

Humanity 681

Chapter 681 Joining Forces in a Pincer Attack

In the cultivation world of the Nine Provinces, there are a wide variety of array banners, totaling one hundred and eight types, aligning with the astrological signs. Each formation requires different array banners, and the combinations of these different banners often bring unexpected changes to the formations.

Therefore, a skilled array cultivator, in the use of array banners, possesses unique insights and experiences.

The same formation, set up by different array cultivators, might have varying levels of power, depending not only on the cultivator's depth of knowledge but also on the choice and combination of the array banners.

There are many intricacies involved.

Last time, Lu Ye obtained thirty-two array banners from the Hundred Arrays Pagoda; this time, he got another thirty-two, making a total of sixty-four.

Although this was not enough to complete a set, sixty-four array banners were already sufficient to handle the vast majority of situations. Moreover, Lu Ye generally would not use these special array banners for his formations—he would either craft them himself or purchase them from Heaven's Augury treasure vault. It did not matter if they were damaged or lost afterward.

After checking the thirty-two array banners, Lu Ye carefully stored them away, then began constructing a small spirit energy gathering funnel, while cultivating and comprehending the vast array information in his mind.

He had passed thirty-three levels of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, and there were no more levels left. When the time limit for this level was reached, he would be sent out of the pagoda.

Faintly, Lu Ye felt he had forgotten something.

If it were any other time, such a situation would not have occurred, but now that his psyche was saturated, he had no spare mental energy to think about anything else. On one occasion, he had even forgotten to release Amber in advance.

He felt that it might not be something very important... Lu Ye decided not to ponder on it too much.

Six shichen passed in a flash, and when the surrounding nature's spiritual energy suddenly dispersed, Lu Ye felt a tremendous and irresistible force of rejection.

It was time to leave.

Silently assessing his own condition, apart from immense pressure on his psyche, everything else was fine.

This attempt at the Hundred Arrays Pagoda could be said to have been hugely rewarding, several times more so than his last visit to the Tianyan Sect.

At least one thing was certain: he had never felt an overflow of psyche during his last time in the Tianyan Sect, signaling that the benefits he received this time in the Hundred Arrays Pagoda were incomparable to the last.

And this was under the premise that his Psyche Force was many times stronger than before.

Such gains, although they had greatly enhanced his knowledge in the Array Path, had not yet reached the limit. If one day he could fully assimilate and settle all the information in his mind, who knew how much more his skills in the Array Path could improve.

Besides, there was also his cultivation, which had advanced from Level 5 to Level 6. Although it was just a minor level up, his strength had undoubtedly increased significantly.

As the surrounding repulsive force surged, the space around Lu Ye began to distort.

Instinctively, he put Amber into the spirit beast sack and activated his spirit force to protect himself, placing his hand on the hilt of the Boulder Mountain Saber at his waist...

He did not know what he was on guard against, but he felt it was the right thing to do.

The next moment, his vision blurred, and he was already standing in front of the entrance to the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

The scenery that met his eyes surprised him; looking around, it was a sea of people.

Were there so many people outside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda? He vaguely remembered that although there were quite a few people when he arrived, it was not to this exaggerated extent.

The moment he appeared, countless eyes turned towards him in unison, each showing a look of astonishment.

Because the Hundred Arrays Pagoda had been resonating these days, no other array cultivators had chosen to challenge the pagoda, and those who had entered before had already left.

So when Lu Ye suddenly appeared, the nearby array cultivators couldn't help but be stunned, as no one knew when he had entered, nor how he could have exited the pagoda at that moment.

Among countless astonished gazes, Lu Ye felt several sharp eyes on him.

Looking up, he immediately saw several familiar faces.

Lu Ye suddenly realized what he had forgotten and understood what he had been on guard against.

On his way to the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, he had encountered an attack by two cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. He ended up killing one in self-defense and severely injured the other, slashing him out of the safe passage, uncertain if he was dead or alive.

Such injuries were severe, but for a cultivator, they might not be fatal in the short term.

The other party could recognize him, and having suffered a huge loss, as long as he was not dead momentarily, he would definitely send out a message and call for friends.

This would expose his whereabouts.

Elsewhere, he could hide or flee, but at the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, there was only one exit. The moment he left the pagoda, he was bound to be intercepted.

The pressure on his psyche had made him temporarily forget this, but his instincts remained, so even though he had forgotten, he put Amber in the spirit beast sack and took a defensive stance before being expelled from the pagoda.

As many thoughts flickered through his mind, a sharp saber light already spread across his field of vision.

Xia Liang and Tan Sheng had been guarding the entrance of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, so the moment Lu Ye appeared, they spotted him without any hesitation. Xia Liang drew his saber and struck, crossing the distance of several meters in a flash. The swing of the saber stirred the spirit force violently, showing off the power of a Level 9 combat cultivator.

Simultaneously, Tan Sheng also shook his spear. The spear, as if alive, struck like a flood dragon emerging from the sea, thrusting straight at Lu Ye with overwhelming might.

Caught between attacks from both sides, and with two Level 9 combat cultivators of Cloud River striking at such close range, it was almost impossible for an ordinary person to react.

They got him!

Xia Liang and Tan Sheng roared in their hearts at the same time, finally, their days of waiting had paid off, for they had successfully cornered Lu Yiye right here.

As they thought this, Lu Ye also drew his saber, and as he did, his figure shifted quickly to the side, not just that, a solid Defense Spirit Rune emerged on his body.

With a cracking sound, the newly formed Defense Spirit was hit by a long spear. Starting from the point of contact, cracks spread in all directions and burst apart with a loud bang.

The might of this spear thrust from Tan Sheng was evident.

However, by using the Defense Spirit to block for that split second, Lu Ye's body slightly tilted, and the long spear passed close under his armpit, piercing his clothes, making him feel an intense burning pain on his skin near his ribs.

One could imagine that, had it not been for the block by the Defense Spirit at the crucial moment, that spear would probably have pierced right into his chest, leaving him either dead or severely injured.

Grazing past death, Lu Ye's eyes became clearer than ever; the immense pressure on his psyche seemed to have eased considerably at that moment.

The long saber in his hand just managed to block a strike from Xia Liang.

The fierce saber light shattered, sparks flew in all directions, causing Xia Liang's body to shake slightly, his brows furrowing.

The feeling from this strike made him realize something was amiss.

This Lu Yiye was much stronger than he had imagined!

The last time he had fought with Lu Ye was in Fox Fairy Valley, where Lu Ye had asked him to teach saber skills. At that time, although Lu Ye seemed stronger than the typical cultivator at Cloud River Level

4, it wasn't by such a huge margin.

But now, the strength that Lu Ye was displaying was astonishing because he had just managed to block his fully-powered strike, even with Tan Sheng's assistance.

What did this mean? It clearly meant that Lu Ye now had the qualifications to confront him head-on.

In the midst of this life-and-death struggle, Xia Liang didn't have the time to ponder too much. His determined strike had failed to achieve its purpose, so he adapted by changing his move, his saber sweeping around, grazing past the Boulder Mountain Saber, and heading towards Lu Ye's neck.

At such close quarters, this strike was extremely dangerous.

The Boulder Mountain Saber was raised abruptly, pre-emptively thwarting Xia Liang's intent.

But the next moment, Lu Ye was struck as if hit by lightning, his body flying sideways.

It was because of Tan Sheng's spear that hadn't managed to kill Lu Ye. After piercing under Lu Ye's armpit, he flicked it.

With that flick, the long spear, like a whip, struck hard against Lu Ye's rib.

Lu Ye felt his internal energy roiling and an unbearable pain in his ribs, faintly accompanied by the sound of bones breaking.

Fortunately, he used the force of this strike to rise into the air, thrashing to the side.

Behind him was the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, leaving no way back, with Tan Sheng and Xia Liang in front, so if he wanted to survive, his only option was to break out sideways.

Though Tan Sheng's spear had injured him, it also provided him with an opportunity to exploit.

"Where do you think you're going!" Xia Liang cried out in anger, his saber ringing. He moved with his blade, quickly catching up to Lu Ye, thrusting it straight toward Lu Ye's back.

Hailing from the Mad Saber Sect, and having practiced for a longer duration, his mastery in saber skills was far stronger than Lu Ye's, the only thing he lacked compared to Lu Ye was experience in life-and-death battles.

This wasn't to say he lacked such experience; any cultivator who had reached this stage had gone through several life-threatening crises.

But Lu Ye had places like the Mirage Realm for training; ever since he obtained the Breath Fruit Core, he didn't know how many times he had died in the Mirage Scene.

Xia Liang didn't have that kind of advantage.

Therefore, when faced with a life-and-death crisis, Lu Ye had incomparable experience in handling the situation.

The Mental Eye Secret Technique played a crucial role at this moment; sensing the imminent threat of death from behind, where most others would have turned to defend, Lu Ye didn't even look back but instead summoned another Defense Spirit Rune.

This Defense Spirit, however, still couldn't block Xia Liang's strike. The blade tip pierced through at the same moment it shattered.

The blade tip went three inches deep into the flesh, nearly reaching the internal organs, but this also exhausted the full force of Xia Liang's strike.

Gigantic waves of heat swept across, and somewhere in the crowd, two vividly lifelike fire dragons twisted and turned towards Lu Ye, launched jointly by Chu Yun and Zhou Pei.

The two were magic cultivators, reacting a bit slower than Xia Liang and Tan Sheng, not casting their magic until after Lu Ye engaged them in battle.

But it was just on time.

This moment was when Lu Ye was wounded by Xia Liang, the moment the defensive barrier behind him shattered.

The two fire dragons, one after the other, slammed hard into Lu Ye's back, engulfing him in a blaze of fire, the tremendous force making him involuntarily spew a mouthful of blood, which instantly evaporated in the scorching flames.

Then, under the gaze of countless pairs of eyes, the figure of Lu Ye enveloped in firelight smashed through a ripple and disappeared without a trace.

The scene was reminiscent of the one in the safety passage, where he had chopped an enemy cultivator of Level 6 flying with a single slash.

Chapter 682 How Could He Not Die?

Within thirty li around the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, besides the safe passage connecting from the Hundred Arrays City and the hundred zhang area where the pagoda itself stood, all other places were filled with various formations.

These formations had been left behind by array cultivators who had come to the Hundred Arrays Pagoda for cultivation throughout the ages.

Because of the unique resonance of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, coupled with the accumulation of time, these formations, though all placed by Cloud River Realm cultivators, could unleash a power far beyond that of normal formations.

The entire Cloud River battlefield contained numerous perilous lands, such as those occupied by overlord-level Demon Generals or other naturally dangerous areas.

But if all the perilous places were to be ranked, the area around the Hundred Arrays Pagoda would undoubtedly be among the top three.

The person who had previously ambushed Lu Ye in the safe passage had been chopped by Lu Ye into this perilous land, and now it was unknown whether he was dead or alive.

Several days had passed, and Lu Ye had followed in his footsteps.

Holding his saber, Xia Liang frowned deeply, watching helplessly as Lu Ye's figure disappeared, unable to stop him unless he was willing to pursue him into that perilous land.

Yet, being not an array cultivator himself, he dared not venture rashly into such a dangerous place, even among those present who were array cultivators, few had the courage to enter such an area.

The sudden change shocked everyone present. Although the area around the Hundred Arrays Pagoda had always been frequented by array cultivators from two major camps for training and cultivation, no one had ever initiated a fight here.

After all, everyone was there to enhance their mastery of the Array Path, so starting a fight was really unseemly, hence the atmosphere always remained relatively harmonious. Even if they belonged to different camps, the array cultivators could still spar with each other, mutually verifying their studies.

However, that day, the long-standing peace and harmony were ultimately broken.

Fortunately, the battle ended quickly.

An array cultivator emerging from the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was bombarded into the perilous land by four joint Cloud River Level 9 cultivators.

"Is that... Lu Yiye?" someone in the crowd suddenly spoke up.

Impacted by the overwhelming information on his psyche, when Lu Ye came out of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda this time, he only instinctively put the amber into his spirit beast sack, completely forgetting to wear his mask.

When he appeared, many people saw him, and naturally someone recognized his identity.

At his words, the crowd erupted.

The incident of poisoning two million Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators in the mine was widely talked about, after all, the matter was somewhat too shocking.

Though some time had passed since, the storm had yet to subside, and even those who were constantly cultivating here had heard of it, knowing that Ten Thousand Demons Ridge was currently searching for Lu Ye's whereabouts everywhere.

Yet unexpectedly, he appeared right there at the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, only to be killed immediately upon showing up.

Recalling the image of Lu Ye being engulfed in flames as he fell into the perilous land, no one believed he had any chance of survival under such circumstances.

The attackers, after all, were two Level 9 Cloud River magic cultivators.

Xia Liang turned to look at Chu Yun and Zhou Pei. Whether Lu Ye was dead or not, these two knew best, as they were the last to strike.

After a moment of silence, Chu Yun shook his head, followed by Zhou Pei who also shook his head.

If Lu Ye had died, their merit would surely have changed, and a blue glow of the battlefield marking would have floated towards them, but none of this had happened.

In other words, Lu Ye wasn't dead!

"Damn tough luck!" Xia Liang gritted his teeth.

All four of them had injured Lu Ye, and being wrapped up in such powerful Dao techniques, turning into a ball of firelight, yet he still didn't die?

How tough could Lu Yiye's luck be?

Tan Sheng's expression also turned grim. Truthfully, Lu Ye surviving such a decisive attack was indeed unexpected. Thinking back from when he first encountered Lu Ye to the present, how quickly he had grown up, Tan Sheng couldn't help but shudder, because from their brief encounter just now, he felt that Lu Ye's cultivation had improved again, now seemingly having reached the Level 6 of Cloud River.

Back in the hunting field, this guy had to flee like a bereft dog when chased by him, and now he had survived an attack teamed up by him and Xia Liang.

During this time, he could almost say he had watched Lu Ye grow up at a terrifying speed.

"Brother Xia, if the snake is not killed, trouble is inevitable," Tan Sheng said softly.

Xia Liang knew this point all too well. These days, he and Tan Sheng had constantly sought Lu Ye's life, but there were seldom opportunities to confront him directly. This time could be said to be the closest they had come to success, yet they still hadn't managed to kill him.

With this thought, he called out loudly, "Fellows of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, I am Xia Liang of the Mad Saber Sect, and I have a request. Could you please help decipher the formation and find the trail of the one who escaped?"

The perilous land outside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was something Xia Liang had also heard about. For him to rush in was absolutely unthinkable, but now the place had gathered a large number of array cultivators. If the array cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge could join forces and break the formation, then Lu Yiye would surely have nowhere to hide.

They needed to see the person alive and the body if dead, otherwise, they could never be at ease.

As a cultivator of the Mad Saber Sect, a well-known 1st grade sect, and possessing Level 9 cultivation, when he spoke up, an array cultivator in the crowd shouted, "May I ask Brother Xia, the person who just escaped, is it that Righteous Blood Sect's Lu Yiye?"

Although someone had already recognized Lu Ye and named him, among those present, only Xia Liang and his group had actually seen Lu Ye personally. Without accurate confirmation, nobody could be sure it was indeed Lu Ye.

At this moment, Xia Liang naturally wouldn't hide anything, and he nodded, "Exactly, that is Righteous Blood Sect's Lu Yiye."

"Truly, it is that barghest!" The speaking array cultivator gritted his teeth, "This villain committed countless evil deeds, killing our Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators everywhere, with crimes too numerous to record. To think he still dared to come to the Hundred Arrays Pagoda. Being an array cultivator myself, I feel ashamed to be associated with such a person. Brother Xia, count me in for breaking the formation."

One person spoke up, and soon more array cultivators joined in, creating a chorus of agreement.

However, many from the Haotian Alliance were present as well, all frowning deeply.

But under such circumstances, they dared not rashly step forward, as it would surely ignite a chaotic battle.

With the vast number of cultivators gathered here, a large battle would not only suffer from the lack of a leader to maintain order but also from the imposing presence of Xia Liang and several other Level 9 cultivators, which would be a substantial deterrent. Should a fight truly break out, the Haotian Alliance would definitely be at a disadvantage.

So, even though they were displeased, no cultivator from the Haotian Alliance stood up to argue.

The situation greatly favored Xia Liang and others; shortly after, under the leadership of Xia Liang and Tan Sheng, many array cultivators from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge began to break the formation within the perilous land.

This was unprecedented.

Though the formations within the perilous land were numerous and extremely dangerous, if the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge truly united, they could level the perilous land. By then, whether Lu Ye had already died or not, if he were still alive, he would have nowhere to hide.

The formerly harmonious array cultivators clearly divided into sides.

Those from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were actively breaking the formation, while those from the Haotian Alliance gathered together, watching from a distance.

Xia Liang and the others ignored them, as finding Lu Ye was more important; this was not the time for unnecessary distractions.

Within the Haotian Alliance camp, Cultivator Luo looked toward the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, his mind roiling with shock and awe.

Everyone had been captivated by the recent conflict, but only he, who had been among the first to arrive, noticed some unusual occurrences.

Or perhaps others noticed as well but didn't think much of it.

Lu Ye had emerged from the Hundred Arrays Pagoda!

Typically, array cultivators don't spend much time breaking through a pagoda; if they fail, they are directly teleported out, and even if they succeed, they can only stay inside for a limited time.

Moreover, the Hundred Arrays Pagoda had been resonating recently, which is highly coveted by array cultivators.

Thus, starting several days ago, no array cultivators had entered the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, and those inside had emerged early.

Until today, when Lu Ye appeared.

In other words, during these past days, Lu Ye had been inside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

He had also quietly calculated that the recent resonances of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda totaled thirty-four times!

If one excluded the first time, that left thirty-three times, perfectly corresponding to the number of floors in the pagoda.

He had always suspected that it was Lu Ye attempting the pagoda, but if so, that would be rather extravagant.

In his own sect, he had once consecutively broken through thirty-three floors causing thirty-three resonances; could it be that in the Cloud River battlefield he could still manage to do the same, triggering thirty-three resonances?

What sort of terrifying talent for the Array Path would that be?

And what sort of profound mastery of the Array Path must Lu Ye possess now?

As he knew, the record for the Cloud River battlefield's Hundred Arrays Pagoda was twenty-five floors, meaning no one had ever passed the twenty-sixth floor.

And the person who set this record was an Array Path Grandmaster from three hundred years ago, whose mastery of the Array Path was legendary, achieving heights no one in the Nine Provinces had ever reached.

Even this Grandmaster couldn't consecutively break through twenty-five floors; it took him many attempts, especially after the twentieth floor, where he could only advance one floor at a time, waiting for his own Array Path mastery to improve before attempting the next...

This Grandmaster had been renowned throughout the Nine Provinces; with his abilities, he could have lived to the present, but unfortunately, he had a penchant for romance and was ultimately killed in a rivalry within his own faction—an unfortunate end indeed.

To break through twenty-five floors was already an outstanding achievement.

It was hard to imagine what accomplishments on the Array Path awaited Lu Ye, who not only broke through thirty-three floors consecutively but also triggered thirty-three resonances.

Such a person... if he were to fall prematurely, it would be a colossal loss for the Haotian Alliance.

But given the current circumstances, even if he wanted to help, he was powerless, unless he could incite other array cultivators from the Haotian Alliance for a desperate fight against the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

This thought crossed his mind, and Cultivator Luo sighed softly.

He had clearly seen the scene of Lu Ye falling into the perilous land, and under such a terrifying assault, it was unlikely that the opponent had survived. Perhaps he was already dead?

What a pity, what a shame!

The array cultivators from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were vigorously breaking the formation, while Xia Liang and others stood by waiting and also keeping an eye on any movements from the Haotian Alliance cultivators.

He then turned to look at Chu Yun and Zhou Pei.

These two slowly shook their heads, the former said, "He's not dead yet!"

Incredulous, he wondered how that could be possible.

Chapter 683 Layers upon Layers of Big Arrays

The four people who attacked Lu Ye were all Cloud River Level 9, and each one of them managed to injure him.

Tan Sheng's long spear struck Lu Ye's ribs, Xia Liang's blade pierced into Lu Ye's body, breaking his protective spirit force, and then two overwhelmingly powerful magic and spells enveloped him, turning him into a blaze of fire.

In such a situation, it was as if Lu Ye had taken the attack from two spells without any protection.

Frankly, had any one of the four experienced the same treatment, they surely wouldn't have survived.

Yet, how did Lu Yiye manage not to die?

Soon, the Formation where Lu Ye had disappeared was broken, and Xia Liang immediately stepped forward to investigate. He only saw splatters of fresh blood remaining on the ground, but there was no sign of Lu Ye himself.

This guy, he really didn't die.

This is troublesome.

Considering it in his heart, the best scenario now would be if Lu Yiye was hanging on by a thread, barely alive, but wouldn't last much longer. If that were the case, then this attempt could be deemed successful. Even if they didn't obtain Lu Yiye's body and couldn't claim the massive reward, at least the tumor had been excised. With Lu Ye no longer posing a threat, he could boldly seek revenge on Li Baxian.

But after all, this was only the best-case scenario.

He had to consider some other possible situations.

For example, what if Lu Yiye was only severely injured and was now hiding somewhere in this perilous land, healing. If that were the case, once he recovered a little, he'd be able to figure out a way to break the Array and leave.

This guy's competence in the Array Path was extremely high. Having just come out of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, his cultivation in array must have improved again.

Thinking of this, Xia Liang couldn't help but feel irritated. Ever since he had started dealing with Lu Yiye, things hadn't gone smoothly. In order to pursue and kill this guy, he had already wasted several months of cultivation time.

In the perilous land of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, where array cultivators break Arrays, Lu Ye, with a pale face, was making his way through one Formation after another, inwardly sighing at his good luck.

It was fortunate that the last attack he faced was a fire-element technique, which allowed him to utilize the power of the Talent Tree to preserve his life. Had it been a spell of another element sign, he might not have been able to survive.

Xia Liang and the others were curious as to why he could survive such attacks. Had they known what he relied on to kill Huo Liaoyuan of the Sacred Fire Order back then, they wouldn't have had so many doubts.

With the Talent Tree at his side, Lu Ye's resistance to fire-element technique was unmatched by anyone.

However, while he could withstand the power of the spells, he could not withstand the physical impact. Therefore, under the collision of those two fire dragons, he was still seriously injured.

Moreover, before that, Xiao Liang's blade had stabbed into his back, piercing three inches deep.

At this moment, it would be accurate to say he was gravely injured.

The overwhelming pressure on his psyche had already made him dizzy and sluggish in his thinking, and now that his physical body had also suffered a heavy blow, his condition could be said to be extremely poor.

Luckily, he had timely escaped into the perilous land covered by countless Arrays.

The location he entered was not randomly chosen.

Before he entered the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, he had already anticipated the potential situation he might face upon exiting the pagoda. The very reason why he persisted through the pagoda and risked danger was with the intention of escaping through this perilous land.

Before entering the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, he had specifically observed the surroundings. The place where he escaped to was not far from the exit of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda and was covered by an Illusion Array that itself did not have much lethality.

Therefore, when he left the pagoda, although Lu Ye did not immediately remember many things, after he was attacked, he instantly recalled the escape route he had left behind. With the help of the blow from Tan Sheng's spear, he fled in that direction.

If Xia Liang and the others had dared to pursue him into the Array at that time, his chances of survival would indeed have been slim.

But faced with such an unknown Formation, who would dare to pursue.

This gave him a chance to escape.

The Illusion Array into which he fell had been operating for who knows how long and was absurdly powerful. Anyone from the Cloud River Realm who entered would probably be flooded with illusions and lose all sense of direction.

However, Lu Ye's psyche was ultimately much stronger than that of his peers in the same realm. With only a slight influence, he was safe and sound.

He did not break the Array, but rather chose to stealthily move out of the range covered by the Array using his own unique method. In this way, the Array would still function and block any pursuers that might exist.

With the Insight Spirit Runes constructed, Lu Ye continuously surveyed his surroundings, only to see Formations hidden in all directions, the sheer number of which was staggering.

However, under the effect of the Insight Spirit Runes, these Formations were essentially exposed, saving Lu Ye a lot of time.

He moved through the gaps between Arrays, pressing forward.

However, he hadn't gone far before he found no way through. Looking around, he saw that different Arrays were tightly connected all around, leaving not even a sliver of gap.

In this case, unless he stayed in place, Lu Ye would inevitably enter into an unknown Array.

With no other choice, he could only try to enter an Array that didn't look too dangerous, get in, and then leave from another direction.

Traveling in such a way for more than two hours, Lu Ye still hadn't left the perilous land covered with intricate and numerous Arrays.

Moreover, an awkward situation arose: he had somewhat lost his direction.

By all accounts, such a thing should be nearly impossible for him, given that he was a Cloud River Level 6 cultivator.

But the multitude of big arrays in operation here severely interfered with his judgment. Coupled with his poor current condition, his psyche and body were subjected to a dual pressure, so for a moment, an event that should not have occurred did indeed happen.

Feeling somewhat dizzy, Lu Ye halted his steps.

If he couldn't leave this place in one go, then he could only hurry to heal his injuries.

Although he did not know his current location, even if there were pursuers behind him, finding him would not be easy.

So, for the short term, his situation was safe.

First heal the injuries, and once they are healed, then figure out a way to leave this place.

Having made up his mind, Lu Ye released Amber from the spirit beast sack and let Yiyi keep watch, while he himself sat down cross-legged.

He had already ingested a healing pill while on the move, and his injuries had improved somewhat.

The knife wound inflicted by Xia Liang was not serious—a mere three inches deep, just a flesh wound. With his physique and the efficacy of the healing pill, recovery was not difficult. What truly caused harm was the breach of his defenses.

The more serious injuries were to his internal organs. Tan Sheng's spear, like a whip, had fiercely struck his ribs, nearly dislocating his organs, and some of his ribs were even slightly cracked. Then, having been hit by two fire dragons, the damage to his organs became even worse.

However, Lu Ye had sustained more severe injuries than this in the past, so it was not a big problem. With enough time, he could recover.

Most urgently, he needed to quickly comprehend the vast knowledge of the Array Path in his mind to alleviate the pressure on his psyche; otherwise, he would not be able to concentrate on many matters.

Allowing the healing pill to play its part, Lu Ye circulated his spirit force to heal his injuries, while immersing himself in the gains he had obtained from the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

As time passed, while he quietly healed himself, outside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, the array cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were bustling about. Many ancient formations that had stood for years were being undone, to the outrage—though unvoiced—of the Haotian Alliance array cultivators.

The arrays left outside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, regardless of their original intent, were treasures left by the ancestors.

Many array cultivators would study these formations and corroborate their learning when they had nothing else to do.

But now, these formations, whose age was a mystery, were being broken one by one. With the way Ten Thousand Demons Ridge was going about it, they seemed intent on breaking all the arrays entirely. If this happened, the area around the Hundred Arrays Pagoda would no longer be known as a perilous land.

Of course, completely razing the numerous arrays covering thirty miles was not a simple task.

One day in a hurry, ten miles from the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, hidden within an array, Lu Ye opened his eyes and slowly exhaled.

The benefits of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda were not so easily digested, but after a day of relentless effort, the pressure on his psyche had significantly decreased. At the very least, it no longer influenced his thinking like before.

The rest could wait, there was no need to rush; he could slowly digest it later.

His physical injuries were not completely healed, but they were no longer a major concern.

After a delay of one day, it was time to leave.

Lu Ye stood up and called to Yiyi, "Let's go."

"Oh," Yiyi replied, and dashed into Amber's body, preferring not to show herself when there was a possibility of encountering strangers.

While everyone knew Lu Ye had Amber, few were aware that he also had Yiyi by his side. In certain critical moments, Yiyi could play an essential role.

Amber then hopped onto Lu Ye's shoulder, crouched down, and squinted, assuming a lazy pose.

It's worth mentioning that the cultivation of both Amber and Yiyi was now equivalent to the Cloud River Level 6.

Lu Ye had advanced to Level 6 after passing through the fifteenth layer of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, while the breakthroughs for Yiyi and Amber came in the layers beyond. Thus, the gap in cultivation between them and Lu Ye was actually not that large.

Lu Ye's rapid improvement in cultivation was due to his daily consumption of a large amount of elixir pills, and even without the spirit fortune sticks, his cultivation was growing bit by bit, a feat unattainable by other cultivators.

That the two little ones could keep up with the pace of Lu Ye's cultivation was largely thanks to Amber.

All this time, it had been displaying this lazy demeanor, as if never getting enough sleep, which was not due to laziness but because it was continually digesting demonic pills.

Lu Ye consumed elixir pills, and Amber consumed demonic pills. Unlike Lu Ye's elixir pills, the energy contained in demonic pills was much greater, which is why Amber always appeared so. It was focusing most of its energy on digesting demonic pills.

Additionally, Lu Ye's cultivation was ultimately his own, but the two little ones were different; their cultivation process was always doubly joyful. Whoever's strength increased would benefit the other.

If one day their cultivation exceeded his own, it wouldn't surprise Lu Ye.

Boosted by the Insight Spirit Runes, Lu Ye searched for flaws in the array he was in, and soon, while preserving the array, he escaped from it.

Chapter 684 A Way Out?

Actually, the best way to escape from such a perilous land was to directly use weapon control to fly away, but Lu Ye tried at various locations and found that everywhere was enveloped by the Great Sky Prohibition Array; he simply couldn't take off.

Moreover, the power of this Sky Prohibition Array was the strongest of any big array he had encountered. With his current strength, he could barely fly seven feet off the ground.

This was clearly not something an array cultivator from the Cloud River Realm could achieve.

Thinking about the information and some rumors he had purchased from Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union about the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, Lu Ye understood that this must be some kind of incomprehensible anomaly.

In the perilous land, there were many formations, and a Sky Prohibition Array was indeed present, but its power shouldn't be so overwhelming and its coverage so extensive.

But around the Hundred Arrays Pagoda there often emerged marvelous rhythmic fluctuations, not only enlightening for array cultivators but causing unpredictable changes in the many formations within the perilous land, which is why the formations there were astonishingly powerful.

Many things that were common sense outside were no longer applicable in this perilous land.

Lu Ye couldn't help suspecting that his inability to escape from this perilous land was related to this anomaly; although he seemed to be moving in one direction, that might not actually be the case.

This made things difficult, if indeed so. Unless he decided to destroy every formation he encountered, he feared it would be very hard to escape from here.

Within a trap array, Lu Ye stopped and looked at a skeleton in front of him.

All along his journey, he had come across several such skeletons, all obviously array cultivators who once believed in their own skills and rashly entered the perilous land to break formations. They got in easily but could not get out, eventually getting trapped here alive.

Judging by the traces left on these skeletons, they died in different eras, mostly killed by the explosive power of formations, but the skull in front of him... had a depression, and the entire skull was cracked open.

This was clearly a self-destruction.

It was hard to imagine what degree of despair a Cloud River Realm cultivator must reach to choose such a way to end their own life.

Lu Ye collected the storage sack next to this skeleton, just as he had with several others before. The restriction lock inside had already broken itself; without the continuous input of a cultivator's spirit force, the restriction lock couldn't function endlessly.

After a quick inspection, there wasn't anything valuable inside the storage sack, and Lu Ye didn't mind. He didn't even plan to take the corpse for a proper burial.

He stepped forward, walking through the formation.

After this trip to the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, his mastery over the Array Path was much stronger than before. Now, as he walked through this perilous land, he was constantly assimilating the gifts from the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

If it had been earlier, falling into such a perilous land and trying to navigate through the numerous arrays would have been quite challenging, but now, it was as simple as drinking water and breathing.

What were impenetrable arrays for array cultivators of the Cloud River Realm were just like flat ground to him.

With one step, he entered another formation.

At one moment, as Lu Ye passed through a formation, he suddenly looked up ahead, his eyes revealing a look of surprise.

This way there had been endless formations, one after another, with no gaps in between.

But the space ahead had no traces of being enveloped by any formation.

This was inevitably a bit strange.

And what entered Lu Ye's field of vision was unmistakably a platform several tens of feet in size.

It was odd to find such a thing outside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda in a perilous land.

What made Lu Ye even more puzzled was that there was a vaguely familiar figure on the platform, pacing back and forth as if stumbling upon some problem, scratching his head in frustration.

That figure was none other than Cultivator Yooi, whom he had sent flying with a slash in the safe passage to the Hundred Arrays Pagoda in Hundred Arrays City.

At that time, this person had been injured by Lu Ye and fell into the perilous land; Lu Ye had not pursued him, because he thought the other was unlikely to survive. Unexpectedly, here he was again.

Did this guy have such a big life?

On that mysterious platform, Cultivator Yooi was busily scratching his head. Suddenly sensing something amiss, he looked up, catching Lu Ye's mocking gaze. The man instantly went rigid.

"It's you!" Cultivator Yooi could hardly believe his eyes. How did Lu Yiye find this place?

Previously, he had been sent flying by Lu Ye's slash, falling into the perilous land. By sheer luck, he had not triggered any formation and, panicking, fled, not knowing how but ended up here.

Seeing such a platform, he naturally wanted to thoroughly investigate. Unfortunately, he had yet to figure out its secrets when Lu Yiye appeared right before his eyes.

My opportunity! He internally wailed. Although reluctant to give up the opportunity hidden in the platform, he knew he was no match for Lu Yiye.

Lu Ye's previous slash had completely terrified him.

So upon recognizing Lu Ye, he decisively fled backward, instantly crashing into a formation behind him.

Only this time his luck didn't seem so good. Accompanied by the fierce buzzing and firelight from that side, a formation of tremendous power activated, and after several agonizing screams, all was quiet.

Lu Ye silently watched.

Even if the other did not run, he would have killed him, but Cultivator Yooi's decisiveness was still surprising.

It was just as well, sparing him the trouble of taking action.

Lu Ye's interest was piqued as he looked up at the high platform.

Inside the perilous land outside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, the existence of such a platform, which had never been mentioned before, including the intelligence he bought from Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union, was hidden.

It was not surprising, considering the danger of this land. The few skeletons Lu Ye encountered along the way were the fate of those who trespassed.

Moreover, in such an environment, intruders generally couldn't distinguish directions, and finding this platform was not an easy task.

What was this platform used for?

Curious, Lu Ye leapt towards the platform.

Although he didn't know how many years this platform had been here, it was well preserved, and it looked as though it was carved from a giant piece of jade, smooth as a mirror, with no patterns anywhere around it.

Only directly above the platform, a series of complex patterns intertwined and fitted together, giving off a highly chaotic impression at first glance.

Lu Ye stared intently, and his heart trembled.

The complex patterns on the platform seemed to be a teleportation array.

However, there were slight differences from the teleportation arrays Lu Ye had learned about.

Arrays, like spirit runes, involve many patterns that are not static; every formation, every rune is made up of countless Yin-Yang Dual Origins intertwined, each with endless variations.

However, sometimes a minor change could enhance or reduce the effects significantly.

What was certain was that the patterns engraved on the platform were definitely a teleportation array, but what effects this teleportation array could have, Lu Ye was somewhat unclear.

And under his observation, he found that this teleportation array was incomplete; there were some missing Void Spirit Runes at the core.

To understand the effects of this teleportation array, it would surely require the completion of the array.

No wonder that Cultivator Yooi he had just seen was scratching his head on it, looking like he was facing a tough problem.

Not to belittle him, regardless of his proficiency in array art, with Cloud River Realm cultivation, it was absolutely impossible for him to repair this teleportation array.

Perhaps... this was a way out?

A thought struck Lu Ye. He had been moving through various arrays in this perilous land, yet he had always been unable to leave, and here was a teleportation array, which naturally led him to some speculation.

Perhaps he could use this teleportation array to exit this place?

Even if not, such an array greatly intrigued Lu Ye. If he could complete this array, it would be greatly beneficial to him.

He immediately decided to complete the array and then test its power; perhaps he could escape this predicament in one fell swoop.

No sooner had he thought of it than Lu Ye set to work.

Having set up a teleportation array himself and faced the challenge of a teleportation array in the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, completing this array before him was not difficult.

The difficulty lay in the fact that the patterns on the jade platform were engraved, not subject to aging. To complete this array, would he need to use the Boulder Mountain Saber to engrave the missing patterns?

After a trial with the saber, he was shocked to find that the material of the platform was extraordinarily hard, and no matter how hard he tried, he could not leave a mark on it.

What material was this?

Although Lu Ye had reached the Cloud River Realm, his knowledge of some natural treasures in the Nine Provinces was limited, and he couldn't recognize the material of this platform. However, such a hard substance must be valuable, yet it was carved into a huge platform carrying a teleportation array.

He had no idea who had such capability, nor why it appeared here.

After trying for a moment, Lu Ye gave up helplessly. Even the Boulder Mountain Saber, enhanced with Double-Sharpness Spirit Runes, couldn't leave a mark. He couldn't think of what else he could do.

Perhaps he could directly use spirit force to complete the array...

With this thought, Lu Ye immediately placed his hand on the platform, and as the spirit force surged, he channeled it into the patterns.

The platform, which had not been activated for countless years, slowly began to emit light, with the patterns lighting up one by one as Lu Ye's spirit force entered them, up until the damaged section.

Lu Ye, controlling his spirit force, completed the broken formation according to his idea.

The moment the entire formation became complete, an unexpected change occurred.

Lu Ye felt an irresistible devouring force from the palm of his hand. His spirit force rapidly drained away as if floodgates had been opened.

This sudden change alarmed Lu Ye greatly; he hurriedly tried to pull his hand away but could not.

In less than ten breaths of time, nine-tenths of his spiritual power vanished!

"Awoo?" Amber, perched on Lu Ye's shoulder and half-squinting, also sensed the danger and widened its tiger eyes.

The space around them began to distort—an evident sign that the teleportation array was about to activate.

Turning around, Amber clung to Lu Ye's head. The sensation of teleportation... it was hard to forget. If it had known it would experience teleportation, it definitely would have asked to hide in the spirit beast sack.

Chapter 685 Ye 6 Young Master

Atop the jade stone platform, Lu Ye could only laugh at his predicament. At this moment, his spirit force was almost entirely depleted, and his originally stable injuries were now aggravated. His chest surged with tumultuous blood Qi, on the verge of erupting.

Those were trivial matters. What made Lu Ye curious was the location this teleportation array connected to... where was it? The disturbance it caused was so vast.

His own teleportation array could cover an area of three to four hundred miles. When he was saved by a mysterious woman at River Pi, the teleportation array's reach was over a thousand miles.

Yet even being transported by that mysterious woman didn't create as much commotion as it did this time.

In other words, this teleportation array might be connected to a place very far away, and it could potentially send him thousands, if not tens of thousands of miles in an instant.

Lu Ye instinctively guarded his mind.

The next instant, an unprecedented sensation of weightlessness overwhelmed him, as if he had stepped into an abyss and was plummeting rapidly towards its unfathomable depths.

Lu Ye felt dizzy and his vision blurred. He only heard Amber let out a miserable scream before he lost consciousness.

To faint during teleportation? Lu Ye sensed trouble, but at this moment he was utterly powerless to stop it.

Hopefully, the other side is safe enough... The thought had barely crossed his mind when Lu Ye blacked out.

...

"Brother Lu Ye! Brother Lu Ye..." A gentle voice calling out close to his ear rose, filled with boundless panic and insecurity, and even a suppressed sob.

Lu Ye's groggy consciousness slowly revived, and he couldn't understand his situation for a moment. Instead, a flood of strange information filled his mind.

Soaring Dragon World, Fengzhou, Tyrannical Saber Villa, Master Ye Liu...

Mixing with his original memories, these unfamiliar pieces of information churned in his mind, inexplicably bringing about a sense of familiarity.

Had he experienced this before?

Upon slight recollection, he suddenly remembered where he had encountered such a thing.

It was during his last entry into the secret realm of the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain.

That time, his mind had also been filled with unfamiliar information, all concerning his identity within the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain.

In secret realms like the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain, cultivators would often be assigned identities upon entry. This allowed the cultivators to better assimilate into the secret realm and participate in significant events occurring within.

In the secret realm of the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain, Lu Ye's identity was that of the Young Sect Master of the Ten Thousand Beasts Sect. Accompanied by Xia Qianqian and several other maids, he sought refuge in Two Worlds City, giving him a rather prestigious starting point.

Now he seemed to be experiencing something similar...

He recalled the earlier teleportation and suddenly realized that the teleportation array had not connected to some location on the Cloud River battlefield, but had actually sent him into a secret realm.

No wonder the teleportation was so extravagant; he had thought it would send him thousands, if not tens of thousands of miles away, but it seemed it was not so.

Although his consciousness had revived, Lu Ye's body felt extremely exhausted. The teleportation array had drained the spirit force from his body, triggering his previous injuries, and after such a grandiose transportation, Lu Ye felt engulfed by an indescribable weakness.

Without rushing to open his eyes, he sorted through the information that had appeared in his mind.

This was a place called Soaring Dragon World, rumored to have traces of True Dragon visits. Tyrannical Saber Villa was his affiliated power, and looking across the entire Soaring Dragon World, it could also be considered a local powerhouse.

The master of Tyrannical Saber Villa, Ye Ying, started from scratch. He single-handedly built a large enterprise, and his personal strength was extremely formidable. Among his six sons and one daughter, each was outstanding.

Such a power should have been able to continue for several generations without decline, but just a few days ago, a disaster struck. Tyrannical Saber Villa's backbone, Ye Ying, died suddenly and inexplicably. Shortly thereafter, the villa was breached by a group of people concealing their identities. Disciples were killed or fled; of Ye Ying's seven children, five perished in the encounter, leaving only Lu Ye, Ye Liu, and the youngest, Ye Liuli, who narrowly escaped.

The siblings supported each other and fled into Huayan Mountain, now reaching their limits.

Lu Ye's heart filled with sorrow.

Heaven's Augury, what unfathomable schemes are you concocting?

Last time, he was the Young Sect Master of Ten Thousand Beasts Sect, and this time he was barely the Young Villa Master of Tyrannical Saber Villa, with both origins quite impressive.

But the key issue was, last time the Ten Thousand Beasts Sect was destroyed, this time Tyrannical Saber Villa was breached...

History always bears striking resemblances.

"Brother Lu Ye..." The girl's mournful call sounded by his ear, and then Lu Ye felt a finger placed under his nose, as if she was checking if he was still breathing, to see if he was dead or not.

His current injuries were a result of the old wound being triggered by the teleportation, coupled with the strain caused by the teleportation itself, but in this Soaring Dragon World, it was said to be injuries sustained from fighting with the enemy at Tyrannical Saber Villa, which fit the narrative.

"Liuli..." Lu Ye opened his eyes and called out weakly.

"Brother Lu Ye." Ye Liuli's eyes, originally dim, now shone brightly. In just a few days, from the esteemed daughter of Tyrannical Saber Villa, she had fallen to a stray dog fleeing in panic. For Ye Liuli, who had always lived a life of luxury, this was an upheaval, a world turned upside down. Now, with only Lu Ye as her only kin, if Lu Ye were to die as well, she really wouldn't know what to do.

After all, she was just a fifteen-year-old girl who had never faced the hardships of the world.

She fumbled to pick up a bowl of medicinal solution from the side, scooped it up with a spoon, and brought it to Lu Ye's lips, suppressing the sadness in her heart as she said, "Brother Lu Ye, drink the medicine."

The warm medicinal solution entered Lu Ye's mouth, bitter-tasting. He didn't know if the medicine would be effective, but at the moment he was so exhausted that he couldn't even move a finger and had no choice but to let her do as she wished.

After swallowing a bowl of medicinal solution, Lu Ye grew increasingly tired and said softly, "I'll sleep for a while."

Ye Liuli nodded, "Brother Ye Liu, you rest now, I'll keep watch." The sudden turn of events had clearly matured the young girl quite a bit.

Lu Ye closed his eyes, but he did not sleep; rather, he pondered in silence.

He hadn't expected the teleportation array on the jade platform outside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda in the perilous land to transport him into such a secret realm.

It was almost certain that this secret realm had never appeared before and no one had ever entered it.

After all, the platform's location was difficult to find; who would have thought that such a perilous land would have a secret realm entrance within.

And even if it were found, cultivators from the Cloud River Realm could not enter.

Only by fully repairing the teleportation array on the platform could one be transported here, that damaged teleportation array seemed to act as a test, where only those who passed the test were worthy of entering this place.

Across the entire Cloud River battlefield, aside from Lu Ye, no one else could repair that teleportation array.

Since he had arrived, he needed to adapt to the situation.

In his cultivation journey thus far, Lu Ye had strictly experienced only the secret realms of Xianyuan City and Ten Thousand Beasts Domain; this could be considered the third secret realm he had encountered.

Secret realms were places with many dangers, but they were also accompanied by great opportunities, which cultivators loved to explore.

Though he had entered this place unintentionally, Lu Ye was not eager to leave, thinking perhaps he could gain something from this experience.

Amber was gone...

During teleportation, Amber had been crouching on his shoulder, but now she was nowhere to be found.

It didn't matter much; during the secret realm of the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain, Amber wasn't with him at the start either, and he could sense his own battlefield marking, so he should be able to make contact with Yiyi.

What warranted deep thought was what he ought to do in this secret realm.

Generally speaking, when the backdrop is a large-scale world secret realm like this, the point at which cultivators entered often coincided with major events in the secret realm, like with the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain secret realm previously, which faced a calamity of extinction.

And the cultivators had invisible tasks to carry out.

Of course, these tasks were not directly handed down by Heaven's Augury, but required the cultivators to find their own way.

In the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain secret realm, cultivators needed to resist the beast tide and address the root of the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain's problem to gain a great deal of battle merit.

Then there was that time in Fox Fairy Valley—although it was not a secret realm, when Lu Ye killed the malevolent Fox Demon, it was as if he had resolved a major hidden threat in the Cloud River battlefield, and immediately following that, Heaven's Augury bestowed a reward.

So, in this Soaring Dragon World, what should he do? What major events had recently occurred in the Soaring Dragon World?

He didn't have much of an idea yet. Although a lot of unfamiliar information about this world had flooded into his mind, Lu Ye was not truly Master Ye Liu; he was an outsider and didn't have a thorough understanding of this world.

Moreover, the most urgent matter was to resolve the immediate crisis at hand.

Tyrannical Saber Villa had been destroyed, all of Ye Liu's brothers had perished in battle, and only he and Ye Liuli had escaped due to the desperate defense of the villa's loyal servants.

But this did not mean that their situation had become safe.

If weeds are not eradicated at the roots, they will grow back with the spring breeze; it was probable that at this moment, someone was in pursuit to kill him and Ye Liuli.

He needed to make contact with Yiyi quickly; given his current physical condition, he could exert limited strength, and Ye Liuli's strength was not high either, barely having entered the Cloud River Realm, plus she had exhausted a lot during their escape, so it was uncertain how much strength she could muster now.

With Yiyi and Amber by their side to protect them, their situation would be more secure.

With this thought, Lu Ye raised his hand and touched his battlefield marking, sending out a message.

Soon enough, Yiyi responded.

She and Amber were currently in a dense forest, but it was difficult to determine their exact location.

It seemed that luck was on their side; Yiyi and Amber were also in the Huayan Mountain, but finding a way to meet up with Lu Ye would likely require some searching.

"Liuli," Lu Ye called out gently again.

Ye Liuli, on the verge of falling asleep from weakness, immediately raised her head, her face still streaked with dried tears and her eyes bloodshot, "I'm here, Brother Ye Liu."

"What are the features of our current location?"

Ye Liuli wasn't sure why her sixth brother was concerned about such matters at this time, but after a moment of recollection, she said, "I randomly found a cave, there's a wild jujube tree outside; does that count as a feature?"

"Anything else? What about the nearby terrains?"

Ye Liuli thought carefully and gave a simple description of the nearby terrain.

"I understand," said Lu Ye after hearing her description, then passed on the information to Yiyi through a message.

Ye Liuli looked doubtfully at Lu Ye, but seeing that her sixth brother had closed his eyes again, she held back her questions and asked no more.

Chapter 686 So Ferocious

In the cave, when Lu Ye opened his eyes again, Ye Liuli had already fallen heavily asleep against the rock wall. Since Tyrannical Saber Villa had been breached, she had been in a constant state of panic, and after several days of escape with Lu Ye, without a moment of rest, she was already running on fumes.

The girl's face still bore traces of youthfulness, wearing a purple dress. However, the color that should have appeared luxurious was now covered in large patches of dark red, the color of blood. Days without care had left her face dirty and her hair in disarray.

In her sleep, she must have had some troubling dream as her brow was furrowed, her expression tense and uneasy.

In the darkness, she suddenly opened her eyes and met Lu Ye's gaze. Her expression immediately tensed, "Brother Ye Liu..."

"Shh!" Lu Ye put a finger to his lips.

Ye Liuli nodded.

Some noise came from outside, sounding like the breaking of air, and it was these faint noises that had awakened the girl from her sleep.

Although Ye Liuli's cultivation wasn't as advanced as Lu Ye's, she had at least reached Cloud River, so her senses were pretty good.

"There seems to be a cave here, let's go in and check." Voices from outside could now be heard.

Ye Liuli's expression instantly tensed, knowing that with their current condition, if they were discovered, they were as good as dead.

But it was too late to hide now. She cursed herself for her incompetence, falling asleep at such a critical moment. If she had detected the presence of the enemy sooner, they might have had a slim chance at survival.

Regret was now useless; she grabbed her saber beside her and forced herself to stand, positioning herself in front of Lu Ye.

The name of Tyrannical Saber Villa came from Ye Ying. Not that he was overbearing in behavior, but his saber skills were extremely aggressive and dominant.

Ye Ying's children, having been exposed to his influence from a young age, naturally practiced the same lineage of saber skills.

Ye Liuli's saber, both in shape and size, seemed almost identical to Lu Ye's Boulder Mountain Saber.

Though the girl was petite and had been pampered all her life, at this moment, she reached a level of resolve she had never felt before. With Brother Ye Liu severely injured and unable to fight, and their location now revealed, she knew the only way to temporary safety was to cut down the incoming enemy.

Even if it meant death, she was determined to die in front of Brother Ye Liu!

Just as the girl had prepared herself, a figure suddenly burst into the cave—a man in green clothes who, from his harried appearance, clearly hadn't rested properly in days.

Before he could take a good look inside the cave, a flash of saber light had already unfurled in his vision. The slash was as fierce as a tiger descending the mountain, like a flood dragon emerging from the sea—with unparalleled sharpness as the saber struck.

It was hard to imagine that a small-framed woman like Ye Liuli could wield such a domineering saber technique.

Taken by surprise, the man in green clothes' face changed. His Longsword trembled urgently in his hands, transforming into a curtain of blades descending upon Ye Liuli.

At the same time, he cried out in a loud voice, "They're here!"

If he had focused solely on fighting, he might have stood a chance, but by shouting out at such a critical moment, he inadvertently weakened his own momentum.

Spirit force clashed, and the saber light cut through the continuous sword curtain, accompanied by a harsh and miserable scream. The man in green clothes was thrown out in disarray.

His cultivation was not much different from Ye Liuli's. In theory, given her condition, he should not have been her match.

But the saber skills of Tyrannical Saber Villa had always been known for being strong and dominant, for turning weakness into strength.

Additionally, with Ye Liuli's determination to protect Lu Ye at all costs and the enemy merely following orders, this encounter allowed her to severely injure the other party.

Ye Liuli's eyes gleamed, ready to seize the moment and slay her opponent, but another figure dashed in front of her, and a fist wrapped in a gauntlet blasted out of the darkness, smashing her saber light. The surging force blew her away.

The enemies that had come in pursuit were not just one but several.

However, due to the narrowness of the cave, the first to come in—the man in green clothes—was severely injured by Ye Liuli, followed by the gauntlet-wearing cultivator, with three more people standing at the entrance, not yet coming in.

This newcomer had a surge of blood Qi around him and a burly figure, clearly a physique cultivator.

In the confines of such a narrow cave, facing a physique cultivator was undoubtedly the most despairing scenario...

Struggling to get up, Ye Liuli's mouth corner dripped with fresh blood, but she still stood in front of Lu Ye, her Longsword slightly raised, ready to confront the enemy.

The incoming physique cultivator glanced over, saw the fresh blood at the corner of Ye Liuli's mouth, and caught sight of the weakly breathing Lu Ye lying behind her.

He snorted lightly, "The mighty Young Master Ye Liu, Miss Ye Qi, to think there would come a day when you'd fall to such a plight—how pitiful, how lamentable!"

"Who are you people!" Ye Liuli demanded through clenched teeth. There was nothing more heartbreaking than destruction and death at home, compounded by the ignorance of who instigated it.

"What's the point in asking that now?" The physique cultivator looked at Ye Liuli indifferently, "We're just taking money to eliminate troubles for others. If you want to blame someone, blame your father for offending the wrong people."

From this one sentence alone, it wasn't possible to deduce much information, only that Ye Ying had provoked some formidable foe. Not only was he killed, but he also caused the downfall of his own children, and the sizable family business he had built throughout his life vanished just like that.

Furthermore, it was clear that the other side didn't plan to say much to Ye Liuli, or perhaps, they didn't know much themselves.

"Miss Ye Qi, out of respect for your father who was quite a figure, after you kill Master Ye Liu, take your own life. That way, we too can return and report back," they said.

Ye Liuli clenched her teeth, "In your dreams!"

The physique cultivator's eyelids drooped, "Don't spurn the toasting wine only to be forced to drink the punishment wine. Allowing you to take your own life is just to spare you some pain, if we have to take action ourselves, what you'll suffer won't be limited to just death!"

Ye Liuli seemed to understand something, immense fear instantly filling her eyes, and even the breath she'd been holding dissipated involuntarily.

Although she was the pampered young miss of Tyrannical Saber Villa, she had heard many tales of the unfortunate fates that befell beautiful women. She had never imagined that such things could one day happen to her.

If it really came to that, she'd rather die.

"What an opportunity!"

While verbally suggesting that Ye Liuli should take her own life, the physique cultivator had been looking for an opportunity to attack all along. His cultivation was much higher than Ye Liuli's, and he didn't believe Ye Liuli could threaten him under these circumstances, but he was naturally cautious. He knew the potential a person could unleash in a dire situation.

His verbal intimidation had thrown Ye Liuli into disarray, when to strike if not now?

He misstepped, spirit force surged around him, and like an arrow released from the bow, he lunged at Ye Liuli. The stark contrast between his hulking frame and the girl's frailty was like a hawk hunting a rabbit.

How could Ye Liuli, already wounded and now with fresh injuries, withstand such a long-prepared strike? Yet she didn't retreat a single step, continuing to shield Lu Ye with her body.

Feeling the powerful spirit force and imposing momentum emanating from her opponent, Ye Liuli knew that this time, her prospects were dire.

Such a powerful enemy, even if she were to train bitterly for another two or three years, she might not be able to match him, let alone in her current state.

She couldn't let herself be captured alive by him! Even dying by his hand would be preferable to being taken alive!

With this thought, Ye Liuli's eyes filled with a determination to die.

However, just then, a figure suddenly flashed out from behind her, followed by a streak of radiant light.

"What?" the physique cultivator exclaimed. All his attention had been on Ye Liuli, and he hadn't noticed when an extra person appeared in front of her.

What then came into his view was a fire-red streak of sharp light.

"Haha!" Overwhelmed with immense crisis, the physique cultivator roared and raised his fist to meet the blade, his blood Qi boiling over, spirit force swirling, enveloping his fist in a pink glow.

Continuous saber light fell, and in that instant, it seemed as if several saber cries rang out, perhaps only one.

The pink glow suddenly shattered, the sharp longsword cutting through at the edge of his fist, nearly splitting his arm in half.

"Ah!" This cry was both one of shock and agony.

He was a physique cultivator, a Level 7 in terms of cultivation, and even though not top-tier in the Soaring Dragon World, he was no slouch, he'd never imagined that someone in this world could slash through the protection he took such pride in with a single blade.

The saber technique of Tyrannical Saber Villa... was it this ferocious?

Another streak of saber light blossomed, cutting across horizontally, the physique cultivator hastily retracting his punches, crossing his arms in front of himself. The saber light sliced through his elbows as easily as it would tofu, and as the light passed, two severed arms flew out.

The physique cultivator stumbled back, blood spurting from where his arms had been severed.

The swift changes shocked him into confusion, and only then did he realize that another figure had appeared before him at some point... it was Master Ye Liu, who had been lying on the ground all along!

This brat fooled me! The thought surged in the physique cultivator's mind. When he'd arrived, he saw Lu Ye lying there, looking half-dead, so he paid him no heed. In his mind, as long as Ye Liuli was taken care of, the mission would be complete.

Who would have thought that Master Ye Liu, whom he had disregarded, still had such fighting power!

Lu Ye looked small compared to him, at a quick glance, it seemed as though Lu Ye had crashed into his arms. With the Boulder Mountain Saber in hand, he stabbed upward from below, the sharp blade entering through the physique cultivator's chin and piercing into his brain.

"Hehe..." The physique cultivator's eyes were filled with rage, uttering meaningless noises as his body spasmed, and with the withdrawal of Lu Ye's longsword, blood spurted, and he collapsed to the ground, motionless soon after.

This brief moment of mayhem, not only did it stun Ye Liuli on the spot, but the man in green who had first entered was also dumbstruck. Only when his comrade was killed, and Lu Ye's gaze turned towards him, did he let out a cry of alarm, hastily trying to escape.

But by then, was it still possible to get away? The supplies box at Lu Ye's waist buzzed, nine streams of Liu Guang shot out in succession, breaking through the opponent's protective spirit force, piercing several holes through his body.

By the time that man tumbled out, he was completely silent.

Chapter 687 Sister-in-law?

The small cave was filled with the thick scent of blood as the bodies of two pursuers lay on the ground.

Ye Liuli looked at her Brother Ye Liu's figure in astonishment. The familiar outlines gave her a strangely unfamiliar feeling. This feeling made her somewhat panicked, and she couldn't quite pinpoint why.

As she was lost in thought, Lu Ye's figure suddenly staggered, and he used his long knife to prop himself up, preventing a fall.

Arriving here through the hidden teleportation array in the perilous lands outside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, he had no spirit force left. However, that was no problem, as he still had power stored in his spirit energy-storing ring that he could use.

But the weakness in his body was not something that could be resolved in a moment.

He had been lying there earlier, motionless, trying his best to recover his physical strength, while also feigning weakness to deceive his enemies.

He managed to kill two people, but the little strength he had managed to regain was almost completely depleted.

"Brother Ye Liu!" Ye Liuli hurriedly stepped forward to support Lu Ye.

Lu Ye shook his head, signaling her to keep quiet.

"Brother Liu, Brother Zhao?" came the shout of pursuers from outside.

The pursuers totaled five men. Two had entered the cave, while three guarded the outside to prevent Lu Ye and Ye Liuli from escaping. It was undoubtedly a cautious arrangement, but what the three on the outside couldn't have anticipated was that the two who had entered the cave had met a swift and unforeseen end.

How could such a thing happen?

Though the two young men from the Ye family were not weak in cultivation, they were both injured. Having been on the run for several days, their exhaustion was undoubtedly extreme. How much power could they have actually mustered?

Furthermore, even if they had been unharmed, it would have been impossible to kill those two companions in such a short amount of time.

One of them was even a Level 7 physique cultivator! Not so easy to kill.

For a moment, the three guarding the cave's entrance even thought there might be some other powerful person hidden inside.

The death of their two companions had them on high alert, and none dared to venture deeper into the cave. Just as they were at a loss, suddenly, there was a disturbance nearby.

"Who's there?" one of them shouted angrily, turning his head just in time to see a small, snow-white beast stepping out from behind a tree. The beast looked like a young tiger that hadn't fully grown, with a small 'King' character on its forehead that was quite endearing.

Under normal circumstances, encountering such an exotic beast, the three would undoubtedly try to capture it. Despite its small size, the aura it emitted was not weak. Capturing and selling it would surely bring a substantial income.

But their main goal at this moment was to chase and kill Lu Ye and Ye Liuli; with two companions already dead, this was an urgent time to deal with unexpected issues.

Thus, one of them immediately shouted at the snow-white little beast: "Scram!"

At the same time, he boosted his own aura, trying to scare the beast away.

However, to his astonishment, the snow-white little beast did not retreat but instead opened its mouth and roared at him.

"Awoo..."

"Little beast..." the man cursed, but the next instant, his face drastically changed as fierce spirit force fluctuations came from behind him. He turned around in a hurry, just as arcs of slashing strikes came into view, cutting through the void and issuing a sizzling sound.

From that direction, a young girl had appeared at some unknown time. She looked to be only about fifteen or sixteen years old, petite in stature, but her aura was unmistakably that of a Level 6 of Cloud River.

She was also a magic cultivator!

Where did she come from?

The three men hastily countered, but the magic and spells she used were relentless and switched so rapidly. She wielded various techniques almost casually, which left the three of them struggling to keep up.

All three were greatly shaken. Among them was a magic cultivator, but they couldn't begin to compare in terms of cultivation or the speed of casting spells with this unexpected young girl.

Barely stabilizing their positions, one of the combat cultivators tried to launch a counterattack, but just then, a fierce wind carried a warning from behind.

Turning his head, a giant tiger head filled his vision, and from its gaping jaws, sharp teeth flashed with a cold light.

"Ah!" The combat cultivator was terrified, having never expected the seemingly adorable, snow-white little beast to undergo such a ferocious transformation.

He clumsily turned around, striking the giant tiger head with the spiritual artifact in his hand.

Clang... The sound rang out, but the powerful strike couldn't even break through the demon origin wrapped around the tiger's head; instead, his arm felt an excruciating pain as it was bitten off by those wide jaws.

At this moment, two more figures rushed out of the cave, it was Lu Ye and Ye Liuli.

Yiyi and Amber had been searching nearby for Lu Ye's whereabouts. Even though Ye Liuli had provided some terrain details and nearby features, finding him was not easy.

However, the recent battle had caused some noise, which finally allowed Yiyi to pinpoint Lu Ye's position, and she hurried over with Amber to assist.

They arrived just in time; otherwise, if these three had charged into the cave regardless of everything, given the current state of Lu Ye and Ye Liuli, they really would not have been able to hold them off.

He had just violently risen to attack, killing those two pursuing cultivators, which was already his limit.

The battle outside the cave erupted suddenly and ended quickly, with Yiyi and Amber's seamless cooperation. The addition of Lu Ye and Ye Liuli immediately tipped the balance of the battle overwhelmingly in their favor.

In just a few moments, three more bodies lay where they had been.

Lu Ye was gasping heavily, his face completely pallid.

Amber licked a small wound on its paw that was barely bleeding.

Since following Lu Ye, Amber rarely engaged in battle. Most of the time, it perched on Lu Ye's shoulder, lending him strength.

It wasn't that it didn't want to fight, but the enemies Lu Ye encountered were often several levels above him, which limited the impact Amber could have in such battles. It was more effective for Lu Ye to borrow strength.

However, this didn't mean Amber lacked combat abilities.

With the nourishment of the blood Qi from the dragon scales, Amber's physique had grown incredibly strong. At first glance, it appeared as a cute, small white creature, but when it revealed its true form, it was a fierce beast with formidable aura.

It was a White Tiger, a creature from the Four Auspicious Sacred Beasts, known for its ferocity!

Yiyi and Ye Liuli looked at each other. Both girls appeared to be of similar age and even their figures were somewhat alike; both small in stature. If they stood together, strangers might think they were sisters.

The reflections of each other in their eyes gave rise to the same thought in their minds, "Who is this girl?"

The atmosphere became oddly delicate, even Amber felt it and licked its paws with greater attention.

"Collect their belongings and let's leave here first," Lu Ye said.

Yiyi and Ye Liuli both started to gather the items, one taking care of the three outside, the other rushing back into the cave to collect from the two inside.

Not long after, a white figure darted through the forest. Lu Ye was sitting on the tiger's back with Ye Liuli in front of him.

Yiyi flew by their side with puffed cheeks, almost bursting with anger.

That was my spot!

She glanced at Ye Liuli from time to time and quickly averted her eyes. If it weren't for the fact that she didn't want to expose her secret as a Spiritual Body, she would have wanted to hide inside Amber, out of sight, out of mind.

"Brother Ye Liu, what's the deal with this exotic beast and this sister?" She could tell that Lu Ye was very familiar with this suddenly appearing girl, and even the White Tiger under him was very affectionate towards Lu Ye.

But in her knowledge, her own Brother Ye Liu never had such a friend.

However, she could sense some inexplicable hostility from that girl toward her...

"She's a friend I met while traveling here before," Lu Ye explained.

I'm the outsider now!

Yiyi felt very aggrieved.

But after all, she had also gone through the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain secret realm with Lu Ye and knew he had a sort of natural identity in such a big world's secret realm.

Although she was still not clear about what Lu Ye's identity was here, it seemed he had a close relationship with that girl.

Could it be that kind of relationship? Yiyi couldn't help but let her thoughts wander.

The atmosphere quietened down. Ye Liuli didn't ask any more questions, Lu Ye hurried to recover his strength, Yiyi flew silently, feeling oppressed.

Amber ran even harder... I'm just a tiger, what does this have to do with me?

There were countless people pursuing Lu Ye and Ye Liuli, but not too many, considering their condition was already bad.

And such pursuits were nothing compared to what Lu Ye normally faced in the Cloud River battlefield.

So the situation wasn't too bad.

More than two hours later, in a secluded valley, Amber stopped, and Lu Ye dismounted, choosing a spot to set up a few simple formations to conceal their location.

Though he was nearly exhausted now, his mastery of array paths had greatly increased due to his visit to the Hundred Arrays Pagoda. Even a casually set formation by him was not something ordinary cultivators could see through.

This gave them a moment to catch their breath.

As long as he could fully recover, they could completely escape the danger. As for what to do next, there was no plan. They would have to take things one step at a time.

After instructing Yiyi and Ye Liuli, Lu Ye went aside and sat down in a meditative position.

Amber resumed its small creature guise and sprawled nearby, dozing off.

Ye Liuli was also recovering, though her condition was much better than Lu Ye's, so she would recover before him.

She looked at Yiyi, who was keeping watch, thought for a moment, and then walked over to sit next to her.

Yiyi looked at her indifferently.

The little girl's feelings of being wronged hadn't subsided yet, so she had no interest in talking to Ye Liuli.

And having traveled extensively with Lu Ye, despite looking similar in age and stature to Ye Liuli, she was much more mature on the inside.

She could tell at a glance that Ye Liuli was a protected girl who'd not experienced many hardships.

"Sister-in-law?" Ye Liuli called out tentatively.

"Wha... what?" Yiyi's calm expression suddenly turned flustered, almost doubting if she had misheard.

Chapter 688 I'm a Sister too

It must be said that women are naturally endowed with a marvelous intuition, regardless of their age.

Throughout this journey, Ye Liuli could sense that Yiyi's attitude towards her was not very friendly. Although Ye Liuli lived a life of luxury, she was clever and insightful. How could she not see the key point of the matter?

Noticing Yiyi's reaction, Ye Liuli's lips curled into a smile, "Looks like I'm not wrong."

She became increasingly certain of the guess in her heart.

As far as she knew, her Brother Ye Liu did indeed come to visit Huayan Mountain often in the past. Now it seemed that the visits were just a pretense, and his true purpose was to see this young girl.

Otherwise, she would not have risked danger to come and rescue him today.

"No... it's not what you think," Yiyi hastily waved her hands, stealing a glance at Lu Ye, who was resting and recuperating nearby, and explained with a look of guilt, "My name is Lu Yiyi, I am Lu... his sister!"

She did not yet know the name Lu Ye was using in this secret realm, so it was not a good idea to reveal his real name.

"Sister, huh?" Ye Liuli kept smiling, "Well, that's a coincidence. I am also his sister, his biological sister!"

Quite different from your kind of 'sisters.'

Only then did Yiyi understand the actual relationship between Lu Ye and Ye Liuli, but seeing Ye Liuli's manner, she knew she couldn't clear up the misunderstanding and heaved a sigh in her heart, deciding not to waste any more words.

Half a day later, when Lu Ye opened his eyes again, he was met with a surprising scene. He saw Ye Liuli with her head resting on Yiyi's shoulder, crying like rain over pear blossoms as Yiyi half supported her, continuously offering words of comfort.

What's happening? Lu Ye was bewildered.

He could understand why Ye Liuli appeared this way; she had just experienced a drastic change, with her family destroyed and kin perished. The impact on the young mistress of Tyrannical Saber Villa must have been immense.

But previously, the two girls had seemed almost antagonistic towards each other. How had they become so much closer now?

Realizing that Lu Ye had awakened, Ye Liuli wiped her eyes and stood up, calling out, "Brother Ye Liu."

Lu Ye nodded slightly.

"Brother Ye Liu, what should we do now?" Ye Liuli asked.

Though they had temporarily escaped danger, the crisis was far from over. They could be pursued and attacked at any moment, and with her lack of experience, she truly did not know what to do.

After some thought, Lu Ye said, "Take out the things we've collected before."

Yiyi and Ye Liuli quickly took out several storage sacks, and Lu Ye set about opening the restriction locks on the storage sacks, taking out the items one by one.

"This is..." Ye Liuli suddenly picked up an item that resembled a token, examined it for a moment, and said through clenched teeth, "This is an identity token from the God's Will Sect."

There were not just one but three such identity tokens, which meant that at least three of the five people who pursued them belonged to the God's Will Sect.

The God's Will Sect and Tyrannical Saber Villa, both located in Fengzhou and not too far apart, had always had a strained relationship.

The root cause was that the current Sect Leader of God's Will Sect had suffered a significant defeat at the hands of Ye Ying when he was younger.

The origins of the grudges between the previous generation were now obscure, but the longstanding animosity had persisted to this day.

In the information Lu Ye had obtained, there had been various skirmishes between Tyrannical Saber Villa and God's Will Sect.

However, the power dynamics in the Soaring Dragon World were different than in the Nine Provinces; such frictions were quite normal.

In the Nine Provinces, the Haotian Alliance and Ten Thousand Demons Ridge maintained clearly defined camps, opposing each other for thousands of years. Normally, sects within the same alliance would support each other in critical moments, harboring no significant grudges.

In contrast, the Soaring Dragon World was a place where countless sect and family powers stood, and the situation was much more complex than in the Nine Provinces.

There was no clear alliance affiliation here; the web of relationships was entangled with feuds and alliances, and within the networks of friendly powers, there could be many who were enemies of each other.

With existing grievances between Tyrannical Saber Villa and God's Will Sect, the former's fall from grace and the latter's kicking them while they were down was all too standard.

But Lu Ye remembered the physique cultivator had said something about taking money to rid others of disasters, which implied they were not acting solely out of their own feud.

Someone had hired them.

Who could it be?

Although Lu Ye had arrived here with the imposed identity of Master Ye Liu and had gained a general understanding of the Soaring Dragon World, he had no access to more specific intelligence.

And then there was that Ye Ying, whose death was also a mystery.

The Soaring Dragon World was somewhat similar to the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain he'd visited previously, yet there were differences.

The similarity was that the highest achievement for cultivators in both worlds was the Cloud River Realm, with no cultivator surpassing this realm in either world.

The difference was, in the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain, cultivators were limited by the laws of heaven and earth—they could only cultivate up to the Cloud River Realm, with no further path to pursue.

This might have to do with the overall environment of the world. While there was an abundance of spirit force, the rules of heaven and earth could not accommodate it, thus preventing cultivators from exploring further paths.

It was like the Spirit Stream battlefield could not contain cultivators above the Spirit Stream Realm.

Yet it wasn't always like this in the Soaring Dragon World.

According to the information Lu Ye obtained, the Soaring Dragon World had cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm long ago.

However, since the emergence of a mysterious Sky Ravine in the Far North Territory eight hundred years ago, everything had begun to slowly change.

As time passed, cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm found their cultivation not increasing but decreasing, gradually falling to the extent of only being at the True Lake Realm. By five hundred years ago, the entire Soaring Dragon World no longer had any strong cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm.

Such a situation continued to deteriorate, and after another three hundred years, not even cultivators of the True Lake Realm could be born in the Soaring Dragon World.

Thus, in today's Soaring Dragon World, there were only cultivators of the Cloud River Realm.

Without the opportunity to ponder this sudden influx of information before, Lu Ye now found it truly unbelievable as he considered it.

What exactly was the reason that caused the cultivators in the entire Soaring Dragon World to continuously lower their cultivation limits?

This gave Lu Ye a feeling that if this world were compared to a balloon, then the balloon's size would be the measure of this world's substance. The larger the substance, the higher the limit that cultivators could achieve.

But for some unknown reason, the 'balloon' of the Soaring Dragon World was shrinking, leading to an ever-decreasing limit for cultivators, from Divine Sea to True Lake, and from True Lake to Cloud River.

Perhaps in a few hundred years, the Soaring Dragon World would only have a group of cultivators at the Spirit Stream Realm, and given even more time, it was possible that cultivators might cease to exist altogether...

All these changes had started from that inexplicable Sky Ravine.

The entire situation in the Soaring Dragon World was quite similar to a corner of the Cloud River battlefield.

With Ye Ying possessing the Cloud River Level 9 cultivation and his commanding use of the Tyrannical Saber Technique, he certainly shouldn't have met a sudden death, unless he was ambushed and encircled.

It was highly likely the God's Will Sect was also involved in this matter.

"First heal, then figure out how to take revenge," Lu Ye spoke.

Vengeance was definitely to be sought, not so much because Lu Ye identified strongly with his identity as Master Ye Liu, or because he had deep feelings for Tyrannical Saber Villa; after all, he was an outsider. However, this could very well be a test from Heaven's Augury. Since he now had the identity of Master Ye Liu, he naturally had to act according to this role.

Furthermore, he was quite intrigued by the Tyrannical Saber Technique of the Tyrannical Saber Villa.

He had always struggled with his saber skills because he had no one to teach and guide him in his cultivation.

If he could reclaim the Tyrannical Saber Villa, besides having a foothold in the Soaring Dragon World in the future, he could also study the Tyrannical Saber Technique.

This technique wasn't Ye Ying's own creation but something he discovered in an ancient relic. It was unknown from which era or which sect of the Soaring Dragon World it had originated.

If it had been a saber technique created by a cultivator of the Cloud River Realm, Lu Ye might not have been interested, perhaps deeming Ye Ying's saber expertise not even comparable to his own.

But since it was something obtained from a relic, then it surely had value worth observing.

He had seen Ye Liuli in action before; despite her petite stature, she unleashed an overwhelmingly domineering presence. Clearly, the Tyrannical Saber Technique was no ordinary skill.

His own saber skills were also ferocious, sharing some similarities with the Tyrannical Saber Technique.

Additionally, there was more than just the Tyrannical Saber Technique within the Tyrannical Saber Villa. Since Ye Ying founded the villa, he had collected many documents related to saber techniques, all of which Lu Ye desired.

Initially, he was somewhat dissatisfied with the fate arranged by Heaven's Augury, a life shattered and hunted. But now, he no longer harbored such thoughts.

The plan of Heaven's Augury was indeed reasonable.

His cultivation was saber-based, so he was arranged to become Master Ye Liu.

"Okay!" Ye Liuli, with reddened eyes, gritted her teeth in agreement. The hatred in her heart was genuine, and although she did not know for sure who was responsible for the destruction of Tyrannical Saber Villa, including the God's Will Sect in her revenge was certainly not a mistake.

Her family's blood feud had now become her driving force to grow stronger in cultivation.

One day later, within Huayan Mountain, several cultivators were resting and chatting amongst themselves.

"Those two little beasts are really good at hiding, not showing themselves up till now."

They had been chasing Lu Ye and Ye Liuli deep into this place, but up till now, they hadn't even caught a glimpse of them, clueless about their whereabouts.

"We lost contact with one of our teams earlier, and it's unclear what danger they encountered. It's best for everyone to be careful; Huayan Mountain is not a benevolent place."

"No matter, as long as we join forces in this mountain with so many ferocious beasts... Who's over there!" the speaker suddenly turned, bellowing sharply.

Simultaneously, the other cultivators also stood up, attentively looking in that direction.

Soft footsteps sounded, and under the moonlight, two figures, one tall and one short, slowly emerged from the night.

Upon seeing the faces of the newcomers, the cultivators all rejoiced greatly.

"It's you two little beasts!"

"Hahaha, to think we'd find what we were looking for without any effort after treading through miles of iron shoes."

They had just been worrying about how to find Lu Ye and Ye Liuli, and unexpectedly, the two had delivered themselves right to their doorstep.

Next to Lu Ye, Ye Liuli looked uneasy, her knuckles white as she gripped the handle of her saber.

In her perception, any one of these cultivators had higher cultivation than she and her Brother Ye Liu. Making such an overt appearance was clearly not wise, but since her Brother Ye Liu had chosen to do so, all she could do was follow suit.

Chapter 689 Brothers at Odds

After a day of recuperation, Lu Ye had fully recovered. Ye Liuli's recovery abilities were not as terrifying as his, but fortunately, she was no longer in any serious trouble.

They planned to set off for Tyrannical Saber Villa after dawn to exact their revenge. During the night's rest, Yiyi, who was on guard nearby, spotted the figures of these cultivators.

That led to the scene where Lu Ye took Ye Liuli to confront them.

Their audacious appearance greatly pleased the several cultivators, as they all knew of the cultivation of the siblings Ye Liu and Ye Liuli—one at Cloud River Level 6, the other just having entered Cloud River. Each of them had a cultivation not inferior to the Ye siblings, so they didn't think that the brother and sister pair would pose any threat to them.

Upon discovering the siblings, the group of cultivators all stood up and charged towards them.

"Take care of yourself."

Ye Liuli was still apprehensive when she heard the voice of her Brother Ye Liu by her ear. The next moment, she saw him transform into a blur, charging into the enemy ranks like a tiger descending a mountain.

Under the moonlight, the resplendent saber light streaked across the night sky like a meteor, followed abruptly by a rain of blood.

Screams immediately arose.

Ye Liuli stared dazedly at the silhouette of her Brother Ye Liu, as if she were in a dream.

The head of Tyrannical Saber Villa, Ye Ying, had six sons and one daughter, all of them exceptionally talented, true dragons and phoenixes among men. However, there was no consensus on which of them had the highest aptitude.

Brother Ye Liu, in particular, had been traveling and adventuring outside since the age of sixteen, typically only returning to Tyrannical Saber Villa once or twice a year.

So even though Lu Ye was currently known as Brother Ye Liu to Ye Liuli, she was not very clear about his true strength.

Previously, in that cave, when Lu Ye lashed out and killed a physique cultivator at Level 7 with three strikes, Ye Liuli found it incredible. However, at the time, she didn't think much of it and assumed that her Brother Ye Liu had used some kind of desperate secret technique.

But now it seemed that this was the true power of Brother Ye Liu, not some secret technique.

In her field of vision, her Brother Ye Liu brandished his saber and confronted four enemies whose cultivation was not inferior to his, completely fearless. And with just one saber strike, he had slain one of them.

Such an unstoppable saber technique appeared somewhat similar to the Tyrannical Saber Technique, yet it seemed slightly different.

As this thought flashed through her mind, another enemy screamed as he was cleaved through the chest by a saber, his beating heart visible through the massive wound—a wound that clearly meant he wouldn't live much longer.

Between flashes of the saber light, he was already enveloping the third person. The overwhelming pressure made that person's face turn as pale as death, and their spirit force began to stagnate.

They had never encountered such a situation before.

Despite rumors that the Tyrannical Saber Technique was domineering and specialized in defeating the strong with the weak, this level of performance was just too exaggerated.

This Ye Liu... was he still human?

The cultivation he displayed indeed was only at Cloud River Level 6, inferior to any one of them, but under that dark saber that seemed to swallow even the moonlight, they felt as powerless as little chicks, with no choice but to await their fate without the slightest ability to resist.

The force transmitted through his spirit force terrified him, and the speed and angle of the opponent's saber strike left him overwhelmed. In just a short exchange of two breaths, the base of his thumb had already split open, his spirit force turbulent, unable to maintain control.

I am doomed!

As these thoughts crossed his mind, the last person had already clenched his teeth and lunged towards Ye Liuli.

He was the lucky one, not having been targeted by Lu Ye in time. Seeing how fierce Lu Ye was, how could he not realize he had kicked an iron plate? Now, if he wanted to live, the only chance was to capture Miss Ye Qi and use her as a hostage.

Brother Ye Liu was so fierce; surely Miss Ye Qi couldn't be equally formidable, could she?

It must be said that this person's response was quick. In such desperate straits, he found a clever way out.

Seeing an enemy charging at her, Ye Liuli immediately understood their intention. Knowing she was no match, but not wanting to trouble her Brother Ye Liu, she hesitated not a moment and turned to flee.

At this moment, a Golden Arc slashed over from the side. Ye Liuli turned to look and saw Yiyi standing there with surging spirit force in her delicate hands. With the agitation of the spirit force, a series of Golden Arcs shot out like chasing stars and moons.

"Sister-in-law!" Ye Liuli exclaimed with joy.

When she came over with Lu Ye earlier, Yiyi had not shown herself, as Yiyi had always been monitoring the area, staying in touch with Lu Ye at all times.

Seeing Yiyi's figure now, she quickly rushed towards her.

The call of "sister-in-law" caught Yiyi off guard, disrupting the flow of her spells and even causing Brother Ye Liu's saber movements to abruptly slow down.

Had she misheard something?

"Roar!" The tiger's roar echoed through the forest; Amber's imposing figure burst out from the side. The cultivator was already in a bad state due to Yiyi's magic and spells, and Amber's roar sent shockwaves through his mind and blood Qi.

By the time he regained his senses, he was already pinned on the ground by Amber, a great tiger's head looming over him, its eyes radiating a soul-stealing light.

Tiger Roar Intimidation, this was Amber's innate ability which had aided Lu Ye immensely in Spirit Stream Realm. Now, as Amber's power had grown, the prowess of this skill had also increased significantly.

Even as a Cloud River Level 6 cultivator, the roar left him disoriented and unable to distinguish north from south.

He wanted to resist, yet a figure had already slowly appeared in his view, holding a bloodied long saber, fluttering it lightly before sheathing it again.

There were no sounds of fighting or agonizing screams nearby; the battle had ended.

The cultivator was shocked. How could he not know that his three companions had been killed cleanly? Master Ye Liu's strength far surpassed everyone's imagination. Such strength would be on par even with a Cloud River Level 9 cultivator.

"Master Ye Liu, spare my life!"

In the situation where one was the meat on the chopping block and he was the fish on the cutting board, this person begged for mercy straightforwardly, without a moment's hesitation.

Under the cover of night, Lu Ye looked down at the cultivator before him, his tone indifferent, "If you want to live, then prove your value."

"Whatever Master Ye Liu wishes to ask, I, Xu, will tell everything without reservation, just praying for Master Ye Liu to spare my life." This person was still quite sharp, knowing that he didn't die not because Lu Ye couldn't kill him, but because he was kept alive to be questioned.

This could be seen from his actions when he realized the situation was bad and was about to take Ye Liuli captive.

"However, words alone are no proof; I need Master Ye Liu to make a Heart Demon Oath." Naturally, this person couldn't trust Lu Ye's verbal promise. The Soaring Dragon World didn't have something like Heaven's Augury Oath, but a Heart Demon Oath was something similar. Although it wasn't very binding, it was still better than nothing.

"If Master Ye Liu is unwilling, then go ahead and kill me." He finished speaking, closed his eyes, and assumed the posture of someone facing death.

With both hard and soft tactics at the ready, one had to say, this person's response in a crisis was indeed sufficient.

However, judging by his uneasy and apprehensive expression, his heart wasn't as calm as he portrayed.

"Fine!" Lu Ye didn't waste words and immediately made a Heart Demon Oath, "Now can you speak?"

This Cultivator Xu hadn't expected Lu Ye to be so straightforward and was a bit caught off guard for a moment, but Lu Ye had indeed made the Heart Demon Oath. If he dared to prattle at this point, he probably would truly be killed.

"What would Master Ye Liu like to know?"

"Speak everything you know."

Moments later, Lu Ye's expression was still indifferent, while Ye Liuli appeared in disbelief, seemingly unable to accept the information she had heard, shaking her head repeatedly, "Impossible, how could such a thing happen."

Yiyi gently embraced her shoulders.

"That's all I know," said Cultivator Xu, looking anxiously at Lu Ye.

Lu Ye nodded, "Then be on your way."

"Eh?" Realization of impending doom appeared in Cultivator Xu's eyes, then a slash of saber light flashed before him, and his consciousness plunged into complete silence.

Lu Ye sheathed his saber, his demeanor indifferent.

What has a Heart Demon Oath taken by Ye Liu got to do with me, Lu Yiye?

Ye Liuli was sobbing softly, Yiyi spoke to comfort her, and Lu Ye stood pondering.

The last time he entered the Ten Thousand Beasts Domain secret realm, Xia Qianqian had told him that events occurring in such secret realms were usually those that had happened before, recreated with some technique beyond their understanding. Therefore, the people they encountered inside the realm might not be living beings but merely shadows of an era, only unrecognizable to outsiders like them.

Moreover, the time point when cultivators entered these secret realms typically coincided with some significant events in the world.

Lu Ye had thought the tragic annihilation of Tyrannical Saber Villa would trigger some earth-shattering events, such as affecting the structure of the Soaring Dragon domain.

But after listening to Cultivator Xu's words, he realized he was overthinking it.

If things were really as Cultivator Xu described, then the downfall of Tyrannical Saber Villa was merely the act of strife between brothers.

Such an event obviously wasn't a big deal for an entire domain, trivial in the face of complex human nature where such occurrences were inevitable.

While Tyrannical Saber Villa was founded by Ye Ying, there was also a Second Manor Master.

This Second Manor Master was none other than Ye Ying's younger half-brother, Ye Xiong.

By relation, he was Master Ye Liu's second uncle, a close uncle at that, and Lu Ye had received some simple information about this cheap uncle when he entered the secret realm.

However, since Ye Liu wasn't often at Tyrannical Saber Villa, he didn't have much understanding of this cheap uncle. His impression was of a dignified middle-aged man.

Ye Ying once married a woman surnamed Guo, who passed away three months after bearing Ye Liuli, and over the years, Ye Ying had not remarried.

In stark contrast to Ye Ying and his wife's deep affection, this Ye Xiong had a multitude of wives and concubines.

The two brothers had a clear contrast not only in marriage but also in offspring.

Ye Ying married only once and had six sons and one daughter, while Ye Xiong, with his many wives and concubines, had only one son after so many years, and that son was a sickly child with congenital deficiencies.

The relationship between the two brothers wasn't particularly good, but it wasn't bad either. Lu Ye couldn't fathom what could have prompted such strife between them.

Chapter 690 Perseverance Despite Disability

Ten miles away from Tyrannical Saber Villa, there is a Changfeng Village, where the villagers have often benefited from the villa's charity and live with a simple folk custom.

Lu Ye settled Ye Liuli in a farmer's home, leaving Yiyi and Amber there to look after her, while he himself took advantage of the night to head to Tyrannical Saber Villa alone.

Faced with sudden changes and having heard such devastating news, she was physically and mentally wounded, and Ye Liuli fell into a coma, from which she has not yet awakened.

Not worried about anyone leaking the information, though the villagers here were not cultivators, they were all the kind who would repay kindness. Having lived in peace under the protection of Tyrannical Saber Villa over the years, they naturally recognized Master Ye Liu and Miss Ye Qi.

There shouldn't be too much of a problem settling Ye Liuli here, besides, with Yiyi and Amber by her side to watch over her, if anything indeed went wrong, Yiyi could transmit a message to Lu Ye at any time.

This is a convenience that the Soaring Dragon World cultivators do not possess; though the cultivators in this world also have means of audio transmission, compared to the Nine Provinces cultivators who rely on battlefield markings, it's far from comparable.

The Soaring Dragon World cultivators' transmission mostly relies on a kind of audio transmission stone which cannot convey too much information at once, and also has great distance limitations—beyond a certain range, they cannot contact each other at all.

Unlike in the Nine Provinces, as long as one is in the same space, no matter the distance, they can be contacted at any time.

The night was dark, and the wind was high.

Lu Ye went towards Tyrannical Saber Villa at an unhurried pace, soon arriving after a ten-mile journey.

Tyrannical Saber Villa was quite sizable, with pavilions and terraces scattered like stars within the villa, along with a man-made Saber Lake. Viewed from the sky, this lake resembled a giant saber embedded in the entire Tyrannical Saber Villa, and the water in the lake was connected to various places within the villa.

The villa was backed by a series of continuous mountains. In the past, this used to be an area of scenic beauty, but a recent battle had added a sense of somberness to the once picturesque place, with many buildings damaged.

There were quite a few figures moving back and forth inside the villa; these were the villa's protectors and servants.

Although Tyrannical Saber Villa was a power in its own right, it was different from those sect powers; its essence was still a family-style force.

Although the Great Manor Master had died and his several offspring had also perished in the previous battle, the Second Manor Master was still there.

If it was truly Master Ye Liu, he would be extremely familiar with Tyrannical Saber Villa, but Lu Ye, after all, was an outsider, and even though he had some intelligence, he was not too clear on many of the finer details.

He activated the Concealment and Breath-concealing Spirit Runes on himself and walked leisurely within the villa, searching for his target.

A scream suddenly came from a certain direction, and Lu Ye's heart stirred, heading over there. In a short while, he arrived outside of a small courtyard.

That piercing scream was even clearer now, as if a woman was enduring a severe beating. Cries and pleas for mercy were accompanied by an extremely malevolent voice, "Wench, wench, die, cough cough cough!"

The person doing the beating had a weak and unstable breath, and seemed to be in poor health, coughing violently while striking.

Lu Ye immediately understood who this person was.

It was Ye Lang, the only son of that nominal second uncle.

"Young Master, spare me, please Young Master, spare my life!" The woman being beaten begged piteously, to no avail, as the beating only became more fierce.

Lu Ye frowned. Since he had entered the cultivation world, he had mostly dealt with cultivators and had hardly interacted with ordinary people.

In the realm of cultivators, one's status was clear, and strength was easily determined, with grievances typically leading to life-and-death struggles rather than such wanton bullying.

He found it somewhat difficult to adjust to this.

The sounds of beating inside the room suddenly stopped, and only the helpless sobs of the woman remained. Ye Lang's voice rang out, "Liuli, don't cry. Did it hurt? I... I didn't know what came over me just now. I didn't want to hit you, cough cough cough..."

"Young Master, spare me..." the woman continued to beg for mercy.

Ye Lang's voice turned cold, "Liuli, how could you talk to me like this? It seems you can't be taught after all. What use is there in keeping you?"

The woman's voice became even more panic-stricken, "Young Master, I'll learn, I'll surely learn..."

"But you will never be Liuli..."

With two soft thuds, the protectors who had been standing outside the room fell to the ground, and the smell of blood spread.

This unusual commotion puzzled Ye Lang inside the room, but being an ordinary person who had never cultivated, he was completely unaware of what had happened outside. He called out, "What's that noise?"

The door was suddenly pushed open, and a figure stepped in.

Ye Lang flew into a rage, "Who let you in..."

Before he could finish, his face suddenly turned to fear, and he stared wide-eyed in horror at the figure before him, nearly unable to believe his eyes. Pointing at Lu Ye, he shivered, "You... you..."

He couldn't believe he would see Ye Liu here—wasn't this guy supposed to be dead?

At the entrance, Lu Ye swept his gaze across, noticing Ye Lang with a deathly pale face, and a young girl kneeling at his feet, her face scarred.

The young girl bore a resemblance to Ye Liuli in appearance and stature at first glance; he had no idea where Ye Lang had found her.

The few words he had heard from him when he was hitting someone indicated that he always had some improper thoughts toward Ye Liuli. He just never dared to show it before, but now he was acting without any scruples.

Ye Lang was innately deficient and had always been sickly since birth. It was only thanks to the considerable resources of Tyrannical Saber Villa that he was nurtured enough to sustain his life. Otherwise, he might have died many years ago; even so, he was plagued with both serious and minor ailments.

Because of being tormented by illness from a young age, Ye Lang's character was extremely twisted. When Ye Ying was in charge, he didn't dare to be too presumptuous, and his dirty deeds were always secretive. Now that Ye Ying and his family were either dead or had fled, with no one left to restrain him, he completely revealed his true nature.

"Little brother Liu, you're still alive?" After his shock, Ye Lang showed a look of surprise and even a heartfelt smile appeared on his face, as if he were happy that Lu Ye had survived a great disaster.

"Father would be thrilled to know this. Does dad know you've returned?" Ye Lang asked.

Lu Ye looked at him indifferently, admiring internally how desperate this guy was for beauty despite being so frail. One could certainly say he was determined despite his disabilities.

Moreover, for an ordinary person with no cultivation, to have such a reaction was enough to show his nature.

Under normal circumstances, an ordinary person wouldn't have such a quick response.

Previously in Huayan Mountain, he had gleaned some information from those chasing him. However, he wasn't very interested in it himself; he just wanted to understand the facts of the matter. After all, now that he had become Master Ye Liu, he had to act according to that identity.

There had to be a target for taking revenge and harboring hatred.

Now, it appeared that the information divulged by those pursuers before their death was correct.

The demise of Tyrannical Saber Villa was indeed a fratricidal tragedy.

Otherwise, it made no sense that Ye Ying's family was either dead or had fled while Ye Xiong, the sole surviving son, could still live here in peace, even indulging in pleasure and desires.

"Little brother Liu, why are you looking at me like that? I'm your older cousin..." Ye Lang's expression turned to panic because Lu Ye's gaze was clearly wrong, and for some reason, he always felt that his cousin seemed very unfamiliar.

As he was about to call out, seemingly wanting to sound an alarm, a Liu Guang shot through the air before he could speak, piercing through his mouth and bursting out the back of his head.

Since his initiation into cultivation, Lu Ye had never killed an ordinary person; those he killed were all Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who meant him harm.

No matter how one put it, as a cultivator, killing some mortals did seem somewhat improper.

But in killing this particular Ye Lang, he felt no psychological pressure at all.

The body fell backward, and the young girl, resembling Ye Liuli, hadn't reacted yet, still staring dumbly as she watched the body collapse beside her, blood and brains spilled all over the ground. Only then did she come to her senses, turning her tear-filled eyes to Lu Ye: "Young Master Ye Liu..."

From this address, it was clear that the young girl was also originally a maid of Tyrannical Saber Villa.

Watching the person who had been beating her moments ago die before her eyes, she felt no fear, only relief and joy. If it hadn't been for the miraculous arrival of Young Master Ye Liu, she feared she would have been beaten to death.

"Young Master Ye Liu, hurry and leave. The Second Manor Master will come here in a moment," the young girl urgently added.

Ye Xiong greatly treasured his only son and would check on him every night. Although she was an ordinary person with no cultivation, she knew that Young Master Ye Liu was no match for the Second Manor Master.

Having killed that brute, how could the Second Manor Master let it go? Young Master Ye Liu would undoubtedly face grave danger.

"Oh? That saves me the trouble of looking for him," Lu Ye raised his eyebrow, changing his plans.

He had originally sneaked in with the intention to strike surreptitiously, but since his quarry would come to him, there was no need to search around.

After all, he wasn't very familiar with Tyrannical Saber Villa, and searching for someone would be troublesome.

Glancing at the young girl, whose figure was partially visible beneath a sheer garment, Lu Ye took out a piece of his own clothing and tossed it to her.

The young girl suddenly woke as if from a dream and hurriedly put it on.

"Don't leave for now; it's not safe. Wait until everything is settled, then you can go," Lu Ye advised her.

"Yes," the girl replied, somewhat absent-mindedly, thinking to herself that Young Master Ye Liu seemed different than before.

The former Young Master Ye Liu rarely returned to Tyrannical Saber Villa, but whenever he did, he was always cheerful, lively, and extroverted. This time, however, he seemed somewhat silent and reticent.

Nevertheless, she could understand that any person who suddenly undergoes such a drastic change would have some alteration in their personality.

But no matter what, the servants of Tyrannical Saber Villa had a good impression of the young masters, as Ye Ying himself was an upright person, and under his guidance, all his children were bright and upright, never engaging in despicable acts.