

Humanity 531

Chapter 531 Reaching the Limit

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The plan was thus, but under the current circumstances, it was impossible to shake off the two pursuers. Without shaking them off, Lu Ye couldn't set up another teleportation array.

He tried to construct Void Spirit Runes in midair. If he succeeded, he could use the power of the spirit runes to connect with the teleportation array, achieving the goal of teleporting.

However, the Void Spirit Runes were something he learned from books, not from the Talent Tree, so he couldn't conjure them freely and at will.

These spirit runes were extremely complex, with over three thousand Yin-Yang Dual Origins in total. Even if Lu Ye concentrated on constructing them, he needed some time, and there was still a chance of failure.

Now, being hunted down and on the run, the spirit force within him was turbulent, and he couldn't possibly construct the spirit runes.

After several attempts, he had no choice but to give up.

Just then, a powerful surge of spirit force came from below, followed by a formidable magic and spells rising into the sky, aiming straight at him for a killing blow.

In an instant, Lu Ye's skin tightened, and a chill spread throughout his body.

His figure, fleeing forward, contorted at an inconceivable angle, narrowly avoiding the attack from the magic and spells.

Before he could steady his mind, even more magic and spells were already upon him.

The attacker was a Level 9 magic cultivator who had been lying in ambush below, waiting for him to pass by before striking out of the blue.

This magic cultivator must have been in contact with the two behind him; otherwise, there was no reason for such a well-timed ambush!

As numerous magic and spells filled his field of vision, and he felt their formidable power, Lu Ye sighed.

After all... he had reached his limit!

The magic and spells assailed him, and the violent fluctuations of power swept over him, engulfing his figure.

The magic cultivator who had struck, along with the two pursuers behind Lu Ye, were all ecstatic.

Especially the two pursuers, who had already witnessed his speed during the pursuit. If it wasn't for the front ambush, they really had no good way to deal with Lu Yiye for a while.

Now that Lu Yiye was swept by numerous magic and spells, his Level 3 cultivation couldn't withstand it, and he was likely already dead.

This also filled them with concern, fearing that the body would be shattered, leaving no proof of death.

As various thoughts crossed their minds, amidst the center of the violent magical onslaught, a dazzling golden light suddenly burst forth, followed by Lu Ye's figure shooting out from within.

"Impossible!" the magic cultivator below cried out in disbelief. He, a Level 9 in ambush, thought that even if Lu Yiye, a Level 3, was not dead, he must have been severely injured. Yet he now appeared unharmed within the cocoon of golden light.

What was that golden light? A Golden Body Talisman?

Even if it were a Golden Body Talisman, it shouldn't have completely blocked his spells. This was beyond his understanding.

Seeing Lu Ye's figure charging forth, the magic cultivator also hurriedly ascended, joining the pursuit. Regardless of what the layer of golden light was, they absolutely couldn't let Lu Yiye get away.

During the chase, once they closed in enough to strike, the magic cultivator unleashed more of his magic and spells.

Despite Lu Ye's attempt to dodge, it was still too late.

The powerful magic and spells hit him precisely, causing him to tumble erratically in the air.

To the magic cultivator's amazement, even though Lu Ye was in a sorry state, the golden light still enveloped him without a hint of injury.

This was definitely not a Golden Body Talisman!

A Golden Body Talisman didn't possess such great protective capabilities.

"Bring him down, don't let him escape!" a voice came, as another Level 9 had caught up.

The magic cultivator nodded, and immediately joined forces with the other, putting intense pressure on Lu Ye.

In the sky, Lu Ye, wrapped in golden light, was like a small boat sailing through a tempest, struggling to dodge the onslaught. Nevertheless, he couldn't avoid every attack; each strike rippled over the golden light on his body. Although they couldn't harm him, they sent him tumbling chaotically through the air.

It has to be said, the protective power of the Golden Body Token was incredibly strong—all those attacks landing on him could only alter his direction.

"Fall down!"

Dizzy and disoriented, a shout came from above, followed by a flash of saber light, and Lu Ye felt a slight pause in his movement before plunging down like a meteor toward the ground.

With a thunderous crash, he slammed heavily into the earth, fracturing the ground and creating a crater upon impact.

Lu Ye scrambled to his feet, only to find three figures suspended in the air, forming a triangular formation around him. One was the magic cultivator who had ambushed him from the ground, and the other two were the experts from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge who had been in hot pursuit, both combat cultivators, one wielding a long saber with a fierce aura.

The one who had knocked him down from the sky must have been the saber-wielding combat cultivator.

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As he stood up, the three of them attacked him again, with magic and spells sweeping through, saber light cutting across the sky, and the shimmering light of weapon control striking him.

Lu Ye was sent flying once more, his body uncontrollably battered by the onslaught of attacks, leaving him disoriented.

After a good while, the fluctuations of spirit force around them finally subsided, and he fell to the ground once again.

"Golden Body Token!" The combat cultivator wielding the saber couldn't help but twitch at the corner of his eye as he spoke.

The joint attack of three people, two at Level 9 and one at Level 8, had failed to breach the golden protection or cause any harm to Lu Ye. What that golden light was had become self-explanatory.

In this world, apart from the Golden Body Token, there was nothing else capable of offering such absurdly strong protection. It was a protection blessed by Heaven's Augury, and until its duration expired, not to mention the three of them from the Cloud River Realm, even if someone from the Divine Sea Realm were to come, they could only stare helplessly.

"He used the Golden Body Token?" the magic cultivator also realized, feeling a painful twinge in his heart.

The Golden Body Token, such a valuable item, synonymous with a second life, had actually been obtained by someone at Level 3, and he had already used it!

If only he had known that Lu Yiye had such a precious item on him, he would have chosen a more covert assassination method, ensuring a fatal hit. But now, what's done is done, and feeling heartache over it was futile.

Where did this guy get the Golden Body Token, and why was his luck so good?

While the two were speaking, Lu Ye got up, looked around, and a sense of bitterness welled up in his heart.

In the end, he still hadn't been able to escape.

"Don't even think about running, you won't be able to get away," the magic cultivator warned him. With the protection of the Golden Body Token, they would never be able to hurt Lu Ye, at most they could only restrict his movements.

But the Golden Body Token couldn't protect him forever; it had a time limit. When the time was up, they naturally could kill their target.

In other words, in their eyes, Lu Yiye was already like a fish on the chopping board, with no chance of escape. The only question was when they would execute him.

"I won't run," Lu Ye said straightforwardly as he sat down cross-legged and took out some elixir pills to swallow. The spirit force inside him had been greatly depleted during his escape, and no matter what he would face next, replenishing his own spirit force was always the right choice.

Seeing this, the three from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had no intention to stop him, mainly because they couldn't.

As time passed, the three kept a constant watch on Lu Ye, seemingly afraid he might pull some trick. But Lu Ye remained seated in his original spot, motionless, quietly swallowing elixir pills and refining them.

In just a short time, he had swallowed nearly ten elixir pills, to the astonishment of the three.

Normally, cultivators did need the help of elixir pills to recover themselves, but they relied more on Spirit Stones because consuming too many elixir pills in a short period could cause a stagnation of spirit force in the body, affecting one's strength. More seriously, too much accumulation of pill poison required a long period of recuperation and recovery.

However, considering that Lu Ye might lose his life at any moment, they could understand why he wasn't too concerned about that right now.

Suddenly, Lu Ye opened his eyes, looked at the three, and said, "The big sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge have quite a bounty on me. If the three of you divide it equally, it should be enough for a lifetime. Congratulations."

His sudden, nonsensical words caught the three from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge off guard, and they showed no intention of responding. The combat cultivator with the saber watched Lu Ye coldly, his expression vigilant.

Lu Ye continued, "But what a pity, your plans to divide the bounty might fall through. In a little while, a layer of blood-light will burst from my body and reveal my position. Surely, many will gather here. I won't say too many, but there will definitely be hundreds. When the time comes, whoever takes my life will claim the entire bounty, or will you still share it equally? However, even though the bounty is substantial, if too many people arrive, the share for each individual might be quite meager."

His words made all three frown.

In fact, this was something the three of them were worried about. Despite their silent vigil, they were secretly communicating. Lu Yiye's location would definitely be exposed, unless the Golden Body Token lost its effect before the exposure.

But the duration of the Golden Body Token was long, and nobody knew when it would expire.

And what Lu Ye had said was the most likely scenario to happen next.

"What are you trying to say?" the magic cultivator asked in a deep voice.

"The three of you managed to catch up to me, which is due to your own ability. I have no complaints dying at your hands, that's what you deserve. But, if I were to die at the hands of others, I'd be somewhat unwilling. So I don't want to draw too many people here," Lu Ye said, then changed the subject, "I'm no expert, but I do have a good grasp of the Array Path. If you allow it, I can set up a Concealment Array here, which might cover up the commotion later, so others won't discover my position."

A Level 8 cultivator's expression changed at these words, "Are you that kind-hearted?"

Lu Ye responded indifferently, "Although I, Lu someone, am not highly cultivated, I've stirred up quite a few storms. I'm content to die, but I don't want many people to witness my demise. Of course, whether you believe it or not is up to you, as is whether you want to set up the array or not."

All of a sudden, the combat cultivator with the saber looked at the magic cultivator and asked, "Brother Liew, I remember you practiced the Array Path, can you set up a Concealment Array?"

Lu Ye's eyes twitched at those words.

He listened as the Liew surnamed magic cultivator said, "I can."

Lu Ye was immediately speechless, his plan foiled...

He had hoped that if these three were willing to let him set up the array, he would create a teleportation array and then simply teleport away before their very eyes.

Unexpectedly, this Liew surnamed magic cultivator actually had also cultivated the Array Path!

Truly bad luck indeed.

Chapter 532 Just Missed by a Little Bit

"I'll set up the array, two protectors," said the Liew-surnamed magic cultivator.

The two Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators nodded, one to the left and one to the right, keeping their gaze steadily on Lu Ye without so much as blinking.

The moment he produced several array banners and cast them in all directions, just from his technique alone, it was clear that this man indeed possessed some expertise in the Array Path. However, at the Cloud River Realm level, even those who switched to specializing in arrays could not achieve very high proficiency, let alone a magic cultivator who also studied the Array Path.

As the array banners were cast, the Liew-surnamed cultivator began his spellcasting.

Lu Ye sat upright in his original position, watching with cold eyes.

A moment later, he suddenly smiled, "Brother Liew, you're running out of time."

"Shut up!" The Liew-surnamed cultivator's anger was evident on his face. Array setup wasn't something that could be done instantly; it always required some time. If given enough time, he could indeed arrange a concealment array, but what he lacked right now was precisely that—time.

No one knew when Lu Ye would suddenly burst out, which would surely reveal their location.

Already tense, the Liew-surnamed magic cultivator faltered due to Lu Ye's taunting, causing the connected array banners to suddenly tremble.

He inwardly felt the situation was bad. If he didn't stabilize the array banners quickly, he might have to start all over again, rendering all his previous efforts useless. Then it would truly be too late.

But in the end, he was only a cultivator who had studied the Array Path as a secondary discipline, not a true array cultivator. Facing such a situation, he was powerless to remedy it.

With his continued spellcasting, the trembling of the array banners grew even more intense.

The other two frowned and watched. Although they weren't versed in the Array Path, they too could see something was amiss.

In the midst of the chaos, an array banner suddenly flew out of nowhere, inserting itself into the formation and immediately stabilizing the unstable banners.

"Your array setting is inadequate."

Lu Ye commented casually as another array banner flew out, seamlessly integrating into the formation yet to be formed.

The Liew-surnamed magic cultivator was speechless, not knowing whether to stop him or not. After thinking it over, he ultimately didn't intervene. As he watched array banners fly out, in the blink of an eye, the rudimentary shape of a large array had formed.

The Liew-surnamed magic cultivator watched with astonishment, knowing that in terms of proficiency in the Array Path, Lu Yiye was likely several streets ahead of him.

No wonder he had caused such a huge commotion in the Spirit Stream battlefield. He heard that the protective arrays of the camps of the big sects simply couldn't stop him. Initially thinking these were exaggerations, but now seeing for himself, it was clear this man truly had some skills.

This level of proficiency in the Array Path, even some True Lake Realm array cultivators might not be able to match.

Lu Yiye must have visited the Tianyan Sect and passed through the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, gaining a tremendous amount of benefits—otherwise, it made no sense for him to have such a high level of proficiency in the Array Path.

It must be said, the Liew-surnamed magic cultivator's guess was correct. The reason why Lu Ye had such high proficiency in the Array Path was partly because he had an extremely high talent in the Path of Spirit Runes and most importantly, because he had gained too many benefits from the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

The experience of breaking through the Hundred Arrays Pagoda had revolutionized his proficiency in the Array Path, with the aftereffects of the improvement lasting until today.

The Hundred Arrays Pagoda of the Tianyan Sect was a source of pain in the hearts of the array cultivators of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, for only cultivators from the Haotian Alliance could enter that place, with the array cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge unable to set foot there in their lifetimes.

While the Liew-surnamed magic cultivator was lost in thought, a spirit rune had already been rapidly constructed, the formation obtained a core, creating a barrier and enveloping an area of a hundred zhang.

The Liew-surnamed magic cultivator's eyelids twitched at the sight. Even though they were on opposing sides, he couldn't help but admire Lu Ye's skill. Simply the act of constructing spirit runes out of thin air was already something far beyond his reach.

The large array was complete, and the saber-wielding combat cultivator spoke solemnly, "Is this a concealment array?"

The Liew-surnamed magic cultivator replied dully, "Yes." Then he turned to Lu Ye, "Don't think this means you won't have to die!"

Lu Ye said indifferently, "As I said, I just don't want too many people to see how I die. Now that the concealment array is in place, let me set up a Breath-concealing Array for you. The commotion when it erupts will be intense; one concealment array might not be able to hide it."

Without regard for whether the others agreed or not, he continued to set up the formation. Array banners were dispatched in all directions, and quickly, a formation took shape.

He stood in the midst of the formation, striving not to show any weaknesses, channeling his spirit force, constructing the Void Spirit Runes.

Spirit force filled the air, as Yin-Yang Primordial Elements swiftly formed and spread out.

But the Void Spirit Runes were the most complex spirit runes Lu Ye had encountered so far, apart from the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes—three times more complex than the Wings Spirit Runes. The difficulty of constructing them was immense.

Even though he had constructed the Void Spirit Runes many times before, there was still a risk of failure now.

With a silent prayer in his heart, his concentration was pushed to its limits.

Luckily, there were no mistakes in the process of construction. In no time at all, the Void Spirit Runes were seventy percent complete; it wouldn't take much longer. He only needed another twenty breaths of time. Once the Void Spirit Runes were finished, he could immediately activate the teleportation array and leave this place.

The only question now was whether the Liew-surnamed magic cultivator would realize something was amiss. Given his some proficiency in the Array Path, he might notice that what was being set up was not a Breath-concealing Array.

Lu Ye glanced over secretly and saw an utterly astonished expression in the eyes of the Liew-surnamed cultivator, as if he were completely immersed in the remarkable state of constructing spirit runes from thin air.

For him, a magic cultivator who had also trained as an array cultivator, witnessing a spirit runes master construct such intricate spirit runes was undoubtedly an incredibly rare experience. It could possibly provide him with some profound insights, which then might enhance his own skill level.

It's settled!

Lu Ye felt greatly reassured.

Just as he was thinking this, the sound of cleaving air suddenly rang out, and a saber light slashed onto the nearly complete Void Spirit Runes.

With a boom, spirit force went into turmoil, and the Void Spirit Runes instantly shattered.

Lu Ye's face darkened, and as he looked up at the combat cultivator who had used the saber, he wished he could pounce on him and chop him to death with frenzied slashes.

It was just a little bit more!

"Brother Xia?" The Liew surname magic cultivator snapped out of his immersion, looking at Xia Liang in confusion.

Xia Liang said, "Is he setting up a Breath-concealing Array?"

"No."

The Liew surname magic cultivator shook his head. He naturally recognized a Breath-concealing Array, but even though he realized that Lu Ye wasn't setting up a Breath-concealing Array, he didn't intervene. From his perspective, Lu Ye was bound to die at this point anyway. The reason he hadn't stopped Lu Ye was mainly because the latter's technique of constructing spirit runes was so marvelous that it gave him some gains, so he wanted to observe a bit longer.

"I knew it," Xia Liang said coldly, staring at Lu Ye. "If you truly didn't want too many people to see your death, you'd have extinguished your life force yourself. Why bother with all this needless effort?"

The other two realized this was indeed the case. Lu Ye had previously helped them set up a large concealing array, and then proceeded to set up a second formation, claiming it was a Breath-concealing Array, when in reality it was unclear what he was actually doing—clear signs of ill intent.

This was completely inconsistent with what he had said before.

In a situation where death was certain, yet being so secretive, it wasn't the mindset of someone willing to accept death; instead, it was a clear sign of desperate resistance.

For a moment, the three of them looked at him with unfavorable expressions.

Lu Ye sat there with his eyelids drooped, making no attempt to offer any explanation.

Right then, a streak of blood light suddenly emerged on the surface of his body, and immediately after, the blood light transformed into a beam of light piercing the sky straight into the clouds.

The expressions of the three from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge turned ugly.

The large concealing array couldn't hide such a phenomenon at all! Their anticipation had been in vain.

Now that Lu Yiye's location was exposed, a large number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators would definitely rush over here. Although the three of them had impressive cultivation, they wouldn't be able to monopolize the situation; they couldn't possibly drive away all the arriving Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators without incurring public wrath.

True to prediction, shortly after, a group of nearby Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators arrived at the scene. This group consisted of four individuals, with the highest among them at Level 6 cultivation and the lowest at Level 4. Judging by their attire, they appeared to be brothers from the same sect.

Having casually come over to investigate, they were surprised to find powerful allies from their own camp at the location. And the person they surrounded in the center was none other than someone radiating golden light and wearing a ghostly mask with a green face and fierce fangs.

"What is this..." The leading Level 6 cultivator was taken aback, but he quickly realized that Lu Yiye had been cornered by the strong fighters from their own camp!

However, what confused him was why, having cornered Lu Yiye, their camp's powerful cultivators only surrounded him without killing? After all, Lu Yiye's life was tied to a substantial bounty.

The four didn't dare to get too close, lest they arouse misunderstandings among their own powerful allies, and so they watched from a distance, filled with doubts.

As time passed, more and more cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge gathered, with the majority being like the first group that arrived—unclear about the current situation.

Some powerful individuals went straight forward, reaching Lu Ye's side and exchanged a few words with Xia Liang and others. There were even those who attempted to attack Lu Ye, but no matter how powerful the assault, they could only cause Lu Ye's figure to tumble, unable to harm him in the slightest.

Soon, those cultivators who were unclear about the situation began to understand.

Lu Yiye had obtained a Golden Body Token from somewhere, and now he was protected by the Golden Body, impervious to external forces. Before the Golden Body expired, nobody could kill him.

Some cultivators were aware of the Golden Body Token, while others were not. But once they understood the situation, they were all amazed; such a token was a protection blessed by Heaven's Augury. Before its duration ended, no technique could break it.

Such a treasure, even Divine Sea Realm cultivators would be envious to see, yet it ended up in the hands of a Cloud River Level 3 cultivator, who also used it.

This was truly a waste of heavenly resources.

After all, Lu Yiye was doomed to die—what a pity to waste a Golden Body Token.

But this clarified why those powerful cultivators at Level 8-9 merely surrounded Lu Ye without killing him.

This made many ponder. Originally, their cultivation was not high, and it would have been difficult to reap any benefits, but if this was the situation, perhaps they could give it a try.

What if, in the moment the Golden Body vanished, they were the ones to kill Lu Yiye?

Chapter 533 Dragging Someone to Be Buried with Me

Time passed, and with each two-hour period marked by the eruption of a blood-colored light pillar, more and more cultivators from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge gathered around Lu Ye.

After only four to six hours had passed, more than a dozen Level 9 powerhouses had arrived, and the number of those below Level 9 had increased to several hundred.

Those Level 9 powerhouses scattered around Lu Ye, encircling him completely, and discussed openly how to deal with him without any intention of avoiding his attention.

The current situation was somewhat awkward for these powerhouses, especially for the three cultivators who had first cornered Lu Ye here. They had had a chance to reap the rewards all to themselves, but hindered by the Golden Body Token, the circumstance now made it impossible for a monopolization of the spoils. With so many people gathered, they were bound to share some of the benefits.

After a brief discussion, a decision was finally made.

Of the rewards for slaying Lu Yiye, Tan Sheng would first take a twenty percent cut, which was part of the original agreement when he spread the news among many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge powerhouses, an agreement that could not be changed.

Another twenty percent would go to Xia Liang and his two companions.

Because they had contributed significantly to cornering Lu Yiye here, they deserved the twenty percent as a matter of course; this was something everyone agreed on.

From the remaining sixty percent, half would be divided among the other Level 9 powerhouses present, and the other half would be distributed to the remaining cultivators.

Overall, this distribution plan couldn't satisfy everyone, but given the current situation, there was no better option.

Lu Ye had truly become like a fish on the chopping block, not yet dead but already divided into benefits and distributed.

With the discussion settled, all that was left was to wait.

To await the expiration of the Golden Body Token's time limit...

Sitting cross-legged in the center of the crowd, Lu Ye constantly consumed elixirs to recover his spirit force. Although he didn't hide it from others, no one from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge tried to stop him.

Because they couldn't stop him—shielded by the Golden Body Token, no matter how they attacked, Lu Ye would remain unharmed. How could they stop him?

After several hours, Lu Ye's spirit force had fully recovered. He even took out a piece of dried meat from his storage space and began to eat heartily.

Surveying his surroundings with a cold eye, he indeed saw a few familiar faces.

Tan Sheng, needless to say, had arrived more than two hours ago, glaring at him with a sullen expression, clearly in a bad mood.

He had had hopes of swiftly killing Lu Ye and then competing for the top spot on the Kills Ranking. Instead, not only was Lu Ye still alive, but his ranking on the Kills Ranking was plummeting. He could forget about the top spot, and the benefits from killing Lu Ye had been reduced to twenty percent, a heavy loss indeed.

Wei Que had also arrived, standing not far from Tan Sheng, chatting and laughing with acquaintances.

Among the scattered crowd, Lu Ye also spotted the Jiang Liuzi brothers.

The backs of the hands of many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were glowing with crimson light, while only he, surrounded by the crowd, his hand glowing with a different light, truly stood out, unique among a sea of sameness.

When the Jiang Liuzi brothers felt Lu Ye's gaze, they looked up and their eyes met. Lu Ye nodded slightly at them.

This calm demeanor somewhat startled the Jiang Liuzi brothers—they weren't sure if Lu Yiye was genuinely fearless or just putting on an act.

A Level 3 cultivator surrounded by so many from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, when the time limit of the Golden Body Token was up, it would be his time to die. If they were in his shoes, Jiang Liuzi felt he couldn't remain as calm and composed as Lu Ye.

As Lu Ye surveyed the surroundings, a message came through his battlefield marking. Looking down, he found it was from Li Baxian.

"Little martial brother, hold on, I'm contacting people to save you!"

Lu Ye's situation had caused quite a stir in a short time, and many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators had heard and were rushing over. Naturally, members of the Haotian Alliance had also heard.

This greatly alarmed Li Baxian. He and Feng Yuechan were hiding about 30 miles away.

But given the current situation, his anxiety was of no use. Both he and Feng Yuechan were only at Level 4 in cultivation and had no chance of rescuing Lu Ye from the encirclement of so many powerhouses. Thus, they dared not make any rash moves.

Now all Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan could do was to try and contact as many strong members of the Haotian Alliance as possible, pleading for their help.

But to rescue Lu Ye from the heavy siege, it would take the combined effort of fifteen to twenty Level 9 powerhouses—any fewer, and it would be a suicide mission. The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge would certainly not show any courtesy to the Haotian Alliance.

If given enough time, relying on their connections to amass fifteen to twenty Level 9 powerhouses was not an issue, but time was of the essence, and many people were not nearby; traveling here would take time.

Li Baxian could only regret not advancing to the Cloud River earlier. If he had been at the Cloud River Level 9 by now, how could he watch his little martial brother stuck in such a dire situation?

But then he thought that if he had advanced to the Cloud River too early, he might already have reached the True Lake Realm by now and wouldn't have remained in the Cloud River battlefield.

After much thought, he ultimately blamed himself for being useless and unable to rescue his little martial brother from a desperate situation.

"Alright!" Lu Ye responded with a simple word.

Looking around once more, he took a deep breath. He had prepared almost everything, and it was time to implement his plan.

Currently surrounded, he couldn't break free. His only reliance was the unbreakable Golden Body Token.

But the Golden Body Token ultimately had its time limit, and once it expired, he didn't want to die but would have to.

Unless he could set up a teleportation array and use it to shift more than 60 miles away, giving him a slim chance of survival.

Waiting to die was out of the question. Even if he couldn't escape, and he was to die here, he had to drag some people down with him before his last breath.

Especially that Tan Sheng—it was his activation of the secret technique on the tracking disc that had placed him in such an awkward situation.

Spirit force surged fiercely within him, and a full chest-covering array of spirit runes rapidly took shape over his chest.

Then, the fierce surge of spirit force quickly poured into the spirit runes.

This unusual occurrence naturally did not escape the attention of the Level 9 cultivators gathered around, and in an instant, numerous eyes turned towards him, their expressions filled with astonishment and suspicion, completely clueless as to what Lu Yiye was up to.

Wei Que spoke out, "Kid, don't bother trying any tricks, you won't escape."

Lu Ye lifted his head and looked at him calmly, "I'm not trying to run, don't be nervous."

As he spoke, he stuffed a handful of elixir pills into his mouth.

Such a way of gobbling down elixir pills truly dumbfounded onlookers; cultivators did not consume elixir pills like this, but considering Lu Ye's current predicament, it was no longer surprising.

Wei Que frowned, "What are you doing?"

"What do you think I can do?"

This question actually left Wei Que at a loss for words. Indeed, given Lu Yiye's current situation, what more could he do? At most, he could only struggle futilely. After all, he was only at Level 3, and with so many Level 9 cultivators present, as long as they were cautious, he surely couldn't cause any trouble.

Many shared this line of thought.

Thus, although they noticed that Lu Ye was up to something, they didn't take it seriously.

As time passed, even with a large supply of elixir pills, his spirit force was steadily depleting, all converging into the spirit runes on his chest.

Despite the loss of spirit force, the aura emanating from Lu Ye's body was gradually strengthening, quickly surpassing the level expected of a Level 3 cultivator.

If one were to guess his cultivation level based on the fluctuations of spirit force emanating from him now, he would appear to be at Level 4, or even Level 5.

This abnormal situation raised alarm.

Someone shouted in a low voice, "Lu Yiye, stop what you're doing, or else..."

"Or else, what?"

Lu Ye raised his eyes to the speaker, who faltered into silence.

Indeed, or else what?

Beat him? With the protection of the Golden Body Token, who could harm him? Mere threats were meaningless to Lu Ye, and acting on them would be a waste of effort.

After a pause, the person spoke again, "If you cooperate nicely, you might suffer less pain, but if you dare have any ulterior motives, I'll ensure you can neither live in peace nor die in comfort!"

Lu Ye couldn't be bothered with him and stuffed another handful of elixir pills into his mouth.

It was a pity, the Breath Fruit wine his Second Senior Sister had brewed was all used up; otherwise, the recovery of spirit force could have been even faster. Its restorative effects couldn't be compared with that of the Origin Spirit Pill.

The storage of spirit force within the chest's spirit runes had reached its limit.

Yet it still wasn't enough.

Lu Ye recalled the last time he had deployed these spirit runes and silently decided that this time he would offer Ten Thousand Demons Ridge a significant gift.

As spirit force coursed through him, another identical set of spirit runes appeared on his back, and he started to channel spirit force into them.

His aura grew even stronger, and Lu Ye's expression became more solemn.

Maintaining two sets of spirit runes demanded immense mental focus, especially after a substantial amount of spirit force had been poured into them. If he were not fully concentrated, and the spirit runes shattered, all the spirit force channeled into them would burst forth in an instant, and even the Golden Body Token might not keep him completely safe.

The Golden Body Token could block attacks from the outside, but it might not withstand explosions from within the body.

Fortunately, Lu Ye's mental power had always been much stronger than cultivators of the same level. He maintained his focus, and as long as he wasn't heavily disrupted, there shouldn't be any problems.

"Something's not right!"

Xia Liang suddenly spoke up.

Lu Ye's aura at the moment far surpassed that of a Level 3 realm; judging just by his aura, no one would question if someone said he's at a Level 5-6. And with his ongoing actions, that aura was still growing stronger.

Even a fool could see something wasn't right.

Immediately, someone angrily yelled, "Lu Yiye, stop with your tricks."

From his severe expression, it seemed as though Lu Ye was attempting some unforgiveable act against him, but in fact, Lu Ye was the one truly trapped and in imminent danger.

Others began to threaten him with vile words.

Lu Ye turned a deaf ear to them as if they were just passing gas, continually channeling his own spirit force into the spirit runes on his back.

With his posture and the protection of the Golden Body Token, the powerful cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge truly felt powerless, overwhelmed with helplessness and frustration in their hearts. How could the Golden Body Token, which had already lasted for several Shichen, still not fade away?

Just wait for the Golden Body Token to disappear, and then any of the Level 9 cultivators, regardless of who acted, could directly execute Lu Yiye.

Chapter 534 Self-Destruct?

Continuously swallowing elixir pills to refine them into his own spirit force, and then channeling that spirit force into the spirit runes on his back, Lu Ye's aura gradually became more ferocious.

Even those Level 9 cultivators gathered around him began to sense a trace of dangerous aura.

At this moment, Lu Ye seemed to them like a volcano that could erupt at any moment.

"Is he going to self-destruct?" someone asked in shock. Surrounded by so many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, let alone Lu Ye being at Level 3, even a Level 9 would not be able to escape. Rather than being slain by others, it was better to end his own life.

Ordinary cultivators naturally did not possess the means to self-destruct, but as a spirit runes master, who knew what peculiar abilities Lu Yiye had.

It must be said, many harbored this suspicion, mainly because Lu Ye's current state was too abnormal.

However, if he truly intended to self-destruct, he would have acted already, why would he hide it and not release it?

"He is gathering power!" someone exclaimed, "He wants to drag others down with him!"

This statement jolted everyone awake. All the Level 9 cultivators tensed up, and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators on the outside showed fear on their faces, all of them stepping back together.

The more dangerous Lu Ye's aura became, the stronger the explosion would be when he self-destructed. He had been holding back, not yet acting, clearly wanting to increase the power of his self-destruction to an extreme. With so many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators present, he could definitely take a few of them down with him at that time.

"Wishful thinking!"

Thus spoke Wei Que, taking a few steps to arrive in front of Lu Ye, kicking out and directly sending Lu Ye flying, then shouting, "Send him up!"

As his words fell, many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators' eyes lit up, feeling that it was a good idea.

If Lu Yiye wanted to use the power of self-destruction to drag some people down with him, then sending him into the air would solve the problem. Once he was in the air, even if he self-destructed, it would hardly pose a threat to the people around.

Another person kicked out, sending Lu Ye soaring into the sky, followed by wave after wave of controlled weapons' radiance sweeping up, continuously bombarding Lu Ye.

Enveloped in golden light, Lu Ye's figure tumbled uncertainly in midair, rising higher with each hit, quickly being sent dozens of meters into the sky.

Every time his figure was about to fall, there would always be a controlled weapon striking accurately, sending him flying again.

Looking on, Lu Ye's figure in midair rose and fell, like a leaf swaying in the wind.

Temporarily disoriented, but protected by the Golden Body Token, he was not worried about injury, and simply closed his eyes, continuing to swallow elixir pills to restore his spirit force.

Twenty li away, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan lay low in hiding, the noise from the scene reaching their ears. Li Baxian, using his Ocular Power, spotted Lu Ye's pitiful state in an instant. He clenched his fists tightly, his teeth gritted, his eyes turning blood-red.

Seeing his junior apprentice-brother suffering like this while being completely powerless to help was immensely grievous.

He and Feng Yuechan had already contacted some allies, all of whom were lying in wait nearby, but their numbers were still not sufficient. If they acted rashly at this moment, not only would they fail to rescue Lu Ye, they themselves would also encounter trouble. So, without having gathered enough strength, no one dared to make a move, even though they felt indignant and angry, they could only continue to endure and keep contacting more helpers.

Suddenly, a figure passed near them, sneaking around, emitting fluctuations of spirit force that revealed the person's cultivation at Cloud River Level 2.

Such a cultivation level was rare in the current hunting grounds, for after so many days, most cultivators of Levels 1-2 had been nearly all killed, unless protected by a more powerful being, surviving in the hunting grounds would be difficult.

This person, with a Cloud River Level 2 cultivation, surviving alone, was undoubtedly a spectral cultivator.

Only a spectral cultivator would have such skill.

When passing by Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan, the Spectral Shadow hid his figure and continued moving forward for over ten li. When he looked up, he saw a disheveled figure rising and falling in midair.

After watching for a while, Spectral Shadow sighed in his heart. It was undoubtedly Lu Yiye. Although the other party wore a spectral face mask and his face was unclear, the shape of his body was exactly as he remembered, so he could almost confirm it.

Moreover, with so many powerful figures from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge gathered here, they would not likely misidentify Lu Yiye's identity.

What a pity, such a prominent figure of Spirit Stream Overlord, who once called the wind and summoned the rain on the Spirit Stream battlefield, alone suppressing many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge sects to the point they could not lift their heads, everywhere he went, all major Ten Thousand Demons Ridge sects trembled. Now, however, he faced such humiliation; even as part of the enemy faction, Spectral Shadow couldn't help feeling somewhat distressed.

Thus, it is said, being too prominent is disadvantageous as it leads to an early demise.

This was also why he chose the spectral cultivator path initially. Spectral cultivators are best at hiding, capable of preserving themselves in any perilous environment.

What about being the Spirit Stream Overlord, the top of the Spirit Stream Ranking? In the end, isn't he still alive while the other is about to die?

Spectral Shadow had specifically come to watch the excitement...

If it had been any other excitement, he might not have cared, as his personality was not one to seek excitement. But this involved Lu Yiye, and his curiosity, given that on the Spirit Stream Ranking in his realm, there was only one Lu Yiye whom he truly acknowledged.

He had fought with Lu Ye before; not to mention their intellectual duel when Lu Ye competed in the ranking, but when Lu Ye entered the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, he almost died by the other's hand.

Moreover, Lu Yiye entered the Cloud River battlefield earlier than him, yet he is only at Level 2, while astonishingly, Lu Yiye has already reached Level 3!

It's so unfair!

Trapped in this hunting ground, as a ghost cultivator at Level 2, he had no contacts to utilize. He had spent his days hiding and evading, fortunate enough to have survived until now.

At this moment, to witness the downfall of such a young hero was worth the trip.

After today, there will be no Lu Yiye in this world!

However, to speak of it, that Golden Body Token is truly remarkable. Even with the efforts of so many strong cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, they could only suspend Lu Yiye mid-air, unable to inflict the slightest injury on him.

With these thoughts, he continued to stroll forward.

Suddenly, Spectral Shadow's body froze. For some reason, a palpitation surged from deep within his soul, continuously warning him of a great crisis ahead, absolutely forbidding him to proceed any further.

This could be said to be Spectral Shadow's innate talent. He had an especially strong premonition of potential crises that had nothing to do with his cultivation or mental strength—it was purely instinctual.

Up to this point in his cultivation journey, he had evaded many deadly threats thanks to this sensation.

Spectral Shadow couldn't understand why such an intense sense of crisis would emerge in a place filled with powerful cultivators from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

He stood still as sweat slowly emerged on his forehead and after a long while, he finally took a step forward.

However, that single step caused his pupils to shrink suddenly, and the premonition in his heart was stronger than ever.

Never before had his premonition of a crisis been so intense. The feeling seemed to whisper the melody of death in his ears, warning that if he continued forward, he would undoubtedly die!

The dense sweat gathered into droplets and slid down his cheeks.

Spectral Shadow immediately turned around, no longer caring about concealing his form, and used all his might to flee towards the distance at maximum speed.

Moments later, hidden in the dark, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan saw that previously calm figure flee panicking from the side.

Both were puzzled, not knowing why the ghost cultivator from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge appeared so scared.

Just then, a strong surge of spirit force fluctuation came from afar.

Li Baxian looked up to see Lu Ye, who had been floating and sinking in mid-air, suddenly surrounded by dazzling flames. The bright red flames covered the golden radiance of the Golden Body Token, making him appear as if he was engulfed in flames.

As the flames surged, intricate patterns gathered and surged around Lu Ye, spreading in all directions.

"What is this..." Feng Yuechan stared in amazement at the scene, unsure of what Lu Ye was doing.

At this moment, the powerful cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge also realized something was wrong. The spirit force fluctuations emanating from Lu Ye were so violently indescribable that they mistook it for him being on the verge of self-destructing.

And looking at the preparations before the self-destruction, the power was certainly immense.

Quickly, their attacks became even more ferocious. Originally only dozens of feet above the ground, Lu Ye's figure once again climbed higher and higher.

It was not until he was blasted nearly two hundred feet away that he reached a limit. This was also the limit distance for those Level 9 weapon controllers; any further, and they would struggle to control their weapons.

At such a distance, even if Lu Ye did self-destruct, it would hardly pose a threat to them.

However, Lu Ye had never intended to self-destruct from the beginning.

He only wanted to execute his most powerful trump card.

The brilliance that once blossomed on the Spirit Stream battlefield was finally going to be replicated on the Cloud River battlefield today.

With spirit force surging around him, the Yin-Yang Dual Origins continuously spread and interlocked in all directions, enveloping Lu Ye's figure. And because of the protection of the Golden Body Token, even

the ferocious attacks from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators below couldn't disrupt Lu Ye's movements. The most they could do was prevent him from falling.

The spirit force stored in the Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes on his back was quickly depleted, and shortly after, the spirit force gathered in the Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes on his chest was also drained. The river of spirit force inside Lu Ye surged unceasingly, like floodwaters bursting through a dam, flowing outwards. As his own spirit force depleted, the patterns covering his body became increasingly dense and mysterious.

He realized he had been wrong before. When he had used this move at his 7th Heaven cultivation, he had also constructed two Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes to store spirit force. Back then, he thought that once his cultivation reached the Cloud River Realm, and not too high—just Level 5-6, he should be able to use this trump card at will.

But now it seemed that wasn't the case.

Currently at Cloud River Level 3, he had still exhausted the spirit force stored in the two Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes, and it was far from enough. It was clear that the higher his cultivation, the greater the consumption to use this trump card; but correspondingly, the power was also greater!

Chapter 535 Fire Phoenix Reappears

Two hundred yards in the air, Lu Ye was enveloped in flames, overwhelmed by the brilliance of the Golden Body Token.

With the surges of these flames, the enigmatic and complex Yin-Yang Dual Origins swiftly extended and fitted together.

The spirit force stored within the two Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes was exhausted, and the spirit force inside Lu Ye's body rapidly drained as well. It was only when nearly half of his own spirit force was consumed that the intricate spirit runes were finally constructed.

The cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge stared in awe at the spectacle above them.

What came into their view was an oval-shaped egg, resembling a beast's egg, except that its surface was covered with numerous fine and intricate lines that flickered, completely enveloping Lu Ye within.

The flickering light seemed like a peculiar form of breathing.

As those Level 9 powerhouses continued to strike, this egg floated and bobbed in the air.

What exactly is this?

Everyone felt bewildered, yet each could sense the wild and dangerous aura emanating from the spirit force egg.

Some sensed trouble and had already begun to flee far away, and even those Level 9 practitioners felt a sense of alarm, as their skin prickled painfully.

During this time, inside the spirit force egg, Lu Ye continued to channel his spirit force, pouring all his remaining power into the formed spirit runes, until the river of his spirit force completely dried up.

The light from the spirit force egg grew increasingly dazzling, the fiery red hue like a big sun hanging in the sky.

"Something's wrong, run!"

One of the Level 9 individuals shouted, no longer daring to stay in place.

Seeing this, many Level 9 practitioners scattered and fled.

No matter what Lu Yiye was doing, the scene before their eyes had surpassed their imaginations; it was crucial to leave this place of trouble.

Without external forces striking it, the spirit force egg rapidly plummeted down from the height of two hundred yards.

As it fell, the surface of the egg suddenly displayed densely packed, spider-web-like cracks, as if something was about to break out of the egg.

A horrifying aura accompanied the cracking of the spirit force egg, spreading in all directions, making even the void distort.

Crack...

The dense noise continued until a certain moment...

"Screech..."

A clear and resounding cry pierced the heavens, deafening. Along with the sound, the spirit force egg completely shattered.

Fire surged and billowed, and from within that blaze, the first thing to emerge was two massive wings, followed quickly by a beautifully sleek figure.

Spectral Shadow, having fled dozens of miles away, could not help but shiver at this familiar sound and turned in panic to look back. The scene that met his eyes sent shivers down his spine.

There was a creature with a wingspan of over one hundred yards and a body length exceeding two hundred yards. Its beautiful figure, trailing a long tail feather and wrapped in roaring flames, brought with it an air of death.

The Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes reappeared in the world!

He had seen this figure before on the Spirit Stream battlefield; it too was Lu Yiye's doing. At that time, Lu Yiye had charged through the defensive line of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, broke into

the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, and with this single move, annihilated nearly two hundred cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

At that time, Spectral Shadow had also fled early to avoid disaster.

Ever since that time, the beautiful figure had been the source of his nightmares.

Today, the scene he witnessed was strikingly similar!

The difference was that the Fire Phoenix he saw this time was somewhat larger and more realistic in appearance than before; even the feathers on the Fire Phoenix were clearly discernible.

This was undoubtedly related to the advancement in Lu Yiye's cultivation. The last time he used this move, his cultivation was only at the 7th Heaven, but now he was at the Cloud River Level 3, a significant difference in cultivation.

Spectral Shadow felt immensely fortunate that he had fled early; otherwise, he would undoubtedly be engulfed in this crisis, facing slim chances of survival.

The huge shadow of the Fire Phoenix descended from the sky, its overwhelming might felt by many of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators as if a great mountain were bearing down on them, the scorching heat waves driving them to despair.

A distance of two hundred yards closed in the blink of an eye.

Just as the beautiful figure was about to crash into the ground, it suddenly veered, gliding over a spot just over ten yards above the ground.

The massive wings gently flapped, distorting space wherever they passed and sweeping up flames, melting even the solid ground.

Screams suddenly arose, only to be abruptly cut off.

Even though many cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had started to flee before they even caught a glimpse of the Fire Phoenix, it was already too late. Where the colossal figure passed, figures were swept up and devoured by flames, and the flower of life swiftly withered.

Such power was something that only those at Level 9 could barely withstand, but even then, they were merely resisting...

It seemed like a moment, and yet it seemed like millions of years, when the uncontrollable Fire Phoenix crashed into a small mountain, leaving behind scorched earth and withered corpses.

The chaotic scene gradually calmed down. The fleeing Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, with lingering fear, stopped, grateful to have narrowly escaped death. However, those unlucky enough to be in the path of the Fire Phoenix were not so fortunate.

Among the scorched earth, one figure stood erect; it was a Level 9 cultivator. However, he now stood motionlessly. His entire body was charred, his hair and clothes completely burnt off. Although still alive, he was gravely injured and in urgent need of a healing cultivator, or he wouldn't survive much longer.

This person was particularly unlucky, located directly in the path of the Fire Phoenix's flight.

A series of flashing lights soared into the sky, and the surviving Level 9 cultivators quickly rushed toward where the Fire Phoenix had fallen, arriving swiftly. Looking over, they saw Lu Ye lying pale in the midst of the scorched earth, staring blankly at the sky, seemingly without the strength to even move.

But with previous experiences in mind, no one dared get too close to Lu Ye, wondering what kind of tricks he might still pull.

Someone gnashed their teeth, terrified.

They had thought that Lu Yiye was going to self-destruct, but who could have known he still had such astonishing methods? By now, countless were dead from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side.

Even though they knew Lu Ye's strategy, they couldn't stop him. Protected by the Golden Body Token, Lu Ye wasn't worried about their attacks.

Unless they had fled in advance, but that would have given Lu Ye a chance to escape.

Lu Ye was deaf to the curses directed at him. Currently, he only felt stars swirling before his eyes and a weakness flooding his body, an utterly drained sensation overwhelming him.

Not only that, but the skin on his body was cracked all over, dyeing him blood-red.

It was like this the last time he activated the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes, and it was still the same this time...

His power was still insufficient; the side effects of activating the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes were too severe. With his current strength, while it was not difficult to activate them with enough time and spirit force, controlling them was nearly impossible, or else he wouldn't have ended up crashing here. He would have been able to harness the Fire Phoenix to hunt down those at Level 9 cultivators, killing as many as he could.

Streaks of red light, like fireflies, drifted from a certain direction, falling into the battlefield marking on the back of his hand.

These were the merit points contributed by the deceased Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators.

At the same time, on the high-hanging Kills Ranking in the sky, the name Lu Yiye that was originally about to fall below the top ten, briefly flashed and then soared to the top.

Originally, his kill points were at seven thousand one hundred ten, but now they had shot up to fifteen thousand six hundred twenty, doubling his score.

Such a massive increase in kill points made him undoubtedly deserving of the top spot, considering that the previous leader had less than nine thousand points.

This substantial increase in kill points undoubtedly meant that Lu Ye had, with his recent Fire Phoenix attack, slain at least forty to fifty cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

In comparison to the total number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who had gathered nearby, this number was small, less than ten percent. Mainly, since those who saw the dire situation fled in all directions, the Fire Phoenix could only eliminate enemies in one direction, leaving the others untouched.

Click...

A faint, brittle sound resonated deep within everyone's hearts. As the sound emerged, the blood-red light curtain enveloping the earth shattered like glass, and dazzling sunlight flooded in, causing Lu Ye to squint.

The hunting ground was closed!

And coincidentally, it closed just after he had retaken the top spot on the Kills Ranking.

Lu Ye couldn't believe this was unrelated to his luck. Things were not so coincidental; this must have involved the machinations of Heaven's Augury.

However, for his current situation, the closure of the hunting ground seemed to have little significance, as numerous Level 9 cultivators surrounded him, and he was utterly spent, with no hope of escaping the area.

The closure of the hunting ground caused a stir, especially for the cultivator who had been number one. He was so frustrated he was almost spitting blood.

If the hunting ground had closed just ten breaths earlier, he would have been the leader of the Kills Ranking and would have received a Class A Spring Spirit and nine gold-hued spirit fortune sticks as a reward. But those mere ten breaths cost him that Class A Spring Spirit reward.

How could he not be furious, feeling that the heavens were blind, awarding the top spot on the Kills Ranking to a man doomed to die, and what was the point of that?

Streams of golden light fell from the sky, landing on the bodies of the present Level 9 cultivators, including Lu Ye. The light landed on the back of his hand, forming a marking.

This was Heaven's Augury distributing rewards.

At the same time, a realization dawned upon Lu Ye. With that gold-hued marking, he could redeem his rightful rewards from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault.

So this was how Heaven's Augury issued rewards; he had thought it would be directly bestowed with various benefits, but it turned out that he would need to make a trip to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault himself.

This seemed more logical, as always, there were some who might not find it convenient to receive Heaven's Augury's blessings at this time. When they had time and it was convenient, they could then collect their rewards.

But this also made the many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators feel helpless; once the Golden Body Token disappeared, Lu Yiye would undoubtedly die, and the top reward of the Kills Ranking would vanish with him, which was a pity.

As for sparing his life temporarily until he claimed his rewards and then killing him, that was out of the question. After Lu Ye's recent antics, which Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator would dare spare his life now? They were all waiting for the Golden Body Token to disappear before making their move.

Chapter 536 Respectfully Inviting Heaven's Augury

Like a dying fish amidst scorched earth, Lu Ye gasped for breath, occasionally coughing a few times.

It took a good while before he finally regained some strength.

Looking around, he was surrounded by the furious yet wary faces of those at Level 9.

"Lu Yiye, you really deserve to die!"

Wei Que's voice sounded, grinding his teeth in anger.

Lu Ye looked in the direction of the voice and saw Wei Que in a somewhat sorry state, his hair seemingly singed by fire, appearing comically disheveled.

Wei Que was also unlucky, swept by the aftermath of the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes. Although he wasn't injured, the shock was genuine. He thanked his lucky stars that he wasn't on the Fire Phoenix's path; otherwise, he would not be dead but certainly severely wounded.

Lu Ye coughed violently a few more times, then propped up his body to sit cross-legged, his fresh blood soaking into the ground beneath him, pooling into a stark crimson.

Looking faintly at Wei Que, Lu Ye said, "You really want to kill me?"

Wei Que snorted coldly, "Do you think you can still live?"

Lu Ye remained silent.

Wei Que continued, "The Haotian Alliance seems to have some strong individuals lurking around, wanting to rescue you. But considering the current situation, do they dare to come over? You're dead for sure, so stop harboring any illusions."

"Really?"

Lu Ye lowered his head, his long hair in the sunshine casting a shadow, concealing his eyes.

He touched the battlefield marking and sent a message to Li Baxian, "Fourth Senior Brother, there is no need to rescue me. I'll go ahead first, and we'll meet again in a month."

Twenty miles away, Li Baxian, who was paying attention to the situation here, immediately received the message. After checking it, his expression turned to one of surprise and speculation.

If one were to only read the first half of the sentence, it seemed like his Junior Brother had resigned himself to death. But the addition of the last sentence changed the meaning completely.

The reason for setting a meeting in a month was because there was a one-month restriction period after leaving the Cloud River battlefield. During this month, cultivators couldn't re-enter the Cloud River battlefield.

This rule of Heaven's Augury could not be changed by anyone.

The meaning behind Lu Ye's words was clear—he was planning to leave the Cloud River battlefield.

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

Soon, a message from Lu Ye came: "Senior Brother, the only things that have restricted me are the hunting grounds, and now the hunting grounds are closed!"

Li Baxian was momentarily stunned, then he suddenly understood. He had been worried about Lu Ye's safety and had been thinking of ways to gather people to rescue Lu Ye from there, which made him somewhat muddled.

Yes, it had always been the hunting grounds that restricted his Junior Brother. Now that the hunting grounds were closed, who could restrict him?

The cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge thought that they could easily kill Lu Ye after the Golden Body Token's effect wore off. Little did they know, without the restriction of the hunting grounds, Lu Ye could leave whenever he wanted.

However... the price to pay was somewhat great! And such a method was not something everyone could emulate.

But no matter how great the cost, what was it compared to one's life?

As for whether Lu Ye had the means... Li Baxian had no doubt about his Junior Brother's capabilities. If even his Junior Brother didn't have such means, then no one else in the entire Cloud River battlefield would.

His Junior Brother was the one who could afford to buy two orifice repair pills at once, each worth 150,000 merit points.

Among cultivators of the same level, it was unlikely that many had more substantial means than his Junior Brother. Moreover, he had just single-handedly slain so many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, acquiring almost ten thousand merit points.

"Withdraw!"

Upon this thought, Li Baxian immediately called out to Feng Yuechan.

Feng Yuechan was extremely surprised, "Senior Brother, are we not going to care about Junior Brother Lu anymore?"

"Junior Brother has his own way of escaping, so we don't need to worry about him," Li Baxian said, his tension and worries dissipating, leaving him feeling indescribably relaxed.

Feng Yuechan was taken aback, but soon as if she remembered something, "Is Junior Brother Lu going to use that method to leave the Cloud River battlefield?"

Li Baxian nodded, "Exactly that method!"

Feng Yuechan sighed in astonishment, "Junior Brother Lu is truly wealthy, no wonder his cultivation progresses so fast."

As they spoke, the two quickly left the area, and Li Baxian didn't forget to inform the Level 9 cultivators he had summoned that their help was no longer needed.

Atop the scorched earth, after contacting Li Baxian, Lu Ye began to reach out to Xia Qianqian. He had never known Wei Que's name or his sect, but Xia Qianqian always knew these things.

A moment later, he received a reply from Xia Qianqian.

Yunyang Sect, Wei Que!

Lu Ye looked up, giving him a deep gaze, their eyes meeting. Wei Que's brows furrowed; he saw some ill intent in Lu Ye's eyes, but given the current situation, he wasn't worried about Lu Ye. Considering Lu Ye's present condition, it seemed unlikely he could even stand, let alone use the kind of earth-shattering techniques as before.

"Do all of you wish to kill me?" Lu Ye looked around.

Someone snorted, "Stop talking nonsense. The moment the Golden Body Token expires, you will die. You'd best pray that it lasts a bit longer. That way, you can live a little longer."

Lu Ye sighed, "That might be..."

He braced himself on his knees, slowly stood up, and staggered slightly, "I'm afraid I'm going to disappoint all of you!"

Another person scoffed, "Lu Yiye, at this point, why keep up the charade? Without the Golden Body Token, you would have died hundreds of times over. Yet you still have the mood to boast here. If I were you, I'd hurry up and dig a hole; otherwise, no one will be here to bury you later."

"You've got a point..." Lu Ye nodded, "Without the Golden Body Token, I indeed would have died hundreds of times. But... who says I don't have one?"

His voice grew louder, "I will remember the favor all of you have shown me today. If there's a chance in the future, I will definitely return it properly!"

Such brazen words angered everyone, making them think that Lu Yiye must have lost his mind. Did he not realize his situation? He might not even survive today, and yet he's talking about the future?

As they thought this, they saw Lu Ye suddenly look up at the sky, raising one hand high as he shouted, "Disciple Lu Ye of the Righteous Blood Sect, respectfully requests Heaven's Augury. Bestow upon me the Heaven's Augury Pillar!"

As his words fell, an extremely dazzling blue light burst from the back of his hand, the light shot straight up into the sky, invoking Heaven's Augury.

At the same moment Lu Ye's words ended, the faces of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators surrounding him all changed drastically, especially a few of them who showed a sudden understanding.

From the very beginning, they vaguely felt that they had overlooked something. First, they were intimidated by the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes, then Lu Yiye was carrying a significant bounty that ensnared their heed, not giving them time to think deeply.

But now, they finally realized.

Yes, Lu Yiye could indeed request the Heaven's Augury Pillar!

And this was his only way to escape!

The Heaven's Augury Pillars are bestowed by Heaven's Augury itself. Generally, each Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union has its own pillar, so do the big sect headquarters, and the Spirit Stream battlefield's garrison also has one.

And that's all free of charge.

But there are some Heaven's Augury Pillars that come with a price.

For instance, some pillars in spirit grounds within the Cloud River battlefield are brought there by cultivators themselves.

Because cultivators can use the Heaven's Augury Pillars to travel between the Cloud River battlefield and their sect headquarters, having a pillar in a spirit ground makes things much more convenient for them. They can use the pillars to enter the Heaven's Augury treasure vault to purchase items, and in the face of insurmountable dangers, they can use it to return to the Nine Provinces for refuge.

However, looking across the entire Cloud River battlefield, not many spirit grounds have their own Heaven's Augury Pillar—only a few large spirit grounds do. That's because the cost of requesting a pillar is enormous, needing a total of 100,000 merit points.

This enormous sum isn't something a few cultivators can easily gather, especially those from Cloud River Realm, who usually use their accumulated merit to bid for spirit fortune sticks at the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union to enhance their cultivation, keeping just enough on hand for emergencies. They couldn't afford the luxury of having too much spare.

Only those large spirit grounds with significant numbers of people have the capital to request a Heaven's Augury Pillar, with the cost of merit being shared among all, making it not too expensive.

That was why Feng Yuechan exclaimed about Lu Ye's wealth upon learning his plan.

Having 100,000 merit points to one's name is rare throughout the entire Cloud River battlefield, and Lu Ye was one of the rare few.

Before the hunting ground opened, he had 92,250 merit points, and now, he has 106,120.

This number is 30,000 more than what he had when he first entered the Cloud River battlefield.

It was all thanks to the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes; otherwise, he would still be a bit short of 100,000 merit points.

With enough merit, one is qualified to invoke Heaven's Augury and to be bestowed with a Heaven's Augury Pillar.

Just as he had said to Li Baxian, what restricted him was always the hunting ground. The blood-red light of the hunting ground enveloped everything, and within it, you could only enter, not leave. Therefore, as long as the hunting grounds continued, a Heaven's Augury Pillar would be of no use to him.

But the hunting ground had now closed. If he wished to go, no one could stop him!

As Lu Ye's words ended, the surrounding Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators finally knew his plan.

Xia Liang shouted angrily, "Stop him quickly!"

As his words fell, a saber slashed towards Lu Ye. A dazzling saber light filled the sky; a Level 9 powerhouse made his move with tremendous force.

They had paid such a heavy price to corner Lu Yiye here, and now they were just waiting for the effects of the Golden Body Token to run out so they could kill him.

But just as they were about to reap the fruits of victory, Lu Yiye was actually requesting a Heaven's Augury Pillar? How could they agree to that?

If he truly managed to request a pillar and escape the Cloud River battlefield using it, all their previous efforts would be in vain, and all those who died because of this would have died for nothing.

Once word of this spread, it would just turn into a joke among the Haotian Alliance!

What a wealthy guy, 100,000 merit points... Xia Liang had never accumulated that many in his lifetime.

Following his words, a barrage of attacks from all directions rained down on Lu Ye.

At the same time, a pillar of light descended from the sky, enveloping Lu Ye within it. Numerous attacks came at him, but they were all blocked by the light pillar. Inside the pillar of light, Lu Ye looked around with a cold gaze, as if committing the faces of these Level 9 cultivators to memory.

Chapter 537 Return

The column of light shot into the sky, wrapping Lu Ye within it, as a powerful current surged, causing his hair and clothes to flutter wildly.

Attacks from all directions struck, but all were blocked by the column of light.

Boom...

Something fell from the sky, landing squarely in front of Lu Ye.

In an instant, centered on where Lu Ye stood, a violent wave of air swept all around, knocking back the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who had gathered there.

A group of people barely managed to stabilize themselves, and when they looked up again, they saw Lu Ye had already placed his hand on the Heaven's Augury Pillar in front of him.

"We shall meet again!"

As his words fell, his figure rapidly faded and then vanished.

All the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators stared fixedly, unable to do anything despite their reluctance.

In the end, Lu Yiye had escaped.

This time, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who participated in the ambush of Lu Yiye numbered nearly a thousand, and among them, at least twenty were from Level 9. With such a massive assembly, not only a cultivator from Cloud River Level 3 but even one from True Lake Realm could have fought a battle.

Yet, they still failed to capture him.

The rare Golden Body Token, the mighty Vermillion Bird of the Four Auspicious Sacred Beasts wielding the power to destroy heavens and earth, and the single-handed summoning of the Heaven's Augury Pillar—any of these facts were shocking enough, yet all happened to a single person.

But it was precisely because of these incredible feats that Lu Ye, a Level 3 cultivator, managed to escape against all odds.

Looking at the Heaven's Augury Pillar that had descended from the sky, the expressions of those at Level 9 were extremely grim.

Now that the hunting ground was closed and Lu Yiye had fled, lamenting and blaming others was pointless.

Shortly after, the many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators dispersed, leaving only the Heaven's Augury Pillar behind, recording the fierce events that had transpired.

With Level 3 cultivation, facing nearly a thousand cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, including powerful individuals from Levels 8-9, and still managing to escape to the heavens—it was foreseeable that after this battle, Lu Ye's fame was bound to spread far and wide.

In the future, when he entered the Cloud River battlefield again, those with intentions against him would likely increase.

Within the Heaven's Augury Hall on Righteous Peak of Mount Ao in Bingzhou, Lu Ye suddenly appeared, bloodied, his figure slightly staggering. He quickly raised his hand to support himself against the Heaven's Augury Pillar, managing not to fall.

Cultivators from the sect headquarters entered the Cloud River battlefield with many options. Depending on their needs, they could choose the location to enter, as long as there was a connected Heaven's Augury Pillar.

However, returning from the Cloud River battlefield meant they could only return to the Heaven's Augury Hall at the sect headquarters, with no other options available. This was related to the battlefield marking on the back of each cultivator's hand.

"Yiyi, find Second Senior Sister."

He softly gave the order.

Yiyi immediately flashed out from within Amber, rushing outside.

Moments later, Shui Yuan's figure burst into the Heaven's Augury Hall. Spotting Lu Ye's wretched state, her brows furrowed: "How did this happen?"

"It's a long story..." Lu Ye squeezed out a weak smile, clinging to the last bit of his consciousness: "Sister, save me!"

No sooner had the words left his mouth than he collapsed to the ground.

Even though he had the cultivation of Cloud River Level 3, the aftereffects of using the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes were still somewhat difficult to bear. During the earlier time on the Cloud River battlefield, he didn't dare to pass out while still in danger. Now that he was back at the sect headquarters and his mind relaxed, he couldn't hold on any longer.

Shui Yuan swiftly caught him in her arms.

Consciousness drifting in and out, an endless fatigue assailed every part of his body. Several times, between the boundaries of dreams and wakefulness, Lu Ye even heard the gentle voice of the sect master...

Unknown lengths of time passed until he suddenly woke from his deep sleep.

Soft sounds of water reached his ears. Lu Ye opened his eyes and was momentarily confused. He slowly regained his senses.

He found himself sitting in a bath full of green medicinal syrup with Amber swimming leisurely in front of him, looking content.

Noticing Lu Ye's gaze, Amber looked up and mewed at him.

Hearing the noise, Yiyi flashed in, exclaimed joyfully, "Lu Ye, you're awake?"

Lu Ye responded, examining his own condition.

Quite good; his injuries had fully healed, and even the chronic pains accumulated over time had vanished, clearly the handiwork of Shui Yuan. Though he still felt weak and had little spirit force left in his body,

however, these were not major issues. A day or two of simple cultivation would suffice.

"How long have I slept?"

"For two days."

Lu Ye nodded. Second Senior Sister truly lived up to her name; her medical skills were far superior to Hua Ci's. Back in Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, when he first used the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes, Hua Ci had adjusted his condition for many days before he slowly recovered.

At Second Senior Sister's place, it was almost fine in just two days.

He glanced down to check his battlefield marking.

Name: Lu Yiye.

Status: Disciple of the Righteous Blood Sect.

Cultivation: Cloud River Level 3.

Location: Mount Ao, Bingzhou.

Merit: six thousand one hundred and twenty points.

Battle merit: fifty-six points.

Over one hundred thousand merits were reduced to a mere trifle in an instant. The cost of invoking the Heaven's Augury Pillar was indeed too great. Apart from the last time he helped his Fourth Senior Brother buy an orifice repair pill in a one-off spending of a massive amount of merits, this was only the second time he had been so extravagant.

But at least the orifice repair pill could help his Fourth Senior Brother mend his spiritual orifice. The Heaven's Augury Pillar, summoned this time, helped him escape back to the Nine Provinces and served no further purpose.

The Heaven's Augury Pillar couldn't be taken away. Wherever it was summoned, there it would remain.

If it was not utterly necessary, Lu Ye would never have summoned the Heaven's Augury Pillar, considering that a hundred thousand merits could buy many items from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault.

While checking around, Shui Yuan walked in and casually asked, "How do you feel?"

"I am fine now."

"Good, now that you are back, just stay honest within the sect and recuperate well. Don't go wandering about."

"Yes."

Shui Yuan had already heard from Yiyi about Lu Ye's ordeal in the Cloud River battlefield. She was both outraged at the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators for bullying the weak and felt sorry for her junior brother's suffering.

But as a cultivator of the Divine Sea Realm, she could not help Lu Ye at this moment. She could have forcibly entered the Spirit Stream battlefield to support Lu Ye, but she couldn't enter the Cloud River battlefield.

Stepping forward, she checked Lu Ye's physical condition to make sure he truly was unharmed, and only then did she feel relieved.

"Second Senior Sister."

"Hmm?"

"I need to put on clothes now."

"I took off your clothes, there's nothing I haven't seen!" Shui Yuan glanced at him and turned to walk out the door.

Lu Ye was greatly embarrassed.

Moments later, Lu Ye, now neatly dressed, stepped out of the house. The glaring sunlight made him squint slightly, birdsong and insect chirps filled his ears, and the fragrance of flowers was profuse. Stretching lazily, he felt that such peaceful days were indeed pleasant.

He called Yiyi and then went to see the sect master, receiving some guidance.

After leaving the sect master, he smelled a tempting aroma and followed it to the dining hall, where, sure enough, his Second Senior Sister had prepared a table full of delicious food.

Compared to the meals prepared by Hua Ci, his Second Senior Sister's culinary skills were undoubtedly superior by a hundredfold. Though Hua Ci's dishes might not look appealing, their effects were not inferior in the slightest, and as long as one had a strong enough spirit, there was no psychological barrier to enjoying them.

After a hearty meal, he greeted Shui Yuan and flew straight to Emerald Bamboo Peak.

Emerald Bamboo Peak was Lu Ye's spirit mountaintop within the Righteous Blood Sect, and technically, he was still the Peak Master of Emerald Bamboo Peak.

After his ascension to the Cloud River, Shui Yuan had asked him to select a spirit mountaintop for himself, and Yiyi had chosen Emerald Bamboo Peak.

This spirit mountaintop was not far from Righteous Peak, and many junior sisters and brothers had helped him construct buildings when they first acquired it.

However, not long after his ascension to the Cloud River, he had entered the Cloud River battlefield, so he hadn't spent much time on Emerald Bamboo Peak.

Arriving now, he could see from afar the pavilions and towers standing boldly above the spirit mountaintop, with clouds rolling over it, exuding a truly celestial atmosphere.

Landing on the spirit mountaintop, he casually entered a resting palace and settled down to meditate and cultivate.

Currently, the sect headquarters of the Righteous Blood Sect was rather quiet because generally, the disciples' cultivation levels were low. Besides him and Giant Armor, all others were at the Spirit Stream

Realm, so they stayed primarily in the Spirit Stream battlefield to cultivate and hardly returned to the sect headquarters.

However, as the disciples' cultivation level gradually improved, the sect headquarters would undoubtedly become lively again over time.

Hua Ci should also be on the verge of ascending to the Cloud River himself.

Lu Ye silently consumed an elixir pill and meditated to restore his body.

A day later, Lu Ye, refreshed and in full vigor, flew out from Emerald Bamboo Peak, first catching several fish at Moon Lake and then going to Righteous Peak.

Finding Shui Yuan, he said, "Sister, I need to enter the Spirit Stream battlefield."

Shui Yuan asked with surprise, "What are you doing in the Spirit Stream battlefield?"

For a cultivator of the Cloud River Realm to enter the Spirit Stream battlefield, some merits needed to be spent. The higher one's cultivation, the more merits it cost. Speaking from Shui Yuan's past experience, entering the battlefield once would cost thousands of merits.

"To take revenge."

When he had left the Cloud River battlefield, Lu Ye had told those Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators that he would return their favor a hundredfold in the future.

The cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge took his words as mere talk. Anyone who had suffered a great loss and nearly been killed would surely not rest easy. However, Lu Ye was certainly not just talking; he had long decided to stir up trouble in the Spirit Stream battlefield.

He might not be able to defeat those from the Level 8-9 of the Cloud River Realm, but could he not overpower those at the Spirit Stream Realm? If others bullied the weak against him, then he would do

the same, relying on his identity as the Spirit Stream Overlord. In the ranks of the Spirit Stream Realm, who could match him?

Seeking nothing else, he was determined to recover the loss of his hundred thousand merits and the Golden Body Token in the Spirit Stream battlefield.

Shui Yuan immediately understood what Lu Ye was planning. Her eyebrows knitted, she advised, "Little junior brother, high-level cultivators forcibly entering the Spirit Stream battlefield can't do whatever they wish. Even if your strength surpasses theirs, once you start killing, you will be punished by Heaven's Augury, a protection for low-level cultivators."

"I know, so I want to ask you, sister, how did you withstand that Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning?"

Lu Ye vividly remembered the first time he saw Shui Yuan. She was brandishing an exaggerated battle scythe, slaughtering all around to protect him. The terrifying Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning lingered by her side, yet her expression remained unchanged.

No matter how much time had passed, whenever he recalled that smile she gave over her shoulder, Lu Ye always felt a trace of warmth in his heart.

Chapter 538 Coming Back to Kill Again

Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning was a punishment descended by Heaven's Augury, with no means to evade it; therefore, Lu Ye wanted to know how Second Senior Sister had managed to withstand the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning. If he could handle this issue, then he would be able to do as he pleased in the Spirit Stream battlefield.

Shui Yuan shook her head, "I can't resist it, I can only endure it."

After a pause, she continued, "My situation is unique, and you should have some understanding of it." She raised her hand to cover her chest, "Since birth, I have had another self within me, the Weh Ying you've met before, although usually, she rarely appears, only emerging when I lose control of my emotions."

Lu Ye nodded his head.

Initially, when he first arrived at the Righteous Blood Sect, he was unaware of this fact. Upon meeting Shui Yuan, he even thought the First Senior Sister and Second Senior Sister looked alike, only that the Second Senior Sister seemed like a smaller version of the First Senior Sister.

At that time, he thought the two senior sisters were blood-related siblings.

But over the years, through various clues, Lu Ye had deduced some things.

Therefore, when Shui Yuan spoke about it herself, he was not surprised.

"She is very special and has strong endurance, so even though she killed some people in the Spirit Stream battlefield, the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning doesn't affect her much. Of course, she has her limits too. Once those are surpassed, she can't bear it," continued Shui Yuan, "Previously she had acted twice in the Spirit Stream battlefield, each time falling into a deep sleep immediately upon her return, and the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning targets her, so it doesn't affect me."

The two occasions when Weh Ying acted, one was at the Golden Light Peak, and the other was after Lu Ye was poisoned by the Tianyan Sect.

"The more you kill after forcibly entering the Spirit Stream battlefield, the more powerful the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning becomes, and accordingly, the longer it lasts; so, junior brother, if you enter the Spirit Stream battlefield, it's best not to kill too many people. Though I haven't experienced the potency of the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning, it's definitely not something to be trifled with, a single mistake could greatly harm your psyche, and that would complicate matters."

"Is there no other solution?" Lu Ye asked, somewhat unconvinced.

Shui Yuan shook her head, "It's Heaven's Augury's punishment."

"Understood," he replied.

Seeing his expression, Shui Yuan knew Lu Ye was reluctant, and was certain he would enter the Spirit Stream battlefield. She promptly advised, "Whatever you decide to do, you must protect yourself at all costs. Don't take unnecessary risks."

After leaving Shui Yuan, Lu Ye felt frustrated.

If he could not kill too many people in the Spirit Stream battlefield, then his actions would certainly be restricted. Perhaps... he could bring Little Gray along?

At that time, he could focus on breaking the arrays, letting Little Gray do the killing, but it was uncertain whether Little Gray was at the residence.

The last time he left the Spirit Stream battlefield, he had set Little Gray free. Little Gray had always been loyal, guarding an empty residence all these years, simply because of the last instructions from the deceased First Senior Brother.

No matter what, he would enter the Spirit Stream battlefield first and if things didn't work out, then he would try to kill fewer people.

As he entered Heaven's Augury Hall and placed his hand on the Heaven's Augury Pillar, Lu Ye connected his mind to it.

After some investigation, indeed, he could no longer enter the Cloud River battlefield; it seemed he would have to wait until a month had passed.

The Spirit Stream battlefield was accessible, but based on the feedback from the Heaven's Augury Pillar, with his current cultivation, entering the Spirit Stream battlefield would deduct five hundred points of merit.

Not too many.

With a thought, Lu Ye vanished, and in the next instant, he appeared within the Righteous Blood Sect's residence.

A sudden force descended, and Lu Ye felt his spirit force greatly suppressed, the continuous flow of spirit force within his body also stopped, and the cultivation he had at the Cloud River Level 3 quickly diminished, with all his spirit force stagnating within his spiritual orifice.

He understood that this was Heaven's Augury's suppression.

Any cultivator with a cultivation higher than the Spirit Stream Realm entering this place would face such suppression, restoring the cultivator's cultivation to its highest level when at the Spirit Stream Realm.

He slightly attempted to mobilize the spirit force in his spiritual orifice, following the pathway of the Great Sun Glazed Glass Method he practiced, flowing through his spiritual orifice.

Soon, the suppressed spirit force began to circulate, and his cultivation slowly restored.

Level 1...

Level 2...

Level 3...

All the way to the 9th Heaven level.

As he regained his strength there, disciples nearby noticed him, and one exclaimed, "Is that Fifth Senior Brother?"

Almost doubting his eyes, since the Fifth Senior Brother had long been promoted and left the Spirit Stream battlefield, how could he suddenly reappear at the residence?

After rubbing his eyes and confirming he had not seen wrong, it was indeed their own Fifth Senior Brother.

Upon hearing the shout, others also looked in his direction, and soon, greetings filled the air.

Soon the news of Lu Ye's appearance spread throughout the residence.

Shortly thereafter, at the spirit mountaintop where Little Gray lived, Lu Ye looked at the empty eagle's nest, somewhat helpless; it seemed Little Gray was not in the residence, which jeopardized his plan of taking Little Gray along for killing.

Someone piloting a Flying Spirit Artifact slowly flew over and landed beside Lu Ye, respectfully saluting, "Greetings, Fifth Senior Brother."

Lu Ye turned his head and saw that the newcomer seemed familiar, likely one of the cultivators who had joined the Righteous Blood Sect early on, but he could not recall the person's name at the moment.

"You are called... "

"Tao Zhengyu, currently the Governor stationed here."

The Governors and Deputy Governors of the Righteous Blood Sect's station had changed several times. The main reason was the abundance of cultivation materials nowadays, the rich nature's spiritual energy within the station, and the fast pace of the disciples' cultivation. Situated at the outermost circle of the battlefield, once a cultivator reached Level 8, they would have to leave, meaning neither the Governor nor the Deputy Governor could hold their positions for long.

These positions were not as enduring as those within the inner circle and Core Circle, where the term of service for Governors and Deputy Governors could be longer.

Lu Ye nodded, then asked, "What about Little Gray?"

"Not sure, it rarely stays at the station now, sometimes it comes back, but it usually can't stay long before it leaves again."

As Tao Zhengyu answered, he carefully observed any changes in expression, not knowing why Lu Ye had suddenly appeared at the Spirit Stream battlefield. He reflected on everything he had done since he had taken over as Governor, it seemed he hadn't made any mistakes. Cautiously, he asked, "Fifth Brother, do you have any business here this time?"

"Hmm, a little matter."

Lu Ye replied casually, then stood still, lost in thought.

Without a sight of Little Gray, it was not feasible to go looking for it now. Without Little Gray, he couldn't kill too many people, and without being able to kill, the sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge wouldn't fear him much.

How should he recover his lost 100,000 merit points and the Golden Body Token? Or should he just break the arrays to vent his anger?

With his current mastery in Array Path, the big arrays of the sects' stations in Ten Thousand Demons Ridge couldn't stop him at all. If it was just to break arrays to vent anger without significant benefits, it seemed somewhat meaningless, plunging Lu Ye into a dilemma.

Indeed, some things did not go as smoothly as one would hope; there were always many twists and turns.

Since Lu Ye didn't speak, Tao Zhengyu could only stand by, feeling quite pressured.

After a while, Lu Ye finally spoke, "Forget it, come with me. Let's see if we can glean anything from this."

Regardless, once he made a move, it was sure to alarm all the sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer's return, who wouldn't fear him?

Given that he couldn't kill too many people, Lu Ye estimated that at most, he could target only one or two sects. Bringing his own station's Governor was perfect to plunder the blessings from others' Heaven's Augury Pillars—it wouldn't do to return completely empty-handed.

He summoned his Flying Spirit Artifact, took Tao Zhengyu, and soared into the sky.

Tao Zhengyu was completely confused and didn't know what Lu Ye was planning to do, nor did he dare to ask too many questions, so he simply followed silently.

The journey was calm and uneventful.

Moving from the outermost circle into the Core Circle was a long journey. If Lu Ye could utilize his cultivation from the Cloud River Level 3, it wouldn't take more than a few days, but now he could only exert the power of 9th Heaven, which doubled the travel time.

Fortunately, his current Flying Spirit Artifact was a mid-grade spirit artifact, which was faster than a low-grade spirit artifact. However, its only flaw was that it consumed more of his spirit force.

With little rest along the way, Tao Zhengyu truly experienced the terrifying depth of his Fifth Senior Brother. Normally, cultivators cannot replenish their spirit force during extended flights. Except for resting half an hour every day, his Fifth Senior Brother spent the rest of the time traveling.

In just four days, they made it to the Core Circle.

Lu Ye took out a ten-part map of the Spirit Stream battlefield and surveyed it, weighing between New Moon Sect and Yunyang Sect.

New Moon Sect was the sect where Tan Sheng was located, which Lu Ye had confirmed previously during a casual conversation with Li Baxian. Yunyang Sect, on the other hand, was Wei Que's sect.

Both sects were in the Core Circle and were not unfamiliar to Lu Ye, as he had previously collected protection money from them. Even though he hadn't interacted much with them, he had heard of them nonetheless.

Since he could only effectively target one or two sects, he naturally needed to choose carefully.

He finally decided to strike at New Moon Sect!

The reason he had gotten trapped in the hunting grounds, forced to use the Golden Body Token and spend 100,000 merit points to call upon the Heaven's Augury Pillar, was all because of Tan Sheng, who had used a tracking disc.

One could say the root cause of him being chased and blocked was on Tan Sheng.

Since there was a clearly identifiable debtor for his losses, it was only natural to reclaim them from New Moon Sect.

After flying half a day more, they finally arrived ten miles outside the New Moon Sect's station.

Lu Ye lowered the Flying Spirit Artifact and grabbed Amber, handing it to Tao Zhengyu, "Wait here."

Tao Zhengyu took Amber and obediently stood in place.

Lu Ye then charged directly towards the New Moon Sect's station. The confrontation was inevitable with the cultivators of New Moon Sect; bringing a Level 7 Tao Zhengyu was not very convenient, so leaving him here, with Amber and Yiyi to protect him, meant safety wasn't a concern.

Within the blink of an eye, Lu Ye had covered the ten miles.

Over New Moon Sect's station, the protective array's light screen covered it like an inverted bowl.

The light screen was not very thick, showing that the protective array's power wasn't fully activated. Normally, there was no reason to always be thinking about attacking someone else's station.

Except for Righteous Blood Sect's Lu Yiye, of course!

Back when he was at the Spirit Stream battlefield, he had thrown the entire battlefield into chaos. Now that he had ascended to Cloud River, the sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge thought they could finally have some peaceful days.

Yet, to everyone's dismay, less than three months later, that plague had returned!

Chapter 539 Dare to Kill?

Outside the New Moon Sect's residence, Lu Ye landed and, with Insight Spirit Runes enhancing his eyes, he surveilled the nodes of the big array.

Almost immediately, a cultivator responsible for guarding the area spotted him. Swooping in and staring at him through the array, the guard shouted, "Who goes there?"

Seeing a figure that appeared suddenly and looked rather suspicious on the outside of their own protective array raised the guard's concern, so his challenge was understandably terse.

Lu Ye glanced at him and replied indifferently, "Who do you think I am?"

This question caught the cultivator off guard. Upon closer inspection, the newcomer seemed somewhat familiar, as if he had been seen somewhere before.

But he was certain he had never met this person, and couldn't recall where this vague sense of familiarity stemmed from.

Just as he was about to ask again, Lu Ye had already located the node and, in the blink of an eye, positioned himself there, throwing out array banners from his hands.

If he could utilize his Cloud River Level 3 cultivation, Lu Ye reckoned he might force his way through the protective array before him with brute strength, as its power wasn't fully activated yet and was merely operating at its most basic level. However, being only able to exert the strength of 9th Heaven, a brute force approach to array destruction was unrealistic. It would be wiser to sneak in quietly.

"What are you doing?" the cultivator asked, witnessing Lu Ye's actions.

Lu Ye remained silent, continuing his work without pause.

The guard's expression changed as he scrutinized Lu Ye once more and finally remembered why the face of the man before him looked familiar.

Indeed, he had never met Lu Ye in person, but he had seen his portrait!

It had been almost three months since Lu Ye left the Spirit Stream battlefield, and it never occurred to him that his adversary would appear there again, let alone at his own sect's doorstep.

"You're Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer!" the man exclaimed, staggering backward as though Lu Ye were some devastating force of nature best avoided at all costs.

Then, he turned around and lifting his Spiritual Artifact, he flew towards the residence, shouting as he went, "Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer is here, Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer is here!"

Catastrophe was upon them—Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer had come, and the New Moon Sect's residence was likely doomed.

The guard's cries alarmed many cultivators of the New Moon Sect, all of them uncertain and anxious.

A furious bellow erupted, "Who's spreading nonsense?"

With the sound, a burly man arrived on a flying instrument.

"Senior Brother Tan Li, Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer is here!" The cultivator who had run back reported immediately, addressing the man. As the governor of the New Moon Sect's residence and ranked fifty-eighth on the Spirit Stream Ranking, Tan Li could be considered the strongest cultivator in the current residence.

"Who's here?" Tan Li frowned, wondering if he had misheard.

"Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer, Lu Yiye of the Righteous Blood Sect!"

"Nonsense!" Tan Li reprimanded, "That bastard ascended to the Cloud River Realm three months ago and should be battling there. Why would he come here?"

"But Senior Brother, I'm not mistaken, it really is Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer! I've seen his portrait."

Tan Li's eyebrows creased further, "Maybe someone looks a lot like Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer?"

It wasn't uncommon for people to resemble one another, and Tan Li found it hard to believe that Lu Ye would come to the New Moon Sect's residence.

"But he is breaking the array!"

"What?" Tan Li was startled, and just at that moment, the jade cluster, which controlled the protective array, showed signs of disturbance. Before he could react and investigate, a streak of light rushed over from afar, quickly approaching.

Tan Li focused his gaze and involuntarily inhaled sharply.

It really was Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer!

He had indeed encountered Lu Ye before, having been part of the group surrounding Lu Ye at the fringes of the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, leading several junior brothers and sisters from the New Moon Sect.

Thus, he had truly seen Lu Ye in person. Naturally, Lu Ye wouldn't remember him, as there had been too many cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge involved at the time for anyone to remember clearly.

But why had Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer returned to the Spirit Stream battlefield, more so, what was he doing at their residence?

A flood of questions crossed Tan Li's mind, his expression grave but composed.

If Lu Yiye were still at 9th Heaven cultivation, he certainly would be worried. But now, Lu Yiye had forcibly entered the Spirit Stream battlefield with the cultivation of the Cloud River Realm, so there was no need for alarm.

They certainly couldn't defeat him in battle. The numerous fearsome feats Lu Ye had achieved while dominating the Spirit Stream battlefield were well-known, and Tan Li was clear about this.

But what of it?

Would Lu Yiye dare to kill?

The punishment of Heaven's Augury was no laughing matter. If high-level cultivators could easily murder on the battlefield, the big sects' residences would have been flattened long ago.

The pressing question now was, what was this person doing here?

One thing was certain: he came with ill intentions. Naturally not from the same faction, as far as the big sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were concerned, Lu Yiye carried a deep-seated vendetta. In the past two years, who knew how many their cultivators had perished under his hands. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to describe his killing as ruthless.

With this in mind, Tan Li took several steps forward, looking solemnly at Lu Ye, "Fellow Daoist Lu isn't mining wealth in the Cloud River battlefield but instead has come here to our New Moon Sect's residence. What is your intent?"

"Tan Sheng... is he a person from your New Moon Sect?" Lu Ye asked, his hand resting on the hilt of his saber, his voice carrying a faint tone.

Tan Li's brows furrowed as he heard the words, "Indeed, that's my elder brother. Does Fellow Daoist Lu have any advice?"

"Are you Tan Sheng's younger brother?" Lu Ye's eyebrows rose, this was truly an unexpected gain.

"Yes."

"Very good!" Lu Ye nodded in approval, "Tan Sheng took good care of me at the Cloud River battlefield. I came today solely to repay some of that kindness!"

As the last word fell, a shadow was already trailing behind Lu Ye as he lunged towards Tan Li.

Although Tan Li was on his guard, he clearly did not expect Lu Ye to make a move so decisively.

This was completely different from what he had thought; in his mind, a Cloud River Realm cultivator who had forcibly entered the Spirit Stream battlefield would surely not dare to kill rashly. Otherwise, the taste of the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning would not be something one could bear.

Who would have thought that Lu Ye would just start attacking without another word?

Under the enveloping crisis, Tan Li hastily summoned a spirit artifact big shield and infused his spirit force into it, holding it horizontally in front of him.

The next instant, a loud boom sounded out, and Tan Li was smashed to the ground, the sheer unblockable force of the attack causing his eyes to widen instantly, and what horrified him even more was that his spirit artifact big shield's luster had dimmed under the strike, losing much of its spirit nature!

His 9th Heaven cultivation ranked him in the top fifty on the Spirit Stream Ranking. Looking across the entire Spirit Stream battlefield, he was considered a strong fighter.

Yet Lu Yiye, who could only exert 9th Heaven cultivation at the moment, had nearly broken his defense with a single strike—such a terrifying lethality!

He had never really crossed hands with Lu Ye before, so while he knew Lu Ye was strong, he had no clear understanding of just how strong until now!

"Senior Brother Tan!"

The New Moon Sect cultivators around them cried out in alarm as they saw Tan Li being blasted to the ground.

At the same time, Tan Li felt another heavy attack on his spirit artifact big shield.

With a clatter, the low-grade spirit artifact shield of Restriction Level 9 completely shattered, revealing the panicked face of Tan Li.

Lu Ye closely followed him, the Boulder Mountain Saber sweeping across in a slash!

This time, Tan Li had no spirit artifact left to use and could only forcefully stimulate his spirit force and blood Qi, creating a protective layer on the surface of his body.

As the Boulder Mountain Saber came down, blood sprayed, and Tan Li hit the ground heavily, with a massive slash wound on his abdomen, almost revealing the organs inside.

He was terrified, feeling death so close to him.

If he weren't a physique cultivator with thick skin and dense flesh, the slash just now would have definitely cut him in two.

Seeing that Tan Li was not yet dead, Lu Ye was somewhat surprised and remarked internally that the physique of a physique cultivator was indeed much stronger than that of cultivators at the same level.

Just as he was about to rush over and deliver another blow, a dense array of whooshing sounds began to fill the air around them.

With their governor being attacked, how could the New Moon Sect cultivators hold back any longer? It didn't matter whether it was Lu Yiye or Lu Liangye; they needed to fight first and ask questions later.

With so many of them, there was no reason to fear one man.

For a time, magic and spells, weapon control, and illuminations bombarded from all directions toward Lu Ye.

With no other choice, Lu Ye had to abandon his killing intent and dodge the incoming onslaught. At the same time, his supplies box buzzed as nine weapon control artifacts flew out.

The scene became chaotically intense as more New Moon Sect cultivators were alerted and rushed over.

Next to Tan Li, a healing cultivator ran over to check his injuries and begin treatment, while Tan Li himself shouted angrily, "Lu Yiye, you are a cultivator of the Cloud River Realm and should be cultivating at the Cloud River battlefield, yet you strut around the Spirit Stream battlefield. Do you really think my New Moon Sect is afraid of you? I know now; it must be my brother who taught you a lesson in the Cloud River battlefield. Since you're no match for him, you came here to bully the weak—utterly shameless!"

Ever since Lu Ye suddenly asked about Tan Sheng, he had a nagging suspicion, though he dared not confirm it. Yet, it must be very close to the truth. Otherwise, Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer had no reason to show up at the New Moon Sect's station.

Amidst his shouting, a scream suddenly pierced the air.

The cultivators of the New Moon Sect had varying levels of cultivation. Although Lu Ye was facing a multitude, had he not been through similar situations before? He had plenty of experience handling such scenarios.

Dodging nimbly, defending with guarded protectors, and slaying with controlled artifacts, eventually, a New Moon Sect cultivator was caught off guard, sliced by his controlled artifact and fell from the sky, blood and body drifting down.

Tan Li was livid with rage, "You dare to kill!"

He could never have imagined that Lu Yiye would actually dare to kill here. Was he not afraid of the punishment from Heaven's Augury?

After killing one person, it was visibly noticeable that a purple light suddenly radiated around Lu Ye's body. Upon closer inspection, that wasn't any ordinary purple light, but rather a myriad of purple Thunderbolts coursing over his body.

The Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning enveloped him, and a twitch came to Lu Ye's eyes.

There was no other reason; it was just too painful.

Throughout his cultivation journey, he had suffered innumerable injuries, some so severe that they left him unconscious. But never had any injury felt intolerable like this one.

The punishment of the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning was truly unbearable. The pain generated not merely from the flesh but also echoed through the psyche, as if countless ants were frantically biting at his body and soul, subjecting him to torturous agony.

Chapter 540 He Can't Hold On!

Assuming the role of a Cloud River Realm cultivator and arriving at the Spirit Stream battlefield to deploy such overwhelming force was indeed unseemly.

If Tan Sheng had truly outsmarted Lu Ye on his own and caused him such a great loss, he wouldn't have acted this way. Being inferior in skill meant there was nothing to complain about; he could only strive to enhance his cultivation, improve his strength, and then seek ways to seek revenge.

But Tan Sheng had used the second ability of the tracking disc, leaving him nowhere to hide within the hunting ground, ultimately leading to his encirclement by many powerful beings from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. He couldn't escape, and had to use the extremely precious Golden Body Token. The cost had been a hundred thousand merits, a heavy loss indeed.

The origin of the incident in the hunting ground lay with Tan Sheng, so naturally, the losses had to be recouped from the New Moon Sect.

It was also a statement—if they couldn't kill him, then they had to bear his ruthless retaliation.

In the New Moon Sect's quarters, after killing a person, purple lightning enveloped Lu Ye. The first punishment from Heaven's Augury, the pain brought by the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning, was almost unbearable.

Before coming here, he had estimated as high an intensity as possible for the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning, but in the end, it turned out to be an underestimate.

Having killed only one person and already experiencing such pain indicated that greater punishment awaited if he killed more.

Lu Ye estimated that, given his current endurance, he could at most kill five or six people before reaching his limit. By then, even if he didn't die, he would lose the ability to move.

Although the number of cultivators in the New Moon Sect's quarters wasn't large, there were always a couple of hundred individuals. Just a few people could hardly make a difference.

As his thoughts turned, a strange sensation suddenly emanated from his Root Spiritual Orifice. As this sensation spread, the pain he was experiencing diminished significantly.

With a thought, Lu Ye simultaneously dodged several incoming attacks while part of his mind examined the Root Spiritual Orifice.

Looking into it, he saw the Talent Tree within the Root Spiritual Orifice bursting into sky-reaching flames, seeming to set the entire tree ablaze. With the flames climbing and rolling, a large amount of gray mist evaporated.

The purple thunderbolt twined around him was dissipating at a visible rate...

The Talent Tree could burn away the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning!

This discovery astounded Lu Ye, but upon reflection, it made perfect sense.

All along, the Talent Tree had been able to burn away energies that invaded and harmed his body, including many toxins. Hence, as long as there was enough fuel, Lu Ye could resist all poisons. Although the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning was a punishment sent by Heaven's Augury and unavoidable, fundamentally, it was similar to toxins, an invasive and harmful energy.

Therefore, the Talent Tree could naturally burn it away.

However, compared to toxins, the act of burning away Divine Lightning appeared much more intense and seemed to consume more fuel.

Within moments, Lu Ye felt a significant lightness throughout his body as the purple thunderbolt completely vanished from his surface.

Initially, he had been somewhat hesitant in his actions, fearing killing too many people and had resolved only to kill a few key personnel to frighten off the other cultivators from New Moon Sect.

Discovering that the Talent Tree could even burn away the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning, he was no longer apprehensive.

A flash of light swept over the 9th Dao weapon, and with the enhancement of spirit runes, both its speed and power were much stronger than before.

More screams echoed as several figures bled and fell from midair.

The nearly vanished purple thunderbolt once again clung to Lu Ye's body, slithering like a spirit snake.

The severely injured Tan Li continued to shout angrily, "Lu Yiye, you're courting death!"

Seeing his junior brother killed pained him, but if Lu Yiye continued this stubborn approach, his fate wouldn't be favorable either.

If they could kill Lu Yiye here today, any loss they sustained would be worthwhile—provided they didn't let Lu Yiye escape.

With that thought, Tan Li shouted, "Don't let him escape! He won't last much longer."

Originally, as Lu Ye continued to kill several cultivators under the multitudes' assault, the New Moon Sect cultivators grew wary; life is precious to everyone after all. However, seeing the intensifying purple thunderclap on Lu Ye and hearing Tan Li's command, they mustered up their courage and continued to engage Lu Ye in battle.

With the lights of weapon control crisscrossing and saber lights slashing, Lu Ye transformed into a fluttering butterfly traversing through the crowd, leaving a trail of blood and carnage in his wake.

The figures of New Moon Sect cultivators fell like dumplings from the sky.

In such a ferocious battle, alone against an entire sect, Lu Ye struggled to block all the attacks. However, he had Defense Spirit Runes to protect his vitals; other hits only caused minor injuries. Among his peers in terms of cultivation, Lu Ye's physique was comparable to that of a physique cultivator.

But for New Moon Sect cultivators, receiving a slash from Lu Ye wasn't just about injury; it was a matter of life and death.

As more cultivators fell, Lu Ye almost became a purple thunderbolt, darting across the battlefield.

Unable to bear the pressure, someone couldn't help but cry out, "Senior Brother Tan, we are no match for him!"

If someone had told them before today that there was a man capable of challenging their entire garrison of cultivators alone, they would never have believed it. Yet at this very moment, such an unimaginable event unfolded right before their eyes!

Moreover, that person was none other than the notorious Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer, who was still killing people despite being punished with the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning.

Tan Li's gaze was bloody with rage as he watched his sect members fall one by one, leaving him breathless with pain. But after such a huge sacrifice, giving up now would mean all those deaths were in vain.

The purple thunderbolts on Lu Yiye's body were so dense that they were impenetrable. He must be enduring unimaginable torture and agony.

"He can't hold on! Make sure to keep him pinned down!" Tan Li roared.

Lu Yiye's endurance was beyond Tan Li's imagination. He had thought Lu Yiye could at most kill a few people, but now, nearly thirty had died by Lu Yiye's hand.

There were not even two hundred cultivators at the New Moon Sect's base, and now ten to twenty percent had been killed. What a grievous loss! If they could not capture Lu Yiye, he wouldn't know how to explain it to the sect headquarters.

The governor had already spoken, and despite their fear, the New Moon Sect's cultivators had no choice but to continue their siege on Lu Ye.

However, Lu Ye appeared not only undisturbed by the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning but was growing stronger with each fight. Wherever his long saber pointed, a cultivator would surely fall.

Next to Tan Li, the healing cultivator treating his wounds suddenly spoke up, "Senior Brother, I heard that previously on Golden Light Peak, a cultivator of the True Lake Realm from the Righteous Blood Sect forced her way into the Spirit Stream battlefield, and dozens of cultivators died by her hand!"

Tan Li sharply turned, his eyes a bloody red, "What are you trying to say?"

The healing cultivator continued, "I'm not sure how powerful the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning is, but it's said that even those in the Divine Sea Realm can't withstand its punishment. Logically speaking, Lu Yiye should have already been incapacitated, but I see the number of Divine Lightnings on him increasing, yet it seems they hardly affect him. Senior Brother, does the Righteous Blood Sect have some special method to negate the effects of the Divine Lightning?"

"Impossible!" Tan Li dismissed the idea outright, "It's Heaven's Augury's punishment, and there's no way to avoid it."

"But what if..."

Tan Li's expression became dazed. Yes, what if?

Since the moment Lu Yiye had killed the first person, so much time had passed and so many had died by his hand. If he were truly suffering the punishment of the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning, he shouldn't be able to move, let alone fight, without experiencing extreme pain.

Yet there he was, fighting with increasing ferocity, his expression as calm as ever, showing not the slightest sign of pain.

Could the Righteous Blood Sect really have a way to dodge Heaven's Augury's punishment? If so, that would be utterly mind-boggling.

Heaven's Augury was always fair and impartial, so why would it favor the people from the Righteous Blood Sect?

"Senior Brother, we can't test Lu Yiye's condition with the lives of our own brothers," the healing cultivator pleaded earnestly.

Tan Li snapped out of his reverie. That's right, those were his own brothers. His decision to let his cultivators continue the siege on Lu Ye wasn't because he thought they could overpower him, but because he believed that Lu Ye couldn't withstand the agony of the Divine Lightning.

But if Lu Yiye really could evade Heaven's Augury's punishment, then no matter how many died, it would all be for nothing!

With that thought, Tan Li was no longer hesitant. He suddenly stood up, shouting loudly, "Back to Nine Provinces!"

As he spoke, he charged toward Lu Ye.

At Tan Li's command, the already anxious New Moon Sect cultivators hurried towards Heaven's Augury Hall. Just as Lu Ye was about to pursue, Tan Li's massive figure collided with him, yelling, "Stop killing my brothers!"

Spirit force and blood Qi surged wildly, turning Tan Li's entire figure an abnormal shade of dark red, making him appear like a frenzied beast, unstoppable and imperious.

Lu Ye paused, raised his Boulder Mountain Saber, and executed three slashes.

Three crescent-shaped saber lights slashed towards Tan Li, who blocked with his forearms.

Thud, thud, thud—the three dull sounds denoted deep, bone-exposing cuts on Tan Li's arms, and his forward momentum was hindered.

Looking up, he saw a purple-wrapped figure lunging straight at him. A bright saber light flashed before his eyes, and Tan Li froze in place.

Lu Ye had already moved past him, chasing down the cultivators heading for Heaven's Augury Hall, leaving a trail of corpses along the path.

Behind him, Tan Li's eyes dimmed as his body fell from the sky, splitting apart before it even hit the ground.

Despite both having 9th Heaven cultivation, in his heavily injured state, Tan Li couldn't even block a single strike from Lu Ye.

Moments later, as the battle subsided, Lu Ye flicked the blood off his Boulder Mountain Saber and sheathed it back inside the Heaven's Augury Hall.

Many from the New Moon Sect had escaped, a situation Lu Ye couldn't help, as he alone couldn't possibly keep everyone from fleeing.

Still, the outcome was quite satisfactory.

Turning, he walked out of Heaven's Augury Hall and approached Tan Li's decapitated body. He rummaged through it for a while, took out the Great Array Jade Cluster, refined it slightly, and shut down the base's protective array.

Then, he sent a message to Yiyi, asking her to bring Tao Zhengyu over.