat cross-legged, fists clenched, palms facing upward, holding the Boulder Mountain Saber in his palms.

He took deep breaths, slowly exhaling, feeling the long saber in his hands between the breaths.

This was a method of cultivation.

Spiritual Artifacts possess spirit, particularly those that have long accompanied their master through battles and drunk the enemy's blood; such artifacts are no longer merely items—they become partners whom the master can entrust with his life!

By using this special method of cultivation, Lu Ye could achieve a unique resonance with the Boulder Mountain Saber, what is referred to as Man-Sword Synthesis!

That's what was written in the insights of the Senior Brother...

However, Lu Ye always felt there was something mystical about this; after all, a Spiritual Artifact is an inanimate object, how could it develop any resonance with him?

With a mindset of just giving it a try, Lu Ye decided to practice this way for a few days to see the results, and if it really didn't work, he would later seek advice from his Senior Brother.

The Boulder Mountain Saber undoubtedly met the requirements.

Since Lu Ye started his path of cultivation, he had only used three Spiritual Artifacts; one was Manager Yang's sword, and another was a saber he had obtained from killing an enemy in Qingyun Mountain, which looked almost similar to the Boulder Mountain Saber but was of lower quality and had been destroyed in the battle of Golden Light Peak.

After the battle at Golden Light Peak, Lu Ye had purchased the Boulder Mountain Saber from Heaven's Augury treasure vault, at a time when he was at the Level 5 realm.

To this day, this long saber had accompanied him for more than a year, killing countless enemies.

One could say that Lu Ye found this saber extremely comfortable to use, and even if he later advanced in cultivation and needed to replace it with a higher quality Spiritual Artifact, he planned to find another long saber of the same shape.

In the wooden hut, as Lu Ye inhaled and exhaled, his chest and abdomen rose and fell. Initially, there was no special sensation, but as time passed, Lu Ye began to feel a subtle sense, that the Boulder Mountain Saber in his hands was breathing in and out with him.

This feeling was very faint at first, but gradually, it intensified.

The long saber seemed to have its own life!

Until a certain moment, a flash of cold light shot through the dimly lit hut, accompanied by a resonant unsheathing sound, startling Lu Ye awake. Looking down, he realized unbeknownst to him that he had already drawn the Boulder Mountain Saber from its sheath!

At that moment, the Boulder Mountain Saber felt somewhat different to him, no longer just an inanimate object for killing enemies. Holding the hilt, Lu Ye felt as if it was an extension of his own body!

He drew the Boulder Mountain Saber, swiping it a few times casually, which was smoother and more natural than before.

As if it was an extension of his arm!

Yes, that was the feeling.

Was this what was referred to as Man-Sword Synthesis?

Lu Ye was amazed, not expecting the content in the Senior Brother's saber technique insights to actually be true. He had originally just given it a try, but he had achieved it so effortlessly.

Although his cultivation had not increased, nor had he opened any new spiritual orifice, but Lu Ye knew that he had taken a significant step forward on the path of saber technique cultivation.

It seems there was something else...

Lu Ye pondered for a moment, sheathed the sword, then closed his eyes, casually throwing the Boulder Mountain Saber far away while continuing to breathe deeply.

Because he had thrown the Boulder Mountain Saber with his eyes closed, he himself was unclear about where the saber had landed, but even with his eyes still closed, he could vaguely sense the presence of the Boulder Mountain Saber!

He stood up and took steps forward, walked seven paces, bent over, and reached out to grab!

The Boulder Mountain Saber was in his hand!

The first step in cultivating saber skills was achieved!

Lu Ye had thought that not much time had passed, but only when he felt hungry and after asking Hua Ci did he realize that three days had already passed.

Lu Ye almost suspected that this woman was deceiving him since he hadn't noticed the passage of time, but after inquiring through others, he knew that Hua Ci hadn't lied; indeed, three days had gone by.

Perhaps Lu Ye's mistrust made Hua Ci a bit petulant, and then she prepared a horrifying looking meal for him...

Under Hua Ci's smiling gaze, Lu Ye, gritting his teeth, ate everything on the table clean, while Amber looked on sympathetically.

Having eaten his fill, Lu Ye went back to the third floor, sat cross-legged, held the Boulder Mountain Saber in both hands, and closed his eyes to cultivate.

After achieving Man-Sword Synthesis, it wasn't about resting on his laurels; instead, he needed to persistently deepen the link with his saber through this method. The deeper the connection between man and sword, the stronger the power when wielding the saber to kill enemies!

Lu Ye decided that if he had the chance, he would spend two hours each day on such cultivation.

After all, he didn't need to consciously regulate his breath during his cultivation times, so it was suitable to use it in this way.

Two hours later, Lu Ye walked down from the third floor and came to the small courtyard outside the house.

Hua Ci was nowhere to be seen; this woman must have slipped away to cultivate somewhere again. Lu Ye was actually quite curious about her way of cultivating because since she had arrived at the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, her cultivation had rapidly progressed. By now, Lu Ye suspected that she was not far from achieving 9th Heaven.

Standing in the courtyard, Lu Ye drew the Boulder Mountain Saber with his right hand and posed.

Guided by the saber technique insights of his third senior fellow, Lu Ye's blood Qi surged throughout his body. He directed the vast blood Qi to gather in his right arm holding the saber, then slashed down in one swift motion!

Unable to activate spirit force inside his body, the might of this strike wasn't very strong, but Lu Ye could clearly feel that this strike, compared to a normal blow, was faster and stronger!

So that was it!

He had been practicing the Single Flash Saber Technique before but had always felt it incomplete because he always felt something was missing.

After reviewing his third senior fellow's saber technique insights, he finally understood what he was missing—the utilization of his own blood Qi energy!

In the past, while wielding the long saber, it relied on his physical strength and force infused into the Spiritual Artifact. The former was brought by his own physical capability and the latter was instinct.

Because cultivators fought with their own spirit force against their foes, a cultivator without spirit force was nothing more than an ordinary person with a stronger physique.

Until this moment, Lu Ye had realized an important issue he had overlooked.

His reliance on his spirit force was too intense, and he neglected the power of his own physique.

If the power contained in the previously executed Single Flash Saber Technique was to be divided into ten parts, then spirit force accounted for at least eight parts while his physical strength only constituted two or even one part.

This couldn't achieve a balance; the Single Flash Saber Technique would seem imperfect because the power of the stroke wasn't sufficient, thus he couldn't control that strike!

If he could increase the proportion of his own physical strength to forty or even fifty percent in the technique, then the Single Flash would be perfect, and the lethality would dramatically increase.

How to more effectively mobilize his own strength?

Blood Moving!

The source of strength was blood Qi, which is why physique cultivators generally possessed greater strength than other cultivators because their blood Qi was exuberant.

Lu Ye's strength was stronger than typical physique cultivators because his blood Qi was more exuberant than theirs.

But now he sat on a treasure trove without knowing how to use it, wastefully neglecting that immense energy of blood Qi.

The Blood Moving Technique was the solution to this problem.

It had to be said that his third senior fellow had done Lu Ye a great favor by having someone deliver his saber technique cultivation insights at this time.

Moreover, now was an excellent time to practice the Blood Moving Technique, because currently, the origin magnetic field was chaotic; nature's spiritual energy was restricted, and even the spirit force inside a cultivator's body was hard to flow. Lu Ye could only rely on his own blood Qi energy!

In such conditions, he could better and more directly feel the circulation of the blood Qi.

Immersing his mind, he focused his efforts to gather the energy of his blood Qi in his right arm holding the saber. In just a few moments, his entire right arm turned red, and the temperature of his right arm even rose.

Until Lu Ye felt it hard to continue, he then slashed out with a chop!

Suddenly, a blood-red saber light flashed and disappeared; that was not a sign of spirit force attachment, but an indication of an explosion of blood Qi.

The might of this blow had increased by at least about half compared to the previous one!

Chapter 420 Lan Ziyi

With a single slash, Lu Ye's right arm, which wielded the saber, swelled and turned sour, while the skin on his entire right arm became as red as cooked shrimp shell, emitting billows of hot steam.

His entire right arm was sore and swollen, trembling uncontrollably.

Lu Ye opened and closed his fist many times in succession before his right arm slowly began to recover.

Recalling the slash from just now, Lu Ye had a sense of sudden clarity as if parting the clouds to see the moonlight.

His cultivation had always relied on self-effort and fumbling, not knowing what was right and what was wrong. Insights from his third senior brother's saber skill cultivation had undoubtedly shown him a clear path.

A tea time later, Lu Ye felt that his right arm had fully recovered, so he slashed out with the saber just as he had done before.

After four to six hours, Lu Ye switched the saber from his right hand to his left and continued practicing.

He executed each slash meticulously and without compromise.

At night, when Hua Ci returned from her external cultivation, she saw Lu Ye standing motionless in the courtyard, his arms hanging naturally at his sides, with the Boulder Mountain Saber stuck in the ground beside him.

As their eyes met, Lu Ye called out softly, "Save me!"

Hua Ci took a closer look and saw that his arms were swollen to the size of his thighs, which shocked her.

She hurried forward to inspect and confirmed it was just an accumulation of blood Qi with no serious harm. She finally relaxed and asked Lu Ye what had happened. Upon learning that he ended up in such a miserable state from practicing saber skills, she couldn't help but feel helpless.

The swelling was due to the accumulation of too much blood Qi and not dissipating it in time, so it wasn't a big problem. After Hua Ci patted, massaged, and applied Blood Moving Technique to reactivate his blood circulation, by the end of the night, Lu Ye's arms had returned to normal.

The following day was the same!

However, having learned from his previous experience, Lu Ye was a bit more cautious while practicing saber skills, so the situation was somewhat better than the first day.

In the days that followed, Lu Ye practiced his saber skills during the day and had Hua Ci treat him at night. While his mastery of the saber skills grew by the day, the side effects of using the Blood Moving Technique gradually diminished.

One day, while Hua Ci was treating Lu Ye's arms, she suddenly asked, "Haven't you been paying attention to the Spirit Stream Ranking recently?"

"No, why?"

He used to follow the Spirit Stream Ranking closely when he was fighting for rankings, but ever since he became the top of the Spirit Stream Ranking, he hadn't paid much attention to the list because there were few who could threaten his position at this stage.

"Take a look."

Lu Ye connected his mind to the Spirit Stream Ranking and scanned it from top to bottom. There were some changes in the ranking, with several familiar names disappearing, apparently having been promoted to Cloud River.

As he continued looking downwards, he noticed something amiss after the seventieth place.

Among the thirty people ranked from forty to seventy, there were only a few from the Haotian Alliance; the rest were all from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

This situation seemed familiar!

The last time Lu Ye fought for rankings, he had caused a similar situation because all the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators ranked ahead of him had been wiped out by him.

This made Lu Ye's gaze fix on the name ranked at thirty-eight.

Lan Ziyi!

This was a name he had never seen before, which affirmed that she must have entered the Spirit Stream Ranking not long ago.

"Do you see it now?" Hua Ci asked.

"When did she start fighting the ranking?"

"Yesterday!"

Lu Ye was surprised.

Reaching the thirty-eighth place on the Spirit Stream Ranking in one day—such speed was not inferior to his own past efforts, and perhaps even a bit faster.

"That person must be very strong; you should be careful, it's very likely she is targeting you," Hua Ci warned.

"Endless Island..."

Lu Ye pondered. It seemed like he had some encounters with someone from this force.

If he remembered correctly, Luo Ji, whom he met in Sky-Splitting Gorge, was from Endless Island.

Truly, as a 1st grade sect, their foundation ran deep. First, there was Luo Ji whom he met before— a direct cultivator of a Heaven Rank technique—and now suddenly, there was Lan Ziyi...

Hua Ci said there was a high chance she was targeting him, and it wasn't without reason.

After numerous targeted attempts by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, including ambushes by various forces, all attempts had fallen through, and now that he had hidden in Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, they were helpless against him. If they wanted to kill him, the only way was through a Spirit Stream Ranking challenge.

But the strength of Lu Ye, ranking first on the Spirit Stream Ranking, was not to be underestimated. He had almost always bested the strong cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge on the Spirit Stream Ranking, and not even the likes of Szi Guang were a match for him.

Perhaps only the deceased Yan Xing was qualified to defeat Lu Ye.

Now, at this crucial moment, a Lan Ziyi appeared out of nowhere from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Her way of fighting the ranking was exactly like Lu Ye's, challenging and defeating the Haotian Alliance strong cultivators one by one, leaving them powerless to retaliate. In just one day, she reached the thirty-eighth place...

In the midst of conversation between Lu Ye and Hua Ci, Lan Ziyi's ranking sprang up two places, securing the thirty-sixth spot, while the one who was originally thirty-sixth vanished without a trace, evidently dead.

Imitating Lu Ye's method of climbing the ranking, and choosing such a delicate timing, no one would believe she wasn't targeting Lu Ye.

"Isn't it about seven or eight days until Heaven's Augury reward?" Hua Ci asked another question.

Having calculated, Lu Ye nodded, "Seven days!"

Twenty-three days had passed since the last baptism by Heaven's Augury.

With each baptism by Heaven's Augury, Lu Ye's strength increased by a notch, so if this Lan Ziyi was truly targeting him, then she would undoubtedly challenge Lu Ye before this time, refusing to give him any chance of growing stronger.

Judging by the speed of her rise in the rankings, she would probably qualify to challenge Lu Ye the day after tomorrow.

Lu Ye was suddenly filled with anticipation.

Because as he looked across the entire Spirit Stream battlefield, he could find no one to test his own strength, it was easy for him to start a fight—just leave the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, and as soon as his whereabouts were revealed, countless Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators would swarm him—but that would inevitably lead to a situation where many cultivators ganged up on him.

But single combat—that was difficult...

And the best way to gauge his own strength was to fight one-on-one with a strong opponent.

With such a rapid climb in the rankings, Lan Ziyi's strength certainly wouldn't be weak. Lu Ye had been practicing his saber skills extensively these recent days and had learned a lot. Yet practice was just practice. The outcome of practice still had to be seen in actual combat. If Lan Ziyi was truly strong, she would be an excellent whetstone for him.

At this moment, Lan Ziyi—the rising new star—had also drawn numerous cultivators' attention from both camps.

Before Lu Ye's meteoric rise, no one had ever killed so many opponents during the challenge for the Spirit Stream Ranking, and he did so by challenging them one by one. This approach undoubtedly aggravated the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side immensely.

Yet this man progressed irresistibly, finally ascending to the top of the Spirit Stream Ranking in one fell swoop.

All the various actions taken by the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side against him ended in failure.

Righteous Blood Sect's Lu Yiye had become a mountain weighing heavily on the heads of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, leaving them breathless.

But as of today, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had produced a talent akin to him!

Her rise through the rankings wasn't the slightest bit slower than Lu Yiye's—in fact, it was even faster, and quite a few strong cultivators from the Haotian Alliance had died by her hand.

Everyone was waiting, waiting for Lan Ziyi to qualify to challenge the leader of the Spirit Stream Ranking, waiting for the showdown between these two to determine who was the strongest in the current Spirit Stream Realm!

Outside in the courtyard of the wooden hut, Lu Ye was still practicing his saber skills.

A message suddenly arrived on his battlefield marking, Lu Ye looked down to check it and saw it was from Han Tiejun: "Be careful of that woman, she's very strong! And she's got a lot of tricks up her sleeve!"

Lu Ye understood the assessment of 'very strong'; her rise through the rankings spoke for itself, and Lan Ziyi's strength must be considerable. Lu Ye had never underestimated her.

But what did he mean by 'a lot of tricks'...?

Moreover, from Han Tiejun's words, it seemed as though he had already had an encounter with Lan Ziyi?

Lu Ye checked the Spirit Stream Ranking and saw that it was indeed the case. Han Tiejun had been ranked third but now had fallen to fifth, replaced by Lan Ziyi who took the third spot.

"Are you okay?" Lu Ye replied.

"Severely injured!"

"Impressive!"

"I'm the one who's severely injured!"

"..."

"Just be careful with that woman. She might not be weaker than you. I wasn't able to push her to reveal all her strength. From beginning to end, I felt as if she was treating the fight with me as some kind of game."

"Understood."

After ending the conversation with Han Tiejun, Lu Ye gave it some thought and sent a message to Hua Ci, then stopped practicing his saber skills.

Although after these days of practice, he wouldn't end up with swollen arms as on the first day, this kind of practice was still very draining on his stamina.

Not knowing when Lan Ziyi would come to challenge him, he needed to maintain his condition.

Hua Ci quickly returned and helped him treat his arms.

Lu Ye went back to the third floor, sat down with his legs crossed, swallowed a few elixir pills, then placed the Boulder Mountain Saber on his knees and started breathing slowly and deeply.

Lan Ziyi had surged to the third place in the Spirit Stream Ranking, and the much-anticipated battle was about to begin. At this moment, both Haotian Alliance cultivators and Ten Thousand Demons Ridge

cultivators were paying close attention to the Spirit Stream Ranking, eager to know which of the strongest cultivators from their own camp had the upper hand.

The battle between Lu Ye and Lan Ziyi had not yet begun, but various pieces of information about it were already flying everywhere outside.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side was clamoring that Lu Yiye had already received a baptism by Heaven's Augury, making the upcoming battle unfair for Lan Ziyi.

The Haotian Alliance immediately retaliated, saying that Lan Ziyi was at 9th Heaven cultivation while Lu Ye was only at 8th Heaven—indeed, that was unfair...

As this argument spread, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side was suddenly silenced.

They realized a terrifying fact: Lu Yiye ... was still at 8th Heaven cultivation.

Hence, even if he lost this battle, it could not prove Lan Ziyi was the strongest in the Spirit Stream Realm, because Lu Yiye could still advance to 9th Heaven and come back for another round.

Conversely, if Lan Ziyi lost, she would have truly lost.

If she couldn't defeat an 8th Heaven while being at 9th Heaven, then would she still be a match for Lu Yiye once he advanced to 9th Heaven?

Therefore, there was only one opportunity—if Lan Ziyi couldn't ascend to the top of the Spirit Stream Ranking this time, she would likely forever be overshadowed by Lu Yiye.

While the outside world buzzed with various messages, suddenly, in the wooden hut, Lu Ye's eyes snapped open.

His battlefield marking stirred again. His mind delved in to check.

The challenge for the Spirit Stream Ranking had arrived!