

Humanity 441

Chapter 441

In that inexplicable small room, Lu Ye's spirit materialized, and a person was waiting in front of him, presumably the Artifact Crafting Grandmaster who had taken his commission last time.

What astonished Lu Ye extremely, however, was that he could actually see the person's face clearly!

A woman who looked rather enchanting!

Not very old, around thirty, with tender white skin, dressed in a form-fitting floral dress that outlined her shapely curves perfectly.

Lu Ye blinked, somewhat puzzled.

The last time he had seen this person, they were shrouded in thick fog, making it impossible to discern their gender or see their features clearly, even the voice did not sound quite real.

From the other person's perspective, Lu Ye would have appeared the same.

This was the protection of Heaven's Augury.

Because many people, when making such commissions and transactions, do not wish to expose their true identities, such transactions within the Heaven's Augury treasure vault are blessed by Heaven's Augury with a layer of protection, making it difficult for the parties to infer each other's origins by gender or voice.

But now, Lu Ye could actually see the other person clearly.

What was happening?

The first thing that came to Lu Ye's mind was that the other person might have forgotten to disguise themselves, but disguise was not a matter of personal will but a protection granted by Heaven's Augury. It enveloped everyone in fog regardless of whether they liked it or not.

So was the problem on his side?

The only difference now from three days ago was that he had moved up a realm, from Spirit Stream to Cloud River, but this advancement was not enough to let him see through the other's disguise.

Was it Heaven's Augury Bestowment?

As Lu Ye was unclear about the situation, the woman across from him spoke, "Kid, your spiritual artifact is ready, check it yourself!"

Her voice no longer had its previous disguise and sounded soft and tender.

As she spoke, she passed over the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Lu Ye took it, feeling a heaviness in his wrist, indisputably heavier than it was three days ago, but this weight perfectly suited Lu Ye's cultivation level.

Lifting his hand, he drew out the Boulder Mountain Saber, the blade flashed swiftly then subdued, the shape of the entire saber had not changed, but the color of the blade had taken on a layer of pitch black, as if filled with endless lethality, the previously damaged and chipped blade was now flawlessly restored.

The hilt bore the words 'Boulder Mountain,' which was original to the long saber when Lu Ye had obtained it.

However, now on the other side of the hilt, there was a feather pattern, clearly left by the master in front of him, and Lu Ye did not know what this feather represented.

The entire saber felt extremely heavy.

Carefully examining the restrictions within the Boulder Mountain Saber, and confirming it was undoubtedly 18th Dao restrictions, Lu Ye sheathed the saber, slightly nodding, "Not bad."

"Then our transaction is complete," the woman said, retrieving the Heaven's Augury Pact she had signed with Lu Ye last time, gave it a slight shake, and it began to burn. Lu Ye felt the battlefield marking on the back of his hand move slightly as 2,000 merit points were deducted.

"Until next time!" said the woman as she prepared to leave the room, then suddenly remembered something, "Next time, don't bother me with low-grade spiritual artifacts!"

Hearing her, a woman in her thirties, refer to herself as an old man... Lu Ye's expression turned a bit odd.

The woman's figure quickly disappeared.

Lu Ye did not leave immediately but stood in place thinking, then spoke again, "Commission: upgrade a spiritual artifact!"

He randomly took out a low-grade spiritual artifact from his storage sack and quietly waited.

After a moment, a figure suddenly appeared in front of Lu Ye. When Lu Ye looked up, it was an elderly man, and just like before, this elder was not shrouded in fog, allowing Lu Ye to clearly see his visage.

"You want to upgrade a spiritual artifact?" the elder asked in a deep voice.

Lu Ye nodded and handed over the spiritual artifact in his hand.

The elder took it, looked at it, then disdainfully said, "A low-grade spiritual artifact!"

The woman from last time had also had this tone of disdain, as if for them, Artifact Crafting Grandmasters, upgrading a low-grade spiritual artifact was somewhat insulting.

Still, since he was already there, the elder asked anyway, "Name your price."

You never know, he might just encounter an overly generous soul...

"One hundred merit points!"

No sooner had Lu Ye spoken than the elder practically threw the spiritual artifact back with a huff, disappearing instantly, but not before cursing Lu Ye, "You're sick in the head!"

A moment later, Lu Ye left that small room, deep in thought.

He was certain now, within the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, others' disguises were nonexistent to him. His own advancement in realm was clearly not the reason; the only reason was Heaven's Augury Bestowment!

After receiving Heaven's Augury Bestowment, his own disguise was still in place, but others' disguises were equivalent to none in his eyes.

Is this a special privilege granted by Heaven's Augury to him? Yet, it brings no practical benefits. What use is such a privilege? Surely he can't use it to spy on people's identities and then blackmail them...

Those people are all Artifact Crafting Grandmasters. There's nothing to blackmail anyway.

When Lu Ye stepped out of the Heaven's Augury Hall, he drew the Boulder Mountain Saber, infused it with spirit force, and swung it several times.

The saber was still the same one, except it had been upgraded to a mid-grade spirit artifact. Moreover, Lu Ye had experienced a breakthrough in his realm, so the power of his strike was much greater than before.

The weight had increased, and he might not be used to it at the moment, but it was indeed suitable for the weight of Lu Ye's current realm. He would get used to it eventually.

Sheathing the saber, Lu Ye thought for a moment, and the supply box at his waist buzzed as nine weapon-controlled items flew out!

These nine controlled items were no longer the original spirit artifacts; the original nine low-grade spirit artifacts had all been replaced by Lu Ye with mid-grade ones.

Before advancing to the Cloud River, Lu Ye had some difficulty controlling these nine weapon-controlled items because his spirit force was somewhat insufficient. But after advancing to the Cloud River, controlling them had become much easier.

With the realm advancement, he still needed to familiarize himself with various techniques for a while.

After briefly trying the weapon control, Lu Ye found Shui Yuan and handed her his Boulder Mountain Saber, "Second Senior Sister, could you please check the marks left on the handle? Is there anything wrong with it?"

Shui Yuan turned the Boulder Mountain Saber in her hand and looked at the feather-like mark, smiling, "There's no problem. Some Artifact Refiners like to leave their unique marks on their creations, but these are just marks, nothing else. Since you must have signed the Heaven's Augury Pact, those people wouldn't dare play tricks. However, this mark... it was probably left by Feathered Master."

"Feathered Master? Do you know him?"

"No, I've only heard of him. He's a very capable Artifact Refiner. Any spirit artifact from his hands is of high quality. But until now, no one knows exactly who he is, nor from which faction he belongs."

"Why such secrecy?"

Shui Yuan said, "Probably because he doesn't want to be fame-driven, to avoid people seeking him out for refining. The Nine Provinces cultivation world is vast, and there are many capable individuals. Many skilled people prefer solitude. That's why Feathered Master only accepts various commissions within the Heaven's Augury treasure vault. With Heaven's Augury's protection, he doesn't need to worry about exposing his identity."

Lu Ye thought to himself that the identity of Feathered Master had already been exposed, although at the moment he wasn't clear about who that woman was.

Shui Yuan returned the Boulder Mountain Saber and asked, "Now that you've advanced to the Cloud River, how do you feel?"

"Still a bit unaccustomed."

"It's normal. A sudden surge in strength always requires some time to stabilize. It'll get better in a few days."

After some idle talk, Lu Ye said, "I'll go see Madam Yun. She asked me to find her after my advancement to the Cloud River."

"Go ahead."

With the surge of spirit force, Lu Ye soared into the sky. This time, he didn't use any weapon control or activate the wings spirit runes.

After reaching the Cloud River Realm, cultivators can fly through air.

However, since this was Lu Ye's first time directly using his body to travel through air just after advancing to the Cloud River, he inevitably appeared a bit clumsy. His figure swayed left and right in mid-air, struggling to maintain direction. Although he intended to fly towards Madam Yun's Bright Heart Peak, he ended up veering off course.

And compared to weapon control-flying, directly using his body to travel through air consumed much more spirit force.

Thus, even after advancing to the Cloud River, cultivators still need Flying Spirit Artifacts for long journeys. Using Flying Spirit Artifacts consumes much less spirit force than using their bodies to travel through air, and the speed is also faster.

More practice is needed!

Lu Ye suddenly realized that after advancing to the Cloud River, there were still many things he needed to do.

Finally reaching Bright Heart Peak, Lu Ye walked straight into Madam Yun's chamber. Led by a maid, he entered a room where Madam Yun was reading.

"Greetings to Madam Yun," Lu Ye bowed.

"You've advanced to the Cloud River?" Madam Yun sized him up with a glance.

"Yes."

"Your cultivation speed is commendable." Madam Yun nodded slightly, put down the scroll in her hand, and stood up, "Come with me."

Lu Ye followed closely as they stepped out of the room.

As they walked, Madam Yun said, "The Path of Spirit Runes is profound and intricate. For those who are not battle runes masters, spirit runes can often be used as an external force, like embedding a rune tattoo. You must have encountered such opponents in the Spirit Stream battlefield."

Lu Ye immediately pictured an opponent covered in tattoos that he had encountered while ranking up. When he first saw that man covered in tattoos, Lu Ye was on guard for a while, only to find out later that among those tattoos, only one was a real rune tattoo, the rest were merely decorative.

"I have!"

"Rune tattoos can be either hidden or visible, and either temporary or permanent. Generally speaking, cultivators below the Cloud River Realm can only sustain temporary rune tattoos. However, after advancing to the Cloud River, the body can bear a permanent rune tattoo. So, in the future, you might encounter some opponents who are not spirit runes masters, but can still utilize the power of spirit runes. Those are rune tattoos, their hidden trump cards. Always be cautious, and never underestimate any opponent."

"I have noted it, madam."

"This time I've called you here to embed a permanent rune tattoo on you. What type would you like?"

Chapter 442 Void Rune Tattoo

Not every cultivator in the Cloud River Realm has rune tattoos, as there are very few rune tattoo masters in the entire Nine Provinces capable of inscribing spirit runes on a cultivator's body.

This requires outstanding accomplishments in the Path of Spirit Runes, extremely skillful tattoo techniques, and furthermore, even if such a rune tattoo master is willing to perform the task, the materials required are highly valuable.

Rune tattoos are based on spirit runes and come in many varieties: offensive, defensive, supportive...

For Lu Ye, he doesn't need the offensive or defensive types because he has Sharpness and protection, nor does he have much need for supportive ones since he can activate many supportive spirit runes by himself.

However, there's one type of supportive spirit rune that he has coveted for a long time.

So upon hearing Madam Yun's words, he answered without hesitation, "Void!"

The Void Spirit Runes he learned from books are not something he possesses on his Talent Tree, and they haven't reached the point where they can emerge with a single thought. His primary use for the Void Spirit Runes is to set up teleportation arrays, but the distance of teleportation is limited and the experience is far from pleasant.

But the uses of Void Spirit Runes are not just limited to creating teleportation arrays; they have many more amazing applications.

For example, by using Void Spirit Runes as the core, it's possible to refine special Spiritual Artifacts that have storage capabilities, like storage rings and storage bangles... and so on.

The most commonly used storage item for cultivators is the storage sack, which is made from a special kind of demon beast skin that can be artificially bred. Therefore, looking at the cultivation world, storage sacks are not very valuable, and practically every cultivator has one or two.

Compared to storage rings and storage bangles, or other similar storage Spiritual Artifacts, the storage sack's space is very limited and there's no comparison!

However, storage rings and storage bangles are very valuable. Lu Ye has only seen one on the hand of the sect master of his own sect. Even Shui Yuan, his Senior Sister, doesn't have one, which shows how rare they are.

But Shui Yuan doesn't have a storage sack either, which made Lu Ye curious. He didn't know what method his Second Senior Sister used for storage. After asking her about it, he learned that there are ways to store items beyond just storage sacks and rings, which also involved the use of spirit runes.

With Void Spirit Runes as the core, rune tattoos can be inscribed on a cultivator's body, creating a storage space and eliminating the need to carry a storage sack.

The biggest advantage of this method of storage is that items in the storage space can be retrieved with just a thought, unlike storage sacks where you have to reach in to grab things.

Plus, the storage space of these rune tattoos is much larger than that of a storage sack.

Lu Ye certainly didn't want to end up like last time, with dozens of storage sacks hanging from his body.

Hearing Lu Ye's reply, Madam Yun nodded, "Since you're a spirit runes master yourself, choosing Void is indeed suitable. Then let's go with Void."

Walking into the small room where he had received his first rune tattoo, Lu Ye sat down according to Madam Yun's instructions, then stretched out his right hand, exposing the back of his hand.

Madam Yun also sat down beside him and then took out tattoo needles of various lengths and thicknesses, as well as a bottle of amber-colored beast blood.

"The Rune Tattoo Path is actually quite interesting. Once your accomplishments in spirit runes meet the requirements and if you wish to learn, I can teach you. Possessing such a skill will ensure that you never lack resources in your cultivation and that you will be sought after wherever you go," Madam Yun said. As she spoke, she opened the bottle of beast blood, dipped a needle into it, and started inking Lu Ye's hand with it.

A stinging sensation like that of a bee sting spread from the site.

Every time a needle fell, Madam Yun would dip it into the beast blood again. Lu Ye didn't know what demon beast's blood it was, but when he received the wings rune tattoo here last time, beast blood was used as well.

It seems the Rune Tattoo Path requires some special materials, and the beast blood capable of inscribing a Void Rune Tattoo must be exceedingly valuable.

Madam Yun's movements were fast at times, creating afterimages with her swift hands, causing a continuous sting on the back of Lu Ye's hand. When slow, her movements were meticulous.

Lu Ye quietly felt the sensations as time slipped away.

While he was receiving the Void Rune Tattoo from Madam Yun on Bright Heart Peak, another surge of activity occurred on the Spirit Stream battlefield.

A disciple from the Righteous Blood Sect named Hua Ci appeared on the Spirit Stream Ranking just a short while after Lu Yiye of the same calamity as the Three Calamities of Spirit Stream ascended to Cloud River and his name vanished from the ranking.

Hua Ci, with her 9th Heaven cultivation.

For the cultivators on the Spirit Stream battlefield, this name was undoubtedly unfamiliar, as it had seldom been heard before.

She started garnering attention primarily because she hailed from the Righteous Blood Sect, the same sect as Lu Yiye!

But soon, more eyes turned toward her.

The reason was that there were rumors she was a healing cultivator.

The number of healing cultivators on the Spirit Stream Ranking is very few, mostly after the fiftieth place, only a handful really, because healing cultivators, even if they study other paths, typically don't possess great strength and thus can't compete for high rankings.

If it were only that, it would have been fine, but what's key is that her method of climbing the ranking was exactly the same as Lu Yiye's!

She started from the lowest ranks of the Spirit Stream Ranking, challenging all Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who were placed before her, one after the other.

The result outraged the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side!

All the powerful individuals of the Spirit Stream Ranking who were challenged by her perished without exception!

A scene from four months ago repeated itself.

Four months earlier, Lu Yiye had climbed the rankings, slaughtering the strong of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge on the list, which at one point led to a substantial increase in the percentage of Haotian Alliance cultivators on the Spirit Stream Ranking.

Four months later, the same situation somehow occurred again.

How strikingly similar history is.

And both times it involved disciples of the Righteous Blood Sect.

Just a mere healing cultivator, who gave her such audacity? What ability does she have to act so recklessly?

For a time, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who were ranked above Hua Ci were all filled with righteous indignation.

They couldn't beat Lu Yiye, but could they not defeat a healing cultivator? Under no circumstances could they allow this woman named Hua Ci to continue her brazenness; otherwise, the face of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge would truly be lost.

However, what horrified them was the scene that unfolded before them as the ranking of this woman called Hua Ci rose visibly. The names of the powerful cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge disappeared one after another.

So far, not even one person could figure out how this woman actually killed others.

Lu Yiye was successful because he brought a beast pet whose roar could captivate the mind, causing those who fought him to be unable to even yield.

What technique does Hua Ci have that prevents the powerhouses of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge from uttering a single word before their death?

Righteous Blood Sect, what exactly is this divine-like sect, producing one monster talent after another!

...

Atop Bright Heart Peak, Madam Yun had already departed. Even as a spirit runes master like her, after inscribing a Void Rune Tattoo for Lu Ye, she seemed somewhat exhausted.

After all, Void Spirit Runes are much more complex than ordinary spirit runes. By the end, the bottle of unknown beast blood had been completely used up.

Within the room, as Lu Ye's senses dived deeper, he could clearly feel the storage space on the back of his hand.

This storage space, centered around the Void Spirit Runes, was much larger than the space in the storage sack, conservatively estimated to be over twenty times larger.

No longer worried about running out of space for anything, Lu Ye could even put the Boulder Mountain Saber directly inside.

Previously, he had always held the Boulder Mountain Saber in his hand because if placed in the storage sack, he would need to take it out in case of enemy encounters, which was not only inconvenient but could also miss opportunities to defeat enemies.

Now he had no such worries, for the storage space itself was on the back of his hand. With a thought, he could easily retrieve all items inside.

However, for Lu Ye, having the Boulder Mountain Saber in hand had become a habit. As the saying goes, with a saber in hand, the heart is not panicked.

Stepping out of the room and following the maid leading the way, he didn't see Madam Yun again.

Once outside, he injected his spirit force and soared upwards.

Having just ascended to the Cloud River Realm, there were many things to familiarize himself with. Lu Ye decided to start with flying through air since it was the simplest.

For other cultivators, such a matter might take several days to get used to, and they would have to be very cautious when trying it to avoid falling from the sky.

But Lu Ye had no such worries. Although he had never flown by air before, he had more than once activated wings spirit runes, so he had some experience in flying.

Two hours later, he could fly smoothly through the air.

Another two hours passed, and while flying, he could perform various agile maneuvers.

It wasn't until evening that Lu Ye returned to Righteous Peak.

After enjoying a delightful meal at his Second Senior Sister's, Shui Yuan said, "Little junior brother, you should choose your own spirit mountaintop."

"Hm?" Lu Ye didn't understand.

Shui Yuan explained, "Mount Ao has over a hundred spirit mountaintops. When it was thriving, disciples swarmed every spirit mountaintop. In the thirty years of decline, only the old man and I have been guarding Righteous Peak, as it is the sect headquarters' core spirit mountaintop. All these years, only Madam Yun had taken up residence at Bright Heart Peak. Now that you've ascended to the Cloud River Realm, you can have a spirit mountaintop of your own. At this rate, the sect is developing well, and

there will likely be more and more ascensions to the Cloud River Realm in the future. It can't be that everyone will stay on Righteous Peak. I'm not trying to chase you away; it's just that in this generation, you are the nominal fifth senior brother, but in reality, you are the eldest senior brother. Apart from Giant Armor, you are the second person to ascend to the Cloud River Realm. You need to set an example for the other disciples."

Lu Ye nodded, "Understood, I'll go and have a look soon."

Shui Yuan served him another helping of food with her chopsticks.

Having eaten his fill, Lu Ye walked out of the house and shot up into the sky.

During his flight in the daytime, he had circled over Mount Ao several times, noting the desolate structures on each spirit mountaintop that hinted at the former glory of the Righteous Blood Sect.

At present, apart from Righteous Peak, only Bright Heart Peak was inhabited by Madam Yun; all other spirit mountaintops were available for choosing.

"Yiyi, which one do you like?" Lu Ye asked.

Yiyi, floating beside him, looked around and pointed, "This one!"

"Then it's decided," Lu Ye didn't have particular needs; any place suitable for living would do.

Chapter 443 Price Increase

Yiyi chose a spirit mountaintop that was enveloped in a vast bamboo forest starting from mid-mountain all the way to the peak, turning the entire mountaintop into a picturesque scene with blooming flowers and willows.

The peak was named Emerald Bamboo Peak, but due to decades of uninhabitation, the structures here had all fallen into disrepair.

Lu Ye landed and walked among the dilapidated remains, faintly sensing the hustle and bustle the sect had seen in years past.

A spirit mountaintop was vast, and it had many buildings.

However, they were not suitable for habitation at the moment.

Having settled on this spirit mountaintop, Lu Ye then took Yiyi back to Righteous Peak to find his Second Senior Sister and asked her to help assign a task to the disciples of rebuilding Emerald Bamboo Peak.

There were hundreds of disciples in the Righteous Blood Sect, and aside from cultivation, they generally had little else to occupy their time. A task issued by the sect was a perfect opportunity for them to earn merit, and Lu Ye believed the disciples would be eager to help.

Second Senior Sister had no objections to this.

The merits of the Righteous Blood Sect were almost solely earned by Lu Ye, so spending some to rebuild a spirit mountaintop for him was naturally not an issue.

"By the way, Junior Brother, now that you have reached Cloud River, the spirit stones and Spirit-Nurturing Pills you used before are no longer suitable for your realm. Go to the treasure vault and pick out a new batch," instructed Shui Yuan as she handed him the key to the vault. The so-called key was actually a jade cluster that unlocked the restriction.

The treasure vault of the Righteous Blood Sect now contained treasures worth tens of millions of merit points, and it harbored all sorts of items. The restriction on the vault was personally set up by Madam Yun upon Second Senior Sister's request. Without this jade cluster, anyone who attempted to trespass would either face death or come out skinned alive.

Even if Shui Yuan hadn't mentioned it, Lu Ye was planning to ask her for it.

Spirit Stream Realm cultivators used low-grade spirit stones, and the Spirit-Nurturing Pill was the most basic elixir pill. Having reached the Cloud River Realm, continuing to use these would not keep up with the pace of cultivation.

As for spirit stones, that goes without saying, but when Lu Ye was in the 8th Heaven, consuming Spirit-Nurturing Pills meant he had to take dozens a day, which was almost unbearable.

Better elixir pills, more suitable for Cloud River Realm cultivators, were available above the Spirit-Nurturing Pill. Using these superior elixirs meant he wouldn't have to consume them in such large quantities daily.

With the jade cluster in hand, Lu Ye made his way to the treasure vault with practiced ease. He shook the jade cluster, and the massive door of the vault, constructed against the mountainside, opened with a thunderous noise. Lu Ye stepped inside.

The vast treasure vault was not overflowing, but it was exceedingly abundant.

These were all the protection money from the big sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, now piled up in the Righteous Blood Sect's treasure vault.

Sorted and classified, various treasures were placed in their respective areas.

Lu Ye first took out his unused spirit stones and elixir pills and placed them in their rightful spots before taking several thousand mid-grade spirit stones from the spirit stone area into his storage space. There was no need to take too many; since he began his cultivation journey, all of his resources came from defeating enemies, and typically the resources he gained from them far exceeded what he used for cultivation.

Despite now having a storage space constructed by a Void Rune Tattoo, Lu Ye still habitually hung a storage sack around his waist, but it contained nothing of interest, just some food.

This precaution was mainly to avoid drawing attention.

Otherwise, a cultivator without even a storage sack would obviously have a rune tattoo space, which could attract unwanted attention.

Amber wore a storage sack around her neck too, shared by Yiyi and Amber, since Yiyi, as a Spiritual Body, found it inconvenient to carry things. Thus, it hung from Amber's neck.

Removing the storage sack, Lu Ye also filled it with a few hundred mid-grade spirit stones.

Lu Ye then proceeded to the elixir pill area.

Spirit Stream Realm cultivators used Spirit-Nurturing Pills, but Cloud River Realm cultivators used Origin Spirit Pills. The latter were much more potent, and ordinary cultivators of the Spirit Stream Realm could hardly withstand them.

Lu Ye took a bottle of Origin Spirit Pills, poured out one, and popped it into his mouth to chew.

He raised an eyebrow; it tasted surprisingly good.

A sense of relief washed over him. He wouldn't have to consume Spirit-Nurturing Pills anymore. This was probably the most comforting thing he had experienced since advancing to Cloud River Realm.

Amber gazed at him with longing eyes. Lu Ye fed her one, then watched for her reaction.

She showed no particular reaction; after eating it, Amber looked back at Lu Ye with an expression that seemed to say she wanted more.

There was no need to worry if Amber could withstand it, being a demon beast that could even consume spirit stones. Nibbling on some Origin Spirit Pills certainly wasn't a problem.

The potency of the Origin Spirit Pill was indeed much stronger than the Spirit-Nurturing Pill. Once ingested, Lu Ye quickly felt a warm current surge in his belly, which then transformed into his own spirit force, pouring into his spirit force river and expanding its volume.

A rough estimate indicated that the potency of one Origin Spirit Pill was about equivalent to over ten Spirit-Nurturing Pills, though the price difference was also more than tenfold.

After placing some Origin Spirit Pills into both his rune tattoo space and Amber's storage sack, Lu Ye continued to look around the treasure vault for a while. Not seeing anything else he needed, he left.

He returned the jade cluster to Shui Yuan then went back to his room.

Instead of rushing into cultivation, he took out the Breath Fruit Core.

Having just advanced to Cloud River Realm, Lu Ye naturally needed to familiarize himself with the various methods of this realm, and using the Breath Fruit Core to enter the Mirage Realm for combat was the best way to do so.

Ever since he encountered someone from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge inside last time, and killed him a few times, he had not used the Breath Fruit Core to enter the Mirage Realm for a long while.

It wasn't that he was afraid to encounter that person again, but these days he was either engrossed in cultivation or matching wits and bravado with the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, with no time to divide his attention.

Suddenly, he remembered the encounter with that powerhouse from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge before entering the Mirage Realm; it was just like when he entrusted his Spiritual Artifact for upgrading in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault: they were both shrouded in a mist, making it impossible to see the other's face.

Now with Heaven's Augury Bestowment, he could see through that mist and directly look upon their true faces... If he encountered them again, he would definitely remember their faces and take back what he owed, with interest.

Thinking this way, he almost looked forward to encountering that person, at the very least to clarify their identity.

Channeling spirit force into the Breath Fruit Core, Lu Ye's figure appeared in that small transfer room, with nothing inside but a door.

Every time, it was by pushing open this door that he would enter the Mirage Realm.

Moving forward to push the door, characters appeared upon it, causing Lu Ye to gaze in astonishment.

The price had gone up!

Back in the Spirit Stream Realm, each entry into the Mirage Realm for refining cost only fifty points of merit, but now in the Cloud River Realm, it unexpectedly cost one hundred points each time—double the price.

He wondered how much it would be upon reaching the True Lake Realm.

Lu Ye currently had ninety-seven thousand nine hundred and fifty points of merit left, so a mere hundred points of merit were not a concern for him.

Pushing the door and entering, he looked back to see that, just like before, there was nothing behind him; the door and the small transfer room he came through had vanished as if he had stepped directly into a different setting after passing through the door.

The scene before his eyes was different than when he was in Spirit Stream Realm.

In Spirit Stream Realm, he could only see clearly within a radius of about ten zhang. Beyond that, everything was enveloped in thick fog, obscuring his vision.

Those figures of the Insect Race or other cultivators would charge out from within the fog, often catching Lu Ye off guard.

Now that his cultivation had reached Cloud River, there was no fog within a hundred zhang radius, and only beyond that distance was it shrouded in mist.

He had just steadied himself when the fog ahead began to roll violently, and in the next moment, a huge insect with a human-sized body charged out; it resembled a mantis, with black carapace giving off a solid feeling, wielding two flashing cold mantis sabers, closing the hundred zhang distance swiftly.

The Boulder Mountain Saber was unsheathed, and Lu Ye took the initiative to meet the insect head-on.

By the rules of the Mirage Realm, since Lu Ye's cultivation was now at Cloud River Level 1, the insect that appeared should also be at that level, but Lu Ye's strength was far beyond that of a typical Cloud River Level 1 cultivator.

At the Spirit Stream Realm level, he had reached the limit and become the first cultivator of the human race to ascend to the class of an Overlord.

This was something that neither Li Baxian nor Feng Yuechan had achieved.

It can be said that Lu Ye's Spirit Stream Realm was without any watered-down cultivation.

With such a solid foundation and advancing to Cloud River, he naturally possessed a combat power that ordinary Cloud River cultivators did not have.

Within moments, the menacing mantis was sprawling in a pool of blood.

Compared to the power he could wield in the Spirit Stream Realm, his advancement to Cloud River had brought about a huge increase—a breakthrough of a major realm could bring about an earth-shattering change for a cultivator.

Not only did his own power undergo such a transformation, but the Boulder Mountain Saber had also been upgraded, and the saber that achieved Man-Sword Synthesis with him now wielded even stronger lethality.

The mist churned again, and two mantises charged out, one from the left and one from the right.

Lu Ye swung his saber down...

After almost an entire hour, Lu Ye finally opened his eyes, feeling a slight sting in his psyche, which then faded away.

His Soul Power was far stronger than before; therefore, the side effects from dying once in the Mirage Realm had significantly diminished.

Feeling his spirit force, ready for another battle, Lu Ye channeled spirit force into the Breath Fruit Core and entered the Mirage Realm again.

Another hour later, he opened his eyes, his face pale. Although his psyche had not drained much, his spirit force was nearly depleted.

Without entering the Mirage Realm again, he took out an Origin Spirit Pill and swallowed it, then took out a saber skills manual to study.

All three hundred and sixty orifices in his body had achieved a Major Circumambulation cycle. At this point in cultivation, a cultivator's practice was no longer limited by their Cultivation Technique. In other words, any Cultivation Technique that had been learned could be operated at any time, without interfering with the Major Circumambulation cycle.

Therefore, Lu Ye did not need to switch Cultivation Techniques to activate Bestial Gluttony Feast; his stomach hummed, and like a grinding wheel, it ground up the elixir pills he had ingested, quickly replenishing the spirit force he had expended.

As time passed, every time his body's spirit force was replenished, Lu Ye would enter the Mirage Realm to refine himself, to become familiar with how the new realm enhanced him, and during rest, he would study the saber skills, absorbing what was useful to him. Combining the two, through numerous battles, Lu Ye's progress was swift, and his saber skills improved noticeably.

Chapter 444 Poison Doctor Hua Ci

Lu Ye honed himself within the Mirage Realm, as undercurrents surged tumultuously in the Spirit Stream battlefield.

All cultivators of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were searching for the trace of one person, Hua Ci of the Righteous Blood Sect!

Previously, this cultivator from the Righteous Blood Sect made a rush for the Spirit Stream Ranking and soared over seventy places within a single day; none of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators she challenged were spared—all were killed.

This made the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side furious.

First came Lu Yiye, and now another Hua Ci emerged, employing the same method to ascend the rankings and slaughtering just as mercilessly. It seemed the Righteous Blood Sect was relentless.

That Lu Yiye was powerful and had a profound foundation. After ascending to the 9th Heaven, he was invincible on the Spirit Stream battlefield, leaving the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side with no way to handle him. Finally, when he advanced into Cloud River and departed from the Spirit Stream battlefield, what they thought was a mountain pressing down on them had left, only for Hua Ci to suddenly appear!

You should know this woman was but a healing cultivator!

A healing cultivator should be properly hanging a pot to help the world, saving the dying and healing the wounded, not running to the Spirit Stream Ranking to join in the excitement.

The many grievances against Lu Ye now transferred onto Hua Ci all at once, as the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side was determined to find this woman to eliminate future troubles.

With no choice left, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators on the Spirit Stream battlefield grew somewhat fearful at the sight of the Righteous Blood Sect's name; they absolutely would not allow the appearance of a disciple from the Righteous Blood Sect on the Spirit Stream Ranking ever again!

But even with all forces of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge exerting effort together, they still couldn't find any information on Hua Ci. This healing cultivator seemed to be on the Spirit Stream battlefield and yet not, as her figure never appeared at any of the establishments.

On the second day, Hua Ci's name had already reached the fiftieth spot.

Compared to Lu Ye, her rate of climbing the rankings wasn't too fast, but at this moment her rank was already the highest ever occupied by a healing cultivator in history!

Most people believed she should stop there.

However, on the third day, her rank continued to climb methodically, with the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators above her disappearing one after another...

By the fourth day, Hua Ci's name had reached the top ten!

The Spirit Stream battlefield was in an uproar.

Never before had a healing cultivator claimed such a high rank. Hua Ci of the Righteous Blood Sect had created a historic first, and within the entire battlefield, thousands of healing cultivators shared in the glory, realizing for the first time that they too could fight!

Inspired by Hua Ci, numerous healing cultivators tried to rush the Spirit Stream Ranking, yet without exception, they were all harshly taught a lesson...

Strictly speaking, over the years, except for a few instances, the strength gap among the top ten on the Spirit Stream Ranking was not significant. Hua Ci's current rank was tenth, and judging by the speed and record of her ascension, she already had the qualifications to challenge the number one spot.

The current leader of the Spirit Stream Ranking was Lan Ziyi, also a woman, and at that moment, countless pairs of eyes were watching the Spirit Stream Ranking, wanting to know which of the two women was stronger.

However, just as everyone was waiting for this battle to erupt, the name of the leading Lan Ziyi suddenly disappeared. Soon news came that Lan Ziyi had advanced to Cloud River!

Advancing to Cloud River at this juncture seemed like Lan Ziyi was deliberately avoiding battle, and suddenly, rumors were rife, leaving many cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge feeling rather ashamed.

As for this, the Endless Island didn't issue any statements, further confirming the rumors that Lan Ziyi was avoiding battle.

It was only at this time that the cultivators on the Spirit Stream battlefield began to understand what kind of deadly methods Hua Ci, a healing cultivator, had. Before this, all the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators she challenged had either refused or died in battle, so all along, no one knew how Hua Ci, a healing cultivator, killed her enemies.

It wasn't until after she reached the top ten that a battle took place.

According to the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge powerhouse who barely clung to life after that battle, Hua Ci of the Righteous Blood Sect, although a healing cultivator, was a poison doctor! During the fight, she directly threw a green poison pill at him, and then the poison pill exploded, filling the entire combat field with toxic mist.

The toxic mist was ferocious; he was poisoned and fell to the ground before he even had a chance to reach Hua Ci. If not for conceding in time, he probably would have died there in the combat field.

Even so, the residual poison in his body couldn't be cleansed, forcing him to return quickly to his sect headquarters for treatment by the sect's healing cultivators.

A poison doctor! That was the identity of Hua Ci of the Righteous Blood Sect.

The world was shocked.

Many healing cultivators were adept at using poison, but none had ever made it to the top ten of the Spirit Stream Ranking or even defeated a top ten cultivator using such methods.

Following this battle, Hua Ci's rank rose step by step, and the cultivators she challenged thereafter, without exception, all directly refused.

Even those cultivators ranked in the top ten were not confident they could come out unharmed from Hua Ci's extreme poison; getting infected with that kind of poison could be life-threatening or at the very least cost a lot of time to recover. Rather than taking the risk, they preferred to forfeit the fight—it was just a matter of dropping one rank on the Spirit Stream Ranking.

Thus, five days after Lu Ye advanced to Cloud River, Hua Ci of the Righteous Blood Sect swiftly ascended to the top of the Spirit Stream Ranking!

And she did so as a healing cultivator.

Unprecedented!

The whole world was astonished!

Previously, the world only knew of Lu Yiye from the Righteous Blood Sect, but by now, the great name of Hua Ci of the Righteous Blood Sect had also spread fast, worshipped by countless healing cultivators. This was the case, even for those healing cultivators from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

The only solace for the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side was that this Hua Ci was not as troublesome as Lu Yiye. In fact, to this day, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side still didn't know where Hua Ci was.

Not to mention the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side, even the Haotian Alliance's sects were also clueless.

Hua Ci seemed to emerge out of nowhere, with no sign of her at any establishments in the Core Circle.

...

In the main hall of the Righteous Blood Sect, in a room, Lu Ye read a treatise on saber skills while driving his Talent Tree to devour Earth's Core Fire, and at the same time consuming elixir pills to restore his expended spirit force.

After days of continuous tempering in the Mirage Realm, Lu Ye had become completely familiar with his own rapidly enhanced strength.

Compared to the power he could exert during the battle at 9th Heaven, his improvement now was immense.

No wonder everyone says that advancing to a higher major realm is a qualitative leap.

Over these five days, his cultivation hadn't increased, since he'd been constantly consuming his own spirit force.

He had previously bought a full hundred portions of Earth's Core Fire from Heaven's Augury treasure vault, spending twenty thousand merit points on them. After days of continuous devouring, there wasn't much left.

After swallowing the last portion of Earth's Core Fire, Lu Ye set down the manual on saber technique and checked the changes in his Talent Tree.

Upon inspection, Lu Ye furrowed his brows.

A hundred portions of Earth's Core Fire, by his estimation, should have lit up fifty or sixty leaves at the very least.

But the actual number of leaves lit was less than half of what he had expected.

Further inspection by Lu Ye revealed that he had acquired four types of spirit runes, with the remaining leaves all bearing specific techniques and methods for constructing spirit runes.

Although these were not spirit runes, they were still extremely important to Lu Ye. The more techniques and methods he had, the easier it would be to craft spirit runes.

Take setting up a teleportation array, for example; without the many accumulations before, even if he learned the Void Spirit Runes from books—runes that call for the use of more than three thousand Yin-Yang Dual Origins—he couldn't have crafted them based on his own accomplishments in the Path of Spirit Runes, let alone set up a teleportation array.

It was precisely because he mastered those techniques and methods that he could successfully craft the Void Spirit Runes, and in turn, make the teleportation array functional.

The four types of spirit runes he obtained this time were not well-suited for battle. They were Leaf Dance, Fiery Flames, Water Arrow, and Earth Spike.

If he constructed them individually, they could form magic and spells.

This furthered his journey on the path of a magic cultivator...

Even though the number of leaves that lit up was much less than he expected, Lu Ye didn't feel it was a waste, as the Talent Tree itself requires fuel.

During those days when the origin magnetic ore roared and engulfed the Spirit Stream battlefield, he hid in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest. Had he not allowed his Talent Tree to devour enough Earth's Core Fire beforehand, storing a large amount of fuel, how could he have become immune to all poisons?

So even if not a single leaf lit up, as long as the Earth's Core Fire was devoured by the Talent Tree, it wouldn't be a waste.

He now consumed Origin Spirit Pills for cultivation, which were over tenfold more potent than the Spirit-Nurturing Pills, and the pill poison in them was also greater; burning off the pill poison would consume the fuel stored in the Talent Tree.

He didn't go to buy more Earth's Core Fire, even though he had more than seventy thousand merit points left.

Some things don't need to be rushed, and if the information he received was correct, merit points would be very useful at the Cloud River battlefield.

Five days after his promotion at Cloud River, Lu Ye left the cultivation retreat. Disciples were continuously coming and going within the sect headquarters, all tasked with helping Lu Ye rebuild Emerald Bamboo Peak.

Upon seeing him, they all respectfully greeted him.

Lu Ye took to the sky, and moments later arrived above Emerald Bamboo Peak. Looking down, he saw a large number of disciples busy at work. The previously ruined buildings had been cleared, replaced with brand-new dwellings.

Atop the summit of Emerald Bamboo Peak, a sizable hall was also under construction.

As all were cultivators, the efficiency of the work was quite high, especially since there was a group of about a hundred cultivators here.

Emerald Bamboo Peak should be rebuilt within ten days to half a month.

But Lu Ye couldn't wait that long.

Though it was a pity, in the end, he would surely return.

He went back to Righteous Peak to find his Second Senior Sister.

"You're going to the Cloud River battlefield?" Shui Yuan seemed to realize his purpose.

"Yes, my realm is now stable, so it's time to cultivate further."

"That's good," Shui Yuan nodded, "Have you brought enough resources for cultivation? If not, take more."

"I've brought plenty."

"The situation in the Cloud River battlefield differs from that of the Spirit Stream battlefield. I've told you some things before, but there's much that brief words cannot convey. After you get there, remember to buy basic information on the Cloud River battlefield from Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union. Also, get a ten-part map of the Cloud River battlefield. It's very important."

"I have noted it."

"In the Spirit Stream battlefield, the norm is the conflict between two major camps of cultivators, and there won't be a lack of such conflicts in the Cloud River battlefield. Yet by comparison, Cloud River battlefield involves more struggles for cultivation resources. As long as you are strong enough, you will be able to cultivate faster than others. You've just been promoted to Cloud River so remember to prioritize safety in all things. If you encounter an enemy you cannot defeat, make sure you prioritize your own safety as the main goal. You only have a future if you're alive. Also, after you enter, you can contact your Fourth Senior Brother."

"Understood."

Like a concerned elder watching a child about to embark on a long journey, Shui Yuan repeatedly instructed Lu Ye on various matters.

After a long time, Lu Ye finally bid farewell to Shui Yuan, taking Amber and Yiyi with him as he strode towards Heaven's Augury Hall.

Cloud River battlefield, here I come!

Chapter 445 Cloud River Battlefield

In Heaven's Augury Hall, Lu Ye placed his hand on the Heaven's Augury Pillar, connecting his mind and spirit.

When he was in the Spirit Stream Realm, connecting his mind to the Heaven's Augury Pillar could only allow him to enter the Spirit Stream battlefield.

But now, being in the Cloud River Realm, he had another choice available.

He could enter the Spirit Stream battlefield, but correspondingly, he would have to pay three thousand merits, and after entering the Spirit Stream battlefield, his strength would be suppressed to the level of 9th Heaven, reverting him to his state before advancing to the Cloud River Realm.

Cloud River Realm cultivators forcefully entering the Spirit Stream battlefield must pay three thousand merits, and if one is in the True Lake Realm, even more merits are needed. The higher the cultivation, the greater the cost, which is why high-level cultivators normally do not forcefully enter a battlefield not their own.

Of course, he wasn't going to enter the Spirit Stream battlefield; he intended to enter the Cloud River battlefield.

Having made his choice, he did not enter immediately because the Cloud River battlefield, unlike the Spirit Stream battlefield, had no sect enclaves inside; thus, there were several ways to enter the Cloud River battlefield.

The first way was to appear randomly at some location within the Cloud River battlefield. With good luck, one could remain unharmed, but with bad luck, one might appear where many enemies gathered or within the territory of a powerful demon beast, which would undoubtedly lead to combat. If one were not strong enough, there was a high likelihood of being killed.

The second way was fixed-point transmission.

The Cloud River battlefield contained spirit grounds, which are rich in nature's spiritual energy, and most spirit grounds have a Heaven's Augury Pillar. If a cultivator could leave a mark on the Heaven's Augury Pillar in a spirit ground in advance, they could directly teleport into the spirit ground. This method of teleportation was suitable for those cultivators who owned spirit grounds.

As Lu Ye had never entered the Cloud River battlefield before, naturally, he had no spirit ground.

The only option applicable to him was the third way.

This was also a fixed-point transmission, only with many more available locations to choose from.

Although the sects had no enclaves within the Cloud River battlefield, there were many Heaven's Augury Mercantile Unions distributed across various locations in the battlefield. These mercantile unions provided cultivators with places for resupply and rest; each mercantile union had its own Heaven's Augury Pillar, and cultivators from any faction could use these pillars to move in and out of the Cloud River battlefield.

It could be said that the areas near the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Unions in the Cloud River battlefield were the most heterogeneously populated.

In the Heaven's Augury Hall, with his eyes tightly closed, Lu Ye connected his mind to the Heaven's Augury Pillar below, and numerous points of light appeared in his mind, each representing a Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union.

He could choose any of these, and then use the Heaven's Augury Pillar to teleport into that particular mercantile union.

Choosing which one was a problem.

Shui Yuan had instructed him to look for his Fourth Senior Brother, Li Baxian, once he entered the Cloud River battlefield, but Lu Ye was more inclined to find Giant Armor first. This big fellow was straightforward and had entered the Cloud River battlefield a few months before him. His current whereabouts were unknown, as was whether he had suffered any losses.

The points of light emerging in his mind numbered over a thousand, indicative of the vastness of the Cloud River battlefield.

In comparison, the Cloud River battlefield was several times larger than the Spirit Stream battlefield. After all, upon reaching the Cloud River Realm, cultivators could fly through the air, and if the battlefield was too small, it wouldn't accommodate the cultivators coming from across the Nine Provinces.

After some contemplation, Lu Ye chose a light point in a central location. This way, no matter where Giant Armor was, he wouldn't be too far from him.

"Amber, are you ready?" Lu Ye quietly asked.

Crouched on his shoulder, Amber made a soft sound in response.

Lu Ye smiled, his thoughts shifted, and in a flash, he felt a slight sensation of weightlessness, which came and went quickly. When he opened his eyes again, he found himself in a large hall.

Not far beside him, another cultivator also opened their eyes, clearly having just been transported from the Nine Provinces, making the same choice as Lu Ye to come to this particular Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union.

However, there was no intention of communication between them.

Lu Ye once again placed his hand on the Heaven's Augury Pillar, trying to teleport back to the Nine Provinces. To his surprise, the information fed back from the pillar indicated that a considerable amount of his merits would be deducted. He immediately understood that the information he had heard earlier was correct.

Cultivators entering the Cloud River battlefield could not leave at will within a month unless they paid sufficient merits.

Though it was his first time in the Cloud River battlefield, he had learned some information about it through various channels, just not systematically and comprehensively.

Lu Ye didn't know why such a rule existed but speculated that the teleportation via Heaven's Augury Pillar also had some cost. To avoid unnecessary movement of cultivators constantly entering and exiting between the Nine Provinces and the Cloud River battlefield, such restrictions were imposed.

The cultivator who appeared with him had already turned and left, and Lu Ye did not linger, following quickly out of the hall.

The bustling atmosphere hit him as he stepped out; this place was a Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union, naturally frequented by large numbers of cultivators.

Lu Ye tapped the battlefield marking, trying to contact his Fourth Senior Brother, intending to let him know that he had arrived in the Cloud River battlefield.

To his surprise, he couldn't send the message.

His Fourth Senior Brother's marking hadn't disappeared, indicating he was safe. If the message couldn't be sent, it meant only one possibility—his Fourth Senior Brother was not in the same realm as him at the moment.

He tried to contact Feng Yuechan as well, but the situation was the same.

Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan always stuck together, advancing and retreating as one. If one couldn't be contacted, the other certainly couldn't be either.

Lu Ye transmitted a message to Giant Armor.

This time, the transmission was successful, and Giant Armor quickly responded.

After a brief exchange, Lu Ye furrowed his brows because Giant Armor could not figure out his current location, and Lu Ye was also unclear about his whereabouts. He could only ask Giant Armor to first buy a ten-part map from Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union and then ended the communication.

Upon finding a mercantile union manager, Lu Ye spent some Spirit Stones to purchase the ten-part map and various basic information about the Cloud River battlefield.

What astonished Lu Ye was that the mercantile union manager he dealt with was only from the Spirit Stream Realm!

A Spirit Stream Realm cultivator appearing in the Cloud River battlefield probably could only be managed by Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union, which made Lu Ye feel that this union was no ordinary organization.

Sitting in that compartment, Lu Ye examined the ten-part map, ascertained his current location, and then delved into that information.

Only after two hours did Lu Ye put down the jade slip in his hand, digesting the myriad of information he had acquired.

Compared to the Spirit Stream battlefield, the Cloud River battlefield was undoubtedly much more complex and competition was much fiercer.

Here, cultivators' opponents included not only those from the opposing factions but also those within the same faction. However, as long as one had sufficient ability, cultivation could quickly increase in this place.

In the Spirit Stream battlefield, every sect had its own stronghold, where nature's spiritual energy's concentration was closely linked to the strengthening purchased—the more enhancements bought, the richer the spiritual energy, and the faster the disciples' cultivation progress.

But in the Cloud River battlefield, there were no strongholds.

Only spirit grounds!

A spirit ground was a place where nature's spiritual energy converged.

Looking over the entire Cloud River battlefield, the average concentration of nature's spiritual energy was only equivalent to the wild outskirts of the Core Circle of the Spirit Stream battlefield.

Such a cultivation environment did not offer much help even to Spirit Stream Realm cultivators, let alone those of the Cloud River Realm. Indeed, cultivating in such an environment would undoubtedly be very inefficient.

Therefore, spirit grounds became coveted locations among cultivators.

Spirit grounds were similar to the strongholds of the Spirit Stream battlefield where the spiritual energy was much denser than in the wilderness. However, unlike strongholds that were occupied by sects, spirit grounds might be dominated by three or five close friends or crowded by ten to twenty people. Generally, a spirit ground could not accommodate too many cultivators because with more people, the shareable spiritual energy would decrease.

The spirit grounds were graded into four categories—Class A, B, C, and D, with Class A being the highest and Class D being the lowest.

The higher the grade of the spirit ground, the denser the spiritual energy, allowing cultivators to advance their cultivation more efficiently.

Thus, frequent skirmishes to seize spirit grounds from others occurred within the Cloud River battlefield.

In the Spirit Stream battlefield, taking over a sect's stronghold was not an easy task. Once the protective array was activated, it was nearly impregnable because the power that Spirit Stream Realm cultivators could exert was limited, hardly enough to break through the defense of a big array, unless one had the means to destroy arrays like Lu Ye.

However, it was different once a cultivator reached the Cloud River Realm—their strength greatly increased, and they had more methods at their disposal. Thus, even if a protective array was set up after occupying a spirit ground, it might not be safe.

Overall, spirit grounds in the Cloud River battlefield were rarely dominated for long by anyone; they usually changed hands frequently, one after another.

Moreover, some spirit grounds were not permanent; perhaps today a region was a Class A spirit ground, but tomorrow the spiritual energy there might suddenly disappear, losing its status as a spirit ground.

Or a region might suddenly accumulate spiritual energy and transform from an ordinary wilderness into a spirit ground—such occurrences were common.

The Cloud River battlefield was vast with countless spirit grounds, yet some cultivators lacked the strength to seize others' spirit grounds. How should they cultivate if relying solely on consuming elixir pills was too inefficient?

Therefore, in the Cloud River battlefield, besides the method of seizing spirit grounds and ruling over them, there was another way—snatching spirit fortune sticks.

In the Cloud River battlefield, anywhere and at any time, spirit fortune sticks might descend from heaven!

The spirit fortune sticks came in five colors: white, green, blue, purple, and gold.

The worst were white, and the best were gold.

When spirit fortune sticks descended from heaven, people within about 30 miles could all see them clearly.

The cultivator who managed to snatch a spirit fortune stick only had to find a safe place, crush the stick, and a vast amount of nature's spiritual energy would burst forth, providing cultivation nourishment.

So far, no one knew where these spirit fortune sticks came from; it was speculated that they were a gift from Heaven's Augury.

Every day, a large amount of spirit fortune sticks appeared in various places of the Cloud River battlefield, benefiting countless cultivators.

But snatching spirit fortune sticks was not easy, for each time they appeared, many cultivators contended for them. To succeed in grabbing a spirit fortune stick, it was not merely a competition of eyesight and speed, but also of strength.

Those with sufficient strength naturally went for the gold-hued spirit fortune sticks, while those less powerful could only aim for the white ones.

Thus, in the Cloud River battlefield, there was no limit to the speed of cultivation—if one truly had the capability, advancing to the True Lake within one or two years was possible.

Chapter 446 Four-Colored Clouds

Spirit fortune sticks could be transferred, which gave rise to a unique transaction, spirit fortune stick auctions!

Some cultivators who acquired spirit fortune sticks and were short on funds would choose to consign them for sale. Every so often, the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Unions in various places would hold an auction event for these sticks.

Moreover, these auctions only used merit as the means of transaction, so even if someone was unlucky and couldn't find a spirit ground or seize a spirit fortune stick, as long as they had enough merit, they could still cultivate at a fast pace.

This indeed matched some of the information Lu Ye had heard previously. He had heard that merit was very useful on the Cloud River battlefield, and now it seemed to be true.

In fact, merit was useful at any time, in any place.

This was Lu Ye's first visit to the Cloud River battlefield, so he didn't need to worry about spirit grounds for the time being, since the existing ones were all claimed, unless he was capable of seizing one from someone else.

In the Spirit Stream battlefield, he was unmatched, but that was not the case here in the Cloud River battlefield. After all, he had only just advanced to the Cloud River Realm, and no matter how solid his foundation was, his strength was limited; it was impossible for him to contend with those seasoned Cloud River Realm cultivators.

He did want to find some spirit fortune sticks to see what they were like. Although he could cultivate using alchemy even without nature's spiritual energy, having dense nature's spiritual energy would further enhance the efficiency of his cultivation.

He still had over seventy thousand merits at hand, so he could buy some spirit fortune sticks no matter what.

He casually asked a manager from the mercantile union about the auction, found out that the last auction had just occurred two days ago, and the next one wouldn't be for nearly a month, so he immediately dismissed the idea.

All the information he needed to gather was in hand, and Lu Ye stepped out of the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union.

Outside, the sunlight was bright and cheerful, and constantly, cultivators' figures flitted high across the sky. The Cloud River battlefield seemed much livelier compared to the Spirit Stream battlefield.

Of course, this was because this place housed the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union. In reality, due to the vast expanse of the Cloud River battlefield, the probability of encountering a cultivator in the wild was actually smaller than in the Spirit Stream battlefield.

After all, in general, there were much fewer cultivators at the Cloud River Realm compared to those at the Spirit Stream Realm.

Standing outside the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union, Lu Ye communicated with Giant Armor, checking the ten-part map and informing him of his current position.

Giant Armor replied, "Hmm!"

Lu Ye guessed that probably meant he understood, but Giant Armor didn't have a ten-part map at the moment, so he wasn't clear on his own position; even if Lu Ye wanted to go find him, he didn't know which direction to head in.

Well, since he was here, he might as well settle in. Being new to the place, it was best to familiarize himself with the environment first.

With this thought, Lu Ye soared into the sky, randomly chose a direction, and traveled through air. According to the ten-part map, three hundred miles away from here was a Class C Spirit Ground, and Lu Ye wanted to see what the level of nature's spiritual energy was there.

If he just went to observe and not to seek shelter, others probably wouldn't refuse him.

The identity of the cultivators occupying that spirit ground... In fact, many spirit grounds were jointly occupied by cultivators from the Haotian Alliance and Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, neither openly revealing their alliance nor knowing each other's backgrounds.

Such a sight was not seen in the Spirit Stream battlefield because the garrisons there were occupied by sects as a whole.

But this phenomenon was common in the Cloud River battlefield because there, cultivators mostly acted individually, and even if they formed groups, it was just three or five people in a squad; there would never be too many people acting together.

Thus, if a new spirit ground were discovered, the first cultivators to gather there would sign a Heaven's Augury Pact for some temporary cooperation.

The unique environment necessitated this unique method of operation.

That's why Second Senior Sister Shui Yuan had told Lu Ye earlier that in the Cloud River battlefield, the cultivators from the two major factions sometimes weren't completely antagonistic and needed some cooperation.

With the Heaven's Augury Pact as a guarantee, both parties could rest assured, preventing any backstabbing occurrences.

As he traveled, before long, Lu Ye summoned his spirit ark as flying long distances with weapon control was less tiring.

His spirit ark now was a mid-grade spirit artifact, faster than before and more robust, having more defensive restrictions in place, so it wouldn't easily sustain damages from attacks as before.

With no one around, Yiyi quietly appeared, sitting in front of Lu Ye, looking around curiously and said, "So this is the Cloud River battlefield. It doesn't seem much different from the Spirit Stream battlefield."

"The people are different; from now on, the cultivators we meet will all be at the Cloud River Realm."

"No problem, if there's a fight, Amber and I will help you," Yiyi said, waving her small fists.

Amber also gave a woof, indicating his readiness to fight!

"Where are we heading now?" asked Yiyi.

"To a Class C Spirit Ground, to scout the place," Lu Ye replied.

"Oh," Yiyi responded and didn't ask further, sitting upright and looking around.

Suddenly, she raised her hand, pointing to a direction, and exclaimed, "Lu Ye, Lu Ye, that cloud is so beautiful, it has four colors!"

Lu Ye followed the direction she was pointing and indeed saw a four-colored cloud at the edge of the sky, which was moving swiftly towards them.

Lu Ye's eyebrows raised, surprised that he had encountered such good fortune upon just entering the Cloud River battlefield.

According to the information purchased from the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union, before the descent of spirit fortune sticks, colorful clouds would appear, from which the fortune sticks that aid cultivators in their cultivation would fall.

Four-colored clouds could give birth to four types of fortune sticks: white, green, blue, and purple.

If there were five-colored clouds, then the highest-grade gold-hued spirit fortune sticks could be born.

Correspondingly, with only three colors, the fortune sticks born would only be white, green, and blue.

If there were two colors, they would be white and green.

The colorful clouds appearing before the descent of fortune sticks range from at least two colors to as many as five colors.

Now, the four-colored clouds appearing before him meant that purple fortune sticks could potentially be born.

Lu Ye immediately halted in place, observed for a moment, and confirmed that the direction of the drifting clouds was indeed heading towards him; he was instantly delighted, thinking his luck was indeed remarkable!

However, a moment later, Lu Ye's expression turned grave, as trails of light came shuttling below the clouds.

Knowing that the appearance of colorful clouds would lead to falling spirit fortune sticks, nearby cultivators naturally followed closely, and judging by the agile and vigorous figures, there were clearly many powerful individuals among the arrivals.

When cultivators are at the Spirit Stream Realm level, one can deduce another's cultivation based on the intensity of the circulation of the Minor Circumambulation within their body by observing the spirit light on their skin.

But that isn't the case in the Cloud River Realm.

In the Cloud River Realm, cultivators only have one Major Circumambulation cycle within their body, and it's difficult to discern another's true strength based on the intensity of their spirit lights.

Moreover, the Cloud River Realm is the realm with the largest disparity in strength among cultivators.

Some ascend to Cloud River with 240 orifices while others with 360 orifices, and at the same Level 1 of Cloud River, the strength that can be exerted differs naturally due to the differing number of opened orifices during the ascension.

Thus, within the vast realm of Cloud River, to judge one's strength based solely on their level of cultivation is unwise, as it often leads to a lower-level cultivator killing a higher-level one on the battlefield.

Here, cultivators are only categorized into two types: those who can be beaten and those who cannot!

As to whether one can actually beat another, one only knows after truly facing off.

This is also why Lu Ye dared to act alone shortly upon arriving for the first time.

He indeed rose to prominence on the Spirit Stream battlefield, causing many sects from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge to wish to eliminate him swiftly, but that was only on the Spirit Stream battlefield.

Upon arriving at the Cloud River battlefield, who knew who he was?

Many cultivators, on arriving at the Cloud River battlefield, don't return to their sects for many years, like Lu Ye's Third Senior Brother, Xiao Xinghe, who stayed continuously on the Cloud River battlefield until he advanced to the True Lake and then left.

For Lu Ye, this was a fortunate situation. On the Spirit Stream battlefield, he was notoriously known as "Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer" and "Three Calamities of Spirit Stream," titles that made everyone from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's factions want to attack him on sight.

Now in the Cloud River battlefield, he felt the need to act low-key, at least not like on the Spirit Stream battlefield where everywhere he went, he encountered groups of people wanting to kill him.

In the entire Spirit Stream Realm, his life was almost spent fleeing in desperation, truly pitiful.

Lu Ye wasn't proud or complacent about his achievements on the Spirit Stream battlefield; he was quite self-aware. With his current strength, there were many on the Cloud River battlefield who were stronger than him.

So, seeing a large group of light following the clouds flying towards him, he quickly lowered his figure, landing on a small hill below.

The arriving group of cultivators was easily several hundreds large, and with time passing, more and more cultivators joined them.

After all, with such a large cloud floating in the sky, anyone within a few hundreds of miles, unless blind, could see it clearly.

Combat had not erupted between them yet because it wasn't the right time, and also, no one carelessly revealed their allegiance.

In the upcoming contest, unless there were acquainted people teaming up, everyone else remained rivals, regardless if they were from hostile or friendly camps.

The cloud moved directly above Lu Ye, then suddenly stopped.

Lu Ye looked up, thinking to himself how it was too much of a coincidence that it stopped right above him.

The cloud was not exceptionally high above the ground, just a thousand yards, a height that Cloud River Realm cultivators could easily reach by flying because, logically, the closer one is to the cloud, the better positioned they are to take the initiative.

But in reality, no cultivator dared to get too close to a colorful cloud. There had been someone who did so before, and now the grass on their grave was over a dozen yards high, because when the fortune sticks fell from the cloud, their speed was incredibly fast and their lethal force immense. If one were too close, no one in the Cloud River Realm would be able to withstand it.

The farther a fortune stick flies, the slower its speed and the easier it is to capture.

Therefore, instead of approaching the cloud, the cultivators who followed dispersed in various positions; securing a fortune stick was largely a matter of luck, as no one knew in which direction the stick would fall.

Chapter 447 Snatching the Spirit Fortune Stick

In the wilderness, a myriad of colors painted the sky a thousand feet above the ground, and Lu Ye gazed up directly beneath the clouds.

With Lu Ye at the center, within a ten-mile radius, hundreds of cultivators were scattered, standing by in a combat-ready formation, all eager and rubbing their hands in anticipation.

Some cultivators only focused on the clouds, while others silently observed their surroundings, presumably to see if there were any formidable competitors. There were also small groups of two or three cultivators whispering together, seemingly wanting to form temporary alliances.

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, several streaks of light suddenly shot out from the clouds above, with something faintly hidden within the light.

Lu Ye immediately exerted his Ocular Power, but even though he looked at the light as soon as it appeared, he still couldn't make out what was hidden within it.

The light that darted out of the clouds reached a height a hundred feet above the ground in almost an instant.

Lu Ye was secretly alarmed. The reports were right, it was indeed very dangerous to be too close to the clouds at such a time. The speed was simply too fast for cultivators of the Cloud River Realm to avoid, and if the light were to strike someone, it could very well go right through them.

At a hundred feet above the ground, the speed of the light that had burst forth suddenly decreased greatly, and at the same time, the items within became clear. Each streak of light enveloped a spirit fortune stick that was about one finger long, one inch wide, and tapered from top to bottom, looking as if they were carved from a piece of jade.

Among these spirit fortune sticks, four were white, and one was green.

Immediately, some cultivators who were close to these spirit fortune sticks leaped into the air, heading towards them.

The first batch of spirit fortune sticks that fell were only five in number, but more than a dozen cultivators flew out to catch them. Some were lucky enough to grab a stick without competition, while those less fortunate engaged in a struggle. Several people fought over a single spirit fortune stick, and a fight broke out on the spot.

Especially over that green spirit fortune stick—five or six pairs of eyes were fixated on it, battling most fiercely.

Lu Ye didn't make a move, mainly because those few spirit fortune sticks were a bit far from his position. Even if he flew over, he wouldn't make it in time.

However, judging by the way those people were fighting, they all seemed to be holding back somewhat.

The cultivators gathered here did not reveal their allegiance to any faction, so once a battle broke out, their opponents could be from an enemy camp or their own, an unavoidable circumstance.

It was not until then that Lu Ye truly felt for the first time how inconspicuous the allegiance to a faction can be.

Unlike his time in the Spirit Stream battlefield, where cultivators from the same faction rarely had conflicts with each other.

As the cultivators vying for the spirit fortune sticks had yet to determine a victor, another dozen streaks of light poured from the clouds. This time, the number of green spirit fortune sticks that fell was noticeably higher.

Even more cultivators rushed out, joining in the scramble.

As time passed, batches of spirit fortune sticks continued to fall from the clouds, and the ten-mile radius became as bustling as if salt had been sprinkled on hot oil, boiling with activity.

The cultivators kept a close watch on their targets. Whenever a spirit fortune stick close by fell, they would leap into action, launching themselves into the chaos, vying for possession.

Lu Ye stood somewhat innocently atop a small mound, motionless. It wasn't that he didn't want to seize a spirit fortune stick; his luck just didn't seem very good. There hadn't been a single stick falling close to him since the beginning, with the nearest one drifting three miles away.

Gradually, Lu Ye began to see a pattern.

The position directly under the clouds seemed unlikely to have spirit fortune sticks fall. It was much like using an umbrella on a rainy day—the area beneath the umbrella remains dry, with the raindrops all falling from the edge of the umbrella.

Just as Lu Ye was contemplating whether to change location, another batch of spirit fortune sticks fell.

This time, there was a large number of sticks plummeting down, easily over a hundred. One of them happened to be heading straight for his position.

Lu Ye was moved. After waiting for so long, there finally came a time to act.

The streak of light was only a hundred feet away in an instant, and at that moment, the color within the light became clear—it was a blue spirit fortune stick!

Previously, there were blue spirit fortune sticks that fell, but they were relatively rare. The better the spirit fortune stick, the fewer the number, and up until now, he hadn't seen a purple one.

Lu Ye soared into the sky, spanning the hundred feet in the blink of an eye, and grasped the spirit fortune stick in his hand.

At the same time, a fierce gust of wind assaulted him from the side, but out of the corner of his eye, Lu Ye saw a long spear thrusting straight towards him.

The Boulder Mountain Saber burst forth from its sheath, a fiery red blade light flashing, and with a loud clang, Lu Ye was forced to retreat, his palms going numb from the shock.

Lu Ye had little contact with cultivators from the Cloud River Realm, so it was difficult to estimate the opponent's exact cultivation level. However, judging from the exchange of this single blow, the other party was obviously stronger than him. Conservatively, he was likely a Level 4-5 of the Cloud River Realm!

Trouble!

What made Lu Ye feel even more uncomfortable was that as soon as he steadied himself, he saw several figures pouncing towards him from various directions.

The blue spirit fortune stick was of great value, naturally worth the competition from these individuals.

Lu Ye weighed the options of fleeing with the stick or leading the trouble away, and before those people could get close, he threw the spirit fortune stick directly towards the one who had just attacked him, the spear-wielding cultivator.

That person was quick to react, catching the spirit fortune stick in hand, but before he could rejoice, several cultivators who were initially heading towards Lu Ye turned and attacked him instead. His expression changed dramatically as he spread his long spear to engage in battle with the newcomers.

A moment later, his face turned green, his nose swollen, and he fell from the sky in disarray, letting out a miserable cry. The blue spirit fortune stick that Lu Ye had tossed to him had already been thrown away by him.

He had no choice but to throw it, for if he continued to hold it, he truly would have died.

When contending for spirit fortune sticks, unless there was some deep enmity, people generally wouldn't go for a killing blow—after all, no one knew which faction the person competing for the same spirit fortune stick belonged to.

Of course, deaths could occur. The cultivators of the Cloud River Realm were all relatively young, their blood Qi vigorous, and fights could easily get out of hand.

Seeing the fate of this person, Lu Ye silently felt fortunate that he had been quick to act; had he thought to flee with the stick, his end might have been the same as that man's.

What a pity, Giant Armor wasn't here.

If Giant Armor was here, then it would have been perfect. The big guy was thick-skinned and resistant to beatings, and a few ordinary cultivators could hardly deal with him, so Lu Ye could have completely handed the spirit fortune stick over to Giant Armor.

The struggle for the spirit fortune sticks persisted, and the colorful clouds in the sky had already shrunk by more than half.

Lu Ye made several more attempts but soon realized that with his current strength, it was very difficult to compete for a spirit fortune stick. Many people were eyeing the green and blue sticks, and even if he managed to snatch one, he couldn't keep it safe. He had no choice but to settle for less, going after the white ones.

However, there were plenty of people who shared his line of thought.

Every time the Heaven-bestowed spirit fortune sticks were dispensed, although the white sticks were the most numerous, so were the competitors. Only if one was lucky enough to seize one early could they succeed.

After another fruitless attempt, Lu Ye looked up at the colorful clouds in the sky, only to see that they had now shrunk to a mere third of their original size.

Just as he was focusing on them, the clouds shuddered and then dissipated, suddenly transforming into hundreds of streaks of Liu Guang, scattering in all directions.

This was the last batch of spirit fortune sticks, and among this batch, there suddenly appeared a few purple spirit fortune sticks!

There were also nearly twenty blue ones.

The cultivators were in an uproar, those who prided themselves on being strong and fast all set their sights on the purple and blue spirit fortune sticks.

Although Lu Ye was tempted, he managed to suppress the impulse, and this time his luck was better. A green and a white spirit fortune stick were falling close to him.

His figure burst forth, as Lu Ye dove straight for the green spirit fortune stick.

At a distance of more than ten zhang, just as he was about to grasp it, a ribbon suddenly attacked from the side. The ribbon was wreathed in spirit light, clearly a Spiritual Artifact. The ribbon wrapped around and swept up both spirit fortune sticks.

Enraged, Lu Ye had not managed to seize a single stick thus far, and now that a chance had at last come along, with two sticks no less, he was determined to snatch at least one!

As the Boulder Mountain Saber slashed down, his sword-wielding right arm was swallowed by a surge of blood Qi, the whole arm swelling in size.

Single Flash!

The saber wrapped in blazing light fell, striking the ribbon. The expected scene of it slicing the ribbon in half didn't occur; after all, this too was a mid-grade spirit artifact, not so easily damaged, especially given that the artifact's specialty was softness over hardness.

Yet the immense force did knock the two entwined spirit fortune sticks out of the ribbon.

Lu Ye, with his quick eyes and hands, grabbed the green stick. Just as he was about to snatch the other one, a delicate hand reached out, its fingers curled delicately as it gave a slight flick toward the back of Lu Ye's hand, and in that instant, Lu Ye felt as if he'd been bitten by a snake.

His hand's back stung painfully, flushed bright red.

A beautiful figure brushed past him, an enticing fragrance lingering at his nose.

Lu Ye stopped in his tracks and looked up to see a seductive woman standing not far from him. She was the one whose Spiritual Artifact was the ribbon that had scooped up the spirit fortune sticks. The ribbon, rather long, was casually wrapped around one arm, draped around her slender waist, then wound around her other arm.

Both of her slim forearms were exposed, dazzling to the eye.

At that moment, the woman held a white spirit fortune stick, eying the green one in Lu Ye's hand with eager anticipation, cooing sweetly, "Little brother, how about we trade?"

Lu Ye quickly stashed the green spirit fortune stick into his storage sack.

"Stingy!" the woman pouted. But her expression swiftly changed as she hurried to Lu Ye's side, adopting a battle stance, a look on her face that said she'd fight anyone who dared come close, while she whispered to Lu Ye, "Let's cooperate!"

Several people were already charging toward them.

Lu Ye nodded silently, standing shoulder to shoulder with this mysterious woman, the Boulder Mountain Saber in his hand flaring with light.

Seeing this, the cultivators rushing over couldn't help but frown.

If the spirit fortune sticks captured by Lu Ye and the woman had been blue or purple, they definitely wouldn't have let it slide, even with the two displaying a united front, it wouldn't guarantee holding on to the sticks.

But for green and white ones, it just wasn't worth making a big fuss.

Chapter 448 Purple Fortune Stick

The colorful clouds in the sky had already disappeared, and the struggle for the spirit fortune sticks was nearing its end. The cultivators who had managed to grab a purple spirit fortune stick had long since fled. Whether they could keep the sticks they obtained depended on their speed and strength.

If their speed was not fast enough and their strength not strong enough, even if they had grabbed a purple spirit fortune stick first, in the end, it would be like making a wedding dress for another.

The competition was already fierce for just the purple spirit fortune sticks. If there had been any gold-hued spirit fortune sticks, the cultivators' minds would probably have gone to the dogs.

The cultivators who had gained something joyously scattered in all directions, while those who came up empty-handed felt somewhat dejected.

"Young man..." the charming woman suddenly spoke again.

Lu Ye ignored her completely and turned to leave.

"Stingy!" The female cultivator huffed, her expression sullen, but compared to those cultivators who had gained nothing, her luck was still quite good. At the very least, she had obtained a white spirit fortune stick.

The wilderness was vast and empty, and Lu Ye raced along.

The Cloud River battlefield was really different from the Spirit Stream battlefield. From the recent events, it could be seen that even without revealing their respective alliances, the relationship between hostility and cooperation could change at any time, all hinging on one word: benefit.

This kind of situation was simply impossible on the Spirit Stream battlefield, where the cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge and the Haotian Alliance could never have a chance to cooperate, because their cultivation was low and their range of activity was limited. Thus, it was clear at a glance whether the people one encountered were from their own camp or not.

But the Cloud River battlefield was different. Most of the cultivators roamed around, and when encountering strangers, as long as the conditions were suitable, they could collaborate to some extent.

After flying several miles, a stream of light suddenly shot rapidly from ahead, followed by several figures. From their demeanor, it seemed they were in the midst of being chased.

Lu Ye steered clear, preparing to bypass them.

However, as the distance closed, he was startled to find that the fleeing man was the gun-wielding cultivator he had clashed with during the struggle for the spirit fortune sticks. That man, who had been beaten to a bruised and swollen face, still looked just as disheveled and ridiculous.

The struggle for the spirit fortune sticks had ended, and yet he was still being chased, could it be...

Just as Lu Ye was thinking this, the oncoming gun-wielding cultivator suddenly raised his hand and threw a purple light towards Lu Ye. That turned out to be a purple spirit fortune stick.

This guy's luck was really something. There had only been a few purple spirit fortune sticks appearing earlier, and amidst the competition of several hundred cultivators, he had managed to get one.

But it was clear he wasn't strong enough to keep this purple spirit fortune stick, seeing as he was about to be caught up by the people chasing him. So, he simply tossed the purple spirit fortune stick to Lu Ye, who was passing by.

As for what he was thinking, whether it was to divert disaster elsewhere or something else, it was unknown.

After all, Lu Ye had done the same to him earlier, what went around came around.

As the spirit fortune stick was thrown, the cultivators chasing the man immediately changed direction and pursued the spirit fortune stick, only to see Lu Ye grabbing it in his hand.

"Kid, throw the spirit fortune stick over here!" one of them shouted.

Another yelled, "This item is extremely dangerous, you can't control it, let me handle it!"

"Let go if you don't want to die!" another shouted threateningly.

Just as these few people were quickly closing the gap, Lu Ye suddenly unleashed a pair of fiery red wings behind him. With a flap of the wings, his entire body transformed into a streak of firelight and darted off in one direction.

During the earlier struggle for the spirit fortune sticks, cultivators were everywhere, making it unwise to impulsively activate the wings spirit runes, as activating them wouldn't have been very effective anyway.

But now the situation was different. With only these few pursuers, it was worth the risk for a purple spirit fortune stick.

A purple spirit fortune stick, second only to a golden one!

He had struggled earlier and had only managed to grab a green one.

Driving the wings spirit runes himself, Lu Ye sped away like lightning.

The gun-wielding cultivator who had thrown the purple spirit fortune stick to Lu Ye had a stunned expression, clearly not expecting Lu Ye to have this capability. In a moment of distraction, Lu Ye had disappeared without a trace.

In mid-air, Lu Ye's wings kept flapping, his spirit force draining away like floodwaters through a broken dike.

Nowadays, he had three ways of flying: weapon control-flying, flying through the air, and using the wings spirit runes.

Among these three methods, one was more energy-consuming than the other, especially the wings spirit runes, which required a spirit force far beyond what the previous two methods could compare.

However, in terms of speed, the wings spirit runes were the fastest and also more flexible.

Nevertheless, he still couldn't shake off his pursuers.

The relentlessly pursuing cultivators were clearly from higher levels of the Cloud River Realm, far beyond what he, a newly advanced young Cloud River Realm cultivator, could contend with. The higher the cultivator's cultivation, the more formidable their foundation, and the faster their flying speed!

Fortunately, he encountered no other cultivators along the way, or the situation would have been truly dire.

After fleeing for the duration of one incense stick, they had only managed to put a few hundred meters between themselves, a distance that meant nothing to a Cloud River Realm cultivator.

Biting his lip, Lu Ye once again spurred on the Move-Like-The-Wind Spirit Runes!

He had never before combined the Move-Like-The-Wind and wings spirit runes. The consumption of just the wings was already terrifying, let alone adding Move-Like-The-Wind. Even though he had ascended to the Cloud River, and his internal storage of Spiritual Energy had greatly increased, it was doubtful how long he could last.

However, at this critical moment, he could no longer afford to care too much. If he couldn't shake off the few people following him even now, the only option left for him would be to abandon the purple fortune stick.

After all, life was still the most important thing.

With the Move-Like-The-Wind Spirit Runes enhancing him, Lu Ye's speed increased further.

The cultivators chasing him couldn't help but change their expressions upon seeing this scene. They too were exerting all their efforts in the pursuit, not daring to slack off in the slightest. Moreover, considering the fluctuations of spiritual energy Lu Ye was generating, it was evident that he had recently advanced to the Cloud River Realm and was probably only at Level 1 or 2. Each of them was three to four levels above Lu Ye's cultivation, yet they still couldn't catch up to him. It was almost unbelievable.

What was even more unacceptable to them was that the speed they had seen earlier was not even Lu Ye's limit.

Now, with the enhancement from Move-Like-The-Wind, the distance between them quickly widened...

After another incense stick's time, they could only see a tiny black dot at the edge of the sky. Soon, they probably wouldn't even be able to see that.

Even so, they didn't give up. Although they didn't know what method Lu Ye had used to fly so fast, such a method must consume a great deal of energy. A cultivator from the Cloud River Realm at only Level 1 or 2 simply couldn't last long.

Therefore, as long as they didn't lose sight of Lu Ye and kept a distance, they could easily capture him once his spiritual energy was almost depleted.

Just as they were thinking this, Lu Ye's figure suddenly descended, vanishing in a blink of an eye.

When these people reached the area, they looked down only to see a dense jungle below and no trace of Lu Ye.

The group hovered in mid-air for a moment before dispersing in different directions to search for Lu Ye's whereabouts.

They were not together.

Elsewhere in the jungle, Lu Ye activated the Concealment Spirit Runes to cloak himself, staying hidden quietly.

The consumption of his spiritual energy was severe. Although he hadn't reached the point of complete exhaustion, he couldn't hold on much longer and had to hide in the jungle.

With the Concealment Spirit Runes, Lu Ye wasn't too worried about being found unless he was extremely unlucky.

The sounds of cultivators flying low occasionally came from above, clearly indicating that those few individuals were persistent in searching for his trace.

Lu Ye remained hidden in one spot, motionless.

It was only after half a day, when there were no more sounds around, that Lu Ye began to move.

The Concealment Spirit Runes were still active, just in case someone was lurking in the shadows.

Soon, Lu Ye found a dry cave and hid inside it.

He took out some array banners and set up a few simple Arrays at the entrance of the cave. Only then did Lu Ye return to the inside of the cave and sat down cross-legged.

As his spiritual energy was excessively depleted, he took out elixir pills to restore his energy. The Bestial Gluttony Feast was activated, rapidly transforming the medicinal effects of the Origin Spirit Pills into his own spiritual energy and filling his Major Circumambulation cycle.

He then took out two spirit fortune sticks to check.

One green, one purple.

The green one he had snatched by his own abilities; the purple one was thrown to him by the cultivator with the gun.

Outside in the Cloud River battlefield, the nature's spiritual energy was comparable to that in the outer and inner circles of the Spirit Stream battlefield. This environment wasn't unsuitable for cultivation, but the efficiency was too low.

Therefore, if cultivators from the Cloud River Realm wanted to increase their cultivation quickly, they needed to seize spirit grounds or compete for spirit fortune sticks, especially the latter, which was the fastest way for cultivators from the Cloud River Realm to advance their cultivation.

Consuming elixir pills was merely a supplementary method for most cultivators, as not everyone was like Lu Ye, unaffected by pill poison.

Naturally, one could also cultivate using Spirit Stones. Cultivating with Spirit Stones was more efficient than just absorbing the nature's spiritual energy, but it was inferior compared to consuming elixir pills.

Additionally, there were numerous secret realms within the Cloud River battlefield. Some of these realms would open at set times, allowing cultivators to enter during specific periods, while others had no pattern to their appearance, potentially emerging anywhere within the Cloud River battlefield at any time.

Most secret realms contained spirit fortune sticks. Lucky cultivators could explore these realms, and a few realms had their unique items of high value.

This was also considered a form of opportunity.

In comparison, the Spirit Stream battlefield offered more opportunities for inheritance. For instance, Hua Ci received the inheritance of a poison doctor, and people also believe Lu Ye received the inheritance of a spirit runes master in the Spirit Stream battlefield.

The opportunities in the Cloud River battlefield were not centered on inheritance; they were primarily aimed at enriching a cultivator's cultivation.

All this information was recorded in the jade slip Lu Ye had bought from the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union.

When Lu Ye first saw this information, he had a strange feeling, as if someone had deliberately arranged it.

Cultivators in the Spirit Stream Realm were weaker and just beginning their cultivation journey, so they needed inheritances more, and most inheritances in the Spirit Stream battlefield were concentrated in the outer and inner circles, with very few in the Core Circle.

But once cultivators reached the Cloud River Realm, they had already started carving their own paths in cultivation; hence, they needed to quickly enhance their abilities.

The various elements in the Cloud River battlefield, including spirit grounds, spirit fortune sticks, and those many secret realm opportunities, were all meant to help Cloud River Realm cultivators enhance their strength.

To say this was merely a coincidence and not a deliberate arrangement was simply implausible.

Chapter 449 Demon General

As the effects of the elixir pills spread, the depleted spirit force quickly recovered.

Lu Ye didn't rush to use the spirit fortune stick, for it was an item that could enhance his strength, so naturally, he wanted to use it when his spirit force was fully replenished.

After swallowing several Origin Spirit Pills, Lu Ye constructed some small spirit energy gathering funnels on the surface of his body to speed up the recovery.

Now at the Cloud River Level 1, he still had three hundred and sixty orifices, but as his cultivation rose, the boundaries of the spiritual orifices would gradually become blurred.

It wasn't until half a day later that his spirit force was fully restored.

Just as Lu Ye was about to test how much the green spirit fortune stick could enhance his strength, a slight noise came from outside, followed by a booming sound.

The alarm array he had set up had been triggered, and the intruder had even set off the explosion magic array!

Hastily tucking the two spirit fortune sticks away, he got up and dashed towards the outside.

He didn't rush out of the cave, for a tall figure stood at the entrance, blocking the path—a black bear standing upright like a tower.

At this moment, the black bear was roaring, its fur slightly charred, with fresh blood oozing out, clearly wounded by the earlier array.

The pain incited its fury, and it slammed its two gigantic paws against the rocky walls on either side, making a thudding sound, while a rich demon origin surged around its body, and Lu Ye could tell at a glance that this was a Demon General!

Cultivators have levels and hierarchy, and so do demon beasts.

Ordinary demon beasts correspond to cultivators at the Spirit Stream Realm; even an overlord like Little Gray is still considered an ordinary demon beast because it has simply reached the limit at its current level and has not yet undergone qualitative change.

Corresponding to the Cloud River Realm of cultivators, the realm of demon beasts is the Demon General—just like the black bear in front of him.

There are many ferocious and powerful Demon Generals on the Cloud River battlefield; every year, cultivators perish under the claws and jaws of these demon beasts.

Corresponding to the True Lake Realm of cultivators is the Demon Commander.

And then, corresponding to the Divine Sea Realm of cultivators is the Demon King.

This place must be the black bear's cave, as Lu Ye had previously found some black hairs at the bottom of the cave, but he had been too busy with his recovery to pay much attention.

But who would have thought the owner of the cave would return at this moment, wounded by the array he had laid.

Facing a Demon General in such an environment was undoubtedly very disadvantageous for Lu Ye, as there was simply no space to maneuver here.

So the instant he saw the black bear, Lu Ye called out, "Yiyi!"

Yiyi immediately flashed out from within Amber, reached into the storage sack on Amber's neck, took out the Nine Worlds map, activated it with spirit force, and spread the array diagram out to cover the Demon General black bear's head.

The black bear disappeared from sight, and Yiyi, holding the Nine Worlds map, maintained the activation of her spirit force and nodded gently to Lu Ye.

The next moment, Lu Ye charged into the Nine Worlds map with Amber.

In the chaotic stone forest terrain of the map, as soon as Lu Ye and Amber appeared, an angry roar sounded, and the robust body of the black bear, like a huge mountain, charged at them with a thunderous rumble.

Amber roared and landed on the ground, quickly growing in size and revealing its true form before charging towards the black bear.

In terms of strength and realm, the black bear Demon General was stronger than Amber, as Amber had not yet reached the level of a Demon General. It can enter the Cloud River battlefield mainly because it has a pet contract with Lu Ye, its master, allowing it to go wherever Lu Ye can.

In terms of size, even though Amber now looked imposing, it was still inferior to the black bear Demon General.

But it was more agile.

Just as the two figures were about to collide, Amber leaped high up, its agile form sweeping over the black bear's back, and its razor-sharp claws tore fiercely across the black bear's back.

If it were an ordinary demon beast, this strike would have been enough to split open its back, but the black bear lived up to its status as a Demon General. With its surging demon origin flowing, covering its body, Amber's attack hardly had any effect.

Moreover, the black bear stood upright and swiftly turned around, swinging a paw at Amber.

If that strike had landed, even with Amber's thick skin and flesh, the outcome wouldn't have been good.

Just then, the black bear's movements suddenly halted as if an invisible force had restrained it. Although it was only for a brief instant, it allowed Amber to avoid the crisis.

It was Yiyi exerting her strength!

Although Yiyi could not fully control the Nine Worlds map, she could still slightly activate some of its powers. Being in charge of the Nine Worlds map, she could interfere a little with everything inside. So no matter the enemy, fighting against Lu Ye within this array map was extremely disadvantageous, unless one had the ability to break free from the array's bind and escape.

Lu Ye unsheathed his saber, the Boulder Mountain Saber adorned with Double-Sharpness spirit runes and trailed by fiery red Liu Guang, cleaved fiercely into the black bear's waist.

The thick demon origin was torn apart, leaving a gaping, flesh-reversed wound on the black bear.

In pain, the black bear roared furiously again and swung a paw at Lu Ye, but he had already retreated, placing the Boulder Mountain Saber in front of him. With that paw's hit, Lu Ye slid more than a dozen zhang across the ground!

Looking at the seemingly severe and gaping wound, Lu Ye was inwardly shocked; the bear truly deserved to be a Demon General. His saber strike had only caused superficial damage, whereas he had thought it would heavily injure the bear at the very least.

Taking advantage of the black bear's attention being drawn by Lu Ye, Amber rushed in again. This time it was smarter, its white body, like an arrow released from a bow, collided with the black bear. It knocked the bear off-balance and took a vicious bite, forcefully tearing off a chunk of flesh.

Without waiting for the black bear to retaliate, it quickly leaped away.

The Black Bear had commendable strength, but once it was captured within the Nine Worlds map, Lu Ye and Amber, with their joint attack, as well as Yiyi's covert sabotage, left it with no good fate.

After one incense stick's time, following Lu Ye's sabre slicing down, the Black Bear's massive body thudded to the ground, covered in wounds all over, looking utterly miserable.

Gazing at the Black Bear's corpse, Lu Ye gently exhaled.

Just from the perspective of cultivation, the strength that this Black Bear could exert was roughly equivalent to that of a Cloud River Level 5.

However, Lu Ye's ability to kill such a Demon General with Amber and Yiyi did not mean that he could kill a Cloud River Level 5 cultivator.

For one thing, cultivators might not be so easily captured into the Nine Worlds map.

Moreover, cultivators have more methods at their disposal, and even if they were captured into the Nine Worlds map, they would still retain the strength to resist. This Black Bear indeed possessed strength, but its spiritual intelligence was low, and that's why Lu Ye and Amber played it round and round.

The flesh and blood of such a Demon General were undoubtedly very attractive to Amber, and Lu Ye also favored the taste of demon beast meat. Compared to ordinary beast meat, demon beast meat was more nourishing, and consuming it over a long period could strengthen the body and improve health.

After the big battle, Amber had already pounced on it, tearing and biting into the Black Bear's flesh. Lu Ye walked up, placed his hand on the Black Bear's belly, and stimulated his spirit force to probe within.

He quickly noticed something, and thrust the Boulder Mountain Saber into the Black Bear's abdomen. With a stir and a pull, he extracted a round bead the size of a longan, dripping with fresh blood.

Lu Ye took out some clean water to wash off the blood on the surface, and looked it over. The whole bead was radiating a crimson hue, appearing to be a flesh core.

A demonic pill!

Ordinary demon beasts do not have demonic pills within them; only when they advance to the level of Demon General do their bodies condense a demonic pill, which is the crystallization and source of all the Demon General's power.

With the demonic pill in hand, Lu Ye carefully sensed it and indeed could perceive the abundant Demon Origin within.

Amber, mouth stained with fresh blood, came over and rubbed against Lu Ye's hand, its longing eyes unable to hide its desire.

Lu Ye casually tossed the demonic pill to Amber, who swallowed it in one gulp, contented.

"Yiyi!"

Lu Ye softly called out, and the scenery shifted. Lu Ye and Amber, along with the corpse of the Black Bear Demon General, appeared together in an open space outside the cave.

He stored the Black Bear Demon General's corpse as reserve food, then collected the array banners scattered at the entrance of the cave, and led Amber and Yiyi away.

He had originally wanted to try the spirit fortune stick, but now that was no longer possible. He would have to find another place.

Half an hour later, atop a small mountain, Lu Ye alighted.

He found a suitable location and sat down cross-legged.

Yiyi knelt by his side, staring at him eagerly, while curiosity filled Amber's eyes.

Both were encountering the spirit fortune stick for the first time, so they were eager to know what the effect would be.

Lu Ye first took out the green spirit fortune stick. Earlier in the cave, he had examined it; the spirit fortune stick seemed to be made of jade, smooth and moist. Regardless of the color, green or purple, the size and shape were exactly the same. The only difference was the color.

Lu Ye did not know what kind of mystery lay within the spirit fortune stick that could aid a cultivator's cultivation.

He would know once he tried.

With a forceful pinch, the green spirit fortune stick in his hand immediately turned to powder. The green powder didn't scatter with the wind but gently swirled and pulsed in front of Lu Ye, quickly forming a green circle.

The circle was not large, merely about the size of a fist.

At the same moment the green circle formed, a visibly pure mist emerged from thin air.

The stream of mist poured out from within the green circle, and in the blink of an eye, the space around Lu Ye was hazy.

Upon closer inspection, he was surprised to find that the mist was spirit mist!

Lu Ye was astonished, as the nature's spiritual energy required an extremely rich concentration to form a mist.

Moreover, this spontaneously generated spirit mist also felt exceptionally pure and flawless.

Lu Ye had not yet begun to breathe in and out deliberately but simply relied on his natural breathing, and the spirit mist followed his inhalation and exhalation into his body, rapidly being consumed and transformed into his own spirit force.

Atop the small mountain, while the wind howled, it had no effect on the spirit mist whatsoever. The mist spawned from nothing lingered around Lu Ye, impervious to the blowing wind.

Seeing this, Yiyi immediately entered a state of cultivation, and Amber, too, opened its maw wide, continuously swallowing the spirit mist to strengthen itself.

As for Lu Ye himself, he had already begun to construct a small spirit energy gathering funnel.

Before and after just half an hour, the spirit mist that enveloped the surroundings disappeared, and Lu Ye checked the river of spirit force within his body, noticing no significant change.

The cultivation in the Spirit Stream Realm meant opening orifices and thereafter forming Minor Circumambulation cycles within the spiritual orifices. With each additional cycle, the level would rise one realm.

Upon reaching the Cloud River Realm, one needs to draw spirit force to enlarge and build up the scale and volume of the river of spirit force within oneself. Each time one breaks through a limit, the cultivation would progress one level.

Chapter 450 Really Good Luck

The benefits brought by a green spirit fortune stick were clearly not enough to cause any significant transformation in Lu Ye's cultivation, but he could feel that his spirit force river had indeed grown a bit stronger.

He then took out the purple spirit fortune stick and squeezed it forcefully.

As before, the same scene occurred. The purple spirit fortune stick turned into fine powder, swirling and moving in front of him, and then formed a purple circle. From within that circle, a large amount of pure spirit mist gushed forth.

By comparison, the density of this spirit mist was the same as before, with no changes. It seemed that the difference was in the quantity.

The spirit mist born from the crushed purple spirit fortune stick should be more than that from the green one. As for whether this was the case, a trial would reveal the truth.

Previously, the spirit mist from the green spirit fortune stick allowed Lu Ye and Yiyi and Amber to practice cultivation for half a Shichen. It was unknown how long the purple one could sustain them.

The spirit mist continued to gush forth ceaselessly. However, after reaching a certain scale, no more spirit mist came out, but the purple circle remained.

As Lu Ye and Yiyi and Amber practiced cultivation, the spirit mist was consumed, and only then did new spirit mist emerge from the purple circle.

Lu Ye faintly discerned the principle: crushing a spirit fortune stick did not create spirit mist from nothing. In other words, the spirit fortune stick did not contain spirit mist. The stick itself was just a medium. After being crushed, it turned into a circle, connecting to an unknown place, where the spirit mist gushed from. Moreover, to avoid unnecessary waste, new spirit mist would not supplement the used spirit mist before it was consumed.

Half a Shichen passed, and the purple circle was still present, continuously producing spirit mist.

One Shichen passed, and it was still the same.

Two Shichen, and it remained unchanged...

It was only after eight to ten Shichen that the purple circle within slowly dissipated and no more spirit mist emerged.

It matched the information he had obtained.

The information he bought from Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union contained some records about spirit fortune sticks.

After all, over the years, cultivators within the Cloud River Realm had done some comparisons and records with different spirit fortune sticks, ultimately concluding that the exchange ratio between spirit fortune sticks of different colors was roughly one to three.

In other words, one gold-hued spirit fortune stick was equivalent to three purple ones, which was equivalent to nine blue ones, 27 green ones, and 81 white ones.

Between green and purple spirit fortune sticks, with blue being in between, the benefits they brought to a cultivator differed by ninefold.

Previously, the spirit mist from the green spirit fortune stick was consumed by Lu Ye in half a Shichen.

Now, the purple one lasted him eight to ten Shichen, truly a ninefold difference.

Upon checking the state of his spirit force river, the spirit force within clearly flowed faster, and the volume of the river had expanded. It was just that it had not yet reached a qualitative change that would allow advancement in cultivation level.

Lu Ye faintly felt that if he could have two or three more purple spirit fortune sticks, he might be able to advance to the Cloud River Level 2!

This rate of cultivation was indeed much faster than simply consuming elixir pills.

He had always relied on consuming elixir pills as his primary method of cultivation. Before, he felt that spirit fortune sticks were somewhat dispensable, but now it seemed that if he encountered Heaven-bestowed spirit fortune sticks again, he definitely could not miss out.

To any cultivator, spirit fortune sticks were extremely important, and looking at the broader Cloud River battlefield, spirit fortune sticks could even become more critical than merits, serving as a strategic resource. Having enough spirit fortune sticks in hand would make everything convenient.

Furthermore, he and Amber could consume elixir pills, but Yiyi could not. With spirit fortune sticks, Yiyi could also rapidly increase her strength.

Just arriving at the Cloud River battlefield and already gaining such benefits, Lu Ye was quite satisfied.

Popping an Origin Spirit Pill into his mouth, Lu Ye took out the ten-part map to examine it.

Originally, he had planned to check out a Class C Spirit Ground, but he had been chased all the way and ended up in these deep mountains and ancient forests. Now looking again, the Class C Spirit Ground was already far from him.

With no alternative, he had to set out again.

Summoning the spirit ark, he soared into the sky.

Two hours later, as night fell, Lu Ye descended and landed on top of a small mountain peak.

It was late, and not suitable to continue traveling. Lu Ye, no longer the unbeatable Lu Yiye on the Spirit Stream battlefield but merely a newcomer at Cloud River Level 1, decided to rest here for the night before setting out again.

The reason he chose this spot was that he observed from the air that there were several ruined buildings on the peak, indicating that people once lived here, but now the place was deserted.

Lu Ye examined the surroundings, making sure there was no sign of living people. Unexpectedly, he stumbled upon a dried-up spring.

He immediately understood that this place was once a spirit ground, and the dried-up spring was the most obvious sign.

Each spirit ground had a Spiritual Spring!

The surging Spiritual Spring brought forth pure and rich nature's spiritual energy, thereby forming various spirit grounds.

However, the spiritual energy of some spirit grounds was not everlasting. Once the Spiritual Spring dried up, no more spiritual energy gushed forth, and the spirit ground ceased to be one.

Judging from the quantity and scale of the remaining buildings, this was likely a small spirit ground, which probably only housed three to five people. As for the grade of the spirit ground, it was impossible to determine.

The size of a spirit ground did not necessarily equate to its quality. The size of a spirit ground depended on the scale of the Spiritual Spring. The larger the spring, the larger the spirit ground.

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Some large spirit grounds are only Class D, while some small ones are Class A; the size of a spirit ground doesn't directly correlate with its grade.

Lu Ye casually chose a room that looked fairly intact and walked in, glancing around. The furnishings inside were very simple, just a bed, a table, a chair, and a meditation cushion.

It seemed that the cultivator who lived here before wasn't much for luxury.

Most cultivators are like this, not pursuing much in life, only immersed in enhancing their own cultivation and strength.

Lu Ye was no different, so he was quite satisfied with his current situation.

After setting up a few simple formations outside the house, Lu Ye returned inside and sat down cross-legged. He first took out a dragon scale and devoured the blood Qi within it, and then he began to both swallow elixir pills for cultivation and read.

Studying various manuscripts while cultivating had become his habit.

This trip out, he had brought back quite a few precious books from Madam Yun, and he had also not yet fully grasped the twenty parts of saber skill insights obtained from the Mad Saber Sect.

As for the five dragon scales, he had four of them, and he had given one to Amber, who was very fond of it.

Time passed, and suddenly Lu Ye's expression shifted as he faintly heard an abnormal noise.

It wasn't the sound of human commotion, but more like the sound of flowing water...

There were no springs or streams nearby, so where was the sound of flowing water coming from?

Seeming to recall something, Lu Ye quickly got up and went outside to investigate.

Following the source of the sound, Lu Ye soon arrived at the edge of a spiritual spring that had previously dried up. At this moment, the spring was bubbling forth with clear, cold water, and as the water surged, an extremely dense nature's spiritual energy also gushed out with it.

The spiritual energy around the spring had become much denser as a result.

Lu Ye was astonished!

Had he encountered something that rarely happened in a hundred years?

After a spiritual spring dried up, there was a certain chance it could revive, but this was so rare that cultivators hardly ever saw it happen.

Although this place was an abandoned spirit ground, now that the once-dry spring had come back to life, it meant that the spirit ground could also be resurrected.

He had originally planned to explore someone else's Class C spirit ground to see the situation there and how dense their nature's spiritual energy could be, but it looked like now there was no need to go elsewhere.

He had a spirit ground of his own...

As for what grade this spirit ground would ultimately be, it was still not clear. He would have to wait until the spring stabilized before making an assessment.

Moreover... Lu Ye didn't understand the standards for each spirit ground at all, so making a judgment was really beyond him.

"Lu Ye, Lu Ye, could there be treasures under there?" Yiyi asked with excitement, looking at the gushing spiritual spring.

Her words stirred his mind, "Shall we go down and take a look?"

"Mmhmm," said Yiyi, and without another word, she dove underground to explore.

The spiritual spring continued to surge, and after about several dozen breaths, Yiyi popped her head out with a somewhat unhappy look. From her expression, it was evident that she had found nothing.

She was even muttering to herself, "It doesn't make sense," "It can't be," and the like.

In her opinion, the spring's surge bringing up such a large amount of nature's spiritual energy clearly indicated that there must be some miraculous treasure underground, but after her exploration, she found nothing. The spiritual energy brought forth by the spring seemed to have been created out of thin air.

During the day she was oddly given a purple spirit fortune stick, and now at night, she had inexplicably gained a spirit ground. Lu Ye suddenly realized that his luck was really not bad.

Although this spirit ground was technically his possession, whether he could defend it was another matter.

In the Cloud River battlefield, cultivators would fight over the ownership of spirit grounds, and disputes over high-grade spirit grounds were especially common.

If Lu Ye couldn't defend this spirit ground, it would only benefit others.

Depending on just himself definitely wouldn't work, even with Yiyi and Amber included. So he needed more help!

There was one ready assistant, but he was unsure of his current whereabouts.

Lu Ye touched the battlefield marking on his hand and sent a message to Giant Armor, informing him of his location and asking him to hurry over and meet up.

Giant Armor replied, "Ack!"

He also tried to send messages to his fourth senior brother and Feng Yuechan, but they still couldn't be reached.

After doing all this, Lu Ye had Yiyi watch over the Spiritual Spring while he took sixteen array bases out of his storage space.

He had several sets of these array bases, all plundered from other cultivator's strongholds in the Spirit Stream battlefield. Most of them were handed over to Shui Yuan to deal with, and he had kept only a few.

Keeping them on hand was just to be prepared for emergencies, but he had not expected them to come in handy so soon.

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