

Humanity 611

Chapter 611

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This is the awkwardness of magic cultivators, even if the difference in cultivation is big, if the magic and spells don't hit the target, they are meaningless.

Moreover, from Lu Ye's speed and responses, Huo Liaoyuan couldn't help but have a bizarre illusion—that he seemed not to be fighting a Level 5 combat cultivator...

Within the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground, cultivators from the two sects often sought his guidance for practice, especially a Level 8 combat cultivator named Ming Zhe who asked for his advice quite frequently.

But comparing the two, Huo Liaoyuan couldn't help but astonishingly find that Lu Yiye's performance in front of him was even better than that of junior brother Ming Zhe.

At the very least, junior brother Ming Zhe had never lasted so long without defeat under his hand.

What kind of monster was this? A Level 5 cultivator who had strength comparable to Level 8?

And was what he saw everything?

Even though Huo Liaoyuan had never underestimated Lu Ye from the beginning, at this moment, he was somewhat terrified. With a thought, the fiery red spirit force disc that had been hovering in front of him slowly dissipated.

The meteor fire shower attack was dense and ferocious, suited for facing multiple foes, but the consumption was too great. Judging from the previous events, it seemed unrealistic to rely on this Dao technique to kill Lu Yiye now.

Huo Liaoyuan could only think of another method.

At the same moment, sensing the opponent's onslaught was withdrawing, Lu Ye immediately touched the ground with his feet and turned his body, pouncing towards Huo Liaoyuan.

"Wishful thinking!" Huo Liaoyuan, who knew Lu Ye's intentions all too well, saw that the other party was clearly trying to take this opportunity to get close to him. As he let out an angry shout, spirit force surged around his body, and in front of him, the fiery red spirit force gathered and writhed as if something was about to strike from within.

Lu Ye focused on the writhing spirit force as the supplies box at his waist buzzed, with nine weapon controls ready to be unleashed.

As the distance between them closed rapidly, before Lu Ye could even unleash the might of his weapon control, hissing sounds came from within that writhing spirit force, followed by a fire serpent, dozens of meters long and as thick as the mouth of a bowl, shooting out.

If one ignored the flames burning around the fire serpent, it looked just like a real giant snake, with smooth body curves, densely packed scales, and even two snake eyes and fangs that were impressively lifelike. As the fire serpent lunged out, hissing, it reached Lu Ye in the blink of an eye and bit at him with its open mouth.

Lu Ye moved, dodging immediately and continuing to charge at Huo Liaoyuan.

However, he did not expect the fire serpent to suddenly twist its body, and its fiery, winding tail whipped towards Lu Ye's back with tremendous force.

The wind of the strike approached, and Lu Ye narrowly avoided it, the diversion delaying his movement. He turned and saw the fire serpent chasing after him as if sentient.

More hissing came as a second fire serpent slithered and struck, its speed so fast that it left no time for reaction.

With no time to spare, Lu Ye somersaulted to the side, but the two fire serpents, like living creatures, attacked again from both sides, entangling him tenaciously.

As the Boulder Mountain Saber fell, the sharp saber energy swept through, striking the fire serpent and producing a dull sound, as if the blade had hit steel. This technique, though a convergence of spirit force, seemed to have been endowed with a powerful body and life.

Lu Ye sighed inwardly, not begrudging the professional magic cultivator. Although he could also perform a similar Fire Dragon Technique, at most, he could slightly control it and definitely could not achieve Huo Liaoyuan's level of making the technique last for a long time.

Summoning two such fire serpents undoubtedly consumed a considerable amount of Huo Liaoyuan's spirit force. He did not summon a third serpent, instead standing in place, his consciousness surging as he controlled the two fire serpents to entangle with Lu Ye.

Since the large-scale technique like the meteor fire shower wasn't effective against Lu Yiye, then he would crush him in the area he excelled. These two fire serpents were essentially engaging in close combat with Lu Ye.

The figures of one man and two snakes moved and flipped through the air, creating a perilous scene. As Lu Ye's Boulder Mountain Saber kept swinging, sparks flew in all directions.

Huo Liaoyuan's expression gradually became solemn, as he realized that, although Lu Ye was not handling the situation easily, just relying on two fire serpents certainly wasn't enough to kill him.

These two fire serpents could last for a while, but as time passed, the power they could exert would inevitably decrease.

He couldn't keep dragging it out! Huo Liaoyuan was feeling something was not quite right.

He must use his most ferocious methods to kill Lu Yiye with one strike!

When he had decided to use the Deathmatch Arena, he had never thought that Lu Yiye, a Level 5 combat cultivator, could withstand his attack for such a long time.

But now, even if he hated Lu Ye deeply, he had to admit that this guy was indeed a tough opponent.

With that in mind, he suddenly spread his arms, his body shook, and instantly, countless sparks flew out. At first glance, these sparks seemed like fireflies, their faint glow seemingly insignificant, as if they could be extinguished with a single puff. But in the instant these sparks appeared, Lu Ye felt a tremendous sense of danger.

A powerful consciousness brought strong intuition, allowing him to sense many dangers and opportunities that were difficult to discern with the naked eye.

As he was entangled with the two fire serpents, Lu Ye took the opportunity to glance towards Huo Liaoyuan and immediately saw countless sparks floating towards him, fireflies moving at a not-too-slow speed yet covering a greatly expansive area.

No matter what technique this was, it was definitely not something he could contend with at the moment.

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A great sense of danger arose in his heart, and Lu Ye immediately wanted to rush towards where Huo Liaoyuan was. However, two fire serpents—one on the left and one on the right—firmly blocked his path, continuously entangling him.

In just a moment, the night sky was covered with glow, half of the Death Combat Arena was enveloped, and some glow even landed on Lu Ye's body, but he didn't feel much of it.

Huo Liaoyuan slowly raised a hand, the spirit force around his body surging wildly, and he shouted, "Lu Yiye, to die under this move of mine is an honor for you!"

The response to him was a Single Flash from Lu Ye!

The ferocious attack finally broke one of the fire serpents in half, and with Move-Like-The-Wind propelling his legs, he was about to flee at full speed when he felt a burning sensation entwining his body.

Looking back, he saw that the fire serpent he should have shattered with a single saber strike had not dispersed after being split in two, but instead, like a living creature, it entwined around his legs,

Before Lu Ye could free himself from the entanglement, the other fire serpent quickly coiled its way up, binding Lu Ye tightly with its left and right turns and directly pulling him to the ground.

Lu Ye was panicked but not chaotic, and as the struggle of that moment had greatly reduced the strength of the two fire serpents, he just fiercely urged the spirit force throughout his body and used the strength of his arms to break the fire serpents that bound him into several segments.

But in the end, it was a step too late.

Huo Liaoyuan raised his hand towards Lu Ye, then clenched it fiercely, as if crushing an invisible bug, and a cold and deep voice came out of his mouth, "Prairie Burning Explosion Burial!"

A weak glimmer in one instant became a thousand times brighter. As the glow spread far and wide, it carried within it a pulse of spirit force that made one's heart tremble.

If it was just a bit of such glow, Lu Ye naturally wouldn't have cared, but at that moment, the glow floating beside him was not merely a bit—it was a thousand points, ten thousand points... countless.

Like a prairie fire spreading rapidly in all directions, all the glow exploded at once. In an instant, the location where Lu Ye was seemed to have countless miniature suns bursting.

And at that very moment, he had just freed himself from the entanglement of the fire serpents, and even with great speed, it was impossible to escape this area.

Boom...

A sound erupted, followed by the burst of the glow and then a continuous, massive buzzing noise.

Dazzling firelight enveloped half of the Deathmatch Arena; the intense heat distorted space, the towering light blocked by the restriction barrier, and the sweeping shockwaves raged back and forth within the vast Deathmatch Arena, blowing Huo Liaoyuan's black hair and clothes with a rustling sound.

Even the one who cast the magic and spells was momentarily dazzled by the spectacular sight before him.

Huo Liaoyuan burst into laughter.

Finally... he had killed Lu Yiye!

A Dao technique like that, not to mention that Lu Ye was only at Level 5 realm, even a Level 9 couldn't withstand it; this was one of his trump cards, in terms of might, it was the most powerful among all the techniques he had mastered. The only flaw was its slow casting speed, and it had significant limitations—it could only be used effectively when the enemy was restrained.

The confined space of the Deathmatch Arena, with Lu Ye entangled by the fire serpents, provided a perfect opportunity for the technique to shine.

Would Lu Yiye be left without a whole corpse? If that were the case, there would be no evidence left, and would those big sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge still recognize the bounty they had posted?

Even if he was not left without a whole corpse, his face would have definitely been burned beyond recognition...

That's right, Xia Liang and Tan Sheng had witnessed him using the Deathmatch Arena. As long as they were willing to testify, the big sects would likely not go back on their word.

Even if no one testified for him, he could still take the Heaven's Augury oath to prove that Lu Yiye was killed by him...

With his mind relaxing, a variety of thoughts suddenly popped into his head.

Huo Liaoyuan's face turned slightly pale, and he sat down on the ground with a plop.

Although the battle didn't last long, his consumption was simply too great. Just maintaining the meteor fire shower for one incense stick's time had already used up nearly half of his spirit force. The Fire Serpent Technique didn't consume much, but the Prairie Burning Explosion Burial was another technique with huge consumption. At this moment, his spirit force was only about 20% of his normal level.

Furthermore, his mind and spirit were consumed intensely, and he was already feeling a bit groggy.

The casting of magic and spells brought not only the depletion of spirit force but also a burden on the mind and spirit. The more powerful the technique, the greater the load on the mind and spirit.

This was also a downside of being a magic cultivator, unavoidable.

However, thinking about killing Lu Yiye and receiving an unimaginably large bounty, Huo Liaoyuan's mood lifted again.

Yet just as a smile started to appear on his face, it suddenly froze...

Something wasn't right; the Deathmatch Arena had its own rules. The two combatants must fight to the death, with only one allowed to leave alive. Once one party was dead or alive, the Deathmatch Arena's constraints would be instantly lifted, returning him to where he originally entered. So why... was he still in the Deathmatch Arena?

Chapter 612 How Did It Turn into This?

As this thought emerged, Huo Liaoyuan suddenly felt a terrifying sensation in his heart.

The rules of the Deathmatch Arena were bestowed by Heaven's Augury, and it was impossible for there to be a mistake. The instant Lu Yiye died, he should have been sent out of this space, back to his original location.

But he was still here...

Instinctively, he looked up ahead.

The sky-high flames were still churning, but they were merely the aftereffect now, likely to be completely extinguished in just two or three breaths. Right after that, he saw a truth that he found hard to believe!

From within the power of the magic and spells that could turn even a Cloud River Level 9 cultivator to ash, a figure brazenly charged out!

"How is that possible?" Huo Liaoyuan exclaimed in shock.

Lu Yiye wasn't dead!

How could he not be dead!

That was the Prairie Burning Explosion Burial, one of his trump cards!

This was like a nightmare...

What made Huo Liaoyuan even more incredulous was that not only had Lu Ye survived, he didn't even count as seriously injured. Though he looked extremely embarrassed, his clothes tattered and torn, exposing patches of skin, the skin that was visible bore not the slightest trace of being burned by flames!

The injuries he bore were ones he had sustained earlier, his own Prairie Burning Explosion Burial had seemed to only tickle him...

Such a powerful spell was naturally more than just an itch for Lu Ye.

Although he had, in a critical moment, triggered the power of the Talent Tree, isolating the flames from harming him, the impact brought by the successive explosions could not be screened by the power of the Talent Tree.

On the surface, it looked like he had not been affected at all, but in reality, at this moment, all his internal organs had shifted out of place, and blood was surging up his throat. He was forcefully suppressing it, and every bit of his skin was screaming in pain. Bursting forth from the flames, he carried an endless killing intent, lunging straight at Huo Liaoyuan.

After a brief moment of shock and horror, Huo Liaoyuan finally gathered his wits. He hurriedly got up from the ground and shot several spells toward Lu Ye.

However, by this time, the distance between them had been narrowed to just fifty zhang! This was the closest Lu Ye had ever gotten to Huo Liaoyuan since entering the Deathmatch Arena, and the gap was still closing.

The supplies box at his waist hummed, and 9th Dao Liu Guang flashed out one after another, rushing to meet Huo Liaoyuan's spells like seeking stars and chasing moons.

Huo Liaoyuan was enormously depleted, and his mind was exhausted. The spells he cast in haste, though powerful, were far from their peak.

Several explosions sounded out, and the incoming spells burst one by one, stars of fire scattering in all directions.

"Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!" Whether it was from fright or an attempt to empower himself, Huo Liaoyuan let out screams, and with each scream, a spell burst forth.

Yet at this short distance, Lu Ye controlled his weapons as if they were extensions of his own body. Those spells had often just been cast when they already exploded, and Lu Ye even had the capacity to control half of the weapons to attack Huo Liaoyuan.

One after another the weapons attacked, but all were blocked by Huo Liaoyuan's protective spirit light, unable to harm him the slightest bit, yet they destabilized his stance.

Thirty zhang, twenty zhang, ten zhang...

Lu Ye leapt high, clearing the obstacles ahead with his weapons, and his Boulder Mountain Saber ignited with flames. His right arm, holding the saber, swelled slightly at this moment.

Like a ravenous wolf pouncing on its prey, Huo Liaoyuan, who was of higher cultivation, became panicked in the face of the onrushing Lu Ye. He certainly knew the consequences of a magic cultivator being closed in on by a combat cultivator, especially one like Lu Ye. Although only at Level 5 realm, in his judgement, he was no less formidable than someone of Level 8.

The difference in one Level of cultivation was not as exaggerated as he had imagined. He had once been closed in on by a junior named Ming Zhe in the spirit ground, and it took him a great deal of effort to shake him off, and back then, he was at his peak...

In this panic, he stumbled backwards, all the while not forgetting to cast spells.

It has to be said, his mastery in magic and spells was indeed profound. Even in such a situation, casting spells had become instinctual.

Three fire arrows, in a character '品' formation, rushed at him rapidly but were all shattered by Lu Ye's weapon control. The long -prepared saber strike thundered down.

Single Flash!

At the moment the long saber struck down, Huo Liaoyuan's protective spirit light also burst out with even more dazzling light, clearly using more spirit force to protect himself.

Boom...

A loud noise erupted, and spirit force roiled.

As Lu Ye's arm went numb, Huo Liaoyuan's figure was sent flying. His protective spirit light was still intact; Lu Ye's strike had not managed to kill him, but all of the terrifying force behind that strike was now fully bearing down on Huo Liaoyuan.

Just as Lu Ye could not isolate the damage of the impact with the Talent Tree, Huo Liaoyuan's protective spirit light could not defend against such a strike.

But Lu Ye could feel, at the moment his long saber made contact, the opponent's protective spirit light seemed to concave inwards like it had elasticity.

This should have absorbed some of the force.

Lu Ye had heard of it, protective spirit force came in two types, one was rigid, and the other was elastic.

The so-called rigid type was like a barrier that wouldn't deform; as long as the barrier didn't break, the cultivator would not be injured.

Elastic protective spirit force was different, as it would dent upon impact, dispersing part of the force. Each type of protective spirit force had its advantages and disadvantages, and it depended on what the cultivator preferred. However, to make protective spirit force elastic required great control over one's own spirit force and a lot of practice, something not all cultivators could achieve.

Generally speaking, among the cultivators of the Cloud River Realm, not more than 20 percent could do this.

Lu Ye didn't conduct much research on protective spirit force. When he encountered an enemy and needed protection, he would activate his Defense Spirit Runes, which were much more powerful than mere protective spirit force.

Huo Liaoyuan undoubtedly had excellent control over his spirit force; that's why he could make use of the elastic type of protective spirit force. Otherwise, the impact he just suffered would have been at least 30 percent greater.

Even so, while suspended mid-air, Huo Liaoyuan spat out a mist of blood.

Even though he was a Level 9 magic cultivator, he couldn't change the fact that his physique was frail, relatively speaking... Suddenly subjected to such an immense force, he felt as if his bones were about to break, his stomach was churning, and his vision blurred.

Out of the corner of his eye, he caught a glimpse of Lu Ye closely following like a shadow, relentlessly charging at him, and before he even landed, another slash came down.

With that blow, Huo Liaoyuan's body sank, and he plummeted toward the ground, while Lu Ye simultaneously kicked out, sending Huo Liaoyuan spinning through the air for twenty or thirty meters, crashing directly into the barrier of the Deathmatch Arena.

Fallen into disarray, Huo Liaoyuan screamed in agony, his eyes filled with terror and panic.

Before today, if someone had told him that he would be beaten like a dog by a Level 5 combat cultivator, he would have certainly scoffed at such a notion.

But at this very moment, he was truly experiencing such an absurd situation.

Everything was under control; he could have killed Lu Yiye and redeemed the disgrace of yesterday, to make amends and earn a lifetime of unending wealth. How did it come to this?

"Agh..."

The sound of vomiting blood came from not far away. Enduring the intense pain all over his body, Huo Liaoyuan propped himself up to stand again, his blurry vision focusing to see Lu Ye kneeling on one knee on the ground, his long saber held in hand, with a pool of bright red blood in front of him.

This scene brightened Huo Liaoyuan's eyes.

So, he was injured too!

So, he wasn't as imposing as he seemed on the surface!

From a mighty figure who completely controlled the situation to now being fraught with anxiety and even overjoyed at his opponent's bleeding injury, Huo Liaoyuan himself didn't realize his mentality had changed.

Lu Ye was in a lot of pain. He had intended to finish Huo Liaoyuan off in one fell swoop, but the overly forceful action aggravated his internal injuries, forcing him to stop his pursuit.

Spitting out the clotted blood was somewhat relieving.

Looking up, he saw Huo Liaoyuan also looking in his direction, with a ferocious gaze and his spirit force surging around him.

Without any communication, both parties almost simultaneously took action. Lu Ye, as always, led the way with weapon control, charging forward, while Huo Liaoyuan casually unleashed a variety of magic and spells.

But momentum is similar to certain circumstances; once it weakens, it just weakens, and it's tough to harden again no matter what.

Even with a gap of four minor levels in their cultivation, Lu Ye blocked Huo Liaoyuan's numerous spells with his weapon control, closing the distance rapidly once again.

Huo Liaoyuan's forcefully calm expression betrayed panic. When Lu Ye approached within three meters of him, a powerful swell of air accompanied by an explosion of spirit force swept around ferociously.

Lu Ye felt as if a wall had slammed into him head-on, his body uncontrollably pushed away.

The life-preserving technique of magic cultivators, Lu Ye didn't know the name of the technique, but all of the magic cultivators he had encountered practiced it. Once deployed, it could push everything far away from them.

Magic cultivators feared being approached by an enemy the most. This technique could undoubtedly save their lives many times.

If he were in the wilderness, Huo Liaoyuan could have used this chance to flee, but this Deathmatch Arena was of his own making, with only about three hundred meters of space on each side. Where could he run to?

Pushing Lu Ye away was simply a struggle at death's door.

Just a short three breaths later, Lu Ye was on him again, nimbly avoiding several spell attacks while his Boulder Mountain Saber shone with a bright saber light.

Like a torn sack, Huo Liaoyuan was flung into the air again under the tremendous impact, the protective spirit light around his body clearly dimmed by quite a bit.

Suspended in mid-air, he sensed the breath of death; he had felt this during his time in the Spirit Stream Realm. Once, fortunately, a senior had saved him, helping him survive the calamity.

He vividly remembered that sensation.

But now, he was all alone; the senior who had saved him had been dead for several years...

He knew that from the moment Lu Yiye broke through his defenses and charged to his side, he had already lost.

Time seemed to slow down at that instant, and a myriad of jumbled thoughts flashed through his mind. While in mid-air, Huo Liaoyuan turned his head toward the source of the crisis, seeing Lu Ye swiftly approaching, the overwhelming pressure almost making it impossible to breathe.

Chapter 613 Killing a Level 9

Something had to be done, otherwise, death was certain.

Driven by a vehement desire to survive, Huo Liaoyuan pushed past his own limits. The remaining spirit force within him boiled up, and his mind was more focused than ever before.

"Snap!" His hands suddenly came together, fingers outstretched. Suddenly, a point of flickering light appeared at the center of his palms, rapidly expanding and blazing with light.

Intense and chaotic spirit force fluctuations surged forth.

To any onlooker, it would seem as though Huo Liaoyuan was cradling a small sun between his hands, the spirit force visibly flowing over its surface.

At this critical moment, Lu Ye was only thirty feet away from Huo Liaoyuan!

Huo Liaoyuan's actions put him on alert. He had never underestimated his adversary, but that didn't cause him to pause his charging steps.

Thirty feet could be crossed in a single breath. By that time, no matter how powerful the magic and spells unleashed by Huo Liaoyuan were, he could end it all with one strike of his saber.

Because right now, Huo Liaoyuan's body was dimmed of spirit light, clearly at the end of his rope, having poured all his remaining spirit force into that small sun before him.

Just then, Huo Liaoyuan suddenly made a pushing motion with both hands, and the small sun shot rapidly towards Lu Ye.

As it moved, the spirit force on the surface of the little sun flowed even more violently, peeling away layer by layer like a budding flower opening its petals.

With the blossoming of these fiery petals, a chilling presence instantly filled the entire Deathmatch Arena.

In the blink of an eye, the small sun transformed into a massive fire lotus.

Lu Ye had already moved to avoid it, but to his surprise, such a change occurred. By the time he realized, he was completely enveloped by the fire lotus.

The Lotus of Raging Flames bloomed silently, without the grandiose impact of the Prairie Burning Explosion Burial, nor the majestic pomp of the meteor fire shower, but the power it emitted was more terrifying than either of the two spells.

It was a heat so fearsome it could melt everything.

This was another killer move from Huo Liaoyuan, one that he had not yet fully mastered!

On a normal day, there was a fifty percent chance that casting this technique would fail, so Huo Liaoyuan never dared to use it against an enemy, lest it backfire and hurt himself instead. He would never have risked it if he weren't driven to desperation.

Fortunately for him, luck was on his side. Despite only having a fifty percent chance of success, he managed to cast it, perhaps due to the utmost concentration brought on by immense pressure.

His face pale as paper, he quietly watched the blooming fire lotus, watching as Lu Ye's figure was completely swallowed up, and he truly breathed a sigh of relief.

This time... Lu Yiye couldn't possibly survive, right?

Just as this thought popped into his mind, his pupils suddenly shrank, his eyes trembling violently.

Right in front of him, emerging from the blooming fire lotus, a figure walked out unhurriedly, looking relaxed and casual as if he were not crossing a vortex of death but his own backyard. There was not the slightest fluctuation in his calm expression.

Lu Ye didn't exactly understand what this technique Huo Liaoyuan had used was, but it clearly was powerful, judging by the adversary's expression and his own feelings. However, thanks to the protection of the Talent Tree, he was able to fend off the fire's damage.

In comparison, the fire lotus posed even less danger to Lu Ye than the previous Prairie Burning Explosion Burial had.

At least the blast from the explosion had caused him some substantial injuries, whereas the silently blooming fire lotus didn't even singe a hair on his head.

"Ha!" Huo Liaoyuan let out an involuntary exclamation of shock, taking several steps back uncontrollably, his face full of terror.

It was like a nightmare all over again!

First the Prairie Burning Explosion Burial, now the Lotus of Raging Flames—what on earth had Lu Yiye done to withstand both his killer moves unscathed?

Was he dreaming or what?

Yet his physical weakness and pain constantly reminded Huo Liaoyuan that this was no dream.

Step by step, Lu Ye slowly approached until he was three yards in front of Huo Liaoyuan. The massive fire lotus behind him gradually dissipated, and the space distorted by the high heat seemed to be smoothed over by an invisible hand.

As their eyes met, Huo Liaoyuan's dry lips moved as if he wanted to say something, but in the end, he couldn't utter a single word. Instead, he roared furiously and recklessly lunged towards Lu Ye.

Devoid of spirit force within his body, as a magic cultivator, he had no means to cast any spells without it.

But he did not surrender, nor did he plead for mercy.

For this was the Deathmatch Arena, a place where only one can survive.

Lu Ye stood still, his wrist turned, and the flash of the saber passed by.

He shook the Boulder Mountain Saber lightly and sheathed it back in place.

A thud echoed from behind them; the sound of fresh blood flowing out, staining the ground of the Deathmatch Arena red.

In the spirit ground, the wolf pack and the cultivators of the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground were at a standoff, over a hundred yards apart. This distance was within the attack range of the cultivators, yet they refrained from attacking the wolves.

The reason they were confronting the wolves was that they were waiting for Huo Liaoyuan.

According to the rules of the Deathmatch Arena, the two entering must fight to the death. When one perishes, the other will also be sent back to their original location.

Before the appearance of Huo Liaoyuan, it was the power of the Deathmatch Arena within the Great Reversal Spirit Ground that lured Lu Ye into the arena; thus, his subsequent emergence would still be in the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground.

The cultivators of the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground had to ensure that the moment Huo Liaoyuan appeared, they would be able to provide support to him.

Since they didn't initiate an attack, the wolf pack naturally wouldn't trouble themselves...

On the side, Li Baxian's face was so gloomy it seemed almost dripping with water, as he continually checked the battlefield imprint to ascertain Lu Ye's life or death.

When Lu Ye was pulled into the Deathmatch Arena, Li Baxian almost went mad. He truly hadn't expected that Huo Liaoyuan actually possessed such an exotic treasure.

His own junior brother was at Level 5 in cultivation, whereas Huo Liaoyuan was at Level 9. How vast was the gap between their cultivation levels?

Though his junior brother had a profound foundation, excelling at defeating stronger enemies, there was always a limit to everything, and Li Baxian did not believe that Lu Ye would be a match for Huo Liaoyuan.

If Lu Ye could have Amber's assistance to trigger the Beast Transformation Secret Technique, Li Baxian might have some confidence in him, but Amber had fallen into a deep slumber previously and had not awoken since, leaving Lu Ye no way to coordinate with Amber.

This battle, more perilous than fortunate for his junior brother.

Li Baxian wished he could stand in for him... but even he, facing Huo Liaoyuan, did not have the certainty of victory.

The atmosphere in the entire Great Reversal Spirit Ground was extremely oppressive.

Time passed, one cup of tea, one incense stick's time...

Li Baxian's expression turned odd.

In his expectations, his junior brother, facing Huo Liaoyuan alone, would probably reach his limit within a hundred breaths' time, but now, it had already been one incense stick's time, and his junior brother was still unharmed.

Li Baxian suddenly realized that he might have underestimated his junior brother, or perhaps Amber had suddenly awoken? If that were the case, then it was hard to say which of them would live or die in this battle.

As time kept slipping away, Li Baxian grew more certain that it was Amber that had awoken at this critical moment, even positing that perhaps it was his junior brother who had roused it!

His earlier anxiety and unease swept away, Li Baxian quietly waited for Lu Ye's return, believing that his junior brother could defeat Huo Liaoyuan, just as long as he could successfully trigger the Beast Transformation Secret Technique!

On the opposite side, the cultivators of the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground appeared quite relaxed, for in their eyes, with Huo Liaoyuan exceeding Lu Yiye by four minor levels in cultivation, how could he possibly lose?

The longer the time dragged on, the more it appeared that Senior Brother Huo was toying with Lu Yiye; at this moment, Lu Yiye must be living a fate worse than death.

What they needed to do was simple: just go to provide support promptly when Huo Liaoyuan returned.

"What is Huo Liaoyuan messing around with?" Elsewhere in the crowd, Xia Liang murmured softly. Although it was regrettable not to kill Lu Ye with his own hands for revenge, Huo Liaoyuan had promised a share of the rewards, which he would surely honor. But this guy was so slow; it had been such a long time since he went in, and yet he still hadn't come out. Didn't he know that delays could lead to unexpected problems?

"Let's wait a bit longer. Maybe he will come out soon," advised Tan Sheng.

Xia Liang nodded slightly, looked up ahead for a moment, and said in a low voice, "Brother Tan, I need your help with something."

"Brother Xia, please speak," Tan Sheng responded.

Xia Liang said, "I want to kill Li Baxian!"

His initial goal was to kill Li Baxian. With Yanh Xing dead at Li Baxian's hands, he had to avenge his death. The primary reason for targeting Lu Ye in the hunting grounds was to lure Li Baxian into appearing, which, unfortunately, led to the Mad Saber Sect compensating with a huge amount of resources.

The grudge with Lu Ye was also prompted by this.

Though there were many twists and turns along the way, to this day, he still hadn't forgotten his original intention.

Compared with that, he wanted to kill Li Baxian even more.

Now that Lu Yiye was destined to die at Huo Liaoyuan's hands, Xia Liang's only target remained.

Tan Sheng naturally understood Xia Liang's obsession with Li Baxian. Hearing his words, he nodded and said, "I will coordinate with Brother Xia when the time comes."

"Thank you. If this succeeds, you may call upon me whenever you need help in the future," Xia Liang said.

Tan Sheng's eyes brightened, for although his own strength was not much less than Xia Liang's, their sects still differed somewhat in stature. Mad Saber Sect was 1st grade, while his New Moon Sect was only 3rd grade. Securing such a promise from Xia Liang was sure to be beneficial in the future.

Favors are sometimes very precious at certain times.

"Brother Xia is too polite, I... He's out!" Tan Sheng suddenly called out in a low voice.

At the same time, everyone noticed something was amiss.

Because a speck of light had suddenly burst forth in the sky, and right after that, the light revealed the phantom image of the Deathmatch Arena, with a white light shooting out from within, landing at a certain location.

The space at that location twisted suddenly, and right after that, a figure appeared out of thin air!

The cultivators of the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground, who had been ready to rush over the moment their support was needed, looked as if they had been struck by a lightning-attracting talisman, all frozen in place, their eyes trembling and filled with disbelief.

In the crowd, Tan Sheng's eyelids twitched wildly, while Xia Liang exclaimed in disbelief, "How is that possible?"

As if they had seen something utterly inconceivable.

Chapter 614 Is This Possible?

Inside the Great Reversal Spirit Ground, the phantom of the Deathmatch Arena emerged, and under the watchful eyes of many, a silhouette appeared. But what terrified the cultivators of the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground was that it wasn't their dearly awaited Senior Brother Huo returning, it was that Lu Yiye!

Wrong, Huo Liaoyuan also returned.

Except at this moment, he was just like a dead dog, being held up by Lu Ye, with a huge hole visible in his chest cavity from which blood was flowing, drip-dropping on the ground, and there was not the slightest sign of life left in him, clearly nothing more than a corpse.

The scalps of numerous cultivators from Sacred Universe Spirit Ground tingled, a chill sweeping over their entire bodies.

Senior Brother Huo... was killed?

How could Senior Brother Huo, with his Level 9 Cloud River cultivation, be killed?

Despite their unwillingness to believe their own eyes, the truth was right before them, leaving them no choice but to believe.

In contrast, on Li Baxian's side, after Lu Ye's appearance, he finally let out a long sigh of relief.

He had felt that his junior brother might not necessarily lose, but that was surely just a hope, a prayer, until Lu Ye appeared before his eyes unscathed, and Li Baxian truly relaxed.

But then he became puzzled again...

In his expectations, Lu Ye should have awoken the slumbering Amber, and only with Amber's cooperation could he have had the capital to fight against Huo Liaoyuan.

But looking at it now, Amber was still nowhere to be seen, clearly still sleeping inside the spirit beast sack.

That is to say, could it be that his junior brother killed Huo Liaoyuan on his own strength?

Defeating an enemy of a higher level by four grades? Even with the reality laid out before him, Li Baxian was shocked; looking back through history, such an event was unprecedented.

The so-called defeating an enemy of a higher level usually pertained to just one or two minor levels, and it was extremely rare to even surpass by three minor levels, not to mention four.

As many thoughts whirled in his mind, Lu Ye suddenly raised his hand and flung the corpse he was holding out.

A few disciples from Sacred Universe Spirit Ground scrambled to catch it.

"Retreat!" A voice of terror rang out, the cultivators from Sacred Universe Spirit Ground came to their senses and hurriedly retreated. Xia Liang and Tan Sheng were mixed among the crowd, and even after they exited the coverage of the spirit ground, their expressions still could hardly conceal their shock.

The wolf pack did not pursue, because there was no point.

It wasn't until the cultivators from Sacred Universe Spirit Ground exited Great Reversal Valley that Lu Ye then activated the power of the big array that concealed the spirit ground. Ripples spread, and the entire spirit ground was covered by the big array.

Immediate physical unsteadiness let him stagger, fresh blood spilling from the corner of his mouth.

"Junior brother!" Li Baxian hurried forward to support him, while Feng Yuechan quickly took out healing pills and shoved them into Lu Ye's mouth.

After swallowing the elixir pill, Lu Ye waved his hand: "It's nothing serious, I need to recover a bit. The other side should not dare to act rashly for a while, please keep a watchful eye on the spirit ground... Brother Li and Senior Sister Feng."

Li Baxian nodded: "Don't worry, I'll inform you the moment anything happens."

Lu Ye turned and walked into his wooden cabin, sat down cross-legged, and silently operated his Black rank skill - undergoing seated meditation to recover.

The fight against Huo Liaoyuan had left him with injuries that were serious but not too heavy, primarily internal wounds. Fortunately, his physique was strong enough, so recovery shouldn't be a difficult task.

Watching Lu Ye enter the cabin, Li Baxian's expression turned inexplicably complex.

Feng Yuechan, perceiving something, spoke: "Senior brother, what are you thinking about?"

Li Baxian smiled faintly: "I'm thinking about the first time I met my junior brother..."

At that time, the junior brother was trapped on Golden Light Peak, Weh Ying arrived first, followed by his own hurried arrival. With the strength of the two of them, they protectively ensconced him, even though they had never met him before, they already considered Lu Ye as family, purely because of his status as a disciple of the Righteous Blood Sect.

That battle was also the battle that made Lu Ye famous. Since then, Lu Yiye of the Righteous Blood Sect has been unstoppable, generating a significant reputation on the Spirit Stream battlefield.

Looking back, it has been only two or three years.

The junior brother, who once needed the protection of his senior brother and sister, had grown to such heights.

Li Baxian couldn't help but feel the subtle sentiment of one's own child growing up.

At the entrance of Great Reversal Valley, the expressions of the cultivators from Sacred Universe Spirit Ground were sorrowful, and the atmosphere was oppressive. Even at this moment, they had not recovered from the shocking news of Huo Liaoyuan's death.

The path of a cultivator's cultivation is full of bumps and struggles, life and death are very normal. These people have not been spared from the experiences of parting and loss. In fact, each of them has been through quite a lot.

If Huo Liaoyuan had been killed by a cultivator of Level 9, that wouldn't be a big deal. Being of the same Level 9, there were still distinctions in strength; getting killed would only mean inadequate cultivation, bested by better skills.

But the fact that Huo Liaoyuan died at the hands of Lu Ye!

Until now, they still couldn't understand how their powerful Senior Brother Huo was killed by Lu Yiye. What exactly happened on the Deathmatch Arena?

But the intricacies of the situation were beyond their knowledge now; after all, there were only Lu Ye and Huo Liaoyuan on the Deathmatch Arena, and the details of their battle could only be known by them.

Among the cultivators from the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground this time, although Huo Liaoyuan was the only one at Level 9, there were several at Level 8.

One of them was Ming Zhe, who, though he hailed from the Universe Sect, often sparred with Huo Liaoyuan due to their compatible temperaments. Huo Liaoyuan never made excuses, so their relationship was very good.

At this moment, suppressing his grief, Ming Zhe was inspecting Huo Liaoyuan's corpse. Huo Liaoyuan might have died, but perhaps there were some clues in the many traces on his body that could allow him to deduce some details of the battle.

The fatal wound was in the chest area, where Huo Liaoyuan's heart had been smashed to pieces. There were many other injuries on his body, but none were caused by sharp weapons; they seemed like bruises from a massive impact.

After a long inspection, he couldn't find any useful clues. Judging from the injuries, it seemed that Huo Liaoyuan fought a life-and-death battle with Lu Ye and was ultimately defeated and killed by his opponent!

But... was that possible?

A disparity of four whole levels of cultivation, did that Lu Yiye have the qualifications to fight such an intense battle against Huo Liaoyuan?

As he pondered in utter confusion, his battlefield marking suddenly stirred with activity. He quickly checked it and discovered a message from Tu Guanxiong with a simple inquiry, "What happened?"

He had clearly learned of Huo Liaoyuan's death.

Ming Zhe, restraining his sorrow, recounted the events of the past two days. When Tu Guanxiong heard that their side lost more than sixty people right in the initial encounter, he was speechless for a long time.

When Huo Liaoyuan led people away from the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground, Tu Guanxiong had tried to send as many people as possible with him. Almost seventy percent of the spirit ground's strength was delegated for this task, plus the disciples from the Sacred Fire Order that Huo Liaoyuan had summoned, amassing over a hundred and fifty people in total. Yet, they had lost more than sixty in a flash.

This was truly unimaginable.

Upon hearing that today Huo Liaoyuan used the Deathmatch Arena to pull Lu Yiye into the space within, but the one who came out alive turned out to be Lu Yiye, while Huo Liaoyuan became a lifeless corpse...

"Do you know how Brother Huo was killed?"

"A blade through the heart; beyond that, nothing else is known."

Tu Guanxiong fell silent for a moment, "It seems that Lu Yiye must have some powerful exotic treasure in his possession!"

Only this possibility could explain why Huo Liaoyuan met such a tragic end at Lu Yiye's hands; he did not believe that, given such a huge cultivation gap, Lu Ye could have killed Huo Liaoyuan on his own merit.

"Senior Brother Tu, what should we do now?" With his mind in chaos, Ming Zhe momentarily lost his sense of direction.

A direct assault was impractical. The enemy had a pack of wolves, and if they dared to step within the range of the Great Sky Prohibition Array, they would undoubtedly embark on a one-way journey.

But if they withdrew just like that, they couldn't reconcile themselves with it. So many had died—how could they return to the spirit ground without avenging their fallen comrades?

Continuing to wait for reinforcements was an option. Tu Guanxiong had already summoned more disciples from the Universe Sect to head in this direction, but it would take time. Moreover, even when they arrived, their effectiveness was uncertain.

Their side had suffered too many casualties, having lost nearly half of their forces. The number of cultivators Tu Guanxiong could assemble was also limited.

"What about Xia Liang from the Mad Saber Sect and Tan Sheng from the New Moon Sect?" Tu Guanxiong asked.

When Ming Zhe mentioned the events of the past two days earlier, he also briefly touched on Xia Liang and Tan Sheng.

"They're still here," Ming Zhe replied. "It seems they are not willing to just leave like this, perhaps we could borrow their strength?"

"Out of the question!" Tu Guanxiong immediately rejected the idea. "One hails from a 1st grade sect and the other from a 3rd grade sect; they are not forces we can afford to provoke right now. If we dare to borrow their power, we will surely be used by them. If they kill Lu Yiye, all the benefits will be theirs."

"Senior Brother, Senior Brother Huo previously told me that the intelligence on Lu Ye's side should have been leaked by those two."

"Are you certain?"

"Senior Brother Huo was almost sure of it."

"Just as Brother Huo suspected earlier, these two must have suffered a loss before and knew that they couldn't take down Lu Ye with their own strength, so they wanted to borrow others. It's infuriating that they implicated our Sacred Universe Spirit Ground and caused such a huge loss," Tu Guanxiong said indignantly.

The Sacred Universe Spirit Ground had been peaceful until they suddenly received information about Lu Yiye, and things spiraled out of control, leading to the current dire situation.

"So, Senior Brother, what should we actually do now?" Ming Zhe asked again.

Tu Guanxiong did not respond for a long time, and only after an incense stick's time did he send a message, "I will spread the news of Lu Yiye. Eventually, many people will go to kill him. You all should act accordingly."

Relying on the current strength of the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground alone, they could not avenge Huo Liaoyuan and the other fallen disciples. Tu Guanxiong was angry with Xia Liang and Tan Sheng's schemes and tricks and wouldn't resort to using their power. Moreover, even if they did, it was unlikely to succeed.

The Great Reversal Spirit Ground was covered by the Great Sky Prohibition Array, and once the cultivators barged in, the first thing they would have to face would be the pack of wolves. In such a situation, the capabilities of the two Level 9 Cloud River cultivators would be limited.

Under these circumstances, spreading the news was the only way!

Now in Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, no one knew how many cultivators were trying to find the whereabouts of Lu Yiye. Once the news spread, countless cultivators would swarm in, and then, wanting to avoid death would be impossible for Lu Yiye!

Although this meant that the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground would be unable to monopolize the bounty on Lu Ye, this was the only plan that Tu Guanxiong could think of. In the end, whoever killed Lu Yiye would be avenging Huo Liaoyuan and the other cultivators who had died tragically under the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground.

Chapter 615 News Leaks

At the entrance to Great Reversal Valley, Xia Liang and Tan Sheng were also discussing the cause of Huo Liaoyuan's death.

Concurring with Tu Guanxiong's view, both of them didn't believe that Lu Ye, relying on his own strength, could have killed Huo Liaoyuan, given the disparity in their cultivation levels. Even if Lu Ye had a profound foundation, it wouldn't be enough to achieve such an inconceivable feat.

Moreover, they both had some understanding of Lu Ye's capabilities.

Although Lu Ye's cultivation had improved by two minor levels compared to when he was in the hunting grounds, he was ultimately still at the Level 5 realm.

"Huo Liaoyuan had the Deathmatch Arena, an exotic treasure like that, so it's not impossible that Lu Yiye had other exotic treasures on hand. Huo Liaoyuan's death was truly suffocating!" Tan Sheng sighed with emotion but also felt somewhat relieved.

His power was certainly stronger than Huo Liaoyuan's but only by a small margin. If Lu Ye was capable of killing Huo Liaoyuan, that meant he also had the ability to kill him.

But exotic treasures are rare and usually one-time consumables. Since Lu Yiye used one on Huo Liaoyuan, it was as if Huo Liaoyuan had fallen into a trap for them; otherwise, the one to die might have been him or Xia Liang.

In a sense, they should thank Huo Liaoyuan.

"It's no pity that Huo Liaoyuan is dead, but now..." Xia Liang turned his head to look towards the cultivators of the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground, only to see an invisible gloom hanging over them, all of them dispirited.

They had originally planned to leverage the power of the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground to break through the various arrangements in Lu Ye's spirit ground, but fate had other plans. Now, with Sacred Universe Spirit Ground suffering significant losses and Lu Yiye's side having only a few Formations breached and several demon wolves killed, their losses were negligible in comparison.

Inevitably feeling somewhat irritated and impatient, that Huo Liaoyuan... was just too useless.

"Are they leaving?" Tan Sheng suddenly noticed something unusual; the cultivators of the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground seemed to be retreating from this place.

Xia Liang frowned and, unable to hold back, stepped forward to block Ming Zhe, asking, "Junior Brother, where are you going?"

Ming Zhe looked up at him, flames of anger burning in his eyes. It was these two men before him who had caused the death of Senior Brother Huo and so many junior brothers and sisters!

Fortunately, he knew better than to provoke these two and, suppressing his anger, he spoke indifferently, "Naturally, we are leaving this place!"

They didn't want to leave, but if they stayed any longer, they might be ambushed again at night. Last night, they had already lost a few people, even with Huo Liaoyuan in command. Now that Huo Liaoyuan was dead, how could they dare to stay?

At any rate, being at the Cloud River Level 8 realm, Tu Guanxiong had instructed him to act according to the situation, and he naturally had his own judgment, knowing that this place was fraught with danger, no place for an extended stay.

Xia Liang frowned and asked, "You're just going to leave like this?"

Ming Zhe's eyes were full of bloodshot veins as he gritted his teeth, "What would Senior Brother Xia advise?"

Xia Liang said, "Deep hatreds must, of course, be avenged." If the people of Sacred Universe Spirit Ground left, what was the point in any of this?

Ming Zhe glanced at him, then at Tan Sheng beside him, "Then please, Senior Brothers, teach me how to take revenge, how to settle my grievances! Are the two Senior Brothers suggesting they lead us, these remaining soldiers and defeated troops, into battle? If the two Senior Brothers are willing to take the lead, then all of us from the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground will follow your command!"

Xia Liang was at a loss for words for a moment.

The number of these remaining soldiers and defeated troops was not small, but if they truly wanted to forcefully attack Lu Yiye's spirit ground, it was still not enough unless they had a way to first deal with the wolf pack.

Ming Zhe, who deeply resented the misinformation these two had provided and despised their opportunistic attitude, said nothing further. After a slight bow, he led the many cultivators of the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground onto a large ship-shaped Spiritual Artifact. Moments later, the Spiritual Artifact rose into the sky and flew away.

Two days ago, they came in force, over one hundred and fifty strong. In just two short days, their leader Huo Liaoyuan was dead, and of the one hundred and fifty, only half survived. These two days were a nightmare for everyone.

The group withdrew from the Great Wilderness Mountain and stopped at its periphery.

Tu Guanxiong intended to spread Lu Ye's location, and as one could foresee, it wouldn't be long before the Great Wilderness Mountain became lively. These people might not have the power to take their revenge alone, but they wanted to witness Lu Ye's death with their own eyes, only then would their resentment be appeased.

With Ming Zhe leading the retreat, the cultivators of the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground left, but Xia Liang and Tan Sheng did not. Standing at the entrance to Great Reversal Valley, they gazed in the direction of the spirit ground, both men silent.

After a while, Tan Sheng broke the silence, "Brother Xia, do you have any plans?"

Xia Liang said, "I'm considering whether or not to fully expose Lu Yiye's information."

Tan Sheng said, "He has the Heaven's Augury Pillar on his side. If he senses danger, he will surely retreat back to the Nine Provinces, so even if we do this, we cannot truly do anything to him. At best, we can only break his spirit ground."

"I'm well aware, but even if we can't do much to him, we can't just let this go. He must still cultivate on the Cloud River battlefield. By breaking his spirit ground this time, we might have the chance to kill him next time! If we do nothing, we'll never have the chance to kill him. Moreover, since Huo Liaoyuan had the Deathmatch Arena, perhaps others have similar treasures; it's not impossible that there's a chance to kill him."

Despite knowing the likelihood was slim, Tan Sheng still agreed, "That's true."

The reason they had only revealed Lu Ye's information to the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground was the fear of pushing too hard, which might force Lu Ye to retreat back to the Nine Provinces using the Heaven's Augury Pillar, rendering all their plotting useless.

If only the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground attacked, Lu Yiye wouldn't feel so desperate. When both sides were weakened from the battle, they could then have the chance to benefit from the situation.

The outcome, however, was that the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground was too ineffective, being beaten to a pulp in just two days, with even their leader Huo Liaoyuan dead.

Given the current situation, it has become nearly impossible to kill Lu Yiye now; all that can be done is to temporarily force him to give up this spirit ground and find a better opportunity in the future.

Determined, Xia Liang was about to send a message out when Tan Sheng received news first. After checking it, and communicating briefly with the other party, he exclaimed in surprise, "Brother Xia, someone has acted before us."

"What?" Xia Liang was puzzled.

"Someone has already leaked Lu Yiye's location."

The message Tan Sheng received was from a junior brother within the sect, informing him of Lu Ye's current position. This junior brother could not have known this without reason; upon inquiry, he found out that many people were already privy to this information.

"The handiwork of the folks from Sacred Universe Spirit Ground!" Xia Liang immediately realized.

As it stood, the only ones who knew of Lu Ye's whereabouts were the two of them and the people from Sacred Universe Spirit Ground. They had just made up their minds when someone else had already taken action – no one but Sacred Universe Spirit Ground could be responsible.

Xia Liang, not knowing who currently was in charge on Sacred Universe Spirit Ground's side, could still understand the decision-makers' initial intentions. Regardless, it saved him some trouble.

"Great Wilderness Mountain is about to get lively," sighed Xia Liang. "Let's go!"

Tan Sheng was taken aback, "Brother Xia isn't staying?"

Xia Liang replied, "Why stay? To watch how Lu Yiye escapes back to the Nine Provinces?"

Tan Sheng thought it over and agreed. Considering how the situation was unfolding, it wouldn't be long before Lu Yiye was cornered, and when that happened, he would definitely use the Heaven's Augury Pillar to escape back to the Nine Provinces, leaving all the cultivators who rushed here coming up empty-handed.

There was no point in continuing to stay.

What they needed to do now was wait for Lu Yiye to enter the Cloud River battlefield again, secretly gather information, and find an opportunity to kill him!

Within the spirit ground, Lu Ye silently healed his injuries. The advantage of having a robust physique was clear at this moment: ordinary cultivators would have taken at least ten days to a month to recover from such wounds, yet in just a short day or two, Lu Ye was nearly fully recuperated.

Meanwhile, with the help of Tu Guanxiong stirring the pot, the news of Lu Yiye hiding in Great Reversal Valley within Great Wilderness Mountain spread like wildfire.

Since the last hunt, the big sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had increased the bounty on him, stimulating the nerves of countless Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators.

Over time, many were covertly watching for his whereabouts, but sadly, none expected him to hide deep within Great Wilderness Mountain, and with a big array concealing it, even if cultivators passed by nearby, they wouldn't detect the state of the spirit ground.

It was only Xia Liang and Tan Sheng, who, thanks to the power of an exotic treasure, barely managed to locate the general vicinity – only to end up with one dead and two injured, escaping in a sorry state.

Now that the message had suddenly spread, those cultivators who had struggled in vain to find Lu Ye's tracks smelled blood and rushed towards the area of Great Wilderness Mountain from all directions.

In an instant, undercurrents surged in the Cloud River battlefield.

Two days after killing Huo Liaoyuan, Lu Ye's injuries had healed.

In the wooden house, four people were seated firmly in the spirit ground.

Li Baxian said, "The people from Sacred Universe Spirit Ground must have retreated. We haven't seen a trace of them in these two days. Junior Brother Giant Armor even had the demon wolves search around earlier, but they didn't see anyone, not even Xia Liang or Tan Sheng."

"As expected," nodded Lu Ye.

With such a tremendous loss this time, and still needing to be wary of Lu Ye's potential attacks, the people from Sacred Universe Spirit Ground naturally wouldn't linger here awaiting death.

As for Xia Liang and Tan Sheng... with the people from Sacred Universe Spirit Ground gone, it made no sense for the two of them to remain alone.

"However, Senior Brother, keeping this spirit ground will most likely be impossible."

First, Xia Liang and others joined forces to attack, and now even the people from Sacred Universe Spirit Ground knew; the location of the spirit ground was thoroughly exposed. As time passed, more and more people would know.

Lu Ye found himself seemingly ill-fated with spirit grounds...

When he first entered the Cloud River battlefield, he was incredibly lucky to find a Class C Spirit Ground, but after entering the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain secret realm with Shen Xiaomao, the spirit ground was breached, and the spring spirit taken...

After barely managing to secure the top reward from the Kills Ranking in the hunting ground - a Class A Spring Spirit - he carefully placed the spirit ground in the depths of Great Wilderness Mountain and had a pack of wolves guard it. Yet, it wasn't long before another disaster struck.

Sometimes, Lu Ye really questioned whether the so-called favor of Heaven's Augury truly existed.

If it did, why did he seem so unlucky at times?

Yet at other times, he truly felt fortune favored him. Take the encounter in Fox Fairy Valley, for example, the Fox Demon had reigned over Fox Fairy Valley for nearly twenty years but happened to meet someone like him, who could counter her abilities. In the end, he killed the Fox Demon, saved quite a few people, and even received Heaven's Augury's reward, significantly enhancing his foundation.

The workings of fate were indeed perplexing.

Chapter 616 The Way Out

Li Baxian had anticipated that they couldn't hold onto the spirit ground.

This was a common occurrence on the Cloud River battlefield; many spirit grounds had changed hands multiple times. Only those larger spirit grounds with more people could maintain an aloof status on the Cloud River battlefield, being passed down from generation to generation.

"What does junior brother plan to do?" he asked.

"There are two options," Lu Ye held up two fingers, "We can take the spring spirit now and retreat to the Nine Provinces. After returning from the Cloud River battlefield, we must wait a month before we can re-enter. Leaving earlier enables us to come back sooner."

Li Baxian couldn't help but chuckle, as Lu Ye's words gave off the impression of 'the sooner you die, the sooner you're reborn.'

"Or, we don't return to the Nine Provinces and start moving to a more concealed location now. Regardless of the choice, we'll end up with only a Class B Spirit Ground," he continued.

Every time they recalled the spring spirit, it would fall by one grade. Although Class A and Class B were only one grade apart, the concentration of nature's spiritual energy within the spirit ground was vastly different.

"And the second option?"

"We wait and see! The situation might not be as bad as I expect. Even if it does come to the point where we must retreat to the Nine Provinces, we have the Heaven's Augury Pillar and can retreat at any time."

Li Baxian nodded slightly, thinking the same thing. With the situation as it was, they indeed only had these two choices: either leave immediately or wait until the situation deteriorated to a certain extent before leaving. Regardless, they would ultimately be unable to hold onto this spirit ground.

It was truly a pity. A Class A Spirit Ground was extremely rare; they had only cultivated here for a few months, and during that time, they had even stayed in the Fox Fairy Valley for over a month...

"Then let's wait and see. Maybe it's not as bad as the junior brother said?" Li Baxian spoke up.

"Let's wait then."

With the Heaven's Augury Pillar, they could leave at any time; they were secure in terms of safety.

With just a few words between them, the two set the tone. Neither Feng Yuechan nor Giant Armor spoke. Feng Yuechan just listened quietly, never interrupting Li Baxian when he spoke. As for Giant Armor... the fellow was a taciturn type, rarely speaking.

"But before that..." Lu Ye looked at Giant Armor, "the wolf pack needs to leave first."

All of them could retreat to the Nine Provinces using the Heaven's Augury Pillar, but the wolf pack could not. Once the situation became irremediably dire, the wolves would surely become a target for others to vent their anger. It was highly likely that the pack would face great danger then.

While leaving the wolf pack behind could ensure the protection of the spirit ground, if the cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were to take action, they would certainly come with an overwhelming force. The wolves might stave off the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground cultivators' assaults, but definitely not the crisis that lay ahead.

"You handle this. Within three days, make sure the wolf pack has left this place."

Giant Armor responded with a muffled affirmation: "Hmm."

After discussing briefly, the four dispersed to their respective tasks.

How Giant Armor would lead the wolves away was not something for Lu Ye to worry about. The wolves stayed near the spirit ground entirely because they were drawn by Giant Armor, and the alpha wolf possessed significant spiritual intelligence. After previous battles, it was clear that the alpha could sense certain things; unless it was extremely foolish, it would know that leaving early was the only way to preserve the pack.

Lu Ye then began to create a large number of array banners.

Many formations had been destroyed during the assault by Sacred Universe Spirit Ground cultivators on the spirit ground, which naturally required replenishment.

With his increased strength and resources, Lu Ye was able to create array banners much faster, using up vast amounts of materials to bring fresh banners off the production line.

He redeployed the damaged big array and added even more formations within the spirit ground.

Under the alpha wolf's lead, the pack left, but they didn't go too far, lingering about two to three hundred miles deeper into the Great Wilderness Mountain, obviously preparing to return to the spirit ground at any time.

Days passed in a flash, and above the spirit ground, Lu Ye's figure flitted about, checking the many formations he had laid out... With so many formations, they should be sufficient.

Although he had told Li Baxian that they currently only had two ways out, there was actually a third option. He hadn't intended to share this with Li Baxian, not because he was holding back, but rather because if he spoke of it, Li Baxian would definitely disagree.

If this method could be successfully implemented, then the spirit ground could be preserved. At that time, Li Baxian, Feng Yuechan, and Giant Armor could cultivate in peace. It would be such a waste to simply abandon or downgrade such a Class A Spirit Ground.

The numerous formations Lu Ye had set up were not meant for fending off incoming enemies. If the situation deteriorated as much as he feared, no amount of formations he laid would make a difference. He left these formations simply to add a bit of defensive capability to the spirit ground.

Upon inspection, the big arrays layered throughout the spirit ground were as solid as a rock.

An alert came from his battlefield marking; Lu Ye looked down to investigate and saw that the message came from someone he hadn't expected.

Shen Xiaomao!

Her real name was unknown to Lu Ye; Shen Xiaomao was obviously a pseudonym, much like his own Ye Liu.

However, since they lost that Class C Spirit Ground, Lu Ye had parted ways with Shen Xiaomao. She had disappeared to some place unknown, and they hadn't contacted each other since.

To his surprise, she suddenly sent a message, the content of which took Lu Ye aback.

"Run, a lot of people are heading your way! A lot! A lot!"

A simple sentence, yet it contained three "very many", clearly indicating that there were indeed many. From this, it was evident that the location of the spirit ground had been completely exposed. By now, a large number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators should be rushing over here, or perhaps... some were already lurking nearby.

Shen Xiaomao sent such a message to him at this time, which contained a significant amount of information.

Firstly, how did Shen Xiaomao find out that many people were coming this way?

The exposure of the spirit ground's location would certainly only circulate within the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge faction; cultivators from the Haotian Alliance couldn't possibly know...

Even Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan hadn't received any warning.

With connections far broader than Lu Ye's, if the cultivators from the Haotian Alliance faction were aware of this news, they would surely have sent warnings to the two of them.

But now, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan hadn't received any news, yet Shen Xiaomao had sent a warning to Lu Ye.

The fact that Shen Xiaomao knew this news revealed many issues.

That Ye Liu was actually Lu Yiye of the Righteous Blood Sect, Shen Xiaomao must have known for a long time, as Lu Ye's image messages were spread all over the place on Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's side, seen by many cultivators.

Lu Ye didn't know what motivated Shen Xiaomao to send him such a message, but he could feel that it was well-intended.

Perhaps it was because they had cultivated in the same spirit ground, or maybe because they had faced life and death together in the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain secret realm, or even because she had followed him and made huge gains by selling items at the Heaven's Augury treasure vault...

Regardless, sending this message at such a time showed the girl had a good heart.

When Lu Ye first entered the cultivation world, he thought all from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were utterly reprehensible, even believing that the Haotian Alliance represented righteousness and Ten Thousand Demons Ridge represented evil.

But as he learned more about the situation in the Nine Provinces cultivation world, he realized that there was no such thing as good and evil in this world, only two opposing factions.

He quickly sent a reply, "Understood, thanks!"

Shen Xiaomao didn't say anything more; sending the message to Lu Ye as soon as she got it was the limit of what she could do. If she were to divulge more information, it would only cause her conscience to suffer.

Speaking of which, her sect had also been blackmailed by Lu Ye before... even though Lu Ye had no idea which sect she belonged to.

Returning to his wooden cabin, Lu Ye fell into deep thought; things were indeed heading in an unfavorable direction, but that's life—rarely does it turn out as one wishes.

Suddenly feeling something amiss, Lu Ye hurriedly opened the spirit beast sack, and a snow-white figure darted out, shaking its head and wagging its tail.

It was Amber, who had been asleep for many days!

The little guy had finally awakened.

"Lu Ye!" Yiyi's cheerful voice rang out as she flashed out of Amber's body and threw herself into Lu Ye's arms, wrapping her hands around his waist and burying her head in his chest, her blue-black hair spreading out.

Lu Ye's raised hand paused in mid-air.

Despite their frequent companionship, Yiyi seldom made affectionate gestures towards him, let alone hug him like this.

His hand slowly lowered, gently embracing her petite body, softly patting her back.

Yiyi was actually very afraid of being trapped in that silent state - though she had never mentioned it to Lu Ye, he could feel it.

Once trapped in that silence, it was as if she were enveloped in endless darkness, even thinking became extremely sluggish; in such conditions, the passage of time became imperceptible, like an endless nightmare from which she feared she could never awaken.

She was terrified of never waking from that dream, of never seeing a sliver of light again, or the person she wanted to see.

"It's all right now," Lu Ye comforted her softly.

After a good while, Yiyi extricated herself from his embrace, her cheeks reddened, and stealing a glance at Lu Ye, she stamped her foot and said, "Don't you laugh at me!"

"Not at all!" Lu Ye replied solemnly, "Why would I laugh at you?"

Saying so, he reached to pinch her cheek, testing the feel—smooth and delicate, not bad at all.

Yiyi stepped back to evade his "magic claw," her cheeks puffed up in indignation.

"Did your cultivation increase?" Lu Ye asked.

After a moment's thought, Yiyi said, "It might be equivalent to the Cloud River Level 5 realm now!"

Yiyi's strength enhancement was directly linked to Amber's growth. As strong as Amber was, she could be just as powerful. Previously in Fox Fairy Valley, both the spirit and the tiger had greatly enhanced their strength, advancing them a minor level. Now, with an Overlord-class demon beast's demonic pill, it pushed them a further step forward.

Such cultivation was now on par with his own!

Checking Amber next to him, he indeed found that both the spirit and the tiger were comparable to the cultivators of the Cloud River Level 5.

Chapter 617 A Buzz of Voices

Amber's awakening and the enhancement of the strength of a spirit and a tiger were undoubtedly the only good news recently.

Yiyi held the Nine Arrays Diagram in her hands. The stronger her power, the greater the might the Nine Arrays Diagram could exhibit. Considering the last time they battled the Fox Demon within the Nine Arrays Diagram, if Yiyi could have exerted more power from the diagram, Lu Ye might not have had such a tough time.

Moreover, Amber had formed a bond with Lu Ye through the Life Origin Method and the Beast Seal Method. During battle, Lu Ye could borrow strength from Amber. Once the Beast Transformation Secret Technique was activated, the stronger Amber became, the higher the limit Lu Ye could reach.

It could be said that the enhancement of Amber's strength directly boosted Lu Ye's strength.

These two companions were rare aids for Lu Ye, unique in the entire Nine Provinces cultivation world.

Recently, signs of cultivators had been evident outside the Great Reversal Spirit Ground. Clearly, these were Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who had received the news and arrived here early. However, since it was still early, not many people had come.

It was foreseeable that as time passed, more and more cultivators would arrive here.

Although these cultivators had received news about Lu Ye, they didn't dare make any reckless moves before confirming it. They just secretly scouted around the spirit ground, but unfortunately, a big array concealing it thwarted their efforts to discern anything significant.

Days later, a cultivator could no longer bear it and flew directly above Great Reversal Valley, gesturing with a magic spell downward.

As the spirit force stirred, the concealing array lost its effectiveness. In an instant, the entire scene of the spirit ground became visible.

A few wooden houses were distributed sparsely, a spiritual spring gently flowed out, and in front of one of the houses, a man casually sat on the floor with a long saber beside his leg, looking indifferently at the figure in the sky.

Their eyes met. The magic cultivator who had acted observed intently, his expression overjoyed, "Lu Yiye!"

Although they had hurried here based on previously received news, no one could confirm whether this was indeed Lu Ye's hiding place unless they saw him with their own eyes.

At this moment, when the concealing array dissipated, and Lu Ye's figure was truly revealed, all the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who saw him, whether hidden or not, were thrilled with excitement.

The news was true, this was indeed where Lu Yiye was hiding!

As the magic cultivator got excited, over ten shadowy figures hiding nearby swiftly flew towards this area.

Now that Lu Ye's whereabouts had been found, naturally, it was best to act fast! There was only one Lu Yiye; whoever could kill him would gain the bounty!

However, not everyone rushed out; many still chose to wait and watch.

In the spirit ground, Lu Ye raised one hand, his palm facing the magic cultivator hovering in mid-air.

The magic cultivator, still immersed in the joy of discovering Lu Ye's whereabouts, was completely clueless about what he was about to do. As he puzzled over it, Lu Ye suddenly clenched his hand, as if grasping the magic cultivator entirely in his palm.

Then, he swung his hand downward and said softly, "Come down!"

The moment the words were spoken, the magic cultivator felt a massive mountain crash down on him. He plummeted straight down like a bird with broken wings amid his shock.

The sudden turn of events threw him into a panic, and he cried out, desperately urging his spirit force to stabilize his body.

However, just then, a clear sound of a flying sword rang out. Swords flew from another wooden house, enveloped in a chilling breath of death, striking precisely at the flailing magic cultivator.

Thud, thud, thud sounds continuously emitted. The protective spirit force of the magic cultivator held for less than a moment before shattering. The flying swords pierced through, blood spraying out, accompanied by incessant screams echoing in Great Reversal Valley.

Thump...

The magic cultivator crashed to the ground, not immediately dead, but his mouth and nose were filled with blood, countless bones broken throughout his body, and more than a dozen wounds from flying swords pierced through him.

Before he could recover, a shadow covered him; he opened his blurry eyes to see, only to find Lu Yiye, who had been sitting in front of another house, now standing before him, looking down from above.

The magic cultivator screamed in terror, instinctively trying to activate his spirit force, but Lu Ye stomped on his chest, the impact causing him to spit out blood. The spirit force he had managed to gather abruptly scattered.

Lu Ye raised his saber, the dark Boulder Mountain Saber blade flickering with a sharp glint.

"Wait..." the magic cultivator gasped, but before he could finish, the saber had already stabbed down.

The blade pierced through his chest, came out his back, and directly claimed his life. The body of the magic cultivator convulsed slightly before falling silent.

Lu Ye bent down, took the storage sack from him, and then kicked his body out of the spirit ground. He shook the blood off the Boulder Mountain Saber and coldly watched the more than ten figures hovering in the distance.

Making eye contact with him made everyone's scalp tingle.

The magic cultivator who had initially acted had only unleashed one spell, but from the spirit force fluctuations around him, it was clear that he was a Level 9 magic cultivator!

Level 9, the absolute limit that Cloud River battlefield could accommodate, a very powerful being in any place.

Yet such a powerful being had mysteriously died here!

From start to finish, aside from someone assisting with a flying sword, Lu Yiye had only struck once!

They naturally did not believe that the Level 9 magic cultivator had perished by Lu Ye's hand. The reason for the opponent's tragic and desolate death was entirely due to his carelessness.

Reflecting on the magic cultivator's ordeal, someone frowned and muttered in a low voice, "Great Sky Prohibition Array!"

It made no sense for a Level 9 magic cultivator to suddenly fall unless it was because of the Sky Prohibition Array; there was no other explanation.

It was well-known that Lu Yiye had extraordinary accomplishments in the Array Path, but it was unexpected that he was skilled enough to set up a Great Sky Prohibition Array.

In the information they had received, there was no mention of the Great Sky Prohibition Array. Tu Guanxiong, in spreading the news, had either intentionally or unintentionally omitted this piece of intelligence.

The more than ten cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge who had rushed over were now filled with relief...

Luckily, their speed wasn't fast enough; otherwise, once they had entered the range of the Great Sky Prohibition Array, they likely would have ended up just like that magic cultivator.

As for why Lu Yiye didn't wait for them to break into the range of the Great Sky Prohibition Array before activating its power, it was understandable; it wasn't that he didn't want to, but that he dared not.

Using the Great Sky Prohibition Array to create an opportunity to kill a Level 9 magic cultivator was not difficult, but if more than a dozen people broke through, even if he could kill a few, the rest would be troublesome.

The current situation was indeed the best countermeasure.

Kill one, deter many. The death of a Level 9 magic cultivator had made the remaining people too scared to act rashly.

Lu Ye glanced coldly at those ten or so people, raised his hand with a wave, and the concealing array resumed its effect. Ripples passed over, and the entire spirit ground disappeared from everyone's sight.

The group exchanged glances for a while, then silently retreated.

Although a Level 9 magic cultivator had mysteriously perished, the news of Lu Yiye's presence in this place had been confirmed, and some even saw Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan. The flying sword that had attacked the magic cultivator was controlled by Li Baxian.

The news kept spreading outward, and the area outside Great Reversal Valley gradually became lively. This place, usually devoid of people, was now bustling with noise and crowded with cultivators everywhere.

Cultivators who knew each other gathered in groups of three or five, discussing how they could safely and effectively kill Lu Yiye and claim the hefty reward.

There were also powerful individuals who stood aloof, watching everything coldly from aside.

The cultivators from Sacred Universe Spirit Ground had returned under Ming Zhe's leadership, but they did not gather together. Instead, they split into several teams and spread out in different areas.

Watching the bustling entrance of Great Reversal Valley, Ming Zhe sighed and then took a long breath.

He felt pained that the losses on the side of Sacred Universe Spirit Ground had been too severe previously, even losing Senior Brother Huo Liaoyuan to Lu Yiye. But now, with people from all sides of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge gathering, and the number of cultivators reaching over three hundred, those daring to venture here were no less than Level 6.

Such a force, even if it simply bulldozed its way through, would definitely be impossible for Lu Yiye to withstand.

He was bound to die!

Thus, Senior Brother Huo could rest in peace. Looking in the direction of Great Reversal Valley, Ming Zhe's eyes gleamed with the pleasure of an impending revenge.

However, things developed somewhat differently from what he had expected.

The number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators gathering here continued to increase, including quite a few powerful ones from Level 9 coming from 1st and 2nd grade sects; however, no one dared to launch a direct attack on Great Reversal Valley. It seemed everyone had silently reached a consensus, just observing...

Ming Zhe gradually came to realize.

The Sacred Universe Spirit Ground side no longer hoped to claim the reward on Lu Yiye's head. Now, they just wanted to use others to exact vengeance for their fallen brothers, but these cultivators driven here by benefits were different; each was eyeing the massive reward.

After learning that Great Reversal Valley was covered by a Great Sky Prohibition Array, no one dared to make rash moves.

Lu Yiye could even set up a Great Sky Prohibition Array, who knew what other strange and exotic arrays could be inside his spirit ground?

At this time, whoever took the lead would be the most unlucky!

In simple terms, people were not united, all hoping that others would make the first move to test the waters at Great Reversal Valley, so they could take advantage from the shadows!

Ming Zhe first felt angry. Even though they possessed the power to flatten everything, they still engaged in deceitful schemes here, which was truly disappointing.

But thinking it over, if he put himself in their place, he could also understand the mindset of those powerful individuals; after all, they did not have such a great hatred with Lu Yiye.

Moreover, the reward for Lu Yiye was too enormous, so enormous that they had to act cautiously to increase their chances of success.

But if things continued this way, how could they kill Lu Yiye?

Ming Zhe's worries were obviously unnecessary. Whatever he could think of, how could others not think of it? Just as he was agonizing over it, a figure suddenly stood out. He flew into mid-air, immediately drawing everyone's attention.

Chapter 618 Song Zhui

The man who stepped forward appeared to be no less than twenty years old, but the fluctuations of spirit force emanating from him had startlingly reached the Cloud River Level 9!

For someone of his age to possess such cultivation, it undoubtedly indicated that he came from a prestigious background and had exceptional aptitude.

The man was handsome with a distinguished aura. What was rare was that he showed none of the haughtiness typical of someone from a big sect; instead, his expression was easy to relate to. A faint smile on his face made him seem as refreshing as a spring breeze.

He rose into the air and hovered about thirty feet above the ground, drawing the attention of the nearby cultivators before he spoke in a gentle tone, "Fellow Daoists from all over the Nine Provinces, Song Zhui greets you."

As he spoke, he performed a courteous circle bow.

Immediately, a faint whisper emerged from the crowd: "That's Song Zhui from Yuanhong Hall!"

In the Nine Provinces cultivation world, talents emerged in succession, and the old were replaced by the new. Despite many cultivators present who might not know who Song Zhui was, there was no one who didn't know of Yuanhong Hall.

After all, it was a 1st grade sect.

When Lu Ye had just entered the cultivation world, a female cultivator told him about the top ten 1st grade sects of Bingzhou, divided into one palace, two halls, three schools, and four sects; Yuanhong Hall was one of those two halls.

As a disciple of Yuanhong Hall, active on the Cloud River battlefield, Song Zhui was somewhat famous, but not everyone recognized him.

However, whether they recognized him didn't matter. He was of the Cloud River Level 9 and a disciple of Yuanhong Hall; those two identities were sufficient.

Still bearing his warm smile, Song Zhui continued, "Fellow Daoists have rushed here from various parts of the battlefield. There's no need for me to elaborate on why, as you all know perfectly well. I am fortunate to stand here today, only wishing to speak a few words from my heart."

His smile slowly faded, turning solemn: "Since ancient times, the Spirit Stream battlefield, the Cloud River battlefield, and even the entire Nine Provinces cultivation world have seen the confrontations between the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge and the Haotian Alliance. It is natural for cultivators to stand by their beliefs. Over many years, our mutual enmity has been as deep as the sea, sometimes with one side overpowering the other, but never decisively. However, ever since Righteous Blood Sect got Lu Yiye, the situation seems to have subtly changed. In the Spirit Stream battlefield, countless Ten Thousand Demons Ridge Daoists died because of him, and many sects suffered great losses, especially in the inner circle and Core Circle... I had heard that dozens of sects in the inner circle were breached by him, and I couldn't believe it initially, but that's an irrefutable fact!"

"Furthermore, in the Core Circle, where only sects above 3rd grade reside, each endowed with extraordinary talents, it would take years to break through the defenses of even one sect. But since Lu Yiye set foot in the Core Circle, he has broken into dozens of these sects! And not just once, but twice, these Core Circle sects were forced to pay up protection money to avert disaster!"

At this point, Song Zhui's face was filled with sorrow and indignation, his expression becoming agitated: "I shall not hide this from you, my own Yuanhong Hall was among them. Perhaps many Fellow Daoists' sects here were involved too. This is a disgrace to us, a disgrace to the entire Ten Thousand Demons Ridge!"

The cadre of big sects in the Core Circle were extorted by Lu Ye not once but twice, forced to pay protection money. Although this was not a secret, rarely did any cultivator from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge dare to speak of it in public.

The shame was too great to admit!

Yet today, Song Zhui fearlessly spoke of these incidents, and the effect was surprisingly potent; many in the crowd had darkened expressions.

Cultivators are to their sects as the face is to their dignity. If a sect was humiliated, how could its disciples remain indifferent? It's fair to say that among the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators gathered here, a portion came for the bounty on Lu Ye, but many more were driven by hatred.

"We have all benefited from our sects' blessings and the dedicated instruction of our elders, which brought us our current achievements. When our younger brothers and sisters were bullied, we were not there! When our sect was insulted, we were not there! When our sect had to endure indignities, we still were not there!" Song Zhui's voice grew louder, his originally pleasant smile now replaced with an inspiring fury. He waved his hand emphatically, yelling, "We cannot manage the events of the Spirit Stream battlefield! But this here is the Cloud River battlefield, and Lu Yiye has come!"

He sharply pointed towards the direction of Great Reversal Valley: "He is right there inside! He is watching us, mocking us, laughing at how despite our numbers, we are embroiled in petty squabbles, laughing that we possess the power to level everything yet no one steps forward, laughing at us for being a herd without unity!"

From among the crowd below, Ming Zhe's blood boiled, and he clenched his fists, wishing he could loudly cheer!

Song Zhui's words resonated deeply with him.

Suddenly, he realized that there were discerning people among those of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge; they all understood the situation clearly, just lacked a leader.

Now that Song Zhui had stepped forward to lead, the cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had hope of banding together into a cord of hatred, a force capable of shattering both Great Reversal Valley and Lu Yiye!

Song Zhui took a deep breath, his impassioned speech calming down, slowly saying, "Fellow Daoists, I know that Lu Yiye carries an enormous bounty, one so large that even a tenth or a half of it could sustain anyone for a lifetime. But there's only one Lu Yiye, and so many of us have come this time. It's often said that uneven distribution invites discontent, and I understand the concerns in many Daoists' hearts, but are we really going to just watch, always on guard against each other, allowing Lu Yiye to mock us from within? If so, then what future does Ten Thousand Demons Ridge have?"

Immediately, someone spoke out, "Senior Brother Song, since you have stepped forward, why not lead us in this operation? We will all follow your command, and I believe other Daoists will be willing as well."

"Yes, yes, let Senior Brother Song take command."

"We will follow Senior Brother Song's orders!"

"..."

From various parts of the crowd, voices of agreement echoed.

Song Zhui's face was once again filled with a smile, as he bowed again, "Thanks to everyone's support, since I have stepped forward on my own, I indeed have this intention, after all, we cannot just keep

waiting like this. Of course, if any Fellow Daoist finds this inappropriate, feel free to speak up. Song is not a narrow-minded person."

With the atmosphere set to this extent, who would dare to stand out and object? Objecting to Song Zhui at this time would only incite public outrage.

Moreover, with Song Zhui's cultivation and background laid bare, even if there were cultivators present whose cultivation was not inferior to his, they would not possibly embarrass him at this moment.

With a slight lift of his hand, he pressed down twice in the air, and the noisy voices gradually subsided.

Song Zhui continued, "Lu Yiye must die, this spirit ground must be broken, but Song is not doing this for the reward, instead, I am aiming to eliminate a threat for the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. I have specifically studied Lu Yiye; although his cultivation is still low, he has accomplished many things that no one has been able to accomplish since ancient times. During his time on the Spirit Stream battlefield, he created chaos. Now in the Cloud River battlefield, although there are no astonishing actions, just the last hunt has shown that if he does not die, he will definitely become a major threat to us at Ten Thousand Demons Ridge! I believe no one's sect would like to see him rise, otherwise, they wouldn't issue so many rewards."

"Moreover, based on various intelligence I obtained earlier, Lu Yiye has set up many formations in this spirit ground, especially the Great Sky Prohibition Array. Just recently, a Fellow Daoist lost his life because of it. Additionally, there are nearly three hundred demon wolves in this spirit ground, not to be underestimated. Of course, with so many of us here, we already possess enough power to crush the opposition. Still, I must remind everyone to be cautious. Although the reward is appealing, one must still be alive to enjoy it."

"As for the reward after killing Lu Yiye... I will take the responsibility to tally it in advance, and all fellow Daoists who participate will share Lu Yiye's reward equally! Of course, this task needs some help. If any clever and skilled female cultivator is willing to assist me later, you can come to me."

As soon as these words were spoken, many were surprised, truly not expecting Song Zhui to make such a decision.

The reward on Lu Yiye was indeed substantial, but if it was to be divided among so many people present, it would not amount to much, merely a windfall.

Better something than nothing.

Moreover, Song Zhui was right; this time, killing Lu Yiye was mainly to eliminate a threat for Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, and the reward was secondary.

Furthermore, with so many moving together, there was practically no risk, so the reward was practically free.

At the entrance of Great Reversal Valley, the scattered Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were rallied by Song Zhui's words. Although some were not too satisfied, the overall situation was such, and they could hardly resist.

Song Zhui spoke some more, simply reminding the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators to take care of themselves, further convincing everyone of his good character.

After Song Zhui finished speaking, several female cultivators volunteered, found him, and following Song Zhui's arrangements, they excitedly began to tally the names, backgrounds, and affiliations of the cultivators participating in the strong assault on Great Reversal Valley.

Although there were many cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, the efficiency of the several female cultivators was also very high. In less than half an hour, several jade slips were presented before Song Zhui.

He smiled warmly at the female cultivators, "Thank you for your hard work, sisters."

The reactions of the female cultivators varied; some responded with a smile, some were bashfully silent, and others even took the initiative to exchange battlefield marks with Song Zhui, who naturally did not refuse.

After dealing with the several female cultivators, Song Zhui began to examine the content of the jade slips.

Suddenly, a voice sounded beside him, "Doesn't your conscience hurt when you do this?"

There was only a voice, no figure, and even when someone passed by Song Zhui, there was no indication of their presence.

Song Zhui, head bowed, mouth slightly moving, whispered, "Definitely, you're not the only hidden ghost cultivator here. You better not let someone else get ahead. Ying Wuji, I trusted you and teamed up with you, and I've gone to great lengths to motivate these people. Don't disappoint me."

Chapter 619 All Comers Are Guests

...

If the fame of the cultivators in the Cloud River battlefield were to be ranked, Lu Ye would undoubtedly stand alone at the top of the list.

Even back in the days of the Spirit Stream battlefield, his deeds had already attracted the attention of many Divine Sea Realm strong cultivators, and the substantial rewards offered by the various big sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge ensured that most Nine Provinces cultivators had heard the name of Lu Ye.

Below Lu Ye were the likes of Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan.

Perhaps in the entire Nine Provinces cultivation world, their fame wasn't exceptional, but in the Cloud River battlefield, their names were very well-known.

After all, which Cloud River cultivator hadn't come up from the Spirit Stream Realm? Which of them hadn't looked up to these two toxic tumors of the Spirit Stream Ranking in the Spirit Stream battlefield...

Further down the list were those like Song Zhui, who had a decent background, impressive cultivation, and some renown.

Ying Wuji could also be counted among this tier, although few had seen his true face, many had heard of his name, especially the cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, and especially the ghost cultivators...

Because just two months ago, Ying Wuji, with his Level 9 Cloud River cultivation, had assassinated a True Lake Realm cultivator in the Chaotic Sky Plain of Bingzhou!

The feat of a Cloud River slaying a True Lake was astounding; although the True Lake Realm cultivator had been injured, the news spreading far and wide still left people dumbfounded.

This was not just a matter of killing an enemy at a higher grade, but of killing across realms, and throughout the entire history of the Nine Provinces cultivation world, there were countless who had killed across grades, but only a very few had killed across realms.

The primary reason Ying Wuji was able to do this was that he was a ghost cultivator!

And not just any ghost cultivator, but one from Senluo Hall.

In Bingzhou, among the ten 1st grade powers— one palace, two halls, three gates, and four sects— one of the halls was Yuanhong Hall where Song Zhui came from, and the other was Senluo Hall where Ying Wuji hailed from.

Senluo Hall was a very special sect with seven or eight out of ten cultivators being ghost cultivators, making it one of the most troublesome sects in the entire Nine Provinces.

Like Beixuan Sword Sect, like Mad Saber Sect, they only cultivated in one field from generation to generation, achieving the pinnacle of mastery. These two big sects were indeed powerful, but their strength was out in the open.

Senluo Hall was different; no one knew the true depth of Senluo Hall's foundation because ghost cultivators always lurked in the shadows.

It was said in the cultivation world that if a cultivator provoked any other 1st grade sect, there might still be a chance of survival, but if one were targeted by Senluo Hall, there would be no escape.

As cultivators from the same Bingzhou, belonging to the same Ten Thousand Demons Ridge camp, approximately the same age, and with similar cultivation levels, it was only natural that Song Zhui and Ying Wuji had connections in private.

His outwardly righteous and selfless speech was meant to galvanize the cultivators who came from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge; after all, according to the information he had received, the defensive forces in Lu Ye's spirit ground were very strong, and they could only hope to breach Lu Ye's defenses by first rallying the power of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Then, under his lead, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators would launch a strong attack, visibly drawing Lu Ye's attention, while Ying Wuji hid in the shadows, waiting for the perfect moment to strike.

After Lu Ye was killed, he and Ying Wuji would split the rewards equally. The plan was covert and had a very high chance of success.

"I will make my move, rest assured," Ying Wuji's voice drifted in, "but I'll take sixty percent!"

Song Zhui spoke detachedly, "Why?"

"The infamy will be mine to bear."

If one were to steal a kill under the watch of so many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, it would surely enrage the crowd, and there would be no hiding it. When it came time to claim the rewards from the big sects, it would be clear who had killed Lu Ye.

While the cultivators whose kill was stolen might not dare to offend Ying Wuji, cursing him in private would still be fair game, and this was bound to happen.

"You, a hiding ghost cultivator, are afraid of being cursed by others?"

"Words can be like a knife stabbing at the heart; too many curses, and I'll be deeply upset. I don't care, I want sixty percent."

"That will be the death of you!" Song Zhui snorted, unamused, "As you wish."

The difference between fifty percent and sixty percent wasn't significant, and Song Zhui couldn't be bothered to quibble over it.

"Then make it quick, I can hardly wait!" Ying Wuji urged.

Moments later, under Song Zhui's command, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators moved swiftly and efficiently. Hundreds of cultivators, arranged into groups, took action, with the physically strong physique cultivators at the forefront, followed by the combat cultivators brimming with killing intent, and then the ghost and magic cultivators in the back.

In Song Zhui's arrangement, a group of cultivators formed into nine teams, assuming a triangular formation, and marched grandly towards the Great Reversal Spirit Ground.

Inside the Great Reversal Spirit Ground, Li Baxian, Feng Yuechan, and Giant Armor stood next to Lu Ye, looking up towards the direction of the valley entrance, their expressions grim.

With Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's line-up, their side had no chance of resisting, and it wouldn't have mattered even if the demon wolves had been left behind as guards—they still couldn't have overcome the opposition.

In the end, they would have to retreat back to the Nine Provinces!

What puzzled Li Baxian was that his junior brother seemed to have no intention of immediately retreating back to the Nine Provinces and was still standing there quietly.

...

He did not know what Lu Ye was planning, but he knew that his junior brother was no longer the youth in need of his protection that he had been when they first met. After years of growth, his junior brother had become capable of standing on his own.

The cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were slowly pressing towards the spirit ground, and Song Zhui's voice spread in all directions, "Fellow Daoists, be careful not to step into the range covered by the other party's spirit ground, I'll repeat it once more—there is a Great Sky Prohibition Array within the boundary of the spirit ground! Soon, we will act together to break the protective array here, then follow my command to move."

Song Zhui's previous efforts were quite effective; apart from some shady ghost cultivators lurking in the dark, the overt cultivators at this moment were quite accommodating. After all, since they couldn't monopolize the reward for killing Lu Yiye, there was no need to rush in recklessly, and it was safer to act together with the group.

Nine groups of people, with Song Zhui personally leading one group, flew at the forefront.

When they reached a near enough distance, Song Zhui raised his hand, and all the cultivators came to a halt simultaneously. He sent forth a weapon control technique towards the front which seemed to penetrate an invisible barrier; ripples spread, the effect of the large array concealing everything was broken, and the situation inside the spirit ground was laid bare to everyone's eyes.

Several wooden houses were scattered around, and a striking spiritual spring was very conspicuous. In front of one wooden house, four figures stood steadfastly—despite a particularly towering and mighty figure at the back, Song Zhui's gaze was immediately attracted to Lu Ye standing at the forefront.

He frowned slightly, a hint of surprise flitting across his face—the situation... was not quite what he had expected.

At the same time, the cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge also noticed that there was no protective array in front of them...or rather, the protective array was not activated!

The entire spirit ground was there in their view, defenseless.

Moreover, they did not see any trace of the demon wolves that the rumors had mentioned.

What did this mean?

Song Zhui's gaze swept over various places of the spirit ground. Although he did not find any traces of demon wolves, it did not mean they weren't there. If Lu Yiye could set up a large array to conceal the entire spirit ground, hiding some demon wolves would naturally be no problem.

Song Zhui was certain that if they dared to step foot into the spirit ground, those hidden demon wolves would surely attack from all sides!

Such petty tricks—he saw right through them. It was like bringing an axe to a sword fight.

However, although the situation was unexpected, it actually made Ying Wuji's covert actions more convenient.

Originally, his plan with Ying Wuji was that he would lead people to break through the protective array of the spirit ground, and then Ying Wuji would take the opportunity to sneak in and assassinate Lu Yiye.

Now, given that the other party hadn't even activated the protective array, wouldn't Ying Wuji be able to enter freely, as if it were unguarded territory?

As numerous thoughts flashed through his mind, Song Zhui's face revealed a signature warm smile. Looking at Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan behind Lu Ye, he began to speak slowly, "Fellow Daoist Li, Fellow Daoist Feng, it's been years since we last met, and you both still radiate the same charm!"

When Song Zhui was in the Spirit Stream battlefield, he was ranked 3rd on the Spirit Stream Ranking!

That was the highest rank that cultivators could achieve during the reign of the three major tyrants who dominated the Spirit Stream Ranking.

The first was Feng Yuechan, and the second was Yanh Xing; neither was a match for the cultivators who came after them.

As a powerhouse on the Spirit Stream Ranking, Song Zhui naturally knew both Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan.

Li Baxian ignored him completely. Being in opposing factions, there was no need to show any courtesy. Instead, he whispered to Lu Ye, "Song Zhui from Yuanhong Hall is very strong, at least on the same level as Xia Liang. Don't be fooled by his sunny and cheerful appearance, he is actually very scheming."

Lu Ye nodded slightly; he had some idea of Xia Liang's strength. If this guy was on the same level as Xia Liang, he was certainly formidable.

Yuanhong Hall... Lu Ye suddenly remembered, wasn't this a 1st grade sect from Bingzhou within the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge?

As for Li Baxian's assessment of Song Zhui, it undoubtedly meant that the man was somewhat two-faced. However, it did not matter; Lu Ye did not need to engage in any schemes or trickery with them, as today's confrontation was an outright and direct plot!

Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan ignored him, but Song Zhui did not take it to heart. He now turned to Lu Ye and said, "Fellow Daoist Lu from the Righteous Blood Sect, I've long admired your reputation, Song Zhui offers his respects!"

With that, he greeted Lu Ye with all due civility.

Lu Ye responded casually, "Fellow Daoist Song has come from afar, why not come inside for a chat? Standing outside talking to me like this, if word gets around, people might think that we cultivators from the Righteous Blood Sect don't know how to receive guests properly!"

Song Zhui laughed heartily, "Fellow Daoist Lu jokes, sitting down for a chat can be postponed. I've heard that Fellow Daoist Lu has a very high level of skill in the Array Path, and I would not want to fall into any formation traps."

While smiling on the surface, he inwardly sneered, becoming more certain that Lu Ye had hidden some earth-shattering formation within this spirit ground, waiting for them to step in and catch them off guard.

"Why would that be?" Lu Ye's expression was as calm as still water, "All who come are guests, and I could not be more welcoming. How could I possibly set up any arrays like the Heavenly Net Earthly Fiend Array or the Startling Wings Sky-Soaring Array or even the Mount Sumeru Positive and Negative Invisible Sword Array to deal with you?"

The Heavenly Net Earthly Fiend Array...

The Startling Wings Sky-Soaring Array...

The Mount Sumeru Positive and Negative Invisible Sword Array...

What are all these formations?

A group of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were nervously twitching, looking at the spirit ground, feeling it fraught with danger and concealed murderous intent.

Chapter 620 Trade

Song Zhui laughed heartily, "Hearing about something a hundred times is not as good as seeing it once, Fellow Daoist Lu is truly interesting."

Born in Yuanhong Hall, he was well-versed in various classics. Though he didn't practice the Array Path, he understood some of the basic aspects quite well.

The few names Lu Ye mentioned casually were all big arrays that shook the heavens and the earth, which were impossible for someone from the Cloud River Realm to set up.

It was not possible for these arrays to exist in the spirit ground before him.

Whether there were other arrays, that was unknown...

The manner in which the other party invited someone into his trap showed he was utterly fearless.

"Is it very interesting?" Lu Ye's eyelids drooped, "Then let me show you something even more interesting!"

As he spoke, an array banner suddenly appeared in his hand and he waved it gently.

A loud boom sounded, followed by flames skyrocketing. In one part of the spirit ground, along with the violent fluctuation of spirit force, a hidden figure was suddenly revealed, engulfed by the flames, screaming miserably and quickly retreating.

It was indeed a ghost cultivator who tried to sneak into the spirit ground, possessing only cultivation at Level 6. It's unknown where he got the courage to act this way. At this moment, he was enveloped by the explosion magic array, his body all aflame. He managed to escape the range of the explosion magic array and collapsed directly on the ground, already breathing more out than in.

This sudden turn of events surprised all the cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, who all turned their heads to look at the ghost cultivator collapsed on the ground.

Before they could recover from their shock, Lu Ye's array banner had already swung again.

Boom boom boom...

Loud noises continuously emanated from all over the spirit ground, with bursts of flames rising and falling. Each sound was accompanied by a shout or a scream, and in each explosion magic array, there was a figure of a ghost cultivator.

In a short period of time, more than a dozen explosion magic arrays were triggered, revealing the whereabouts of more than a dozen hidden ghost cultivators, either dead or injured.

The people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were dumbstruck.

Although they also knew that ghost cultivators were hidden and acted stealthily, they had not expected there to be so many! And these were only the ones that were revealed. What about those that weren't?

These ghost cultivators... truly achieved little but failed much!

Even more terrifying to them was just how many formations Lu Yiye had set up in the spirit ground? Those ghost cultivators were scattered all over the locations in the spirit ground, yet they still couldn't avoid the fate of being harmed by the formations.

In this spirit ground now, it was feared that every step was upon a formation.

In the sky, Song Zhui furrowed his brows, watching the ghost cultivators whose figures were revealed. Although he knew that, given Ying Wuji's skills, it was not easy to reveal him, he still felt some worry. After a glance and seeing no sign of Ying Wuji among the more than ten ghost cultivators, he felt slightly relieved.

In a certain part of the spirit ground, Ying Wuji hid in the shadows, quietly approaching Lu Ye's location, soundless and not retreating despite the exposure of his fellow ghost cultivators.

As an outstanding ghost cultivator, he naturally dabbled in the Array Path, especially the Array Destruction Path, because often, ghost cultivators needed to sneak into arrays to assassinate their targets.

A saying circulated in the Nine Provinces cultivation world, that a ghost cultivator who doesn't understand the Array Path is not a qualified ghost cultivator!

During the times of the Spirit Stream Realm and the Cloud River Realm, the requirements for the Array Path for ghost cultivators were not high, but as their cultivation grew, their need for the Array Destruction Path increased as well.

This led to a strange phenomenon in the Nine Provinces cultivation world, where some who appeared to be masters of the Array Path, were actually ghost cultivators skilled in concealment and assassination...

In the realm of the Array Path, Ying Wuji was not as good as Lu Ye, but unlike those foolish ghost cultivators, he could at least discern some traces of formations. Therefore, on his way here, he had not triggered any formations or even stepped into the range covered by formations.

"Is it enjoyable?" Lu Ye put down the array banner in his hand.

Song Zhui took a deep breath and exclaimed with admiration, "I had long heard that Fellow Daoist Lu was highly skilled in the Array Path, but seeing is truly believing, I admire you, Master Song!"

Casually forcing the revelation of more than ten ghost cultivators' whereabouts, under such a threat, it was feared that other ghost cultivators hidden in the shadows would also not dare to take any rash actions.

So, success would depend on Ying Wuji!

Although the situation was unexpected, it was what Song Zhui had hoped to see. He did not need to do much, just attract Lu Ye's attention here, creating an opportunity for Ying Wuji to make a move.

If Ying Wuji made a move, then it was certain that Lu Yiye would undoubtedly die, and the purpose of this trip would be achieved.

With this thought, he slowly shook his head, "But Fellow Daoist Lu, forgive me for being outspoken, this is meaningless. Today, with hundreds of Fellow Daoists from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge gathered here, I suppose you understand what this means. Under such a great force, do you think you still have a chance to survive?"

"So it seems I am doomed?"

Song Zhui said, "Could it be that Fellow Daoist Lu still harbors some unrealistic fantasies? Naturally, even ants cling to life, let alone we cultivators. It's within reason that Fellow Daoist Lu doesn't accept his fate, but would you really want to involve others because of your own affairs?"

Lu Ye squinted slightly.

Song Zhui continued, "Regardless of how many big arrays Fellow Daoist Lu has laid down in this spirit ground, since many cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge have come today, we won't leave empty-handed! However, if we force action, I'm afraid both sides will suffer losses, with the likelihood that our side pays a certain price while your side is completely annihilated!" He raised his eyebrows, "Fellow Daoist Lu, how about we make a deal?"

Lu Ye's lips suddenly curved up, a smile flashing across his previously expressionless face, "Coincidentally, I also want to make a deal with you."

Song Zhui was surprised, "Oh? What kind of deal does Fellow Daoist Lu want to make, let us hear it."

"You first tell me yours."

Song Zhui was direct, "As I just mentioned, if a conflict arises, both sides will have to pay a price. What if Fellow Daoist Lu simply surrenders?"

"Are you still dreaming?"

Song Zhui said, "As long as Fellow Daoist Lu is willing to surrender, I can assure you that your three companions behind you will safely leave this place. If Fellow Daoist Lu doesn't trust me, I can swear by Heaven's Augury!"

"So that's it!" Lu Ye finally understood his intention, "That's a very sincere proposal."

To use one's own life to ensure the safety of Li Baxian and the others, if Lu Ye truly had no other strategies, this was indeed a proposal worth considering. Of course, Li Baxian and the others would definitely not agree.

"What does Fellow Daoist Lu think?"

"I..." Lu Ye had just begun to speak when he suddenly turned his head to look to the side, his eyes enhanced by Insight Spirit Runes in an instant, followed by him swiftly raising the array banner in his hand and swinging it down fiercely.

He had made such a move before, and the result was the sudden explosion of more than a dozen ghost cultivators. Now, with such a movement again, it was clear he had detected the presence of ghost cultivators.

It was just that this time, the hidden ghost cultivators were only about thirty feet away from him!

This was already an extremely dangerous distance, and, given the intimidating capability shown before, only Ying Wuji could infiltrate to such an extent!

The moment Lu Ye turned his gaze there, Ying Wuji felt incredibly surprised. Instinctively, he did not think his tracks had been exposed, but Lu Ye's gaze was fixed directly on his location, clearly aware of something.

How could this be?

Two months ago, even that True Lake Realm cultivator had not detected his approach—how could Lu Yiye be able to sense him?

He hadn't triggered any marks of a formation; was it possible that this fellow's spirit was even stronger than that deceased True Lake Realm cultivator's?

In the flickering darkness, a momentary exchange of looks ensued, and Ying Wuji already had his reaction. His entire being transformed into a dark shadow rushing toward Lu Ye at an astonishing speed.

Although he preferred to sneak up to Lu Ye and strike a fatal blow, since he had been exposed, he had no choice but to attack directly.

Ten meters away, as a Level 9 cultivator, Ying Wuji made a sudden move—there was no way the opponent could dodge it!

Lu Ye indeed did not dodge; he merely waved the marker for the formation in his hand.

The next instant, a dome covering a radius of several meters appeared out of nowhere, completely enclosing Ying Wuji in it.

Ying Wuji's heart skipped a beat upon seeing this dome. He immediately realized something was wrong because this dome gave him the feeling that it was a trap array!

The next moment, his entire being, wrapped in a fierce aura, crashed into the dome.

As expected, it truly was a trap array. Despite the full force of a blow from a Level 9 ghost cultivator, he could not break through that layer of light.

A chilling sensation overwhelmed him as within the trap array, intense and chaotic fluctuations of spirit force surged, and suddenly, bright flames burst forth in Ying Wuji's vision.

Boom, boom, boom, boom...

The explosion magic array erupted with power, and it wasn't just one array. Judging from the noise, it had to be at least three or four explosion magic arrays stacked together.

Moreover, being inside the trap array, it further amplified the power of the explosion magic arrays.

Outside the spirit ground, many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators's eyes twitched at this sight... it was painful to watch.

Amidst the rising flames, a muffled grunt was heard.

The light of the trap array only held for a moment before shattering...

It wasn't that the trap array arranged by Lu Ye wasn't sturdy; even a full-strength blow from such a powerful ghost cultivator like Ying Wuji hadn't managed to break it, which meant it was a qualified formation.

It was just that the combined eruption of several explosion magic arrays had exceeded the limits the trap array's light dome could withstand.

Almost in the instant the light dome of the trap array shattered, a dark shadow shot out from it, not towards Lu Ye but in the opposite direction.

Its speed was even faster than before, and the dark shadow's body was even covered in a dense layer of blood light—it was unclear which secret technique had been used.

The shadow flashed and vanished, darting out of the Great Reversal Valley and disappearing without a trace.

From beginning to end, no one had seen his true face.

Only Lu Ye, at the moment the adversary's figure was exposed, vaguely saw something but the opponent's face was covered with a black cat mask, so Lu Ye had also not seen his face, merely deducing from the burst of spirit force that this was a Level 9 ghost cultivator.

In the sky, Song Zhui watched the scene speechlessly.

Ying Wuji had failed!

Not only had he failed, but he had also been seriously injured!

This was truly an extreme irony...