

Humanity 511

Chapter 511 Convergence

Li Baxian was indeed accompanying Feng Yuechan, and at this moment, within the not-so-large battlefield, he fought enemies with his Sword Control, his figure never straying far from Feng Yuechan's side, protecting her thoroughly, while around Feng Yuechan, spirit force surged, continuously casting magic and spells that blasted towards all directions.

Their opponents numbered three, no, five!

One of them had already collapsed to the ground, with crimson blood flowing beneath, alive or dead unknown, and judging by the injury, it was clearly the handiwork of Li Baxian.

There was another outside the battlefield, with spirit force surging all around him, holding an array banner that he constantly shook.

This person was an array cultivator, and judging by the fluctuation of spirit force on his body, he was unmistakably a Level 5 array cultivator.

The three people facing off against Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan also had cultivation levels of the Level 4-5 realm.

At this point, the expressions on the three of them were ugly, their eyes brimming with shock, simply because Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan were displaying monstrous abilities.

They had ambushed first, with an absolute numerical advantage, yet not only did they fail to capture these two immediately, they were instead killed by the duo, and if their array cultivator comrade hadn't activated the Formation they had set up here in time, the three of them would definitely have been no match.

Even with the Formation's help, the three were still in dire straits; the rainbow-like sword light, whether in lethality or speed, was terrifying to the extreme, and the power of those spells was also immense.

Where did these two monsters come from!

The group had the bitter taste of swallowing coptis, knowing they had kicked an iron plate.

One of the Level 5 cultivators realized things were going south, and continuing the fight like this, not to mention how long they could hold out, the commotion from this side would definitely attract others. If those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge arrived, it wouldn't matter—they could join forces and kill these two monsters—but if some from Haotian Alliance came, they'd be in trouble.

With the odds at fifty-fifty, nobody dared to gamble.

He immediately called out, "Misunderstanding, misunderstanding, how about we all stop fighting?"

He was already thinking of retreat, but Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan were vicious in their attacks; without them stopping, there was no chance to leave.

As for the comrade who died... they were just temporarily allied, not actually brothers from the same sect; his death was just bad luck.

Hearing the shout, Li Baxian slightly furrowed his brows, and the onslaught in his hands slowed a bit.

It's not that he lacked the confidence to kill these people, but now caught within the Formation with an array cultivator assisting the other side, neither he nor Feng Yuechan could fully unleash their strength. The power they were currently displaying was only eighty percent of their usual capability.

Even so, the two, hand in hand, were confident of exterminating all these people despite being within the Formation.

After all, this Formation was not all that profound.

He and Feng Yuechan had accumulated over ten years in the Spirit Stream Realm, and although they wasted much time, with such a deep accumulation, both of their foundations were extremely robust.

The opponents were merely ordinary cultivators of the Level 4-5 realm, how could they be a match.

But in the end, this was a hunting ground, and the longer the conflict took, the more complications could arise. They needed to find Lu Ye and regroup first.

With this thought, Li Baxian shouted, "Alright!"

The intensity of his attacks slowed once more.

The Level 5 cultivator who'd called out heaved a sigh of relief, just as he was about to speak, a sudden scream came from not far away. The color drained from the speaker's face upon hearing it, because he recognized the cry—it was from their own array cultivator comrade.

A flash of peripheral vision caught sight of an additional figure behind the array cultivator, where the glittering light of a saber had pierced his chest, shimmering with a cold gleam.

It's over!

Lu Ye had arrived at the site, and upon seeing the predicament of Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan, his eyes—enhanced with Insight Spirit Runes—spotted the operating Formation. Without any courtesy, he quietly approached the array cultivator.

The opponent, focused on activating the Formation to suppress Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan, and shocked by the duo's overwhelming power, had no guard against Lu Ye's approach. By the time Lu Ye made his move with such ferocity, and the cultivator noticed, it was too late.

The Boulder Mountain Saber pierced the man's chest, and as the long saber was pulled out, blood spewed forth. Lu Ye swung the blade again, and a head flew into the air.

Almost at the instant he took action, Li Baxian, who had already slowed his assault, unleashed his flying sword once again, targeting the Level 5 cultivator who had just spoken. A series of clanks rang out as the

pursuing flying sword forced the man to stumble back with blood spurting wildly from his body. Just as he barely steadied himself, a fierce intent to kill approached from behind.

It was Lu Ye, having entered the Formation and pouncing to kill.

Before he reached him, the Boulder Mountain Saber had already slashed out, the saber light like a crescent moon tearing through the void, heavily landing on the man's back, breaking through his protective spirit force, and leaving a gory wound.

A scream arose, then abruptly ceased.

Lu Ye's figure had already swept past him, pouncing towards the next target, the long blade trailing a spray of hot blood.

Behind, the Level 5 cultivator staggered, then collapsed with a thud.

However, before Lu Ye could reach the second person, that man was struck by a Lightning Attracting Technique head-on. The lightning serpent writhed, electrocuting him into shivering convulsions as his body charred, and the second incoming spell blasted a hole through his chest, puncturing it back to front.

On the other side, the last Level 4 cultivator was also felled by Li Baxian's flying sword.

The intense fight settled into dust within ten breaths after Lu Ye's arrival.

Li Baxian and Lu Ye locked eyes, the former's gaze full of astonishment and surprise. Lu Ye beckoned, "Follow me!"

Saying so, he turned and retraced his steps, with Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan hurriedly following.

In the disheveled battlefield, Yiyi swiftly gathered up the loot before proceeding to escape underground.

On the way back to the cave, Lu Ye looked up at the Kills Ranking and couldn't help but twitch at the corner of his eye when he saw the first place.

Moments later, under Lu Ye's guidance, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan passed through the area with the explosion magic array and arrived at the bottom of the cave.

They sat down cross-legged, and Li Baxian looked around with astonishment: "What kind of Formation is this?"

With his keen eyesight, he could tell there was a Formation here, but since he did not study the Array Path, he could not discern its exact nature.

However, since Lu Ye dared to lead them here to hide, it was clear he had something to rely on.

"Teleportation array."

"Teleportation array?"

Both Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan were surprised, although they had long known that Lu Ye had remarkable achievements in the Array Path, they had never imagined that Lu Ye could set up something like a teleportation array!

This was simply beyond imagination.

After all, Lu Ye was currently only at the Cloud River Realm.

"How far can it teleport?"

Li Baxian asked. The farther the teleportation array could send someone, the greater its value. If it could only teleport a few miles, it would be useless, as a Cloud River Realm cultivator could quickly cover that distance.

"About 200 miles."

"Hiss..."

Li Baxian drew a sharp breath.

Feng Yuechan also showed a shocked expression.

Although both were only at the Cloud River Realm, after so many years of cultivation and their vast experiences, they understood what it meant for someone at the Cloud River Realm to set up a teleportation array that could cover a distance of 200 miles.

Lu Ye's mastery of the Array Path was definitely higher than they had thought.

Such a teleportation array must not be the only one that Lu Ye had set up; otherwise, he wouldn't be hiding here.

With this teleportation array, even if Lu Ye's cultivation was a bit lower, as long as he did not actively seek trouble and focused on preserving himself as the goal, he could rest easy within this hunting ground.

Li Baxian felt ashamed. He had thought that Lu Ye was in dire straits inside the hunting ground, with enemies on all sides, which is why he and Feng Yuechan had rushed over so frantically, not knowing that their junior brother had such abilities.

This was good news. With the teleportation array at hand, even if they encountered an insurmountable opponent, they could always escape at a moment's notice.

Remembering the matter of cultivation, Li Baxian was surprised again, "Junior brother, how did you reach Level 3 already?"

Calculating the time, Lu Ye had only advanced to the Cloud River Realm not even two months prior. Li Baxian had thought that Lu Ye hadn't even reached Level 2 yet, but when he looked just now, Lu Ye had indeed already reached Level 3.

"I had some good luck. Recently, I experienced a secret realm and acquired quite a few battle merits, which I used to exchange for some spirit fortune sticks."

While the group was talking, Yiyi returned from her underground escape, respectfully greeting Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan: "Greetings to Fourth Senior Brother and Senior Sister Feng."

Li Baxian nodded with a smile: "It has been many days since we last met. Junior sister has grown even more beautiful."

This was not flattery. Indeed, Yiyi, having advanced to the Cloud River Realm alongside Amber, looked even prettier than before, and it seemed that she had grown a bit as well.

Li Baxian's compliment made Yiyi's eyes curve into crescent moons.

Feng Yuechan pulled her to sit down, and Yiyi handed over the loot that she had collected to Lu Ye.

Lu Ye accepted it, casually breaking the restriction on the storage sack while chatting with Li Baxian.

During the struggle with the enemy earlier, Lu Ye had checked his and Feng Yuechan's cultivations. Both Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan were at the Cloud River Level 4, one level higher than him.

After all, both of them had entered the Cloud River battlefield a few months earlier than Lu Ye. While Lu Ye was fortunate, their luck wasn't bad either. They too had their chances and had advanced to Level 4 more than a month ago.

Li Baxian inquired about the Righteous Blood Sect, and Lu Ye informed him of everything.

Upon learning that the sect's development was going well and the future looked promising, Li Baxian sighed: "It must have been tough on our junior brother."

The Righteous Blood Sect as it stood could be said to have been pulled up by Lu Ye's hand alone. When he first returned to the sect, the entire Righteous Blood Sect had only the sect master, the Second Senior Sister, and him as a disciple.

But now, the number of disciples in the Righteous Blood Sect was not less than seven or eight hundred, and the development of its residence was booming. Looking across the entire outer circle of the battlefield, there was no equal.

The residence boasted various enhancements that even most of the sects in the inner circle couldn't compare with. Furthermore, the sect had a wealth of merit points that could be used to purchase more enhancements at any time.

In addition, the protection money sent by the core circle sects from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had made the Righteous Blood Sect instantly wealthy. Not to mention anything else, just those resources alone would allow the development of the Righteous Blood Sect for another ten or twenty years without any problem.

All of this was brought about by Lu Ye alone.

Chapter 512 The Theory of Luck

During casual conversation, the restrictions on the storage sacks were all opened.

Previously, there were only five enemies, but Yiyi had collected more than twenty storage sacks.

It was naturally impossible for five people to have so many storage sacks. Generally speaking, a cultivator would have more than one storage sack on them, but not too many, mostly two or three, to sort and store different items.

That these five individuals had so many storage sacks clearly indicated that they were spoils of war from previous killings, and now they all cheaply fell into Lu Ye's hands.

Lu Ye picked out ten storage sacks and kept them for himself, pushing the rest toward Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan.

Li Baxian did not decline, since they were all brothers, there was no need to be overly courteous. He picked up the storage sacks and started to rummage through them, sorting out the useful items one by one.

Lu Ye did the same.

Overall, there weren't many valuable items, just some common materials, along with Spiritual Artifacts. The materials could be used, and the Spiritual Artifacts could be sold for merit or brought back to the Righteous Blood Sect.

The cultivators from the Cloud River Realm generally used mid-grade spirit artifacts, which were quite valuable.

A moment later, Lu Ye suddenly pulled out a chest radiating five-colored halos from a storage sack. This item looked familiar; it was a fortune stick chest.

Without hesitation, Lu Ye immediately opened the chest, releasing a blue light.

Li Baxian, who was next to him, looked on in surprise, "Junior Brother Lu, you really have good luck."

Having been in the Cloud River battlefield for so long, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan had also acquired some fortune stick chests, and Li Baxian even had three in his own storage sack. But up to now, the best spirit fortune stick he had obtained from these was green at most; he had never seen a blue one.

After inquiring with others, it was mostly the same; although a fortune stick chest had a chance to produce a gold-hued spirit fortune stick, the odds were extremely low, not to mention gold-hued, even pulling out a purple one from the chest was exceedingly rare. Nine out of ten cultivators who opened a fortune stick chest ended up with white or green sticks, and those with better luck might get blue.

It was precisely for this reason that he had saved up the chests, planning to open them all at once to see if he could get a better spirit fortune stick.

The saying goes, if luck isn't enough, make up for it with quantity!

But unexpectedly, Lu Ye straightforwardly pulled out a blue one.

"When I advanced to the Cloud River realm, I received the Heaven's Augury Bestowment, and since then, my luck has been continuously great. There was also the time I entered a secret realm and obtained a secret technique that could change the pattern of the Beast Taming Faction. Somebody told me that if I sold that technique to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, I would gain Heaven's Augury's favor, boosting my luck, and then we sold that technique together."

"Junior Brother Lu, you received Heaven's Augury Bestowment?" It was the first time Li Baxian had heard of such a thing. At the time Lu Ye advanced to the Cloud River Realm, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan were already on the Cloud River battlefield and had not yet returned to the Nine Provinces, so it was hard to know what news had come from outside.

"Mhm."

"No wonder," Li Baxian realized. "I vaguely remember the old man saying, when the elder brother received the Heaven's Augury Bestowment, his luck became astonishing. Whatever he did was as if aided by heaven, allowing him to rise in an extremely short period and command the entire Haotian Alliance. It looks like it's true..."

A thought struck him, and he took out three fortune stick chests from his own storage sack and handed them to Lu Ye, "Help me open them, Junior Brother."

Knowing Lu Ye's luck was good, it seemed most appropriate to have Lu Ye open the treasure chests. What if a gold-hued one came out?

As Lu Ye held the three chests in his hands, he couldn't help but recall Xia Qianqian. A few days before, this woman also wanted to borrow some luck from him, but ended up drawing a white spirit fortune stick...

In the cave, three pairs of eyes watched intently.

Lu Ye gently opened the first chest, and white light emanated.

This caused Lu Ye to raise an eyebrow; something was amiss.

He had opened four chests before and after; the first time yielded a purple spirit fortune stick directly, stunning Xia Qianqian, the second was when Xia Qianqian asked for his help, which resulted in white, the third time was just now, a blue fortune stick, and then again a white one.

Once could be coincidence, could twice also be coincidence?

"Luck is like a river, it ebbs and flows, it's normal. Now, open the second one," Li Baxian said.

Lu Ye pondered for a moment, then spoke up, "Senior Brother, could I have these two fortune stick chests?"

Li Baxian smiled, "Why not, they are yours. It's a pity we only saved up three recently; had we known this would happen, we should have saved up the others as well."

As he spoke, Lu Ye had already opened the second fortune stick chest, and a green light burst forth.

It was passable, acceptable.

The third fortune stick chest was opened.

Purple radiance blossomed, casting a violet glow over everyone's faces.

Li Baxian exclaimed in a low voice, "Impressive!"

Feng Yuechan also widened her eyes, utterly not expecting Lu Ye to directly reveal a purple spirit fortune stick. Compared to a white one, its value instantly increased by twenty-seven fold!

Hearing about it was one thing, but seeing it with one's own eyes was another. It seemed true, as Lu Ye said, that after receiving the Heaven's Augury Bestowment, his luck was indeed astonishing.

Just over a month ago, Li Baxian was still complaining to her that if someone could really draw a spirit fortune stick higher than purple from the fortune stick chest, then it must mean that their ancestors' graves were emitting green smoke.

Today, she witnessed it with her own eyes!

Lu Ye pushed both the green and purple spirit fortune sticks he had drawn in front of Li Baxian.

Li Baxian looked at him, not understanding.

"It seems that only when I draw my own spirit fortune sticks does my luck work, and it's useless if I'm helping someone else."

Lu Ye explained this was the reason he had asked Li Baxian to give him the two fortune stick chests. If it wasn't for wanting to verify his guess, why would he have asked Li Baxian for those two chests?

There was no reason that when helping others draw, all he got were white sticks, but when he drew for himself, they were all above white.

This action confirmed his hypothesis, that his own luck probably only worked for himself, and others could not borrow it from him.

Looking at the two spirit fortune sticks in front of him, Li Baxian shook his head, "Junior Brother, I can't take these."

Just as Lu Ye was about to explain, Li Baxian said with a smile, "I understand what you mean, Junior Brother, but luck is elusive and intangible. If your luck truly comes from Heaven's Augury Bestowment, then you must be more cautious. Heaven's Augury is omnipresent, and if we try to obtain spirit fortune sticks through such opportunistic means, it might affect your luck and diminish Heaven's Augury's favor upon you, which would not be worth the loss."

"There's such a concept?" Lu Ye was surprised.

"Better safe than sorry," Li Baxian said seriously, unwilling to act recklessly with anything concerning Heaven's Augury, not even if there was the slightest possibility.

If it were anyone else, Li Baxian definitely would not refuse—after all, a purple spirit fortune stick is very precious and could increase his cultivation. But Lu Ye was a junior brother from his own faction; he could not harm Lu Ye.

Feng Yuechan also added from the side, "Senior Brother is right. It's best to be cautious with this kind of thing. Junior Brother Lu, you should not let others borrow luck from you in the future to avoid affecting your own destiny."

Lu Ye nodded in agreement.

"If that's the case, then I'll keep the spirit fortune sticks, and the rest of the stuff can go to Senior Brother and Senior Sister Feng."

He pushed his own storage sack towards them.

This time Li Baxian did not refuse and happily started rummaging through the storage sacks.

Lu Ye checked his own storage space, finding one gold-hued spirit fortune stick, one purple, one blue, one green, and two white. With so many sticks, Lu Ye estimated that he should be close to advancing to Level 4.

He had already accumulated a lot on Level 3 and should be not far from Level 4.

However, this was a hunting ground, not a convenient place to use spirit fortune sticks for cultivation. It was okay with white ones, which could be consumed in one incense stick's time, but not the gold-hued one. To fully utilize a gold-hued spirit fortune stick, it would take at least a day and a night, and it would be awkward if someone intruded during that period.

So to cultivate, he would have to wait until after the hunting ground closed and find a safe place.

"Junior Brother, if that's the case, you could totally go buy fortune stick chests, and buy them at the price of a green spirit fortune stick. With your luck, you definitely won't lose out," Li Baxian suddenly had a novel idea.

Feng Yuechan chuckled on the side, "The price of a green spirit fortune stick is only six or seven hundred merits. Once a cultivator reaches the Cloud River Realm, do they still lack those six or seven hundred merits? For cultivators in the Cloud River Realm, a fortune stick chest signifies the hope of a gold-hued spirit fortune stick. Instead of selling it for six or seven hundred merits, why not try your luck and open it yourself? Maybe Heaven's Augury will look favorably upon you."

After a moment of thought, Li Baxian nodded, "That's true."

Not to mention others, even himself, if he got a fortune stick chest, he definitely wouldn't sell it for six or seven hundred merits; there was always hope if he opened it himself. If he sold it to someone else and they drew a good spirit fortune stick, he would regret it deeply.

Moreover, in the Cloud River Realm, everyone was striving to improve their cultivation, and spirit fortune sticks were a primary means to do so. Generally, people would open the chests as soon as they got them; very few would hoard them.

Therefore, the likelihood of success in buying fortune stick chests was probably slim.

Unless Lu Ye was willing to pay the price for a blue spirit fortune stick, but even doing that, there was no guarantee of profit or loss for Lu Ye, and it was uncertain how many he could buy; perhaps he wouldn't be able to buy a single chest even after several days of trying.

After the fortune stick chests were dealt with and the storage sacks were all opened, the goods were gathered. Li Baxian found a storage sack to put in some elixir pills and Spirit Stones, and tossed it to Lu Ye.

Before Lu Ye could refuse, Li Baxian said, "There are many array banners inside."

Lu Ye kept silent, and after checking, indeed found dozens of array banners inside. It seemed to be the remnants of that array cultivator. Although he had previously crafted a batch of array banners, he didn't have many left. Now with dozens more, it was a good replenishment, so he accepted it and carefully put it away.

"Junior Brother, what are your plans next?" Li Baxian asked.

"Originally, I was thinking of using the teleportation array I set up to hide here until the hunting ground closes."

"And now?"

Li Baxian raised an eyebrow, sensing the implication in Lu Ye's words.

Lu Ye sighed, "There's something I forgot to tell Senior Brother. The person ranked first on the Kills Ranking seems to be me!"

Chapter 513 The First is Me

In the cave, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan gazed blankly at Lu Ye.

After a moment, Li Baxian finally said, "Didn't you say there was someone else before?"

"I also thought there was someone else, because in my own calculations, my kill points were not that much, the first place's kill points were a whole thousand more than I had calculated, but just now, I observed that after I killed two Level 5 realm cultivators, the first place's kill points increased by two hundred and forty..."

Previously, five people had besieged Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan. By the time Lu Ye arrived, one of them had already been killed by Li Baxian.

Lu Ye launched a sneak attack on the Level 5 realm array cultivator and then killed another Level 5 realm cultivator, Repeated Slashing two people.

For his Level 3 cultivation to exceed two ranks and kill Level 5 cultivators, each kill awarded him one hundred twenty kill points. First place on the Kills Ranking originally had one thousand five hundred fifty kill points, but after Lu Ye killed the two Level 5 realm cultivators, it became one thousand seven hundred ninety points, an increase of two hundred forty points.

Moreover, after failing to find his own name among the ranking of over ninety, Lu Ye could almost determine that the one ranked first was himself.

Otherwise, the numbers wouldn't have matched up so coincidentally.

"The kill points on the Kills Ranking are a full thousand more than you calculated? Where did they come from?" Li Baxian was puzzled.

"After much thought, there's only one possibility."

As he spoke, Lu Ye took out a gold-hued spirit fortune stick from his storage space: "It must be because of this thing! Within the hunting grounds, each day Heaven's Augury selects one person to bestow a golden spirit fortune stick. This stick cannot be used, nor taken into possession for twelve Shichen. Only after the twelve Shichen can the spirit fortune stick be truly possessed. I have been selected once by Heaven's Augury before."

Li Baxian was curious about the source of the thousand extra kill points, and Lu Ye was equally curious, the only possibility he could think of was this.

However, he hadn't been informed of such a thing when he purchased intelligence from the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union, so he wasn't certain.

Moreover, a whole thousand kill points seemed a bit too much.

"I'll ask around," Feng Yuechan said as she began to send out secret communications. Li Baxian's relationship with the cultivators of Loyal Heart Sect was bad, but it was different for Feng Yuechan. Regardless of her origin, appearance, figure, or talent, she was top-tier in the Loyal Heart Sect. She had been on the Spirit Stream battlefield for over a decade, having seen off countless Loyal Heart Sect cultivators. Now, within the Cloud River battlefield, many from the Loyal Heart Sect's Cloud River Realm were active, including those of Level 8-9. These people should have more information about the hunting grounds.

After a short while, Feng Yuechan ended her communications and spoke: "Indeed, the spirit fortune sticks bestowed by Heaven's Augury can bring cultivators kill points, and the amount is directly related to the cultivator's cultivation level and possession time upon the duration's end. The lower the cultivation, the longer the possession, and the more kill points it brings!"

With Lu Ye's Level 3 cultivation, holding on for a full twenty-four Shichen, no one else in all Nine Provinces could achieve that aside from him.

Not to mention, with the spirit fortune stick's burst every six hours, a total of four times, one's location would be exposed, attracting a horde of cultivators to fight over it. How could a Level 3 maintain possession of the spirit fortune stick under such conditions?

It was precisely because he accomplished this nearly impossible task that he was able to gain a full thousand kill points in one go, climbing to the top of the Kills Ranking and greatly outpacing the second-place holder.

Two days had elapsed since the opening of the hunting ground. Before Lu Ye, there had been another golden spirit fortune stick bestowed, but that one exchanged hands several times, eventually landing with a Level 8 cultivator who, having only held it for just over four hours, earned a total of three hundred kill points.

At that time, Lu Ye hid in a cave, constantly ready to flee; naturally, he was completely unaware of this.

"Wonderful," Li Baxian exclaimed and clapped his hands.

Lu Ye had set up numerous teleportation arrays in advance, so in case of an emergency, he could teleport away at once. Thus, a golden spirit fortune stick given by Heaven's Augury was definitely not a blessing for a standard Level 3 cultivator, but for Lu Ye, it didn't have much of an impact.

The one thousand kill points were as if Heaven's Augury had given them for free.

This made Li Baxian deeply realize how fortunate Lu Ye was.

"Originally as a lone junior brother, my priority was self-preservation, thinking to simply hide here until the hunting ground closed. But now, the first place on the Kills Ranking... It's not something I can't compete for!"

First place on the Kills Ranking came with the reward of a Class A Spring Spirit and nine golden spirit fortune sticks—who wouldn't be envious?

Lu Ye was envious, too. He had once lost possession of a Class C Spirit Ground; while it wasn't much of an upgrade for him and somewhat restrictive, he simply discarded it.

But a Class A Spirit Ground was different. Even if he didn't need it much, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan certainly did, as did Giant Armor. With such a spirit ground, they could cultivate within it without having to travel outside seeking various opportunities, even if they couldn't rise as quickly as they would by using spirit fortune sticks. Owning a Class A Spirit Ground was stable.

Furthermore, in addition to a Class A Spring Spirit, there were also nine golden spirit fortune sticks—those were precisely what Lu Ye needed at the moment.

He already had a considerable number of spirit fortune sticks in hand, but at most, they would only allow him to advance to the Level 4 realm. His future cultivation would require even more spirit fortune sticks.

Of course, what truly sparked his ambition to compete for the top spot on the Kills Ranking was the arrival of his fourth senior brother and Feng Yuechan. Both of them were extraordinary cultivators from

the Cloud River Realm, already at the Level 4 realm. It would not be an exaggeration to say that overcoming adversaries two levels higher should pose no problem for them.

With the support of his fourth senior brother and Feng Yuechan, if they could secure first place on the Kills Ranking, the nine gold-hued spirit fortune sticks would be divided among them, granting each person three. That would be enough to allow him to make a significant leap in his Level 4 cultivation, saving many days of arduous cultivation.

Another point was that his cultivation was indeed low. Looking around the current hunting grounds, it would be hard to find many with a lower cultivation than his. Yet, having a lower cultivation also had its advantages!

The advantage of earning kill points.

Kill points were directly linked to merit, exchanging them on a one-to-one basis. An enemy from the Cloud River Level 5 killed by him would yield a different number of kill points compared to one killed by Li Baxian.

So although the majority of the strong contenders on the Kills Ranking were from the Level 8-9 realms, if Lu Ye killed a Level 5, they would need to kill three Level 5s. And if Lu Ye killed a Level 6, they would have to kill four Level 6s to match the kill points Lu Ye earned.

While it was indeed easier for the Level 8-9 realm powerhouses to defeat their enemies, Lu Ye would earn kill points by different multiples for his kills. Each side had its own advantages.

In comparison, Lu Ye's advantage was undoubtedly greater, as he had the ability to defeat enemies above his level. With his current strength, ordinary Level 5 cultivators were no match for him, let alone with the help of Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan; even Level 6 could be killed!

Level 7... best avoided if possible.

As for Level 8-9, there was absolutely no way to defeat them, even if the three of them joined forces; the gap in cultivation was too large. However, with proper measures in place, even if they encountered such powerful foes, they would still have a chance to escape.

Upon realizing he could actually be the first on the Kills Ranking, and after reuniting with his fourth senior brother and Feng Yuechan, Lu Ye's ambition was ignited.

All that being said, it was still best to proceed with caution in action.

"Little Junior Brother wants to vie for first place?"

Li Baxian raised his eyebrow but, after pondering for a moment, thought that it might be feasible. If there was absolutely no hope, then forget it; the key point now was that Lu Ye was currently the first on the Kills Ranking, and had a considerable lead over the second place. He didn't dare to say more, but as long as they maintained this trend and lasted until the hunting grounds closed, they would succeed.

With a thought, Li Baxian nodded and said, "Since Little Junior Brother has this idea, then your senior brother and Senior Sister Feng will lend you a helping hand!"

"Senior brother and Senior Sister Feng, please protect me while I craft some array banners."

Although he had just obtained several dozen array banners, to make waves in the hunting grounds he still needed enough banners. No matter how you looked at it, all three of their cultivations were slightly lower than ideal.

With plenty of array banners, Lu Ye could set up formations without any reservations. Only with the aid of the power of formations would he have a chance of preserving himself in dangerous situations.

The objective of setting up formations was not to kill enemies, but to ensure a retreat. In these hunting grounds, there were many powerhouses from the Level 8-9 realms, and who knew when one might encounter them.

He still had many materials left over from the ones he had purchased from Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union, enough to craft several hundred array banners. The only problem was that crafting array banners would cause fluctuations in spirit force, which could easily reveal his position.

For this reason, Lu Ye setup a large array to conceal his activities. Now, as long as he didn't make too much noise, no one outside would be able to detect him.

Time trickled past, and Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan both rested and recuperated while keeping vigilant watch in all directions.

A great many materials were consumed, and one array banner after another was completed.

While he was busy crafting array banners, many strong contenders on the Kills Ranking were spreading out to earn kill points. Xia Liang, from the Mad Saber Sect—a 1st grade sect—and advancing to Cloud River using his 360 orifices, had secured a top-ten position on the Spirit Stream Ranking during the Spirit Stream battlefield. Looking across the entire hunting grounds, his strength was top-tier as well.

When the Kills Ranking first appeared, he had been overshadowed by Lu Ye. However, he soon rebounded, steadily capturing the first place and hunting the cultivators of the Haotian Alliance everywhere. Then suddenly, Lu Ye overtook him and pulled ahead by several hundred kill points.

This made Xia Liang quite frustrated.

If he had merely suspected that this Lu Yiye was the guy from Righteous Blood Sect before, now he was certain of it.

Because the increase of a full thousand kill points undoubtedly indicated that Lu Ye's cultivation was not high, which matched the intelligence he had received. However, it was unclear how Lu Ye managed to possess those special gold-hued spirit fortune sticks for a full twelve Shichen.

While roaming and hunting everywhere, he was also looking for Lu Ye's whereabouts, to no avail. The hunting grounds weren't too large nor too small. Unless he had precise intelligence, finding a particular person there wasn't an easy task.

He didn't believe that Lu Ye could contend with him for the first place. A cultivator with low cultivation from Cloud River Realm would definitely be hiding somewhere at this moment, not daring to show his face, let alone come out and compete with him.

The reality proved his thoughts right. Over the course of a day and a night, Lu Ye's kill points remained fixed at one thousand seven hundred ninety, while his own kill points had reached over one thousand six hundred. Just a few more kills, and he would reclaim the first place.

Chapter 514 Hunt

In the cave, Lu Ye had prepared numerous array banners, and everything was ready. Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan had also fully recovered.

The three of them got up, and Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan each took out an object and applied it to their faces.

Lu Ye looked closely and saw that Li Baxian's face now bore the mask of a child with rosy lips and white teeth, his smile beaming, while Feng Yuechan had applied a mask depicting a young girl with a grievous expression and tear stains on her cheeks.

Li Baxian also took out another mask and handed it to Lu Ye, "Junior Brother, put this on, it will make our activities more convenient."

Lu Ye silently fetched a menacing mask with a green face and sharp fangs from his own storage space and fixed it onto his face.

Li Baxian, taken aback, chuckled and said, "It seems the Junior Brother was well-prepared."

All of them were easy targets for the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, but it seemed they were all telepathically in sync, keeping masks ready on hand.

They left the cave, each concealing their aura, and chose a random direction to head forward.

Although competing for the Kills Ranking was the goal, ensuring their own safety was the primary objective. Thus, they couldn't stray too far from the cave; otherwise, it would be too late to retreat in case of danger.

As long as they did not venture too far from the cave, even if they encountered an overwhelmingly powerful enemy, they could still rush back to the cave and escape to safety using the teleportation array.

They could only go as far as ten or twenty li at most.

With this distance limitation, naturally, it was not advisable to launch proactive attacks. Therefore, they could only lie in wait for their prey.

As they moved forward, Lu Ye shared his thoughts, and both Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan agreed. The rewards on the Kills Ranking were indeed tempting, but what was the use of gaining them if one lost one's life? It was always better to play it safe. Taking the initiative could bring more opportunities but also greater risks.

With their base approach established, the rest became easier.

An incense stick's time later, at a spot less than twenty li from the cave, Lu Ye stopped and looked around before nodding slightly at Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan.

Without needing further discussion, the two quickly split up, each scouting in different directions, while Yiyi darted out from Amber's form and swept towards another direction.

Lu Ye was left alone, retrieving the array banners one after another and beginning to set up the formation.

The formation this time was not meant primarily for killing enemies but rather for trapping them; thereby, if they indeed encountered an enemy too powerful to defeat, they could use the formation to delay the enemy's pursuit.

This was not a trigger-based formation, but one that needed to be actively controlled, ensuring it could be utilized at crucial moments.

During this time, powerful beings soared overhead, and Lu Ye, having been warned in advance, promptly concealed himself, avoiding exposure.

Two hours later, the major arrays were properly set up.

With all preparations complete, they quietly lay in wait.

The hunting ground had been open for over three days now, and most of the cultivators inside moved in groups of three to five. This strategy reduced the benefits they obtained but also diminished the risks.

Those who still moved alone were at least in the Level 7 realm, and only cultivators above Level 7, who were sufficiently confident in their capabilities, would choose to wander alone.

Time passed, and the surroundings remained eerily quiet.

On the high Kills Ranking board, the rank standings of the powerful cultivators continually changed. Xia Liang, who was in second place, pursued relentlessly, closing the gap in kill points with Lu Ye and threatening to surpass him and reclaim the top position.

One hour, two hours...

Sitting and waiting like this made it indeed challenging to encounter enemies. Although there were many cultivators in the hunting ground, the area was vast, and everyone was extremely cautious, especially the ghost cultivators, who moved without leaving a trace.

Suddenly, a speck of faint light caught Lu Ye's eye, and he looked up to see a spot of bright white light underneath a large tree not far from him.

It was certain that the white light hadn't existed there just moments ago; it had appeared suddenly.

Lu Ye understood what it was: a chance dropped by Heaven's Augury, which he had encountered before, gaining a white-hued spirit fortune stick from it.

So this was how these opportunities were born... Lu Ye's perception of Heaven's Augury grew a bit more profound.

In the hunting grounds, each day Heaven's Augury would select someone to bestow a gold-hued spirit fortune stick, every day there would be colorful clouds from which spirit fortune sticks descended, and occasionally, various opportunities like this would appear, along with the Kills Ranking board hanging high for all to see...

All these benefits and opportunities invariably sparked fierce fights among the cultivators. Heaven's Augury acted like an invisible hand behind the scenes, fueling the cultivators' battles and covering the hunting ground with their blood.

"Junior Brother..."

Li Baxian communicated telepathically.

Lu Ye replied, "I see it."

He had thought that lying in wait like this would hardly allow him to encounter enemies, but now that such an opportunity presented itself here, it seemed it wouldn't be long before someone would come.

Indeed, as predicted, merely after the time it took to sip a cup of tea, Lu Ye noticed four stealthy figures entering his line of sight.

These four individuals moved with extreme caution, pairing up in twos and approaching from different directions. However, they lacked ghostly abilities and thus couldn't conceal their movement, only managing to minimize their presence and reduce the chance of exposure as much as possible.

The group didn't immediately move toward the source of the white light but instead gradually searched the area from the periphery inward.

Under such careful precautions, ordinary concealment methods would hardly suffice. Fortunately, Lu Ye had previously set up Concealment Formations at the locations of Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan, meaning that as long as the others' perception wasn't extraordinarily strong, they were unlikely to detect them.

As for Lu Ye himself, with Concealment Spirit Runes on him, one could say he was akin to a ghost cultivator at that moment.

Two of the four individuals passed three meters in front of Lu Ye without noticing anything, while the other two headed straight for where Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan were positioned.

"Junior brother, I'm preparing to make a move," Li Baxian sent another message.

Lu Ye did not respond, as there was nothing necessary to reply.

As for cultivators who move in groups, as long as their numbers weren't too high, he truly wasn't concerned because only those with lesser cultivation would band together. It was the solitary 'lone wolves' one had to be wary of.

Suddenly, a cold light burst forth accompanied by the sound of a sword's hum. Li Baxian's concealed form was revealed as he controlled over a dozen flying swords that burst forth in a moment, striking towards one of the cultivators.

The sudden change alarmed the four who had come, especially the two heading toward Li Baxian. Their faces turned pale as they sensed the piercing murderous intent, causing goosebumps all over, and one of them immediately shouted, "It's an ambush!"

They immediately brought out their Spiritual Artifacts, confronting the oncoming sword light.

When Li Baxian made his move, he was unaware of which faction they belonged to, but this didn't matter. Being a sword cultivator, especially one who had been refining his art in the Spirit Stream Realm for over a decade, he handled his flying swords with ease.

Upon his action, his silhouette was revealed and their respective affiliations were determined.

Had the others also been from the Haotian Alliance, Li Baxian would naturally ensure he didn't hurt them, but since they were from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, those deceiving strikes from his flying swords could certainly give him the upper hand.

Almost simultaneously with the other's shout, the battlefield markings on the backs of their hands burst into blue and red light.

Li Baxian was not only observing the opponent's battlefield markings but also their cultivation levels. In such a sudden attack, everyone would undoubtedly exert their full strength in response, thus revealing their cultivation levels clearly.

The responses from the two assured Li Baxian, one was a Level 5 realm and the other a Level 4. To him, they were inconsequential.

The other two not far from Lu Ye also reacted instantly. One of them, with a robust frame and abundant blood Qi, likely a physique cultivator, immediately dashed toward Li Baxian's position, while the other, surrounded by surging spirit force and with magic forming in front of him, was a magic cultivator.

The physique cultivator had just started to charge when he witnessed a scene that horrified him.

The dozen sudden sword lights that attacked were initially blocked by his two comrades, but more sword lights were approaching.

Before confirming the opponent's affiliations, Li Baxian naturally couldn't go all out; a dozen flying swords were merely a test. Once he confirmed they were from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, he exerted his full power, and this wasn't even his limit.

During his time in the Spirit Stream Realm, he could control up to a hundred flying swords. Now in the Cloud River Level 4, the quantity he could manipulate had only increased.

Sword cultivators were renowned for their lethal attacks, and such a surprise assault left little chance of defense unless the opponent's cultivation was significantly higher by two levels.

The sword lights rampaged, breaking through the two's protective spirit force and piercing their bodies, drawing out sprays of blood.

Cloud River Realm was a stage where the disparity in strength was vastly pronounced. Although these two barely possessed the foundation of Level 4-5, Li Baxian's foundation was undoubtedly unmatched.

In just a clash, the Level 4 and Level 5 realms were nearly slain instantly, and had it not been for leaving them to Lu Ye, they likely would have died.

The physique cultivator charging at Li Baxian felt a chill run through his blood-soaked body as he stared at the mocking, child-like face before him, internally screaming at the emergence of such a monster.

Instinctively, he halted his charge, yet from the side, a thunderbolt like a spirit snake struck, causing his whole body to tremble in fear.

Turning his head, he saw an additional female figure appear, also wearing a pitiful, tear-stained young girl's mask, a stark contrast to the child's mask, creating a strong visual impact.

They weren't just ambushed by one or even two people!

The physique cultivator was terrified.

Meanwhile, the last magic cultivator cried out, "Run!"

The magic cultivator had barely formed a Dao technique when he saw his companions quickly falter. How could he dare stay, hastily launching his magic at Feng Yuechan and trying to soar into the sky, spirit force surging around him.

However, he never managed to take flight; just as his body lifted less than a foot off the ground, a tremendous force descended from above, accompanied by a sharp slash.

A fiery red sword light split open the spirit force barrier around the magic cultivator and slashed a massive wound on his back, causing him to fall heavily to the ground, with his soul nearly escaping.

Behind him, there was also someone!

Chapter 515 Lu Yiye Playing With Herself

Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan's actions drew everyone's attention, and the magic cultivator had not guarded against someone stealthily approaching from behind. By the time Lu Ye suddenly struck, it was already too late.

The barely risen body heavily hit the ground, the severe pain in his back nearly stopped him from breathing. As he looked up, a sky full of saber light slashed down.

He hurriedly activated his spirit force barrier for protection, yet the barrier only held out for three breaths before it shattered under a barrage of saber lights.

The crisscrossing saber light fell, thudding sounds emitted, the magic cultivator's body violently shook, not knowing how many strikes he had endured in that instant as his protective spirit force completely dispersed.

Right after, his body lightened, his vision turned upside down, and his consciousness rapidly blurred.

Having dealt with this magic cultivator, Lu Ye rushed towards another part of the battlefield. At that moment, Feng Yuechan bombarded with a series of magic and spells, entangling another physique cultivator preventing his escape, while Li Baxian's flying sword wreaked havoc, trapping the other two severely injured cultivators in place.

Seeing Lu Ye rush over, the sky filled with sword light converged, directing itself at that physique cultivator in unison.

The two severely injured cultivators had no time to catch their breaths before Lu Ye pounced in front of them, hand rising and blade falling, chopping them down easily as if slicing vegetables.

Normally, these two, one a Level 5 realm and the other Level 4, facing Lu Ye, it would be uncertain who would fall, but they had been ambushed by Li Baxian, the sword cultivator, and heavily injured. They were not dead because Li Baxian did not intend to kill them. With such injuries, not to mention Lu Ye, even a typical Level 3 could have dealt with them.

After slaying the two men, Lu Ye looked towards the direction of the last physique cultivator.

Though it had been only a few breaths, the physique cultivator was already bruised all over, with dozens of flying swords shuttling back and forth, his attacks were unpredictable and even though he was tough, he could not block them. Furthermore, Feng Yuechan's magic and spells kept raining down, fiercely shaking the physique cultivator's body, and the spirit artifact big shield in his hand was even knocked away.

Lu Ye joined the battle, making the outcome more certain.

Several breaths later, the burly body of the physique cultivator sprawled on the ground, and Lu Ye immediately dashed towards the location where white light burst forth, reached into the light, and grabbed something, not even looking at what he snatched, as he hurried to retrieve the array banners he had set up around the area.

Meanwhile, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan cleaned up the battlefield, collecting spoils of war.

Moments later, Lu Ye called out softly, "Let's go!"

Three figures swiftly swept away, running towards the direction of the cave.

As stability was necessary, naturally, they could not stay in the same place any longer. Although the battle was short, the aftermath of their engagement was significant. If there were any powerful enemies nearby, they could very likely be attracted.

Changing locations after each battle, although troublesome, was safer.

A short while later, back in the cave they had started from, the three of them returned and sat down in meditation.

"Junior brother, I've checked the Kills Ranking. The first place in the kills points just increased by four hundred thirty, exactly matching with yours," Li Baxian spoke.

Lu Ye had seen it on the way back as well.

The four people previously killed, three of them Level 5 realm and one Level 4, exactly gave him four hundred thirty kill points.

With the numbers matching, the first place was indeed his.

Earning over four hundred kill points in a single battle was undoubtedly a substantial gain, considering that Xia Liang, who was second in ranking, averaged only about five hundred kill points per day.

This battle alone compared well with Xia Liang's daily gains.

Before this battle, Xia Liang's kill points were almost surpassing Lu Ye's, but now Lu Ye had widened the gap again.

Xia Liang's feelings about this were unknown.

In the Cloud River battlefield, with the hunting ground opened so many times, there had never been a situation where a Level 3 cultivator topped the Kills Ranking. Let alone Level 3, even Level 7 had never happened.

The top three spots on the Kills Ranking were either occupied by Level 8 or Level 9, with Level 9 occurring more frequently.

There had been powerhouses who tried to use the rule that low-level cultivators could earn large amounts of kill points by killing higher-level cultivators to climb the ranks, but implementing it proved to be extremely challenging.

Firstly, for this rule to be exploited to climb the ranks, the cultivator's cultivation level could not be higher than Level 5, otherwise, it wouldn't make much sense.

Even if a Level 9 cultivator was accompanied by a Level 5, it was very easy for accidents to occur.

These Level 9 powerhouses mostly faced enemies of Level 9 from opposing camps; once a battle commenced, it was hard to ensure an ally's safety completely. The enemy could easily take advantage, and any accident with the companion could render all previously accumulated kill points void, resulting in loss outweighing the gain.

If it weren't for Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan coming to join him, and because he had obtained a special gold-hued spirit fortune stick leading to his taking the lead on the Kills Ranking, giving him an excellent foundation, Lu Ye wouldn't have considered contesting for the top of the Kills Ranking and would have wisely stayed hidden until the hunting grounds closed.

The collected spoils were gathered in front of Lu Ye, waiting for him to break the restrictions of the storage sacks, which naturally wasn't difficult for him.

Soon, each storage sack was opened, and Lu Ye divided the contents into three parts, taking a share along with Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan.

He rummaged through his storage sack, but this time he hadn't obtained anything noteworthy.

He then examined the opportunity that he had gained from the white light earlier; previously, due to time constraints, he hadn't had a chance to check and had directly stored it in the storage space. Now that he took it out, it turned out to be a spirit flower.

Last time, what he had retrieved from that white light was a white spirit fortune stick...

Indeed, the opportunities scattered across the hunting grounds were bizarre and varied, providing all sorts of items.

Lu Ye's knowledge in herbal medicine was not profound, so he didn't know what this spirit flower was or what effects it had, he could only vaguely surmise that the value of this spirit flower was not very high.

No matter what it was, he could just bring it back to the sect and give it to Shui Yuan when he had the chance.

The previous battle had erupted swiftly and ended quickly; Lu Ye and the others had used very little energy, but out of caution, the three of them hadn't taken any further action. Instead, they stayed in the cave for two hours to ensure that their recent fight hadn't attracted the attention of any powerful beings before continuing their journey.

Just as before, the three of them walked out of the cave.

This time they chose a different direction, walked ten more miles, found a spot, and Li Baxian, Feng Yuechan, and Yiyi spread out to stand guard while Lu Ye began to set up a Formation.

Once ready, they quietly waited for their prey to take the bait.

Last time they had reaped rewards because the suddenly appearing white light had drawn a group of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators to investigate. They weren't so fortunate this time; they waited a full day and night, and although a few cultivators traversed the air above them during that period, they were all powerful beings above Level 7 realm, and Lu Ye and his two companions didn't dare make any rash moves.

It wasn't until the latter half of the day that a group of three passed by close by.

As usual, Li Baxian was the first to act to attract attention, but when his form was revealed, the battlefield marking on the back of his hand gave no response.

The sharp sword light suddenly retracted, startling the trio, who hastily reacted, only to find it was a false alarm.

The three turned out to be from the Haotian Alliance.

As they were all from the same camp, there was naturally no need to fight to the death, and after a few brief explanations from Li Baxian, the other three quickly left.

Indeed, waiting like this seldom resulted in a catch, as no one knew when their prey would take the bait. Even if it did, there was a fifty percent chance it would be someone from the Haotian Alliance. Even if it were from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, without engaging in a fight, it was still unclear whether the other party was a man-eating shark.

However, neither Li Baxian nor Lu Ye felt the slightest impatience.

Both were well aware of their limitations. In the current hunting field, cultivation was their biggest weakness. A Level 3 or Level 4 cultivation was absolutely bottom-tier in the hunting grounds today; to ensure their own safety and yet achieve some gain, ample patience and waiting were necessary.

About half a day later, another group of three passed nearby.

Li Baxian attacked once again, and this time the battlefield marking on the back of his hand reacted, emitting a blue light; contrary to that, the trio displayed red lights.

An ambush resulted in one of them being severely injured on the spot, and the other two were also injured. With Feng Yuechan joining the fight, the situation quickly became one-sided.

Just as Lu Ye had thought, the cultivators who now traveled in groups did not possess high levels of cultivation; most of those above Level 7 preferred to operate alone.

All three Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were at Level 5 cultivation, and with the premise of being ambushed by Li Baxian, how could they possibly stand a chance against him and Feng Yuechan.

In the fierce battle, Lu Ye concealed his presence and quietly approached.

Moments later, three bodies lay sprawled, the smell of blood soaring into the sky; Lu Ye gained three hundred and sixty kill points.

In a corner of the hunting ground, Xia Liang, holding a long saber, looked up into the sky, his eyes on the blood-red banner-like Kills Ranking. His eyes couldn't help but twitch.

He felt that this guy named Lu Yiye was mocking him!

Ever since the other party had suddenly gained a thousand kill points, taking the top position in the ranking, he had felt this way.

These past few days, he had been hunting far and wide, attacking the Haotian Alliance's cultivators. Every day he reaped some rewards, steadily narrowing the gap between him and Lu Ye. However, whenever he hoped to surpass the other, the other's kill points would suddenly surge by a few hundred, making all his efforts go down the drain.

It was like that before, and it was still the same now. Originally, he was only a hundred or so kill points behind Lu Ye, but now it had increased to over four hundred.

How infuriating!

What made him even angrier was that he was now being targeted by a Level 9 cultivator from the Haotian Alliance!

The other's ranking on the Kills Ranking wasn't high, only just above ten, and it seemed their luck hadn't been very good these past few days. With this trend, they had no chance of reaching the top three in the Kills Ranking.

So the other party adopted an attitude of preferring not to compete for the Kills Ranking themselves, just to prevent him from competing for it, staying hidden and trailing him.

In a direct fight, that person was no match for him, but with the other moving in secret, he really had no good way to deal with them, and his heart was incredibly stifled.

Chapter 516 The Power of the Trap Array

Time passed, and sticking to their principle of changing locations after each battle, Lu Ye and his companions harvested kill points almost every day, with each battle yielding at least three hundred and at most five hundred kill points. Accumulating over time, the effect was indeed considerable.

The Kills Ranking had not changed much, but it was worth mentioning that no one knew what had happened to Xia Liang, who had originally ranked second. His kill points had increased very slowly in the past few days, and now he was about to fall out of the top ten. Currently, the second place was taken by an individual named Tan Sheng.

Lu Ye vaguely remembered that when the Kills Ranking first appeared, Tan Sheng's name was on the list, which suggested that he too was a Level 9 cultivator.

According to Li Baxian's recollection, Tan Sheng was a cultivator from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, born into a 2nd grade sect, and possessed considerable strength. At the very least, he had once ranked in the top ten on the Spirit Stream Ranking during his time in the Spirit Stream Realm.

The strong figures currently active on the Cloud River battlefield were almost all those who had once climbed the Spirit Stream Ranking. Li Baxian had spent more than a decade in the Spirit Stream Realm, seeing off batches of Spirit Stream Realm cultivators, so he was naturally familiar with them and had even traded blows with many.

Even some of the current True Lake Realm powerhouses were once Li Baxian's adversaries or friends. It has to be said, prolonged time spent in the Spirit Stream Realm could give one an unrivaled advantage in connections compared to others.

Most of the battles they had encountered these past few days were relatively easy because with sword cultivator Li Baxian launching sneak attacks, they could easily seriously injure one or two enemies. Next, Feng Yuechan would make a move, Lu Ye would strike from hiding, and the battle would usually be quickly settled.

They did, however, encounter a tough battle once when among the enemies there was a Level 6 combat cultivator. But after Lu Ye took out his companion and the three of them combined their strength, that Level 6 combat cultivator could only fall to their blades in resentment.

All three of them had once topped the Spirit Stream Ranking and possessed the ability to defeat opponents above their level. As long as their enemies' foundations were not exceptionally robust, the trio could take them down together.

After another battle concluded, Lu Ye looked up at the sky. The kill points behind his name had reached three thousand seven hundred forty, nearly a thousand kill points ahead of the second-placed Tan Sheng, leaving him far behind.

With such a gap, Tan Sheng must have felt hopeless.

Suddenly, Lu Ye's attention was grabbed by a streak of light headed straight toward them, arriving in the blink of an eye and crashing down with a thunderous sound.

Lu Ye's eyelids snapped shut.

Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan also tensed up as if facing a great threat.

On the back of their hands, a pale blue light began to bloom, while the newcomer's hand radiated a deep crimson color.

An immense pressure, like a mountain, bore down on them, and the trio froze in place as if they had been struck by a lightning-attracting talisman.

It wasn't for any other reason than that Lu Ye recognized the newcomer.

It was the same man who had fought with Xia Qianqian before. Lu Ye still did not know his name, but he knew that this person was of Level 9 cultivation.

Indeed, as the saying goes, you can't walk along the river without getting your shoes wet; after days of smooth sailing, today they had attracted the attention of a Level 9!

Obviously, it was the commotion from their recent battle that had attracted him.

Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan stood side by side, their spirit force covertly surging. Lu Ye's expression was also grave. Wei Que remained motionless, and they dared not act recklessly.

Wei Que's eyes swept over Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan, then landed on Lu Ye. He only saw three different faces, but when his gaze caught the sight of the Amber on Lu Ye's shoulder, he couldn't help but burst into laughter, "I've found you!"

His heart swelled with joy; this was indeed unexpectedly easy after searching so hard without any leads. He had been searching for Lu Ye's trace for days to no avail; given the tens of thousands of miles within the hunting field and the countless cultivators pouring in, finding one person was incredibly difficult.

He had inferred from the daily changes on the Kills Ranking that Lu Ye had been busy these past days; after all, with several hundred kill points increasing almost daily, how could he not be.

Recently, he had his own gains within the hunting field. As a Level 9 powerhouse, he naturally scorned traveling with others, wandering alone in search of opportunities. He had gained various fortunes and even snatched some spirit fortune sticks, although he did not earn many kill points. Now, he ranked just below the twentieth place.

He had never hoped to compete for a good ranking on the Kills Ranking. To him, finding and killing Lu Ye was the main goal.

The rewards of the Kills Ranking were undoubtedly attractive, but they paled in comparison to the bounties issued by the big sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Those were resources he could enjoy for a lifetime, far surpassing what the Kills Ranking could offer.

His target had always been Lu Ye from the beginning to the end.

He was just passing by and felt the aftermath of the battle from this direction, coming to investigate. He hadn't expected to fortuitously discover Lu Ye's whereabouts here.

Despite the different masks they wore, the Amber was a clear identifier, and the Boulder Mountain Saber held by Lu Ye also looked familiar to Wei Que, leaving him with no doubt about Lu Ye's identity.

As Wei Que finished speaking, he lifted his hand and cast a magic spell.

Although it was a casual strike, being of Level 9 cultivation, even a casual strike was not something Lu Ye could withstand. The spell almost instantly reached Lu Ye.

Spirit force surged, and a thick array of Defense Spirit Runes appeared in front of him.

At the same time, the sound of swords ringing filled the air as several flying swords shot through the sky. Arriving faster than they were released, they slammed into the spell, reducing its potency.

Li Baxian immediately realized that Lu Ye wouldn't be able to fend off this hit, so instead of attacking Wei Que, he chose to preserve Lu Ye's life first.

He wasn't the only one to act—Feng Yuechan also joined in.

Yet even with the two of them working together, they could only weaken the spell's might and were unable to completely shatter it.

With a thunderous boom, the spirit force exploded, shattering the Defense Spirit Runes in front of Lu Ye. The massive impact sent him flying backward, crashing heavily to the ground.

Wei Que snorted coldly, opening his other hand towards the direction of Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan. A huge spirit force disc appeared, with mystical patterns swirling dynamically within. From the center of the disc, a series of pale cyan Wind Blades swept out, slashing viciously towards Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan.

He had held back in his attack on Lu Ye, fearing that Lu Ye would be smashed to pieces, as he still needed Lu Ye's head to claim the bounty.

But his strikes against Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan had no such reservations, as they were executed with full force.

Many flying swords returned, forming a sword curtain barrier in front of them, while Feng Yuechan, with a surge of spirit force, conjured a three-zhang-tall fog giant that stood in her defense.

The Wind Blades pierced through the body of the fog giant, instantly shattering the magic, and Li Baxian's sword curtain was also unable to hold, collapsing after a mere moment.

At the crucial moment, Feng Yuechan produced a Spiritual Artifact resembling an umbrella. With the umbrella open and spirit force surging, a protective barrier was formed, just in time to block the sweeping Wind Blades.

"A Magic Artifact!" Wei Que immediately recognized that the spirit umbrella was no ordinary item, and he began to speculate about Feng Yuechan's identity since someone at the Cloud River Realm using a Magic Artifact was definitely extraordinary.

He laughed inwardly, feeling as if the heavens were smiling upon him. Not only had he found Lu Yiye, but he also stumbled upon two other worthy prey. If he could slay these three, his future cultivation resources would not be a concern anymore.

Priority one: slay Lu Yiye!

As the thought crossed his mind, Wei Que ceased to pay attention to Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan, and instead lunged straight at Lu Ye. As a magic cultivator, he should engage the enemy from a distance, but with his cultivation being a full six levels higher than Lu Ye's, and considering the high stakes involved with Lu Ye, he could not afford to risk obliterating him with a powerful spell. If Lu Ye were to be blasted to oblivion, there would be no proof of his kill, and he would have nothing to show for his reward.

For safety's sake, close-quarters combat was the better approach.

However, just as he sprinted forward ten-odd zhang, he saw Lu Ye, who had been knocked to the ground, leap up, with an array banner suddenly appearing in his hand, which he fiercely waved.

A droning sound resonated, and a layer of light curtain abruptly emerged, forming a barrier that looked like an inverted bowl, covering a few dozen zhang around.

Wei Que was caught off guard and was completely ensnared.

"Formation!"

Wei Que internally cursed his luck; this area had been prepared with a Formation in advance. Judging by the looks of it, it seemed to be a trap array!

He absolutely couldn't let Lu Yiye escape!

As thoughts raced through his mind, Wei Que raised his hand and released a Golden Arc Slash toward where Lu Ye was.

However, Lu Ye had already turned and dashed out the moment he activated the Formation. Holding the array banner, he broke through the light curtain barrier without any hindrance. The approaching Golden Arc struck the light curtain, only to be stopped by it, creating ripple after ripple.

This trap array appeared quite similar to a protective array but was inherently different.

When a cultivator was inside a protective array, its light curtain could block attacks from the outside.

However, if a cultivator was caught within a trap array, the light curtain wasn't defending against attacks from the outside, but rather attacks from inside.

To put it simply, a protective array defends from the outside, a trap array from the inside.

To the untrained eye, both arrays look identical, but their effects are totally opposite.

To escape the trap, one must break through the big array.

And since Lu Ye was the one who set up the array, holding the array banner, he naturally wasn't restricted by it.

This was the confidence he had in striving for the Kills Ranking as a Level 3 cultivator.

With the coordination of Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan, an ordinary cultivator from the Cloud River Realm was no match for them. Even if they encountered an overwhelmingly powerful foe, activating the trap array that had been previously set up here would buy them some time.

And during that time, the trio would seize the opportunity to make their escape.

The moment the trap array emerged, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan had already risen into the air, fleeing into the distance.

Lu Ye was a bit slower in his movements, but not by much, quickly following in the heels of the two. With Wings constructed and Move-Like-The-Wind spell reinforced, his speed surpassed even Li Baxian, catching up quickly.

Wei Que was flabbergasted, watching as Lu Ye made his escape, feeling as if his heart was bleeding.

He was so close, just a hair's breadth away from slaying Lu Yiye and securing a lifetime of wealth!

Spirit force surged as fierce spells bombarded the light curtain barrier of the trap array, causing ripples to surge forth and the light to rapidly dim.

This grand disturbance, of course, did not escape the perception of Lu Ye and his companions, who quickened their escape.

Although the trap array was quite effective, it was certainly not capable of completely trapping a Level 9 cultivator, only of buying a bit more time. How much time it could buy depended on Wei Que's skills.

Chapter 517 When it rains, it pours.

...

Within the trap array, powerful magic and spells continuously burst forth. Spirit force was in chaos, and the light curtain of the trap array visibly dimmed at a speed discernible to the naked eye.

Although Lu Ye had used eight array bases and several array banners to set up this trap array, since the setup time was short and it was powered solely by Spirit Stones, the intensity of the Formation was not high.

The strength of a Formation is related to the amount of stored spirit force and the concentration of nature's spiritual energy where the array is established. The more spirit force stored in the Formation and the denser the spiritual energy, the stronger the Formation will be, and vice versa.

Thus, a trap array like this is at its weakest when it is just set up because it doesn't have enough stored spirit force—even with Spirit Stones at its foundation, it won't last long.

However, as time passes, the stored power in the Formation increases, and its might grows stronger, until it reaches a peak.

The biggest advantage of the trap array that held Wei Que was its small coverage area, only a few dozen zhang in radius, which indirectly strengthened the Formation's intensity.

But it was still not enough to stop a Cloud River Level 9 cultivator.

In less than twenty breaths of time, the light curtain of the trap array completely dimmed, followed by a loud rupture.

Wei Que shot into the sky and pursued in the direction Lu Ye and the others had fled.

How could he possibly let Lu Ye escape when such an opportunity was rare? He was lucky to encounter Lu Ye this time, but could he be equally lucky next time?

A few Level 3-4 cultivators, even if he let them escape for twenty breaths, Wei Que was confident he could catch up.

From afar, he saw several streaks of light fleeing swiftly. Wei Que stimulated his spirit force and transformed into a rainbow light, relentlessly pursuing.

Lu Ye, who was running ahead, sensed something, turned his head to look back, and saw the rainbow light that Wei Que had become, knowing that the other party had broken free.

As he had expected earlier, the trap array he had set up could only hold a Level 9 cultivator for twenty breaths at most.

It was enough.

In that moment, the trio disregarded everything and exerted their full strength. Covering a distance of more than ten miles in a moment, they arrived.

Their figures descended, rushing into the cave, straight to the bottom, where they stimulated the teleportation array with their spirit force.

The intricate patterns of the array beneath their feet lit up. The Void Spirit Runes at the center of the Formation emitted a bright light. Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan, both curious onlookers, often teleported using Heaven's Augury Pillars, but this was their first time using a teleportation array. They wondered about the difference between the two means of transportation.

Only the experienced Amber, lifting its two front paws, hugged Lu Ye's neck. A glimmer of trepidation flashed in its amber-colored beast eyes.

In the instant the teleportation array took effect, Lu Ye drew his saber, and a crescent-shaped saber light struck the position of the explosion magic array.

Firelight ignited, a loud bang sounded, and the cave shook in a heartbeat. Stones showered down. When everything returned to calm, the place was in ruins.

Twenty breaths later, Wei Que rushed into the cave frantically. Looking around, he saw no trace of Lu Ye and the others—just a large amount of collapsed rubble scattered about. There wasn't even a shadow to be seen.

Where were they?

Wei Que's face was full of doubt.

When he was in the air just now, he clearly saw Lu Ye and company enter this location, followed by a loud noise below, and then the fleeing people disappeared without a trace!

Disbelieving, he searched all the way to the very bottom of the cave where there was no way forward and still found no sign of them.

Three living people had disappeared so mysteriously!

Wei Que quickly left the cave and looked around for a while before heading decisively in one direction. He suspected he had seen wrong earlier. Otherwise, there was no reason for three living people to vanish into thin air.

They must be nearby, and he was determined to find them no matter what!

Meanwhile, two hundred miles away, in a cave thirty feet underground, a hidden teleportation array lit up with patterns. The space twisted as three figures appeared out of thin air.

The moment they materialized, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan staggered, nearly falling to the ground. Their complexions were somber and slightly pale...

They weren't injured in the fight with Wei Que, but they felt this way because the sensation of falling endlessly into an abyss during the teleportation had been all too real.

Crucially, during the teleportation, neither of them dared to recklessly use their spirit force, which led to a lack of a sense of security, and time seemed to become incredibly vague. Although the teleportation was instant, to them, it felt like an eternity.

No wonder Amber had hugged Lu Ye's neck before the teleportation; having teleported many times before, it had experience to draw upon.

Before the two could recover, three faint blue lights emerged from the backs of their hands in the darkness, casting the entire underground space in a ghostly blue glow.

The instant the lights appeared, all three figures on the teleportation array became alert.

The battlefield markings reacted, indicating the presence of people nearby, and they were cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

...

Under the powerful perception, indeed, a presence was detected not far away.

Just over ten yards from Lu Ye and his group sat Hea Bing, cross-legged, silently recovering.

Four hours earlier, he had found this place, confirmed it was empty, and began to recuperate here.

In the hunting grounds, he had no companions. Being a Level 7 cultivator, his situation was actually somewhat awkward, as such cultivation was not enough to compete for the Kills Ranking. Even if he made the list, his ranking wouldn't be very high, nor the rewards particularly good.

Since he had no chance at the Kills Ranking, he didn't force the issue. Therefore, his recent goals had always been the Heaven-bestowed spirit fortune stick and various serendipitous opportunities. With some luck, he was also able to hunt down some Haotian Alliance cultivators; all in all, his gains were rather satisfactory.

He had encountered some enemies beyond his ability to defeat, but as a Level 7 cultivator, even if he couldn't overpower those at Level 8 or Level 9, it wasn't easy for them to kill him either. In other words, he had the capacity to ensure his own safety, which is why he dared to act alone.

However, just a moment ago, a light shone in the dark cavern, and an array abruptly appeared, followed by something even more incomprehensible – three figures suddenly emerged atop the array.

Hea Bing's eyes widened in astonishment, momentarily unable to comprehend how these three individuals had appeared out of nowhere!

Quickly, he seemed to recall something, and his brows lifted.

If he wasn't mistaken, these three must have used a teleportation array, specifically the one that had lit up with patterns earlier.

Cultivators from Cloud River Realm could actually set up a teleportation array? Hea Bing couldn't help but become interested and slowly stood up.

On the teleportation array, Lu Ye inwardly cursed when he saw the solitary Hea Bing. This timing to encounter a lone figure was clearly not a good sign. Although he couldn't yet discern the depth of the other party's cultivation, it was very likely above Level 7.

Previously, his escape through teleportation was accidentally witnessed by a cultivator from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. He hadn't expected to be discovered again this time.

But this could also be understood. If he could find such a hidden cave, naturally, others could too. Judging by the other's stance, it was clear that he was resting here, and it was unknown how long he had stayed.

Last time they were lucky; the enemy wasn't very strong, and he and Yiyi managed to join forces to kill him, but what the situation was like this time was unknown.

Lu Ye didn't want to gamble, especially if the other party was at Level 8-9; the three of them were not his match.

Therefore, the instant Hea Bing stood up, he once again activated the teleportation array, preparing to escape.

Every teleportation array he set up was at the very least connected to two other arrays. The array they had arrived at had already been destroyed, but there was still at least one teleportation array connected to the one beneath their feet. If they could successfully activate it, they could reach another location.

However, his mood immediately sank.

He could no longer sense the existence of any other teleportation points!

This was truly like it was raining on a leaking roof, and the boat being struck by headwinds just as it was getting late.

Trapped here by an enemy likely above Level 7, and now the teleportation array couldn't be utilized; the lack of other teleportation points undoubtedly meant the other arrays linked with this one had been destroyed.

Now there was no escape.

Lu Ye couldn't figure out why his luck had turned so sour all of a sudden; it had been quite favorable before.

The situation was unprecedentedly dire; fighting in such a place, regardless of whether they could defeat the opponent, the mere aftershocks of the battle would be enough to collapse the underground cavern, burying everyone inside.

Lu Ye raised his hand and touched the Amber.

Li Baxian flashed into view in front of Lu Ye, saying, "Fellow Daoist, this place is narrow and the terrain is inconvenient, it's not suitable for conflict. What do you think?"

His expression under the mask was one of helplessness; never had he imagined that having just escaped from the tiger's den, he would fall into a wolf's pit. Although he was unaware of the teleportation array's issues, he knew that such a place was indeed not ideal for fighting.

Moreover, he shared the same judgment as Lu Ye: the fact that the other party dared to act alone meant his strength certainly wasn't weak. If it really came to a fight, the three of them might not be opponents.

First, they needed to stabilize the other party and talk about getting out of this situation.

Hearing Li Baxian's words, Hea Bing grabbed a long spear with his hand, plunged it into the ground, spirit force swirling around him as he smirked, "Do you think, you few can threaten me?"

With the surge of spirit force, Hea Bing's Level 7 cultivation was undisguised.

This both relieved and frustrated Lu Ye and his companions.

They breathed a sigh of relief because the other party was Level 7, not Level 8 or Level 9 – the situation wasn't as desperate. If the other party really were at Level 8-9, the three would have to consider whether to perish together with him.

The frustration also stemmed from the fact that the other party was a Level 7 cultivator. Previously, the three had indeed managed to kill a Level 6 cultivator by joining forces. However, facing a Level 7 right now... none of the three felt confident. Most importantly, Wei Que was likely searching for them at this very moment. To a Cloud River Level 9, a distance of about 30 miles wasn't much. If a battle broke out here, even if the cavern didn't collapse, there was still a risk of being located by Wei Que or other enemies.

"Overestimating oneself!"

Without a word, Lu Ye and his companions stood still, as Hea Bing grew more arrogant and scoffed, "Sneaky and sly, at a glance you're up to no good. Take off your masks!"

Chapter 518 A Hint of Excitement

On the Cloud River battlefield, many wore masks, which were inexpensive and available in various styles. In situations where it was inconvenient to reveal one's true identity, wearing a mask could effectively conceal it.

Hea Bing seemed to have an issue for unknown reasons, clearly disliking the masks. At this moment, with overpowering force, he intended to intimidate others with his power.

"I will count to three, take off your masks," he demanded.

Hea Bing's voice was as cold as ice. If it hadn't been for the geographical inconvenience and the uncertain allegiance of the other party, he would have already attacked. The trio was together, obviously of not very high cultivation. Over these days, he had killed several cultivators like them, none of whom could put up a fight.

"One!"

"Two!"

A faint sigh could be heard as Li Baxian reached up to touch his own mask.

Once, on the Spirit Stream battlefield, Li Baxian of the Loyal Heart Sect was a figure who commanded the winds and the rain. Who wouldn't fear mentioning his name? But since entering the Cloud River battlefield, he once again felt the helplessness of being weak.

Just as Li Baxian was about to remove his mask, Lu Ye suddenly moved from behind him, raised his hand with his saber, and unleashed a crescent-like saber light, striking forward.

"How daring!"

Hea Bing roared angrily, raising his long spear slightly, and with a gentle flick, the crescent-like saber light shattered.

Enraged, he hadn't initiated an attack yet, and these skulking fools dared to strike first, completely disregarding him.

At this moment, the person who had attacked was already rapidly advancing towards him, the fluctuations of spirit force on his body revealing the opponent's meager cultivation at Cloud River Level 3. Hea Bing sneered fiercely.

A Level 3... Did he have the courage of a bear or a leopard? Such an opponent, he could annihilate with a single spear thrust.

Suddenly, a faint ripple of spirit force stirred behind him.

Someone was behind him! Hea Bing was startled.

However, his attention was entirely captured by Lu Ye. By the time he reacted, it was too late. Something seemed to envelop his head, his vision blurred, and when he regained his senses, he found himself in a field of chaotic boulders.

Hea Bing's expression fluctuated with shock and confusion, clearly not understanding what had happened or why he had moved from an underground cave to such a place.

In the cave, Yiyi appeared where Hea Bing had originally been standing, unfurling the Nine Arrays Diagram in her hands. The diagram depicted the field of chaotic boulders, and in it was a tiny figure holding a long spear and cautiously looking around, bearing a striking resemblance to Hea Bing.

Trapped here by a cultivator of Level 7, the teleportation array connected nowhere else, they had no choice but to fight. This much was clear to Lu Ye, as it was to Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan.

The opponent had not struck immediately because he was unsure of their exact levels of cultivation. If he had known all three were between Level 3-4, he would have charged at them immediately without wasting words.

Since combat was inevitable, they naturally had to plan ahead.

As Li Baxian moved to shield Lu Ye, he touched Amber. Although no words were exchanged, the long time they had spent together allowed him to communicate telepathically with Yiyi.

Yiyi had slipped away at that moment, stealthily positioning herself behind Hea Bing.

Afterward, the plan was simple: Lu Ye engaged Hea Bing, distracting him, while Yiyi, seizing the moment, used the Nine Arrays Diagram to trap him.

The Nine Arrays Diagram was of spirit treasure level, a notch above magic artifacts. With Yiyi's increasing cultivation, the power it could exert was also enhanced. Under the premise of the opponent being unguarded, it was indeed possible to contain a cultivator of Level 7.

Fighting was absolutely prohibited in these underground caves to avoid a collapse, which would be disastrous, and also because the noise might attract Wei Que or other powerful figures from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

But fighting within the Nine Arrays Diagram didn't have such concerns, provided Yiyi could endure it!

Having trapped Hea Bing inside the Nine Arrays Diagram, Lu Ye rushed forward, with Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan, although unclear about what had exactly transpired, quickly following Lu Ye's lead.

Yiyi shook the Nine Arrays Diagram, facing the trio.

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, the three entered the diagram, and suddenly, three more figures appeared on its surface.

In the field of chaotic boulders, Lu Ye and his companions appeared in a triangular formation surrounding Hea Bing. At this moment, Hea Bing also realized what had happened and exclaimed in surprise, "An array diagram?"

With his level of cultivation, he certainly had some knowledge and insight. His previous experiences and the environment he was in now all indicated that he had been trapped inside an array diagram.

The enemies were not three, but four! There was another person who had been hiding in the shadows, likely the one controlling the array diagram now.

While Hea Bing felt a chill, he was also filled with excitement.

An array diagram, such a valuable item! The origins of these three were unknown, their cultivation not high, yet they possessed such an exotic treasure. If he could kill them, then this treasure would be his.

With that thought, he hesitated no longer, his footsteps shifting as he boldly charged towards Lu Ye.

The reason he chose Lu Ye was naturally because Lu Ye had revealed his cultivation earlier. A Level 3, four levels below him, he was confident he could kill him with a single spear thrust!

His speed was extremely fast; he traversed the distance of over thirty feet in just two steps and arrived in front of Lu Ye in an instant, thrusting his spear forward.

This straightforward thrust brought a great sense of crisis to Lu Ye. In that moment, his skin tensed and stung all over. The Boulder Mountain Saber roared out of its sheath as spirit force surged and flowed into the saber, which he swept upward at an angle, striking the opponent's long spear.

The moment the saber and spear clashed, Lu Ye's eyelids twitched, because the force of the opponent's spear was heavy and powerful, making his upward strike feel as though he was chopping on a boulder.

The spear that was originally aimed at his chest was diverted by only an inch.

In a blink, he was thrust into a life-and-death situation. This was the oppressive force a Level 7 cultivator brought, and the opponent clearly hadn't used his full strength yet.

In the Spirit Stream Realm, Level 4 and Level 7 represented two significant thresholds. Once crossed, one's strength would see a great leap, and isn't it the same in the Cloud River Realm?

Thus, in this hunting ground, only cultivators above Level 7 had the capability to walk alone. Of course, there were no absolutes; cultivators had their unique personalities, not ruling out some daring Level 6s who preferred to travel alone, like the magic cultivator whom Lu Ye and Yiyi had teamed up to kill earlier...

A small Defense Spirit Rune appeared in front of Lu Ye, and he leaned back as far as he could.

As the long spear thrust through, the Defense Spirit Rune shattered, and Lu Ye felt a burning pain at his neck.

Before he could get up, the opponent's spear, now like a long stick, slammed down on him.

With a thud, Lu Ye was smashed into the ground, feeling numbness spreading from his shoulders to his lower abdomen.

A flicker of surprise passed through Hea Bing's eyes; he hadn't expected a Level 3 cultivator to withstand his spear thrust. However, that was it. Lu Ye had been pinned to the ground by his strike, his spirit force in turmoil, momentarily unable to move—a sitting duck.

Just as he was about to withdraw his spear for another thrust, the sound of a sword cry rose, and a series of fierce attacks approached from behind.

"Sword cultivator!"

Hea Bing made the judgment immediately. Even though he was confident that the three Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were not as powerful as him, he couldn't ignore the lethality of a sword cultivator.

In a hurry, he turned around, and his vision was filled with numerous flying swords emitting brilliant light. He immediately shook his long spear, causing bursts of spear blooms.

Clang, clang, clang— a series of dense sounds accompanied by sparks flying, the incoming flying swords were all blocked.

Amidst those flying swords, a slew of magic and spells mixed in. The flying swords and spells merged perfectly at that moment, forming an incessant assault, truly a lively performance.

Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan had grown up together, real childhood sweethearts. For Li Baxian, Feng Yuechan even willingly stayed in the Spirit Stream Realm for over a decade without advancing. The bond between them was far deeper than that between Lu Ye and Yiyi.

Their cooperation was naturally seamless, flawless.

Hea Bing's expression grew solemn, sensing something was amiss.

The sword cultivator and the magic cultivator were both a level above that combat cultivator, around Level 4, but each of the three had a depth far surpassing their own cultivation levels.

These three were definitely elite disciples from top big sects!

Amidst his heightened alertness, there was also a trace of excitement.

His background wasn't too impressive, coming from a 4th grade sect. Although he had advanced to the Cloud River with three hundred and sixty orifices, he still fell short compared to those real geniuses; he hadn't even managed to get on the Spirit Stream Ranking back then.

If everyone was at Spirit Stream Realm's cultivation level, regardless of whom he faced among these three, they all would be figures he had to look up to. But right now, he could face all three by leveraging the gap in cultivation levels.

What does good background and talent matter? In the face of absolute cultivation difference, they would still perish!

For some reason, he suddenly felt that this sword cultivator and magic cultivator looked somewhat familiar, as if he had seen them somewhere...

As Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan engaged Hea Bing, Lu Ye hastily got up, creating distance between himself and Hea Bing. He raised his hand to his neck, finding it covered in fresh blood.

A chill ran through him; had his reactions not been swift, he might have had his neck shattered by the enemy's spear. Facing a Level 7 cultivator with just a Level 3 cultivation, the risk was too great—any error or misjudgment could lead to irreversible consequences.

"Go!"

Hea Bing suddenly bellowed, as several streams of weapon control light appeared from nowhere, breaking through the flying swords and spells, and targeted both Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan.

A Level 7 combat cultivator's weapon control, neither Li Baxian nor Feng Yuechan dared to face it head-on.

A spirit umbrella-like Magic Artifact was deployed, its canopy unfolding in front of them.

Thump, thump, thump— sounds erupted as spirit light flared wildly on the canopy, and with each sound, Feng Yuechan's figure was pushed back a step.

Having blocked all the weapon controls, just as they were holding their own, Hea Bing had already broken through the sword blockade, charging forward.

Li Baxian flicked his longsword, the many flying swords around him formed into a sword dragon, and went to meet Hea Bing head-on.

As the two figures collided, the sword dragon dispersed, and Li Baxian's body was tossed away like a ragbag.

Chapter 519 Who Are You Again

Hea Bing, seizing the advantage, was relentless, chasing after the retreating Li Baxian with his spear, thrusting it like a dragon, intent on finishing him off.

Surrounded by surging spirit force, a thick fog suddenly appeared around Feng Yuechan. The temperature around her plummeted, and Hea Bing, not noticing in time, charged headfirst into the icy chill. Ice crystals spread as the cold turned into ice, threatening to encase Hea Bing completely.

If they were of the same cultivation level, he definitely wouldn't have been able to escape the constraints of this magic. But since Hea Bing's cultivation was a full three minor realms higher than Feng Yuechan's, the moment he sensed danger, his body shook, and his surging spirit force shattered the ice encrusting his skin.

He turned to look at Feng Yuechan not far away, his heart moved slightly, and he launched several weapon controls that struck her spirit umbrella Magic Artifact.

The massive impact sent Feng Yuechan flying, crashing to the ground in a sorry state.

"Like to play the hero, huh!" Hea Bing gritted his teeth, his figure soared out, charging straight towards Feng Yuechan with murderous intent.

Just then, Li Baxian, shrouded in sword light, lunged into the fight, while at the same time, Lu Ye, dragging the Longsword behind him, attacked from behind Hea Bing. A slash of fiery red sword light flashed by, striking down in an attack coordinated to hit from front and back.

However, despite their close cooperation, the immense gap in cultivation was not easily bridged. After only crossing swords for three breaths, both men were sent flying, blood spurting from their respective injuries.

Feng Yuechan's magic and spells struck once more, hindering Hea Bing.

Deep in the underground cavern, Yiyi held the Nine Arrays Diagram in both hands, desperately channeling spirit force into it. Watching several figures within the array moving back and forth and clashing fiercely, she felt a growing sense of urgency.

Although her Cloud River Realm cultivation was much stronger than before, in theory, she should be able to slightly activate the power of the Nine Arrays Diagram to help Lu Ye and the others.

But at the moment, she felt powerless, simply because the four cultivators clashing within the array were all at the Cloud River Realm, and their intense combat caused the diagram to fluctuate so violently that she had to exert all her strength just to maintain its operation. If she failed to keep the array running, Hea Bing would find a chance to escape it.

Therefore, she dared not make any careless moves, only maintaining the operation of the Nine Arrays Diagram as it was.

In the chaotic stone forest, Lu Ye and Li Baxian launched attack after attack at Hea Bing, only to be repelled time and again, each time ending in a complete disarray.

Compared to them, Feng Yuechan was in a much better situation, but she did not dare to be careless. The release of her spells was almost continuous, because any pause could mean Lu Ye or Li Baxian might die.

Lu Ye, Li Baxian, and Feng Yuechan had never experienced such a perilous struggle since they began their cultivation path. It was like walking a tightrope on a cliff, where any small mistake could lead to an irreversible disaster.

Hea Bing's disdainful expression gradually faded, the development of the battle unexpectedly perplexing.

Having assessed the cultivation levels of his three opponents, he had thought it would be a one-sided slaughter. However, the performance of the trio greatly surprised him.

From the looks of the situation, even if the three joined forces, they weren't his match. Though he was alone, his formidable cultivation still gave him the upper hand. In reality, however, he found it difficult to kill any one of the trio.

Every time he tried to make a deadly move on one of them, the other two would desperately interfere, especially the sword cultivator, whose flying sword moved back and forth with stunning ferocity, annoying beyond endurance.

Several times, he thought about incurring a serious injury just to kill that sword cultivator, but in the end, he could not resolve himself to do so. He could only continue the drawn-out fight, slowly looking for an opportunity. Trapped in the hunting field, if he were to suffer a grave injury, he would have no choice but to spend his time recuperating.

The injuries to the combat cultivator and the sword cultivator were growing more severe, a fact that undoubtedly worked in his favor. There would come a moment when one of the two would fall, and then the remaining two would be nothing to fear.

If someone had told him before today that a few cultivators at the Level 3-4 would be able to fight him to a standstill, he would have scoffed at them. Yet, at this very moment, that was precisely what he was experiencing.

Inconceivable!

These three must not be nobodies, especially the sword cultivator and the magic cultivator. The more he fought with them, the more he felt an odd sense of familiarity.

After another round of fierce melee, Li Baxian and Lu Ye were knocked back in succession. Mid-air, Li Baxian's childlike facepaint shattered, revealing a spot of deep red on his forehead where the blood flowed.

If not for his quick retreat, it wouldn't have just been a small spot of blood on his forehead; his head might very well have been pierced through by a spear.

And it was all thanks to Lu Ye who, at the critical moment, had struck the opponent's Longspear with his own sword, creating an opportunity for him to escape death.

The shattered facepaint fell away, revealing the resolute face of Li Baxian. Although he saw no hope for victory in this battle, there was no choice left but to fight to the death given the circumstances!

Hea Bing swept his Longspear horizontally, shattering Feng Yuechan's incoming magic and spells, and gazing at Li Baxian's unveiled face, he was momentarily stunned, then his expression turned to one of surprise, "You're Li Baxian!"

He wondered why the sword cultivator felt so familiar; so it was this guy.

Both having ascended from the Spirit Stream Realm and having mixed in the Spirit Stream battlefield, how could Hea Bing not recognize the fame of Li Baxian—a monster who had long dominated the top ten of the Spirit Stream Ranking with his 8th Heaven cultivation, a powerful foe he once had to look up to.

He had heard that Li Baxian couldn't ascend to the 9th Heaven because of his shattered spiritual orifice, but he had no idea when Li Baxian had actually come to the Cloud River battlefield.

No wonder he had such a strong foundation. If it was indeed Li Baxian, then that made sense.

"Are you Feng Yuechan?" He Bing looked to the side again.

Having confirmed Li Baxian's identity, guessing Feng Yuechan was not difficult. These two were always inseparable, and the female magic cultivator's identity also matched up.

He then turned to Lu Ye, "And who might you be?"

That Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan had such profound foundations was understandable, after all, more than a decade of accumulation in the Spirit Stream Realm was no joke. But who was this man with the green-faced barghest mask?

This person's cultivation was one level lower than that of Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan, yet the strength he exhibited was in no way inferior to the two. What kind of monster had emerged from this?

In the face of He Bing's inquiry, Lu Ye had no intention of answering. He hurriedly recovered himself while the other made no move.

His body was covered in blood, the wounds though not severe were numerous, and even the right hand holding the saber had cracks at the base, with fresh blood staining the hilt.

"Forget it." He Bing didn't get a response but didn't mind, and with a grin, he said, "Who'd have thought, the famous Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan would actually die by my hands. Truly, thirty years on the east bank, thirty years on the west, fortunes really do ebb and flow!"

With the air of having them in his pocket, at the end of his words, he took a step forward, arriving in front of Li Baxian instantly. His spear thrust out like a dragon, aiming straight for Li Baxian's face. Of the three, the sword cultivator Li Baxian posed the greatest threat to him; naturally, it was best to kill him first.

As all his movements unfolded, Lu Ye pounced on him as well, and Feng Yuechan lifted her hand, blasting a magic spell.

Flying swords whirled but could not hinder the spear in the least. The spirit force, fiercely surging, sent the flying swords spinning away, and in an instant, the spear reached in front of Li Baxian.

Confronted with this strike, Li Baxian showed no intention of dodging. He raised his longsword in front of him, which suddenly turned into a streak of sword light, actively meeting the assault head-on.

Sword Qi razed, spear light thundered, and the two figures brushed past each other.

Li Baxian ended up half-kneeling several dozen feet away, clutching his abdomen, as crimson blood flowed out through his fingers.

A wound, flesh rolled back, also appeared on He Bing's cheek.

The pain angered him to rage. He had actually been injured by a Level 4 cultivator!

Feng Yuechan's magic spell arrived, and with a sweep of his spear, He Bing shattered it, then immediately turned around, once again going for Li Baxian with a lethal intent.

He had only taken one step when Lu Ye emerged from the side with a slash of the Boulder Mountain Saber, its blade light flashing toward him.

"Scram!" He Bing bellowed, raising his spear to meet the attack. However, in just a moment of engagement, he sensed something amiss. The combat cultivator's strike from the Level 3 realm, at this moment, was even more rapid and forceful than before.

After several crisp sounds, Lu Ye was knocked flying back, landing next to Li Baxian, his saber-holding right arm trembling uncontrollably.

He Bing looked bewildered...

Previously, when he had faced Lu Ye, it usually only took one strike to repel him, but just now, the other party had actually blocked several of his spear thrusts. The opponent's strength seemed to have suddenly increased greatly, which was clearly not normal.

Looking up, all he saw was Lu Ye surrounded by tumultuous spirit force and blood Qi, the fiery red spirit force and the crimson blood Qi mingling together, bursting with energy. Not just that, Amber, who had been crouching on Lu Ye's shoulder, was also amalgamating her blood Qi with Lu Ye, enveloping him in a dark red glow.

Was this... some sort of secret technique?

What He Bing couldn't see was that on Lu Ye's chest, a set of Bloodstain Spirit Runes was continuing to exert its effects.

Lu Ye rarely used Bloodstain because up until now, very few enemies had driven him to such difficult battles. Either the opponent was no match, or he himself was no match...

Bloodstain, a kind of spirit rune that needed time to settle and slowly exert its effects, was naturally hard to put to use.

But this time was different. Facing off against a Level 7 cultivator, if he truly couldn't match the opponent, then that would be it. But now, the three of them together barely managed to preserve their lives against the enemy, allowing Bloodstain Spirit Runes to come into play.

Almost from the start of the battle, Lu Ye had constructed this spirit rune on his chest.

As his body continued to suffer injuries and blood flowed, the accumulation of Bloodstain finally triggered a qualitative change in his strength.

Though he was still at Level 3, the strength he could now exert was comparable to that of Level 4 and was still improving, perhaps even reaching the standards of Level 5. If that were the case, he would be qualified for a proper fight, rather than like now, exerting all his strength merely to ensure survival.

Although He Bing felt that something was off with Lu Ye, this was obviously not the time to ponder on such matters. The battle had reached a point where no one would retreat; it was a matter of life and death.

Next to Lu Ye, Li Baxian stood up, his flesh writhing. He activated his spirit force to seal his wounds, as the scattered flying swords returned to him. He pointed with his longsword and commanded in a low voice, "Attack."

The two figures darted out simultaneously, flanking He Bing from both sides. At the same time, Feng Yuechan made her move, not aiming to injure or kill, but rather to divide the enemy's attention, easing the pressure on Li Baxian and Lu Ye.

Chapter 520 The Strongest Secret Technique of the Beast-Taming Faction

The battle erupted anew, but this time, He Bing's expression was not so composed, for he acutely felt Lu Ye's strength surging.

Just as Lu Ye had thought, if the three of them joining forces earlier could barely preserve their lives under his opponent's hand, now they actually had the capital to fight against him, even though this capital might not last for long...

The enhancement from the Bloodstain Spirit Runes didn't come out of nowhere; it was overextending his own strength.

Like now, harnessing the strength of Level 4 with the cultivation of Level 3—faster slashing, stronger power—naturally meant a greater burden.

If he was in a normal state, Lu Ye could fight an enemy for two hours, but in this state, he could only fight for one hour, or even less, and once the time limit passed, he would be exhausted.

However, considering the current situation, if there wasn't even the capital to fight the enemy, what else was there to worry about?

Hea Bing could feel Lu Ye's increasing strength, and naturally, so could Li Baxian. Although he was unclear about the means Lu Ye had employed, it was undoubtedly beneficial to their side, prompting him to immediately change his previous fighting style.

Before, he had been the leader with Lu Ye assisting, but now he let Lu Ye take the lead in attacking, fully supporting from the side, sealing any gaps, in addition to Feng Yuechan exerting pressure on Hea Bing, creating an extremely fierce situation for the time being.

The scenes where they were repelled in a flash after exchanging blows with the enemy no longer occurred. Under Lu Ye's main attack, they managed to exchange a few moves with Hea Bing.

And as time went by, his strength kept growing stronger.

Hea Bing felt very uncomfortable. Any of the three had a lower cultivation than him; in a one-on-one fight, he was confident that he could end the battle within ten breaths of time, or even had there only been two of them, he would have killed them by now.

But there were three of them; two entangled him, and one cast magic and spells, making it difficult for him to break through for the time being.

At the start, these three were not at all his opponents, but their cooperation prevented him from killing any of them. As time passed, they now had the capital to barely contend with him in battle.

Especially that Level 3 combat cultivator—whatever was happening, the more fervently he fought, the stronger the power he displayed.

Now that they had the capital to fight him, if they continued this way, wouldn't they be able to truly stand on equal footing with him?

Hea Bing felt extremely frustrated. If he had known earlier, he would have taken a heavy blow to kill one first rather than being entangled unclearly like this.

But now the chance was gone. Before, they could only survive under his offensive, and he could trade injury for life. Now, daring to do so would probably mean trading life for life.

He could never make such a choice.

No matter what secret technique the combat cultivator had used, the ability to exhibit such formidable strength with a Level 3 cultivation must come at a price. All he could do now was wait for the combat cultivator to be unable to hold on much longer, and naturally, he would obtain the final victory.

With this thought, Hea Bing wielded his long spear and switched from offense to defense. It was indeed a great shame for a dignified Level 7 cultivator to be forced into this choice, but there was no help for it. As long as he could win, the process didn't matter, especially against the notorious Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan, two of the Spirit Stream's Three Great Plagues.

As a Level 7 cultivator, Hea Bing decided to only defend and not attack, which left Lu Ye and Li Baxian completely without a solution. All their attacks were blocked by Hea Bing, not harming him in the least.

In the chaotic stone forest, the light from magic and spells kept flashing, with Sword Qi and saber light crisscrossing. Hea Bing guarded his position, occasionally swinging his long spear to ward off incoming spells and sword attacks. Standing there, he was like an eternal iceberg, unassailable.

The Bloodstain Spirit Runes continuously did their job, enhancing Lu Ye's strength further than before, and it faintly reached the level of his own Level 5 realm.

Just by observing the change in Hea Bing's demeanor when he blocked Lu Ye's attacks, it was evident. Before, Hea Bing appeared somewhat relaxed while defending, but now his expression was much more serious, exerting full strength with every strike.

Lu Ye's Level 5 realm, compared to an ordinary Level 7 realm, obviously wouldn't be inferior. If he truly had reached Level 5 at this moment, even in a one-on-one confrontation, he could fight Hea Bing to a standstill, perhaps even having a chance to win.

But this increase in strength was after all brought about by the Bloodstain Spirit Runes and still had some gaps compared to a true Level 5 realm.

And Lu Ye could feel that this was already his limit.

The enhancement from Bloodstain couldn't be limitless; after all, it was just a set of spirit runes. The fact that it could forcefully elevate his strength by two minor levels was enough to prove the power of these spirit runes, of course, related to the sufficiently long duration of the fight.

Since entering into combat within the array diagram, it had been more than the time of one incense stick, this had given the Bloodstain Spirit Runes the space to continue exerting their effect.

At this moment, Lu Ye and the other two truly had the credentials to stand toe-to-toe with Hea Bing, but that was far from enough...

Hea Bing felt extremely relieved, thankful that he had switched from offense to defense earlier and saved plenty of energy; otherwise, his current situation would undoubtedly be awkward.

The increase in Lu Ye's strength did not bring panic to him but rather astonishment; he had never known of a method that could boost a cultivator's strength so much.

But the greater the improvement, the greater the sacrifice required. He Bing could sense that the opponent's strength had reached a limit and there were no signs of further increase; he just needed to hold on a bit longer. Perhaps the next moment or the moment after, that combat cultivator would fall by himself.

The clanging and clashing sounds were incessant as Lu Ye and Li Baxian's figures interweaved back and forth, yet they could not shake He Bing in the slightest.

Li Baxian thought to himself that the situation was dire. Although it might seem under control, a crisis was surging beneath.

In the battle against He Bing, seventy percent of the pressure was on Lu Ye. Once Lu Ye couldn't hold on, it would be like a domino effect leading to their defeat.

If they could end the battle quickly, there wouldn't be too much to worry about. But He Bing, a Level 7 cultivator, was defending with an impenetrable guard, clearly determined to drag out the battle.

If they couldn't defeat the opponent before Lu Ye ran out of steam, today would be where all three of them would meet their end.

He still had one secret sword technique left, but it was his last resort. Once used, he would surely be exhausted. Without a proper opportunity, he couldn't act recklessly.

In the heat of the battle, he turned to look at Lu Ye, and Li Baxian's eyebrows lifted upon seeing him.

Lu Ye's expression was unchanged, without impatience or panic. Each slash was full of force; his composure and calmness affected Li Baxian.

That's right, if his junior brother could remain this composed, what was there for him to worry about? Having cultivated for so many more years than his junior, could his mentality really be inferior? If worst came to worst, what would be so bad about dying in battle here?

His thoughts clarified, he was now free of distraction.

At the same time, without knowing whether it was an illusion, he felt a bestial sense in Lu Ye's aura as if his moves became more ferocious than before.

At this moment, Lu Ye had fallen into a strange sensation.

This feeling was indescribable, as it was his first time experiencing it. Amidst the fierce battle and the passage of time, his blood Qi energy continuously intertwined with Amber, who was squatting on his shoulder, eventually causing a unique resonance.

This resonance was not just about the blending of blood Qi but also the collision and fusion of his spirit force with demonic power.

This resonance gradually gave him the illusion that Amber had become a part of his own body, and this illusion only became more and more real...

He immediately understood what was happening.

He hadn't expected a breakthrough at such a time, but it was understandable. After battling for such a long duration, he had accumulated enough experience, and the opponent was just right for him to display his capabilities, unlike last time in the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain's secret realm, where the opponent's strength was far beyond his, leaving him no room to exert himself.

Lu Ye's eyes brightened with the hope of victory.

His attacks became increasingly wild.

It had to be said that the Beast Seal Method he obtained in the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain's secret realm played a significant role in this battle. Ever since he acquired the Beast Seal Method and established the Life Origin Method with Amber, even if Amber did nothing but squat on his shoulder during fights, she provided him with tremendous help.

Just like now, without Amber, Lu Ye estimated he would've been near the end of his rope, but Amber's presence allowed him to hold on longer. Every time he swung his saber, he could borrow strength from her, thereby reducing the load he had to bear himself.

As the battle progressed, his blood Qi continually merged with Amber's, causing the Beast Seal Method to transform slowly.

In this regard, the Bloodstain Spirit Runes and the Beast Seal Method were indeed a perfect match.

The resonance between him and Amber deepened, until at one moment, it reached a peak. In that instant, Lu Ye distinctly felt an inseparable connection with Amber, and she truly became a part of his body.

Beneath his clothes, the tiger head Beast Seal on his chest erupted with light, and a profound attracting force emanated from it.

Under the influence of that force, Amber suddenly transformed into a streak of Liu Guang and surged into the Beast Seal.

The surging power burst forth from the Beast Seal, quickly flowing to Lu Ye's limbs and body, replenishing his own depletion. Despite the long battle, especially under the enhancement of the Bloodstain Spirit Runes, Lu Ye was utterly fatigued, but after this surge of energy erupted, all his weariness disappeared in an instant, filling him with vitality.

All the pain vanished, and his trembling right hand steadied once more. The deep red glow that enveloped Lu Ye turned into an orange-yellow light.

It was a blend of blood red and gold: the blood red was the glow of his blood Qi and spirit force, and the gold was the glow of Amber's demonic power.

The light was solid and substantial, and on each side of Lu Ye's forehead, a pair of tiger ears materialized, while behind him, a tail formed of spirit force and blood Qi energy, slightly wagging as if alive.

The strongest secret technique of the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain's beast-taming faction, Beast Transformation!