

Sage of Humanity - Chapter 76 - 74 Yiye[1,337 words]

When Lu Ye darted out, the doll-faced cultivator became extremely anxious, his attacks growing fiercer.

The person he was fighting was already somewhat outmatched, and now, with Lu Ye joining in against him, his situation suddenly became perilous.

Although the nickname "mountain tiger" had been coined by the Xuanmen sect, the cultivators from the Nine Stars Sect were also well aware of it, as it was a reputation Lu Ye had earned through his killings over the past few days.

Reputation is a peculiar thing. Facing an ordinary Level 3 cultivator, any Level 4 cultivator wouldn't feel much pressure. But if this Level 3 cultivator had killed several Level 4 cultivators and made a name for himself, that was a different story entirely.

At this moment, the Level 4 cultivator from the Nine Stars Sect felt pressure mounting like a mountain, facing two opponents at once, managing with difficulty. Within three breaths' time, he was almost completely overwhelmed by Lu Ye and the doll-faced cultivator.

Seeing a sword strike from Lu Ye coming, he hastily tried to activate a Spirit Talisman, but the cunning doll-faced cultivator stabbed his wrist, causing the man to loosen his grip and the Spirit Talisman to fall to the ground.

Seizing the opportunity, Lu Ye raised his sword and brought it down, felling the cultivator to the ground.

"What a sharp sword!" Doll-face's eyes narrowed slightly, thinking to himself as Brother Wang Yeang had predicted, this "mountain tiger" indeed possessed an exceptionally fine Spiritual Artifact. Otherwise, his Level 3 cultivation wouldn't have so easily pierced through a Level 4 cultivator's protective spirit force, let alone inflicted such a severe wound with a single strike.

Then Doll-face's face lit up with a smile, "Good brother, I've certainly made a friend today!"

Meanwhile, Lu Ye didn't even glance back, moving straight into the fray of the battlefield, leaving behind a heavily wounded enemy lying in front of Doll-face.

"Spare... spare my life!" The blood-soaked Level 4 cultivator stared at Doll-face in terror.

Doll-face's smile faded as he said indifferently, "At Level 4, we shouldn't be speaking such naive words," as his longsword pierced into the opponent's chest, making the man's body stiffen suddenly...

A red light emanated from the back of the dead Level 4 cultivator's hand, drifting onto the back of Doll-face's hand, who smiled broadly again. He raised his sword and charged toward where Lu Ye was fighting, shouting, "Good brother, I'm coming to assist you!"

One incense stick's time later, the great battle subsided.

All the cultivators from the Nine Stars Sect were annihilated, not because they didn't want to flee but because they simply had no chance to escape. In such narrow confines, once defeated, there was no way out; running with their backs to the enemy only led to quicker deaths.

The Xuanmen side also suffered losses—three dead and most others injured—but overall, it was a resounding victory. Those who survived weren't too mournful but rather overjoyed.

This was the norm on the Spirit Stream battlefield: countless Spirit Stream Realm cultivators battling each other, where death was an everyday occurrence.

In this massive battle, only two had died by Lu Ye's sword, but at least four or five were wounded by him.

After the great battle, the Xuanmen didn't bother collecting the spoils of war; they simply watched Lu Ye quietly. It wasn't that they didn't desire the loot, but Lu Ye's comportment over the past few days had established a tacit agreement among them.

All spoils of war would go to the Xuanmen; in turn, they compensated Lu Ye with some elixir pills.

Doll-face, who was the leader of this group, took a step forward and cupped his fists, "How should I address junior brother?"

Five feet in front of him, Lu Ye was applying elixir pill powder to his wounds. This was his first time experiencing battle on such a scale. Previously, the battles he had been involved in had never involved more than ten cultivators at most.

This time there were twenty people. He realized that battles of this scale were dangerous for any cultivator, even those with higher cultivation levels, as injuries or death were possible since one's attention can only stretch so far.

Several wounds on his body had been left by the cultivators of the Nine Stars Sect in their dying counterattacks.

Hearing Doll-face's question, Lu Ye fell into contemplation.

Before entering, the sect master had instructed him not to reveal his identity as a disciple of the Righteous Blood Sect, and certainly, he couldn't use the name Lu Ye, as his recruitment by the Righteous Blood Sect was known to quite a few sects.

Lu Ye didn't want this title of the "mountain tiger"...

"Junior Brother Yiye!" Lu Ye had truly made a choice.

"So it's Junior Brother Yiye." The baby-faced man smiled cheerfully and bowed his hands: "I am from Xuanmen, Chu Tian!"

Lu Ye bowed his hands with an indifferent expression and a 'Keep Out' attitude.

"It's like this..." Chu Tian slightly organized his words, "A few days ago, Brother Wang Yeang sent a message saying that if the opportunity arises, he would like to invite Junior Brother Yiye to visit Xuanmen. I wonder what your thoughts are?"

"Wang Yeang?" Lu Ye frowned.

Chu Tian chuckled, "He's a brother who presides over our sect's residence."

The fact that they were inviting him over as a guest wasn't very surprising to Lu Ye. These days, he had saved many cultivators from Xuanmen, and his practice of exchanging elixir pills had also allowed many Xuanmen cultivators to make a fortune. Logically, it made sense for them to show some gesture.

Inviting him to be a guest was clearly a gesture of goodwill.

However, he couldn't expose his identity, so he dared not have too close a contact with unfamiliar sects, especially since he was just passing through and wouldn't have a long interaction with Xuanmen.

"No need." Having weighed his options, Lu Ye shook his head in refusal.

Chu Tian wasn't annoyed at all, seemingly having anticipated Lu Ye's response. He continued to smile and said, "If that is the case, then let it be!" Saying thus, he gave a signal to someone behind him, who immediately took action, took out a storage sack, and went around to collect the elixir pills from his fellow sect members.

During the waiting process, Chu Tian said, "If Junior Brother Yiye finds it convenient, could you leave a contact method? That way, if there's any situation, we can also exchange information with Xuanmen."

Lu Ye didn't know how to leave a contact method, but he had some guesses. In the past few days when killing enemies, many Nine Stars Sect cultivators, before dying, would press their hands on their wrists, causing the battlefield markings to emit light, just like what Zharng Wu did when he was severely injured.

Battlefield markings likely recorded some information and could also be used for communication.

Thinking of this, Lu Ye nodded: "I can!"

Chu Tian then wiped his own wrist, and a bit of blue light, like burning flames, coiled around his fingertip. He flicked it towards Lu Ye. The blue light, like a blue butterfly, flew towards Lu Ye and landed on his wrist.

A thought flashed in Lu Ye's mind, and the blue light merged into the marking and disappeared.

At the same time, he faintly felt that his battlefield marking had gained something, but it wasn't a convenient time to investigate, so he continued to maintain his aloof demeanor.

The collection of the Xuanmen's elixir pills was soon completed, and with Chu Tian's gesture, they were handed over to Lu Ye. Lu Ye didn't check and just tucked them away, called Amber, and mounted the tiger's back.

"Junior Brother Yiye!" Chu Tian suddenly called out to him.

Lu Ye sat on the back of the tiger, turning his head to look at him.

Chu Tian spoke earnestly, "It looks like there's a guy from Endless Island with the Nine Stars Sect. Be very careful, Junior Brother."

Lu Ye nodded slightly, and Big Tiger turned around, disappearing into the distance.

As Chu Tian watched his receding figure, he stroked his smooth chin: "These disciples from big sects really are proud. He doesn't even care about Endless Island!"

Sage of Humanity - Chapter 77 - 75 Master and Servant[1,197 words]

A moment later, under Chu Tian's leadership, the Xuanmen cultivators found a tunnel to recuperate in.

Chu Tian leaned against the rock wall, waiting for the sect to send supplies while communicating through the battlefield marking.

In the Xuanmen base, a large cluster of buildings was scattered across several spirit mountaintops, surrounded by flowing spiritual energy. The entire base was enshrouded in thick fog, making it difficult to see inside from the outside, clearly under the cover of a big array.

In the courtyard of one of the mountaintops, the handsome Wang Yeang in white clothes stood by a fish pond, casually feeding the fish, watching the koi scramble for food.

Xiaozhu stood quietly behind him.

Suddenly, Xiaozhu activated her battlefield marking to sense briefly, then looked up and said, "Young Master, Chu Tian has encountered a mountain tiger and invited him over as a guest, but he was refused."

Without a word, Wang Yeang finished feeding the fish, clapped his hands, walked to a chair nearby, sat down, picked up a teacup and took a sip before slowly saying, "As expected, such characters won't easily enter another family's big sect base."

"Then why did Young Master still invite him?" Xiaozhu asked, puzzled.

Wang Yeang chuckled and said, "Many brothers and sisters in the sect owe their lives to him and have received favors from him; we should at least make a gesture. Whether to invite him is our business, whether he gives face is his business."

Xiaozhu uttered an acknowledgment.

"Anything else?"

"Chu Tian said that the mountain tiger indeed possesses a fine Spiritual Artifact and then he referred to himself as Yiye."

"Yiye?" Wang Yeang's expression turned contemplative. After a moment, he shook his head. He had never heard this name before. The Nine Provinces cultivation world would occasionally see new stars that garnered attention. Often, these new stars remained unknown until they shone brightly, but once they did, they captured everyone's attention.

Of course, many new stars were extinguished before they could shine, faced with countless dangers, especially in the chaotic Spirit Stream battlefield, where numerous talents perish every year.

"Chu Tian also said that this person seems to possess a defensive spirit rune, which he can deploy at will during battle, capable of blocking attacks from a Level 4 Spirit Stream cultivator."

In the thick of battle, Lu Ye often activated spirit runes. Sharpness spirit runes were rather concealed since they were enhanced on the sabre; even if activated, others might think it was an inherent restriction of the sabre, not overthinking it.

However, defense spirit runes were different; although they appeared and vanished in a flash, under Chu Tian's intentional observation, they couldn't remain hidden.

"A defense spirit rune that can be deployed at will?" This genuinely shocked Wang Yeang, "A Level 3 Spirit Stream cultivator?"

You should know that spirit runes are extremely complex and profound, requiring extensive time to learn and study. He had studied them out of boredom before, but the endless complex and mystical drawings recorded in the books were exceedingly tedious. Each time, they made him feel sleepy and his head buzz, ultimately ending with him tearing the book to pieces...

"That's what Chu Tian said."

Wang Yeang's lips twitched slightly: "Which big sect did this freak run out from?"

Indeed, Wang Yeang concluded that Lu Ye must be a disciple from a top-tier big sect, choosing to train in the outer circles because his cultivation wasn't high.

The assumption arose purely due to Lu Ye's astonishing performance in recent days. According to the statistics from the Xuanmen side, in just these few days, at least twenty cultivators from the Nine Stars Sect, including those at Level 4 of the Spirit Stream, had died at the hands of Lu Ye.

Being able to kill an enemy at a higher level is a hallmark of disciples from a big sect; a minor sect simply cannot cultivate such disciples.

Moreover, he had a beast pet, a majestic animal not easily subdued by ordinary people. Coupled with the intelligence Chu Tian had sent back, it further confirmed Wang Yeang's conjecture.

Only someone born into a top-tier power would have such a profound heritage and be able to utilize spirit runes in battle while being at Level 3 of the Spirit Stream.

The nickname 'mountain tiger' was first coined by Wang Yeang because, in his eyes, Lu Ye was indeed a ferocious tiger that roamed the mountains!

"This style of raising disciples is somewhat reminiscent of that sect in Tianzhou; they have many top spirit runes masters!" Wang Yeang pondered thoughtfully.

Xiaozhu did not know which sect Wang Yeang was referring to but knew that this so-called Yiye, the mountain tiger, must have an extraordinary background. She spoke up, "Then, Young Master, should we secretly assist him?"

"There's no need," Wang Yeang waved his hand, "He's out here for experience; whether he lives or dies is his own business. What business do we have helping him? If not handled properly, it could offend others."

Many big sects have the practice of 'raising' disciples who, despite their remarkable talents, leave the sect's protection when their cultivation is not high, to fend for themselves and temper their abilities. Though this carries great risks, those who grow through these challenges often far exceed their peers in strength.

Hence, an unspoken rule exists on the Spirit Stream battlefield: even if these training disciples are killed, the big sects do not seek revenge.

Such is the price that must be paid for growth. Big sects are never short of geniuses, and they wouldn't mourn the loss of one, unless it involves a relative of the high echelons of the sect, but that would be a private act of vengeance, unrelated to the sect.

Wang Yeang could conjecture that Lu Ye was a disciple from some big sect, and naturally, the Nine Stars Sect could make the same conjecture. Yet even so, the Nine Stars Sect hadn't given up pursuing Lu Ye, not because they weren't afraid of the big sects but because they knew those big sects wouldn't bother them over this matter.

"Besides, the cause of this great battle was this person. My Xuanmen has already taken on enough burden for him. If he were wise, he would come and offer his thanks properly!" Wang Yeang chuckled lightly.

Xiaozhu rolled her eyes. Being Wang Yeang's personal servant, she knew much more than others. This declaration of war seemed opportunistic, but it had actually been planned in advance; Wang Yeang had simply not found the right moment until Lu Ye killed the Young Master of the Nine Stars Sect, providing him with the perfect opportunity.

For Wang Yeang, Lu Ye was truly a blessing from the heavens.

Wang Yeang was preparing to enter the inner circle of the battlefield, where a Level 7 cultivation was not significant, and he could well encounter life-threatening dangers.

Therefore, before he left, he planned to severely impact the Nine Stars Sect so that, in case of his absence, the situation here would remain stable for a while or until someone could replace him.

"What are the casualties?" Wang Yeang asked again.

"Thirty dead; however, seventy percent were independent cultivators," Xiaozhu replied.

Wang Yeang nodded, pleased with the outcome, and ordered, "Increase the pressure, end this declaration of war quickly!"

Only by ending this declaration of war swiftly could the real plans begin!

Sage of Humanity - Chapter 78 - 76 Bestial Gluttony Feast[1,268 words]

About the issue of casualties, the Nine Stars Sect was also tallying them up.

Cao Ye looked worriedly at Dong Shuye, "Senior Brother, our side has suffered heavy losses, nearly sixty people have been killed since the start of the battle."

Dong Shuye was shocked, "How could there be so many?" Even if the Nine Stars Sect was no match for the Xuanmen, there shouldn't have been such heavy losses in just a few days.

Cao Ye said, "It's all thanks to that damn mountain tiger. Every time, he suddenly strikes when both sides are in combat. Many disciples have died because of him."

"That bastard!" Dong Shuye was furious, his face darkening for a moment, "What about those at the Level 5 realm in our sect?"

"They've all been targeted by the enemy," said Cao Ye helplessly. There were only so many Level 5 realm cultivators that the two sects could dispatch, and since everyone knew each other's secrets, it was easy to become targeted.

"Senior Brother, do you want me to take action...?"

Dong Shuye shook his head, "No, if you make a move, Wang Yeang won't sit by idly. Can you handle that wench?" The wench he spoke of was Xiaozhu.

Cao Ye expressed his headache, "I can't beat her, but she can't kill me either." Despite her lowly background, that wench was genuinely strong. Cao Ye couldn't help wondering what kind of luck Wang Yeang had to have a maid like her grow to such a level.

"What's the situation with Luo Ji?" Dong Shuye asked.

Mentioning Luo Ji gave Cao Ye an even bigger headache, "That guy doesn't take this war declaration seriously at all. I don't know where he's run off to, and he doesn't reply to messages we send."

"He's from Endless Island; of course, he wouldn't take our war declaration seriously," Dong Shuye's expression flickered, then he clenched his teeth, "Doesn't he want Ziyi? Tell him if he brings me the head of that mountain tiger, I'll give him Ziyi!"

"Senior Brother!" Cao Ye looked at Dong Shuye in shock.

"Go!" Dong Shuye commanded in a low voice.

"Yes!" Cao Ye left with a look of frustration. As he walked out of the great hall, he turned to glance at the girl in purple, Ziyi, crouching beside a cluster of flowers and lightly smelling their scent.

...

Chu Tian quickly received a message, assuming it was a reply from Senior Brother Wang Yeang, but after checking, he was surprised to find that it was from an individual he had never been in contact with before.

The message was very simple, just two words.

"Chu Tian?"

Confused, Chu Tian soon realized who was sending him the message. In the records of his battlefield marking, there was only one person he had never been in contact with, so he immediately sent back a message, "It's me. Is there something you need, Junior Brother Yiye?"

"It's nothing!" came the prompt reply from the other side.

Chu Tian's mouth twitched, why send a message if it's nothing? He thought that the mountain tiger had something important for him. After pondering, he sent another message, "If Junior Brother Yiye has any issues, just say the word. If I can help, I, Chu Tian, will not hesitate."

No response, like a stone sinking into the sea!

Meanwhile, Lu Ye hid himself in a passage, sensing his own battlefield marking with an inexplicable expression and feelings.

Does this mean he now had his first friend on his contact list?

He truly couldn't comprehend what was going on in this world anymore. Ever since he had entered the Spirit Stream battlefield, one strange incident followed another.

Fortunately, after his investigation, contacting Chu Tian would not reveal his real name, which relieved him.

Ignoring Chu Tian's response, Lu Ye swallowed an elixir pill to recover himself.

The battle's consumption wasn't significant, so he recovered fully in just half a day, but he didn't stop there and continued to take elixir pills, aiming to break through a certain spiritual orifice barrier.

He was at the Spirit Stream Level 3 cultivation, but had already opened twenty-eight orifices.

The additional spiritual orifice was one recorded in the Bestial Gluttony Feast Technique.

The Golden Cicada Carefree Method had been cultivated to Perfection by him, and he had no higher-level cultivation techniques on hand to further his cultivation, so he set out to practice the Bestial Gluttony Feast.

He had purchased this technique for three Spirit Stones, which included fifteen spiritual orifices; most overlapped with those of the Golden Cicada Carefree Method, but two orifices were not part of that system.

With the mindset of "idle hands are the devil's tools," Lu Ye had been pondering over the Bestial Gluttony Feast for the past few days, and had already successfully opened one orifice. He just needed to open one more to fully grasp the essence of this technique.

According to the independent cultivator who sold him the technique, it could double the efficiency of his cultivation; however, Lu Ye was sure he had been deceived, as no such heaven-defying technique could exist, and even if it did, it wouldn't be sold so casually.

Regardless, the two additional spiritual orifices were indeed real; by opening two more now, he could save effort when cultivating more advanced techniques in the future.

Lu Ye approached the cultivation of this technique with the thought that he wouldn't be at a loss either way.

Spirit force surged as he repeatedly charged at the spiritual orifice barrier, finding it much easier than when he first began his cultivation, because his body now contained an abundant supply of spirit force.

During the assault, the spiritual orifice barrier loosened, and a sour sensation emanated from the orifice. In about two hours, Lu Ye felt the barrier shatter resoundingly.

The 29th orifice was opened!

What followed was simple: to run a cultivation technique, one must allow their spirit force to flow along the technique's prescribed paths. Since the fifteen orifices of the Bestial Gluttony Feast overlapped significantly with those of the Golden Cicada Carefree Method, he had to first stop the circulation of the latter technique.

The Minor Circumambulation involving the nine orifices didn't need to be interrupted since they weren't part of the Bestial Gluttony Feast's pathways.

Lu Ye had never before tried to stop the circulation of his body's spirit force, but a brief attempt revealed it was quite simple.

The Minor Circumambulation circuit is just the spirit force of nine orifices flowing quickly. By stabilizing the rushing flow, the circulating spirit force would quiet down and settle back into the orifices.

Lu Ye tried to get the spirit force flowing again, and in a short moment, it returned to its original state.

He now felt more confident and reassured.

Once again, calming the flowing spirit force of the first two Minor Circumambulation circuits in his body and allowing all the spirit force to return to the orifices, he then began to lead the spirit force through the fifteen orifices according to the Bestial Gluttony Feast's prescribed pathways.

One cycle, two cycles... Gradually, the spirit force flowed faster and faster until it operated on its own without Lu Ye's prompting.

Lu Ye suddenly had a strange sensation; it felt as though his abdomen began to move intensely...

With a thought, he quickly took out and swallowed an elixir pill.

In the next instant, the movement in his abdomen became even more pronounced. His lower abdomen seemed to turn into a millstone. The elixir pill that he had ingested was rapidly ground up, unleashing its pill energy and transforming it into spirit force.

Lu Ye's eyes snapped open, his expression one of shock.

He suddenly realized that the man who sold him the technique, Chen He, might not have lied after all! The Bestial Gluttony Feast truly could double the efficiency of his cultivation!

Sage of Humanity - Chapter 79 - 77: Ingenious Ideas[1,376 words]

The speed at which the pill energy dissipated was much faster than before, which naturally increased his efficiency in refining elixir pills.

Chen He indeed hadn't lied; no wonder he dared to swear an oath of Heaven's Augury in front of him.

But Lu Ye quickly understood why this Cultivation Technique was being sold everywhere.

The Bestial Gluttony Feast could double the efficiency of cultivation at first glance, which seemed revolutionary, but in reality, cultivators accumulate pill poison when they consume elixir pills during cultivation. Once the pill poison accumulates, the spirit force within the body becomes turbid and unclear. The more elixir pills refined, the more evident the problem becomes.

Therefore, after a period of cultivation, cultivators would stop consuming elixir pills and look for ways to resolve the pill poison.

In other words, under normal circumstances, whether the efficiency of a cultivator in refining elixir pills is fast or slow doesn't make much of a difference; being slower might even have its advantages...

However, Lu Ye was different; he had the Talent Tree to burn away the pill poison, turning elixir pills into spirit force upon consumption, which was even purer than what ordinary cultivators could achieve through painstaking refinement. Therefore, the effect of the Bestial Gluttony Feast on increasing the efficiency of cultivation was genuinely substantial for him.

The combination of the Talent Tree and the Bestial Gluttony Feast was simply a perfect match!

Realizing this, Lu Ye felt somewhat excited as his future cultivation would undoubtedly save a lot of time.

However, this also meant that on the path of pill-consumption cultivation, he was destined to venture further and further.

The pill energy of an elixir pill was quickly depleted, and the spirit force within Lu Ye gradually became abundant. Perhaps because he had been cultivating, his stomach started to growl. He immediately took food out from his storage sack and began to eat voraciously.

Then he discovered something interesting—his digestive ability had also become stronger.

All fifteen spiritual orifices of the Bestial Gluttony Feast were located near the stomach, and when the Cultivation Technique was in operation, the entire stomach churned intensely like a millstone. Under the powerful milling force, not only could it quickly refine pill energy, but it could also digest food.

Upon further investigation, Lu Ye found that what made the Bestial Gluttony Feast so effective was not merely digestion, but absorption. Digestion without absorption would be futile; only by absorbing could the efficiency of cultivation truly be increased.

Through his senses, Lu Ye discovered that if he connected those fifteen spiritual orifices according to a certain pattern, he could create a figure that seemed somewhat familiar to him...

With a slight recollection, he raised his hand and manipulated the spirit force to construct a spirit rune.

It was the 3rd spirit rune he had acquired—Gathering Spirit.

The Gathering Spirit rune in his hand, once manifested, generated an invisible pulling force, and the surrounding Spiritual Energy began to flow toward it.

The Gathering Spirit rune was an extremely complex and profound pattern constructed with spirit force. The figure he had created by connecting the Bestial Gluttony Feast according to a certain pattern was undoubtedly much cruder, but both seemed to originate from the same source!

Was it a coincidence? Or did the cultivator who created the Bestial Gluttony Feast Technique draw inspiration from the structure of the Gathering Spirit rune?

The primary function of the Gathering Spirit rune was to gather nature's spiritual energy. If one considered pill energy as comparable to Spiritual Energy, then the Bestial Gluttony Feast was also gathering—however, it converted the gathered pill energy into spirit force for the cultivator to absorb.

With this line of thought, a vague idea suddenly sprung into Lu Ye's mind, but when he tried to clarify this thought, he found he couldn't grasp it momentarily.

He fell into contemplation, letting the Bestial Gluttony Feast operate...

The nature's spiritual energy around him, drawn by some inexplicable force, converged towards Lu Ye, merged into the Gathering Spirit rune on his hand, and then dispersed, in an ongoing cycle.

However, Lu Ye soon noticed that a portion of the nature's spiritual energy flowed into his own stomach and was transformed into his spirit force through the milling of the Bestial Gluttony Feast...

This surprised him somewhat.

During these days of cultivation, he had always relied on refining elixir pills, supplemented by Essence Refinement-Qi Conversion, mainly because the efficiency of absorbing nature's spiritual energy was too low. His body found it difficult to accept spiritual energy, as though there was an invisible barrier covering him, keeping nature's spiritual energy at bay.

Even the efficiency of cultivating with the aid of Spirit Stones wasn't high. Strictly speaking, Spirit Stones are the condensation of spiritual energy, and if he couldn't accept spiritual energy, naturally, he couldn't accept the power of Spirit Stones either.

But now, without cultivating, the Bestial Gluttony Feast had actually gathered some spiritual energy for grinding and refining...

This also indirectly verified Lu Ye's earlier speculation that the creator of the Bestial Gluttony Feast Technique must have made use of the construction of the Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes, otherwise the two wouldn't have similar characteristics.

Of course, the spiritual energy gathered by the Bestial Gluttony Feast wasn't much. The true purpose of this technique was to refine the substances consumed, the gathering of spiritual energy was just a secondary effect.

Thinking this, the vague idea in Lu Ye's mind suddenly became clear!

The Bestial Gluttony Feast could gather spiritual energy, and the Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes could also gather spiritual energy, both originating from the same source.

The effect of the Bestial Gluttony Feast Technique came from the operation of fifteen spiritual orifices in series, so the focus was on the spiritual orifices.

What if he were to enhance a spiritual orifice with Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes?

What would happen then?

Lu Ye was startled by his own bold idea.

Although he was only a novice cultivator who had been practicing for a few months and was ignorant of many common knowledges in the cultivation world, he knew the importance of spiritual orifices to a cultivator. It could be said that once there was a problem with a spiritual orifice, it would affect a cultivator's entire life.

When he obtained the Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Rune, he had investigated its properties and ultimately deemed it worthless, because his body found it very difficult to accept external spiritual energy, and even if he activated the Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes, it wouldn't be of much use.

But it seemed that he had entered a mental blind spot. Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes could not only be applied to his hands, they could also be applied elsewhere.

For instance... within a spiritual orifice!

If his idea could be realized, then the Gathering Spirit would not be garbage at all, in fact, it could become the most useful spirit rune.

The more he thought about it, the more feasible the idea seemed. Lu Ye stopped the operation of the Bestial Gluttony Feast Technique and switched to the Golden Cicada Carefree Method.

The main reason other cultivators dared not apply spirit runes on their own spiritual orifices is that the construction of spirit runes is complex. Even the most seasoned spirit runes master could fail in its construction, and if the spirit runes were constructed incorrectly, the spirit force used to build them would explode, causing some damage to the spiritual orifice.

But Lu Ye had no such concerns. He now mastered three spirit runes, and each time he obtained a spirit rune, a wealth of information about that spirit rune would pour into his mind. He had never once failed in constructing spirit runes.

Even so, Lu Ye did not dare to meddle with his Root Spiritual Orifice but chose another spiritual orifice instead.

The Root Spiritual Orifice is the most important one, and if something goes wrong there, it would truly be the end. If other spiritual orifices encounter issues, perhaps there is a way to remedy the situation.

Sensing the location of that spiritual orifice, Lu Ye's mind moved subtly, and he channeled his spirit force, applying a Gathering Spirit rune onto that spiritual orifice.

However, in just an instant, the Gathering Spirit runes were scattered by the flow of spirit force within his body.

No, this needed adjustment. He couldn't just place the spirit runes inside the spiritual orifice, otherwise, there was no way to maintain it.

Sage of Humanity - Chapter 80 - 78: The Small Funnel[1,407 words]

Time and time again, Lu Ye tried and failed, but rather than feeling discouraged, he was bursting with excitement, for each failure accumulated experience.

The greatest challenge of infusing the Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes into the largest spiritual orifice was the surge and cycle of one's spirit force, which could blow the runes apart.

Therefore, for Lu Ye to affix spirit runes into his spiritual orifice, he needed to avoid the impact of the spirit force, otherwise success would be impossible.

However, this would lead to another issue: if the constructed spirit runes were too far from the spiritual orifice, they wouldn't be very effective. For instance, if Lu Ye built the spirit runes on his hand and they gathered spiritual energy, his body would struggle to accept this external spiritual energy and transform it into his own spirit force.

Finding a balance that allowed the spirit runes to be stable while still functioning effectively was a challenge.

Luckily, constructing a Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Rune wasn't too costly, as Lu Ye had discovered when he first obtained the runes.

Two shichen later, he still hadn't succeeded.

Lu Ye tried altering the shape of the spirit runes. Normally, spirit runes took the form of a flat surface, and without profound knowledge in this area, altering them would be impossible.

Although Lu Ye hadn't studied spirit runes extensively, when he acquired them, a wealth of information about the runes flooded into his mind, giving him insight into their mysteries.

As for the three spirit runes he currently mastered, Lu Ye had the capability to change their shapes, lacking only practical experience.

After numerous attempts, and nearly half a day later, a Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Rune finally took shape, and this time, it wasn't dispersed by the flow of his own spirit force.

Success!

Lu Ye revealed a contented expression, silently sensing that under the effect of the spirit rune, spiritual energy from all around was converging, flowing into that orifice and melding into his own spirit force.

The Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Rune he transformed now looked like a funnel, which he then affixed to his spiritual orifice, the tip of it poking into the orifice with the least possible extent.

In other words, the spiritual energy gathered from the outside world would directly enter through this small funnel into his spiritual orifice, transforming through the flow of spirit force, without passing through his body.

Thus, whether Lu Ye's talent was a single leaf or sixty-four, it wouldn't affect the effectiveness of the Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes.

I am quite clever! Lu Ye couldn't help but give himself a mental thumbs up.

Even though he had been successful in affixing the Gathering Spirit Rune to his spiritual orifice and had begun to imbibe nature's spiritual energy, because the rune was rather small, its effect was extremely limited.

This is but one spiritual orifice...

Lu Ye had now opened twenty-nine orifices...

What effect would it produce if he affixed Gathering Spirit Runes to all twenty-nine orifices?

Lu Ye couldn't help but look forward to it. If he could implement this idea, he wouldn't be confined to consuming elixir pills for cultivation in the future; he could also breathe in and out the spiritual energy of nature! Not only would this save a vast amount of cultivation resources, but it would also enhance the efficiency of his cultivation practice.

Once this thought emerged, Lu Ye couldn't contain his excitement and immediately began to attempt it.

With the experience from the first success, the second attempt became much easier.

In less than half a shichen, Lu Ye applied the small funnel spirit rune to his second spiritual orifice, followed by the third, the fourth... Lu Ye gradually became more skilled.

By the time he reached the tenth orifice, Lu Ye vaguely felt the effects; when he reached the twentieth, the effects were even more apparent, and by the time he had affixed Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes to all twenty-nine orifices, the night had set in.

At this point, he distinctly sensed the continuous stream of spiritual energy from all around rushing into each of his orifices, transforming into his own strength as the spirit force surged through them.

The Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes could last a long time because they were constantly gathering nature's spiritual energy to sustain themselves. In theory, as long as Lu Ye didn't voluntarily disperse these runes, they could last indefinitely.

Of course, in reality, that was impossible. Lu Ye's state was stable at this moment, allowing the runes to remain intact, but once he engaged in combat with others, his spirit force would stir and flow vigorously, which could easily destroy the runes.

In the end, this was a business that required no capital. Lu Ye only needed to construct the spirit runes at the right time to augment his spiritual orifice, and then do nothing. The Spiritual Energy of heaven and earth would be gathered and flow into his body. He could even go about other tasks...

Now, it all depended on how much benefit these spirit runes could bring him over a certain period of time.

To determine this, he calmed his energy and focused his spirit, sensing the changes in the spirit force within his body.

After six hours, he came to a conclusion. If the spirit runes of the twenty-nine spiritual orifices could be maintained for a day and a night, then the benefit they brought him would be roughly equivalent to consuming one Spirit-Nurturing Pill...

That wasn't a lot, but it was not insignificant either.

One must know that there were only twenty-nine spiritual orifices at the moment, but a cultivator's body contained a total of three hundred and sixty. One day, if Lu Ye could augment all three hundred and sixty spiritual orifices with Gathering Spirit, the benefits would be substantial.

With many Spirit-Nurturing Pills in hand, the auxiliary Cultivation Technique Bestial Gluttony Feast, and the assistance of Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes, Lu Ye was itching to find a place to hunker down and cultivate until he reached Spirit Stream Level 9...

However, what made him feel helpless was that he didn't have a suitable cultivation technique on hand.

The Golden Cicada Carefree Method he obtained from Manager Yang was only cultivatable up to Spirit Stream Level 3 Perfection.

He originally planned to wait for the next marketplace and then visit the branch of Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union to see if he could purchase a technique. For this purpose, he had sold four pieces of origin magnetic ore along the way and saved up over two hundred Spirit Stones.

But who would have thought that he would now be trapped in Sky-Splitting Gorge and unable to leave for the time being.

This was somewhat frustrating...

After pondering for a moment, Lu Ye lifted his hand and tapped on his battlefield marking, sending out a message.

Chu Tian was meditating to recover when he suddenly perceived the message. He hastily checked it and discovered that it was Lu Ye looking for him.

After the lesson learned during the daytime, Chu Tian cautiously replied, "Junior Brother Yiye, what do you need?"

"Do you have a Black rank skill? Sell me one."

Chu Tian felt perplexed, "What do you need a Black rank skill for?"

In the passageway, Lu Ye looked at Chu Tian's response speechlessly, thinking that this guy must be an idiot, and patiently replied, "To cultivate!"

Chu Tian, looking at Lu Ye's response, couldn't help but scratch his head.

A moment later, the message reached the Xuanmen base.

Wang Yeang stared at Xiaozhu with a look of surprise, "Is the message correct?"

Xiaozhu nodded, "It's from Chu Tian; it should be correct."

Wang Yeang thought for a moment, then couldn't help but click his tongue, "Indeed, it's the style of those big sects. Disciples they send out have to rely entirely on themselves, they don't even prepare cultivation techniques for them. It seems he was previously cultivating with just a Yellow Level Technique, and now that he's reached Spirit Stream Level 3 Perfection, he needs a new technique."

"Chu Tian is waiting for a reply, what should we say?"

"Just a technique. It's a dime a dozen. Give him one and ask Chu Tian what his element sign is."

"Okay." Xiaozhu nodded, thinking to herself that disciples from big sects seemed rather pitiful. Although Xuanmen was just Ninth Grade, the disciples would help each other out in the early stages of cultivation, and they wouldn't have this many hardships.

"Right, don't give it away for free; those big sects frown upon that. Sell it to him but charge less for the Spirit Stones, they are quite poor after all."

"Understood."