

Humanity 901

Chapter 901 Your Matter Has Been Exposed

Xianxia Mountain, Nameless Valley, the lake ripples shone under the lone drifting boat. An elder sat on the boat fishing alone, the fishing rod already in the water, seemingly with a big fish hooked, dragging the rod across the surface.

The sound of air-breaking came, and several figures descended from all directions, led by Warlord Geng, six members of the law enforcement squad instantly surrounding the person.

As they landed, the six squad members simultaneously summoned the Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock, and in an instant, the space around the elder was drained of spirit force. The sudden change caused the elder to emit a muffled grunt, his body hunching a bit.

Lu Ye was positioned at the right rear side of the elder. He lifted his eyes to examine, seeing the elder's spirit still hale, his frame lean.

This was indeed the target of this mission!

Judging from his appearance alone, naturally nothing of significance could be discerned, but through the brief conversation between Warlord Geng and Ahn Mofeng earlier, Lu Ye knew this elder wasn't as simple as he looked.

The elder stood up, looking at Ahn Mofeng who was standing not far from him, and smiled slightly: "Brother is here?"

Ahn Mofeng looked at this junior brother who had grown with him, apprenticed together, and strengthened Xianxia Mountain together. His heart wrung like a knife, lips dry and trembling, yet not a single word emerged.

"Dear young friends should be from the Justice Department's law enforcement team, right?" The elder glanced at Warlord Geng and others, seemingly resigned to his fate, showing no sign of resistance, even having the mind to comment: "Indeed, each of you is exceptional, youth is truly great."

Of course, mainly he couldn't resist. Under the Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock, spirit force was prohibited. Regardless of how strong his cultivation was previously, at this moment, he was merely a man with a strong physique, unable to exert much power.

Warlord Geng snorted coldly, retrieving a gold lustrous parchment from his bosom, unfolding it, he declared loudly: "Xianxia Mountain's Great Elder Ning Hu, originally named Zhao Jing, from Yunzhou, infiltrated Bingzhou eighty-seven years ago, changed his name and identity, by chance joined Xianxia Mountain, endured and waited until now, intending to harm our Bingzhou's foundation. His crimes are sevenfold, and now I, the A-3 squad of the Law Enforcement Hall, capture him and bring him to justice!"

"Crime one, forty-three years ago, ambushed the former Sect Master while out executing a mission with him, resulting in fatal injuries."

"Crime two, thirty-nine years ago, during the Overlapping Clouds Checkpoint battle, killed multiple Haotian Alliance cultivators."

"Crime three, thirty-seven years ago, during the Hundred Battles Checkpoint incident, reported to the enemy, causing Bingzhou great losses, with thousands wounded and dead."

"Crime four..."

Despite already having suspicions, when Warlord Geng read Ning Hu's charges, Ahn Mofeng staggered, his complexion turning visibly pale.

He never imagined this junior brother, who had been with him day by day for decades, had such an unknown side.

Every charge Warlord Geng read seemed to add to Ahn Mofeng's sense of age.

"Crime five... never mind, too lazy to read." Warlord Geng impatiently put away the charges, looking coldly at Ning Hu: "In short, Ning Hu, you've been exposed, arrest him!"

At the command, two Dragon-Binding Ropes flew from Shangguan Qiu and Muk Zheng's hands, the magic-artifact class ropes winding like spirit snakes, quickly binding Ning Hu securely.

The task was unexpectedly simple.

Lu Ye thought he would at least have to fight once coming here, but never expected the opposite party would show no sign of resistance, letting them unleash the power of the Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock and Dragon-Binding Ropes.

With this capture, the other party could stir no waves.

In other words, the task was basically over. What's left was to bring Ning Hu back to Haotian City, as for how to deal with him, that's the matter for the penal office.

Just as Lu Ye was thinking this, a sudden uneasy feeling arose in his heart, a foreboding sense flooding within.

His expression tightened, secretly alert.

Such intuition often can't be relied on, but sometimes it's a sign, especially for Lu Ye, who developed mental consciousness, this kind of feeling can't be easily ignored.

Suddenly realizing, even knowing he's exposed, there was no reason for Ning Hu to surrender so easily, even ants crave to live, let alone a cultivator?

He wouldn't be unaware of what happens once caught, if Lu Ye were in his position, even knowing resistance has no good end, it's impossible to wait helplessly.

Unless he no longer wants to live.

Yet Ning Hu's demeanor showed no sign of seeking death?

With spirit force banned and body bound by Dragon-Binding Ropes, Ning Hu remained calm, looking at Warlord Geng: "Fellow Daoist, law doesn't overlook sentiment. Considering my cooperation, would you allow me a few words with my brother?"

Warlord Geng frowned but eventually nodded: "One cup of tea!"

"No need for that long." Ning Hu smiled slightly, then looked at Ahn Mofeng, whose face was completely pale: "Brother must have many things you want to ask?"

Ahn Mofeng was chaotic-hearted, filled with questions, not knowing where to start, subconsciously spoke: "Is there some mistake? Junior brother, why don't you explain to them?"

Ning Hu chuckled lightly: "Brother, you were naive when young, and still so now when old. Like this, how could you lead Xianxia Mountain? We both know, the Justice Department doesn't act rashly. If they've made a move, they must already have solid evidence. Besides, did you not hear what that fellow Daoist just said?"

Ahn Mofeng clenched his fists, gritting his teeth, "So, you're really a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge spy?"

Ning Hu sighed, "Fate plays with people."

"Was the previous Sect Leader also killed by you?"

"That's a bit unfair to me. I don't know where the Justice Department got their information about events from decades ago, but the old Sect Leader was already gravely injured, with little time left. I merely sent him off. Regardless, the old Sect Leader taught me a lot, almost like half a mentor. Even though I'm a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge spy, I wouldn't do such a thing."

"What about the other matters?"

"Let's say I've done a few." Ning Hu replied calmly, seeing that Ahn Mofeng wanted to dwell on these matters, sighed, "Brother, I don't have much time, is this all you wish to ask?"

Ahn Mofeng was momentarily speechless, knowing full well he was asking pointless questions.

Ning Hu said, "Brother, don't waste your efforts. I really am a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge spy, sent here before I even stepped onto the path of cultivation. Though it was forced upon me, I did many things that harmed the Haotian Alliance. The Justice Department coming to arrest me today is right."

"How could this be..." Even now, Ahn Mofeng found it hard to believe, and it was indeed difficult for anyone to accept.

"There are many more like me within the Haotian Alliance, of course, the Haotian Alliance has also planted many spies within Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. The two camps have been opposing each other like this for a long time. But although I'm a person of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, I grew up and cultivated here at Xianxia Mountain. I've always considered myself a person of Xianxia Mountain, hoping one day to lead the sect with you into the upper three grades."

He gazed distantly, eyes filled with complexity, "What a pity!"

"Time's up, Sect Master Ahn, we should go." Warlord Geng barked.

Ahn Mofeng stood there stunned, obviously shaken by this series of events, his thoughts a mess.

Seeing him like this, Ning Hu couldn't help but feel a bit disappointed, "After the old Sect Leader died, many elders supported you to take the position. I was vehemently against it because you're not suited to being the Sect Leader. Your mind is too easily swayed by external forces. As proven today by just one traitor shaking your spirit, what would you do if faced with a bigger crisis?"

"What bigger crisis?" Ahn Mofeng asked unconsciously.

"Like... the threat of annihilation?" Ning Hu looked at him deeply.

In that moment, Lu Ye felt his heart pound wildly, the sense of impending danger he sensed reached an extreme.

Clang...

The sound of a long blade being unsheathed startled everyone. As all eyes converged, Lu Ye's blade was already aflame, slashing down towards Ning Hu.

This sudden change took Warlord Geng and others by surprise. They didn't understand why Lu Ye acted so recklessly when their task was to capture, not kill. How to handle Ning Hu was for those at Haotian City to decide.

If someone were killed at this moment, they wouldn't be able to account for it afterward.

"Stop!" Warlord Geng's voice had just fallen when his expression drastically changed.

Because around the supposedly restrained Ning Hu, a powerful invisible force suddenly erupted, sweeping outward with a mighty roar.

In the next instant, Warlord Geng felt a sharp pain in his head, his vision filled with swirling stars, and other people's bodies swayed as they fell into the lake.

"Mental Consciousness!" Despite being at the True Lake Level 9, Warlord Geng didn't immediately lose consciousness upon this sudden attack, feeling a mix of surprise and anger as he realized what was happening.

This task's target wasn't a True Lake Realm cultivator but a hidden Divine Sea Realm one!

No one knew when he advanced to the Divine Sea, nor what methods he used to hide it for so many years. But judging from the intensity of his Mental Consciousness, he must have reached the Divine Sea Level 2 at the very least.

The unexpected change took everyone off guard. Under the shockwave of Mental Consciousness, Ahn Mofeng and Warlord Geng could barely maintain their posture; the others tumbled into the lake.

The effect of the Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock was instantly broken.

Only Lu Ye's long blade continued its downward swing.

"Hmm?" Ning Hu showed a surprised expression.

In his perception, Lu Ye had the lowest cultivation among all present, merely a True Lake Level 1.

Yet in this sudden turn of events, Lu Ye's reaction was the most remarkable, even acting before anyone else moved.

And despite the impact of his Mental Consciousness, this True Lake Level 1 boy wasn't affected at all.

This was indeed unusual.

Ning Hu subconsciously assumed that Lu Ye must have come from a top-notch big sect, wearing some incredible treasure.

Chapter 902 If You Can, Stop Me

Lu Ye didn't expect that his previous preparedness for danger would be validated so quickly.

Around his neck hung the golden lock gifted by Nian Yuexian, outside the Divine Sea were two dragon shadows guarding him, and within the Divine Sea, the Soul Device, Soul Suppressing Pagoda, stood watch.

Not to mention a mere Divine Sea Level 2 cultivator, even encountering Wan Zhanggang again, his psyche would remain unharmed.

When Ning Hu's Mental Consciousness surged forth, Lu Ye clearly felt the golden lock on his neck emit an invisible barrier to intercept the surge.

Though effective to some extent, it wasn't obvious, and the unseen, shapeless impact barreled towards Lu Ye's mind. Yet, before reaching the Divine Sea, it was intercepted by the Twin Dragons Guarding the Sea performed by the two dragons.

The Divine Sea, protected by the Soul Suppressing Pagoda, remained unperturbed.

The long blade fell in tandem!

Ning Hu evidently did not anticipate such a development; when the Justice Department's law enforcement squad arrived, he offered no resistance. Not because he wished to die or submit willingly, but because he had reliance.

If he were truly a True Lake cultivator, under the dual measures of the Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock and Dragon-Binding Rope, he would naturally have to comply.

But, eight years ago, he had already secretly advanced to the Divine Sea, and now possessed cultivation at Divine Sea Level 2!

The Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock can prohibit spirit force but cannot restrict Mental Consciousness; he could break free at any moment!

He only wanted to say a few words to Ahn Mofeng before completely tearing up the facade, hence his cooperative demeanor.

Everyone underestimated him, and he also underestimated Lu Ye. But, speaking of it, who would have thought that a mere True Lake Level 1 could be completely unaffected by the impact of Mental Consciousness.

Bear in mind, under the impact of his Mental Consciousness, even those like Ahn Mofeng and Warlord Geng at True Lake Level 9 were briefly dazed.

Underestimating the enemy, naturally comes at a price.

The hastily gathered protective spirit force failed to fully block Lu Ye's fierce slash, cutting a wound across Ning Hu's chest.

Blood sprayed, Ning Hu felt pain, quickly freed himself from the two Dragon-Binding Ropes, and a violent spirit force surged, sending a punch crashing forth.

This punch was indescribably fast, the frail old man erupted with a power that would leave any True Lake cultivator in despair at that moment.

In the field of vision, the fist shadow rapidly enlarged, covering the sky and shrouding the earth, a breath of death swept across.

Lu Ye's mind was unprecedentedly clear, the long blade in his hand gracefully danced, and as it danced, it evolved a mysterious blade stance. Flames skyrocketed along the blade, twisting and writhing as if alive, swiftly tracing a complex, intricate pattern.

Moon Return!

The spirit runes that had accomplished miracles in the battle with Wan Zhanggang reappeared.

The Moon Return shattered, and the few hastily assembled defenses by Lu Ye also shattered, as the fist shadow crashed against the blade's edge, then heavily impacted Lu Ye.

Groans and sounds of bones fracturing resounded together, and Lu Ye flew out like a broken kite, landing disastrously into the lake.

"Hmm?" Ning Hu again revealed a puzzled expression.

Honestly, the shock Lu Ye gave him in this short time was enormous. Not being affected by his Mental Consciousness was one thing, but surviving his punch!

He clearly felt the power of Moon Return; under the mysterious spirit rune's effect, a portion of the force he exerted was rebounded, further weakening his attack.

Afterwards, the opponent seemed to have employed some defensive means, which is why he was wounded but not dead.

Which sect does this disciple belong to?

Truly born of a big sect, talents like this are something Xianxia Mountain will never nurture.

The clash between Lu Ye and Ning Hu lasted only a fleeting moment, but it was precisely this instant of delay that saved the lives of others.

Otherwise, in such circumstances earlier, Ning Hu could easily have killed everyone.

As Lu Ye fell into the water, Ahn Mofeng and Warlord Geng simultaneously recovered their senses.

Ahn Mofeng's face was full of overwhelming grief: "You are Divine Sea!"

If earlier there was the slightest fantasy in his heart, it shattered at once when Ning Hu revealed his true cultivation.

If not a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge spy, how could he hide his cultivation for so long, especially as Ning Hu himself admitted it before?

"Sect Master Ahn, take action!" Warlord Geng shouted angrily, as his blood Qi and spirit force surged, his whole body swelled by a circle, fiercely rushing towards Ning Hu.

He didn't expect that their mission this time was directed at a Divine Sea cultivator, which was far beyond the scope A-3 squad could handle.

A Divine Sea target is fundamentally something this group of True Lake cultivators cannot achieve.

This venture might end in disaster!

But naturally, he wouldn't abandon his companions to flee, moreover, escaping before a Divine Sea cultivator was unrealistic.

Now, what could be done was to combine his strength with Ahn Mofeng's, to try to slay Ning Hu!

"If you count on me, this incompetent senior, you're looking at the wrong person!" Ning Hu swept away his previous old and frail look, his gaze turning as sharp as an eagle's. "If Xianxia Mountain had been left to me back then, we would have already ascended to the upper three grades, instead of wasting time until now!"

As his words fell, he faced Warlord Geng with a hard punch-in-punch exchange.

The burly figure was unexpectedly vulnerable, and with a violent shock, blood trickled from the corner of his mouth. But it didn't end there—Ning Hu quickly grabbed his wrist, pulled Warlord Geng before him, and delivered a swift, unhesitating punch to the heart, showcasing the efficiency derived from years of battle experience.

Boom... came a sound.

Behind Warlord Geng, a noticeable bulge appeared momentarily, and a visible airwave exploded with a blast as blood spurted wildly from his mouth.

The enormous gap in cultivation ensured Ning Hu could overwhelm Warlord Geng, who was a True Lake Level 9, even without deploying mental consciousness.

Releasing his grip, the weakened Warlord Geng fell into the lake.

Ning Hu turned coldly towards Ahn Mofeng, "Senior brother, had you joined forces with him just now, you might not have defeated me, but you could have stalled for a while. What's making you hesitate? Will you continue in your naïveté? You're truly disappointing! Xianxia Mountain is doomed in your hands. Given that, I might as well destroy it first!"

With that, he soared into the sky, heading straight across the sect's inner lands.

Ahn Mofeng was shocked, recalling Ning Hu's prior words and his temperament in youth, he hurriedly chased after him, "Stop! Even if you're indeed a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge secret agent, the sect has nurtured and taught you for years; you can't do this."

"You're still so stubborn! When will you realize? I'm going to destroy the sect now, and you're lecturing me about grand principles? If you've got the guts, stop me!"

The two figures rapidly vanished one after the other.

The previous peace of this place was shattered, and not until they left did several embarrassed figures dash out—it was the members of the A-3 squad.

Under the impact of mental consciousness, besides the strongest Warlord Geng and the somewhat supported Lu Ye, everyone else fell into the water, and it wasn't until now that they snapped back to reality.

Emerging from the water, landing by the lake's edge, they coughed repeatedly, looking extremely disheveled.

Muk Zheng, the most meticulous among them, glanced around and was instantly surprised, "Where are the captain and Lu Ye?"

No sign of them was seen nearby, but they clearly felt the tremors of mighty fighters clashing while underwater earlier. Floating beside the boat on the water surface was a stain of blood spreading across.

"Captain wouldn't..." Muk Zheng's eyes turned red.

Kang Yuanqiao immediately stood, intending to dive back in for investigation.

Just then, with a splash, Amber in its true form emerged, carrying Lu Ye on its back, clamping Warlord Geng in its jaws, stepping out from the lake.

"Captain!" Several cried out, rushing forward to examine the situation.

After a check, they found Warlord Geng severely injured and already unconscious.

Lu Ye, though conscious, appeared injured too.

"What now?" Muk Zheng was momentarily at a loss.

What was thought to be an easy mission turned awry midway; the squad of six members faced four casualties in a split second when the adversary turned, making it quite shameful to speak of.

"Send a message back first," Kang Yuanqiao said while taking out his guard token. The mission took such a sudden turn, it was no longer their responsibility but rather a grave oversight by those handling intelligence, leading to flawed task information.

In such circumstances, they could only send transmissions, and Haotian City would have to dispatch nearby Divine Sea Realm experts to handle this matter.

Although it required time...

There were shrieks and shouts ringing from not far away, accompanied by fierce clashes indicating Ning Hu was striking lethal blows.

His identity thoroughly exposed; Bingzhou was no longer a place for him, but it seems he still wanted to do something before leaving.

The fact he didn't completely eliminate the law enforcement squad wasn't due to compassion but fear of the Justice Department.

Should he slaughter all members here in the enforcement squad, even if he could escape back to Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, he would have to constantly guard against retaliation from the Justice Department. Being targeted by them makes peaceful sleep nearly impossible ever again.

"This is no place to linger, let's leave quickly," Xiao Ruyun said gravely.

Kang Yuanqiao shook his head slowly, "Leaving like this won't pass the task."

"What wouldn't pass? The task information was flawed, the blame doesn't lie with us. Are you going to stay here and await death?"

"If we join forces with the people of Xianxia Mountain now, we might not fail to deal with Ning Hu!"

The Divine Sea Realm is indeed formidable, but Ning Hu is just at Divine Sea Level 2. The few True Lake Realm cultivators here, along with Xianxia Mountain's remaining True Lake Realm governor, could possibly bind him. Yet they must embrace a readiness to die.

"Now it may be too late. With Ning Hu already acting, he'll surely target Xianxia Mountain's True Lake Realm first. He spared us earlier only out of fear of the Justice Department; if we truly provoke him, do you think he'll hold back? A man who can kill his own fellows is capable of anything."

"But our Justice Department inherently bears the responsibility to maintain internal stability and eradicate traitors externally. Faced with such matters, how can we stand idly by?"

The two argued fiercely for a time.

Had Warlord Geng been awake, everything would naturally follow his command, but unfortunately, Warlord Geng was in a coma, leaving the squad leaderless.

Chapter 903 You Probably Can't Command Me

"Junior Brother Lu, what do you think?" Shangguan Qiu, who had been silently observing, suddenly turned to look at Lu Ye, who was adjusting his chaotic spirit force.

Each member of Warlord Geng's A-3 squad has their strengths, and Shangguan Qiu's forte is observation.

Having just experienced a tremendous change and been impacted by the Divine Sea Realm's mental consciousness, the others might not have paid much attention, but Shangguan Qiu did not forget.

Before Ning Hu revealed his true cultivation, this temporarily recruited junior brother had already struck with a blade.

This clearly meant that he had a very keen intuition towards the impending crisis, allowing him to act before Ning Hu.

It must be known that Ning Hu was secretly a Divine Sea Realm!

Such keen intuition is indeed terrifying.

In this situation, asking Lu Ye for his thoughts is naturally appropriate.

One shouldn't be judged by appearances, just as the ocean cannot be measured with a ladle. Shangguan Qiu never underestimated others due to lower cultivation. As Warlord Geng had previously said, who didn't start from True Lake Level 1?

"What's the point of asking him?" Xiao Ruyun replied impatiently, "He's just a True Lake Level 1, might not have ever seen a real battlefield. In this situation, swiftly retreating is the wise strategy."

Shangguan Qiu glanced at him, "If the captain were awake, he probably wouldn't make that choice."

"But the captain is unconscious now, and he would never gamble our lives!"

Amid the clamor, Lu Ye suddenly stood up with his long blade, took a deep breath, feeling some faint pain in his chest and abdomen, but apart from that, there were no major worries; his capability wasn't hindered.

He reached out a hand, and Amber instantly transformed into the size of a cat, leaping onto his shoulder.

"Junior Brother Lu?" Kang Yuanqiao gazed at him in astonishment, and the rest focused their attention on him.

Lu Ye looked in the direction of the screams and fighting sounds, with his blade at the waist and hand on the hilt, he slowly said, "I don't know how you handle situations like this, but personally, if wronged, naturally I'll repay it. If the opportunity is right, then it's now—right away!"

Everyone was astonished, recognizing Lu Ye's intent to get involved in the Xianxia Mountain affair. Even Kang Yuanqiao, who supported joining forces with Xianxia Mountain's True Lake Realm, was stunned, unsure where Lu Ye got such courage.

Charging forth meant facing a Divine Sea Realm!

True Lake versus Divine Sea, certainly a losing battle; the sole mental consciousness crushing alone would render True Lake utterly doomed.

Yet, coincidentally, Lu Ye had an exotic treasure to counter the Divine Sea Realm in his possession, thanks to his Mountain Pass Chief. After the siege defense at Gushan City, he reported to Heaven's Augury and received such a massive battle merit reward, giving him enough resources to acquire that exotic treasure at the Hall of Battle Merits.

Originally, he intended to use it just in case, not expecting to deploy it so soon.

Furthermore, on his journey, Lu Ye received much assistance from unknown Haotian Alliance cultivators. Especially when his identity as a Righteous Blood Sect disciple was exposed in the Spirit Stream battlefield, numerous unfamiliar Haotian Alliance cultivators supported him all the way, bringing him to Golden Light Peak, hanging on until his senior apprentice sister and fourth senior brother arrived.

Later, in the Spirit Stream battlefield, Cloud River battlefield, he repeatedly received help from unfamiliar Haotian Alliance cultivators, perhaps including people from Xianxia Mountain.

Now, Xianxia Mountain faced potential annihilation; if Lu Ye had no means to intervene, so be it, but with even a sliver of chance, he had to attempt something.

"Kid, don't act recklessly, with your insignificant cultivation, are you going to throw your life away?" Xiao Ruyun shouted sternly.

Lu Ye ignored him, already moving forward.

A silhouette flashed before him, with Xiao Ruyun blocking his way, looking at him decisively, "We brought you along, so we're responsible for taking you back. Don't go any further."

Seeing Lu Ye persist, Xiao Ruyun clenched his teeth and raised his guard token, yelling, "In my capacity as Bingzhou guard lieutenant colonel, I order you to return immediately!"

Upon saying this, he channeled his force into the guard token, which emanated a rich yellow light.

Lu Ye looked at the guard token in his hand, not speaking.

Xiao Ruyun said, "I don't care which mountain pass you're from, but according to Bingzhou guard discipline, in emergencies, those with higher ranks have command priority. Although you just joined the provincial guard, you should've heard of this rule."

Indeed, the guard discipline includes such a rule: ordinarily, rank only determines the amount of monthly stipend and applies within the same mountain pass.

For instance, Lu Ye within Cangyan Mountain Pass could command all provincial guards of lower rank, regardless of their cultivation level, although currently, only Nian Yuexian is there with him, hence he couldn't command anyone else.

Beyond the mountain pass, his rank may not necessarily hold sway.

This rule was established to prevent rank misuse by high-ranking cultivators.

But in urgent scenarios like the present, rank determines the weight of one's words.

Lu Ye hadn't planned to use his rank to pressure anyone; his cultivation was visible. What good is rank if it doesn't earn respect? Avoiding decisions that might demand subsequent justification seemed wise. Moreover, he and the A-3 squad were mere chance acquaintances, recruited together for tasks without deep familiarity, thus he hadn't intended to seek help from others, prepared to venture alone.

Because he himself didn't know how effective the exotic treasure would be; if useful, it could resolve Xianxia Mountain's crisis—if not, he'd have to retreat.

But when someone blocks his way with a lieutenant colonel's guard token, Lu Ye has to respond.

He undoes the guard token at his waist and waves it at Xiao Ruyun: "I fear you can't command me."

The suddenly blooming purple light nearly blinds Xiao Ruyun.

Kang Yuanqiao and the others look at Lu Ye's back with bewilderment, their hearts a storm of emotions.

Only when Lu Ye shoots skyward and dashes into the depths of Xianxia Mountain does Muk Zheng exclaim: "Capital Commandant?"

All of them hold lieutenant colonel ranks; not due to insufficient cultivation, but rather lack of battle merit. Apart from their captain, who has accumulated nearly enough merit due to his longer stay at True Lake Realm.

Yet their Captain, Warlord Geng, is True Lake Level 9, while Lu Ye is only Level 1!

Xiao Ruyun initially thought of using his rank authority to order Lu Ye back, not expecting that Lu Ye's rank is higher. He couldn't command him at all; the fact that Lu Ye didn't order him to follow was already courteous.

"The captain has awakened." A low call rings out, and everyone forgets their shock over how Lu Ye became a Capital Commandant, gathering around Warlord Geng.

At this time, the main summit plaza of Xianxia Mountain is awash in blood, bodies strewn everywhere.

It is clear that Ning Hu has already begun a massacre.

Xianxia Mountain has more than twenty True Lake cultivators, with considerable strength, but most are not present in the sect; some serve in the provincial guard, others wander for various reasons. Counting Ahn Mofeng and Ning Hu, only seven remain in the sect.

Three have already fallen, lying in pools of blood, their fate unknown.

The rest, including Ahn Mofeng, bear injuries, evidently having fought Ning Hu.

When Lu Ye arrives, he sees many Xianxia Mountain cultivators glaring angrily and shocked at Ning Hu, while Ning Hu holds a young man with Cloud River Level 3 cultivation.

The young man, about the same age as Lu Ye, shows exceptional talent given his cultivation, destined to be a pillar of Xianxia Mountain in the future.

Ning Hu appeared kind and gentle to all in Xianxia Mountain. The lake he meditated by was open to anyone, with many disciples seeking his guidance in difficult cultivation matters. Thus, when he suddenly reveals an unrecognizable side today, the ordinary disciples of Xianxia Mountain can't accept it, nor can the True Lake Realm elders.

The contrast is too stark.

Yet the dozens of corpses strewn about the plaza confirm Ning Hu as a mole for Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Lu Ye hastily arrives here, and Ning Hu turns to look at him, a flicker of envy in his eyes.

Everything can be feared when compared. The young fellow in his hand and the boy from the Justice Department are similar in age, but entirely divergent in cultivation and disposition.

Why does such an outstanding disciple belong to others, and not grown by Xianxia Mountain?

However, Ning Hu's goal isn't Lu Ye, so he merely glances before paying no further attention; a True Lake Level 1 cannot change the current situation.

Meanwhile, suspicion rises in Lu Ye's heart.

Why doesn't Ning Hu flee?

His identity is exposed and he has acknowledged it. Logically, he should escape quickly, otherwise, if the Justice Department calls nearby Divine Sea realms, he'd be trapped.

Instead of fleeing, he commits a massacre here?

What is his intent?

If his claim to destroy Xianxia Mountain is true, it would require much time even if possible with his sole strength.

An acute turn of thoughts, Lu Ye gains insight.

Ning Hu doesn't intend to leave alive! Because even if he escapes here, he can't outrun Haotian Alliance's influence in Bingzhou.

As for Ning Hu's true purpose, Lu Ye is unaware. A mole sent by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge in his youth, hidden for nearly a century, originates from the Ridge but trained at Xianxia Mountain.

Is he now Ten Thousand Demons or Haotian Alliance? Who can say?

At this moment, the sound of air being split comes from behind. Lu Ye turns to see A-3 squad, led by Warlord Geng, rushing over.

Seeing Lu Ye unharmed, Warlord Geng breathes a sigh of relief.

The other team members, unaware of Lu Ye's background, assume he's just a strong recruit Warlord Geng found on the street.

Though Warlord Geng isn't entirely aware, this is a person handpicked by the Department Chief; if an accident occurs, he'd struggle to answer to the chief.

Chapter 904 Godslayer

Seeing Lu Ye unharmed, Warlord Geng finally breathed a sigh of relief.

He is truly someone chosen by the Department Chief!

In such a dire situation just now, he dared to come here alone. Not to mention anything else, just his courage surpasses the other members of his squad.

"Senior Brother Geng." Lu Ye softly called out.

Warlord Geng nodded, raised his eyes to assess the situation in the field, and furrowed his brows.

A similar question emerged in his heart as Lu Ye's: why didn't Ning Hu flee?

He hadn't figured it out when he heard Ning Hu shout fiercely, "Senior Brother, at this point, haven't you seen through it yet?"

Ahn Mofeng had blood seeping from the corner of his mouth and covered his chest with a hand, saying, "No matter what, release Zih Yan first. You watched him grow up!"

The young cultivator held in Ning Hu's hand, named Zih Yan, also pleaded arduously: "Great Elder, spare my life!"

Ning Hu slowly shook his head, looking at Ahn Mofeng with a mix of pain and disappointment, "Senior Brother, you've let me down too much! Back then, you and I had similar aptitude, but now I am Divine Sea, whereas you remain at True Lake. The cultivation resources within the sect were utilized more by you, but now I have higher cultivation, do you know why?"

Ahn Mofeng sighed, "The old Sect Leader once said that in terms of aptitude, you've got an edge over me."

"Nonsense!" Ning Hu angrily retorted, "That old fool is so blind, couldn't even see I am an undercover agent for Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, how could he judge anything correctly? I'll tell you today why I can advance to Divine Sea and you can't."

With these words, he took a sudden step forward, "Because you always pin hope on others, never considering fighting for yourself! Generation after generation, you've trusted that someone would advance to Divine Sea, leading Xianxia Mountain into the ranks of the upper three grades. But have you ever thought, seeking help from others is inferior to relying on oneself? Don't forget, you are the Sect Master of Xianxia Mountain!"

The thunderous and resonating rebuke made Ahn Mofeng slightly lost in thought, reflecting upon himself during the past decades, as if indeed he was just like Ning Hu described.

Once realizing that he couldn't ascend to Divine Sea, he entrusted hope to the disciples below, losing his spirit of striving and ambition.

Ning Hu spoke again, "The previous generation you placed hope on that boy named Zhong, and what happened? He barely advanced to Cloud River but died prematurely; this generation you place hope on Zih Yan. His luck is better than Zhong's, now at Cloud River Level 3. But how can you guarantee he won't die prematurely too? Even if he steadily advances to True Lake Level 9, how can you guarantee he can ascend to Divine Sea?"

"I can, Great Elder!" the young Zih Yan shouted loudly, "I definitely can!"

"The future is uncertain." Ning Hu calmly responded, applying pressure with his hand, silencing Zih Yan immediately, then he looked at Ahn Mofeng and said, "Senior Brother, you have the possibility to ascend to Divine Sea, but your spirit and resolve have been eroded."

Ahn Mofeng sighed, "What's the point of saying these things now?"

"Of course, it has meaning!" Ning Hu suddenly chuckled.

Ahn Mofeng abruptly felt something ominous, asked in shock, "What are you doing?"

"Cut off the hope and longing in your heart, then you will have to rely on yourself!"

As soon as the words fell, Ning Hu exerted force with his hand, accompanied by a crisp crack, Zih Yan's neck bone was crushed, his eyes rapidly dimmed.

Although Ning Hu previously slaughtered indiscriminately, killing dozens, nobody expected he would truly lay a merciless hand on Zih Yan.

Because in the past, the relationship between this pair of grandson and elder was excellent, Zih Yan could practically be said to have been raised and taught by Ning Hu, who was like half a master to him!

Yet, even so, Ning Hu killed decisively, ruthlessly leaving a shocking impression.

Throwing Zih Yan's corpse aside like a rag, Ning Hu sternly shouted, "Senior Brother, whether Xianxia Mountain can be preserved depends on yourself, act quickly!"

The moment the words fell, he charged into the densest part of the crowd, and the rampage of a Divine Sea realm strong cultivator, those Xianxia Mountain disciples couldn't resist, instantly suffering casualties in droves.

"Stop!" Several wounded elders beside Ahn Mofeng seethed with anger, ignoring the disparity in strength between them, rushing towards Ning Hu in an attempt to hinder him.

Ahn Mofeng himself, however, stood seemingly dazed, at the spot, his eyes chaotic and confused.

"Stop him!"

On the other side, almost at the moment Ning Hu acted, Warlord Geng shouted, leading the charge, with his squad closely following, immediately joining the battle.

For a while, battles raged with spirit power surging.

Including Xianxia Mountain's True Lake Realm elders and members of A-3 squad, there were eight True Lake Realm in total, among them, Warlord Geng was even at True Lake Level 9. Such a lineup could barely contend with Ning Hu.

But still somewhat lacking as opponents.

The gap of a major realm is extremely terrifying, thus even with the numerical advantage on Lu Ye's side, the situation remained disadvantageous.

Fortunately, the few members of A-3 squad cooperated seamlessly, thereby preventing any casualties, especially the most powerful, Warlord Geng, who unleashed his strength, almost alone restraining thirty percent of Ning Hu's energy.

Lu Ye didn't share the tacit understanding with the A-3 squad, so he tried not to disrupt their coordination, and since his cultivation was the lowest, he wandered on the periphery from the start of the battle.

Not out of self-preservation, but waiting for an opportunity.

The opportunity to use the exotic treasure in hand!

Ning Hu had not been urging his mental consciousness, not because he couldn't, but because even as a Divine Sea Realm cultivator, using mental consciousness consumed a great deal of energy. Especially since he was only at Divine Sea Level 2, he had already exerted himself earlier to break free, using his mental consciousness power to the fullest, so at this moment, he wouldn't recklessly deploy his ace.

This gave everyone the opportunity to entangle him.

But the battle couldn't go on like this indefinitely. In less than half a cup of tea's time, two elders of the True Lake Realm from Xianxia Mountain had already fallen, their life or death uncertain.

On the A-3 squad's side, Warlord Geng was bleeding from all seven orifices, Kang Yuanqiao looked pale, Xiao Ruyun's aura was weak, and Shangguan Qiu was suffering from the backlash of magic and spells, with his spirit force in chaos, rendering him ineffective. Muk Zheng, the female cultivator, was even worse off, having the lowest cultivation in the squad besides Lu Ye.

Unware for a moment, she was struck in the abdomen by Ning Hu and flew twenty zhang away, now leaning against a wall while continuously coughing up blood, clearly unable to fight any longer.

Ironically, the least cultivated Lu Ye was in the best condition.

Firstly, he had been maneuvering on the outskirts, never clashing head-on with Ning Hu, not giving him the chance to inflict serious injury, and secondly, relying on his Moon Return and Defense Spirit Runes, he could at least protect himself from the after-effects of such a fierce battle.

The eagerly awaited opportunity hadn't arrived, yet their own formation was first to crumble.

Once Warlord Geng and the others were severely injured to the point of not being able to retaliate, everyone else might just have to clean their necks and wait for death.

"Captain, if the personnel summoned by the Justice Department don't arrive soon, I'm afraid I'll have to take my leave first," Xiao Ruyun shouted angrily while battling furiously against Ning Hu's wild attacks. Suddenly, a crisp sound came from his arm; it was a broken bone.

Though he had advocated for immediate retreat before, even stopping Lu Ye with his guard token, once the battle began, he fought without reservation, blocking several attacks aimed at Lu Ye.

"Hold on a little longer; they're already on the way," Warlord Geng responded.

Seemingly feeling the threat from those words, Ning Hu frowned, losing his desire for continued conflict. In the next instant, his mental consciousness surged forward, transforming into an invisible force, headed straight for Warlord Geng.

At the moment Ning Hu launched his mental consciousness attack, Lu Ye's eyes lit up. He also activated his mental consciousness, firing a nearly transparent, hiltless small sword.

Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword!

This exotic treasure, which Lu Ye had exchanged for two thousand six hundred battle merits, was the reason for his confidence to face Ning Hu.

Mental destruction, its target is mental consciousness itself!

Uncertain of the extent of its power, and coupled with the vast cultivation gap between himself and Ning Hu, Lu Ye dared not use it hastily, instead waiting patiently.

Waiting for the moment Ning Hu activated his mental consciousness!

The Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword transformed into a sharp beam, instantly moving before Ning Hu, severing his mental attack.

Ning Hu couldn't help but groan.

This is the danger of mental consciousness clashes at the Divine Sea Realm. Although Divine Sea cultivators possess mental consciousness, they seldom use it in combat, fearing exploitation by opponents.

Ning Hu hadn't anticipated the lowest cultivated kid present had countermeasures against him. In a moment of misjudgment, his mental consciousness was broken, causing sudden pain in his mind.

Initially, his mental attack targeted Warlord Geng. Had it been fully unleashed, regardless of Warlord Geng's substantial cultivation, he'd surely have been dazed on the spot, his fate uncertain.

However, once his mental consciousness was severed, Warlord Geng felt only slight dizziness, then returned to normal.

On the contrary, on Ning Hu's side, enduring the pain of fractured mental consciousness, he raised his hand to seize the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword.

Witnessing this, Lu Ye's heart sank.

This was his reliance against Divine Sea cultivators, an exotic treasure for which he'd spent two thousand six hundred battle merits from the Hall of Battle Merits, harboring great expectations for it, only to have them dashed.

Just as he thought the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword was unworthy of its name, a tiny sword light suddenly cleaved from the exotic treasure's body.

The sword light struck Ning Hu's forehead but caused him no harm, seeming intangible, vanishing upon contact.

Yet Ning Hu felt as though he'd been hammered head-on, his head jolting backward, his body staggering, involuntarily releasing the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword's body, hence screaming terribly.

While everyone was baffled by the sudden change, it was clear that the exotic treasure Lu Ye had wielded was responsible.

Warlord Geng's grasp of battle timing was exquisite, almost instantly advancing as Ning Hu retreated, both fists launching, spirit force vibrating.

With a resounding boom...

Ning Hu's frail body flew, spewing fresh blood in mid-air.

Beams of sword light followed like stars chasing the moon, which was Kang Yuanqiao's flying sword.

Lu Ye also took his blade in hand, unleashing a Myriad Stars attack.

Chapter 905 Eliminate Future Troubles

When the numerous attacks came to a halt, Ning Hu was left disheveled, his body like a tattered sieve, bleeding profusely.

The sudden assault by an exotic treasure caught him completely off guard, leaving him in a dire state.

Yet, he was not dead. Not only was he not dead, but the pain from his psyche only fueled his retaliation to be even more ferocious.

Previously, Ning Hu acted with some semblance of sanity, but now he appeared like a madman.

Fortunately, his mental consciousness was damaged, his thoughts chaotic, and his attacks aimless. Though violent, his actions lacked precise intent.

Warlord Geng was engaged in close combat with him, his heart pounding with fear.

Kang Yuanqiao supported with his flying sword but appeared somewhat helpless.

With his mental consciousness shattered, Ning Hu had indeed lost the greatest advantage of his Divine Sea level, but his spirit force cultivation remained. Subduing such an individual was no simple matter.

"Senior Brother Geng, dodge!" Lu Ye roared, a weapon already appearing in his hand as he flung it towards Ning Hu.

Warlord Geng reacted extremely swiftly. Although it was his first time coordinating with Lu Ye to fight an enemy, he had immense trust in him. Almost at the instant Lu Ye shouted, he retreated to a distance.

"Boom..." A loud noise erupted. Amidst the swirling flames, the explosive shock and scorching heat wave engulfed Ning Hu's silhouette.

Warlord Geng, having retreated a short distance, watched this scene, his eyelids twitching. He silently rejoiced at his quick retreat, knowing that had he been a bit slower, he surely would have been caught up in it.

Such might would not take his life but would certainly leave him in a sorry state.

What was that?

Turning to look, he saw Lu Ye with another of those explosive items in each hand. Upon close inspection, Warlord Geng was bewildered, realizing they were simply Spirit Stones, specifically fire spirit stones from the Five Elements.

Warlord Geng knew that the fire spirit power within fire spirit stones was volatile and unstable. Handling such stones required caution, for any jolt or bump could cause the fire spirit power inside to dissipate.

He had never heard this thing would explode! And the power was quite considerable, equaling an all-out strike from a True Lake level expert.

"Boom boom boom..."

The fire spirit stones, inscribed with Explosion Spirit Runes, were continuously launched by Lu Ye, transforming into clusters of searing flames that engulfed Ning Hu.

In ordinary times, such an attack would be ineffective, as a Divine Sea expert wouldn't foolishly stand still to take the brunt of it.

But at this moment, with Ning Hu's mental consciousness broken and his mind in a chaotic mess, he acted purely on instinct, unable to evade such attacks.

The combination of fire spirit stones and Explosion Spirit Runes originated from the Fire Spirit Race. Earlier, Lu Ye had discovered some killing weapons in that underground cave, presumably crafted by the Fire Spirit Race. Although the runes on them weren't exactly the same as the Explosion Spirit Runes, they offered sufficient inspiration to a true spirit runes master.

It was Lu Ye's first time using this method against an enemy, and his opponent was a Divine Sea level.

The effect was surprisingly effective.

The explosive sounds persisted as Warlord Geng thought these items were specially crafted objects. But in reality, Lu Ye was simply inscribing Explosion Spirit Runes onto fire spirit stones before casting them out.

As he continued to deploy the fire spirit stones, Lu Ye quietly used his mental consciousness to probe Ning Hu's condition.

He was startled.

Within the swirling flames, Ning Hu still had traces of life and was not dead.

He couldn't help but marvel at the vitality of a Divine Sea level cultivator.

Just as he was about to continue this strategy to grind down Ning Hu, Ning Hu suddenly lunged in the direction of Lu Ye through the blaze.

Ning Hu now acted purely on instinct, and killing Lu Ye was an instinctive act of self-preservation. His remaining consciousness indicated that if he didn't eliminate Lu Ye, he would truly perish.

"Not good!" Warlord Geng originally thought the situation was under control, but witnessing Ning Hu's action, he was taken aback and quickly moved to intercept.

"Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock!" Lu Ye roared.

Ning Hu's mental consciousness was already destroyed, unable to use it to attack like before. Utilizing the Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock to contain him would secure the situation.

But before that, he had to find a way to survive in front of the furious Ning Hu.

He continued to launch fire spirit stones; the violent explosions and strong impacts were still insufficient to halt the lethal advance of a Divine Sea level.

Warlord Geng obstructed Ning Hu for a moment.

Lu Ye hurriedly deployed array banners, sending them in all directions. Simultaneously, he channeled spirit force to link the various banners, causing a core spirit rune to activate and become visible.

Warlord Geng was struck away, and Ning Hu, like a pouncing leopard, lunged towards Lu Ye, his claw-like hand descending before his body even arrived.

Lu Ye slashed forward with his blade as he leveraged the force to retreat.

Ning Hu landed, but before he could launch a second strike, Lu Ye already triggered the power of the big array.

In the blink of an eye, a visible light screen rose, transforming into a transparent semicircle that enveloped Ning Hu.

Ning Hu charged forward but was blocked by the light screen, roaring like a wounded beast inside. His frenzied attacks visibly dimmed the light screen of the trap array.

Such a trap array could at most restrain him for a moment!

Figures had already landed around, precisely the members of the A-3 squad.

Just like the first time they faced Ning Hu on the lake.

Everyone was injured, several had already lost their combat ability, but there was no problem with them still activating their Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock.

Almost at the instant the trap array hastily set up by Lu Ye was breached, the Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock took effect.

In a flash, spirit force was prohibited; Ning Hu, who finally pounced in front of Lu Ye, was kicked back by him.

His Mental Consciousness broken and spirit force restricted, Ning Hu at this moment had nothing but his flesh body cultivated over a lifetime. The limited strength he could muster naturally couldn't withstand the force of Lu Ye's kick.

The moment he was kicked into the air, two Dragon-Binding Ropes were already shot out, directly binding him into a cocoon when he hit the ground.

"Sword!" Warlord Geng reached out to Lu Ye.

Lu Ye understood and tossed over his long sword magic artifact.

Warlord Geng immediately took large strides, flashing to stand before Ning Hu, and stabbed his heart directly with the long sword.

This mission was initially to capture Ning Hu alive and take him back to Haotian City, but many unforeseen events had occurred, and the mission target had shifted from a True Lake Level 9 to a Divine Sea Level 2, so naturally, they couldn't keep him alive.

Who knows what other changes might arise later, and should Ning Hu break free from his restraints, all their previous efforts would be in vain.

Facing such a situation, he must be killed to avoid future troubles.

With the blade pierced into his body, Ning Hu, who struggled wildly, seemed to be hit squarely by a lightning-attracting talisman, instinctively headbutting, his skull smashing into Warlord Geng's head.

Warlord Geng was forced to stagger back from the impact, and the sword was pulled out, causing blood to gush from the wound in Ning Hu's chest like a spectacular fountain.

Perhaps it was a flash of clarity before death, or maybe that headbutt gave him a moment of lucidity; he lifted his eyes to gaze at Ahn Mofeng, who had stood there since the battle began, seemingly petrified, his murky eyes flashing with disappointment.

Slowly turning his head, he took one final look at the scenery that had been his companion for decades, and sighed softly: "The centuries-old foundation laid by our forebears is finally going to be lost!"

He glanced at Lu Ye beside him and nodded slightly: "You're very good!"

As he finished speaking, he fell on his back, dead.

The battlefield fell silent, broken only by the sounds of heavy breathing.

"Captain, is he dead?"

After a long time, Xiao Ruyun asked, pale-faced, his spirit force in turmoil, barely maintaining his Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock.

Warlord Geng turned and spat a mouthful of blood water: "Not dead!"

Xiao Ruyun immediately grimaced: "Captain, I wasn't asking you, I meant is he dead?"

Warlord Geng glared at him irritably: "I stabbed him through the heart, what do you think?" He threw the blood-soaked long sword back to Lu Ye.

Upon hearing this, the squad members finally relaxed, each utterly exhausted, collapsing to the ground.

Warlord Geng looked at Lu Ye again: "Are you alright?"

Lu Ye flicked the blood from his sword, sheathed it, and shook his head slowly: "I'll stand watch, you all tend to your injuries."

Among those present, he was the least injured, so the duty of keeping watch naturally fell to him.

"Much appreciated."

The members of A-3 squad had varying degrees of injury, but at least no one died, whereas the losses for Xianxia Mountain this time were significant.

Not to mention that Ning Hu, as the Great Elder, was revealed to be a secret agent of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. His death in battle, along with the loss of several other True Lake Realm elders left behind.

As for the disciples ruthlessly slaughtered by Ning Hu, there were at least several dozens.

Although not enough to cripple a 4th grade sect, the losses were substantial.

The surviving True Lake Realm elders quickly dispatched personnel to calm the disciples and gather forces to treat the wounded, clean the battlefield, exceedingly busy.

At this moment, Sect Master Ahn Mofeng of Xianxia Mountain suddenly staggered, his aura chaotic, vomiting a mouthful of reverse blood before collapsing backward.

"Sect Master!" A True Lake Realm elder was alarmed, rushing forward to check, causing another wave of chaos.

Suddenly, the clear sound of a sword echoed, following which a sword light descended into the scene. As the sword light receded, a short old man appeared, the strong aura emanating from him clearly marking him as a Divine Sea Realm cultivator.

The Justice Department had dispatched Divine Sea Realm reinforcements from nearby!

Yet they seemed to have arrived a bit late.

"What's the situation?" The short old man looked around, bewildered.

After receiving the message, he hurried over, expecting to see a one-sided massacre or that the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge spy had long fled, but now it seemed the situation was a bit different from what he anticipated.

The area had witnessed an earth-shattering battle, with traces of spirit force eruption everywhere, and many had died.

Especially the thin figure in the center with a stab wound in the chest.

Taking two steps forward for a better look, the short old man was instantly shocked: "Ning Hu!"

It was the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge spy mentioned in the intelligence, who had already advanced to Divine Sea Realm.

Yet he was actually dead!

Chapter 906 Why Not Escape

As the captain of the law enforcement squad, Warlord Geng saw the sword cultivator elder arrive and immediately rose to briefly report the situation, setting aside his rest.

The short elder was extremely surprised upon hearing this.

Who would have thought that these people before him actually managed to slay a Divine Sea Level 2!

Though it was hard to believe, the facts were right in front of him.

Yet today's matter had many suspicious aspects...

The short elder pondered for a moment, then reached up to tap his battlefield marking, sending a message out.

Meanwhile, thousands of miles away, above the clouds, a streak of Liu Guang shot across the sky like a rainbow piercing the sun, flying from the direction of Haotian City toward Xianxia Mountain with a speed almost like Thunderbolt.

The figure enveloped in that streak was none other than the Justice Department Chief, Qian Wudang!

At this moment, Qian Wudang had none of his usual irreverent demeanor; his face was grave.

Who could have imagined that Ning Hu, the Great Elder of Xianxia Mountain, was not only a spy for Ten Thousand Demons Ridge but also a Divine Sea Level 2! He had never exposed himself over all these years, and coupled with his recent years of seclusion, scarcely anyone had seen him, leading to such severe intelligence lapses.

When Qian Wudang received this news, a notion immediately sprang to mind: He's done for!

This time, it's likely not only Nian Yuexian will come to tear off his scalp; even Shui Yuan might come together...

How could he be a Divine Sea Realm?

He hastily gathered nearby strong cultivators of Divine Sea Realm to provide support, and he himself set off from Haotian City, rushing toward Xianxia Mountain.

Since taking on the position of Department Chief of the Justice Department, it was the first time he left Haotian City because typically, there was nothing that required him to personally take action.

But this situation was different; there was still Lu Yiye, who had been pulled into the A-3 squad as reinforcement. If something happened to him, life would definitely be unpleasant in the future.

Yet Haotian City was not close to Xianxia Mountain, and though he was a Divine Sea Realm, pushing his speed to the limit could not possibly bring him there immediately.

All he could do was silently pray in his heart, "Lu Yiye, you must not have anything happen..."

Halfway through the journey, a message suddenly arrived.

Qian Wudang hurriedly checked, his heart in his throat, afraid of seeing any information he didn't want to see.

But moments later, his figure suddenly halted in midair, his expression turning strange, and he quickly sent a message back.

"Confirm Ning Hu was slain?"

"I saw it with my own eyes; Ning Hu's vitality scattered, having experienced a major battle before dying with a fatal wound at his heart," the sword cultivator elder responded, though he was slightly puzzled that Ning Hu seemed to have been set on fire before death, with all hair gone and even the exposed skin had a scorched appearance.

He then reported the intelligence he had to Qian Wudang.

Adding a piece: "There are three suspicious aspects to this event: first, why did Ning Hu not flee after his identity was exposed, but instead slaughtered within Xianxia Mountain."

Logically, if Ning Hu's identity was exposed, the first thing to do would be to flee, whether he could escape or not would be his own fate.

But not only did he not flee, he even went on a rampage against the disciples of Xianxia Mountain.

"Secondly, during the battle, Ahn Mofeng did not intervene, merely standing still, possibly considering past comradeship."

"Thirdly, during the battle, Ning Hu seemed to have his Mental Consciousness broken, leading to a chaotic mind, providing others an opportunity. The one who broke his Mental Consciousness was likely an exotic treasure held by Righteous Blood Sect's Lu Yiye."

"Exotic treasure?"

"Indeed, I'm unclear on the specifics of the exotic treasure, as I haven't seen it personally, but based on Warlord Geng's description, it's approximately a small hiltless sword about finger length. I suspect it's the legendary Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword."

"Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword!" Qian Wudang's expression tightened, "This item hasn't surfaced for decades; the last time it appeared was in that person's hands. After that person's death, it vanished without a trace."

"Lu Yiye being from the same sect, acquiring it wouldn't be surprising. I reckon that old fox Thang Yifeng handed it to him for protection."

"Indeed, if this lad truly has the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword, that makes sense. Setting that aside, how do you view the other two issues?"

The short elder pondered briefly, then said, "Based on what I know of Ning Hu, his actions were intended to pressure Ahn Mofeng into ascending to Divine Sea. After his identity exposure, instead of fleeing, slaughtering Xianxia Mountain disciples would agitate Ahn Mofeng, shaking his psyche, granting a chance to glimpse a path to Divine Sea."

"That explanation holds."

"That's also why Ahn Mofeng stayed idle since the battle started. He should have sensed the opportunity for ascending to Divine Sea, though judging by the outcome, he likely failed."

"It seems Ning Hu went to great lengths."

"After all, he was sent here by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge as a child; despite having the foundation of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, he grew up in Xianxia Mountain, spending nearly his entire life there. Humans, unlike plants, surely cannot be unfeeling."

"Hmph, if there truly were feelings, why slaughter the disciples indiscriminately? The crucial point is he knew escape was impossible, so he chose to act this way. You stay there and oversee things until they're sorted, then leave."

"Yes!"

After finishing the transmission with the old sword cultivator, Qian Wudang gazed in the direction where Xianxia Mountain was located, letting out a heavy sigh, muttering to himself: "The Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword has appeared, what about the Soul Severing Saber?"

Thinking back, these sword and saber had left an indelible psychological impact on many strong cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

He shook his head slowly, changed direction, and returned the way he came.

On Xianxia Mountain, the disciples suppressed their grief, cleaning the battlefield under the command of the elders from the True Lake Realm, and tidying up the corpses of their fellow sect members.

Lu Ye and the others were also placed on one of the spirit mountaintops for recovery by Xianxia Mountain.

The old sword cultivator didn't leave; instead, he stayed behind, which made Warlord Geng somewhat surprised.

Logically speaking, such strong cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm come and go as they please; there's no reason for him to stay and look after a few of them, especially since the matters here were mostly settled. What remained was to recover from injuries and return to Haotian City to report.

But when someone wishes to stay, Warlord Geng couldn't say much, moreover, this was still Xianxia Mountain's territory.

Among them, Lu Ye's injuries were the lightest, and coupled with his powerful physique and vigorous vitality, he was recovering the fastest, nearly fully recovered within just a day.

On the spirit mountaintop, outside the small courtyard, in the pavilion, Lu Ye took out the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword to examine.

This exotic treasure exhibited miraculous effects during the battle against Ning Hu; without its sudden burst of power, it would have been impossible to break Ning Hu's Mental Consciousness, and there would be no subsequent turn of events.

Although he himself nurtured a soul body, giving birth to Mental Consciousness, ultimately it's different from the orthodox Divine Sea Realm; he took a side path.

Thus, unless absolutely necessary, he didn't dare to casually channel Mental Consciousness and fight head-to-head with a strong cultivator of the Divine Sea Realm, which is why he hadn't used his own Mental Consciousness in previous battles, not out of concealment, but due to caution.

After the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword unleashed its power that time, it seemed to have undergone some change. On the surface, it still appeared to be a transparent, colorless small sword the length of a finger, but previously, there was a bit of spirit light flowing within, which was now absent.

That bit of spirit light had been activated by the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword, exploding into Ning Hu's Divine Sea.

Even though knowing that exotic treasures are mostly one-time use, Lu Ye still felt it was a pity, especially since it was exchanged from the Hall of Battle Merits at a cost of twenty-six thousand battle merits; he wondered if the gains from this trip would compensate for his loss.

Probably... enough?

A shadow suddenly cast over him, causing Lu Ye to startle and instinctively leap back, drawing his saber.

Upon fixing his gaze, he found the old sword cultivator standing there, smilingly looking at him.

"No need to be nervous, young lad. I mean no harm, and I do have some connection with your sect master."

Lu Ye asked cautiously, "The connection you mentioned, is it friendship... or vendetta?"

The old sword cultivator chuckled, "Seems like you understand your sect master well."

Lu Ye stayed silent, knowing the old man seemed to have many friends outside, but also many enemies, thus he had to be wary.

"Whether it's friendship or vendetta, the matters of the old generation are for them to handle, it doesn't concern you youngsters." The old sword cultivator didn't provide a clear answer.

Lu Ye understood, although the elder might have some ties with the sect master, they probably weren't too harmonious.

As for saying the matters of the old generation are handled by themselves... perhaps he was such a person, but others may not be.

Lu Ye hadn't forgotten that on his way from the Righteous Blood Sect to Haotian City, he encountered several incidents one after another. If not for Second Senior Sister's covert protection, he might not have reported back within the prescribed time.

Failing to report back would be a huge problem.

Obviously, it was someone with a grudge against the Righteous Blood Sect secretly sabotaging him, Lu Ye still didn't know the person behind it, perhaps he would never know.

"May I have a look at the item in your hand?" The old sword cultivator asked.

Lu Ye naturally didn't want to, but the cultivation level gap was evident, he yielded and threw the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword over.

He casually said, "Its power is lost, it's useless now, just has some special material quality."

It's still quite good for weapon control.

"It is indeed the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword!"

The elder's words startled Lu Ye.

"You recognize this item, respected elder?"

It didn't make sense, he had exchanged it from the Hall of Battle Merits, and specifically searched Heaven's Augury treasure vault but couldn't find the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword.

How did the elder know about the treasure unique to the Hall of Battle Merits?

"I do!" The elder nodded, "But haven't seen it for decades; didn't Thang Yifeng tell you how to use it when he passed it to you?"

What does this have to do with the sect master? Lu Ye felt suspicious, slowly shaking his head.

"That old fellow..." The elder laughed, tossing the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword back to Lu Ye, "I don't know its profound aspects, but it's not a one-time-use exotic treasure, rather it can be used multiple times. Decades ago, it was a treasure in the hands of your First Senior Brother, causing terror among the strong cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Now that it's in your hands, I hope you won't let its reputation go to waste."

Chapter 907 Tyrannical Saber Style 2

The old sword cultivator had already left. The reason for his appearance was likely to witness the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword with his own eyes.

Lu Ye's mood was restless for a long time.

Compared to what the elder said, Lu Ye was more focused on his mention of the Master Brother rather than the fact that the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword is not a single-use exotic treasure!

Lu Ye did not know much about this Master Brother he had never met, but he did know that his Master Brother was indeed a once-in-a-lifetime extraordinary figure.

The Righteous Blood Sect flourished and crumbled because of him; the remnants of his influence lingered even decades later.

The Master Brother once owned the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword!

In other words, the person who entered the Hall of Battle Merits before him was indeed his Master Brother.

Lu Ye had some suspicions about this because, during his first visit to the Hall of Battle Merits, the two dragons had once remarked that the hall hadn't been entered for decades.

Looking back decades ago, who could be more astonishing than the Master Brother? Apart from him, who else qualified to enter the Hall of Battle Merits?

Decades ago, the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword was in the Master Brother's hand. Decades later, it was with Lu Ye, which led the old sword cultivator to mistakenly believe the item belonged to the Righteous Blood Sect, passed on to him after the Master Brother's death!

Lu Ye naturally did not bother to explain such a misunderstanding.

But... what did it mean that this item wasn't a single-use exotic treasure?

The spirit light within the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword had already been activated, and now it was merely a sword with unique material properties. Lu Ye had planned to use it for weapon control.

However, the old sword cultivator's words led Lu Ye to consider a possibility.

Being in another sect, it was inconvenient to verify this, so he set the matter aside for the time being.

Warlord Geng and others probably needed several days to recuperate. The current environment wasn't suitable for cultivation, nor was it fitting to activate the Talent Tree to absorb fire spirit stone. Lu Ye decided to close his eyes and focus, seeking enlightenment from Soaring Dragon Origin.

In the endless stellar space, he sought the brightest point of light, following the awe-inspiring life of a peak strongman during a certain period in the Soaring Dragon World.

For some unknown reason, this time when Lu Ye sought enlightenment from Soaring Dragon Origin, he felt it was somewhat different from previous times...

Though the specifics of the difference were elusive.

But soon, a huge surprise hit him like a bolt from the blue.

This time, the figure for enlightenment turned out to be a combat cultivator skilled with the saber!

Lu Ye wept with joy...

It had not been easy.

Since acquiring the fragmented Soaring Dragon Origin, allowing him the ability of enlightenment, he had selected enlightenment from the origin of nearly a hundred strongmen across various factions,

witnessing many sword cultivators. Sword cultivators were prone to becoming transcendent figures, their remnants illuminating so brightly they were often selected by Lu Ye.

Having experienced enlightenment from so many origins, observing the cultivation journeys of strongmen across various factions, Lu Ye had acquired skills from multiple schools.

When transforming into Niu Meng to perform magic and spells, even Ying Wuji, who spent time with him, couldn't detect any flaws.

When upgrading the Boulder Mountain Saber, using a spear against Fong Rulie, Fong Rulie was questioned deeply.

Yet, he hadn't encountered a single combat cultivator skilled with the saber.

This had almost become an obsession in Lu Ye's heart.

Finally, today, his bitter efforts paid off, fulfilling his wish!

He quickly immersed his psyche, as if possessed, following the cultivation journey and growth of this saber-wielding combat cultivator...

Time passed.

When Lu Ye opened his eyes, his gaze was bright, clearly having gained much.

The chosen figure for this enlightenment also reached the peak of the Divine Sea Realm, and his lifelong cultivation was an invaluable supreme treasure for Lu Ye.

The only slight flaw was that the path this strongman took differed somewhat from Lu Ye's, as Lu Ye's personality naturally resonated more with the aggressive Tyrannical Saber Technique, while the saber of the strongman from the Soaring Dragon World leaned toward agility...

However, another's rock can be used to sharpen one's jade; all the way through cultivation, Lu Ye's own convictions and style remained firm. He wouldn't be easily swayed; learning from the cultivation experiences of others to enhance his own foundation was the true path.

"How long has it been?" Lu Ye asked.

Every time he underwent enlightenment with Soaring Dragon Origin, he kept track of time because with the development of his own cultivation, the time required for enlightenment was gradually shortening.

Initially, it took Lu Ye two to three days for each enlightenment, but the last time took less than a day.

This is the essence of growth.

"Four hours." Yiyi, hidden within Amber, quietly responded.

Lu Ye was slightly surprised, then overjoyed.

This was the odd sensation he had felt!

He had noticed something peculiar earlier; today's experience with Soaring Dragon Origin felt different from before, but couldn't pinpoint the exact difference.

Only at this moment, did he finally confirm one thing.

The time he spent reflecting on the Origin had significantly reduced.

This is not solely due to his advancement to the True Lake; the main reason is the birth of Mental Consciousness.

Reflecting on the Origin also consumes the power of the psyche. Now that he has nurtured a soul body and given birth to Mental Consciousness, his efficiency has naturally improved greatly.

Perhaps one day, he would reach a level where a single thought could imprint the remains of a strong warrior's Origin upon his heart. By then, he could reflect on the Soaring Dragon World's Origin anytime and anywhere, quickly extracting its nutrients, combining the strengths of many, and discarding the impurities to keep the essence.

Reflecting on the myriad insights of that saber virtuoso was stirring in his sea of consciousness. Lu Ye rose to his full height, landed in an open spot, drew the saber from his waist, and began to dance freely.

Instantly, spirit force surged, and saber light flickered.

This time of reflection brought him a tremendous breakthrough in saber skills. Although there was no growth in cultivation, his skills for confronting the enemy advanced considerably.

Suddenly, Lu Ye's frenzied dancing figure froze, and the saber slashed forward with an unmatched domineering stance.

At that moment, Lu Ye felt as if he were in an endless stellar space, with a crescent moon hanging high behind him, from which endless crescent-like saber lights rained down and enveloped the sky.

The endless sound of air being sliced was deafening, and each of those crescent-like saber lights contained astonishing killing power, carving massive ravines into the surrounding earth, even making the whole spirit mountaintop tremble.

The second move of the Tyrannical Saber Technique, Crescent Moon!

The legacy of the Tyrannical Saber Technique lies in an unremarkable black stone, and one can obtain its true teachings by immersing one's mind in it.

When Lu Ye received the legacy, he had already grasped the first move, Myriad Stars. At that time, he was only at Cloud River Level 6, but over time he had fully mastered this first move, and during idle moments, he had also attempted to comprehend the second move of the Tyrannical Saber Technique, albeit with little success.

Until today, when he reflected on the lifetime of the saber virtuoso within the Origin of the Soaring Dragon World, extracting many of the sword master's saber fantasies and philosophies, Lu Ye finally performed the second move in its entirety!

Compared to the first move, Myriad Stars, the destructive power of the second move, Crescent Moon, is undoubtedly greater, and this strike seems suitable for fighting many foes at once.

However, the consumption is also greater; after executing this strike, Lu Ye's arm was slightly sore, and his chest and abdomen were a tumult of blood Qi.

Bear in mind that he is now at the True Lake Realm, and even one saber strike results in such consumption. Now it seems that during his Cloud River Realm days when he could not comprehend the second move, it was not due to a lack of aptitude but insufficient cultivation.

Now that he is at the True Lake Realm, everything has come naturally.

The first move is named after stars, the second after the moon, and Lu Ye roughly understands what the name of the third move will be; it must be named after the sun.

However, he did not continue to comprehend the third move. Through this experience, Lu Ye understood one thing: if one's level of cultivation is insufficient, comprehension is of little use; it's better to reflect on the Origins of strong warriors from the Soaring Dragon World, and with good fortune, he might encounter another saber virtuoso.

The significant commotion here startled Warlord Geng and others who were recuperating in their respective rooms in the courtyard.

As the sound of air being sliced reached them, several figures revealed themselves.

Turning to glance, they realized it was not an enemy attack, but Lu Ye practicing his saber skills here.

Seeing the surrounding devastation, Xiao Ruyun couldn't help but draw a cold breath: "Oh my heavens..."

Such a scene was caused by someone at True Lake Level 1? The ravines on the ground were three feet deep and several yards long, and there were even massive saber marks left on the nearby mountain cliffs.

Even someone at True Lake Level 5, fully exerting himself, couldn't leave such marks.

Moreover, he is a Capital Commandant!

Xiao Ruyun hadn't forgotten his intent yesterday to suppress Lu Ye using his rank, but ended up being suppressed instead. Of course, his pride was hurt, but he bore no grudge. In fact, upon reflection, he felt somewhat grateful to Lu Ye.

Regardless, this mission was overcompleted, and the rewards would undoubtedly be ample.

The others also appeared visibly moved, looking at Lu Ye as if he were a monster.

"Since everyone's out, let's return to Haotian City and report," Warlord Geng declared.

Originally, they still needed a few days to recover from their injuries, but recuperating in Haotian City is just as feasible. Reporting back sooner might also mean receiving their rewards earlier.

"You're the squad leader, it's your call," Xiao Ruyun shrugged indifferently, and the others had no objections.

"Then let's set off!" Warlord Geng said, directly summoning the spirit ark, seemingly not intending to inform Xianxia Mountain's side.

Indeed, there was no need to notify them. Xianxia Mountain was already overwhelmed with the chaos, and no one came to tend to them.

Among them, Lu Ye was in the best state, so the task of piloting the spirit ark fell to him.

Lu Ye had no objections.

Soon, the spirit ark ascended and soared into the sky.

The elderly sword cultivator, concealed in the shadows, observed the scene from afar, relayed a message to Qian Wudang, reporting the situation, and promptly departed.

On the way back, Warlord Geng finally had the time to thank Lu Ye: "Junior Brother Lu, we owe this mission's success to you. Without your intervention, our task would certainly have failed."

Otherwise, forget about mission completion rewards, even the injuries sustained would be in vain.

"As a squad member, one should give their utmost effort."

"I heard someone wanted to prevent you from coming earlier," Warlord Geng said, casting a glance at Xiao Ruyun, since he had heard from Muk Zheng about what transpired while he was unconscious.

Chapter 908 Why is it not possible?

Under the stern gaze of Warlord Geng, Xiao Ruyun immediately stood up and bowed to Lu Ye, "Junior Brother Lu, I was blind and failed to see your worth. Please be magnanimous and don't hold it against me."

He possessed a True Lake Level 5 cultivation, lowering himself in this manner demonstrated his sincerity.

Moreover, Lu Ye had no personal vendetta against him; it was merely a clash of ideals at the time, so naturally, he wouldn't dwell on it.

"Senior Brother, you exaggerate. I'm used to acting on my own, and at the time, it was hard to explain the situation clearly. You stopped me out of kindness."

Xiao Ruyun grinned at Lu Ye, "Junior Brother Lu knows how to speak!"

As for what Lu Ye said about having certain circumstances difficult to explain, he must have been referring to the exotic treasure that could break Ning Hu's Mental Consciousness. After all, they had never seen such things before, and even if Lu Ye had mentioned having such a treasure, it might not have been of much use.

Considering the disparity in strength between them and Ning Hu, no one would have placed much hope on an exotic treasure they had never heard of or understood its effectiveness.

"What are you laughing at?" Warlord Geng reprimanded sternly, "When a law enforcement squad is carrying out a mission outside, they advance and retreat together, living or dying as one. This is a rule set by the Justice Department long ago. What angers me is not you obstructing Junior Brother Lu, but the fact that after Junior Brother Lu took action, you did not follow immediately!"

His gaze swept over them, making everyone hang their heads in shame.

At the time when Lu Ye headed into the depths of Xianxia Mountain, they indeed did not follow immediately. Coincidentally, Warlord Geng had just awakened at that moment, and upon learning of the situation, he promptly led them to rush over.

When a captain reprimands his team, it's not Lu Ye's place to interfere.

Warlord Geng scolded them thoroughly before he spoke, "In the completion of this mission, Junior Brother Lu deserves the highest credit. I will report this in detail when I return to Haotian City, and will request the Department Chief to petition Heaven's Augury. For this task, all of your rewards will be halved and allocated to Junior Brother Lu."

Can it be done like this? Lu Ye was stunned.

Previously, during the siege battle at Gushan City, it seemed Nian Yuexian also petitioned Heaven's Augury, resulting in him being awarded a significant amount of battle merit.

Reflecting on prior experiences in the Soaring Dragon World, Lu Ye gained a deeper understanding of Heaven's Augury in the Nine Provinces.

"It's only right. Even if the entire reward were given to Junior Brother Lu, I wouldn't object." Xiao Ruyun nodded seriously.

"Then yours will be entirely deducted," Warlord Geng immediately responded.

"No, Captain..." Xiao Ruyun instantly wore a bitter face, "I was just speaking casually, please don't take it seriously."

Pfft... Muk Zheng couldn't help laughing on one side, which aggravated his injuries, causing him to cry out in surprise.

The others also struggled to hold back their laughter.

The solemn atmosphere became lively.

Warlord Geng sighed and turned to Lu Ye, "Don't mind them, they are just like this." Then, he shifted topics, "Junior Brother Lu, are you interested in joining the Justice Department?"

Originally, Lu Ye was conscripted under the orders of the Department Chief. However, throughout this task, Warlord Geng discovered that although Lu Ye's cultivation was low, his abilities were remarkable. Not to mention the exotic treasure capable of shattering the Divine Sea Realm's Mental Consciousness, even the explosive weapons he wielded could bring benefits to the squad, alleviating potential troubles. At the very least, during a siege, such an item could turn the tides effectively.

And the ability to rapidly set up arrays...

It was Lu Ye's hastily arranged trap array that managed to trap the frenzied Ning Hu for one breath, granting them the opportunity to activate the Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock.

He wasn't sure about Lu Ye's actual strength, as there wasn't much displayed in this mission. But the trace of Lu Ye's blade training he saw earlier was undoubtedly beyond what an ordinary True Lake Level 1 cultivator could achieve.

Team A-3 had long been without new recruits. Part of the reason was the Justice Department's understaffing, and another part was Warlord Geng's particular criteria for selection—accepting just anyone who couldn't synchronize with the squad wasn't worthwhile.

But if it were Lu Ye, then there would be no issues at all.

"I appreciate Senior Brother's kindness. Honestly, I only just advanced to True Lake not long ago. I'm not very familiar with the Bingzhou guard operations here."

Warlord Geng nodded, understanding Lu Ye's intention, not pressing further, and said, "Take your time, no need to rush."

Chatting along the way, time flew by swiftly.

They rested twice during the journey, and by the next day, the grand view of Haotian City finally appeared before their eyes.

Warlord Geng needed to personally report the detailed chronology of the mission to the Justice Department. Meanwhile, the others, still nursing injuries, dispersed to heal on their own. Lu Ye, using the guard token, found an empty house to rest.

He had been pondering over something the whole time—what the old sword cultivator said, that the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword was not a one-time-use exotic treasure!

If it wasn't a single-use item, then it shouldn't lose its power after just one use.

Now, he needed to figure out a way to replenish its power.

The only thing Lu Ye could think of was channeling his Mental Consciousness into it.

With others around, he couldn't easily make use of his Mental Consciousness; however, now alone in the house, he could finally do as he pleased.

Yet, after several attempts, he was exhausted, his Mental Consciousness nearly depleted, and still couldn't restore the sword's power.

Meanwhile, at the Justice Department—

Warlord Geng comprehensively reported all details from the mission to Qian Wudang, and brought up his earlier suggestion from the spirit ark, requesting the reallocation of half of everyone's rewards to Lu Ye.

Listening quietly, Qian Wudang nodded, "I'm pleased you brought this up, affirming my trust in you. Very well, your injuries haven't healed yet, go and rest."

Instead of withdrawing immediately, Warlord Geng remarked, "Department Chief, this Junior Brother Lu is extremely talented!"

"Yes, so what?"

"With such great talent, if I can make him work for me, executing tasks in the future will surely be unstoppable!" Warlord Geng excitedly clenched his fist, waving his large hand with an air of 'if I have Lu Ye, I will have the world.'

Qian Wudang felt a vague sense of unease: "Just say what you want to do."

"Chief, transfer him from the front lines. My squad is still missing a member!"

After three breaths, accompanied by a strange cry, Warlord Geng clumsily flew out from the main hall, nearly crashing into a passerby.

He landed awkwardly, scratching his head in confusion: "If you disagree, then disagree. Why such a big fuss?"

But beside his ear, the Department Chief's Mental Consciousness audio transmission came: "This time on this task, you must keep your mouth shut. Apart from your squad members, do not reveal anything to anyone!"

"Understood." Warlord Geng promptly bowed in compliance.

Inside the main hall, Qian Wudang snorted coldly, gradually sitting down.

Transfer Lu Ye from the front lines? What a joke. If Lu Ye were affiliated with another mountain pass, as the Department Chief of the Justice Department, moving someone would be just a matter of a single sentence, and surely those Mountain Pass Chiefs wouldn't refuse it.

But Lu Ye is now in Cangyan Mountain Pass, the only soldier under that woman's command at present.

Trying to transfer someone from that woman's hands, does Qian Wudang still need his skull intact?

Secretly annoyed—back then when Lu Ye arrived at Haotian City, he was only at Cloud River Level 9. If he had been at the True Lake Realm, he could have fully incorporated him into the Justice Department, a single realm's difference letting him miss out on such a great general, leaving Nian Yuexian to pick a bargain for free.

However, after this experience, borrowing soldiers from Nian Yuexian in the future will naturally be straightforward.

Do it enough times and even if they aren't your people initially, they will become your people!

Qian Wudang calculated inwardly, initially asking Warlord Geng to recruit Lu Ye for his squad with the intention of offering Lu Ye some benefit; after all, at the Cangyan Mountain Pass, there's been no battle for a long time, and Lu Ye wouldn't gain much battle merit there.

Who'd have thought such a pleasant surprise would occur by sheer accident, piquing his genuine interest in Lu Ye.

Transferring people temporarily is certainly impossible, though some of Lu Ye's methods can indeed be utilized.

As this thought formed, he shouted: "Someone, come!"

...

Why can't it work?

In a secret room indoors, Lu Ye looked at the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword in his hand, full of puzzlement.

According to his idea, to replenish the sword's power, he should infuse it with Mental Consciousness, yet even though he exhausted himself both mentally and spiritually, he couldn't restore the sword to its original state.

It shouldn't be impossible; perhaps that old sword cultivator misunderstood something?

If anyone understands Senior Brother, aside from the sect master, only Shui Yuan knows.

Lu Ye promptly transmitted asking about the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword.

Rules of the Hall of Battle Merits stipulate not divulging the source of treasures nor the existence of the hall, so Lu Ye merely inquired about the sword, naturally not breaking any rules.

Shui Yuan quickly responded: "Do you have the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword?"

Feeling curious—back then, both the sword and Soul Severing Saber vanished following Senior Brother's demise; how did it suddenly appear in Junior Brother's possession?

Or perhaps, back then, Senior Brother hid this treasure somewhere at the sect headquarters, waiting for the fated one?

And Junior Brother is that fated one?

"I have it, as for its origins... Second Senior Sister, forgive me, I have reasons I can't explain."

Shui Yuan naturally wouldn't blame him, replying: "The Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword is indeed not a one-time exotic treasure; Senior Brother used it multiple times in battle. As for how to restore its power, I'm not quite sure."

Lu Ye frowned; if Shui Yuan can't figure it out, should he ask the sect master?

"Junior Brother, did a Divine Sea Realm expert trouble you?" Shui Yuan's next message arrived immediately, "Who!"

Lu Ye's inquiry regarding the sword initially didn't arouse suspicion in Shui Yuan, but soon she realized—since Lu Ye used the sword's power, he must have encountered a Divine Sea Realm expert.

This incited her anger, she asked while simultaneously rushing out from Righteous Peak.

Lu Ye promptly replied: "It's not like that! I just tested the sword's power."

Following Team A-3 on a mission, encountering a Divine Sea Realm expert is something he definitely couldn't tell Second Senior Sister; otherwise, she surely wouldn't let it go.

Outside Righteous Peak, Shui Yuan's figure halted: "Truly?"

"Truly! I'm currently in Haotian City. How could a Divine Sea Realm expert trouble me here?"

Shui Yuan's expression eased slightly: "That's good. I won't interfere in peer conflicts, but if someone bullies you with age and strength, you absolutely must tell me."

Second Senior Sister is always so reliable! Lu Ye quickly replied: "Understood."

Chapter 909 This is a Trick

Now it was certain that the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword was indeed not a one-time-use exotic treasure. But if this item wasn't simply replenished by infusing Mental Consciousness, then the only possibility Lu Ye could imagine was just one!

After tidying up briefly, he left his abode with Amber. On the street, he casually approached someone to inquire about directions, then directly headed to the nearest Heaven's Augury Hall.

Haotian City was vast, and there was more than one Heaven's Augury Hall, totaling seven or eight, spread across different locations in Haotian City for the convenience of visiting cultivators who wished to use the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

Currently, there weren't many cultivators within Haotian City. When Lu Ye arrived, there were only a few people in this Heaven's Augury Hall, each claiming their own position around the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

Lu Ye waited for a moment before a spot became available.

He stepped forward, raised his hand to press on the Heaven's Augury Pillar, and linked his mind to the Hall of Battle Merits.

The next instant, the projection of his mind appeared in front of that ancient door.

The two serpents immediately came to life. Seeing Lu Ye throw over some fresh beast meat, they were delighted, while Lu Ye pushed the door open and entered, leaving them to feast gleefully.

He walked straight to the stone platform where he had previously exchanged for the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword, looking up to find the stone platform empty.

This couldn't help but make him frown.

He had thought there would be more than one Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword, just like the battlefield markings of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, which could be repeatedly exchanged. Thus, his senior brother was able to use the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword several times, which gave others the illusion that this treasure was not a single-use exotic item.

But now, it seemed things were not as he had imagined.

There was no second Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword on the stone platform.

After a brief contemplation, he thought of another possibility, albeit a slim one, but it was something he had to try to be sure.

He picked up the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword in his hand, now devoid of power, and placed it on the stone platform in front of him.

The next instant, a message exploded within his heart.

Would you like to replenish the power of the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword at the cost of thirty thousand battle merits?

Lu Ye's eyelids twitched uncontrollably; it really was like this.

The power of the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword could indeed be replenished, but not manually. Instead, it was replenished by Heaven's Augury. All that was needed was to bring the used

Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword back here and place it on the stone platform where it was exchanged.

Of course, the corresponding cost would be thirty thousand battle merits!

Lu Ye almost laughed in frustration. Thirty thousand battle merits... why not just rob someone?

Although he did have sufficient battle merits left to replenish the power of the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword, the number was simply too large.

It was worth noting that when he initially exchanged for the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword, he only spent twenty-six thousand battle merits. At the time, he thought it was indeed a bargain.

After all, a single tracking disc costs thirty thousand battle merits to exchange.

The Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword was an exotic treasure that could pose a threat to strong cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm, making its cost-performance ratio undoubtedly high.

Now he recognized it was all just a setup!

The initial price of the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword was indeed not expensive, even giving Lu Ye a sense that he had scored a cheap deal, but the cost to use it wasn't small.

Heaven's Augury, now, felt to Lu Ye like a merchant taking advantage of him...

But then again, the high price had its reasons. Take this instance, for example: without the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword unexpectedly breaking through Ning Hu's Mental Consciousness, the A-3 squad wouldn't have captured the opponent, and there would have been many casualties.

The tracking disc costs thirty thousand battle merits, so an exotic treasure that could pose a threat to a strong cultivator of the Divine Sea Realm logically shouldn't be cheaper than the tracking disc.

Battle merits were good, but compared to treasures that could save lives at critical moments, they were nothing.

Lu Ye spent over 180,000 battle merits to exchange for the Soul Suppressing Pagoda, mainly to protect himself in front of a strong cultivator of the Divine Sea Realm, didn't he?

This time he encountered a Ning Hu; who knows what other Divine Sea Realm threats might appear next time?

So, no matter what, the power of the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword had to be replenished.

Gritting his teeth, he chose to replenish it.

The next instant, the stone platform glowed brightly, engulfing the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword. After a dozen breaths, when the light faded, Lu Ye reached out to retrieve the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword to inspect it, finding that a lively gleam had returned within its transparent blade.

The power of the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword had been restored!

Heart aching as if bleeding, he had no mood to linger here any longer. He stored away the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword and, under the fervent instructions of the two serpents, left the Hall of Battle Merits.

Exiting the Heaven's Augury Hall, Lu Ye looked up at the sky. Just as he was about to set off immediately to return to the Cangyan Mountain Pass, a streak of light suddenly landed in front of him. The figure clasped their fists and said, "Are you Fellow Daoist Lu Yiye?"

"I am." Lu Ye nodded, "And you are...?"

"I am an envoy of the Justice Department. The Department Chief has commanded to see Fellow Daoist Lu immediately."

"Sir Qian Wudang?" Lu Ye was surprised, not knowing what this person wanted with him.

The person nodded, "If Fellow Daoist Lu has no other matters, please proceed now."

"Lead the way then."

Although he didn't know why Qian Wudang was summoning him, it undoubtedly had to do with this mission. It seemed today he wouldn't be able to set off back to the Cangyan Mountain Pass.

Following the envoy as they flew swiftly, they soon arrived at the location of the Justice Department.

This place was a complex of buildings, with halls interconnected. From time to time, cultivators hurried in and out, many of whom seemed to bear injuries.

This made Lu Ye increasingly understand the hardships that Justice Department cultivators face when enforcing the law outside.

The official led Lu Ye to an annex hall nearby, and without announcing, gestured with a hand: "Please, the Department Chief is waiting for you, Fellow Daoist."

Lu Ye nodded in acknowledgment, stepped in, and immediately saw a familiar figure.

Every time he saw this Justice Department Chief, Lu Ye could recall the taste of the Reversed Dragon Spike, his back faintly aching.

Stepping forward, he saluted, "Lu Ye from Cangyan Mountain Pass, greets the lord!"

"Have a seat first." Qian Wudang didn't lift his head from the documents on the table, just waved his hand.

Lu Ye then went to sit down on the side.

In a moment, a woman with bright eyes and white teeth, with an uncommon appearance, served tea. Lu Ye thanked her as he took it, and the woman gave him a smiling look, her beautiful eyes carrying a hint of scrutiny.

After serving the tea, the woman did not leave. Instead, she went to Qian Wudang's back, started to massage his shoulders, and leaned down, whispering something in his ear with an affectionate demeanor.

Lu Ye watched speechlessly and couldn't figure out what relationship the woman had with Qian Wudang. The way they interacted seemed unusual.

But after all, this was the Justice Department's office, and as the head of the department, being so intimate with a woman in such a public place was unbecoming of his position.

However, it was ultimately none of his business, so he turned his gaze outside and waited quietly.

"I have other matters to attend to, you may leave for now." Qian Wudang said.

The woman stomped her foot, pouted, humphing as she left with a displeased look.

"Lu Yiye!" Qian Wudang called again.

"Present!" Lu Ye quickly got up and stepped to Qian Wudang's front.

"There was a mistake in the information compiled by the intelligence agency for this mission, which led to you facing danger. Fortunately, the result wasn't bad in the end. I've already ordered everyone who experienced this to keep their mouths shut. No one else will know about this mission, you can rest assured."

Lu Ye, puzzled and confused, didn't know what he should be relieved about.

"Besides, I'm quite interested in something."

"The lord is referring to..."

He thought, could it be that he's taken a fancy to the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword? But the sword requires replenishing its power at the Hall of Battle Merits, and besides himself, it wouldn't be much use in anyone else's hands.

Currently, the sword's power has been completely replenished, but it can only be activated once, after which it's just a piece of material with rather special properties.

"The Explosive Fire Spirit Stone!" Qian Wudang naturally didn't know what he was thinking, and instead of beating around the bush, he directly voiced his interest, "I heard that in this mission you used a type of fire spirit stone that can explode, and its destructive power is rather significant."

Lu Ye nodded, "There is such an item."

"May I take a look?" Qian Wudang extended his hand with a smile.

You've already extended your hand, how dare I not show you? Were I to utter a 'no', this hand might just turn into a palm and come down on me.

Besides, there's nothing particularly secretive about it.

Lu Ye then took out a fire spirit stone, inscribed an explosion spirit rune on it casually, and handed it over.

Qian Wudang took it, examined it closely for a moment, and started applying a bit of force.

"Please be careful, my lord, this thing..."

Lu Ye intended to remind Qian Wudang not to apply too much force, in case it triggered the explosion spirit rune within, but before he finished speaking, there was a booming sound, and the fire spirit stone in Qian Wudang's hand exploded directly.

It didn't have the typical explosive reaction; the blinding firelight was condensed within Qian Wudang's five fingers. It was so compressed that it looked like a small sun.

As the aftermath gradually dissipated, Qian Wudang lifted his head, smiling at Lu Ye, "What about this thing?"

"Nothing much."

What else could he say? A strong cultivator in the Divine Sea Realm with heavens-penetrating power; a mere Explosive Fire Spirit Stone couldn't harm him, nor could even the aftershocks escape his grasp.

"Did you refine this yourself?" Qian Wudang asked.

Lu Ye's action of constructing the explosion spirit rune earlier was so swift that even Qian Wudang hadn't caught it.

"Yes!"

"Impressive!" Qian Wudang praised, "To be honest, long ago, spirit runes masters discovered the wonderful use of combining fire spirit stones with explosion spirit runes. This item even appeared on the front line of opposing camps."

"In the past?" Lu Ye caught the key detail.

He wasn't surprised that such a method was discovered long ago; it was not some stroke of genius, but a simple combination of spirit stones and runes. With so many spirit runes masters throughout history, it was only reasonable that someone discovered this earlier than he did.

"Indeed, but unfortunately, the casualties were too high, so nobody refined it afterward."

"The casualties of spirit runes masters were too high?" Lu Ye immediately grasped the crucial point.

Qian Wudang nodded, "The fire spirit stone itself is unstable, and there's a risk of failure in constructing the runes. No matter how skilled the spirit runes master, they cannot guarantee successful construction of the rune on every try. According to the information I have, you are a spirit runes master, so you should know what happens if someone fails to construct an explosion spirit rune in a fire spirit stone."

"Once the rune construction fails, the spirit force will surge, inevitably causing a riot of the fire spirit power within the fire spirit stone!"

Leading subsequently to an explosion.

Chapter 910 Made a Huge Profit on This Deal

The combined explosive power from one fire spirit stone and explosion spirit runes is considerable. Even a strong Divine Sea cultivator may withstand one explosion, but repeated blasts are not something they can endure. As for a True Lake spirit runes master, a single explosion can cause injury, and after three or five blasts, if not dead, they will surely be bedridden.

"I'm curious about how you can produce so many Explosive Fire Spirit Stones," Qian Wudang looked at Lu Ye.

"My success rate in constructing spirit runes is relatively high?"

Lu Ye found it difficult to explain that there's no possibility of failure when constructing explosion spirit runes because even if he said so, Qian Wudang wouldn't believe him.

The process of constructing spirit runes for a spirit runes master is similar to what a pill master does in alchemy; no matter how skilled they are, there's always a chance of failure. However, the greater the skill, the lower the chance of failure.

Qian Wudang laughed: "The success rate of a Divine Sea spirit runes master constructing explosion spirit runes within a fire spirit stone is around 80%. Even if you are more successful than that, how much higher can it still be? When construction fails, it inevitably leads to adverse consequences. I want to know how you ensure your safety during spirit stone explosions and the release of fire spirit power." This was why he called Lu Ye over.

If this issue could be resolved, the Haotian Alliance would have another method to face opponents, offering significant strategic value.

Lu Ye felt a bit troubled. Qian Wudang thought he had a way to avoid the threat of spirit stone explosions caused by failure in constructing spirit runes, but in fact, this wasn't the case.

How should he explain?

Thinking it over, Lu Ye could only say: "I have my own unique methods."

"Not convenient to disclose?" Qian Wudang gazed at him with a half-smile, "Don't worry, we won't ask for it for free. If you can share this method to help the provincial guard solve this issue, you'll be well compensated, including battle merits!"

Lu Ye was at a loss; truly unsure of how to respond. He finally said, somewhat helplessly: "My lord, it's not that I'm withholding secrets, but others truly can't use my methods. Even if I share them, they'd be useless... My lord, if you doubt me, I will let Heaven's Augury serve as a witness. If others can really use my methods, let Heaven's Augury punish me!"

After a moment of silence, Lu Ye spoke again: "Now my lord should believe me."

In the Nine Provinces, sometimes an oath under Heaven's Augury could indeed help cultivators resolve doubts and unnecessary conflicts, as under Heaven's Augury, no one could lie.

Qian Wudang did not expect Lu Ye to be so forthright. It seems that Lu Ye was telling the truth, that his methods are indeed for his use alone, making sharing them futile, only exposing his capabilities to others.

He sighed, showing a disappointed expression: "If that's the case, then there's nothing more to discuss. You may go."

"Yes." Lu Ye exhaled a breath of relief, turned, and left.

But upon reaching the door, he unexpectedly returned.

"Is there something else?" Qian Wudang asked, puzzled.

Lu Ye said: "If my lord wants Explosive Fire Spirit Stones, I can assist in their production."

Qian Wudang chuckled: "How much can you produce alone?" A single person's production is limited, and cannot match the expected value.

"What amount per day would meet your needs, my lord?" Lu Ye replied with a question.

Qian Wudang looked at him and found Lu Ye seemed to be earnestly discussing this with him, so he said: "For a killing weapon like this, naturally, the more, the better. But if it's only you producing them... could you reach a daily output of 1,000 pieces?"

He thought he'd hear a staggering number, but just 1,000 pieces? When it comes to actual production, it's merely a matter of briefly handling them; 1,000 Explosive Fire Spirit Stones could be done within one hour.

Despite being a Department Chief, his ambition seemed quite modest.

Nevertheless, Lu Ye also knew that some aspects are best kept in moderation; Qian Wudang believed that with his capabilities, Lu couldn't produce 1,000 a day, considering every person's energy has limits and that producing these stones entails certain risks. If he claimed more, regardless of whether Qian Wudang believed him, suspicion would inevitably arise.

"It should be possible."

Qian Wudang was instantly surprised: "Can it really be done?"

If the daily output were really 1,000 pieces, that would mean 30,000 a month—more than enough to equip a Justice Department.

"For the province's future, I am willing to give it my all!" Lu Ye replied resolutely.

"Good, good, good." Qian Wudang nodded approvingly, his face reflecting Bingzhou's promising prospects, with a heart full of satisfaction.

However, Lu Ye's next words quickly exposed his true intention: "My lord, producing these consumes time and effort; should the provincial guard consider offering some compensation?"

Bluntly spoken, which made Qian Wudang laugh; he replied, "You won't miss out on your rewards!"

After a brief contemplation, he said: "How about this: the materials for production will be provided by the provincial guard. For each Explosive Fire Spirit Stone you produce, you'll receive a point of battle merit as a reward!"

Lu Ye turned to leave.

"Two points!" Qian Wudang spoke, realizing Lu Ye was truly leaving him without any face.

Lu Ye's steps continued.

An Explosive Fire Spirit Stone earning two battle merit points, 1,000 pieces a day translates to 2,000 battle merits—not large in quantity, yet significant enough. Mainly, the production doesn't require much effort from Lu Ye, capable of completing it within one hour.

Calculated this way, solely on this alone, he could earn 60,000 battle merits in a month.

Yet this didn't meet Lu Ye's expectations. The main consideration was that rare opportunities like this, naturally called for maximizing benefits; such opportunities don't come often.

"You name the price!" Qian Wudang was helpless now; seeing Lu Ye about to leave the Annex Hall, he hurriedly expressed.

Lu Ye turned around, held up his palm, spread his five fingers, and flipped them once.

"You brat are asking exorbitant prices from me!" Qian Wudang was furious. As the Justice Department Chief, in charge of the provincial guard's laws, stern and powerful, when had anyone ever dared to haggle with him?

He glared at Lu Ye, his tone somewhat softened, "Kid, you should know you're part of the provincial guard. The things you refine can enhance the strength of the guard. As they grow stronger, you'll also benefit."

"My lord, I understand the reasoning, but if you want the horse to run, you have to let it eat its fill, right?"

"Even though I'm the Justice Department Chief, I must prioritize the Justice Department and the provincial guard. I can't accept your asking price."

"Raising the price on the spot and paying upon delivery, that's how business is done."

"Little rascal!" Qian Wudang gnashed his teeth, "Three points then, three battle merits for one Spirit Stone, you can earn three thousand points a day, and ninety thousand a month!"

Lu Ye shook his head, "My lord, not to mention the risks in refining this item, it consumes a lot of time that delays my cultivation. I'm sacrificing my future prospects for the future of the provincial guard. You can't let me suffer a loss. I need battle merits to buy gold-hued spirit fortune sticks to make up for my lag in cultivation. How could nine thousand battle merits a month's worth of gold-hued sticks make up for that?"

Realizing the logic, Qian Wudang sighed, "Five points, this is the maximum I can decide on; any more would be impossible."

"Let's establish the Heaven's Augury Pact!" Lu Ye readily agreed; five battle merits per Explosive Fire Spirit Stone was the price he had in mind.

"Are you so sure you can complete the task?" Qian Wudang looked at him suspiciously, "You must know that once the Heaven's Augury Pact is made, if you fail to complete the task, there will be consequences."

"That's my business; you just wait and see, my lord."

"Since you're so confident, suit yourself!" Qian Wudang raised his hand, and a blank Heaven's Augury Pact with golden light descended. He quickly listed the terms for Lu Ye to review. After both confirmed there were no issues, they imprinted their marks.

Thus, the Heaven's Augury Pact was established.

"My lord, there's one more thing I must explain to you," Lu Ye spoke again.

"The Heaven's Augury Pact is already set; you can't raise the price now."

"You're underestimating me, my lord. What I want to say is that there's a loss in refining this item."

"I'm well aware of this, but the loss rate must not exceed thirty percent."

Lu Ye was overjoyed, though outwardly a bit hesitant, "I'll do my best!"

Now no need to worry about the Fire Spirit Stones required for the Talent Tree. With a loss rate not exceeding thirty percent, it means he can pocket thirty percent of the Fire Spirit Stones.

It's not his intention to profit this way, but if he achieved a hundred percent success rate in refining, it would be hard to explain, so seventy percent is best.

"So when can we start, my lord?" Lu Ye was a bit impatient.

He hadn't expected that this trip to Haotian City would not only secure a stable channel for gaining battle merits but also obtain Fire Spirit Stones.

This business deal was a big win.

"If you feel ready now, then start now."

"I await your orders, my lord."

"Follow me then." As he spoke, Qian Wudang led Lu Ye outside. Exiting the Annex Hall, they took to the sky, spirit force enveloping Lu Ye as they flew in a direction.

Soon, they landed in a small courtyard.

"This is a property of the Justice Department, usually used as a recuperation place for injured cultivators of the Justice Department. You will stay here for the near future. I will have someone deliver the Fire Spirit Stones. I won't ask about the process; I'll only look at the results. In seven days, someone will come to receive the goods."

Lu Ye nodded; this arrangement had no issues.

Qian Wudang quickly left, leaving Lu Ye alone. Yiyi could finally come out and take a breath.

The courtyard wasn't big; Lu Ye set up some formations for warning and protection.

Just as he finished, there was a knock on the door.

Lu Ye got up to open it, finding an unknown cultivator outside, handing over a storage sack.

Lu Ye took it, quickly checked, finding exactly 10,000 pieces of Fire Spirit Stones inside, nodding, "No problem."

Without a word, the person cupped their hands and turned to leave.

Qian Wudang had sent exactly 10,000 Fire Spirit Stones, and the delivery time was set for seven days later, obviously accounting for the thirty percent loss calculation, so in seven days, Lu Ye only needed to deliver 7,000 pieces of Explosive Fire Spirit Stones to complete the task, and he would earn 35,000 battle merits.

That doesn't even include the leftover 3,000 pieces of Fire Spirit Stones.

Walking back into the room, he set up another layer of protective formations.

Commence work!