

Humanity 561

Chapter 561 Class A Spirit Ground

The alpha wolf's body was even larger than the Giant Armor by a third, and even though it didn't show any ferocity, simply standing there with a cultivation comparable to Level 9 of the Cloud River Realm was enough to unsettle any cultivator's heart.

Yet such a mighty and majestic demon beast was now having its head smacked resoundingly by the Giant Armor.

Just by the sound of it, one could tell the impact was not light.

After slapping it a few times, the Giant Armor waved his hand.

The alpha wolf shook its head and silently walked back to where it had been before, flopping down as if nothing had happened.

Li Baxian's eye twitched, "Junior brother, I have no more questions, let's set up the spirit ground here."

Lu Ye nodded, "That's what I'm thinking!"

All concerns were easily dispelled; the way the Giant Armor treated the alpha wolf, and the alpha wolf's lack of any animalistic reaction, clearly indicated they had no ill intent toward the group.

Thus, the location for the spirit ground was decided.

The wooden houses had already been built, and the spring spirit naturally needed to be placed in the middle of these houses, so that everyone could equally benefit.

Lu Ye led Li Baxian and the others to an appropriate location, took out the spirit beast sack, and removed the chubby Class A spring spirit from his storage sack.

"Senior brother, what should I do?" Lu Ye looked up at Li Baxian.

Knowing that the Class A spring spirit could create a Class A spirit ground, but unclear about the specifics, Lu Ye was truly at a loss.

"Just put it down." Li Baxian replied.

So, Lu Ye placed the spring spirit on the ground in front of him.

Every eye watching intently, the chubby spring spirit uncurled its body, then began to burrow into the ground in a way that could only be described as comical.

Perhaps because they saw the Giant Armor gazing in amazement, several demon wolves approached to join in the excitement, only to be smacked away one by one by the Giant Armor.

The spring spirit's movements may have seemed clumsy, but it was actually highly efficient, quickly burrowing a hole in the ground and delving deeper beneath the surface.

The group waited in silence.

About half an hour later, murky water suddenly gushed from the hole in the ground, shooting up several meters high, startling Amber who had been peeking curiously.

Soon the water turned crystal clear, babbling as it flowed, gradually forming a small stream on the ground, and along with the gushing water came an extremely rich and pure spiritual energy from nature.

Lu Ye felt it briefly; the spiritual energy that accompanied the water from the Class A Spiritual Spring was indeed much denser than what they had experienced in the Class C Spirit Ground.

And this was just the beginning. Once the conditions of the spirit ground stabilized, the nature's spiritual energy would only become denser.

"Senior brother, there's something I don't understand," Lu Ye suddenly said.

"What is it?"

"They say as long as you have a spring spirit, you can create a spirit ground of corresponding quality anywhere. But spiritual energy can't just emerge out of nothing. The energy that gushes out with the water, where exactly does it come from? Surely it's not generated by the spring spirit itself."

Li Baxian explained, "I've pondered this question before and asked some people about it. In short, there are two theories. The first one is that beneath the Cloud River battlefield, there's a widespread presence of enormous and dense nature's spiritual energy. The spring spirit opens up the Spiritual Spring, and as the water gushes out, it draws the deeply buried spiritual energy up to the surface."

Lu Ye reflected for a moment, then shook his head, "That theory doesn't hold up."

"Why not?"

"Look, if that were the case, then the spiritual energy hidden deep underground should be fixed. But if we use a Class A spring spirit here, we get a Class A Spirit Ground, and if we were to use a Class C one, we'd get a Class C Spirit Ground. That wouldn't make any sense."

Li Baxian nodded, "True, if the underground spiritual energy were set, then no matter the quality of the spring spirit used, the resulting spirit ground should be the same."

"And the second theory?" Lu Ye asked.

"The spring spirit is merely a catalyst, and the Spiritual Spring is just an outward manifestation. There's no deeply buried spiritual energy; what we have is a gift from Heaven's Augury. In other words, by using a Class A spring spirit, we're opening a channel with Heaven's Augury, enabling a flow of spiritual energy of matching quality into the spirit ground. Hence, as long as there's a spring spirit, a corresponding quality spirit ground can be established anywhere."

"This theory... is quite novel."

"But it does explain a lot."

After pondering, Lu Ye agreed that indeed, if this theory were true, all of his doubts would be resolved.

With the Spiritual Spring born, the accumulation of nature's spiritual energy within the spirit ground would take a few more days to stabilize. This afforded Lu Ye the perfect opportunity to set up the Formation, putting to use the array banners he had crafted over the past few days.

Yiyi and Feng Yuechan proceeded to arrange the furnishings for the wooden houses. The group would live here for a significant period, and comfortable living accommodations would surely make everyone's mood more pleasant. Li Baxian and the Giant Armor lent a hand, but they were quickly chased out.

Exchanging helpless glances, Li Baxian could only find Lu Ye to assist him, while the Giant Armor settled down next to the Spiritual Spring, focused on his cultivation.

Night fell, the bonfire was rekindled, and the moon hung high in the celestial dome. In the picturesque valley, laughter and jovial talk filled the air, accompanied by the aroma of wine and roasted meat.

Late into the night, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan finally witnessed the astonishing phenomena that accompanied the Giant Armor's cultivation, leaving them amazed.

Especially during his cultivation, the entire pack of wolves resonated with him, inhaling and exhaling the moon's essence. The scene appeared spectacular in the extreme.

Fortunately, Lu Ye had already set up a concealment formation nearby, so although the phenomenon was magnificent, as long as one wasn't too close, it was unlikely to be detected by outsiders or demon beasts.

Several days later, Lu Ye had set up numerous formations throughout the spirit ground, and the spiritual energy of heaven and earth within it had completely stabilized.

Compared with the Class C Spirit Ground that he and Shen Xiaomao had previously occupied, the environment for cultivation in this Class A Spirit Ground was more than ten times richer. The pure, dense spiritual energy almost turned into mist, enveloping the spirit ground day and night. Even without actively cultivating, just living here year-round would lead to continuous improvement in one's cultivation.

Everyone deeply felt the tremendous benefits that a Class A Spirit Ground could bring to a cultivator; no wonder the cultivators of the Cloud River Realm were so eager for it.

Having such a spirit ground could at least halve the time cultivators spent growing in the Cloud River Realm.

In these past days, Yiyi and Amber had made simultaneous breakthroughs, reaching the Level 3 of the Cloud River Realm.

They were both only a hair's breadth away before; with the accumulation of these past days, it was natural for them to break through their own shackles.

After the initial few days of excitement and novelty, life gradually returned to its mundane rhythm.

A cultivator's life is such that they always focus mainly on improving their Cultivation Realm. Among them, the one who cultivated most diligently was undoubtedly Giant Armor.

By day, he cultivated by inhaling and exhaling nature's spiritual energy within his own room. At night, when there was moonlight, he would emerge to cultivate outside. If there were several days without moonlight, he could stay in his room for days on end.

Lu Ye had also given him a dragon scale, which contained blood Qi energy, especially beneficial to someone like Giant Armor, a physique cultivator.

Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan also treasured their current cultivation environment, sparing no effort to improve themselves.

By comparison, Lu Ye seemed to be the one with the most leisure time.

His cultivation practice never required much effort. With hundreds of little spirit energy gathering funnels attached to his body, as long as he was in the spirit ground, that dense spiritual energy would continuously flow into his body. Then, from time to time, he'd swallow a bit of elixir pill, and the size of his spirit force's river would grow robustly every day.

While cultivating, he would hold a book and study.

The books from Madam Yun, as well as the saber skills cultivation insights from the Mad Saber Sect, were his pastime reads.

Perhaps because Lu Ye was the most idle, he had been getting along quite well with the wolves lately; even a few demon wolves had become familiar with him. Occasionally, as Lu Ye perused a book, a demon wolf would join in, curiously looking over at the contents.

Every several days, a group of wolves would leave to hunt, an instinct for survival and propagation inherent to demon beasts.

After growing close with those few demon wolves, whenever they returned from hunting, Lu Ye could also get some blood and flesh of demon beasts from them.

Besides reading and cultivating every day, he spent most of his time practicing the rune tattoo art on his own body.

In these past days, his skill in the Rune Tattoo Path had improved, but so far, he had only practiced on himself, chiefly because he didn't have any suitable subjects to practice on.

One day, as he was practicing rune tattooing on himself, a large head suddenly leaned in, watching curiously.

Lu Ye looked up and met a pair of wolf eyes.

This was one of the few demon wolves he was most familiar with, with a patch of blue fur on its forehead that resembled a blooming blue flower.

Eye to eye, Lu Ye ignored it and continued to focus on practicing his rune tattoos.

But soon, he stopped his hand movements and looked up at the demon wolf again...

Thoughts crossed his mind.

Could this wolf be a good subject for practicing the Rune Tattoo Path?

He had never considered this before, mainly because tattooing a demon beast required a great deal of trust. Without sufficient trust, the beast could attack him as he pierced it with the needle, leading to a loss greater than the gain.

But now that they were familiar with one another, perhaps it was worth a try?

With that thought, Lu Ye immediately called out, "Amber!"

Amber, who was lazily basking in the sun not far away, promptly got up and trotted over, jumping onto Lu Ye's shoulder.

Lu Ye raised his hand and constructed a Sharpness spirit rune on his palm, and in an instant, his entire hand was radiating light.

The demon wolf stepped back, clearly sensing the sharp aura.

"Ask it if it wants this kind of ability," Lu Ye said.

Amber quickly understood Lu Ye's intention and began to communicate with the demon wolf in front of them.

The wolf glanced occasionally at Lu Ye's palm, its wolfish eyes clearly showing a hint of desire.

"Tell it that just by letting me prick a few needles, it can have this kind of ability to make its claws sharper," Lu Ye pressed while the iron was hot.

Amber continued to convey Lu Ye's meaning.

The demon wolf looked genuinely tempted and stepped forward two paces before lowering its head in a gesture indicating it was ready for Lu Ye to proceed.

Chapter 562 Rune Tattoo

Lu Ye also acted on a whim, intending to practice on the demon wolf. He thought he would have to persuade a lot, but unexpectedly, the other party cooperated quite well.

However, each rune tattoo required specific materials, and the materials varied significantly for different rune tattoos, following very strict rules.

The materials were generally a mixture of beast blood and medicinal syrup, requiring the rune tattoo master to mix them in various proportions. Different masters would use different materials and ratios, each having their own secret recipes.

The secret recipes for various rune tattoos in Lu Ye's possession naturally came from Madam Yun and were of exceedingly high quality.

Although he had previously collected some Thunder Shadow and venomous python blood, neither was suitable for Sharpness rune tattoos. At this point, it was clearly not cost-effective to go out and buy or collect more.

After some thought, Lu Ye had an idea.

Since it was inconvenient to go out and buy or collect materials, he might as well invite a Heaven's Augury Pillar and use it to purchase from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault.

He had already planned to invite a Heaven's Augury Pillar previously, but hadn't had a chance to act on it due to the limited time.

Although soliciting a Heaven's Augury Pillar was expensive, at the very least, in times of absolute crisis, the people of the spirit ground could use it to escape back to the Nine Provinces. It was a life-saving item, thus worth the cost, regardless of the expense.

Furthermore, since the spirit ground was situated deep within the Great Wilderness Mountain and isolated from the outside world, if anything was needed... for instance, this time, Lu Ye could directly connect to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault without having to leave and search for the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union outside.

Generally, those large Class A spirit grounds each had their own Heaven's Augury Pillar, purely to facilitate the cultivators' needs within the spirit ground.

Small spirit grounds usually lacked the capital to solicit a Heaven's Augury Pillar, but today was likely to be an exception.

Having made up his mind, Lu Ye immediately requested the Heaven's Augury.

Having already summoned a Heaven's Augury Pillar once in the hunting ground, the second time was naturally much easier for him.

As Lu Ye's words fell, a blue light shot up from the back of his hand to the sky. Soon after, an object descended from the sky, which was formidable and caused a surge of air in all directions.

Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan, who were cultivating in their respective houses, were alerted and flashed out to investigate.

Seeing another Heaven's Augury Pillar in front of Lu Ye, Li Baxian's eyes twitched, "Little junior brother, did you summon another Heaven's Augury Pillar?"

A single cultivator in the Cloud River Realm summoning two Heaven's Augury Pillars within the span of just over a month was probably unprecedented.

Each pillar was valued at one hundred thousand merits, making two worth two hundred thousand...

Which cultivator in the Cloud River Realm was so affluent?

Feeling emotional, he thought, "My little junior brother is indeed filthy rich. I can't compare at all." He recalled when he had bought two orifice repair pills for himself, costing three hundred thousand merits in total. Compared to him, his position as an elder brother seemed downright impoverished.

"Yes, I need to buy some things," Lu Ye casually explained as he placed his hand on the Heaven's Augury Pillar and connected his mind to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault.

Feng Yuechan sighed, "Truly, when one has plenty of money, one can do as one pleases."

Just to buy things from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, directly summoning a Heaven's Augury Pillar was capriciously unmatched.

However, such matters were incomparable. Although they came from the 2nd-grade Loyal Heart Sect, which was large and prosperous, there were also many disciples. Even a favored disciple like Feng Yuechan didn't have access to many resources and often had to find ways to obtain cultivation resources herself.

But Lu Ye was different. He almost single-handedly built up the Righteous Blood Sect. His status and strength as the Spirit Stream Overlord allowed him to gain numerous benefits in the Spirit Stream battlefield.

The Righteous Blood Sect prospered because of him, and no one would restrict his use of some resources.

Having confirmed there was no external enemy attack, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan returned to their houses to continue their cultivation.

Lu Ye stayed in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault for a while and quickly purchased the various materials he needed.

Summoning the Heaven's Augury Pillar cost a hundred thousand merits, and buying the materials cost just under a thousand...

Checking his battlefield information, the merits column showed a number: 83,520.

He had accumulated his merits in the Spirit Stream battlefield up to almost three hundred thousand by selling various resources. However, he had quickly spent a large amount on Earth's Core Fire and various flames, then a spirit energy-storing ring, and after entering the Cloud River battlefield, he bought many demonic pills as treats for Amber, leaving him with just over one hundred eighty thousand merits.

This spent another hundred thousand plus.

All these expenditures were ultimately worth it. With a Heaven's Augury Pillar on the spirit ground, if he needed to enter from the outside in the future, he could come and go anytime, directly accessing the spirit ground.

With the materials in hand, Lu Ye began mixing them according to Madam Yun's secret technique. It was his first time doing this, and he was somewhat unfamiliar with the process. Fortunately, it wasn't complicated, and in the time it took for one incense stick to burn, three large bottles containing differently colored rune tattoo materials appeared before him.

One was gold, one was earthy yellow, and one was light blue.

The demon wolf with a blue flower on its head still crouched beside Lu Ye.

Lu Ye raised his hand, pointing to the gold bottle, and said, "This is for this one." As he spoke, he formed a Sharpness spirit rune on his hand, and a faint radiance burst forth, revealing a sharp aura.

Then pointing to the earthy yellow bottle, "And this is for this one."

The spirit rune transformed, turning into a Defense Spirit Rune, displaying a robust protective force.

He pointed to the last pale cyan bottle: "And the last one is this kind."

The Defense Spirit Runes transformed into Move-Like-The-Wind, giving the entire palm a light and agile sensation.

"So, young man, which one would you like?"

Whether it was Sharpness, Defense, or Move-Like-The-Wind, these were some of the simple and practical spirit runes that Lu Ye first received. He had practiced many times on his own body, and he could not say he was completely confident, but he did have a success rate of 80 to 90 percent; these three spirit runes were not complicated.

Originally, he had just wanted to try the Sharpness spirit rune on the demon wolf, but now that he had enough materials, he could offer it more options.

Although the demon wolf could not speak, it undoubtedly possessed intelligence, and it naturally could understand Lu Ye's simple gestures.

After Lu Ye finished speaking, it raised its paw and tapped in front of the golden bottle.

Lu Ye nodded, the wolf's nature was fierce, and it naturally pursued the ultimate in attack.

Since it had made a choice, Lu Ye, of course, needed to fulfill its request, particularly since this was his first customer... even though it was a demon beast that couldn't speak.

Lu Ye decided that he must provide it with a good experience.

Where to place the rune tattoo was an issue.

The Sharpness spirit rune was offensive in nature, so there were only two suitable places: the claws and the mouth.

In the past few days, Lu Ye had also observed fights and play among the demon wolves. Their sharp claws and fangs were their natural weapons. Just by watching their actions, anyone would think they were fighting to the death, but in reality, according to Lu Ye's observations, they were merely honing their killing skills in this manner.

The demon wolf before him, topped with blue flowers, was undoubtedly on the weaker side within the entire wolf pack. Its demon origin aura was not very strong, roughly only at the level of Level 4 or 5 of the Cloud River realm, and often suffering in battles with other species.

Observing the demon wolf carefully, Lu Ye made up his mind.

He chose to place the rune tattoo on its mouth. Compared to the claws, the demon wolf relied more on its sharp teeth.

Raising his hand to hold the wolf's muzzle, Lu Ye turned to Amber and said, "Tell it that it will hurt a bit and to keep still."

Amber immediately let out a low roar.

The demon wolf's eyes flashed with disdain; obviously, it didn't take Amber's reminder seriously.

With everything ready, Lu Ye's expression also became solemn.

Even though he had tried many times on himself and had many successful experiences, those were still just practice.

This was his first tattoo in the strict sense, so failure was not an option.

Placing the tattoo needle in a handy position beside him, one hand holding the wolf's muzzle, Lu Ye's other hand moved as fast as lightning, picking up a tattoo needle, dipping it into the material, and striking out lightning-fast with one needle.

At that moment, his concentration was at its peak; as the tattoo needle struck, the spirit force lightly surged, forming the first basic element.

Removing the needle, changing the needle, dipping into the material, and striking again, the second basic element formed at the instant of merging perfectly with the first one.

Lu Ye's movements were extremely quick, yet orderly; with each strike of the needle, a small golden mark resembling a cluster of arrows gradually took shape on the wolf's mouth.

The quantity of Yin-Yang Dual Origins that made up the Sharpness spirit rune was not large, only a few dozen.

So, in just under thirty breaths of time, Lu Ye had already finished the job, and as the last needle fell and the last basic element formed, the now-completely-shaped golden mark flashed briefly.

The demon wolf remained still throughout, not even a ripple in its gaze; evidently, the pain of tattooing was nothing to it.

Lu Ye exhaled, releasing the wolf's muzzle.

Upon close examination, there seemed to be a stripe of golden tattoo on the demon wolf's mouth now, which looked quite unique.

This was a Personality-Reveal Rune Tattoo, and it was not permanent, similar to the first Wings Rune Tattoo that Lu Ye had received.

At the moment, Lu Ye's proficiency in the Rune Tattoo Path was not very high; achieving this level was already the limit. Only in the future, as his skills improved, would he qualify to tattoo a Hidden or Permanent Rune Tattoo. Of course, those tattoos required different materials.

In front of Lu Ye, the demon wolf looked at him skeptically, as it didn't feel any significant change in itself.

"Activate your demonic power and try," Lu Ye said.

The demon wolf understood and immediately activated its demon origin. In the next instant, the golden mark on its mouth flashed, making all its sharp teeth gleam with a much sharper look. It bared its teeth at Lu Ye, looking quite formidable.

Lu Ye slapped it to the side: "Go play by yourself."

They were already well acquainted with each other, so there was no need for pleasantries.

Having perfectly succeeded with his first tattoo, Lu Ye was in a very good mood.

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Within the spirit ground, Lu Ye rose to his feet and approached the Heaven's Augury Pillar once again, his mind connecting to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault. However, this time, he wasn't there to purchase anything.

Instead, he intended to upgrade his Boulder Mountain Saber to the next grade.

The Boulder Mountain Saber was currently a mid-grade spirit artifact with 18 restrictions, having been upgraded from low-grade to mid-grade just a few months ago.

However, Lu Ye's cultivation had progressed rapidly of late. Since entering the Cloud River battlefield, in less than five months, he had already reached the standards of the Cloud River Level 4 realm.

Now, he was fully qualified to wield a higher quality spirit artifact.

Under normal circumstances, Spirit Stream Realm cultivators would use low-grade spirit artifacts, while those in the Cloud River Realm could switch to mid-grade. And by the time they reached the Cloud River Level 5 realm, they could transition to using top-grade spirit artifacts. As for supreme-grade spirit artifacts, they were generally used by True Lake Realm cultivators, and beyond those were Magic Artifacts.

Though Lu Ye's cultivation was one level below Level 5, it was not much of an issue.

Since he had no immediate concerns and did not need to engage in battles with others, it was the perfect opportunity to spend his free time on upgrading the grade of the Boulder Mountain Saber so that it wouldn't be neglected later due to lack of the opportunity.

Within the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, Lu Ye murmured softly, "Commission, spirit artifact upgrade!"

Having done this before, he knew the process.

As his voice fell, his vision shifted, and he found himself in a small room, empty except for a stand in front of him.

So Lu Ye waited there.

His commission for a spirit artifact upgrade required the availability of an Artifact Refiner to accept the task. They would then negotiate the price and agree on certain conditions and deadlines. If no Artifact Refiner took on the commission, he would simply have to keep waiting.

To the cultivators of the Nine Provinces, this method was undoubtedly convenient; there was no need to go through the trouble of looking for an Artifact Refiner themselves. Instead, everything could be accomplished through the help of the Heaven's Augury treasure vault.

Not only spirit artifact upgrades, but one could also commission custom-made spirit artifacts and the refining of elixir pills, among other things.

So for those with a special skill, earning merit was not difficult at all. Those cultivators who specialized in Artifact Refining or Alchemy didn't even need to fight others to the death; they could simply accept various commissions in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault and earn enough merit to satisfy their cultivation needs.

The number of Artifact Refiners who took on work this way in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault was not small. Lu Ye had only waited for a moment when the space in front of him twisted, and a figure appeared.

Glancing up, he saw a young-looking person about thirty years old, with delicate white skin and a charming face, wearing a tight-fitting dress with a floral pattern that accentuated a graceful figure.

Lu Ye was surprised.

Within the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, such commissions had a natural disguise and protection granted by Heaven's Augury for both parties. It was a method that enveloped each party in a fog, preventing them from discerning each other's identity or features, to the extent that even gender was obscured.

After all, the parties involved in such transactions might belong to opposite factions. Concealing their identities and appearance could also minimize a lot of unnecessary trouble.

But ever since Lu Ye received the Heaven's Augury Bestowment, such disguises no longer affected him. It seemed he had gained some seemingly useless privileges; in his eyes, the cultivators he traded with were not shrouded by any fog at all.

What surprised Lu Ye was that the Artifact Refiner who appeared this time was the same woman as before!

The coincidence was too much to believe.

The Boulder Mountain Saber had been upgraded from low-grade to mid-grade by this very person, resulting in Lu Ye being very satisfied. Since it was her again, there would be no problem.

Without showing any outward reaction, Lu Ye placed the Boulder Mountain Saber on the stand in front of him.

The woman reached out to grab it, her brow furrowing as she said in an elderly voice, dissatisfied, "Merely a mid-grade spirit artifact..."

Last time she had said "Merely a low-grade..."

Clearly, she was not pleased with the low quality of the spirit artifact, as it meant less profit for her.

However, unlike last time, the woman cut herself off mid-sentence as if she had discovered something. She flipped the Boulder Mountain Saber over, examined it closely, and her expression shifted slightly.

On the hilt of the Boulder Mountain Saber, there originally had only been the words "Boulder Mountain." But after the woman had upgraded it last time, an additional symbol of a feather had appeared.

Knowing it did not affect its use, Lu Ye was aware some Artifact Refiners liked to leave special marks on their works to prove their masterpieces, and this feather was undoubtedly the woman's signature.

Now, she saw her own mark.

Surprised, she looked up at Lu Ye, seemingly not expecting such a coincidence—to see the spirit artifact that she had previously upgraded reappear before her.

After reflecting for a moment, she remembered the incident from several months ago.

After all, not many were willing to spend a considerable amount to upgrade a low-grade spirit artifact; most cultivators would simply replace it without wasting much merit.

Just a few months, and it needed another upgrade. How swift was this young fellow's progression in cultivation? The woman wondered to herself.

Though she could not clearly see Lu Ye's face, the Boulder Mountain Saber in his hand allowed her to deduce some things.

"Upgrade to top-grade?" she asked in that aged voice. One might assume she was a very old individual by her voice alone, yet in reality, she was an alluring woman.

"Yes."

"What requirements do you have?"

"Keep the same shape and length, add 27 restrictions, make it sufficiently sturdy, and double the weight."

"It can be done. Name your price."

Lu Ye pondered, recalling that the last time the Boulder Mountain Saber was upgraded from low-grade to mid-grade, it cost him two thousand merit points. To upgrade it from mid-grade to top grade this time would definitely require an even greater expense.

After a brief moment of contemplation, he spoke up, "Five thousand merit points."

The woman's eyebrow raised, and a hint of a smile curled at the corner of her mouth, clearly pleased with the price. Primarily, she hadn't expected someone from the Cloud River Realm to be so generous.

However, she said, "At least eight thousand merit points. Upgrading from mid-grade to top grade requires a lot of materials, all of which I need to purchase."

Lu Ye just looked at her. If he didn't have the privilege given by Heaven's Augury to see through her expressions, he would have thought her words quite reasonable. But having seen through her facial changes, how could Lu Ye not realize that even his offer of five thousand merit points was somewhat high?

This woman probably thinks she's found an easy mark in him.

On reflection, because he obtained merit points so easily, he didn't feel the pinch when spending them. But if it were any other cultivator from the Cloud River Realm, they would have to ponder deeply before spending several thousand merit points at a time.

"Never mind then; I don't have that many merit points," he said.

As he said this, Lu Ye began to retrieve the Boulder Mountain Saber.

"It's not as if we can't negotiate," the woman quickly said.

"Four thousand merit points?"

"What did you say?" The woman's brow twitched.

"I seem to have only four thousand merit points left."

"Boy, are you making a fool of me?" the woman's face darkened, "A firm price of five thousand merit points, pick up the saber in three days if you agree, sign the Heaven's Augury Pact!"

"Okay... I suppose," Lu Ye agreed, albeit reluctantly.

He made up his mind that next time he had the Boulder Mountain Saber upgraded, he would let someone else make the offer, then observe their expressions and bargain slowly.

The woman immediately brought out the Heaven's Augury Pact, stipulating some terms. Lu Ye checked and, after making sure there were no errors, both parties signed the contract.

"In three days!" The woman left these words behind as her figure swiftly disappeared.

Lu Ye lingered in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault for a while longer, and by chance, noticed that several portions of Earth's Core Fire, which had previously been sold out, were available again. He immediately used merit points to purchase them.

It looked just like he had previously thought; everything in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault had its sources. Having bought out the Earth's Core Fire before, and now seeing several portions available again, it was clear that someone had collected more and sold it to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault.

It looked like he needed to browse the vault from time to time. He might encounter some unexpected gains.

With the Heaven's Augury Pillar within the spirit ground, such a task didn't require much effort.

Exiting the treasure vault in his mind, Lu Ye turned around, raising his eyebrows slightly.

He saw behind him a large pack of demon wolves standing quietly, pairs of wolf eyes intently fixed on him. The one with the largest figure, the alpha wolf, was just three meters in front of him.

Although Lu Ye had grown familiar with several of the demon wolves during this time, most of them ignored him completely—not just him, but everyone else too, except for Giant Armor, to whom they had not shown any affinity.

Especially the alpha wolf, this proud creature usually couldn't be bothered to spare a glance for Lu Ye and the others.

And yet here it was, waiting, accompanied by an entire pack.

By the alpha wolf's side was the demon wolf that had been given the Sharpness rune tattoo. To stand shoulder to shoulder with the alpha was an honor; previously, it didn't have such status.

Plus, it seemed to have a smug look, with fresh blood still visible around its mouth.

This was clearly the demeanor of having won a fight with its peers!

Lu Ye quickly grasped the situation.

"You all want that special ability too?"

The alpha wolf slightly lowered its head, its intentions clear.

With just a simple Sharpness spirit rune, a demon wolf's biting power could increase by at least thirty to forty percent. Such an enhancement naturally made all demon wolves eager.

This was also the reason the alpha wolf had brought the pack to wait for Lu Ye.

To this scene, Lu Ye felt surprised. He had actually planned to look for some other demon wolves he was familiar with to continue practicing tattooing spirit runes on them.

Now it had saved him much trouble. Having them come to him versus seeking them out yielded a significantly different outcome.

If he could tattoo rune tattoos on each one of the more than a hundred demon wolves in the pack, Lu Ye would be able to accumulate more experience and insights, which he found very agreeable.

After a moment's thought, he took out a demonic pill from a demon beast from his storage space and held it before the alpha wolf, "Trade this for it!"

The pack went out to hunt every few days, bringing back not only fresh flesh but sometimes even demonic pills, though these were consumed by the pack itself.

Not only Amber relished demonic pills, but all demon beasts enjoyed swallowing other demon beasts' demonic pills, which allowed them to grow more rapidly. In particular, demonic pills of a compatible element sign greatly enhanced demon beasts.

Lu Ye certainly could have tattooed the spirit runes on these demon wolves for free, but if he could turn this into an opportunity to gain some benefits, it would be even better, considering he was also spending merit points from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault to buy materials, not to mention the energy and time he would invest in tattooing the rune tattoos.

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The lead wolf glanced at the demonic pill in Lu Ye's hand, a human-like expression flickering in its eyes, and then it lowered its head ever so slightly, which was taken as an agreement.

Lu Ye felt amazed that he had actually made a deal with a pack of demon beasts. Although this deal was rather vague and the specific price wasn't negotiated, since the lead wolf had agreed, Lu Ye expected he could later collect some demonic pills in return.

Moreover, it spared him the trouble of finding targets to practice his rune tattooing, which was a good thing.

He then sat down cross-legged in front of the steps of his wooden hut and took out the materials that he had previously purchased from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, laying them out in a line.

Just like the one time he had demonstrated before, he showed the lead wolf the different effects of the three spirit runes.

"Pay attention, you'll choose which one you want later, and I will tattoo the different spirit runes on you," Lu Ye said to the lead wolf with a solemn reminder.

The lead wolf turned around and cocked its head.

Instantly, one large wolf stepped forward and stood in front of Lu Ye.

The lead wolf raised its paw and tapped on the golden bottle that symbolized the Sharpness spirit rune.

"Understood!"

Lu Ye reached out to grab the muzzle of the demon wolf in front of him and pulled out his tattoo needle to begin the tattooing.

In just a short while, a Sharpness rune tattoo was completed, and a golden arrowhead mark now adorned the muzzle of the demon wolf.

The demon wolf activated its Demon Origin, baring its teeth, and a layer of luminous light immediately coated its sharp fangs, making them look even more dangerous.

Even though the pack had witnessed the power of Sharpness in the previous fights, seeing with their own eyes how this power came into being felt entirely different.

Lu Ye could see a touch of amazement in the lead wolf's eyes. Even the usually calm wolf pack began to stir, looking at Lu Ye with a burning intensity.

Such an event had never occurred before. The entire pack of over a hundred demon wolves normally didn't give other people the time of day with the exception of Giant Armor and acted as if these people didn't exist in their spirit ground. But now, realizing that Lu Ye had the power to make them stronger, the wolf pack's view of Lu Ye undoubtedly underwent a subtle change.

Furthermore, this increase in strength was effortless and came without any cost.

This made the wolf pack value Lu Ye even more.

Another demon wolf came forward under the lead wolf's signal, and the lead wolf again tapped the golden bottle symbolizing the Sharpness spirit rune.

Lu Ye took a brief rest before starting again.

The actual time spent on tattooing wasn't long, only about a dozen breaths, but this short period demanded a great deal of concentration and caused a significant drain on the mind.

As one rune tattoo after another was inscribed, Lu Ye's technique became increasingly skilled.

While he was busy, outside of Great Wilderness Mountain, three streams of light raced side by side, streaking across the sky like lightning.

From the fluctuations of spirit force around the three, they were all at the Cloud River Level 9.

Moreover, all three had interacted with Lu Ye before and were cultivators at the Cloud River Level 9 realm.

The one in the middle, wearing a green robe, was none other than Tan Sheng from the New Moon Sect. On the left, Wei Que from the Yunyang Sect, and on the right, with the most biting aura, was Xia Liang from the Mad Saber Sect.

Compared to his state in the hunting grounds before, Tan Sheng's aura was now indisputably more violent, his eyes bloodshot, and his figure had grown thinner.

After New Moon Sect's station at the Spirit Stream battlefield was overrun, with over fifty disciples dead or injured, their losses were significant. The day Tan Sheng received this news on the Cloud River battlefield, he was nearly driven to faint from anger. It was then that he secretly swore to kill Lu Yiye and avenge his fallen sect brothers and sisters.

He was on the verge of advancing to the True Lake Realm and had achieved some gains within the hunting grounds, which meant he could ascend at any time and leave the Cloud River battlefield.

But to execute Lu Ye, he deliberately postponed his own advancement.

If he did not avenge such a deep-seated grudge, what right did he have to ascend to the True Lake?

He admitted that he was the instigator of the incident in the hunting grounds, but that was no excuse for Lu Yiye to target his sect behind his back. As the matter escalated to the Spirit Stream battlefield, the New Moon Sect suffered greatly and couldn't counterattack; Lu Yiye was nothing short of a beast!

So no matter what, he was determined to kill Lu Yiye on the Cloud River battlefield, so that he could peacefully advance to the True Lake.

Wei Que had similar reasons, but compared to the New Moon Sect, Yunyang Sect didn't lose many members—just the loss of their station and a substantial amount of merit.

While Wei Que didn't harbor the same intense hatred as Tan Sheng, he was more interested in the hefty reward for killing Lu Ye.

After Lu Ye's second raid of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge sects at the Spirit Stream battlefield, the bounty for him had increased even more.

As for Xia Liang...

He was not there for Lu Ye. He was looking for Li Baxian!

...

For Xia Liang, Yan Xing was a presence akin to both a brother and a father, and Yan Xing met his demise at the hands of Li Baxian.

Ever since he learned that Li Baxian had entered the Cloud River battlefield, he had been searching for the man's whereabouts, but unfortunately, the battlefield was vast, and looking for one person in such a place was akin to searching for a needle in the ocean.

However, Lu Ye and Li Baxian shared an unshakable bond, and if Lu Ye could be captured, Li Baxian would surely not stand idly by.

It was partly for that reason that he made a move against Lu Ye in the hunting grounds.

The fact that these three people could come together in the vast sea of faces was no coincidence, but rather a targeted operation against Lu Ye led by Tan Sheng, who had invited both Wei Que and Xia Liang.

They didn't invite more people because three Level 9 cultivators were enough to deal with one Lu Yiye. Just like last time, what good was having more people if the target still escaped?

And if the target managed to escape last time, it was fundamentally due to the Golden Body Token. With that item protecting him, no one could break through the defense, but Lu Yiye couldn't possibly have a second Golden Body Token. Therefore, as long as they could find his whereabouts, he would surely be slain!

During flight, Wei Que spoke up, "Brother Tan, are you certain that Lu Yiye has entered Great Wilderness Mountain?"

Tan Sheng didn't say a word, took out something resembling a compass from his chest, and after examining it, he confirmed, "Certain."

The compass appeared similar to a tracking disc, but in reality, its effectiveness was far from that of a tracking disc. A tracking disc could clearly indicate the position of the person being tracked, providing an extremely clear direction, and the closer the distance, the stronger the reaction on the tracking disc. However, the Spiritual Artifact compass in Tan Sheng's hand was not so capable.

It could only point out a general direction.

Strictly speaking, this item was a severely crippled version of a tracking disc.

Still, even so, this item was highly valuable, a rarity throughout the Nine Provinces.

It was obtained by the New Moon Sect at a significant cost from the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union, then delivered to Tan Sheng by a disciple within the Cloud River battlefield.

Their sole purpose was to use this item to locate Lu Ye and avenge the destruction of the sect's outpost and the killing of their disciples.

So even if it was a severely crippled version of a tracking disc, indicating a general direction was still not an issue. It was following this compass that the three of them had rushed all the way to Great Wilderness Mountain.

"That Lu Yiye is only at Level 3 cultivation, even if he received the reward from the Kills Ranking, and even if he is now at Level 4... entering Great Wilderness Mountain was not a wise choice. What is he doing here?"

"Experience, cultivation, there are always reasons," Tan Sheng replied offhandedly, "and don't forget, the first prize of the Kills Ranking also includes a Class A spring spirit!"

At that, Wei Que's expression shifted, "Brother Tan means to say..."

Tan Sheng let out a cold huff, "How precious is a Class A spirit ground. That Lu Yiye, even if he got a Class A spring spirit, he would be afraid to place it just anywhere. To place a spring spirit, one must find a secluded spot, and Great Wilderness Mountain is undoubtedly a good choice. The risks here might be significant, but if he's lucky, he might find a suitable place and lessen the risk of his spirit ground being discovered by others."

Wei Que listened, his eyes shining, "Well argued."

If he entered Great Wilderness Mountain to place a Class A spring spirit, it would make sense. With that being the case, not only could they obtain a hefty bounty this time, but also a Class A spring spirit.

However, compared to the bounty from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, the temptation of a Class A spring spirit seemed lackluster; it was merely an extra perk.

"And Brother Xia Liang, if things go as expected, Li Baxian might just be with Lu Yiye," Tan Sheng threw in another shocking statement.

Always silent, Xia Liang's eyes suddenly turned much sharper, "What do you mean?"

"Given the current few Cloud River Realm cultivators of Righteous Blood Sect, a Class A spirit ground isn't something that Lu Yiye could monopolize. And you are well aware of the situation Li Baxian faces within the Loyal Heart Sect. The Loyal Heart Sect does have its own spirit ground, but would Li Baxian have the chance to cultivate there? If Lu Yiye has a Class A spirit ground, don't you think he would invite Li Baxian to join him?"

Xia Liang's eyes brightened even more, "If that's the case, things could get interesting!"

The sound of a blade suddenly rang out, and as a bright saber light flashed by, Xia Liang shot forward like an arrow released from a bow. A huge flying beast was charging straight at them. As the two silhouettes, one large and one small, passed by each other, blood rained down from the sky.

A powerful avian creature comparable to a Cloud River Level 7 was slain by Xia Liang with a single blade.

Wei Que watched with undisguised envy.

Although they were both at Cloud River Level 9, his own Level 9 cultivation was no match for Xia Liang's, let alone Tan Sheng's. The reason boiled down to an insufficient foundation in the Spirit Stream Realm. Despite all three of them advancing to Cloud River with 360 orifices opened, both Tan Sheng and Xia Liang were renowned on the Spirit Stream Ranking, the only exception being Wei Que, who had never made it onto the ranking.

With fighting spirit surging in Xia Liang, a vengeful Tan Sheng, and a reward-seeking Wei Que, these three Level 9 cultivators traced their quarry and delved deep into Great Wilderness Mountain that day.

Within the spirit ground, Lu Ye had just finished giving nearly thirty demon wolves their rune tattoos, then he gestured to the alpha wolf, "Come back tomorrow."

The mental strain was too great, and he needed a good rest to recover.

Moreover, not all the runes he tattooed were Sharpness runes; some were defense and Move-Like-The-Wind runes.

The choice of the type of spirit runes was up to the alpha wolf, and Lu Ye had figured out a pattern: anything above Level 5, excluding Level 5, was granted a Sharpness rune, while those below were either given a defense or Move-Like-The-Wind rune.

The runes for defense tattooing were placed on the wolf's belly, while Move-Like-The-Wind runes were inked on the legs.

Such choices by the alpha wolf were doubtless aimed at providing the weaker members of the pack with enough power to defend themselves.

Chapter 565 Feathered Master

Apart from inscribing different spirit runes on demon wolves every day, Lu Ye spent the rest of his time engaged in cultivation and reading. By now, nature's spiritual energy within the spirit ground had thoroughly stabilized, offering a lush environment for cultivation. With the addition of consuming the Origin Spirit Pill, Lu Ye's cultivation efficiency could be said to have reached an all-time high.

Of course, even so, it still couldn't compare to cultivating with the help of spirit fortune sticks.

For cultivators, using spirit fortune sticks for cultivation was always the fastest way to enhance one's cultivation.

In the blink of an eye, three days had passed, and every demon wolf had received its own rune tattoo.

During these three days, Lu Ye also obtained more than a dozen demonic pills from the demon wolves, all brought back from their hunting expeditions. The quality of the demonic pills varied, but, on the whole, they were quite good.

After the last demon wolf was inscribed with a rune tattoo, the entire wolf pack suddenly gathered together, their leader's tall figure extremely conspicuous among them. It tilted its head back and howled towards the sky, and the wolf pack responded with a chorus of howls.

Following that, the lead wolf turned around and led its pack, sprinting away from Great Reversal Valley in a mighty and imposing manner.

Lu Ye watched in astonishment, wondering what the wolf pack was about to do.

Recently, although the wolves had been hunting outside, they had never all left at once. At most, a group of demon wolves would be dispatched to hunt, with the majority remaining within the valley.

This was the first time that they had all left like they did today.

Moreover, the manner in which the wolf pack departed gave off the sense of a great army setting off on a campaign.

Perhaps they were seeking revenge against some demon beast? Lu Ye secretly conjectured.

Such a wolf pack was undoubtedly powerful as a whole, but within the Great Wilderness Mountain, they might still have enemies. It's possible that they had suffered losses at the hands of some adversary in the past, and thus they resorted to relying on Giant Armor's cultivation to strengthen the power of their pack. Now that they had received spirit runes from Lu Ye, it was certain that their overall strength had improved—by twenty to thirty percent at the very least—giving them the confidence to seek revenge.

Of course, whether this was the case or not, Lu Ye was unclear.

By nightfall, the wolf pack still hadn't returned.

Lu Ye grilled some snake meat, casually eating a bit before getting up and approaching the Heaven's Augury Pillar. He placed his hand on it and connected with the Heaven's Augury treasure vault.

Soon, he found himself in the small room dedicated to requesting the upgrade of spirit artifacts.

It was the appointed time to meet the mysterious woman.

What puzzled him was that after waiting for more than two hours, there was still no sign of the other party.

Lu Ye wasn't worried that the other party would be tempted to keep his Boulder Mountain Saber for themselves. They had already signed the Heaven's Augury Pact, and if the other party failed to deliver the Boulder Mountain Saber within the agreed time limit, they would surely be punished by Heaven's Augury. Even if that person were from True Lake or even the Divine Sea Realm and a strong cultivator, they certainly could not withstand such punishment.

As long as the person wasn't dead, they would deliver the Boulder Mountain Saber no matter what.

However, if the other party had indeed died, that would complicate matters. The Boulder Mountain Saber had been with Lu Ye for several years, and he was already deeply connected to it. Even if he were to find another saber exactly like it, it would inevitably impact the effectiveness of his abilities.

Could it really be such a coincidence that the person had died?

Time trickled by, and just when the deadline was about to be reached, the space in front of Lu Ye suddenly twisted, and following that, the woman's figure appeared.

Lu Ye looked up and saw that her complexion was somewhat pale, with traces of dried blood at the corners of her mouth, indicating that she had recently been in a fierce battle and had been injured.

Seeing Lu Ye waiting there, the woman exhaled deeply, her chest heaving once before she placed the Boulder Mountain Saber on the table in front of her and continued to deceive Lu Ye with her hoarse voice, "Mission accomplished. You should check it."

Lu Ye picked up the Boulder Mountain Saber and casually weighed it, finding that its weight had indeed doubled, which felt just right in his hand.

Drawing the blade from its sheath, the saber, already pitch black, now appeared even more profound, yet amidst the darkness, a sense of sharpness had been added. Stimulation of the mind ensued as he examined the various restrictions on the saber.

Twenty-seven restrictions, no mistakes there.

All his requirements were fulfilled. As for how much the might of the Boulder Mountain Saber had increased, that would have to be tested in actual combat.

However, having already witnessed the transition of the Boulder Mountain Saber from low grade to mid-grade at the hands of this person, and now mid-grade to top grade, there should be no problems. With a prior collaboration as the basis, Lu Ye felt quite confident in the woman's craftsmanship.

"No problem," Lu Ye nodded in confirmation. As he finished speaking, the Heaven's Augury Pact took effect, and the back of his hand warmed slightly as the agreed-upon merit was deducted.

The deal was done; there was no need to linger any longer. Lu Ye didn't want to know how she had been injured, and there was no need to ask, lest he expose any of his own secrets.

Just as he was about to leave, the woman suddenly called out, "Young friend, please wait."

Lu Ye looked up at her.

"You're from the Cloud River Realm, right?"

"Yes." With the quality of the Boulder Mountain Saber evident, she could easily guess this fact.

"In the future, do you plan to enhance this saber to supreme grade quality?"

"Possibly."

"Then consider leaving my imprint. If you have any further needs, you can directly contact me. It will save you a lot of trouble," she suggested, her hoarse voice suggesting a transaction.

The proposal from the other party somewhat surprised Lu Ye, but by the look of her, she seemed to want to make a profit from him.

There was nothing reprehensible about that, after all, if he needed to upgrade his weapon in the future, he would have to come here to commission the service. Being acquainted with someone here could save some trouble.

"Alright."

The woman immediately raised her hand and wiped her battlefield marking, sending a glimmer of light towards Lu Ye. He raised his hand, and the light fell upon the battlefield marking on the back of his hand.

"How should I address you?" asked Lu Ye.

"Call me Feathered Master," the woman replied. "But if you wish to seek me out, you'll have to leave the Cloud River battlefield. You won't be able to contact me while you're there."

The woman's cultivation was undoubtedly higher than the Cloud River Realm, her true body located somewhere in Nine Provinces.

"Understood," Lu Ye nodded slightly, his thoughts stirring, his figure dissipated, exiting the space.

The woman was left frowning: "He didn't even say his own name, truly an impolite youngster."

After muttering under her breath, she hastily departed as well. She was injured and needed to heal as soon as possible.

In the wooden hut on the spirit ground, Lu Ye examined the Boulder Mountain Saber. As he channeled spirit force into it, the flow seemed smoother than before, and although the blade had minor traces from clashing in combat over a long period, no matter how indestructible the Boulder Mountain Saber was, this was inevitable.

However, after the upgrade, all the previously existed tiny traces had disappeared, as if the saber was reborn.

Regardless of the woman's penchant for affectation, her skill in Artifact Refining was indeed commendable.

In fact, if Lu Ye was willing, he could also practice the Path of Artifact Refining. He had a foundation as a spirit runes master, making the cultivation in Artifact Refining more efficient.

However, one's energy is always limited. Besides his main focus as a spirit runes master, he was also practicing the Array Path and the Rune Tattoo Path, unable to spare more energy elsewhere.

He took out the Breath Fruit Core from his storage space, ready to enter the Mirage Realm to test his combat skills.

His consciousness immersed within, he quickly found himself in that unique small space, immediately surveying his surroundings with caution.

Ever since he was once attacked unexpectedly upon entering this place, Lu Ye remained vigilant every time he used the Breath Fruit Core to enter the Mirage Realm.

But over time, he had not encountered that individual again.

Firstly, the number of times both might train in the Mirage Realm could be rare since each entry consumed some merit.

Secondly, this small space was simply a transit point. As long as they did not enter at the same time, they would not meet each other.

Meeting another person here last time was simply too coincidental.

After expending a hundred merits to open the door, Lu Ye stepped into the Mirage Realm, saber in hand.

Fog billowed around him, and soon a mist-shrouded figure charged at him. Before the figure reached him, a barrage of weapon control lights already struck at him.

This time in the Mirage Realm, his opponent turned out to be a cultivator, and judging by the force of the opponent's attacks, they were of the same cultivation level as Lu Ye, a Cloud River Level 4.

The strength of the adversaries in the Mirage Realm was always linked to Lu Ye's own power. As he entered with his Cloud River Level 4 cultivation, so would the strength of his opponents be at Level 4, and the difficulty would gradually increase until he could no longer bear it and was eventually killed and ejected from the realm.

Both being at Level 4, but Lu Ye was accustomed to defeating stronger enemies, facing the oncoming barrage head-on. The Boulder Mountain Saber blazed with fire, blocking all attacks and rushing straight towards the enemy. As his saber light slashed, the figure of his opponent dissipated.

The mist churned around him, and this time, two figures emerged...

With his long saber whirling, saber light sweeping through the air, Lu Ye's figure moved agilely through the Mirage Realm. The Boulder Mountain Saber burned with dazzling flames, and one after another, his enemies fell.

After being upgraded to top grade, the Boulder Mountain Saber clearly inflicted more damage, but correspondingly, the consumption of spirit force had also become much fiercer.

This was unavoidable.

It was also the reason why cultivators of different levels were fit to use spirit artifacts of varying grades.

Allowing a Spirit Stream Realm cultivator to use a top-grade spirit artifact would exhaust them quickly, even if they could activate it, as their spirit force would rapidly be depleted.

Currently at Level 4 realm, Lu Ye could barely handle the consumption brought by wielding a top-grade spirit artifact. If he could increase his cultivation by one more level, reaching the Level 5 realm, handling it would become somewhat easier.

He had previously considered whether to switch the weapon control instruments in his supplies box to top-grade spirit artifacts, but after this trial, he decided against it.

Not because he couldn't afford it, but because it was unnecessary.

The combat style of a combat cultivator was mainly close combat, while the Weapon Control Path was merely an embellishment, giving combat cultivators an additional method of medium to long-range engagement to avoid the embarrassment of being attacked from afar without being able to retaliate.

However, compared with other combat cultivators' weapon control, Lu Ye's was undeniably more lethal because he could empower his own weapon control with spirit runes: Move-Like-The-Wind made his weapon control faster, and Sharpness made his weapon control more deadly—a feature most cultivators could not match.

After practicing for more than one hour, Lu Ye was ejected from the Mirage Realm. A mild stabbing pain transmitted through his mind, quickly dissipating—a clear benefit of a powerful psyche.

Chapter 566

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Every day, Lu Ye would study and cultivate, sparing some time to hone himself in the Mirage Realm, familiarizing himself with the might of the Boulder Mountain Saber after its upgrade. His days passed without turbulence.

This kind of life was something many cultivators in the Cloud River Realm yearned for, having a stable cultivation environment, without the need to travel tirelessly everywhere. Naturally, there would be fewer dangers, allowing for a steady improvement in cultivation.

Lu Ye relished it.

Although since he began his cultivation journey, he had always been on the move, no one would reject such a peaceful and tranquil life unless they had no other choice.

While cultivating in the spirit ground could not compare to obtaining spirit fortune sticks, it had the advantage of stability, and in terms of overall efficiency, it might even be faster than wandering around looking for spirit fortune sticks to improve cultivation. After all, such sticks were not something one could get just by wanting them; it all depended on fate.

Three days after the wolf pack disappeared, in the evening when the setting sun painted the sky, Lu Ye, who was engrossed in his book and cultivation, suddenly looked up towards the outside. He saw a dense mass of figures appearing outside the great Formation of the spirit ground.

The wolf pack had returned.

The imposing alpha wolf was covered in blood, and the other demon wolves also bore traces of injuries; it seemed like they had gone through a great battle.

However, to Lu Ye's surprise, the number of wolves had increased.

The pack originally consisted of only a hundred or so demon wolves, but this time, they returned with more than two hundred, and among them were clearly some young pups that had not yet fully grown.

Under the alpha wolf's lead, the pack stopped outside the big Formation, waiting quietly.

Lu Ye waved the array banner, opening a gap in the big Formation, and only then did the wolf pack pour into the spirit ground, each finding a suitable place to rest, and the injured demon wolves silently licked their wounds.

The alpha wolf led a few demon wolves straight to Lu Ye, and at its signal, those wolves stepped forward, spitting out the demonic pills they had held in their mouths.

Previously, Lu Ye had already received a dozen or so demonic pills from the pack, and this time, they had accomplished something unknown—they not only grew their numbers but also brought back nearly fifty demonic pills.

This was clearly the wolf pack's form of gratitude and the payment for the rune tattoos Lu Ye had marked them with.

Quite a profit!

The materials Lu Ye bought from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault cost him just over a thousand in merit, but the value of these demonic pills was much more than that. If he sold them to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, they would be worth ten thousand.

The wolf pack knew gratitude, and Lu Ye was not stingy. He immediately spent some merit to buy a batch of healing pills from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault and, joining forces with Yiyi, administered them to the injured demon wolves.

After all, the safety of the spirit ground in the future would still rely on this wolf pack. Lu Ye chose Sky Valley for his spirit ground specifically to use the strength of the wolf pack.

Without the pack, he would never have set up the spirit ground here. While the place was indeed secluded, the risks were also great, and if a powerful demon beast attacked, he and a few others like Li Baxian might not be able to hold them off.

Some of the new pack members were reluctant to interact with Lu Ye, but under the alpha wolf's intimidation, they could only obediently take the healing pills.

The vitality of demon beasts is incredibly tenacious. As long as the injury isn't too severe and they don't perish on the spot, they are generally not in danger of losing their lives.

A few days later, the wolf pack had mostly recovered.

The alpha wolf brought its newly arrived kin to Lu Ye, asking him to help tattoo spirit runes. Lu Ye did not refuse; enhancing the strength of the wolf pack was akin to enhancing the protective force of the spirit ground.

At the same time, thirty miles away from Great Reversal Valley, in a cave, Tan Sheng and the other two were seated on the ground, each in meditation for cultivation recovery.

Even though the three of them were at Level 9, they appeared somewhat ragged at the moment. They had been searching for traces of Lu Ye in the vicinity these days, but, unfortunately, the compass they held fell short compared to the tracking disc. They could only vaguely determine Lu Ye's direction and could not pinpoint his location exactly.

In this way, as they searched, they occasionally startled some powerful demon beasts, inevitably leading to fierce battles.

Just two hours before, the three of them had joined forces to slay a demon beast comparable to the Cloud River Level 9 Realm.

Although they came upon some gains, their main goal was Lu Ye. Without finding him, no matter how many demon beasts they killed, it would be of no use.

"Lu Yiye should be in this vicinity. Let's rest for tonight, and search towards the southeast tomorrow," Tan Sheng spoke.

Wei Que and Xia Liang had no objections. Though they had not found any trace of Lu Ye so far, according to the clues they presently held, Lu Ye had never left this area, so as long as they continued their search, they would eventually find him.

"We have searched this region of about thirty miles several times with no findings. That Lu Yiye is skilled in the Array Path. If he really has set up his spirit ground here, he would definitely arrange many big arrays. When we search tomorrow, we cannot overlook any suspicious places," Wei Que added.

"Indeed, we should," Tan Sheng nodded. "However, the teleportation arrays he has arranged are ultimately troublesome. If he has laid out teleportation arrays in advance, even if we find him, we may not be able to kill him."

In the hunting grounds, Tan Sheng had been using the tracking disc to pursue the traces of Lu Ye. However, Lu Ye's movements were elusive, now in front, then behind, abruptly shifting forty to sixty miles away.

At that time, he didn't know what was happening and even suspected that there was a problem with the tracking disc.

It wasn't until the hunting ground closed that he calmed down to reflect and after asking some people did he finally form a conjecture: Lu Yiye might be able to array teleportation arrays! That was the only way he could move instantly over distances of forty to sixty miles, eluding pursuit.

...

When he arrived at this conclusion, he was genuinely astonished, because not just any array cultivator could set up a teleportation array. Even for those in the True Lake Realm, setting up a teleportation array was no easy task, let alone for Lu Ye, who was at the Cloud River Realm.

However, aside from a teleportation array, there was no other way to explain the bizarre circumstances he had encountered at first.

Afterward, when he met up with Wei Que and Xia Liang, their conversation further solidified this speculation.

Wei Que had also pursued Lu Ye before. The latter had clearly entered a cave, but when Wei Que searched the cave, Lu Ye was nowhere to be seen. The only thing left was the trace of an exploded Formation, as though someone was destroying evidence.

The three of them then carefully examined the places in the hunting grounds where Lu Ye had been seen before, and eventually found a teleportation array left by Lu Ye, thus confirming their guess regarding the teleportation array.

Xia Liang said, "I've asked the elders of my sect about the teleportation array and there's no need to worry too much. Even if Lu Yiye can set it up, given his cultivation, the range he could cover with his teleportation array wouldn't be too great. Moreover, a teleportation array requires distant corresponding points to function, and with the demon beasts roaming in Great Wilderness Mountain, he definitely wouldn't dare to set up teleportation arrays outside at will, lest they get destroyed by passing demon beasts. Rather than worrying about the teleportation array, I am more concerned about whether he would call upon Heaven's Augury Pillars in the spirit ground."

Upon hearing this, both Tan Sheng and Wei Que fell silent.

Summoning Heaven's Augury Pillars would be unlikely for others due to the great expense, but for Lu Yiye, it was completely normal.

How rich was that guy! He had just recently acquired materials worth twenty or thirty million merit points from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, so he definitely had plenty of merit points on hand, enough to summon Heaven's Augury Pillars at any time.

This was precisely the method he had used to escape from the hunting ground before.

"Last time he had the protection of the Golden Body Token, so no one could stop him. Without the Golden Body Token, he would not have been able to escape last time, so the problem isn't too serious," Tan Sheng spoke, seemingly reassuring himself. After pausing, he added, "Even if he summoned Heaven's Augury Pillars in advance and ran when the situation went sour, at the very least we could seize his spirit ground, which would not be an empty gain. In any case, let's find his tracks first! Even if he does summon Heaven's Augury Pillars, if we cannot kill him this time, there will be a next!"

The three said no more, each silently recovering.

When daylight came, they set off again, searching towards the southeast.

A moment later, above Sky Valley, three streaks of light streaked through the sky—it was Tan Sheng and his companions. The three pairs of eyes scanned left and right. However, because a concealing Formation shrouded the area, in their view, it was merely a valley with beautiful scenery, nothing special.

Of course, that was mainly because none of the three were versed in the Array Path; otherwise, they would have noticed something amiss.

Just as the three were about to leave, Xia Liang suddenly came to a halt, his gaze intently scanning below.

The originally empty valley below now had a demon wolf appearing out of nowhere. From the looks of it, it was a young cub that had not yet matured.

Noticing Xia Liang's odd behavior, Tan Sheng and Wei Que also hurriedly stopped.

"Brother Xia?" Tan Sheng looked over in confusion.

Xia Liang said nothing, but with his Ocular Power at full, he continued to observe closely.

At that moment, the space not far from the wolf cub twisted and waves visible to the naked eye appeared. Then, a majestic demon wolf appeared out of thin air, walked over to the cub, and bit down on its neck. Ignoring the cub's resistance, it took the cub back with it.

The ripples reappeared, and the figure of the demon wolf vanished into thin air.

"A concealing big array!" Tan Sheng called out in a low voice, his eyes revealing a surprised delight.

Xia Liang and Wei Que also became excited.

Wei Que said, "This place has been concealed by a big array, which must be the handiwork of Lu Yiye beyond a doubt. He has set up the spirit ground here!"

This was truly finding something without even searching for it.

They had been searching for traces of Lu Ye nearby all this time but had never found anything. They did not expect that today, by a stroke of luck, they would stumble upon the traces of the big array.

Lu Ye never expected that the Formation he had set up would be exposed because of a playful young wolf cub, especially since he had no idea that Tan Sheng and his companions were searching for him.

When he was being tracked by the tracking disc, he could sense it when they were near, but now he had no clue at all.

That severely handicapped version of the tracking disc had a far lower effect compared to the real thing, hence it did not alert Lu Ye, which could be seen as having its pros and cons.

Having determined that this might be where Lu Ye was hiding, the three hesitated no longer. Xia Liang raised his saber, Wei Que summoned his magic and spells, and Tan Sheng also brought out his Spiritual Artifact.

Three Cloud River Level 9 experts acted together, launching an attack towards the valley below.

The violent surge of magic and spells roiled, and the vast saber light swept through.

Tan Sheng bellowed with righteous fury, his voice echoed through the heavens: "Lu Yiye, come out and meet your death!"

Along with his roar, thunderous noises erupted. On the outskirts of the spirit ground, a tangible light screen suddenly appeared, blocking the oncoming attacks and creating ripples upon ripples.

Chapter 567 Your Time to Die Has Come

When the Formation had not been triggered, not much could be discerned, but now as the three made their move and activated the protective array, some details of the valley below were revealed.

A massive protective array, like an inverted bowl, enveloped a good half of the valley. The spirit force flowing above the light screen did not disperse, highlighting the richness of nature's spiritual energy in this place.

If previously Tan Sheng and the others merely suspected this might be Lu Ye's hideout, after seeing this protective array, their certainty had increased by at least seventy to eighty percent!

The strength of a protective array is directly linked to the concentration of nature's spiritual energy, the more concentrated the energy, the more potent the array.

This array, covering such a vast scope yet still maintaining such impressive strength, indicated that the spiritual energy here was definitely that of a Class A spirit ground.

The first prize of the Kills Ranking was none other than a Class A Spring Spirit!

However, because other arrays shrouded the area, the trio could only see the light screen of the protective array, unable to see through it to the interior.

If they could have seen inside, they would not have been so aggressive.

For at this moment within the spirit ground, over two hundred demon wolves, disturbed, all looked up at the three in the sky, some even slightly bowing their bodies, growling threateningly.

The great commotion had disturbed more than just the wolves.

Li Baxian, Feng Yuechan, and Giant Armor all dashed out from their respective cabins, looking up.

Glancing at the three figures in the sky, Li Baxian was slightly taken aback, "How did they find this place?"

These three people, naturally all known to Li Baxian, Tan Sheng and Xia Liang need not be mentioned, had climbed the Spirit Stream Ranking, and had dealt with Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan on several occasions.

Wei Que had even clashed with them in the hunting grounds last time, and it was only through a trap array pre-set by Lu Ye that he managed to escape.

Seeing such a trio appearing over the spirit ground and even attacking the big array clearly indicated their malicious intent, and their previous shouting suggested they specifically came looking for their little junior brother.

"Where's the junior brother?" Li Baxian didn't see Lu Ye, but Yiyi had already run out.

Yiyi said, "Lu Ye is honing his saber skills in the Mirage Realm."

"At this time..." Li Baxian was somewhat helpless, knowing that Lu Ye could enter the Mirage Realm to cultivate using the Breath Fruit Core, a fact he knew well. Recently, he and Feng Yuechan had also occasionally used the Breath Fruit Core to enter the Mirage Realm and hone their combat skills against enemies.

Thus, he was aware that if Lu Ye was in the Mirage Realm, he wouldn't be able to sense the outside world, and everything would have to wait until he exited the Mirage Realm.

But if they just waited, the protective array surely couldn't hold, with no one controlling it, the array could only unleash limited power. Tan Sheng and the other two from Cloud River Level 9 attacking would soon forcefully break through the array.

"Where's the array controller jade cluster?" Li Baxian asked again.

"I'll look for it." Saying this, Yiyi dashed off.

She quickly returned, holding a Great Array Jade Cluster, "Here it is," she handed it over hastily to Li Baxian.

Li Baxian took it, infused it with spirit force, and after familiarizing himself briefly, began to manipulate nature's spiritual energy, controlling the great array.

Given the current situation, Li Baxian wasn't worried about Tan Sheng and the others invading. Although they were no match for Tan Sheng's trio, the spirit ground wasn't only inhabited by them; a protective force of two to three hundred demon wolves meant that Tan Sheng and others would definitely not fare well if they invaded.

However, before Lu Ye exited the Mirage Realm, he couldn't let Tan Sheng and his group kill their way into the spirit ground; a chaotic battle could accidentally harm Lu Ye, which would be problematic.

So, the best course of action now was to delay time until Lu Ye exited the Mirage Realm.

No sooner had he started controlling the great array than Tan Sheng and the others sensed it.

Thus, the three intensified their attacks, Tan Sheng shouting repeatedly, "Lu Yiye, give up! Unless you can summon Heaven's Augury Pillar again, today will be your burial site!"

As he spoke, he attacked frantically, causing ripples across the array's light screen.

Inside the array, there was no response, and the more it was so, the more Tan Sheng and his group were convinced that Lu Ye was indeed inside. If it were someone else, they would just step forward and explain the situation. Precisely because it was Lu Yiye inside the array, he dared not easily show himself.

Moreover, they had traced Lu Ye's tracks here, coincidentally coming upon a Class A spirit ground with such a large scale array; what were the odds?

The spirit force surged violently, the light screen flickering continuously, and Tan Sheng and his companions were secretly amazed by the great array's mighty power. Despite a joint and fierce attack from the three of them, they had yet to break through the great array.

Though the great array hadn't been breached, their efforts were not without effect, as the light screen of the protective array had noticeably dimmed.

With the trends going, they would eventually break through the great array, and then they could strike directly at the core.

"Attack the same spot together!" Xia Liang shouted as he brandished his blade.

The night is long, and dreams abound, who knows if Lu Yiye will not bring in the Heaven's Augury Pillar, so the sooner the great array is broken, the better.

As his long saber fell, Wei Que's magic and spells followed closely behind, and Tan Sheng made his move with them. A series of attacks crazily hit the same spot on the great array, and the three of them, working seamlessly together, caused the light screen of the array being attacked to flicker repeatedly.

In the spirit ground, Li Baxian's expression of helplessness grew stronger. Even though he had tried his best to maintain the operation of the great array, he was not an array cultivator after all, and the Formation was not crafted by him. He could only do so much, merely mobilizing more power to sustain the attacked location.

With this thought in mind, if it really came down to it, he could only let these three reckless fellows in and have the demon wolves take care of them.

Just as he was thinking this, Lu Ye's voice suddenly rang out next to his ear, "What's happening?"

Li Baxian turned his head and saw Lu Ye standing beside him, looking up into the air, and happily said, "Junior Brother, you're finally awake."

Lu Ye also noticed Tan Sheng and the others' ferocious appearances and couldn't help but wear a strange expression: "How did these three guys get here?"

And to think they all came together!

His first thought was whether the secret technique from the tracking disc was still in effect. But on second thought, that didn't seem right. Since the day he left the hunting ground and returned to the Nine Provinces, the secret techniques planted on him had shown no trace, it shouldn't still be active after such a long time.

However, these three couldn't have possibly found this place without reason, though he didn't know what method they used, it was evident they had employed something like a special Spiritual Artifact similar to the tracking disc.

The enemies had come knocking, and they were even attacking the Formation he set up; this battle was naturally unavoidable. Lu Ye turned his head and saw that the wolf pack, too, was looking up into the air, and many demon wolves had their ferocity aroused, baring their teeth at the spot.

Sensing Lu Ye's gaze, the alpha wolf in the pack turned his head and looked over. Their eyes met, and the alpha wolf slightly nodded.

Lu Ye felt greatly relieved in his heart. To keep troops for a thousand days but use them just for a moment was wise, considering the demon wolves as the most robust protective force in the spirit ground. Although the wolves were initially retained here because of the Giant Armor, the relationship between Lu Ye and the wolf pack had been very harmonious over these days. Now that the enemy had come knocking, the wolf pack would surely not stand idly by.

Taking the Great Array Jade Cluster from Li Baxian, Lu Ye stimulated his spirit force into it, adjusting the mighty power of the great array, and said, "Fourth Brother, take Senior Sister Feng and the Giant Armor to wait at this position."

Saying so, he threw out an array banner with a wave of his hand, which flew far out.

The Formation he had set up in the spirit ground was not merely for protection and concealment; the protective force of the spirit ground itself was not limited to the wolf pack alone.

The power of the wolf pack could be utilized, but he had never entirely relied on it.

Li Baxian nodded and immediately led Feng Yuechan and the Giant Armor toward the direction where the array banner fell.

Shortly after, with Lu Ye's manipulation, the three figures blended into the surroundings.

Yiyi burrowed underground to wait for an opportunity, Amber leaped onto Lu Ye's shoulder, ready for battle.

Lu Ye manipulated the spirit force in his hand, and the great array transformed.

At the same time, a crackling sound came from the sky, like a mirror being shattered, and a breach opened on the closely-guarded protective array.

Three figures streamed in, accompanied by Tan Sheng's elated laughter, "Lu Yiye, your time of death has come!"

The laughter abruptly halted as if someone had choked off his throat.

The smile on Tan Sheng's face suddenly stiffened, and the expressions on his companions Wei Que and Xia Liang were one of shock. The three pairs of eyes stared fixedly below at the over two hundred demon wolves, their expressions gradually becoming grave.

While they had indeed seen signs of demon beasts entering and leaving this place before, confirming the presence of a Formation, none of them had expected that this valley would gather so many demon beasts!

Seeing its scale, it was clearly a pack of wolves!

The Lu Yiye whom they had so desperately sought stood below, coexisting peacefully with the wolf pack, yet the wolves looked up at them with eyes brimming with brutal light.

What is going on!

The scene had genuinely baffled Tan Sheng and the others. They thought that breaking the protective array here, their biggest problem would either be Lu Yiye escaping through the teleportation array or him using the Heaven's Augury Pillar to escape. But now, it seemed that the situation had developed completely differently from what they had anticipated.

Lu Yiye showed no sign of escaping, but instead, it was them, the three of them who had unwittingly walked into a trap. This was no mere spirit ground; it was essentially a wolf's den.

Did Lu Yiye really have such great capability to subdue such a powerful wolf pack?

"Retreat quickly!" Xia Liang was the first to react and immediately spurred his figure to exit through the gap they had entered.

However, as Lu Ye waved an array banner in his hand, the protective array twisted and transformed. In an instant, it became a massive trap array, and the original gap vanished without a trace. Xia Liang crashed into the light screen of the trap array and could not escape unless he had the capability to break the trap array anew.

With such a wolf pack for protection, Lu Yiye was utterly fearless. He hadn't let them in immediately earlier, only to lull them, and this place was, in fact, a trap prepared in advance. Realizing this, the expressions of Tan Sheng and the others turned ugly.

Wei Que suddenly spoke up: "Don't panic, both of you. These demon wolves seem not to have the ability to fly, and as long as we don't fall down, they can't do much to us!"

Chapter 568 Great Delusion Array

As Wei Que's voice fell, Tan Sheng and Xia Liang's minds settled slightly.

They had all been startled at the sudden appearance of so many demon wolves, their minds in chaos, forgetting about this matter for a moment.

Now it seemed that these demon wolves indeed did not possess the ability to travel through the air, which naturally greatly reduced the threat they posed to them.

Even if the wolves had a certain degree of aerial ability, as long as the three of them maintained flight, they wouldn't be at too great a risk. On the contrary, it was they who, with their nimble figures and the foundation of cultivators from the Cloud River Realm, could slowly whittle down the demon wolves.

Of course, the main goal was still Lu Yiye. As long as they could kill Lu Yiye, they could completely ignore the demon wolves.

As they were thinking this, Lu Ye suddenly waved the array banner in his hand again and muttered a phrase that sent chills down the spines of the three men.

"Sky Prohibition!"

With his words, the array that enveloped the spirit ground suddenly changed.

A month ago, Lu Ye wouldn't have been able to set up a Great Sky Prohibition Array, but after gaining four types of spirit runes from the Talent Tree last time, all related to the Array Path, one of them was precisely Sky Prohibition.

If the wolf pack was to exert sufficient strength, the Great Sky Prohibition Array was undoubtedly a must.

As the array changed, Tan Sheng and the other two, who were mid-flight, felt as if an invisible mountain had suddenly pressed down on them. Caught off guard, their figures plummeted downwards, flailing, in an extremely sorry state.

Wolf howls rose up, as many demon wolves opened their jaws, from which they spewed pale green Wind Blades, sweeping toward the three men in dense swarms.

Indeed, the demon wolves did not have the ability to travel through air, but they did have certain airborne capabilities. The Wind Blades they spat out from their mouths were an innate Demon Art.

Not just the demon wolves, most demon beasts had such abilities. Without them, they wouldn't be able to survive in the perilous Great Wilderness Mountain.

Of course, compared to their claws and fangs, this type of Wind Blade attack seemed much weaker and less agile.

But what it lacked in power, it made up for in numbers.

The dense Wind Blades covered Tan Sheng and the others, making their bodies flash wildly with spirit light.

As expected of Level 9 Cloud River Realm cultivators, even when suddenly faced with such a turn of events, they could still defend themselves. Despite the awkwardness under the barrage of Wind Blades, they managed to protect themselves.

And as they continued to fall, the pressure on them rapidly decreased.

That was the nature of the Great Sky Prohibition Array. Within the scope of the array, the higher one flew, the greater the pressure. If one's feet touched the ground, they wouldn't feel any pressure at all.

Only when they were about three zhang above the ground did the three of them hastily stabilize their figures. At this height, the pressure from the Great Sky Prohibition Array could be mostly ignored.

After all, it was Lu Ye's insufficient expertise in the Array Path that was to blame. Otherwise, let alone three zhang, even at three chi they would have had no hope of flying.

Although they had avoided the misfortune of crashing down awkwardly, there was no trace of joy on their faces, rather, they were even more grim; because from all around, packs of demon wolves had already surrounded them.

As wolf howls rose and fell, the demon wolves took the initiative to attack, agile bodies leaping towards the three to strike. From a distance, the demon wolves' assault looked like a relentless storm, leaving Tan Sheng and the others in extreme disarray.

The three formed a triangular formation, each wielding a Spiritual Artifact to block and repel the incoming demon wolves. Occasionally, a demon wolf got injured, with blood splattering everywhere.

Though the demon wolves were tough-skinned, the strength of Tan Sheng and the others was evident. If not for the numerical advantage of the wolves keeping them busy, not even the pack leader could be a match for any of them individually.

The means cultivators could employ were, after all, far more powerful than those of demon beasts.

While a fierce battle raged on one side, Lu Ye calmly observed from a distance, occasionally raising a hand to cast weapon control or magic and spells, distracting Tan Sheng and the others.

Tan Sheng and his companions were so frustrated they almost spat blood!

In these past days venturing deep into the Great Wilderness Mountain, they had been sleeping in the open, facing countless difficulties. They had finally found Lu Yiye, but they never expected to be greeted by such a situation.

A vast pack of wolves launched endless attacks against them, while the person they were looking for stood by and watched the spectacle; it was utterly unreasonable!

They simply could not understand how Lu Yiye could be so lucky as to directly take control of a wolf pack for his own use.

If not for the interference of the wolf pack, any one of the three could have easily killed him.

In the midst of the fierce battle, the three sensed that something was amiss.

Some demon wolves showed a flash of light on their mouths as they lunged to bite, and others suddenly displayed a defensive rune on their backs when attacked...

Upon closer inspection, they indeed saw many demon wolves with golden arrowhead-like marks on their mouths!

"Lu Yiye has tattooed these beasts with rune tattoos!" Xia Liang shouted lowly.

Tan Sheng and Wei Que were both shocked. They had known early on that Lu Ye had considerable expertise in the Array Path, but they had never realized that he was also deeply versed in the Rune Tattoo Path.

To be able to tattoo a demon beast with rune tattoos undoubtedly proved many things.

This guy is defying the heavens! How does he know everything?

While the battle raged on incessantly, failing to take down the three people, the lead wolf seemed to grow agitated. It stood outside the battlefield, raised its head to the sky, and let out a long howl. In the next instant, the wolf pack's onslaught suddenly became more intense.

Tan Sheng and the others felt the bitterness in their mouths as if they had swallowed coptis, and they became increasingly anxious about the situation. At this rate, not to mention killing Lu Ye, they couldn't even be sure they could retreat with their whole bodies.

They couldn't drag this out any longer. Fighting desperately against the wolf pack was undoubtedly unwise, and their goal had been singular from the start.

"Wei Que, kill Lu Yiye!" Xia Liang roared, his long saber bursting with dazzling light while his spirit force boiled over.

Tan Sheng sensed his intent and hurriedly mustered his power to cooperate.

The wild surge of spirit force combined their strength and forcibly tore a gap in the encircling wolf pack. Through that gap, a saber light, swift as a flying ribbon, slashed towards Lu Ye.

The Boulder Mountain Saber thundered out of its sheath, blood Qi surged towards his right arm, and a flash of brilliant light slashed out as Lu Ye was sent flying backward.

A Level 4 cultivation was still lacking when it came to withstanding a saber light from a Level 9 cultivator. The blow caused his chest to churn with blood Qi and his saber-wielding right arm went slightly numb.

The incoming saber light shattered, and right behind it came Wei Que's ferocious figure, his face hideous, surrounded by surging spirit force, a killing intent fully revealed.

Tan Sheng and Xia Liang had created this opportunity for him; he absolutely couldn't let the two of them down!

Seeing Lu Ye sent flying backward, he raised his hand and launched a magic and spells attack towards Lu Ye, his figure following closely like a shadow. His large hand opened with spirit force swirling within, intent on finishing Lu Ye once and for all.

Lu Ye formed a defensive in front of him just in time to block the attack from the magic and spells, the defense shattered, and the impact sent him flying even further away.

Then, under Wei Que's intense gaze, Lu Ye's body seemed to crash into a layer of transparent film, and with a ripple passing by, he vanished mysteriously.

Another array? Wei Que was startled, but as the sound of wolves howling came from behind, he gritted his teeth and hurriedly pursued.

Despite not being sure what kind of array Lu Ye had set up ahead, he had just managed to break out of the wolf pack's encirclement. If he didn't seize Lu Ye quickly, all his previous efforts would go to waste, and without Tan Sheng and Xia Liang by his side to assist, his situation would be even worse.

So, even though he knew it was not wise to pursue, Wei Que had no choice but to reluctantly follow.

His body felt as if it had broken through a barrier, and Wei Que found himself enveloped by an array. Looking around, he couldn't see Lu Ye's figure anywhere. Instead, a thick mist suddenly appeared around him.

The fog spread rapidly, and in the blink of an eye, it rendered the surrounding world as blind as if one couldn't see their own hands. What was even more alarming to Wei Que was the myriad of colors within the mist that kept shifting and weaving through it. As the colors changed and moved, his vision was intermittently crossed by unidentifiable shadows.

"Great Delusion Array!" Wei Que immediately knew which array he had fallen into, and a chill ran from his head down to the soles of his feet. "This is bad."

Just what kind of creature was Lu Yiye to have such a profound mastery of the Array Path?

Since they had broken into the spirit ground, they had experienced protective arrays, trap arrays, Great Sky Prohibition Arrays, and now a Great Delusion Array had appeared...

And these were only what he had seen; there were certainly many more he hadn't seen!

Could a Cloud River Realm cultivator truly set up so many complex arrays?

But then, on second thought, if that guy could lay a teleportation array, what could he not set up?

With that in mind, Wei Que dared not stay in place any longer and immediately started to activate his figure to rush out of the range enveloped by the array.

This was undoubtedly the wisest countermeasure; the range of the array was ultimately limited, and as long as he kept rushing in one direction, he would eventually break free.

With the speed of a Level 9 cultivator being extremely fast and Wei Que exerting his full strength, saying he was moving as fast as lightning wouldn't be an exaggeration.

However, as time passed, he was met with a despairing scene. No matter how fast he ran or how hard he tried, he remained shrouded in mist, unable to escape the array's envelopment.

Elsewhere in the array, as Wei Que moved, Lu Ye was continuously adjusting the array. This was his first time observing someone breaking into his Great Delusion Array, so naturally, he had to properly summarize his experience and evaluate the effectiveness of the array.

So far, it seemed quite successful.

The Great Delusion Array, built around the core of the Mist and Mirage spirit runes, appeared to have the effect of confusing the enemy's perceptions, so Wei Que thought he was running in one direction, but in fact, under Lu Ye's adjustments, he was simply going in circles within the array, completely unaware.

Within the array, Wei Que's forehead was sweating, his expression grave.

He too had noticed something amiss. In theory, within such an array, all that one sees is an illusion, and what one sees may not be real, but one's own perception should never deceive.

But now, it seemed that even his perception was somehow flawed, otherwise, it made no sense that he couldn't get out.

Chapter 569 Fish Meat on the Cutting Board

Trapped within the Great Delusion Array, Wei Que, though startled, was not thrown into disarray. After all, with his Cloud River Level 9 cultivation, Lu Ye, a mere Level 4, could only trap him, but lacked the capability to kill him.

His only task now was to quickly escape from this place. Though Tan Sheng and Xia Liang were stronger than him, two fists were hard-pressed against four hands; they definitely couldn't handle that pack of wolves. Expecting him to swiftly kill Lu Yiye was now unrealistic. Linger here for too long, regardless of the outcomes for Tan Sheng and Xia Liang, would surely mean a dire end for himself.

But how could he escape from here?

Wei Que, feeling frustrated, gritted his teeth and shouted angrily, "Lu Yiye, is this all you've got? Come out and fight if you dare!"

As a Level 9 cultivator, unless absolutely necessary, it was truly embarrassing for him to say such words to a Level 4; of course, it was just a shout, and he did not expect it to have any effect.

As long as Lu Yiye was not out of his mind, he surely would not show himself in front of him.

However, to Wei Que's immense surprise, just as the sound of his voice fell, he suddenly sensed a distinct aura not far ahead.

It was a mix of spirit force and vitality typical of a cultivator's presence!

Right ahead!

Wei Que, overjoyed, raised his hand and unleashed a saber-like Golden Arc Slash toward the direction in front, while lunging forward, ready to seize Lu Ye.

The Golden Arc Slash landed on its target, emitting a dull sound, giving the sensation that his magic and spells had struck some indestructible protection.

Wei Que didn't think much of it and continued moving forward until a large silhouette emerged from the mist, making him abruptly realize something was off.

Lu Yiye's figure... wasn't that burly, was it?

The fog churned, and a giant hand, like a palm-leaf fan, reached out and grabbed towards Wei Que's neck. The hand moved slowly but with an overwhelming momentum.

Even as a Cloud River Level 9 cultivator, Wei Que couldn't help but feel an illusion that once caught by this hand, he would hardly be able to free himself.

What was this?

An illusion?

Wei Que was momentarily at a loss, his spirit force swirling around him. A golden arrow blasted forward, hitting the incoming giant hand squarely. The magic exploded with a boom, stalling the hand briefly, but it quickly resumed its descent with even greater speed.

Wei Que shuddered, halting momentarily as he rapidly retreated.

Before he could steady himself, the continuous sound of whistling swords had already enveloped him, and at the same time, a piercing pain spread across his skin.

"Flying swords!" Wei Que's face changed drastically, frantically summoning his protective spirit force around him.

The next moment, flying swords slashed from all directions, causing the spirit light on his body to flicker incessantly, quickly dimming his protective spirit force.

More magic and spells struck from the side, violently shaking his body.

That wasn't all; while Wei Que was still puzzled, another figure swept past him. A fiery red saber light slashed down, violently shattering his protective spirit force.

The figure flashed by, and before Wei Que could retaliate, the assailant had already vanished, leaving behind a gaping, flesh-rended wound on his body.

Wei Que cried out, the burly figure in front bearing down on him like a great mountain, thrusting out a punch.

With a boom, Wei Que's body was sent flying, landing awkwardly. He hurriedly got up, looking around blankly; apart from the rolling fog and the colorful streaks of light, there were no figures in sight.

He was truly baffled!

He had thought he only needed to deal with one Lu Yiye of Level 4 cultivation, but from the recent events, there was more than just Lu Yiye within this Great Delusion Array!

In that brief period, at least four people had attacked him, aside from Lu Yiye, there were three others!

A burly physique cultivator, a sword cultivator, and a magic cultivator!

The sword cultivator... was Li Baxian!

Wei Que immediately realized, they had suspected that Lu Yiye might invite Li Baxian to stay at the spirit ground. When they stormed the spirit ground, they only saw Lu Ye alone and did not notice anyone else; they hadn't given it much thought then, but now it seemed that the spirit ground didn't just house Lu Yiye alone; the others had all hidden themselves beforehand.

The sword cultivator who attacked him was undoubtedly Li Baxian, whose cultivation also matched up.

The magic cultivator must be Feng Yuechan, as these two were always inseparable.

As for the physique cultivator... Wei Que had no clue, presumably, an ally Lu Yiye had found from somewhere.

Understanding all this, Wei Que's heart sank to the bottom.

Caught within the Great Delusion Array, he had not felt much danger initially because one Lu Yiye couldn't possibly do much to him; if the other side really wanted to kill him, he could have taken the opportunity to counter.

But now, he was facing not just one Lu Yiye, but three others, plus the Great Delusion Array itself. Wei Que could already smell the scent of death.

Boom, boom, boom...

Heavy footsteps again attacked from the side, seeming like some massive creature was running. When Wei Que turned his head to look, he saw the tall figure again break through the mist and charge directly at him, resembling a bolt of thunder, crashing right towards him.

Wei Que quickly dodged to the side while casting spells towards him.

The spells hit the opponent, but the tall figure only paused slightly, showing no signs of injury. Meanwhile, as his attention was drawn away, a loud clashing of swords rang out again, and immediately after, Wei Que felt himself enveloped in an attack as violent as a tempest.

In addition to the slashing flying swords, there were also spells bombarding him from unknown directions, causing him to stagger, with his blood qi swirling chaotically.

Another lethal force surged from behind; Wei Que hastily turned around, and what met his eyes was a blade emitting fiery-red saber light.

With that slash, accompanied by Wei Que's screams, a huge wound opened across his chest, spilling blood.

The tall figure had already closed the distance, throwing another seemingly clumsy but terrifyingly powerful punch. Wei Que was sent flying like a rag doll, blood spewing constantly from his mouth as he hovered mid-air.

After hastily landing, his expression was panicked, and he shouted at the top of his lungs, "Brother Xia, Brother Tan, save me!"

He had never imagined that hunting down Lu Yiye would lead him into such a deadly trap.

The cultivators attacking him were not particularly strong, all being of Level 4-5 realm. Under normal circumstances, even if Wei Que were alone, he could have dealt with them with ease.

However, being trapped in the Great Delusion Array severely limited his abilities. On the other hand, their attackers seemed to thrive within the array, launching intermittent attacks and retreating swiftly, leaving him no chance to fight back.

He was like fish on a chopping block, with the enemies occasionally coming over to slice at him...

Under such dire circumstances, if he didn't call for help, he could only wait to die.

The desperate cries echoed, and within the spirit ground, where Tan Sheng and Xia Liang were battling against a pack of demon wolves, their expressions changed.

They too were in a precarious situation, overwhelmed by the sheer number of demon wolves. If not for their profound strength, assuming any typical Level 9 cultivator had been there, they would have succumbed by now.

Even so, the relentless assault by the wolves left them struggling to cope.

They had hoped that Wei Que could quickly succeed on his end so that once they killed Lu Yiye and acquired the Great Array Jade Cluster, they could retreat comfortably. But instead of success, they were greeted by Wei Que's calls for help!

How could they not be shocked?

They took a brief moment from the chaos to look towards the source of the noises, only to see the area shrouded in rolling mist, covering a vast area and obscuring Wei Que and Lu Yiye from view, but intermittent bursts of light shot out from within the mist, accompanied by Wei Que's screams of shock and agony.

What's happening?

Tan Sheng and Xia Liang were stunned.

Everything they had encountered since entering this spirit ground was beyond their expectations and hard to cope with. Now, although they didn't know exactly what Wei Que was facing, the noises from his direction were enough to indicate that he was in a terrible situation.

With things as they were, not to mention killing Lu Yiye, whether they could escape unscathed was itself in question.

Regretting their earlier decision, they wished they had brought more men.

They had thought that the combined strength of three Level 9 cultivators would be enough to handle Lu Yiye easily, but who could have predicted things would turn out this way?

In the heat of battle, Tan Sheng and Xia Liang exchanged a glance. Without any verbal communication, they could see the decision in each other's eyes.

This was no place to linger!

Regardless of what Wei Que was facing, it was related to Lu Yiye. If Wei Que died and Lu Yiye joined the fight, the two of them would inevitably meet a grim fate.

Thus, leaving quickly was imperative.

However, with the spirit ground enveloped by the trap array, they needed to break the formation first to have any chance of escaping. As for rescuing Wei Que, that consideration was no longer within their priorities. Saving others was predicated on being able to save themselves first; if they couldn't even protect themselves, there was no discussing rescue.

With this resolution, the two worked together seamlessly, shifting the battlefield towards the edge of the array.

Under the current circumstances, hoping to break the formation by their own power was unrealistic, as they were just barely managing to defend themselves against the wolf attacks. Therefore, if they truly wanted to break the formation, they needed to harness the power of the wolf pack, allowing the clashes between them to bombard the formation.

Though this method was less efficient, it was better than waiting to die.

To hasten the breaking of the trap array, the two spared no efforts, which unfortunately also meant that injuries kept accumulating on them, appearing utterly ragged.

As time passed, within the Great Delusion Array, Wei Que, disheveled and covered in blood and injuries, frenziedly spurred his spirit force, unleashing powerful spells randomly towards all directions.

He didn't know where the enemy was hidden; he only knew that if he showed any vulnerability, he would be met with an onslaught akin to a wild storm. In less than the time it takes for an incense stick to burn, his body had accumulated seven or eight wounds, the most severe being on his abdomen, pierced by a flying sword, bleeding incessantly, and causing him so much pain that his face twisted in a fearsome expression.

So even though he understood that his actions were akin to drinking poison to quench thirst, he couldn't stop, for stopping meant dying even faster.

This approach still proved somewhat effective; at least, while he continued casting spells, no one attempted to sneak attack him again.

Chapter 570 Broken Arrow

Within the Great Delusion Array, Wei Que, desperate to protect himself, relentlessly urged his magic and spells to bombard in all directions. Even as a Cloud River Level 9, he couldn't hold on for long.

His spirit force flowed out of his body like floodwaters through a breached dam, and magic and spells roared in all directions. Although he called for help, Tan Sheng and Xia Liang's rescue didn't come, making it clear to him that their situation was likely not good either; otherwise, it made no sense for them to ignore him.

The smell of blood lingered at the tip of his nose, and the pain throughout his body made him sweat profusely, feeling as if the breath of death, like an ocean, was engulfing him entirely.

He never imagined that merely coming to kill Lu Yiye would put him in such a life-threatening situation. Had he known it would turn out like this, he would have never agreed to accompany Tan Sheng here.

But regret was useless now; in such an environment, he saw no glimmer of hope for escape.

Just as he was thinking this, an unexpected change occurred.

The array that had enveloped the surroundings suddenly altered, and the fog and colorful illusions rapidly dissipated around him.

Wei Que was stunned for a moment, then overjoyed!

He had unintentionally broken the Great Delusion Array! This was truly a case of finding a way through an impossible situation.

With the fog cleared, he saw several figures not far from him, among them were indeed Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan, as well as that Lu Yiye, and in addition, a physique cultivator with a burly figure, wearing hemp robes, his muscles bulging prominently.

In Lu Yiye's eyes, there was a clear flash of astonishment.

He obviously didn't expect to have broken the array himself.

Lu Ye had not expected it either.

The Great Delusion Array was something he had set up with the aid of array banners. Unlike the protective array and the trap array, it didn't have much in the way of defensive capabilities, so if an array banner were destroyed, the array would become untenable.

Wei Que's recent barrage of blind, aimless attacks had, by some fluke, struck one of the array banners, leading to the self-destruction of the Great Delusion Array.

One could only say that this fellow was incredibly lucky.

Having breached the array and seeing Lu Ye and the others in the flesh, Wei Que roared in anger, "Lu Yiye!"

The more panicked he had been earlier, the angrier he was now. He, a lofty Cloud River Level 9, was ambushed by several Level 4-5s to the point of barely being able to fight back, even compelled to ask his companions for help—this was doubtless a blow to his pride.

As he roared, a fierce spell blasted toward where Lu Ye was.

Lu Ye didn't move, but Giant Armor quickly stepped in front, a flash of spirit light blocked the spell, and the only consequence was being blasted a few steps backward, emerging unscathed.

This scene caused Wei Que's eyelids to twitch wildly, inwardly amazed by the physique cultivator's strong physique. Having been in the fog, he hadn't clearly perceived the full extent of Giant Armor's might. Now, seeing with his own eyes how a Level 4 Cloud River realm could casually block his spell, he was truly shocked.

Given the five-level cultivation disparity between them, in theory, even if the other was a physique cultivator, he shouldn't have been able to withstand that strike, but in reality, the other party not only withstood it but didn't seem much affected.

Just as he was about to make another move, a sudden feeling of weakness surged, causing Wei Que's figure to stagger.

Dammit, he had exhausted too much power before, and with the severity of his injuries, how could he have any strength left to fight?

The sound of swords chiming rang out, and Liu Guang surged around Li Baxian, with flying swords covering the sky and heading straight for Wei Que. Feng Yuechan stood by his side, her hands forming magic spells, and intricate magic and spells continuously manifested, striking at Wei Que one after another.

Wei Que's face changed color as he hastily urged his nearly depleted spirit force to protect himself.

Thump, thump, thump... Giant Armor charged forward in big strides, moving up and down within the sword flashes and magic lights, quickly closing the distance with Wei Que, bringing with him the oppressive feeling of a mountain bearing down.

When he got close, taking advantage of the moment Wei Que was entangled with the flying swords and spells, he delivered a kick.

Feeling the terrifying might of this kick, Wei Que's pupils constricted. Given the current situation, he would rather take a slash from Li Baxian's flying swords or get hit by Feng Yuechan's spells than dare to let Giant Armor kick him.

If this kick landed, he likely would burst into a mist of blood in an instant.

At the critical moment of life and death, his spirit reached its peak tension, and he moved with a swiftness that didn't belong to a magic cultivator, barely dodging the kick from Giant Armor while fending off the attacks from flying swords and spells.

However, before he could even catch his breath, a figure already loomed from behind the towering presence of Giant Armor.

It was Lu Ye.

The flash of the fiery red saber light reflected the panic on Wei Que's face. Facing the descending slash from above, he had no room to evade.

Single Flash!

The saber's edge cleaved down, piercing through Wei Que's protective spirit force, creating a massive wound from his shoulder to his waist, where one could vaguely see the writhing of his insides.

The strong impact sent Wei Que flying backward, blood spurting from his mouth.

Struggling to stabilize his figure, his vision was a sea of red, stars danced before his eyes, and the river of spirit force inside him momentarily chaotized.

Already greatly drained and severely injured, now he had taken another heavy blow, nearing the state of a spent lamp.

Seeing Lu Ye in full swing and showing no mercy, Wei Que also became ruthless as he rushed at him, wielding his long blade that was ablaze with fire, ready to completely annihilate him.

Although his cultivation base was indeed inferior to that of Tan Sheng and Xia Liang, he had still reached Cloud River Level 9 after all these years and had encountered many life-and-death crises, never lacking the courage to fight desperately against his enemies.

He knew in his heart that his chances this time were more likely to be doomed than lucky, and he secretly regretted being blinded by greed, but what use was regret at this point?

Even if he were to die, he certainly wouldn't let his enemy get away easily!

Raising his hand, he reached into his storage sack and pulled something out.

It was remarkably a broken arrow, one that seemed to have been around for some time; it was hard to say where Wei Que had gotten it from.

But something he would take out at a time like this was undoubtedly the most precious thing to Wei Que and his last ace up the sleeve.

He bit the tip of his tongue and sprayed a mist of blood onto the broken arrow, which immediately glowed brightly with an ancient aura, and at the same time, a dangerously threatening aura burst forth.

Lu Ye, who was charging at him with his blade, immediately halted and deftly retreated backwards. In that instant, a huge warning sign arose in his heart; he focused on the broken arrow in Wei Que's hand, knowing the crisis came from this very arrow!

Wei Que's spirit force crazily surged into the broken arrow, making it shine as bright as the big sun. With his mouth full of blood, he sneered, "Lu Yiye, even if I die, you're going to go down with me!"

Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan both sensed something wrong—the broken arrow was clearly an object that surpassed Spiritual Artifacts, and even Magic Artifacts. Such an object, even if damaged, would undoubtedly possess tremendous power, and if Wei Que succeeded in unleashing it, no one knew what kind of destruction it would bring.

Therefore, both of them frantically spurred their power, intending to slay Wei Que before he could unleash this treasure. However, the gap in their cultivation was clear; even with their combined efforts, they could only make Wei Que's body shake violently, his blood spurting wildly, but they struggled to end his life.

In just three breaths' time, the broken arrow in Wei Que's hand suddenly transformed into a flash of light, darting out like lightning.

In that moment, Lu Ye felt his entire body's hair stand on end, with an unprecedented sense of looming crisis emerging from within.

Without a thought, he fled in one direction, trying to widen the distance between him and Wei Que, yet the speed of that light was so swift it almost instantly closed the gap.

Amber, crouching on Lu Ye's shoulder, also sensed the impending danger; its fur stood on end, and it arched its back on Lu Ye's shoulder while emitting a low growl, its blood Qi merging with Lu Ye's.

Lu Ye raised his saber as the muscles in his right arm bulged in an instant.

Single Flash!

Repeated Slashing!

A series of dense sounds merged into one—in the ears of others, it was but a single slash, but in reality, Lu Ye had delivered five cuts in this extremely short amount of time.

With each slash, Wei Que's body jolted as if struck by the Boulder Mountain Saber, and the blood from his mouth spurted out even more wildly, his complexion visibly paling.

The all-out slash was not without effect; the approaching flash of light hesitated momentarily, and in that fleeting opportunity, Lu Ye managed to roll backward, landing clumsily.

The flash of light grazed his nose as it flew past, the violent wind it generated causing pain on Lu Ye's face.

But before he could catch his breath, the corner of his eye caught sight of the retreating light changing direction and attacking him again.

Clearly, it was under Wei Que's control; despite Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan's relentless attacks on him, he ignored them, focusing only on killing Lu Ye. It echoed his previous roar: even if he was to die, he would make Lu Ye accompany him in death.

Lu Ye couldn't fathom what kind of treasure it was, but its lethality was so strong that even using his full strength, he could only slightly stall it for a moment. Unless he killed Wei Que, the attacks would never cease.

And as it struck again, Lu Ye had just gotten up from the ground and couldn't dodge in time.

Just as he was ready to strike again with his saber, suddenly something heavy landed on his shoulder, a large hand grabbed him, and the next thing Lu Ye knew, he was being thrown through the air.

Midair, he saw the towering figure of Giant Armor standing where he had just been.

Spirit light flashed explosively, and a protective barrier, resembling a tortoise shell, suddenly appeared in front of Giant Armor.

The flash of light struck.

Boom...

A loud crash resounded, Giant Armor's form shook violently, the seemingly indestructible barrier cracked with dense fissures, and the very next instant, it shattered violently.

The light of the attack passed through Giant Armor's body, trailing a mist of blood as a muffled grunt sounded, and Giant Armor fell to his knees.

Lu Ye's eyes turned icy, and the fire on his Boulder Mountain Saber flared even more fiercely.

On the other side, Li Baxian had merged with his sword light, transforming into a heaven-shattering sword flash, striking close to Wei Que. His Longsword flickered unpredictably like a spirit snake, leaving trails of blood-spraying wounds on Wei Que's body. He intended to cut Wei Que down decisively, but was instead sent flying by one of Wei Que's magic spells.

At that critical juncture, Lu Ye swooped down from the midair like a hawk, with the light that had injured Giant Armor closely following behind.

Even feeling the relentless death pursuit behind him, Lu Ye's eyes did not waver. Wei Que was clearly at the end of his rope. With this cut, he would surely die!

Now it was a race to see whether his saber was faster, or the opponent's treasure was quicker.