

Humanity 621

Chapter 621 Lu Ye's Plan

Ying Wuji's abilities were somewhat known to Song Zhui, who was capable of killing True Lake ghosts beyond his own realm.

For such a powerful ghost cultivator to take action against a guy of Cloud River Level 5 realm, there certainly was no possibility of a mishap.

However, due to the sudden change, Ying Wuji had already fled severely wounded, leaving Song Zhui's previously confident plan to dissipate in an instant.

How on earth was Ying Wuji exposed? Song Zhui genuinely couldn't figure it out.

But now, thinking about this was meaningless; Ying Wuji had fled and could no longer be relied upon; to kill Lu Ye... there was only the option of a forceful attack!

Song Zhui actually didn't want to act this way because, by doing so, even if he killed Lu Ye, the benefits that would fall on him would not be substantial; at most it would enhance his fame and prestige a bit. In the future, whenever the cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge mentioned Lu Yiye, they would remember that he died in an operation led by Song Zhui.

What use was fame and prestige to him? Only tangible materials were truly beneficial.

The smile on Song Zhui's face disappeared, and his expression became solemn; it was only then that he realized he might have underestimated this Lu Yiye.

He sighed softly, then Song Zhui spoke, "Fellow Daoist Lu has yet to respond to my earlier proposal."

"I refuse!"

The resolute answer reached his ears, and Song Zhui nodded slightly.

As expected, if Lu Ye had really agreed to such a thing, that would have meant he was out of his mind. As Song Zhui had said before, even ants cherish their lives, let alone cultivators.

"Then the trade that Fellow Daoist Lu mentioned, what is it?"

Lu Ye's lips slightly curled up, showing a rare smile to the stranger, then raised his hand and gently waved.

A ripple passed through the space in front, and an object suddenly appeared in everyone's view.

Song Zhui's eyelids twitched sharply, and many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators also looked in astonishment at the suddenly appearing object, something familiar to every cultivator, something they had all encountered numerous times.

A murmuring voice emerged from the crowd, "Heaven's Augury Pillar!"

There was actually a Heaven's Augury Pillar in a small spirit ground, and from the looks of it, it had been there for a while but had always been concealed by a formation, unnoticed by others until now when, under Lu Ye's initiative, it was revealed to everyone.

There was no playing around with this!

With the Heaven's Augury Pillar present, Lu Yiye and the others could return to the Nine Provinces at any time. It wouldn't matter whether they faced a few hundred or even thousands or tens of thousands of people.

Unless they could stop those few from reaching the Heaven's Augury Pillar before they made contact, but at this moment, many cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were still outside the range of the spirit ground's formation, making it impossible to do such a thing.

In other words, Lu Ye and the others could retreat at any time.

Song Zhui finally realized why Li Baxian and the others had been quietly standing behind Lu Ye, appearing unflustered even under great pressure; they had such a reliance...

Thinking back to his own proposals and various statements just now, Song Zhui found them to be utterly ludicrous.

He was also extremely irritated in his heart; he had previously heard that Lu Yiye had called for a Heaven's Augury Pillar in the hunting grounds, escaping under tight encirclement, and now it turned out that he had called for another one in this spirit ground.

This was something worth a hundred thousand merits...

While most cultivators were still struggling for a few thousand to ten thousand merits, Lu Yiye managed to call for Heaven's Augury Pillars time and again.

He could not help but feel the same indignation as Xia Liang and Tan Sheng once did.

What enormously wealthy dogs they were!

What made Song Zhui even more frustrated was that the person who had secretly passed on the information earlier had not mentioned this; if he had known earlier that Lu Ye's spirit ground contained a Heaven's Augury Pillar, he would have acted more cautiously, making sure to deliver a fatal blow to Lu Ye before acting, instead of coming brazenly with hundreds of people.

It turned out to be a misunderstanding by Song Zhui.

The source of the information regarding Lu Ye's whereabouts this time came from Tu Guanxiong of the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground.

Tu Guanxiong was also unaware that there was a Heaven's Augury Pillar here...

Initially, Xia Liang had mentioned this matter to Huo Liaoyuan in secret, but Huo Liaoyuan, relying on his Fight to the Death Arena, did not care, and as Huo Liaoyuan died in the Deathmatch Arena, this information became unknown to anyone else.

The only ones aware of this were Xia Liang and Tan Sheng, but the two had already decided to let the people of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge press Lu Ye into giving up the spirit ground and would not publicize it widely.

When the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators saw the Heaven's Augury Pillar, their fighting spirits diminished greatly, all deeming this mission dull and pointless.

They were too far to intercept Lu Ye and the others before they reached the Heaven's Augury Pillar; although the hidden ghost cultivators could have had a chance, looking at the lesson of the predecessors, those ghost cultivators wouldn't dare easily infiltrate the spirit ground now.

After the Heaven's Augury Pillar was revealed, for a good dozen breaths, no one spoke.

Eventually, it was Song Zhui who broke the silence, "Is the trade that Fellow Daoist Lu mentioned related to this object?"

Lu Ye did not reply directly but instead said, "So many of you have gathered here for nothing other than my life. Perhaps... I might give you an opportunity?"

Behind him, Li Baxian frowned, feeling that something was amiss, and Feng Yuechan also sensed it, turning her head to look at Li Baxian.

Both of them felt that Lu Ye's actions today were somewhat odd, but they did not interfere due to trust. However, what exactly Lu Ye was planning, they were also unsure.

Only Giant Armor, unmovable like a mountain, stood there with an indifferent attitude. His mindset was simple— if there was a fight, he would be at the forefront; if not, he would stand guard here.

"What do you mean by that?" Song Zhui asked, puzzled.

"Quite simple!" Lu Ye looked at him. "I will leave this place, but none of you from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge may destroy my spirit ground!"

"Junior Brother!" Li Baxian immediately chided him. It was only at this moment that he finally understood what Lu Ye was planning. He was somewhat puzzled by Lu Ye's actions, as retreating back to the Nine Provinces was the safest and most prudent choice. Why would Junior Brother say such a thing?

With his back to him, Lu Ye spoke softly, "Brother, since I have been targeted by the people of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, hiding is not an option unless I stay in the Nine Provinces and never enter the Cloud River battlefield. But once I enter the Cloud River battlefield, there will always be various people wanting to kill me. Last time, Xia Liang and his group managed to find this place. What about the next time? No matter how well I hide, there will still be others who seek me out."

"Rather than hiding in one place, it's better to wander around. That way, it's not easy for others to pinpoint my location. As for safety, Brother, you needn't worry too much. Although there are indeed many on the Cloud River battlefield whose strength surpasses mine, there aren't many who are faster than me. Moreover, I am all too familiar with being hunted. Ever since the Spirit Stream battlefield, those who have tried to kill me have generally not ended well."

The last sentence made Li Baxian feel extremely bitter... Reflecting on his junior brother's various encounters on the Spirit Stream battlefield, it indeed often involved being chased.

"I understand what you are saying, but you should not proceed this way, Junior Brother. Let's retreat to the Nine Provinces first as planned and talk about the future later."

"Brother, merely evading won't solve anything. only a strong counter-attack can make them wary, they dare to target me like this, then I must kill them! Avoiding it this time means there will be a next time, and the time after that. Brother, you surely don't want to see me always dodging whenever troubles arise, right?"

"Then I will join you!"

Lu Ye shook his head. "Brother, just stay here and focus on your cultivation, and also keep an eye on Giant Armor for me. Given his temperament, if unregulated, he might end up causing trouble. Besides, it's more convenient for me to act alone."

Li Baxian still wanted to say something, but Feng Yuechan gently tugged at his sleeve and said, "Junior Brother Lu, if you really do this, you will be in constant danger every moment. Are you sure about this?"

"It's up to people to make things happen!"

In mid-air, Song Zhui was stunned for a good while before finally reacting, somewhat astonished, "Is this the deal you were talking about, Fellow Daoist Lu?"

"Exactly!"

Song Zhui frowned, unclear about what Lu Ye really wanted.

Given the current situation, using Heaven's Augury Pillar to return to the Nine Provinces was the safest and most correct choice. Yet, he proposed such a deal, undeniably taking a great risk, and at best, it was only to protect a spirit ground, yet it gave them an opportunity at Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

But such a deal was something the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side had no reason to refuse, even something they would likely welcome.

Thus, after a brief ponder, Song Zhui nodded, "Agreed!"

No matter what the other party planned, agreeing to it was never wrong.

"Do we need to make a Heaven's Augury oath?" Song Zhui then asked. The deal was too favorable to Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, favorably enough that Song Zhui felt somewhat uneasy without making a Heaven's Augury oath.

"No need," Lu Ye said indifferently. As he spoke, he started walking to the side.

"Junior Brother!" Li Baxian still wanted to stop Lu Ye, grabbing his arm.

Lu Ye looked at him with a smile. "Brother, don't worry too much. Experiencing hardships isn't necessarily a bad thing."

As their eyes met, Li Baxian saw the determination in Lu Ye's eyes; he knew all too well that what Lu Ye said was true. Dodging this time would lead to the next, and then another after that. It wouldn't do to always evade so awkwardly, but he still couldn't help but worry.

Even though Lu Ye could now handle things on his own, in his eyes, Lu Ye was still that junior brother who needed him and Weh Ying to protect him at Golden Light Peak.

After a long time, Li Baxian finally said gravely, "Be very careful in everything!"

He wanted to accompany Lu Ye, but if he were to go, Feng Yuechan would undoubtedly follow, and then they couldn't leave Giant Armor behind. Four people moving together would not be as free and convenient as Lu Ye alone.

"I know!" Lu Ye responded with a smile.

Li Baxian released his arm.

Lu Ye walked to the side and stood still, his spirit force activated, and patterns of a big array rapidly emerged and lit up at his feet.

Song Zhui and a group of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators stared, puzzled at the suddenly appearing Formation, not knowing what exactly it was.

Within the formation, Lu Ye looked up at Song Zhui and gently said, "Remember our deal. Should anyone dare destroy my spirit ground, I will return to the Spirit Stream battlefield and destroy their sect's post."

Song Zhui finally understood why Lu Ye did not require him to make a Heaven's Augury oath.

While a Heaven's Augury oath certainly had an absolute binding effect, Lu Ye's words of threat were also significant. With those words laid down, as long as Lu Ye was alive, it was unlikely anyone would dare target his spirit ground.

Chapter 622 Narrow Road for Enemies

The patterns within the great array became increasingly bright, and the space around Lu Ye suddenly began to distort, causing him to disappear abruptly.

This extraordinary scene caused everyone to freeze on the spot, and Song Zhui instinctively stepped forward, causing a stir among the crowd behind him.

In broad daylight, under the watchful eyes of the public, a living person just vanished like this, and not through the effects of the Heaven's Augury Pillar...

If it wasn't witnessed with their own eyes, no one would dare to believe it.

"It's a teleportation array! That's a teleportation array!" Suddenly, a voice cried out in the crowd, belonging to an array cultivator who had once read about the setup of a teleportation array in a book and had been very interested in it, even studying it for a while. However, he realized that with his own talent in the Array Path, he probably couldn't set up such a complex formation in his lifetime, mainly because the core components, the Void Spirit Runes, were too difficult to construct.

Moreover, in the Nine Provinces cultivation world, because there are gifts of Heaven's Augury like the Heaven's Augury Pillar, the use of teleportation arrays was not very significant, so after studying it for a while, he had no choice but to give up.

But he ultimately recognized the patterns of the teleportation array.

He couldn't believe that the formation he spent his life unable to deploy was actually set up by someone in the Cloud River Realm.

This Lu Yiye's understanding of the Array Path probably exceeded everyone's imagination!

Once these words were spoken, shock ensued all around. Although their hearts were shaken, they finally understood why Lu Ye had disappeared into thin air.

It was actually a teleportation array!

If there were any Divine Sea Realm strong cultivators present, they might have been able to sense the distortion of space through their Mental Consciousness and trace the direction of Lu Ye's teleportation, but a bunch of Cloud River Realm cultivators didn't possess such ability.

Once Lu Ye's figure disappeared, they would no longer be able to track his whereabouts.

Song Zhui clenched his fists tightly, his expression filled with anger, feeling that he had been played by Lu Ye!

Lu Ye had previously proposed a deal, that he would leave the spirit ground, giving those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge the chance to kill him, while they must not destroy his spirit ground, otherwise, he would return to the Spirit Stream battlefield and break the base of their sect.

Song Zhui had thought that Lu Ye would fly out of the spirit ground. In his mind, as long as Lu Ye dared to leave the spirit ground, he would be able to chase and kill him immediately. A cultivator in the Cloud River Level 5 realm wouldn't possibly be able to escape him no matter what.

But now Lu Ye had been teleported away, and who knows where he had been sent to?

Just as Song Zhui was extremely angered, the array cultivator who had spoken before spoke again: "Senior Brother Song, Lu Yiye can't be far from here. His cultivation isn't high, so the range of the teleportation array he set up is limited, at most two or three hundred miles!"

Song Zhui's expression brightened: "Are you sure?"

"There's absolutely no mistake!" the array cultivator said decisively.

Song Zhui's eyes showed a glimmer of hope, and he immediately ordered, "Spread out and search for Lu Yiye's traces. If anyone finds him, sound the alarm with a whistle!"

Two or three hundred miles was truly nothing for Cloud River Realm cultivators, so even though they had temporarily lost sight of him, with so many people spreading out, they might still be able to find him.

At his command, hundreds of cultivators scattered away from the spirit ground, sweeping in all directions.

The situation was undoubtedly a godsend for the cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. All the cultivators present were above Level 6 Realm, and each possessed full confidence that if they found Lu Yiye, they would be able to slay him! Previously, under Song Zhui's leadership, the reward for killing Lu Yiye had to be shared with everyone, but now there was an opportunity to monopolize the reward, and they could not miss it. Each one of them, excited and worked up as if having drunk chicken blood, set out in high spirits.

Within the spirit ground, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan looked on with complex expressions as the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators thunderously departed without paying them any more attention.

Feng Yuechan took out the jade cluster that controlled the many great arrays of the spirit ground, revealing a dawning realization: "So that was Junior Brother Lu's plan all along."

The great arrays within the spirit ground were arranged by Lu Ye, and naturally, the Great Array Jade Cluster was always under his control. However, just yesterday, Lu Ye had found Feng Yuechan and handed the Great Array Jade Cluster over to her, returning also the small umbrella Spiritual Artifact he had borrowed from her before.

At the time, Feng Yuechan didn't understand why Lu Ye would hand the Great Array Jade Cluster over to her. Now looking back, she realized that Lu Ye never intended to return to the Nine Provinces from the start.

Thinking about it, he had been cultivating safely here, but had been harassed time and again, with various provocations and pressures. In such a situation, how could he stay?

Previously in the hunting grounds, forced and with no alternative, he had already returned to the Nine Provinces once.

This time, naturally, he was not willing to repeat the same mistake, so he left, ready to fight a battle with the cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

"Senior Brother, since Junior Brother Lu has done this, he must have a certain level of confidence," Feng Yuechan said, turning her head to look at Li Baxian and comforting him.

Li Baxian sighed. After all, it was his own uselessness; if he had been at the Cloud River Level 9 realm, he would have killed anyone who came today, why would his junior brother need to endure such humiliation?

He turned to look at Giant Armor, expecting that with Lu Ye gone, Giant Armor would surely not remain quiet and might even chase after him. However, the creature simply stood quietly in place as if nothing had happened.

Then, Giant Armor turned around and walked into his wooden hut to cultivate.

Yesterday, Lu Ye had asked him to stay here and wait...

Just like before when Lu Ye asked him to wait in place, resulting in him waiting for two months, now that Lu Ye had asked him to continue waiting, then he would just wait.

There was no need to think too much, whatever Lu Ye said, he would do.

"Let's cultivate," Li Baxian said.

Junior Brother Lu risked immense dangers to protect this Class A spirit ground, certainly for his own considerations, but also perhaps to leave his fellow cultivators a good environment for cultivation.

Junior Brother Lu had already left, and there was no way he could help. The only thing he could do was to practice diligently, striving to boost his own cultivation as soon as possible.

If one day he encountered such a situation again, he would never be as powerless as he was today!

Feng Yuechan activated the Heaven's Augury Great Array Jade Cluster. The spirit ground's protective array and hiding array were triggered, and soon the vast expanse of the spirit ground vanished from sight.

In a cave more than two hundred li from the Great Reversal Spirit Ground, Lu Ye's figure suddenly appeared.

Although he had instantaneously moved over two hundred li away with the help of the teleportation array, this location was not safe. The cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge would certainly scatter to search for his tracks, so what he needed to do now was only one thing: move as far away from the Great Reversal Valley as possible, preferably leaving the Great Wilderness Mountain.

This was not actually too difficult for him, possessing Concealment and Breath-concealing Spirit Runes. Although a combat cultivator, he also had the means of a ghost cultivator. There were certainly many people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, but finding him would not be that easy.

As he stepped out of the cave, Lu Ye was about to embark on his journey but suddenly paused.

Not far in front of him, a man with a pale complexion and wearing a black cat mask, looked weak and turned his head to look his way.

Their eyes met, and Lu Ye placed his hand on the Boulder Mountain Saber's hilt, his expression one of interest.

Wasn't this the ghost cultivator who had closed in within twenty zhang of him just now? In such a short period, this man had actually made his way here, and coincidentally, Lu Ye ran straight into him!

Indeed, enemies often cross each other's paths.

Lu Ye didn't know the name or origins of this ghost cultivator, the only thing he knew was that the other had Level 9 cultivation.

Under the black cat mask, Ying Wuji's expression showed surprise.

He didn't understand why Lu Ye would appear here and for a moment thought that the man merely looked similar to Lu Ye.

But Amber perched on Lu Ye's shoulder was an unmistakable identifier. It made no sense for someone to look exactly like Lu Ye and also carry an identical creature.

This guy was indeed Lu Yiye!

No matter why the other had suddenly appeared here, for Ying Wuji, this was like a big fish walking right into his net.

The gaze of the two met briefly before they simultaneously sprang into action.

Two figures stirred up fierce winds, clashing with a thunderous impact.

Two dirks had appeared in Ying Wuji's hands out of nowhere, each one only three inches longer than a dagger, covered in a black lightless surface that looked quite similar to the Boulder Mountain Saber in color.

It was just that the Boulder Mountain Saber had changed its color when it was upgraded as some material was added by the woman who claimed to be Feathered Master, whereas the color of the dirks

in Ying Wuji's hands was deliberately made so. As a ghost cultivator who needed to kill silently, black dirks undoubtedly reduced the risk of being exposed significantly.

He used one dirk to block the chop from Lu Ye's Boulder Mountain Saber while the other dirk went straight for the area of Lu Ye's throat.

With his cultivation surpassing Lu Ye's by more than four minor levels, he couldn't understand where Lu Ye got the courage to initiate an attack on him, but he could almost foresee the scene where his opponent would be killed in one strike.

If he knew that Huo Liaoyuan had thought the same before his death, he wouldn't be so relaxed.

An overpowering force suddenly struck, and under the black cat mask, Ying Wuji's expression changed instantly.

In that moment, he felt as though he wasn't facing a Level 5 cultivator, but a strong opponent of equal strength!

He couldn't help but lean backward, and the dirk aimed at Lu Ye's throat lost its target.

He hastily steadied himself, yet Lu Ye's second saber strike was already descending.

In a cultivator's conflict, especially in close combat like this, there's often the risk of a single misstep leading to complete defeat.

At this moment, Ying Wuji paid the price for his carelessness.

As the second saber came down, the force was even heavier than the first, numbing the arm holding the dirk. His figure recoiled again, this time stepping back several steps.

Then came the third strike, the fourth strike...

The clanging of metal resounded with each clash, and Ying Wuji was forced back several steps each time. Now needing to block with both dirks rather than just one, his arms were numb, his palms split, and his heart sunk to the bottom!

If it had been his prime, he certainly wouldn't have been so embarrassed, but earlier when he sneaked into the spirit ground, he had been injured by several explosion arrays and had been forced to use a secret escape technique. Now, he was far from his best, unable to exert even half of his peak strength!

But even with only half his strength, handling a Level 5 cultivator should be more than enough.

But is this... the strength that a Level 5 cultivator should be able to exert?

Chapter 623 Revenge Should Be Taken Early

In the rush of the moment, as they exchanged five slashes, Ying Wuji already felt a chill throughout his body. In that instant, his figure uncontrollably leaned backward, leaving his front wide open.

In his field of vision, a long saber thrust directly at him.

There was no escape, no avoiding it.

The injuries he had sustained in Great Reversal Valley and the price of activating secret techniques had slowed his reaction significantly, leaving him powerless against this strike.

At the initial clash, Ying Wuji was shocked by Lu Ye's displayed strength, feeling that he could match him evenly.

But in just a short span of two breaths, what he thought was an even match turned into complete domination...

He frantically urged his protective spirit force, watching helplessly as the long saber stabbed into his chest. A flicker of light burst from the pitch-black blade, where complex and intricate patterns flashed momentarily.

Enhanced by Double-Sharpness spirit runes!

His already chaotic spirit force, hastily gathered, couldn't provide much protection. Under this blade strike, the protective spirit force was directly penetrated, with the Boulder Mountain Saber piercing Ying Wuji's chest.

Lu Ye raised his eyebrows. At the moment when the saber pierced the other's body, he felt something in the opponent's chest obstructing the saber's advance, even emitting a slight 'ding' sound.

This ghost cultivator wearing a black cat mask possessed a treasure similar to the Heart Protecting Mirror.

"Pfff..." Utilizing the impact's force, Ying Wuji's figure retreated explosively, and he couldn't help but spit out a mouthful of blood—this was not due to injury inflicted by Lu Ye, but because of previous wounds he had suffered.

Quickly creating some distance, Ying Wuji had no further thoughts of confronting Lu Ye. He turned and ascended into the air.

Lu Ye had already chased up. However, just as he started to dash forward, he saw Ying Wuji wrapped in a blood-red mist as he flew up, as if all his blood Qi were boiling and evaporating, instantly transforming into a streak of red light fleeing into the distance.

Such speed was something even Lu Ye, with his Wings enhanced flight, could not match!

It was that kind of secret technique again.

Previously in Great Reversal Valley, this ghost cultivator had used this technique to escape, and now, in such a short time, he had used it again.

No matter what the technique was, from the signs of its activation, it was clear it was not a simple one. Once activated, it must have a great backlash.

Lu Ye did not pursue him, although he felt that if he chased, he likely could kill the opponent. But he too was being pursued, having just teleported out of the Great Reversal Spirit Ground, and his priority was to quickly hide.

Now, Lu Ye faced only two choices, delve deeper into Great Wilderness Mountain or leave it.

He was already in a very deep part of Great Wilderness Mountain, but because packs of wolves often hunted here, there were generally no demon beasts near the spirit ground. If he were to go deeper into Great Wilderness Mountain, he was likely to encounter some powerful demon beasts, which would not include Overlord-class creatures like the Berserk Giant Ape. However, for a cultivator, certain powerful birds of prey could be even more dangerous than the Berserk Giant Ape.

If he were to leave Great Wilderness Mountain, he wouldn't need to worry about encountering any demon beasts. Instead, he would face the numerous cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

While only hundreds attacked the spirit ground this time—due to weaker cultivators being unable to reach this deep—the few hundred who did were all above Level 6 realm.

By now, with word spreading, the number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators hurrying to the outskirts of Great Wilderness Mountain was not merely hundreds, but likely thousands, and with time, the number would only increase.

It seemed like there were two choices, but in reality, Lu Ye had only one option in front of him.

He had risked leaving the spirit ground not using Heaven's Augury Pillar to return to Nine Provinces, not to avoid Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators.

In the Spirit Stream battlefield, he had been pursued by various parties, but once his power was strong enough, he dominated the entire battlefield, making many sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge tremble before him.

Now, he was far from dominating the Cloud River battlefield, but power, after all, was accumulated bit by bit.

Moreover, the situation in Cloud River battlefield was different from Spirit Stream battlefield; there were no sect bases here. In Spirit Stream battlefield, if someone troubled him, they could run from the monk, but not from the temple.

In Cloud River battlefield, that was not the case. Even if someone provoked him and he was not the match now, avenging later might not even be possible, as finding the person again would be difficult.

Therefore, in Cloud River battlefield, avenging needs to happen sooner rather than later, preferably without delay.

Without hesitation, Lu Ye immediately headed toward the direction on the outskirts of Great Wilderness Mountain.

A quarter hour later, several streaks of flow light swept across the sky, leading them was none other than Yuanhong Hall's Song Zhui, surrounded by several of his junior brothers and sisters. Previously hidden within the crowd, secretly endorsing his words and adding fuel to the fire, now, with Ying Wuji's plan to jointly assassinate Lu Ye gone awry and Lu Ye having escaped the spirit ground using the teleportation array, the hundreds of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators scattered to search, there was no need for them to hide anymore.

Together, as long as they could locate Lu Ye, capturing him would be as easy as pinching a snail.

At this moment, they were hurriedly flying nearby, not too high, and seemed to be searching for something as they flew.

"Senior Brother, over there!" Suddenly, a Level 8 cultivator pointed towards a spot below.

Song Zhui fixed his gaze and immediately led several people to descend.

Not far ahead, a man wearing a black cat mask leaned against a large rock, his head hung low, motionless. His clothes were dyed red with blood, making him appear as though he had been soaked in blood water.

Strangely, there were no evident external injuries on his body.

This man was none other than Ying Wuji, although he looked different from when he had appeared in the spirit ground and even just a moment ago in front of Lu Ye—now, Ying Wuji seemed to have lost a lot of weight.

In such a short time, having used escape secret techniques twice in succession, this was the price he had to pay.

And as for secret techniques, they were not something to be used lightly... If Ying Wuji's foundation hadn't been robust enough, he might have died from the exertion.

"Is he dead?" a Level 7 female cultivator asked softly. Anyone who suddenly saw Ying Wuji in this state would likely think he had died.

His drooping head suddenly lifted, and the hands that hung by his side moved as well. Ying Wuji spoke with difficulty, "Don't talk nonsense... cough cough..." Amid his violent coughing, blood trailed from the corners of his mouth.

Song Zhui frowned, "How did it come to this?"

Even though Ying Wuji was wounded in the Great Reversal Spirit Ground by a formation set by Lu Ye, and even though he had activated a secret technique, he shouldn't have become so weak.

He finally understood why Ying Wuji had suddenly sent him a message, asking him to come.

In such a condition, if no one came to protect him, any demon beast could easily kill Ying Wuji. Ying Wuji was unmistakably calling for someone to save his life.

"Lu... Yiye!" Ying Wuji spoke.

"What?" Song Zhui was stunned, then suddenly realized, "You encountered Lu Yiye? Where?"

Ying Wuji struggled to raise a hand, pointing in a direction, "Forty li away..." Having said that, his raised hand fell, as he truly had no strength left. With such injuries, he wouldn't recover without a half-month to a month of rest.

For someone like him, who had even killed those in the True Lake Realm, such a state was extremely unsightly and filled him with shame.

Song Zhui immediately rose into the air, hurriedly sweeping toward the direction Ying Wuji had indicated, while calling out, "Junior Brother Liu, stay behind and take care of him!"

Ying Wuji's weak voice came again from beside his ear, "Don't... be careless, he's very strong!"

Song Zhui did not heed the warning. Lu Yiye was just a Level 5 cultivator, how could he be stronger than himself? The most urgent task now was to locate him.

Song Zhui and a few others quickly left, leaving behind a man with a full beard, the very Junior Brother Liu.

After all, Ying Wuji was a cultivator from Senluo Hall, part of the same Bingzhou sect as Yuanhong Hall. Being as close as siblings, Song Zhui naturally wouldn't ignore his life or death. With Junior Brother Liu at Level 7 cultivation, taking care of the injured Ying Wuji shouldn't be a problem.

Following the direction Ying Wuji had indicated, Song Zhui led several junior brothers and sisters swiftly to the cave where Lu Ye and Song Zhui had fought. Carefully examining it, they confirmed there had indeed been a fight here, but the signs were few, suggesting the confrontation hadn't lasted long.

On further exploration inside the cave, they discovered a concealed formation. Even though they knew nothing about the Array Path, they could be certain it was a teleportation array left by Lu Ye!

Lu Ye had indeed used this teleportation array to come directly here from the Great Reversal Valley.

There weren't many useful clues, and although they could ascertain Ying Wuji had encountered Lu Ye here, pinpointing his current location was challenging.

They had no choice but to continue the search.

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Under Song Zhui's leadership, hundreds of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators pressed into Lu Ye's spirit ground in the hopes of a crucial battle, yet an astonishing turn of events occurred.

There was a Heaven's Augury Pillar within that spirit ground!

Though Lu Ye had the chance to return directly to the Nine Provinces using the Heaven's Augury Pillar's power, he made a surprising decision instead.

He left his spirit ground through the teleportation array and declared that if anyone dared violate his spirit ground, he would break their sect's base at the Spirit Stream battlefield!

Nobody knew why Lu Ye would make such an irrational move, but it undeniably gave the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators great hope.

Currently, Lu Ye was hiding somewhere in the Great Wilderness Mountain. Whoever could find him would stand a chance to gain a massive reward.

With each cultivator's battlefield marking spreading from one to another, within the span of a short day, countless Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators received this news.

Especially those within the Great Wilderness Mountain, who couldn't reach the Great Reversal Valley, they lacked sufficient cultivation and strength to venture deeper into the mountain. They thought their journey was in vain, yet the situation dramatically turned, bringing them new hope.

Immediately, they all began searching with renewed vigor.

However, despite an entire day's effort, the numerous Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators in the Great Wilderness Mountain failed to find any trace of Lu Ye, leaving his whereabouts a mystery.

Chapter 624 Hunting Time

Night fell, and the sky was enveloped in darkness as a crescent moon rose, with myriad stars twinkling overhead.

Some five hundred miles from Great Reversal Valley, in a mountain wilderness, several cultivators were besieging a green-eyed porcupine.

While Great Wilderness Mountain was fraught with danger, it was rich in opportunities: rare demon beasts, precious medicinal materials, and many minerals that were difficult to find outside. All these prospects held immense attraction for cultivators.

Cultivators are a group that gravitates toward benefits, as the path of cultivation consumes vast amounts of resources. The monthly allowances given by sects to their disciples are insufficient to meet the demands of cultivation, and this is true for both minor and big sects.

It's not that the sects are stingy; rather, they use this method to encourage their disciples to obtain more cultivation materials through their own means, and also as a way to temper them.

Otherwise, if one only knows cultivation without understanding the art of combat, even high cultivation would be nothing but an empty shell.

Only Lu Ye could access the treasure vault of his sect to take cultivation materials without any restrictions... The vast resources piled up in the vault had all been plundered by him from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, rightfully his. Although Shui Yuan nominally managed the distribution of sect resources, how could she make things difficult for him over such a trifling matter?

Before Lu Ye's appearance, the Righteous Blood Sect couldn't be said to be impoverished, yet it didn't have many resources either, and even Shui Yuan's cultivation was affected. Otherwise, with her aptitude, she could have advanced to the Divine Sea Realm long ago, instead of only just achieving it last year.

Today, through various actions taken by Lu Ye, the amount of resources stacked in the Righteous Blood Sect's treasure vault was beyond calculation.

Within Great Wilderness Mountain, the green-eyed porcupines were quite a common species of demon beast, found everywhere. Despite being common, they were valuable, their flesh extremely tender and beneficial for Body Refining. Consumed over a period, it could enhance blood Qi.

Let alone the fact that within bodies of demon generals, there lay demonic pills.

The stronger the green-eyed porcupine was, the more valuable it became.

The beast the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were dealing with was a Demon General equivocal to a Cloud River Level 8 creature, judging by its Demon Origin fluctuations.

The cultivators, all of Level 6-7 strength, coordinated with each other, with a physique cultivator drawing the porcupine's attention while the combat, magic, and spectre cultivators looked for an opportunity to make deadly strikes, controlling the situation perfectly.

The battle had continued for a while, and the porcupine was covered in wounds, its body dyed with blood, emitting low growls. But in the end, it struggled in vain. Each time it tried to break free and flee, violent attacks thrust it back.

If nothing unexpected occurred, it would not take long for the group to defeat the demon beast.

Since their search for Lu Ye bore no fruit and they stumbled upon a demon beast of decent value, they simply decided to capture it. This was not an experience unique to these Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators; similar scenes were common throughout Great Wilderness Mountain nowadays.

While the cultivators were focused on the demon beast before them, nobody expected that in the darkness, a figure was silently closing in on them.

It was only when an unusual sound erupted, followed by a brief scream, that they were jolted with alarm.

Turning their heads, they saw a combat cultivator in their team kneeling on the ground, clutching his chest. Behind him, a figure emerged from the darkness and was withdrawing a saber from the combat cultivator's body.

As everyone turned in that direction, the figure darted toward a nearby magic cultivator with a shocking speed.

The magic cultivator, who was casting spells, became frantic upon seeing this. He hastily stopped his magic and spells, retreating at speed while rapidly channeling his protective spirit force.

In the blink of an eye, a figure appeared before the magic cultivator. The immense oppression made it nearly impossible for him to breathe. Instinctively, he activated his spirit force, blasting out a wave of air that swept outwards with a great repelling force. However, the figure that had abruptly appeared before him vanished suddenly, and at the same time, a flash of saber light streaked past his periphery.

The protective spirit force lasted less than three breaths before completely shattering. The last thing the magic cultivator felt was a trivial pain spreading within him, which quickly became clear and intense, causing him to scream in agony.

When the bright saber light flashed by, the scream was cut off abruptly.

"Lu Yiye!" Someone exclaimed in shock—it was a spectre cultivator who cried out, his heart overcome with an eerie sense of horror. In just a couple of breaths, two of their four-person team had been killed, and along with sorrow, he was filled with confusion.

Wasn't Lu Yiye a combat cultivator? Yet, the method of his ghost-like appearance seemed to belong to a spectre cultivator. Had he also been practicing the spectre cultivation methods?

He had never heard of such a thing...

Even with surprise and dismay, he instinctively lunged at Lu Yiye.

There was no other reason—it's just that he was a Level 7 cultivator, and Lu Yiye a mere Level 5. The other could kill his companions due to stealth and surprise, but now that he'd been exposed, there was certainly no reason to miss this opportunity.

If he could kill Lu Yiye, would not the rewards be far more valuable than a mere green-eyed porcupine? It would be like countless green-eyed porcupines!

He seemed to see a vision of his own future prosperity, built on the massive reward.

However, three breaths later, his excitement and agitation were completely replaced by intense shock.

Sparks flew as spiritual weapons clashed. The Level 7 spectre cultivator staggered back, disbelief plastered on his face. In a head-to-head confrontation, he was fully suppressed by a combat cultivator with only Level 5 cultivation...

It wasn't just suppression; it was outright domination.

The force behind the other's strikes, the speed, the response to changes in the fight, all far surpassed his own.

5 breaths later, the ghost cultivator's arms had become completely numb, and his spirit force was scattered to the extreme by the shocks of their confrontation.

Another two breaths, and a head flew up, its headless body falling to the ground.

Lu Ye immediately turned around and charged at the physique cultivator.

The physique cultivator's eyes were about to split open, pained by the death of his companion and more terrified by the formidable strength Lu Ye displayed. A Level 5, in such a short time, had killed three of his companions; had it not happened right before his eyes, he would never have believed it.

When Lu Ye killed the second magic cultivator, he wanted to come to help. However, the injured, pained, green-eyed porcupine was like a frenzied beast, charging at him over and over, leaving him no chance to escape.

A Demon General with a cultivation comparable to Cloud River Level 8, the four of them could have easily dealt with it together, but now that he was alone, he could barely hold his ground.

If he ignored it, the physique cultivator was sure the green-eyed porcupine's tusks would puncture several holes in him.

Watching the third ghost cultivator companion die under Lu Ye's saber, the physique cultivator realized he was in big trouble...

With Lu Ye joining the attack, the death of the Level 7 physique cultivator was certain. The green-eyed porcupine also seemed to know that Lu Ye was not an enemy; its blood-red eyes only saw the physique cultivator, disregarding Lu Ye completely.

The moment his protective spirit force collapsed, the physique cultivator let the green-eyed porcupine pierce two holes in his waist and abdomen, while his spirit artifact big shield blocked the chop of Lu Ye's long saber. Immediately after, he stirred his spirit force and let out a long howl!

Song Zhui had said before that if they found Lu Yiye, they should alert others with a howl. In this last moment of his life, he finally remembered this.

He certainly would not have a good end, but he wouldn't make it easy for Lu Ye either.

The howling stopped with the fall of the Boulder Mountain Saber's blade, and Lu Ye didn't even have time to clean up the spoils of war before he plunged into the night and quickly disappeared.

The blood-soaked green-eyed porcupine also charged in another direction, fleeing for its life.

A short while later, a team that heard the howl hurried over only to find four corpses lying on the ground, a chaotic battlefield, and the pungent smell of blood filling the air.

...

At another location, three cultivators had just gone through a battle of hunting demon beasts and were each sitting in meditation to recuperate.

Among the three, there was a magic cultivator who also practised the Array Path. Before sitting down to recuperate, he had set up a few simple warning Arrays nearby, which would alert them if any demon beasts approached.

This was why the three of them dared to meditate together peacefully.

However, when Lu Ye lurked up to them, those simple warning Arrays failed to give any warning.

He himself was an array cultivator, with much deeper knowledge in the Array Path than the magic cultivator, and even without using Insight Spirit Runes, just by looking with his eyes, he could see traces of the Formations.

In his eyes, the level of array setup by the other party was hardly presentable.

Approaching the target, suddenly bursting into action, the battle erupted abruptly and ended swiftly...

Some ten or so breaths later, when Lu Ye left the area after collecting the spoils of war, only three corpses with eyes wide open in death remained on the ground.

...

An odd fragrance drifted in the air; a cultivator followed the scent to this place and immediately saw a purple flower growing in a crevice of a rock. The flower had five petals, each with unique patterns that, at a quick glance, looked like an open eye.

The attracted cultivator was not an expert in pharmacology, but as a qualified cultivator, he had the ability to identify some rare and valuable materials.

He recognized at a glance that this purple flower was a rare medicinal material, mentioned it to his companion, and excitedly took out tools to collect the herb.

However, as he reached out, a pitch-black long saber suddenly attacked from the side. The cultivator didn't even have time to react before the saber pierced through his heart from his ribs.

As the saber was drawn out, it sprayed a gush of hot blood.

His companion instinctively launched counterattacks amidst screams, but was met with a storm of saber slashes.

...

A figure streaked across the sky, his spirit force fluctuations clearly revealing him to be a Level 8 cultivator.

Even though night had fallen, he did not give up searching for Lu Ye; he knew the longer it took and the more the night dragged on, the harder it would be to find Lu Ye's tracks. At the same time, he had to guard against being outdone by other powerful beings of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

His formidable Level 8 powers were the confidence for his solo venture; he had received offers to team up with others but had declined them all.

Sharing the spoils with others was never as satisfying as reaping the rewards alone.

Chapter 625 Own Skills

In order to track down Lu Ye, the Level 8 cultivator kept his flight low, hovering around forty meters above the ground.

This was a clever altitude, ensuring that he could observe the situation on the ground while also having enough time to react and manoeuvre in case of an attack.

From this alone, it was clear that this person was someone with abundant experience.

As he flew past a certain area, a faint ripple of spirit force suddenly emerged from below. Had he not been extremely focused, he would have probably missed this anomaly.

He immediately looked towards the source and saw a figure flitting through the forest like a startled bird. Despite the darkness of night, the figure was distinctly visible to him.

"Lu Yiye!" The cultivator was overjoyed, not expecting to truly find Lu Ye's trace. Feeling his own fortune, he quickly pursued, appearing in front of Lu Ye in the blink of an eye, then dropped from the sky, half airborne, with a cleaver in hand. With spirit force surging, he swooped down on Lu Ye like a eagle preying, slashing towards him.

With a clang, Lu Ye, who was in mid-flight, was pressed down by a great force, causing him to stoop. The collision of spirit force on their Spiritual Artifacts erupted with a boom.

In the wake of the shockwave, the two abruptly split apart.

Lu Ye stood firm on the ground, sliding back over ten yards with two deep trails ploughed into the earth behind him. In contrast, the other's figure flipped in the air, landing lightly on the ground.

At first glance, it seemed that Lu Ye was at a disadvantage, but the strength he unleashed in an instant caused his opponent to raise an eyebrow.

The fluctuations of Lu Ye's spirit force were indeed of the Level 5 realm, but the power he displayed was clearly not limited to such simplicity. However, the man didn't care too much. Lu Ye's reputation was well-known, and he was capable of defeating those beyond his own level. Such a performance was not surprising.

Yet, in the end, he had been cornered here!

While he was thinking this, a figure emerged like a spectral apparition from the ground behind him...

At times, Lu Ye reflected that Yiyi had actually chosen the wrong sect. Had she picked a sect of Spectral Bewitchment, she would have undoubtedly excelled beyond all other practitioners.

Unfortunately, when he joined the Righteous Blood Sect, there were only two members top to bottom: Shui Yuan and the sect master.

Yiyi had initially followed Shui Yuan in the path of healing, only to discover that she lacked talent in that area, eventually turning to follow the sect master in magic and spells.

She showed immense talent on the path of magic, mastering even the most profound spells with ease. Moreover, as a Spiritual Body, there were few constraints when casting spells, allowing her to use magic of all element signs equally well.

All but lightning type techniques...

Perhaps due to being a Spiritual Body, Yiyi was quite afraid of lightning type techniques, let alone cultivating them herself.

Regardless, since Yiyi had embarked on the path of a magic cultivator and possessed exceptional talent, it was now impractical to switch sects. She could only consider blending in the ways of Spectral Bewitchment when her power further increased in the future.

Although she had never delved into the ways of Spectral Bewitchment, as a Spiritual Body, she naturally had advantages that were beyond reach for ordinary practitioners.

At this moment, she materialized silently behind the enemy, completely undetected.

It wasn't until Yiyi unfolded the Nine Arrays Diagram and waves of spirit force surged out that the Level 8 combat cultivator was startled. However, before he could ascertain the danger behind him, his field of view abruptly blurred, and he found himself unexpectedly standing amidst a forest of disordered boulders.

"Find somewhere to hide," Lu Ye instructed, rushing into the Nine Arrays Diagram as well.

Time passed, and after the length of time it would take to finish a cup of tea, Yiyi shook the diagram and revealed Lu Ye's figure, now bearing several minor wounds—mere superficial injuries.

At his feet lay the corpse of the Level 8 combat cultivator, his injuries far more severe, his clothing almost entirely dyed red with blood. Even in death, his eyes were wide open, a look of unwillingness etched on his face.

He truly had reasons to die unsatisfied.

In combat, he began on an equal footing with Lu Ye. But since they were within the realm of the Nine Arrays Diagram, Yiyi naturally could interfere subtly. With her covert assistance, how could the Level 8 combat cultivator stand a chance? He was ultimately chopped to death by Lu Ye, blow by blow.

"Let's go!" bellowed Lu Ye, choosing a direction at random to make his escape.

Dawn was breaking, and after a night of hunting, he too was not without considerable exhaustion and needed a rest.

A short while later, hidden within an array formation, Lu Ye sat with his legs crossed, consuming elixir pills to recover his strength.

Ever since returning from Fox Fairy Valley, Lu Ye felt that he was capable of facing a Level 8 cultivator in battle, but had never gotten the chance to confirm this until he recently encountered a lone Level 8.

After their exchange, his suspicions were confirmed.

Under normal conditions, he truly had the ability to fight against a Level 8 cultivator. Even without Yiyi's assistance, Lu Ye was confident he could defeat his opponent.

This undeniably meant that he now possessed the ability to overcome enemies three levels higher!

Before, he could at most overcome opponents two levels higher. Such progression was largely thanks to the opportunity he found in Fox Fairy Valley, the reward from Heaven's Augury's baptism that greatly enhanced his foundations, along with the likes of Li Baxian.

And this was just his normal state.

If he could activate his Beast Transformation Secret Technique, his strength would see considerable improvement, possibly allowing him to confront a Level 9 head-on?

Lu Ye could not be certain of these things, although he had killed a Level 9 cultivator in a one-on-one battle before, that fight against Huo Liaoyuan was one where he relied on the Talent Tree's insulation against flames—it could be said that he had worn out Huo Liaoyuan through sheer attrition...

That was a special circumstance and could not be taken as a benchmark.

However, the activation of the Beast Transformation Secret Technique required a long time of charging up and resonance, and so far, Lu Ye had only activated it once.

Regardless, he could now be considered a member of the strong within the Cloud River Realm, no longer the weakling who had just entered the Cloud River battlefield, whom anyone could bully.

That was also the confidence that underpinned his willingness to leave the spirit ground.

Anyone who dared underestimate him because of his cultivation would surely pay a heavy price.

The cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge never expected Lu Ye's retribution to come so swiftly.

From the standpoint of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, he had left the spirit ground and lurked in the Great Wilderness Mountain—now he must be hiding like a dog that had lost its home, and their task was to continuously search and find his whereabouts before killing him.

Yet, in just one night, four or five teams vanished without a trace.

He made short work of killing those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge who had grouped in threes and fives—it was a configuration that greatly facilitated Lu Ye's hunting operations.

Back when he was in the Spirit Stream Realm, he had been hunted down many times like this, but he was no longer the person he was back in the Spirit Stream Realm.

During the time he was hunted in the Spirit Stream Realm, he had not mastered the Breath-concealing Spirit Runes yet and found it difficult to hide his tracks under the enemy's large-scale searches; he could only keep moving and change his location.

Now was different, with the addition of the Breath-concealing Spirit Runes, he could employ the tactics of a spectral cultivator even with a combat cultivator's identity.

The cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge thought he was the prey, but in his view, they were his prey.

The disappearance of four or five teams in one night went largely unnoticed. These Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators typically acted with their own sect companions or friends, and rarely communicated with others, so even if they disappeared, most people remained unaware.

Such was the case one night, as it was the second, and still so on the third...

The side of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge finally sensed that something was amiss.

Song Zhui, in particular, who had roused the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators at the mouth of Great Reversal Valley, had exchanged battlefield markings with many people then. Each night, a batch of

these exchanged markings vanished—clearly, this was not the work of demon beasts, but rather the poisonous hand of someone.

Apart from the large number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, there was only Lu Ye left in the Great Wilderness Mountain!

Could that guy be so formidable? Song Zhui didn't quite understand, and then he remembered what Ying Wuji had said to him at the end, warning him to be careful with Lu Yiye, who was very strong.

Song Zhui suddenly realized that he seemed to have always underestimated Lu Ye, or to put it more accurately, he didn't know the extent of Lu Ye's foundation. If these missing cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were indeed Lu Yiye's doing, then his strength was definitely stronger than he had anticipated.

What made him even more infuriated was that over the past few days, he had not been able to find any trace of Lu Ye, who seemed to have completely evaporated since passing through the teleportation array to leave Great Reversal Valley.

But Song Zhui knew that Lu Ye was still in the Great Wilderness Mountain!

If those missing cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge really were his doing, then he would surely continue acting this way.

The fourth night fell...

Song Zhui was prepared this time, deliberately contacting those cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge ahead of time, inquiring about their locations, and then quietly waiting.

When a marking suddenly disappeared from the battlefield markings, Song Zhui immediately soared into the air, heading straight in a certain direction with several others closely following him.

However, by the time he and his junior brothers and sisters arrived, it was already too late. Lying on the ground were several corpses, with blood scattered all over.

Upon closer inspection, he found the lethal wounds on the dead bodies were all from sword cuts, and the traces left at the scene indicated that the battle had not lasted long.

A four-person team, all of them Level 6-7 cultivators, was quite capable—could Lu Yiye, a sole Level 5, have killed so many in such a short span of time?

Or did he have help?

But Lu Yiye had left Great Reversal Valley alone, so what kind of help could he have had by his side?

There were too many things Song Zhui couldn't figure out, but the one thing he knew was that Lu Ye's strength was indeed greater than he had thought.

Just as Song Zhui was deep in thought, a streak of light flashed past not far from them, seemingly detecting their presence. This light changed direction and descended near them, revealing the figure of a person.

That person nodded slightly at Song Zhui, "Brother Song!"

"Brother Zizai."

The newcomer was named Ning Zizai, also a Level 9 cultivator, from a 2nd grade sect in Youzhou. They had previously met at Great Reversal Valley and had dealt with each other before, so naturally, they were not too unfamiliar with each other.

Chapter 626 Leaving Great Wilderness Mountain

"Brother Song, is this Lu Yiye's handiwork?" Ning Zizai looked at the several corpses on the ground.

Song Zhui replied, "I've just arrived too, but it seems like it."

"Do you mind if I take a look?"

What's there to mind about a few corpses? Song Zhui said, "Brother Zizai, please feel free."

Ning Zizai squatted down and inspected the bodies carefully, even feeling them from head to toe, which only made Song Zhui and the others behind him frown tightly, suspecting that this man might have some peculiar preferences.

After quite a while, Ning Zizai finally stood up, his face revealing a contemplative expression.

"Brother Zizai, did you find anything?" Song Zhui asked.

Ning Zizai replied, "Nothing significant. Judging solely by the wounds, they're no different from the people who have died in the past few days. We can be sure it's the work of the same person."

"Has Brother Zizai been checking those dead bodies these past few days?"

"Not intentionally. Just happened to come across them and took a look." He turned to Song Zhui, "Can you confirm that this is Lu Yiye's doing?"

Song Zhui thought to himself, who should I ask if you're asking me? But he didn't want to speak so bluntly in front of his juniors, so he said, "Lu Yiye uses a blade, and these people also died from blade wounds. It's basically certain it was him."

"I remember that Lu Yiye is a combat cultivator!" Ning Zizai said, puzzled, "But... based on my observations, among each batch of the deceased, there's always one who died from a stealth attack from behind! This is somewhat reminiscent of a ghost cultivator's methods. So I suspect, does Lu Yiye have any helpers by his side? Otherwise, how could he possibly kill so many people by himself?"

And that helper must be a powerful ghost cultivator.

This struck a chord with Song Zhui's own suspicions, and for a moment both felt certain that Lu Ye must have an accomplice.

In fact, Lu Ye did have helpers by his side, but not as they imagined. His only helpers were Amber and Yiyi.

After some idle chat, Song Zhui and Ning Zizai went their separate ways, agreeing to share any discoveries with each other. Whether they would actually do so only they knew.

As cultivators of the True Lake Realm like them, if they truly discovered Lu Ye, they would undoubtedly strike immediately to kill, not bother with sharing information with others.

After the fifth night passed, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side lost two more teams.

At the same time, Lu Ye also noticed a problem.

There were fewer and fewer targets for him to strike at.

He had previously killed a lone Level 8 cultivator. So, if there were other lone Level 8 cultivators, with the help of the Nine Arrays Diagram in Yiyi's hand and her covert assistance, Lu Ye could still easily execute them, but if those Level 8 cultivators had companions, then Lu Ye could only choose to avoid confrontation.

Under the premise of not being certain that he could retreat safely, he wouldn't act rashly. He would only launch a stealth attack from the shadows if he was sure he could kill all visible enemies.

Now, the various teams scattered deep within the Great Wilderness Mountain had many with strong cultivators at Level 8 and even Level 9 sitting in command, and Lu Ye naturally couldn't afford to provoke such teams.

This led to the problem that the targets he could choose from were dwindling after several nights of hunting.

Moreover, as the number of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who died increased, the survivors became more vigilant and banded closer together.

During the first few nights, the teams that Lu Ye encountered didn't have many members; the smallest had only two, and the largest had only three or four. He barely encountered teams of five, let alone individuals who thought they could act alone.

But last night, many of the teams he encountered had already joined forces, expanding to seven to more than ten members.

Even without Level 8 or Level 9 cultivators in such teams, Lu Ye didn't dare to provoke them. With his current strength, he could deal with teams of fewer than five without any cultivators above Level 8, but exceeding this range was too risky.

So throughout the night, only two teams totaling seven people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge died at his hands, which was a huge disparity compared to the numbers from the first day.

After several days of hunting, Lu Ye's frustration was vented. Although he wanted to annihilate Song Zhui and the others completely, he knew it was unrealistic.

It was time to leave the Great Wilderness Mountain...

His current cultivation was insufficient; he couldn't keep hiding from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators in these parts forever. Cultivation was still about improving one's own power.

Although the position of the Great Reversal Spirit Ground was exposed, there were the Heaven's Augury Pillar and many Formations that he had left in the spirit ground. If they encountered any irresistible danger, his fourth senior brother and the others would be able to escape back to the Nine Provinces with the help of the Heaven's Augury Pillar, so their safety was well secured.

Moreover, with the warning he had left before leaving the Great Reversal Valley, which Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator would dare to force an attack on the Great Reversal Spirit Ground before he was confirmed dead?

They feared that if they attacked today, Lu Ye might return to the Spirit Stream battlefield tomorrow and break into their sect's stronghold.

He had done such a thing once before, which was why he could possess such a powerful deterrence.

As dawn approached, Lu Ye raised his hand to touch the battlefield marking and transmitted a message to Li Baxian, "Senior Brother, I'm preparing to leave the Great Wilderness Mountain."

He had also transmitted messages to Li Baxian over the past few days, but they hadn't discussed much, just a simple reassurance of his safety.

In the Great Reversal Spirit Ground, after checking the message about Lu Ye, Li Baxian took a long breath.

Even though Lu Ye hadn't said much to him over the past few days, he knew that since Lu Ye chose to stay in Great Wilderness Mountain and not leave, he must have been retaliating against the cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Now, hearing that he planned to leave Great Wilderness Mountain, Li Baxian finally felt at ease, as this undoubtedly meant that his junior brother would no longer engage in a battle of wits and bravery with those people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Although leaving the Great Wilderness Mountain meant that Lu Ye would certainly still be under the watch of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge camp, the situation couldn't be worse than it was now.

For Li Baxian, Lu Ye's decision to leave the Great Wilderness Mountain was undoubtedly a good thing.

"Be careful, and think of Yiyi when in doubt!"

Seeing his senior brother's message, Lu Ye couldn't help but smile wryly.

The message from his senior brother clearly meant for him not to act impulsively, as if he were to die, then Yiyi would certainly vanish into thin air as well.

After ending the communication with Li Baxian, Lu Ye sent a message to Giant Armor, urging him to cultivate well in the spirit ground, not to run around recklessly, and to consult with their fourth senior brother or message him before making any decisions.

Giant Armor's reply was simple and clear, just one word: "Okay!"

Dawn was breaking, but this had little effect on Lu Ye, who could cast Concealment and Breath-concealing Spirit Runes on himself at any time. As long as he was careful enough, he wouldn't have to worry about being discovered by anyone.

As he began his journey forward, Lu Ye's heart was filled with helplessness.

Once again, he was going to be all alone.

Ever since he began his cultivation, he had mostly been in this state of solitude, with the only exception being the period when he traveled with Giant Armor, though that didn't last long either.

Having obtained the Class A Spring Spirit and settled deep in Great Wilderness Mountain, with his fourth senior brother and Feng Yuechan for company, he had thought such days would continue until he advanced to the True Lake Realm.

Yet, inevitably, many things were unsatisfactory. It had only been a few months, and he was once again setting out alone.

Reflecting on his brief time in the spirit ground, although everyone was focusing on their cultivation and didn't interact much, the feeling was different. There were people around, and no matter what happened, there was always someone to discuss the matter with and to rely on, and those were some of the closest people to him in this world.

Fortunately, although he was always alone, he was never lonely.

Because Amber and Yiyi were always by his side.

Now, Lu Ye was immensely grateful that he had met Amber and Yiyi, and even more so that he had taken them with him from Qingyun Mountain. This way, he had two companions who were always by his side, growing and facing all kinds of hardships together.

Lu Ye's sudden disappearance made powerful cultivators like Song Zhui and Ning Zizai sense that something was amiss.

A few days ago, people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge would vanish every night, but in the recent two to three days, no one had fallen victim to any foul play again.

All signs indicated that Lu Ye seemed to have left!

How could those Level 9 cultivators who had been searching fruitlessly for Lu Ye be content? But what could they do if they weren't? They had never managed to find where Lu Ye was, powerful as they were, they had no means to exercise their strength.

During that time, Lu Ye had already reached the outskirts of Great Wilderness Mountain.

The journey over the past few days had not been easy, mainly because the farther he traveled towards the outskirts, the more Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators he encountered.

Since the news about Lu Ye and Great Reversal Valley Spirit Ground spread, too many cultivators had rushed over. However, some of them lacked the strength to venture deep into the mountains, and they were the ones in the greatest numbers...

This led to the outer areas of Great Wilderness Mountain teeming with Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, all below Level 6.

Lu Ye avoided creating any extra troubles. Having made up his mind to leave Great Wilderness Mountain, he naturally wouldn't expose his tracks again. Once he was out of Great Wilderness Mountain, the sky would be high enough for birds to soar, and the seas wide enough for fish to leap. In the vast Cloud River battlefield, with a mask to wear and Amber to hide, no one would be able to track him down.

When his cultivation reached Level 8 or Level 9, with his foundation, he would be able to act with impunity. Then, anyone who dared to trouble him would have to face his wrath!

As he marched forward, Yiyi suddenly appeared from nearby.

During these days, the role Yiyi played in letting Lu Ye travel safely was significant, with her pathfinding abilities at the forefront. Any stir of wind or shift of grass was immediately sensed by her, allowing Lu Ye to avoid many unnecessary troubles.

"Lu Ye, Lu Ye, there is a cave over there."

Over the past several days, Yiyi had been responsible for scouting ahead and also for finding places to rest. Her return to inform Lu Ye about the cave undoubtedly meant that it was a suitable spot to rest.

"Well done," Lu Ye praised her, "let's take a look."

A look of pride spread across Yiyi's face, her expression smug as her light form danced ahead to lead the way.

A few miles further, they indeed found a cave. Its location was very concealed, with wild grass as tall as a person growing at the entrance. If one didn't scrutinize carefully, it would truly go unnoticed.

Chapter 627 The Whereabouts of Lu Ye

...

Stepping into the cave and venturing deeper, Lu Ye gradually noticed something was amiss.

He had thought this was just a concealed cave that could be used for shelter and rest, but this cave seemed far too profound.

Lu Ye pondered thoughtfully as he walked to one side and observed for a while, noticing the walls of the passageway bore the marks of manmade excavation, and judging by these traces, they were quite old.

This was no ordinary cave, it was clearly a mine tunnel!

Having once been a mining slave at Evil Moon Valley, Lu Ye had spent years going in and out of mine tunnels, so there was no way he could be deceived about whether this was a mine.

Perhaps many years ago, this place contained some valuable minerals that had been mined by cultivators, leaving the mine tunnel behind.

In places like the Cloud River and Spirit Stream battlefields, there were many such sites, so this was not unusual.

Lu Ye had no particular designs on this place, as the mine had been in existence for quite some time, and even if there had once been valuable minerals, they would have long been mined clean, leaving nothing for him.

Continuing further inward for several miles, a vast mining cavern suddenly appeared before him.

This was a spacious area, even larger than the space occupied by the Great Reversal Spirit Ground, and based on the location, it was already deep within the mountain belly.

The minerals once contained here must have been of tremendous value, otherwise, they wouldn't have hollowed out such a space.

The mine was pitch black within, but that did not hinder Lu Ye's inspection.

As he surveyed the empty cavern, a vague idea suddenly surged from his heart, and as his thoughts churned, the idea became clearer and clearer.

"Lu Ye, are we going to rest here for the night?" Yiyi had already taken a tour within the mine and hadn't found anything dangerous. There were indeed some marks left by humans, suggesting that someone had discovered this place and taken rest here before.

Although the entrance to this mine was hidden, ultimately it could still be discovered by others.

"No!" Lu Ye shook his head.

"Hmm?"

"We're going to deliver another big gift to Ten Thousand Demons Ridge!"

Originally, after hunting in the deep areas of Great Wilderness Mountain for several nights and killing quite a few Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, including those of Level 8, Lu Ye didn't have much else in mind, mainly because he lacked strength, and having ideas was useless. So, he decided to leave the Great Wilderness Mountain.

But upon seeing this mining cave, a plan irresistibly came to mind. If he could carry it out, he would definitely be able to deal a heavy blow to the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who had been relentlessly tracking him!

Especially for cultivators like Song Zhui at Level 9, Lu Ye was no match for them in a head-on confrontation, but with proper planning, there was still a chance to kill him!

Just as Lu Ye had thought before, in a place like the Cloud River battlefield, vengeance should be sought quickly, ideally without any delay. Otherwise, once the opportunity is missed, there may never be another chance.

He turned around and headed out, his steps swift.

Although Yiyi didn't know what Lu Ye was planning to do, just by seeing his expression, she knew he must have some clever idea in mind. She didn't ask further and followed closely behind.

Lu Ye's preparations took a whole day.

During this day, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were still searching for him in the Great Wilderness Mountain, but all their efforts were in vain.

In one part of the Great Wilderness Mountain, some of Song Zhui's fellow cultivators were resting while Song Zhui was communicating with other cultivators, inquiring about their situation.

Moments later, Song Zhui sighed.

It had been three days, and in these three days, besides a few unlucky cultivators who had encountered demon beasts too powerful to overcome and were killed, there had been no significant losses on the side of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

All signs indicated that Lu Ye had indeed left the Great Wilderness Mountain.

Despite his reluctance, there was nothing he could do.

Previously, Lu Ye had voluntarily left the spirit ground, presenting them with the opportunity to hunt him down, but they were incompetent! Millions of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators and yet they hadn't even caught a glimpse of Lu Ye.

Although he didn't want to admit it, Song Zhui knew that this operation was a complete failure. The substantial bounty that should've been within easy reach had flown away right under his nose.

Now that Lu Yiye had left the Great Wilderness Mountain, he would undoubtedly be even more cautious in the future, making it difficult to find any trace of him.

As he was thinking this, a junior brother not far from him suddenly opened his eyes and tapped on his battlefield marking, indicating an incoming message.

The junior brother checked the message, and immediately, his expression changed. He looked up at Song Zhui and said, "Senior Brother, we've found Lu Yiye's whereabouts!"

Song Zhui had already given up on searching for Lu Ye, but upon hearing this, he felt a sudden ray of hope, and eagerly asked, "Where?"

"At the outer edges of the Great Wilderness Mountain, and it seems he's injured! And the injury looks quite severe!"

...

"The outskirts of Great Wilderness Mountain..." Song Zhui murmured, aligning the information. There had been no more losses on the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's side over the past three days. It seemed, then, that Lu Yiye had left the vicinity three days ago, the timing just right to reach the periphery of Great Wilderness Mountain.

"Let's talk while we move!" Song Zhui called out and immediately summoned his Flying Spiritual Artifact, shooting up into the sky.

He had some confusion. In the past few days, many powerful cultivators had been searching for Lu Ye without any success. How could Lu Ye reveal his tracks on the periphery of Great Wilderness Mountain?

While making haste to the outskirts of Great Wilderness Mountain, Song Zhui asked for the specific details.

He learned that Lu Ye's trail was discovered by coincidence. Lu Ye was resting hidden in a secluded cave when a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators' squad intended to rest there as well, and both parties ran into each other. After recognizing Lu Ye, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were overjoyed and immediately engaged in a fierce battle with him.

And then Lu Ye ran away!

"Wait a second..." Song Zhui raised his hand, his face full of doubt, "Lu Yiye ran away? And those cultivators didn't die?"

"Two of them died, but Lu Yiye seemed to be seriously injured and unwilling to engage in battle, so he quickly escaped."

Before, Lu Yiye had killed every single one of the Level 6-7 cultivators as if he were slaughtering chickens. Now the cultivators in the outskirts varied greatly in strength, but he had not managed to kill them all. This indicated that his injuries must indeed be severe.

Perhaps it was because he was heavily injured that he decided to leave Great Wilderness Mountain, which would explain why there had been no casualties on the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side these past three days.

Song Zhui didn't ponder too much about why Lu Ye would be severely injured; after all, having killed so many people, it was only natural for Lu Ye to sustain some injuries.

There were many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators on the outskirts of Great Wilderness Mountain, ten times more than those deeper within the mountain. If Lu Ye had kept himself well-hidden, it wouldn't have been much of an issue. However, once his presence was revealed, hiding again would not be so simple.

"After encountering that squad of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators and killing two then fleeing, Lu Ye encountered several more squads in succession and clashed with them before he disappeared."

"Disappeared? How did he disappear?" Song Zhui was stunned.

"It's not clear. The person who reported the news didn't have much information, but one thing is certain: Lu Yiye hasn't left that area. Right now, that location is crowded with many searching for him."

"Speed up!" Song Zhui ordered, and their pace quickened considerably as they rushed towards the periphery of Great Wilderness Mountain.

If they had received this news here, presumably other strong cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge would get it sooner or later. When that happened, the cultivators searching for Lu Ye deeper in the mountain would surely converge on the outskirts.

If they were too slow at this point, they wouldn't even get a warm bite to eat.

Just as Song Zhui had anticipated, at this very moment, squad after squad was setting out from deep within Great Wilderness Mountain, heading to the outskirts.

At the outskirts of Great Wilderness Mountain, where Lu Ye had been recently sighted, within a radius of several dozen miles, traces of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators could be seen everywhere; each one of them was searching for Lu Ye.

Originally, because their cultivation was insufficient to venture deep into Great Wilderness Mountain, the task of slaying Lu Ye didn't concern them. But now that Lu Ye had run to the periphery and revealed his whereabouts, the opportunity had come.

Lu Yiye was seriously injured and hiding somewhere unknown. In the current situation, whoever found him first could become rich overnight.

The desire for that tremendous bounty invigorated many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators as they searched tirelessly. Despite that, they still couldn't find any trace of him.

That was until the appearance of a five-person squad!

...

As for the task of searching for Lu Yiye's whereabouts, Spectral Shadow had a strong aversion to it. He wasn't disinterested in the hefty bounty; he just felt that becoming enemies with Lu Yiye would inevitably have dire consequences.

Not counting the covert clash on the Spirit Stream Ranking, Spectral Shadow had actually crossed paths with Lu Ye twice.

And both encounters left a deep impression.

Each involved the enormous, blazing appearance of the Four Auspicious Sacred Beasts, and each time many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge powerhouses died.

One time was outside the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest on the Spirit Stream battlefield, and the other was in the middle of the hunting grounds of the Cloud River battlefield.

Spectral Shadow was of remarkable talent, once ranked ninth on the Spirit Stream Ranking, but compared to his talent, it was his intuition that was his trump card.

This intuition bore no correlation to the strength of his mind, resembling instead an innate ability that allowed him to feel a strong premonition before danger approached. Relying on this intuition, Spectral Shadow had dodged many deadly threats.

Take this time as an example: during the search for Lu Yiye, his heart would pound erratically, unable to settle down, as if something very dangerous was about to happen.

Although he didn't want to get involved, he couldn't withstand the persuasion of his fellow sect Senior Brother and a few fellow disciples. Reluctantly, he had to move with them.

If they indeed encountered danger, with him present, at least they could avoid some risks... that's what he thought.

Now, he was a Level

3 Cloud River cultivator, which was not too slow in terms of cultivation speed, but when compared to Lu Ye, he was still far behind.

"Senior Brother Qin, why do we keep circling in this area?" A female cultivator in the squad suddenly asked. She was beautiful and had an exceptionally graceful figure. It seemed that a few fellow disciples were interested in this Senior Sister Hu, everyone except Spectral Shadow.

Women only affect the speed at which I draw my sword! Why bother pleasing women when you can happily advance in cultivation?

Chapter 628 The Mine Cave

In the five-person squad, the leader, Senior Brother Qin, looked around as he spoke, "I remember there's an abandoned mine tunnel nearby, strange, why can't we find it?"

Senior Sister Hu asked, "Could you be remembering wrong?"

Senior Brother Qin insisted, "Impossible. Back when Brother Xie was still at the Cloud River battlefield, he brought me here. I remember it very clearly, it's near this area."

They all had some impression of the referred Brother Xie, who had a much higher cultivation than theirs and who had now advanced to the True Lake Realm and left the Cloud River battlefield.

While speaking, Senior Brother Qin led the group to land and looked around, puzzled, finally fixing his gaze on one spot.

He walked forward, parted the grass that was as tall as a person, and then gently pressed his hand against the wall of stone...

A strange scene unfolded: his outstretched hand clearly touched the stone wall but seemed to press into thin air. As ripples passed over the stone, it swallowed half of his palm.

"Indeed it's here!"

"Is this a Cover-up Array?" Senior Sister Hu noticed something unusual as well.

The existence of a Cover-up Array in such a place undoubtedly indicated some issues, and moreover, this was within the range where Lu Yiye was last spotted. A thought they couldn't suppress suddenly surged simultaneously in their minds.

The two exchanged glances, both invigorated.

Lu Yiye is inside!

The Cover-up Array at the entrance of the tunnel was laid by Lu Yiye himself!

They became excited at once, and Senior Sister Hu whispered, "Senior Brother Qin, what should we do?"

Although they had been searching for traces of Lu Ye before, considering the multitude of cultivators doing the same, they didn't expect to be the first to discover anything.

But sometimes, luck is hard to explain; they were the first to stumble upon a clue.

Even though they hadn't seen Lu Ye, the addition of a Cover-up Array at the entrance of a tunnel in such a location clearly hinted at something.

Lu Ye, severely injured at present, needed a hidden, safe place to heal and recuperate, and somehow, he found this spot, hid inside, and set up the Cover-up Array to conceal the mine's entrance.

If it weren't for Senior Brother Qin's previous visit here and his slight memory of this mine's location, it would've been impossible to detect.

Suppressing the excitement in his heart and steadying his mind, Senior Brother Qin beckoned, "Let's go!"

With those words, he took the lead toward the stone wall, passed through the ripples, and vanished on the spot.

Senior Sister Hu followed closely behind, with the remaining three members stepping in succession.

Once inside the mine tunnel, the dim lighting enveloped them, and under Senior Brother Qin's guidance, they cautiously moved forward.

After covering a distance of barely thirty zhang, Spectral Shadow, at the rear of the group, suddenly felt an alarm go off in his heart, and it started to pound wildly as if a great danger lay ahead.

He quickly whispered, "Senior Brother Qin!"

The voice was not loud, but it was starkly jarring in the silent surroundings. They were all being careful, barely daring to breathe heavily, and were startled by Spectral Shadow's cry of alarm.

Just as Senior Brother Qin was about to turn around, a flash of firelight appeared in his vision, followed by a violent surge of spirit force energy sweeping in from the front.

"Retreat!" He bellowed the command, darting backwards swiftly, but still tumbling through the air as the blast wave rolled over him, ending up in a tangled heap with the others.

"Cough, cough, cough..."

Amidst the rising dust, they clumsily got up, feeling stars before their eyes and a buzzing in their ears.

It took some time before they slowly recovered.

"Senior Brother Qin, are you okay?" asked Senior Sister Hu anxiously.

"Cough, cough, fine," Senior Brother Qin covered his chest, his palm soaked with fresh blood, silently grateful. Had it not been for Spectral Shadow's warning, he might already be dead by now.

Because of Spectral Shadow's shout, he instinctively stopped, narrowly avoiding disaster. Though injured, he was not in serious trouble.

"It's an explosion magic array!" Senior Brother Qin quickly concluded, and shouted, "Get out quickly!"

It was certain now, Lu Ye was hiding inside! Both the Cover-up Array at the entrance and the explosion magic array inside the mine tunnel were laid by him.

Since explosion magic arrays typically come in multiples, having encountered one, Senior Brother Qin was no longer willing to take risks.

The group exited the tunnel in disarray, but as soon as they got out, several figures landed in front of them, with numerous flickers of light converging from all directions.

The commotion caused by the explosion magic array had drawn the attention of the many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators searching in the vicinity.

In just a short moment, more than twenty people had gathered here...

Senior Brother Qin sighed with a clenched fist, originally they were the first to discover Lu Ye's whereabouts, and had the chance to enjoy the spoils alone, but now the narrow mining tunnel was rigged with explosion magic arrays, and they had to retreat. It was foreseeable that the news would quickly spread, and by then, more and more cultivators would flock to this place.

Someone came forward to talk with Senior Brother Qin, asking what had happened just now.

Senior Brother Qin didn't want to say, but he knew he couldn't hide this kind of thing and could only share his speculations and what information he had at the moment.

Suddenly, the news that Lu Yiye was hiding in a mining tunnel on the outskirts of the Great Wilderness Mountain spread quickly, and a large number of cultivators gathered toward this location.

The cultivators who first arrived were not highly advanced in their cultivation, all under Level 6.

But as time passed, Level 7 and Level 8 cultivators began to appear, and by midday, the first Level 9 strong cultivator showed up in front of the mining tunnel.

Song Zhui and his group didn't arrive late. As soon as they received the news, they hurried here immediately, disregarding the consumption of their spirit force as they flew.

However, upon arrival, they saw that the place was swarming with cultivators, there were at least eight hundred if not a thousand, and the number was still increasing.

What puzzled him was that although there were many cultivators gathered here, it seemed as if they weren't taking action but just waiting idly.

A faint scent of blood drifted through the air, as if someone had been injured.

Song Zhui saw several familiar faces. He flew straight to one of them, landed in front of them, and greeted with a fist-clasped bow, "Brother Zizai."

This was none other than Ning Zizai, whom Song Zhui had encountered deep within the Great Wilderness Mountain before.

"Brother Song has come too," Ning Zizai returned the greeting.

"What's the situation now?" asked Song Zhui.

Ning Zizai said, "We can be pretty sure that Lu Yiye is hiding inside, but we can't force our way through."

"Why not?" Song Zhui was puzzled. If they were certain that Lu Yiye was hiding inside, with so many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, even if they just charged in, Lu Yiye would surely be doomed.

"Inside there is a winding mining tunnel stretching for several miles, connecting to an excavated cavity, and Lu Yiye has left a large number of explosion magic arrays inside that mining tunnel. Some people have already tried to rush in, but they ended up either dead or injured, even that person over there... didn't succeed." Ning Zizai pointed in a particular direction while explaining.

Song Zhui turned his head to look and saw a man sitting cross-legged on the ground over there. The man had a very robust physique, and even seated on the ground, he was only a head shorter than the nearby cultivators, which made it clear that he would be very tall when standing.

Such a physique, such a build, he was undoubtedly a physique cultivator, and certainly a very powerful one at that. However, at this moment, the physique cultivator was covered in blood, his complexion slightly pale, suggesting that his injuries were not light.

"Wei Zhong!" Song Zhui's eyes narrowed.

Even though he was a cultivator from Yuanhong Hall, a 1st grade sect, he did not dare to underestimate this man named Wei Zhong. He knew somewhat of the latter's strength; one-on-one, he was not certain of victory against him. And since Wei Zhong was a physique cultivator with an undoubtedly strong physique, to have ended up like this after attempting to break through the mining tunnel meant the others' fate would be even worse.

"The narrow space undoubtedly increased the power of the explosion magic arrays; otherwise, it wouldn't have injured a Level 9 physique cultivator to this extent."

Previously, quite a few people had tried to enter the mining tunnel, but each attempt resulted in death or injury until the physique cultivator named Wei Zhong was also forced back, after which no one dared to try lightly.

Therefore, all the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were now waiting here.

"Continuing to wait like this isn't an option," Song Zhui frowned, "Is there no cover armorer here? We could have a cover armorer control constructs to scout ahead, trigger the Formations, and clear the obstacles."

"We've tried that, it's useless," Ning Zizai shook his head, "The Formations arranged by Lu Yiye are manually controlled, not the trigger type."

If that was the case, the constructs of the cover armorers indeed wouldn't be very useful, and might even mislead the cultivators.

Imagine this: after the constructs have scouted an area, the cultivators might think it's safe enough. But once they step in, the explosion magic arrays suddenly activate, surely causing another batch of casualties.

The situation now was indeed a bit awkward. Lu Yiye, seriously injured, was trapped inside this mining tunnel by many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, but because of the various Formations he had set up in advance, no one dared to casually venture deeper inside, leading to this standoff.

Although there was no worry about Lu Yiye escaping, dragging this out wasn't the solution either. The longer it was delayed, the more time his wounds had to heal, and by then, killing him wouldn't be as easy.

As if reading Song Zhui's thoughts, Ning Zizai said, "Brother Song, be patient. There are already people on their way."

"Who?"

"Has Brother Song heard of the name Si Nan?"

Song Zhui's brows raised, "Si Nan from Yunlang Sect?"

Ning Zizai chuckled lightly, "It seems Brother Song has heard of him."

Song Zhui nodded, "I have long heard that Yunlang Sect had produced an unparalleled genius in this generation. I have never had the chance to meet him, and here he is nearby. If he arrives, maybe he can match Lu Yiye in terms of the Array Path."

Yunlang Sect was a 4th grade sect, but although there's only one grade difference between 4th and 3rd, the gap was vast. A 3rd grade sect had a Divine Sea Realm strong cultivator presiding over it, while a 4th grade did not.

The structure of the Nine Provinces cultivation world and the way disciples are recruited often lead to one phenomenon: the stronger the strong, the higher the aptitude of the disciples recruited by more powerful sects. Therefore, for any sect, upgrading is not a simple matter.

Chapter 629 So Many People

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The world is such that often many 4th grade sects strive for over a dozen generations, yet might never have the chance to be promoted to 3rd grade.

Below the True Lake Realm, a cultivator's cultivation consists mainly in the continuous increase of their own cultivation. As long as one has enough aptitude and resources, it is not too difficult a task, but advancing from True Lake to Divine Sea is a huge barrier because it involves the transformation of the psyche.

There are many cultivators in the Divine Sea Realm in the Nine Provinces, but these are accumulated over generations. For a sect below 3rd grade to give birth to a cultivator in the Divine Sea Realm is often as difficult as reaching the heavens.

There are exceptions, though. With countless sects in the Nine Provinces and a sect grade evaluation every three years, every few decades there tend to be cases of 4th grade sects being promoted to 3rd grade. Every occurrence signifies that a Divine Sea Realm cultivator has been born within a 4th grade sect.

Yunlang Sect is the sect most likely to be promoted to 3rd grade in recent years, because they have a genius named Si Nan within their ranks.

He is a magic cultivator but also practiced the Array Path, and his talent in the Array Path is extremely high. Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators have compared him with Lu Ye, unanimously feeling that among their generation of cultivators, he is the only one who could rival Lu Ye in terms of the Array Path.

Of course, such evaluations have reached Si Nan's ears, and he couldn't care less.

For the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators to evaluate him this way, they've already put him at a disadvantage. What he seeks is not to compete, but to surpass.

He wasn't originally nearby but had come from a very far place.

As soon as the news of Lu Ye's spirit ground was leaked, he had set out on his journey. The journey was far too long, and he hadn't arrived until now.

Now, the timing could not be better, as Lu Ye was trapped within a mining tunnel and a powerful array cultivator was needed to break the formation he had left behind. One could say that he was now carrying the hopes of all the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators.

This was also one of the reasons why the many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were willing to wait here patiently...

Hearing that Si Nan was on his way, Song Zhui also felt relieved and asked, "Who was the first to discover this matter over here?"

Ning Zizai pointed with his hand, "Those few people over there, but they don't know much."

Song Zhui followed the direction Ning Zizai pointed, seeing indeed a few cultivators of not high cultivation, among which the leading one seemed to have sustained some minor injuries. He immediately nodded and dashed towards them.

Senior Brother Qin was quite helpless. Ever since more and more Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators had rushed here, he kept getting asked for various details, such as how they discovered the mining tunnel, how they confirmed that Lu Yiye was hiding inside...

Wave after wave of inquiries came without end.

And since his cultivation wasn't high, he did not dare offend others and could only patiently share all the information he knew.

Meanwhile, deep within the mining tunnel, Lu Ye was refining array banners while staying alert to the movements of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators outside.

He was wearing a blood robe... At first glance, it indeed looked like he was seriously injured.

But this was only superficial, and him being seriously injured was merely a ploy to deceive the cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. The blood on the robe was indeed his own, but it was left over from the battle with Huo Liaoyuan...

So far, the plan was going very smoothly.

He, a severely wounded individual, struggling to hide, was inadvertently discovered by a group of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, unable to do anything but hide in this mining tunnel to recuperate and heal. Then someone accidentally discovered traces of a formation setup here, followed by his location being confirmed, with numerous Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators surrounding this place, leaving him with no escape, only waiting for death...

"Lu Ye, there are so many people outside," Yiyi, who had quietly returned from scouting, reported to him. "And more and more are coming."

"The more people there are, the better," Lu Ye replied casually as his hands continued to refine the array banners. A sufficient number of array banners was indispensable for implementing his plan this time.

He asked again, "How many are at Level 9?"

"Five have arrived, including that guy named Song Zhui."

"That's about enough," Lu Ye nodded slightly.

Yiyi sat beside him, puzzled, "Lu Ye, if you want to lure them in, why set up so many formations in the mining tunnel? Aren't you afraid of scaring them off?"

"There's no way to scare them off." Lu Ye chuckled. He felt like a jar of honey exuding a tempting fragrance, with the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators akin to insects lured by the scent, even if he erected numerous formations in the tunnel, it was unlikely to scare them away. The Ten Thousand Demons would only seek ways to charge in.

"I still think fewer formations should be set up. Look, they're afraid to come in now."

Lu Ye said, "My mastery over the Array Path is pretty high. Although the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side may not know the specifics, they likely have some assessment. If I appear too weak, it will certainly arouse their suspicions. The current situation is just right."

Severely injured, taking advantage of the terrain, stubbornly defending—this is the perception Lu Ye needed to instill in those on the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side. Only in this way could he dispel the doubts of some clever individuals.

"Besides, I have already been holding back. Who knew they would be so incompetent," Lu Ye muttered disdainfully to himself. This was not self-praise; when setting up the formations, Lu Ye indeed held back, mainly to avoid the formations being too powerful and collapsing the mining tunnel.

...

The explosion magic arrays left behind in the mine tunnel exploded with great ferocity, yet they were not powerful enough to cause the tunnel to collapse. Of course, the surrounding rock walls would certainly have loosened as a result... This was also part of the plan, to facilitate the final roundup.

"I'll continue to keep an eye on them," Yiyi said before she used ground evasion technique to hurry away.

The convenience of being a Spiritual Body was beyond imagination, and Yiyi rarely showed herself in front of others. People only knew that Lu Ye was accompanied by a snow-white little beast, but few knew that besides Amber, there was also a Yiyi.

Time passed, and about half a day later, Yiyi suddenly sent a message saying that it seemed a formidable array cultivator had arrived from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Even the Level 9 cultivators such as Song

Zhui treated this array cultivator with great enthusiasm, and he had already entered the mine tunnel to begin deciphering the formations left by Lu Ye.

Previously, there had been array cultivators who tried to break through the formations that Lu Ye set up, but those array cultivators were not proficient enough in the Array Path. Their failed attempts resulted in some casualties, which deterred other array cultivators from rash actions.

Now, a respected array cultivator had suddenly appeared, someone who even Song Zhui and the others greeted with great eagerness, clearly a personage of no ordinary background, on whom Song Zhui and others placed great hopes.

As expected, this array cultivator's proficiency in the Array Path was far superior to the previous ones, having effortlessly deciphered an explosion magic array.

When this news reached him, Lu Ye couldn't help but be surprised.

Although he had held back slightly when setting up the arrays, he did not expect that at the Cloud River Realm level, there would actually be an array cultivator capable of deciphering his formations.

Initially, he had thought that the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators would eventually be forced to storm the mine tunnel when no other option was left.

As long as some Level 8-9 cultivators took the lead with adequate protection, they could advance bit by bit, destroying his formations completely and finally breaking into the mine tunnel.

Yet he hadn't expected someone like this to emerge from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge...

Indeed, plans cannot keep up with changes.

But it wasn't a big deal.

When news that Si Nan had dismantled an explosion magic array in just a short dozen breaths' time spread, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators waiting outside the mine tunnel erupted in a chorus of exclamations and admiration.

Level 9 cultivators like Song Zhui finally set down the hearts they had been holding up.

As the saying goes, there is no unworthy person under a famous name. Although Si Nan came from a 4th grade sect, it was precisely because of his 4th grade background that his reputation on the Cloud River battlefield exceeded many cultivators from 1st or 2nd grade sects. Before, they were worried that Si Nan's mastery of the Array Path was not sufficient, but now with a successful precedent, that worry had been lifted like a burden.

"At this pace, it should take no more than two days for us to break into the mine tunnel. Brothers, what do you think about the proposal Brother Si Nan made earlier?" Song Zhui voiced his thoughts, surrounded by a few Level 9 cultivators, including Ning Zizai and Wei Zhong.

When Si Nan arrived, he had a short chat with them, which was not only for acquaintanceship but also to put forward a request.

He would be responsible for deciphering the formations, but in exchange, he wanted forty percent of the reward from killing Lu Ye!

He did not ask Song Zhui and the others for a response right away because relying on this before showcasing his abilities was unrealistic.

Now that he had demonstrated his ability, Song Zhui and the others had to consider his previous proposal.

Ning Zizai commented, "I have no objections. He is exerting great effort, so it's only natural he takes a larger share."

Even without Si Nan, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side could force their way in, but that would inevitably result in significant losses, and coordinating personnel would also be a big issue. At that time,

who would charge to the front? Even a Level 9 physique cultivator like Wei Zhong would get injured if he led the advance.

The mine tunnel twists and turns for several miles; who knows how many explosion magic arrays Lu Yiye has left inside.

"What about the rest of you?"

Wei Zhong frowned, "Forty percent is a bit too much..."

Another person nodded in agreement, "Forty percent is indeed a lot. Twenty percent is acceptable."

Song Zhui then sighed, "Gentlemen, it seems you're not seeing the big picture... While Si Nan asking for forty percent is indeed a bit much, do you gentlemen think that whether he takes forty percent or twenty percent makes a difference to us?"

"What do you mean, Brother Song?" Ning Zizai looked at him.

Song Zhui explained, "Almost two thousand cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge have gathered here. If Lu Yiye is killed, aside from the portion Si Nan takes, how should the rest be divided? Are we few supposed to share it equally? That would undoubtedly provoke public outrage. When the time comes, all the cultivators involved in this matter will share in the remaining reward. The amount that comes our way, in fact, won't be very much. Rather than quibbling over this, if Si Nan wants forty percent, why not just give it to him? I'll repeat: compared to the bounty on Lu Yiye's head, his very life or death is the point!"

Outside Great Reversal Valley, Song Zhui once incited many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators to share in the bounty for the sake of eliminating the scourge known as Lu Ye, but back then he had other plans, intending to cooperate with Ying Wuji to capture Lu Ye.

Now Ying Wuji was gone, with no one to coordinate with him. There's no need to think about the reward anymore. Given this, the only step back to take is to prioritize killing Lu Ye, and as for everything else, it's unimportant.

Chapter 630 Dead End?

After hearing Song Zhui's words, all the Level 9 cultivators understood his intention.

Ning Zizai nodded, "Brother Song is right, the number of Fellow Daoists who came this time is too many, whether Si Nan takes forty percent or twenty percent, it really doesn't have much impact on us. Since that is the case, let's do as he says. What do you all think?"

This time, nobody had objections; they hadn't considered this point before, but now that the situation had been clarified by Song Zhui's remarks, they suddenly felt somewhat listless.

Originally, killing Lu Yiye was both a reputation booster and a profitable act. But in the current situation, even if they were the ones to kill Lu Yiye in the end, the cultivators on the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side would remember, and probably only Si Nan's prominent name for shattering the Formations.

All the benefits were taken by that guy alone.

Cursing in their hearts, this Lu Yiye knew there was no chance of survival, yet he still set up so many formations in the mine tunnel!

"If you all have no objections, then I'll have someone notify Si Nan," said Song Zhui, signaling to a junior beside him as he spoke. The junior understood and immediately flew toward the direction of the mine tunnel.

Inside, seeing Si Nan waiting quietly without continuing the array destruction, he informed him of the decision of the Level 9 cultivators.

Si Nan smiled, "I understand. Please tell the Fellow Daoists that within one day, I will break all the Formations here, leaving Lu Yiye with nowhere to hide."

Having received the promise of the Level 9 cultivators, Si Nan was full of motivation and continuously broke through the Formations.

It took only half a Shichen for Si Nan to advance dozens of meters into the mine tunnel alone, breaking through more than a dozen Formations.

This position had never been reached by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators before.

In the mine tunnel, Si Nan unceasingly destroyed Formations; outside the tunnel, numerous Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators looked on eagerly. Some, more impatient, followed right behind Si Nan, but did not dare to get too close, keeping a distance of about thirty meters to watch.

They might not have understood the intricacies, but as they continuously passed the news outwards, the progress of the Formation breaking became known to the cultivators waiting outside, occasionally causing bursts of cheers and exclamations.

As Song Zhui and the others gathered together, the intermittent exclamations and cheers made them feel quite uncomfortable; those sounds were originally supposed to belong to them, but now they were stolen by Si Nan, and their resentment toward Lu Ye grew even thicker.

"At this rate, he really could break all Formations within a day, remarkable," Song Zhui couldn't help but admire aloud.

The other Level 9s did not comment.

Song Zhui smiled, "Alright everyone, it's rare for our Ten Thousand Demons Ridge to produce someone who can compete with Lu Yiye. We should be happy. After tomorrow, there will no longer be a troublemaker like Lu Yiye in this world, and we can proceed to advance to True Lake with peace of mind. The Cloud River battlefield will also return to its former state, and won't be stirred up by one person anymore."

Ning Zizai smiled, "Brother Song has thought it through."

Song Zhui said, "Some things are beyond our power to change, can only be accepted, right?"

In the tunnel, Si Nan was breaking the Formations; in the caves, Lu Ye was setting up Formations, constantly checking messages passed by Yiyi and keeping up-to-date with the unexpected arrival of the array cultivator's progress in breaking through.

He had to admit, the sudden appearance of this array cultivator indeed had considerable mastery in the Array Path, nearly seventy to eighty percent of his own level.

His mastery in the Array Path, to a large extent, came from the gifts of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, plus the fact that he was a spirit runes master, giving him a natural advantage in the Array Path.

The other person, however, gained their expertise from painstaking cultivation, it wasn't quite fair to compare.

As time passed, with the continuous destruction of Formations inside the mine tunnel, the position of Si Nan got deeper, and the waiting Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators started to rub their hands together in anticipation.

So far, although they could determine that Lu Ye was hiding in the cave, no one had actually seen him. Whether he was really inside could only be verified after Si Nan had broken all Formations.

Until at one moment, a muffled sound suddenly came from deep within the mine tunnel, the intense noise accompanied by a strong tremor, making the faces of the waiting Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators change.

"What happened?" Song Zhui and several Level 9s immediately turned their heads towards the direction of the mine tunnel, faces tense.

This was clearly a sign of an explosion magic array being triggered!

Did Si Nan make a mistake? This thought immediately sprang to their minds.

If the Formation had been destroyed, it would not have been triggered. Since it now had, it must be because Si Nan made a mistake.

They needn't worry about him being blown to death; after all, Si Nan also had a Level 8 cultivation, and even though he was a magic cultivator, an explosion magic array wasn't likely to take his life, but injury was inevitable. Thus, the progress in breaking Formations would definitely be delayed.

Just as they were thinking this, news suddenly came from inside the mine tunnel.

It wasn't that Si Nan had made a mistake; rather, the explosion magic array had been deliberately triggered.

Clearly, it was the work of the person who set up the Formations.

As for Si Nan, he was unharmed, because the Formation had burst forth directly when he approached.

This turn of events left everyone baffled, unclear about the actual situation. It sounded like the person who set up the Formations wanted to ambush Si Nan, but misjudged the timing and triggered the Formation ahead of time...

"Boom..." Another sound echoed from inside the mine tunnel.

What now?

The cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, who had just calmed their nerves, were once again on edge.

With things having escalated to this point, no one wanted any unexpected incidents, but the sudden explosions undoubtedly made them anxious.

"Boom..." The third sound.

"Boom..." The fourth sound.

Followed by the fifth...

While the previous sounds were at least somewhat spaced out, the subsequent noises were continuous, with no sign of stopping.

Even though they had just heard that Si Nan was unharmed, the group of cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge grew worried. Such noises clearly indicated that the explosion magic arrays were being triggered consecutively, causing even the outer stone walls to shake violently.

Soon, news came from inside the mine tunnel: Si Nan was still unharmed, all the arrays had been activated by the person who set them up, and at that moment, Si Nan was advancing quickly forward. As he moved, many arrays ahead of him exploded one after the other.

This was the source of the noise.

At that moment in the mine tunnel, Si Nan walked leisurely, a disdainful smile curling at the corner of his mouth. According to rumors, Lu Yiye's skills in Array Path were highly esteemed, but now, they seemed mediocre!

Along this path, he had already deciphered many formations, and given enough time, he could solve all of them completely.

The opponent obviously realized this, choosing instead to directly trigger the power of the arrays.

Thus, the current scene inside the mine tunnel was Si Nan continually moving forward, while ahead of him, the power of explosion magic arrays was repeatedly triggered, emitting bursts of flames and causing rocks to crumble from the walls all around.

"Is this a dead-end?" Si Nan murmured, speculating that the opponent did not intend to kill him with the explosions, as he knew that would be impossible.

If it wasn't to kill him, the only possibility was to collapse the mine tunnel and thereby buy more time for a last gasp.

Combining this with the rumors that Lu Yiye was severely injured, Si Nan became even more convinced of this theory.

But he would not give Lu Yiye such an opportunity. Song Zhui and others had already promised him four tenths of the bounty for killing Lu Yiye. Although it was just a verbal agreement among several Level 9 cultivators, no one else seemed to have any ground to object.

Such a huge bounty was significantly important to his sect behind him.

He continued forward, and the cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge following to watch the excitement were dazzled and filled with admiration. From their perspective, it looked like Si Nan, alone and with overwhelming power, was clearing all obstacles in his path.

News from inside the mine tunnel spread out.

Song Zhui and others were slightly stunned but then swiftly dashed toward the direction of the mine tunnel.

They had thought Si Nan would take at least a day or two to break the arrays, but now it seemed he would reach the mining cave soon. Lu Yiye was hiding inside, and though no one had high hopes for the bounty anymore, there needed to be a conclusion to this chase that had consumed so much of their energy and time. In the final phase, naturally, no one wanted to miss out.

Several Level 9 cultivators led a group rapidly into the mine tunnel, and the other cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, realizing this, hurriedly followed suit, causing a surge of people inside the tunnel.

The mine tunnel was not very spacious, accommodating only three to five people walking side by side, so the chaotic scene inevitably led to disputes. The area was bustling, occasionally mixed with panicked cries from female cultivators who accidentally got taken advantage of.

Outside the mine tunnel, Senior Brother Qin and Senior Sister Hu quickly got up to join. However, before they could move, Spectral Shadow suddenly raised his hand, grabbing Senior Brother Qin's arm while the other hand pressed on his chest. His face turned deathly pale.

"Junior Brother?" Senior Brother Qin turned to look at Spectral Shadow, not understanding why he suddenly changed like this.

Spectral Shadow raised his head, his eyes full of bloodshot veins. His face was teeming with horror, as if he had seen something extremely terrifying. He gritted his teeth, "Senior Brother, we can't go!"

While waiting here, Spectral Shadow had repeatedly advised them against involving themselves in this matter because he always had a feeling of unease.

Furthermore, this matter involved Lu Yiye, and the few interactions that entailed great risks confirmed Spectral Shadow's suspicion that something was amiss this time.

But how could Senior Brother Qin and Senior Sister Hu just sit out such an important event?

Additionally, it was their team that had located Lu Yiye. No matter what, after killing Lu Yiye, they should be entitled to a share of the bounty.

Withdrawing at this point would mean getting nothing at all.

So, even though Spectral Shadow had advised previously, Senior Brother Qin and others had not taken it seriously. In their view, with over two million Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators gathered, Lu Yiye was undoubtedly doomed. They might not do much, but joining in the fray couldn't hurt.

Until this moment!