

Humanity 931

Chapter 931 Freshly Minted Sword Cultivator

Lu Ye originally planned to wait for the commotion here to die down before leaving, but unexpectedly, the situation in Liyuan became even more lively instead of gradually quieting down.

He couldn't hide any longer!

It's not that he's been exposed, but every day, cultivators from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge kept passing by overhead or nearby, including some strong cultivators from the Divine Sea Realm.

Moreover, in search of the flying swords that escaped from the secret realm, cultivators meticulously inspected every corner of Liyuan. Several times, they almost found where he was hiding.

In such a situation, hiding in one place was as difficult as reaching the sky for Lu Ye.

Once his whereabouts were discovered by the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, the situation would become very complicated.

After pondering briefly, Lu Ye made a decision.

If hiding wasn't an option, then he would simply not hide!

In this situation, acting openly was even more likely to blend into the crowd than being sneaky and furtive. However, before that, he needed to disguise himself a bit.

Firstly, using his own original appearance and identity definitely wouldn't work.

Lu Yiye's name was well-known in the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Even many strong cultivators from the Divine Sea Realm viewed him as a thorn in their side. Once exposed, his situation wouldn't be much better than Nian Yuexian's.

The identity of Niu Meng couldn't be used either.

He had previously entered Gushan City Pass as Niu Meng, and many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators saw him at that time, and even Ying Wuji knew about this identity.

Therefore, he could only switch to another identity.

After some thought, Lu Ye activated his spirit force, changing the color of his Crimson Dragon Battle Suit to white.

Then, he rummaged through his storage space, quickly finding a spirit artifact resembling a mirror.

The quality of this spirit artifact was not high, roughly at the top-grade spirit artifact level. It was a defensive spirit artifact capable of blocking and counteracting some magic attacks, which wasn't very useful for Lu Ye.

However, it could indeed be used as a mirror.

Facing the mirror, Lu Ye activated the Thousand Faces Spirit Runes, altering his appearance.

Among the seven new spirit runes he had recently obtained, apart from the Single-Stalk Twin Lotus, whose effect Lu Ye couldn't quite understand, he had tried all the other spirit runes.

Thousand Faces was a spirit rune capable of altering one's appearance, undoubtedly of great effect, especially for Lu Ye at this moment. It was practically a miraculous technique for turning the tables.

The appearance changed by the Thousand Faces Spirit Runes was not merely an illusion but achieved by distorting the flesh and blood of the face for a disguise effect.

In other words, this change was genuine and not something like an illusion technique.

Reflecting in the mirror, Lu Ye constructed the Thousand Faces on his face, controlling the power of the spirit runes to twist and change the distribution of blood and flesh on his face.

Moments later, a handsome face appeared in the mirror.

He took a step back.

The person in the mirror had jade-like skin, bright starry eyes, inked brows, an impressive figure, and a white robe that exuded an ethereal and immortal-like aura.

Isn't this too handsome?

Lu Ye frowned slightly.

Forget it, let it be. After all, it's just a new identity; he wasn't going to bother making more changes.

He put away the Boulder Mountain Saber, then found a longsword from his storage space and placed it at his waist.

The young, handsome sword cultivator was freshly made.

In the Sword Weapon Sect secret realm, he had told Khong Khong that he was a sword cultivator, almost making Ying Wuji laugh out loud.

But if strictly pursued, he didn't lie. During the reflections of the Origin in the Soaring Dragon World, he encountered quite a few sword cultivator experts. Lu Ye's mind attached to them, growing and cultivating with them. His Dao understanding of swordsmanship now surpassed even his saber skills.

It's just that saber skills suited him best, so Lu Ye didn't abandon the saber for the sword.

Only what suits oneself best can lead to higher achievements; otherwise, it's merely imitating others and never surpassing predecessors.

After some thought, Lu Ye took out the sword gourd previously given to him by Khong Khong and hung it at his waist.

The Fourth Senior Brother had this look too, though in comparison, the sword gourd's size was smaller; the Fourth Senior Brother's was much larger.

With the new disguise, Lu Ye strolled out from his hiding place and flew into the air.

Along the way, he encountered many groups of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, but they didn't interact with each other.

These Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators probably never imagined that a Haotian Alliance cultivator would be so bold as to operate so openly in the heart of enemy territory.

The concept of "pitch darkness under a lamp" holds true here.

Of course, primarily, Lu Ye was utterly fearless. Even if he did encounter an inspection or questioning, he had a way to deal with it.

As long as he could get out of Liyuan and leave this bustling area, he could then slip back into the Cangyan Mountain Pass.

The journey was uneventful.

Just as Lu Ye was feeling everything was going smoothly, a group of people appeared ahead. Before they even got close, Lu Ye felt a shiver run through his heart.

He sensed a mental consciousness sweeping over him.

Looking up, he saw a woman in her early thirties leading the group. She wore a palace-style dress, had a curvaceous figure, and was quite attractive.

What caught Lu Ye's attention was not her appearance or figure, but her cultivation.

This woman was unmistakably a Divine Sea Realm strong cultivator!

Although he had encountered some people before, none were in the Divine Sea Realm, so Lu Ye didn't feel pressured. But now, meeting a Divine Sea Realm cultivator suddenly, he wasn't sure if she could see through his disguise.

However, using the Thousand Faces Spirit Runes to change his appearance was a well-thought-out decision; it was much more reliable than wearing a mask.

In the current situation, if he still used a mask, it would appear sneaky and draw attention.

Behind this woman followed a group of True Lake Realm cultivators, searching around, seemingly either for traces of Nian Yuexian or for those flying swords.

Facing each other, Lu Ye quickly stepped aside, bowed his head, and waited for this group to leave before continuing on.

He could clearly feel the woman's gaze linger on his face momentarily but then move away.

They passed by each other.

Just as Lu Ye let out a long breath, a soft voice from the group of cultivators sounded: "Master Uncle, this person is all alone. If he accidentally runs into that poisonous woman, he's certainly doomed, isn't he? I heard she killed quite a few people this time. Why not take him with us?"

"What do you care? In this situation, if he's still acting alone, he must be either greedy or overconfident. Even if he dies, it's his own fault," another voice replied.

"But after all, he's from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge..."

"I think you fancy him because of his good looks and feel pity for him, right?" the person sneered.

"I did not say that, don't talk nonsense," the woman who spoke earlier blushed a little.

As they spoke, the woman stopped and said, "Indeed, he's from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Since we've met him, let's bring him along."

"I'll go and tell him," the woman's voice rang out again.

Not far away, Lu Ye felt his head swell with distress. He hadn't expected his handsome disguise to cause trouble. Had he known, he would have opted for a more mediocre appearance.

Raising his eyes, he saw a female cultivator flying towards him. Her figure wasn't full, but her chest was heavy, catching Lu Ye's attention immediately.

As if sensing Lu Ye's gaze, the woman blushed faintly and came to a stop three paces in front of him, bowing: "Greetings, Junior Brother."

Her cultivation level was at True Lake Level 7, much higher than Lu Ye's, and she was also older, so calling him Junior Brother was only natural.

"Senior Sister, what is it?" Lu Ye returned the courtesy.

"My Master Uncle wants to speak with you," the woman spoke while gesturing towards a spot not far away.

Lu Ye knew what she intended, and with a mind to refuse, he saw the Divine Sea Realm cultivator's gaze in the distance and had no choice but to agree reluctantly: "Alright."

Following the woman to the Divine Sea Realm cultivator, Lu Ye greeted, "Greetings, Senior."

The Divine Sea Realm woman frowned, "Which family disciple are you, and from which mountain pass are you a soldier? Don't you know it's extremely dangerous in Liyuan now with Haotian Alliance's Divine Sea Realm in chaos? How dare you act alone?"

Lu Ye immediately put on a look of shock and said, "There's a Divine Sea Realm causing chaos? I didn't know. I just heard there were many opportunities appearing here and thought to try my luck."

This explanation seemed fine, as indeed there had been many flying swords emerging from the Sword Weapon Sect's secret realm, and in the two days Lu Ye had been hiding, he had seen some Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators searching around.

The Divine Sea Realm woman's frown deepened: "How could you not know?"

Information in the Nine Provinces is transmitted very quickly and conveniently. As long as this young man was a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator, it didn't make sense for him not to know the latest intel.

This made her somewhat suspicious.

Lu Ye had already thought of an excuse and now spoke up, "Reporting to the Senior, I am originally from the Unparalleled Continent, and I've just recently arrived in the Nine Provinces, so I'm not very familiar with the situation here."

"You're from the Unparalleled Continent?" they all said in surprise.

With the fusion of the Cloud River battlefield domain, many cultivators from the Unparalleled Continent had appeared in the Nine Provinces. This was no secret, and most cultivators had already heard about it.

It was just that the Nine Provinces is vast, and those cultivators from the Unparalleled Continent were scattered throughout, so it was hard for ordinary people to encounter one.

This was why everyone's curiosity was piqued by Lu Ye claiming to be from the Unparalleled Continent.

After all, being from another domain, they all wanted to see how he differed from the Nine Provinces cultivators.

"Exactly." Lu Ye nodded, "I recently joined the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge camp but haven't joined the provincial guard yet. The Senior should know a bit about the Unparalleled Continent. The Nine Provinces, in comparison, are vast and expansive. I thought I'd explore and observe more here before joining the provincial guard to serve Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. When I passed through this place earlier, I heard there were many opportunities here, so I came to try my luck. As a sword cultivator, I can't help but be drawn to flying swords."

"I see," the Divine Sea Realm woman nodded, though it was unclear if she believed him.

But Lu Ye's words were watertight, leaving little room for doubt.

"Now that you know, there are not only opportunities here but also dangers. There is a toxic woman from the Haotian Alliance with a high cultivation level, killing people everywhere in Liyuan recently. It's safer for you to come with us, with Master Uncle's protection, than to be alone," said the woman who had brought Lu Ye over earlier.

Chapter 932 I am Li Taibai

Poison Woman... Lu Ye's eye twitched slightly. He wondered what Nian Yuexian would think if she heard this evaluation.

But she actually went on a killing spree... It was obvious she was trying to draw the attention of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge to facilitate her escape.

Otherwise, with her skills, there was no need to create such a commotion. Even if she couldn't leave temporarily due to the blockade of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge strong cultivators, she could still hide effortlessly, as she was a Ghost Cultivator after all.

Yet she chose to act this way... Lu Ye probably understood Nian Yuexian's intention.

The Divine Sea Realm woman showed a look of realization. If the person in front of her was from the Unparalleled Continent, then it was understandable that Liyuan was in such a state.

Information transmission among the Nine Provinces cultivators is convenient and fast. But how could a cultivator from the Unparalleled Continent, who had only been in the Nine Provinces for a short time, have access to any information?

She assessed Lu Ye from head to toe and nodded: "If you're willing, then you may travel with the squad. Even if we encounter that Poison Woman, I can protect you somewhat. If not, you may leave on your own."

With such generous words, what else could Lu Ye say? Naturally, he showed a grateful expression: "Thank you, senior, for your care. I will be imposing on you then."

However, it was strange to him that the other party didn't intend to verify his allegiance. He was already prepared to reveal his Ten Thousand Demons Ridge battlefield marking.

The woman nodded slightly, said no more, and led the way ahead.

Others followed closely. The team was small; besides Lu Ye, there were only five others: three men and two women, all with impressive cultivation, each one at the True Lake level.

Others treated Lu Ye with indifference, but the female cultivator who had brought him earlier was quite enthusiastic with him.

During their conversation, Lu Ye learned that the female cultivator was named Tong Shuyao. Their squad came from the Dark Moon Forest Pass on the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge frontline, having come to track down Nian Yuexian after learning of her appearance in Liyuan.

However, after searching here for more than a day, not only had they not seen Nian Yuexian, but they hadn't even spotted a single flying sword.

Tong Shuyao asked Lu Ye many questions about the Unparalleled Continent, and Lu Ye answered them casually, yet articulately.

He had stayed on the Unparalleled Continent for quite some time and had even saved the vanguard squad of the Unparalleled Continent as the senior brother. When it came to the situation back then on the Unparalleled Continent, no one across the Nine Provinces understood it better than he did.

The Divine Sea Realm strong cultivator ahead listened silently.

Although she hadn't anticipated Lu Ye's true identity as a cultivator of the Haotian Alliance, she wasn't going to believe Lu Ye's words blindly. It was only now that she finally confirmed that Lu Ye was indeed a cultivator from the Unparalleled Continent.

If he wasn't from the Unparalleled Continent, there was no way he could know so much about it. Even she, as a Divine Sea Realm cultivator, only had hearsay knowledge about the Unparalleled Continent.

"By the way, we've talked so much, but I haven't asked for your name, Junior Brother." Tong Shuyao's face was red, flying close to Lu Ye, with intermittent physical contact. Lu Ye had tried avoiding her several times but failed.

"I am Li Taibai." Lu Ye casually said a name from deep in his memory.

"Li Taibai..." Tong Shuyao tasted it carefully, then smiled like a blossoming flower, "Nice name!"

As they soared forward, they occasionally encountered other teams searching for Nian Yuexian, many led by strong cultivators from the Divine Sea Realm, with numerous True Lake cultivators following.

This sight worried Lu Ye secretly. Clearly, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge was furious, having laid a vast trap over Liyuan, hell-bent on cornering and eliminating Nian Yuexian.

Earlier, Lu Ye dared not send messages to Nian Yuexian at random, fearing he might disrupt her. Now, under the watchful eye of a Divine Sea Realm cultivator from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, he dared not make any small moves.

Come nightfall, the squad set up camp in the wilderness.

It was clear that the squad's few True Lake cultivators were well-trained, with clear duties: some pitched tents, others set up formations, and someone concealed themselves on guard duty.

Lu Ye sat before a campfire, roasting a piece of beast meat while reluctantly chatting away with Tong Shuyao.

This woman was rather clingy, yet he couldn't understand what she saw in him. Since they met during the day, she hadn't been apart from him.

Lu Ye regretted more and more making himself look so handsome...

"Yao'er, come inside."

An unexpected voice came from the tent, belonging to the Divine Sea Realm woman. Tong Shuyao responded crisply and went inside immediately.

But before Lu Ye could breathe a sigh of relief, a figure stood before him, staring at him fiercely. "Kid, if you're smart, stay away from Junior Sister Shuyao, or I'll make your death look unpleasant," he whispered.

Lu Ye just felt helpless.

He had sensed this person's hostility during the day, and he roughly understood the situation, but his current identity was Li Taibai from the Unparalleled Continent, essentially dependent on others, inconvenient for unnecessary actions. Besides, it's the woman who was proactive, what did it have to do with him?

Just as Lu Ye was about to casually respond, a strong foreboding surged in his heart.

Suddenly looking up, he saw beneath the night sky, a figure standing out of thin air, with a full moon hanging high behind.

From the figure's shape, it seemed to be a woman, somewhat resembling Nian Yuexian, but wearing a mask that hid her true face.

She appeared spectrally, like she had been standing there all along.

As a terrifying pressure burst forth, sword energy like cutting blades descended from the sky.

Lu Ye rose quickly, raising his hand to unleash the longsword at his waist. As he swung the sword in a dance, intricate runes swiftly engraved themselves on the blade.

Moon Return!

Sizzling...

As the sound of air being ripped approached, the other True Lake cultivators finally reacted, hurriedly employing their own methods to counterattack, yet cries of alarm and screams still filled the air.

"Who goes there!" In the tent, another figure exploded with rage, enveloped in boundless killing intent, rushing towards the enemy in the air.

During the day, this Divine Sea Realm woman had not revealed her full cultivation, and Lu Ye wasn't clear about her strength. Now, in her fury, her cultivation was fully on display.

It turned out she was at Divine Sea Level 6.

Such cultivation was exceptionally strong across the entire Nine Provinces.

The woman was a magic cultivator, and the approaching woman was a sword cultivator. The two figures immediately clashed.

Tong Shuyao also ran out of the tattered tent. Looking up, she shouted, "Assist them!"

As she spoke, she immediately flew towards the battle.

Lu Ye's mouth was bleeding, having already been injured in the previous attack. He looked at the figure of the woman who had attacked, somewhat bewildered.

At first glance, he thought it was Nian Yuexian who had come to kill, but now he could be sure that it wasn't her and that someone was just imitating her sword cultivator techniques.

After all, he had been with Nian Yuexian for so long, and besides everything else, he was extremely familiar with her figure and scent, so he could instantly tell the real from the fake.

The main thing was, Nian Yuexian's cultivation was higher than the attacker's!

Who is this person, and why are they doing this?

Lu Ye's first reaction was the Haotian Alliance, but if it was truly someone from the Haotian Alliance, why would they imitate Nian Yuexian's techniques? Furthermore, a Divine Sea Realm strong cultivator from the Haotian Alliance wouldn't easily come to such a place.

This area was considered the heart of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, even Nian Yuexian was acting secretly, no one would be foolish enough to openly intrude here, causing trouble at this time.

But if it wasn't someone from the Haotian Alliance... the situation was complicated.

Luckily, it wasn't Nian Yuexian, otherwise, that strike just now would have meant doom for him.

The attacker only delivered a casual blow, yet it was not something someone like him in the True Lake Realm could withstand. The Moon Return Spirit Runes indeed played a role, and the protection of the Crimson Dragon Battle Suit helped a lot as well.

Glancing around, everyone in the squad, except for Tong Shuyao who just entered the tent, was dead.

Especially the one who warned Lu Ye to stay away from Tong Shuyao, or he'd meet a miserable end, died particularly horribly, eyes still open, with a bloody hole in their chest gushing fresh blood.

In such a situation, even if Lu Ye wanted to stand by, he couldn't; he could only raise his sword and join the fight.

In the battlefield of a Divine Sea Realm strong cultivator, a True Lake Realm person usually couldn't intervene, but if it's just providing support, it's not much of an issue. This would at least scatter the enemy's attention a bit, though doing so bears high risk, as any setback for their Divine Sea Realm ally would mean facing the threat of death directly.

At this critical moment of fragile alliance, Lu Ye couldn't just watch indifferently. Otherwise, if their Divine Sea Realm ally fell, both he and Tong Shuyao would be dead for sure.

As the sword light sparkled brilliantly, he had already leaped into the air, his flying sword transforming into a streak of light slashing towards the enemy with incredible speed.

Tong Shuyao also activated a long whip-like Spiritual Artifact, drawing out streaks of whip shadows.

Though their combined power couldn't provide much help, it was better than doing nothing at all.

Fortunately, the attacker's cultivation, though strong, was slightly weaker than that of Tong Shuyao's Master Uncle. Furthermore, they didn't want to be involved in a prolonged confrontation. After only a brief moment, the attacker transformed into a sword light and broke through the air to leave.

The woman did not pursue, but her expression was grim, her complexion slightly pale. From that brief encounter, she had undoubtedly suffered a loss.

Both Lu Ye and Tong Shuyao looked as if they had narrowly escaped death.

The sound of something breaking through the air quickly approached from a distance. In the blink of an eye, a middle-aged man's figure appeared, the fluctuations of spirit force on him revealing his status as a Divine Sea Realm strong cultivator.

He had evidently noticed the commotion and had come to investigate.

"Nian Yuexian?" He looked towards the woman.

"Doesn't seem like it!" The woman shook her head. She was self-aware, if it were truly Nian Yuexian, her current situation wouldn't just be a minor setback; she would be gravely injured.

"Then who could it be?" The middle-aged man frowned.

"I don't know, someone is taking advantage of the chaos!" The woman gritted her teeth.

"They are truly shameless!" The middle-aged man erupted in anger. At such a crucial moment when the entire Ten Thousand Demons Ridge was united to hunt down Nian Yuexian, someone was acting in secret. Such behavior was utterly reckless, naturally inciting fury.

"I need an explanation for this!" The woman looked at the middle-aged man.

The middle-aged man nodded: "Rest assured, if someone really is causing internal chaos at this time, I will not let them off lightly. You are injured, so go back and recover. Do not involve yourself in Liyuan's affair."

The woman nodded in agreement.

The middle-aged man didn't linger, quickly departing.

The woman turned to look around her surroundings, her expression bleak: "Let's clean up here."

Tong Shuyao, with reddened eyes, responded, then said to Lu Ye, "Junior Brother Taibai, help me."

"Alright." Lu Ye nodded. He had no psychological burden about cleaning up the bodies of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators.

However, judging by the previous incident, it was clear the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge was not a united front.

But then again, where there are people, there will be strife. It was the same for Ten Thousand Demons Ridge as it was for the Haotian Alliance, wasn't it?

Chapter 933 Ten Thousand Demons City

With everything packed and ready, Lu Ye and Tong Shuyao flew in one direction under the lead of the Divine Sea Realm woman.

Perhaps due to the death of someone, Tong Shuyao didn't even have the enthusiasm to talk to Lu Ye and stayed silent the whole way.

Lu Ye was quite happy with this.

Though he wasn't sure who the sword cultivator that attacked them before was, he roughly guessed it had to be someone with a personal grudge against Tong Shuyao's Divine Sea Realm Master Uncle, taking advantage of the chaotic situation in Liyuan to secretly retaliate.

"I've heard that the Unparalleled Continent has four great secret realms; aside from one occupied by the Corpse Race, the other three are all with humans. Which secret realm did you come from?" the woman suddenly asked.

Lu Ye was taken aback.

During their interaction earlier, the woman clearly showed little interest in him and didn't ask him anything.

The sudden inquiry about his origin at this moment was evidently because Lu Ye performed well in the recent battle.

Her group, consisting of cultivators all at the True Lake Realm, boasted higher cultivation levels than Lu Ye. Besides Tong Shuyao, who shared the tent with her and remained unharmed, everyone else was killed.

Only the lowest cultivation member, Lu Ye, survived!

Later, Lu Ye aided Tong Shuyao in strategy, displaying noteworthy performances.

These two points were enough for the woman to gauge some depth of Lu Ye.

"Responding to the senior, this junior is an independent cultivator, not a secret realm native," Lu Ye casually said.

Cultivators from secret realms have traceable origins; if the woman sought to verify his identity, his cover would be blown.

However, it's different for independent cultivators. The Unparalleled Continent's unique environment comprises numerous small bases besides the secret realms. Cultivators from these bases can all be considered independent, with little interaction or connection, making it impossible for anyone to investigate deeply.

"Independent cultivator..." the woman remarked with surprise. "Unparalleled Continent's cultivators haven't entered the Nine Provinces for long. As far as I know, there was no True Lake Realm there before. How are you a True Lake Level 3 now?"

Before, indifferent to this unfamiliar person, the woman hadn't thought much. Now it seems, Lu Ye's cultivation level indeed had issues.

Not that she suspected anything, just that the situation was indeed peculiar.

This young man called Li Taibai had an extraordinarily fast cultivation speed.

"Previously, I had a stroke of luck, and also, suppose the junior had accumulated resilience over time, as the senior said, Unparalleled Continent didn't have True Lake, allowing for greater Cloud River Realm accumulation," Lu Ye replied offhandedly.

The woman nodded slightly, accepting Lu Ye's explanation.

In her heart, a notion arose: if all Unparalleled Continent cultivators could accumulate and burst forth like Li Taibai, wouldn't they become endlessly formidable?

If so, one should definitely devise ways to recruit more Unparalleled Continent cultivators.

As thoughts swirled in her mind, she spoke again: "Your Unparalleled Continent people probably aren't too familiar with Nine Provinces' situation. Why did you choose Ten Thousand Demons Ridge over Haotian Alliance?"

Lu Ye laughed awkwardly, rubbing his head: "Actually, this junior didn't think much; just randomly picked one. Most Unparalleled Continent cultivators choose randomly."

Seeing his simple-minded expression, the heavy-hearted Tong Shuyao couldn't help but laugh, feeling much better, and said coquettishly, "Then you chose correctly, for Haotian Alliance people are all bad."

"Would you consider joining our Ten Thousand Demons Ridge provincial guard?" the woman asked.

Lu Ye had no such thought; if it weren't for meeting them, he'd probably already be sneaking toward Cangyan Mountain Pass, away from Liyuan.

Now a powerful Divine Sea Realm cultivator from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge was beside him, making him feel uneasy.

He said, "Forgive me, senior. This junior hasn't been in Nine Provinces long and temporarily has no intention of serving any provincial guard..."

Before finishing, Lu Ye felt the woman's gaze sharpen, suddenly becoming unbearably pressured.

"What now? Are you weighing options to see whether Ten Thousand Demons Ridge or Haotian Alliance is stronger before deciding?"

"This junior dare not," Lu Ye quickly showed a sincerely fearful demeanor.

"Since you don't dare, make a decision early!" the woman coldly snorted, "Once decided, you'll belong, otherwise anyone thinking they can come and go in Ten Thousand Demons Ridge territory as they please is mistaken."

Lu Ye frowned inwardly.

What's going on?

The woman's words seemed to be forcing him to join Ten Thousand Demons Ridge provincial guard.

Did his performance catch her eye?

Must be! She probably wants to recruit him, else why the sudden attitude change?

Lu Ye suddenly felt at a loss!

"This junior... will consider carefully," Lu Ye replied.

The woman no longer paid attention to him, proceeding forward swiftly.

At dawn, a large city appeared in the distance, giving Lu Ye an uneasy feeling, prompting him to ask, "What city is that ahead..."

"That's Ten Thousand Demons City," Tong Shuyao replied, "It's the central hub for Ten Thousand Demons Ridge in Bingzhou."

It's akin to Haotian City of Haotian Alliance.

Lu Ye thought to himself that this was bad. He distinctly remembered the time he entered Haotian City; a restriction swept over him, activating his battlefield marking on the back of his hand.

That restriction clearly served to identify camp affiliations, so even if Haotian Alliance had no one guarding the perimeter, they needn't worry about Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators sneaking in, since the boundary restriction would bar them.

Moreover, many Divine Sea Realm cultivators resided in Haotian City; who'd dare to seek death?

If Haotian City had such a restriction, why wouldn't Ten Thousand Demons City?

Though Lu Ye carried a temporary Ten Thousand Demons Ridge battlefield marking, it differed from authentic ones, counting as temporary, for once activated, it only lasted four hours.

He wasn't sure if his temporary marking could evade detection by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's restrictions, or what consequences awaited when the marking ceased functioning after four hours.

He must not enter Ten Thousand Demons City...

As he pondered this, the woman spoke first, "Until you decide, follow me; once you've decided, tell me anytime!"

Lu Ye felt heavy-hearted. She really had her eyes on him, otherwise why act as if wanting to bind him to her waist?

These two women were truly infuriating!

The younger one coveted his body, while the older was even more excessive, wanting both body and soul.

As they neared, Lu Ye felt tense.

The woman dashed into Ten Thousand Demons City first, followed by Lu Ye and Tong Shuyao. At the moment he entered, Lu Ye activated his Ten Thousand Demons Ridge battlefield marking.

He clearly felt an invisible force sweep over him, simultaneously seeing a flash of red light on the back of his hand.

Lu Ye's heart was relieved, having successfully passed this checkpoint.

Chapter 934 Dual Identities

However, when you think about it, it's not surprising. The battlefield marking of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge is exchanged from the Hall of Battle Merits. Although it only lasts for four hours, it still has its intended effect.

In a way, it is a true battlefield marking of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Passing through the restriction monitoring of Ten Thousand Demons City is naturally not a problem.

The woman must have visited Ten Thousand Demons City many times, and she flew in one direction with familiarity.

In no time, they landed in a small courtyard.

She turned to Tong Shuyao: "I'll heal my wounds first, you two can go on your own." As she said this, she gave Tong Shuyao a look.

"Yes, Master Uncle!" Tong Shuyao responded respectfully, understanding the hint.

After the woman left, Tong Shuyao looked at Lu Ye: "Junior Brother Taibai, since it's your first time here in Ten Thousand Demons City, shall I show you around?"

Lu Ye was about to refuse, but then reconsidered and nodded, "Alright, I'll trouble Senior Sister Tong then."

"Let's go, no need to be polite."

The situation in Ten Thousand Demons City is not much different from that in Haotian City. At this stage, the number of cultivators in Ten Thousand Demons City is not too many, which is normal.

Occasionally, you can see figures of strong cultivators in the Divine Sea Realm flying back and forth.

Tong Shuyao led Lu Ye around Ten Thousand Demons City for a while before she spoke, "Junior Brother Taibai, although you come from the Unparalleled Continent, now that you've arrived in the Nine Provinces and joined Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, you should eventually join the provincial guard. Upon entering, you can build your career and earn battle merits. The sooner, the better."

She had previously received a hint from the woman, as her purpose here was to monitor Lu Ye and also find a way to persuade him.

For herself, she naturally hoped that this Junior Brother Li Taibai could join the provincial guard and serve under Master Uncle.

Although with the woman's means and cultivation, she could force Lu Ye to join the provincial guard, it's always better to have him agree willingly.

"Senior Sister Tong is right." Lu Ye responded verbally, but he was contemplating. In this situation, it seemed impossible to leave easily, which was quite troublesome.

Tong Shuyao was sticking to him like a leech, not leaving him at all. If he made any rash moves, she would likely inform the woman immediately.

Wondering silently: "Ten Thousand Demons Ridge is full of talents, why does your Master Uncle specifically want me?"

"My Master Uncle has sharp eyes!" Tong Shuyao laughed, her face slightly red. She couldn't possibly tell Lu Ye it was because she pleaded.

Lu Ye thought it was because he'd performed well and caught the eye of the Divine Sea Realm woman, not realizing it was his handsome looks causing trouble.

Tong Shuyao and the woman, though in a master and niece relationship, were actually close like mother and daughter. Previously in the tent, Tong Shuyao had pleaded for this, and the woman naturally agreed.

Adding that Lu Ye had indeed performed well and had enough cultivation, joining the provincial guard was more than sufficient.

Initially, she thought that by personally inviting him, Lu Ye would be immensely grateful, but to her surprise, he didn't give a direct response, making her quite displeased.

"I'd like to visit the Heaven's Augury Hall to buy some cultivation necessities. Could Senior Sister Tong accompany me?" Lu Ye asked.

"This way." Tong Shuyao, with her hands behind her back, hopped ahead cheerfully, looking in a very good mood, seemingly unaffected by the death of a few True Lake cultivators earlier.

They soon arrived at a Heaven's Augury Hall, where Lu Ye placed his hand on the Heaven's Augury Pillar, entered the Hall of Battle Merits, and exchanged for a refill of a battlefield marking of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Only then did his heart settle.

As he walked out of the Heaven's Augury Hall, he saw Tong Shuyao waiting, and he approached her, saying, "Senior Sister Tong, please inform your Master Uncle that I am willing to join the provincial guard and serve under her command."

He realized that since some things couldn't be avoided, he must face them head-on.

Moreover, from another perspective, this may not be a bad thing.

If he could indeed join the provincial guard of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, it would make it easier to gather intelligence on their side, and at certain times, it could be unexpectedly useful.

Ordinarily, the Haotian Alliance would go through great lengths to plant a spy in Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, but the opportunity here was readily available, and not utilizing it would be a waste.

"Really?" Tong Shuyao was visibly pleased.

Lu Ye nodded, "Really."

"That's great, but you'll have to wait for two days. Master Uncle is healing; I'll inform her the first moment she's out."

On the way back, Tong Shuyao's mood was even more cheerful, singing little tunes with a smile that didn't leave her face.

Back at the courtyard, they each rested.

During the next two days, Tong Shuyao frequently sought out Lu Ye, much to his resignation.

Two days later, the woman emerged from her healing, and Tong Shuyao indeed reported Lu Ye's willingness to join the provincial guard at the first opportunity. The woman's gaze towards Lu Ye then softened considerably, and she called out, "Follow me."

Lu Ye had previously had the experience of joining a provincial guard on the Haotian Alliance side, but he didn't expect to go through it again so soon, this time joining the provincial guard of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

The procedure wasn't much different from the Haotian Alliance's side.

First, go to the Recruitment Department for registration and receive a guard token, then use the battle merit panel to calculate battle merits and determine rank.

Logically, verifying one's identity is necessary for registration. For Nine Provinces cultivators, this is not difficult and can be clarified with a few messages.

But for the identity of Li Taibai, who hails from the Unparalleled Continent and is an independent cultivator with no evidence, it's very challenging for the Recruitment Department to verify.

With the woman as a guarantor, the matter was left unresolved.

As for the identity of Li Taibai, naturally, it hadn't accrued any battle merit, so when Lu Ye activated the battlefield marking of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge and tested it on the battle merit panel, it showed a white glow.

Logically, Lu Ye could only start from the most basic rank of foot soldier.

But since Lu Ye had the cultivation of the True Lake Realm, he was granted the rank of Major.

This rule is the same as over at the Haotian Alliance; the realm of a True Lake cultivator is evident, and at the very least, they are a Major. Of course, if Lu Ye wants to be promoted further in military rank, he will need to accumulate a basic amount of battle merit.

Following the woman out of the Recruitment Department, Lu Ye's feelings were complex.

This situation turned out to be quite a mess...

Now, he technically had two official identities: one was as Lu Ye of the Righteous Blood Sect, and the second was as the independent cultivator Li Taibai from the Unparalleled Continent.

A record also appeared in the battlefield marking of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, because when Lu Ye focused his mind to probe it, the battlefield marking unexpectedly fed back some information.

Name: Li Taibai.

Identity: Independent cultivator from the Unparalleled Continent.

Cultivation: True Lake Level 3.

Location: Ten Thousand Demons City.

Merit: Zero.

Battle merit: Zero.

Previously, when Lu Ye examined his battlefield marking of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, there were no records at all, but now there were, clearly recognized by Heaven's Augury.

"Let's go; follow me back to the mountain pass." The woman called out, and this time, she did not make Lu Ye and Tong Shuyao fly but instead deployed a Flying Spirit Artifact, carrying the two out of Ten Thousand Demons City.

Normally, upon entering the provincial guard with their cultivation, the Department of Appointments would transfer them to a particular mountain pass.

But the woman was in the Divine Sea Realm and held a significant status in Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, so requesting a person from the Department of Appointments was naturally no problem. Thus Lu Ye joined the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge provincial guard, becoming one of her subordinates.

"I am Lin Yue, the Mountain Pass Chief of the Dark Moon Forest Pass under the Bright Jade Checkpoint. From now on, you will serve under me. Once we reach the mountain pass, I will bestow upon you the position of an errand officer. You and Yao'er will support each other from now on. If there is anything you don't understand, you can ask Yao'er." Lin Yue spoke.

It was only at this moment that Lu Ye learned the woman's name. Inwardly, he wondered if there really was such a role as an errand officer. When Yiyi had previously obtained this position from Nian Yuexian, Lu Ye had thought it was casually bestowed upon her. Now it seemed there truly was such a role.

"Thank you, Senior, for your care." Lu Ye bowed.

"Call me My Lord." Tong Shuyao tugged at Lu Ye's sleeve.

"Thank you, My Lord." Lu Ye complied readily.

Tong Shuyao then asked, "Master Uncle, is that wicked woman still in Liyuan? Will we encounter her?"

Lin Yue shook her head and said, "She's no longer there. News recently came; she has already fought her way out of Liyuan and returned to Cangyan Mountain Pass."

"She's truly formidable," Tong Shuyao praised.

Lu Ye's expression remained calm. He had already contacted Nian Yuexian once before, knowing her current situation. Nian Yuexian also inquired about his whereabouts and situation, but Lu Ye refrained from divulging, not because of anything specific, but to avoid causing her worry. He only mentioned that he had encountered some opportunities and would return a bit later.

Nian Yuexian didn't suspect anything; though concerned about Lu Ye's safety, she couldn't delve deeper into Liyuan.

Flying swiftly along the way, they encountered peace and quiet. Liyuan, previously bustling due to Nian Yuexian's presence, had settled into silence with her departure.

The many flying swords that had emerged from the secret realm of the Sword Weapon Sect mostly now had owners.

A strong cultivator in the Divine Sea Realm flew very fast, even if Lin Yue wasn't in a hurry. From leaving Ten Thousand Demons City, it took just two to three Shichen to reach the Dark Moon Forest Pass.

In Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, the Dark Moon Forest Pass belonged to the Bright Jade Checkpoint, while the corresponding side of the Haotian Alliance was the Sky Gate Checkpoint.

The two battle lines of the great factions faced each other from afar, entangled in endless conflict for many years.

From a distance, one could see the activity of cultivators within the city. Compared to the dilapidated state of Cangyan Mountain City, this place was far more lively.

In the two great factions, there were numerous mountain passes. Each pass had a city defense, and stationed within were three to five thousand cultivators, except for the desolate Cangyan Mountain Pass. For decades, only Nian Yuexian stood alone there, solitary.

Of course, this was due to Nian Yuexian's formidable strength.

Her abilities were ample enough to be a checkpoint lord, but since she did not favor power struggles and had her own persistence, she remained stationed at Cangyan Mountain Pass.

The recent arrival of Lu Ye brought some vitality to Cangyan Mountain Pass.

As they descended into the Dark Moon Forest Pass, cultivators immediately approached them, reporting on the recent days' troop movements and various situations.

Tong Shuyao and Lu Ye followed behind Lin Yue, step by step, silently listening to orders.

After a moment, Lin Yue waved her hand, and the cultivators who came to report retreated respectfully.

Turning around, Lin Yue instructed Tong Shuyao, "Take him down to settle in."

"Yes," acknowledged Tong Shuyao.

Chapter 935 The Wonders of the Sword Gourd

The scale of Dark Moon Forest Pass isn't too big, but not too small either, somewhat similar to the situation at Cangyan Mountain Pass.

Lu Ye followed behind Tong Shuyao, flying in one direction, listening to her chatter while silently observing.

Last time, although he had visited Gushan City Pass, he went there in a rush and didn't see much.

This time, even though he came to another pass, he could still deduce some insights about the situation of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators through certain clues.

It must be said, passes with people are lively, unlike the Cangyan Mountain side, where Lu Ye only ever saw Nian Yuexian and no one else.

Tong Shuyao undoubtedly had some popularity here, with many cultivators greeting her along the way, and she responded enthusiastically.

Some people were also interested in Lu Ye. After all, with his current decent appearance, suspected to be a sword cultivator, and accompanied by Tong Shuyao, he naturally attracted attention.

After dismissing several waves of people trying to strike up a conversation, Tong Shuyao glanced at Lu Ye with secret glee, only to find him expressionless and looking around, with no interest in her whatsoever, which annoyed her, leaving her uninterested in talking further.

Soon she led Lu Ye to a house: "This will be your residence from now on. In peacetime, you're free to move around as long as you don't step outside the pass's defensive perimeter. If there's a battle, orders will be issued from above, just follow them."

After saying this quickly, she glared at Lu Ye again: "After traveling all the way, take a rest, humph!"

The young girl walked off in a huff, and Lu Ye immediately felt relaxed.

He pushed the door open and walked inside. The room was not very large and the conditions were not great either, but it was undoubtedly much better than those foot soldiers who shared a room with several others.

Lu Ye entered the room, carefully checked it, and set up several formations for protection and isolation.

He took Amber out from the spirit beast sack, gently tapped Amber's little head, and Yiyi immediately flashed out, took a deep breath, and stuck her tongue out at Lu Ye: "I was nearly suffocated!"

In the sword sect's secret realm, Amber couldn't run around freely, but at least wasn't put inside the spirit beast sack. However, Yiyi had been hiding inside Amber since over two months ago and hadn't appeared since.

After such a long time, she was indeed quite suffocated.

Very soon, she noticed something amiss: "Lu Ye, how did you become so handsome?"

Although the appearance was different, having been with Lu Ye day and night all these years, she naturally recognized Lu Ye's identity at a glance. Moreover, if it weren't Lu Ye himself, Amber would have noticed instantly, for after all, there was a pet contract between them.

"It's a long story." Lu Ye sighed; the current situation had become somewhat complicated, and he didn't know where to start.

"Where is this?" Yiyi asked while probing her battlefield mark, quickly identified the location, and was quite surprised: "Dark Moon Forest Pass? Lu Ye, how did you get here? Were you captured?"

But judging by Lu Ye's appearance, there were no signs of being captured, rather he looked like a guest.

Having no other choice, Lu Ye had to recount the events since he left the sword sect's secret realm, listening to which made Yiyi and Amber widen their eyes.

Who would have thought that Lu Ye would unwittingly infiltrate the enemy's camp, now even becoming a member of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge provincial guard!

"Then... what will you do in the future? You can't stay here forever, can you?" Yiyi asked.

Though Lu Ye's identity as a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge provincial guard was acknowledged by Heaven's Augury, his roots were in the Righteous Blood Sect, and he was a Haotian Alliance cultivator, so naturally, he couldn't stay here permanently.

"Don't worry, getting out isn't that hard. But now that I have this extra identity, there's no rush to leave. When it's time to go, I'll leave naturally."

"Mm." Yiyi nodded.

"Let's cultivate for now." Lu Ye said, and began his unique way of cultivating by Theft of Heaven's Augury.

Over two months ago, he had advanced to True Lake Level 3, at that time feeling that his cultivation had progressed too quickly and needed to slow down a bit.

Now, more than two months had passed, and it was time to resume cultivation.

He didn't exchange for a gold-hued spirit fortune stick. Although he had a lot of battle merits, using the fortune stick for cultivation would not allow him to stop casually without causing unnecessary waste.

Being in the enemy's camp and newly arrived, it's better to be cautious.

The Talent Tree's power was activated, its roots spread, probing into the vortex of spirit force.

With Lu Ye's current foundation, he didn't need to put his entire mind into activating the Talent Tree's power. He had already developed Mental Consciousness, his psyche was strong, and he could multitask with ease.

Letting the Talent Tree's roots absorb the rich nature's spiritual energy, Lu Ye first took off the longsword from his waist.

This longsword wasn't of high quality, only top-grade spirit artifact level, which he had randomly found in his storage space and wasn't even sure when he had obtained it as a battle trophy.

His current identity was a sword cultivator, with True Lake Level 3 cultivation, and a top-grade spirit artifact longsword was no longer satisfying his needs.

At the very least, he needed a handy longsword.

Preferably magic-artifact class.

His battle trophies didn't include magic-artifact class items, as these mostly came from the Cloud River battlefield, at best supreme grade spirit artifacts.

So he needed to visit either the Heaven's Augury Hall or the Hall of Battle Merits to exchange for a magic-artifact class longsword.

But there's no rush.

Immediately afterwards, Lu Ye took down the sword gourd from his waist.

This item was given to him by Khong Khong as the sword sect's secret realm collapsed, a keepsake of the Sword Weapon Sect's Sect Master and a remarkably exquisite treasure itself, with Khong Khong only saying it was infinitely mysterious.

However, due to his busyness in the past few days, Lu Ye hadn't had time to study it.

Now he had the opportunity.

Grasping the sword gourd, Lu Ye activated the spirit force and infused it within, slowly refining it.

Time passed.

At a certain moment, Lu Ye suddenly opened his eyes, looking down at the sword gourd in his hand.

He knew the quality of this treasure must be extraordinary, but before refining it, he wasn't sure exactly what grade it was. Now he could see that its quality was far beyond his expectations.

Because within the sword gourd, he sensed a dense and countless number of restrictions...

In the Nine Provinces, all sorts of treasures are graded by the number of restrictions they contain.

Under 36 restrictions, it's a Spiritual Artifact.

Above, it's a Magic Artifact, maxing out at 180 restrictions.

Beyond that, it's the spirit treasure level, with 360 restrictions as the pinnacle!

Lu Ye didn't know how many spirit treasures there were in the Nine Provinces since these items are generally the exclusive possessions of strong Divine Sea cultivators. He had one spirit treasure given by his master, the Nine Arrays Diagram.

As Lu Ye's cultivation and perspective grew, he gradually realized something: the Nine Arrays Diagram might not be of high quality among spirit treasures. It's not that his master was reluctant to part with something better, but rather this item had long surpassed what Lu Ye could activate. Even if he was given something better, he wouldn't be able to wield it.

In the Nine Provinces, there was another spirit treasure similar to the Nine Arrays Diagram called the mountain and river map, which was the highest grade spirit treasure with infinite power.

The Nine Arrays Diagram was crafted to imitate the mountain and river map.

The mountain and river map contains 360 restrictions and is the most prestigious spirit treasure in the Nine Provinces, also serving as the town-guarding treasure of a certain top big sect.

There are few treasures in the world more powerful than the mountain and river map.

Yet Lu Ye sensed not just 360 restrictions within the sword gourd...

This means this seemingly ordinary sword gourd is a treasure beyond the spirit treasure level!

What grade are treasures above the spirit treasure level?

Suddenly, he remembered Khong Khong's words—how the sword gourd is naturally formed and was gathered by the 9th generation ancestor of the Sword Weapon Sect in a perilous realm, later slightly refined by the 13th generation ancestor...

At that time, when the Sword Weapon Sect's secret realm was collapsing, Lu Ye didn't think too much about it.

But now, in retrospect, he quickly detected some unusual information.

Khong Khong was undoubtedly a strong cultivator beyond the Divine Sea Realm, and the Sword Weapon Sect back then was surely packed with strong cultivators!

The cultivation of the 9th and 13th generation ancestors, even if not stronger than Khong Khong, wouldn't be weaker—they were both Sect Masters of the Sword Weapon Sect, none inferior to the other.

Such strong cultivators gathered this treasure in some perilous realm.

Even such strong cultivators could only slightly refine this treasure...

This reveals the extraordinariness of the sword gourd; it is naturally formed, not crafted by human hands, making its origins even more mystical.

Lu Ye's heart was continuously shaken. He didn't expect the item Khong Khong passed onto him at the end to be so precious.

Luckily, the sword gourd didn't look like much, or Lin Yue might have noticed something amiss.

Such a valuable treasure would entice even strong Divine Sea cultivators.

But... could such a treasure be activated by a True Lake Realm cultivator like himself?

Even activating a spirit treasure like the Nine Arrays Diagram was quite taxing for Lu Ye now, let alone the sword gourd, which had a quality surpassing the Nine Arrays Diagram and had an unknown grade.

However, there wasn't much difficulty in refining it; nothing too obscure arose. As Lu Ye infused spirit force continuously, he began to faintly perceive the manifold mysteries within the sword gourd.

Better not to overthink it; refine it first and see later.

However, the number of restrictions in the sword gourd was too copious—it was impossible to completely refine it in a short time; this could only be tackled gradually.

With resolve, Lu Ye continued to refine the sword gourd.

Two days later, Lu Ye opened his eyes thoughtfully, picked up the sword gourd, pointed the gourd's mouth at the nearby top-grade spirit artifact class longsword, activated spirit force, and infused it into the sword gourd.

The gourd mouth then emitted an immense pulling force, and the longsword on the ground promptly flew in, vanishing into the sword gourd.

In just a moment, Lu Ye sensed something new.

There were now additional things within the sword gourd.

These things were indescribable, but when Lu Ye activated his Mental Consciousness to perceive inside, he detected an extremely sharp aura.

Oddly, the longsword that had been devoured was nowhere to be seen.

Lu Ye explored further and finally confirmed what the new things inside the sword gourd were.

Sword Qi!

He suddenly realized, understanding the extraordinary nature of the sword gourd.

It could devour a longsword and, in a very short time, transform the longsword into numerous Sword Qi, storing them within!

Chapter 936 Take You to See the Hustle

The number of Sword Qi newly added within the sword gourd was neither more nor less, precisely nine in total.

Nine is the ultimate number; the heavenly numeration begins at one and ends at nine.

This number inevitably made Lu Ye pensive.

Because he had already slightly refined the sword gourd, he could clearly sense the existence of these nine Sword Qi, and could even perceive that these nine Sword Qi could be emitted at will.

In other words, these nine newly born Sword Qi were completely under his control.

The only thing was, he didn't know how powerful they were.

Lu Ye took out the Breath Fruit Core and spent 200 merit points to enter the Mirage Realm for a round of testing.

Moments later, he opened his eyes, his expression invigorated.

After a round of experimentation, he discovered that the Sword Qi within the sword gourd had extremely impressive destructive power. The power each Sword Qi could exhibit was equivalent to his full strike.

And this was without him even activating the sword gourd's inherent power, because the grade of the sword gourd was too high for him to activate its capabilities, only managing the destructive force of the Sword Qi itself.

If one day he could activate and bolster the sword gourd's power, the destructive power of the Sword Qi would certainly increase significantly.

After brief contemplation, Lu Ye hurriedly took out a large number of spoils Spiritual Artifacts from the storage space for the sword gourd to devour.

Every Spiritual Artifact put into the sword gourd would disappear in a very short time, transformed into nine Sword Qi.

This symbol of the Sword Weapon Sect obtained from Khong Khong was like a ferocious beast, devouring however many Spiritual Artifacts Lu Ye took out without limit.

Lu Ye had a lot of spoils in his hand, which he used to sell to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault for some merit in the past. But now, with his cultivation increased, merit wasn't very useful for him anymore.

It was just perfect to feed the sword gourd...

After an hour, under Lu Ye's perception, the number of Sword Qi in the sword gourd had already become innumerable.

But he quickly discovered a problem. Each Spiritual Artifact devoured by the sword gourd could be converted into nine Sword Qi, but the strength of these Sword Qi seemed to be related to the grade of the Spiritual Artifact, resulting in varying strengths of the Sword Qi in the sword gourd.

Without a comparison initially, he hadn't noticed this, but now he had.

He took out the Breath Fruit Core again and entered the Mirage Realm to experiment.

Eventually, he concluded that there were indeed differences in the strength of Sword Qi, directly associated with the grade of the Spiritual Artifacts devoured by the sword gourd. Higher grade artifacts produced stronger Sword Qi, and vice versa.

But even the weakest Sword Qi, once unleashed, was equivalent to his usual saber slash. The Sword Qi converted from top-grade Spiritual Artifacts, once stimulated, was almost indistinguishable from his full-force strike, and the Sword Qi from supreme-grade Spiritual Artifacts was even sharper!

Lu Ye temporarily refrained from letting the sword gourd devour magic-artifact class Spiritual Artifacts, primarily because he only had one Boulder Mountain Saber, and he couldn't bear to let the sword gourd consume it.

But according to the current conclusions, if the sword gourd could devour magic-artifact class Spiritual Artifacts, the potential Sword Qi power would likely exceed his original strength!

Lu Ye truly recognized the profound mystery of the sword gourd; with this treasure in hand, as long as there were enough resources, he could exert power beyond his own capabilities.

As Li Taibai, being a sword cultivator, he originally intended to take the opportunity to buy more flying swords from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, but now it seemed completely unnecessary.

With the sword gourd in hand, what need was there for flying swords? Each Sword Qi was equivalent to a flying sword!

Li Baxian had once amazed Lu Ye by controlling a hundred flying swords, but now, how could his prowess be limited to just a hundred? Even a thousand or ten thousand poses no problem.

Of course, Sword Qi is different from real flying swords; once Sword Qi is shot out, it's gone, while flying swords can be retrieved.

He currently couldn't activate the sword gourd's inherent power, but if one day he could, the inherent power of the Sword Qi would change in ways yet unknown!

Lu Ye initially thought the biggest advantage he gained from the Sword Weapon Sect's secret realm was getting into the path of Artifact Refining, but now it seems the sword gourd was the greatest benefit.

With this sword gourd, he truly became a sword cultivator.

The originally top-grade Spiritual Artifact-class longsword had been devoured, so Lu Ye found another supreme-grade Spiritual Artifact-class longsword to replace it.

As for the initial plan to buy a magic-artifact class longsword from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault... that was no longer necessary.

A soft knock on the door was heard.

Lu Ye beckoned to Yiyi and Amber. The two understood, and Yiyi quickly entered Amber's body. Amber leapt over and was taken into the spirit beast sack by Lu Ye.

He got up and opened the door, and as expected, Tong Shuyao was standing outside.

"Junior Brother Taibai, you finally deign to see me?" Tong Shuyao had a somewhat displeased look on her face.

Primarily because she had already come to find Lu Ye several times in the past two days, but every time Lu Ye didn't respond. Cultivators often have times of closed-door practice, and she didn't want to disturb excessively, always coming with anticipation and leaving disappointed.

Lu Ye didn't want to see her either, nor did he want any entanglements with her, but constantly avoiding her wasn't a solution.

Moreover, since he had infiltrated the enemy camp, he naturally couldn't stay behind closed doors all the time; he needed to go out, walk around, and look around to make the most of the visit.

"What's up?" Lu Ye asked, his expression calm.

"Can't I come to see you if there's nothing?" Tong Shuyao pouted, hands behind her back, leaning slightly forward with a playful posture.

Lu Ye's gaze uncontrollably moved downward, secretly worried if this girl might lose her balance and fall to the ground.

Aware of Lu Ye's gaze, Tong Shuyao's face flushed slightly, she immediately stood upright, puffed out her chest, and grabbed Lu Ye's arm saying, "Come on, I'll take you to see some fun."

She didn't care whether Lu Ye agreed or not, and directly soared into the sky.

Lu Ye had no choice but to follow her reluctantly.

Flying along the way, there were many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators departing from the Dark Moon Forest Pass, all heading in the same direction, making it extremely lively.

Even cultivators who knew Tong Shuyao came to strike up conversations, but were mercilessly dismissed by Tong Shuyao.

Lu Ye immediately sensed numerous displeased glances wandering around him.

This reminded him of the previous warning from a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator, advising him to stay away from Tong Shuyao, otherwise he'd meet a bad end. Yet, that cultivator ended up dying reluctantly.

The destination seemed not close; they flew for quite a while without reaching there.

Lu Ye didn't ask too much, just looked around with an extremely curious expression, unsure what he was supposed to observe, but knowing it never hurt to take a look.

Tong Shuyao didn't make unnecessary conversation, and Lu Ye responded casually.

This made Tong Shuyao somewhat helpless, but she vaguely sensed a matter, which was that the Junior Brother Taibai beside her seemed inherently cold and not targeting her personally.

With this thought, she felt slightly better.

Finally, after flying about 30 miles, they arrived at a bustling place.

Lu Ye looked far ahead, seeing two figures engaging in continuous combat on an open field, spirit force surging, the fight extremely fierce. Surrounding the battlefield, near the Dark Moon Forest Pass, there were numerous cultivators gathered both in the sky and on the ground.

On the other side, there were also many cultivators gathered.

The two factions faced each other across the empty battlefield, in a standoff like water and fire mutually incompatible.

Lu Ye watched without understanding, unaware of what was happening.

As Tong Shuyao led him into the crowd and found a spot to stand, she watched the battle from above.

The two currently fighting were both combat cultivators, one using a saber, the other a spear, their cultivation at the Level 3-4 of the True Lake.

The disputes between combat cultivators were the most perilous, every move lethal, every stance breathtaking.

They were also the most exciting to watch.

These two were undoubtedly cultivators from the opposing factions, otherwise they wouldn't be fighting so intensely. But Lu Ye momentarily couldn't tell which was from the Haotian Alliance and which was from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

However, he focused more attention on the saber-wielding cultivator since he also wielded a saber.

Although his saber skills probably already far surpassed those of cultivators of the same realm, the saying "know yourself, know your enemy" applies here; Lu Ye would not become complacent because of his various opportunities.

As he watched, Lu Ye couldn't help but feel a bit puzzled.

For some reason, the saber-wielding cultivator seemed vaguely familiar to him, as if he had seen him somewhere before.

But upon thinking back, he was certain he had never met this person.

It was a rather strange feeling.

Upon closer look, he noticed another peculiar thing.

The saber skills route used by this saber-wielding combat cultivator gave him a very strong sense of déjà vu.

While observing, Tong Shuyao began explaining the current situation to him from the side: "Thousands of years of confrontation between the two factions have led to endless disputes. Bingzhou is divided into two, with the two factions occupying half each. At the front line, multiple mountain passes face off against each other. Some passes have intense battles, while others are relatively peaceful. Our side, at the Dark Moon Forest Pass, is one of the more peaceful passes."

"Even if it's peaceful, some conflicts are inevitable. Large-scale battles don't occur often, but small-scale private skirmishes like the one before us happen almost daily. Junior Brother Taibai, you're new to the Nine Provinces and the provincial guard, you probably haven't earned battle merits yet. Battle merit is

extremely important to every cultivator. Those passes with frequent battles naturally offer opportunities to earn battle merit, but for us at Dark Moon Forest Pass and across at Jinglan Lake Pass, it's harder to earn merit because there's no enemy to kill during regular times."

"Hence, the cultivators at the Divine Sea Realm on both sides came up with an idea, which is the fights you see before you. Each victory rewards the winning cultivator with merit from the pass. I don't know the rewards at Jinglan Lake Pass, but on our side at Dark Moon Forest Pass, each victory grants 1,000 battle merits, and if you kill the opponent, you'll earn 2,000 merits."

Lu Ye nodded slightly, understanding the scene before him.

This was the excitement Tong Shuyao had referred to, the spectacle she brought him to witness.

In fact, it's not unique to Dark Moon Forest Pass and Jinglan Lake Pass; similar situations occur at many mountain passes on the frontlines of the two factions.

In the absence of a full-blown war, cultivators seeking battle merits can only depend on monthly stipends, but if their military rank isn't high, monthly stipends are limited.

Currently, Lu Ye holds the rank of Capital Commandant and enjoys Nian Yuexian's favor, holding dual roles with a monthly stipend of 60,000 battle merits. Other cultivators relying solely on monthly stipends wouldn't have enough merits to sustain their cultivation needs.

Chapter 937 3rd Senior Brother!

This gave rise to such a unique method of obtaining battle merit, which is also the tacitly agreed result by the strong cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm on both sides.

The victor is rewarded with a certain share of battle merit; the strong cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm still have this authority.

Back when Lu Ye first arrived and was constantly being troubled by Nian Yuexian, every time he completed a task, Nian Yuexian would reward him with battle merit. Since Nian Yuexian could act in that manner, it's only natural for the Divine Sea Realm cultivators here to do so as well, and even more legitimately.

For this, there would be no punishment from Heaven's Augury.

Moreover, cultivators have never been a lawful and obedient group; they are most eager for competition and combat. With such an occasion, it is a great opportunity for cultivators to release their energy, and it further allows them to improve their combat skills. It can be said to serve multiple purposes.

"It seems I haven't seen any cultivators above True Lake Level 8!" Lu Ye spoke.

Tong Shuyao smiled and said, "Junior Brother's observational skills are sharp; indeed, there aren't any cultivators above True Lake Level 8 involved in this matter, and even those at Level 7 are few. Firstly, their military rank is high enough, and their monthly salary is considerable, so they don't care for such petty gains. Secondly, they are considered quasi-Divine Sea cultivators, and it's unwise to incur any casualties over such a duel. Neither side wants to see such occurrences at the mountain pass."

Lu Ye nodded slightly and then seemingly asked inadvertently, "Between the two combatants, which one is from our side?"

"That combat cultivator using a spear, I believe his name is Mu Tianxing, and his strength is quite decent."

Mu Tianxing is at True Lake Level 4, and his strength is indeed impressive.

"What's the name of that Haotian Alliance person? I see this person is only at Level 3, a level lower than Mu Tianxing, yet able to fight on equal terms. It's evident his foundation is stronger."

"Indeed," Tong Shuyao nodded in agreement, "He probably hails from some big sect."

Suddenly, someone nearby spoke, "Senior Sister Tong has keen eyes; this person hails from Green Emperor City, and Green Emperor City is a 2nd grade sect on the Haotian Alliance side, indeed a big sect."

Typically, both parties in a duel introduce themselves before fighting, so the person speaking knows the background of the saber-wielding combat cultivator since he arrived earlier.

Lu Ye's expression slightly changed, and he asked, "What is his name?"

The cultivator didn't bother to respond to Lu Ye, acting as if he didn't hear him.

Tong Shuyao was instantly displeased, "Junior Brother Taibai asked you a question; are your ears deaf?"

With her speaking, the cultivator could only reluctantly reply, "Seems like he's called Xiao Xinghe!"

Xiao Xinghe!

Lu Ye's expression slightly shifted.

He finally understood why he felt a sense of familiarity upon seeing this person and why the path of his saber skills seemed so eerily familiar.

Because Xiao Xinghe from Green Emperor City is the third senior brother!

Back when the Righteous Blood Sect was in decline, many sect members perished, and those who survived were dispersed, leaving only the sect master with a few young children.

At that time, Shui Yuan was the oldest and most understanding, so she remained in the Righteous Blood Sect, living with the sect master, the old and the young holding a desolate fort on Mount Ao.

The third senior brother, Xiao Xinghe, was sent to the Alliance Sect, Green Emperor City.

The fourth senior brother, Li Baxian, was taken in by the widow of their eldest senior brother for upbringing.

Among this generation of Righteous Blood Sect disciples, Lu Ye interacted most with Shui Yuan, followed by Li Baxian, because back then, Li Baxian's spiritual orifice was broken, and he lingered in the Spirit Stream battlefield for over a decade, giving Lu Ye the chance to interact with him.

But Lu Ye had never met the third senior brother, Xiao Xinghe, until now.

Instead, he had seen the third senior brother's son, Xiao Changhe.

The feeling of familiarity arose because father and son bore some resemblance to each other, and the saber techniques seemed familiar because the third senior brother had compiled his insights on saber skills into a jade slip and had Xiao Changhe pass it on to Lu Ye.

One could say that the foundation of Lu Ye's early saber skills bears traces of the third senior brother.

When Lu Ye was on the Cloud River battlefield, he did consider searching for the third senior brother, but sadly, there was no way to contact him, leaving him feeling helpless.

He did not expect that today he would actually meet this previously unmet third senior brother here.

And he's already at True Lake Level 3 cultivation!

This generation of Righteous Blood Sect disciples all have exceptionally high talent; Shui Yuan need not be mentioned, as she is already in the Divine Sea Realm.

Li Baxian, though he lingered in the Spirit Stream battlefield for over a decade, has made rapid progress, laying a solid foundation.

At first, Lu Ye thought that his third senior brother's talent wasn't great. After all, back when Lu Ye went to Green Emperor City's sect location from the Spirit Stream battlefield, the third senior brother seemed to have just entered the Cloud River battlefield.

His son, Xiao Changhe, already had some cultivation back then.

It wasn't until a casual chat with Shui Yuan later that he learned that the third senior brother's aptitude was no weaker than Li Baxian's, despite his rugged appearance, he was meticulous and emotionally rich, and in his youth, he fell in love with an ordinary woman, promising to be with her for life, which delayed his own cultivation, even leading to his expulsion from Green Emperor City.

Unfortunately, that third sister-in-law had innate deficiencies, and after giving birth to Xiao Changhe, she was plagued by illness. Despite years of careful care from the third senior brother, she eventually passed away.

Only after settling the affairs of the third sister-in-law did the third senior brother return to Green Emperor City with Xiao Changhe, kneeling in front of his sect for seven days and nights until he was readmitted.

At that time, Lu Ye felt a deep sense of regret when he heard about these matters.

Shui Yuan had also personally gone to treat Third Sister-in-law, but her illness was not acquired later, but due to innate deficiency. If she hadn't given birth, she might have lived a few more years. However, giving birth to Xiao Changhe drained her vital energy too much, even Shui Yuan was somewhat helpless.

Hearing about it is one thing, seeing it with your own eyes is another.

Not until this moment did Lu Ye finally confirm that his Third Senior Brother's talent, compared to his Fourth Senior Brother, was indeed not weaker at all. This could be seen from the speed of his cultivation progress.

With emotions surging inside, Lu Ye remained expressionless on the surface.

Even though he was meeting this Third Senior Brother for the first time, Lu Ye still felt an inexplicable sense of intimacy.

Not to mention, when he initially learned that he used a saber, Third Senior Brother immediately organized his many years of saber skills insights and entrusted them to his son to pass on.

Lu Ye's Repeated Slashing and Single Flash both fundamentally came from Third Senior Brother's saber skills insights.

At this moment, the two were locked in fierce combat, spirit force surging, with saber lights and spear shadows interweaving.

Lu Ye observed for a moment and noticed something, which was that Third Senior Brother had definitely fought more than just this battle because he had injuries that were not caused by the spear.

Evidently, he had fought one or even several battles before, but judging from the results, he was able to continue standing here, suggesting he must have won.

Yet, even so, he was still able to fight an opponent higher than himself by one minor realm to a standstill, even gaining a slight upper hand.

If things continued like this, it likely wouldn't be difficult to win this match.

The cultivators on the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's side also noticed this and appeared solemn.

Losing the battle and letting the enemy gain battle merit was secondary, but losing face in front of so many spectators was real. Since no large-scale battles were occurring here, the soldiers cared greatly about the outcomes of such duels.

Mu Tianxing also realized the situation was unfavorable and suddenly adopted a fighting style as if staking it all with life and death, with the spear movements wild like a dragon or serpent.

Seeing this, Xiao Xinghe changed his previously unstoppable saber momentum to a more steady and strategic approach, making Lu Ye nod silently in approval, realizing it was the correct way to respond.

Mu Tianxing became more impatient, his spirit force surging around him, as he thrust his spear fiercely.

Xiao Xinghe contingently retreated, avoiding the spear but nearly bumped into the Haotian Alliance cultivators watching behind him.

Under normal circumstances, in such a scenario, the spectators would naturally dodge early to allow the combatants to engage freely.

However, for some reason, those Haotian Alliance cultivators remained unmoved, with one even intentionally or unintentionally stepping aside, allowing Xiao Xinghe to bump into him.

Instantly, he raised his hand and slapped Xiao Xinghe on the shoulder, reprimanding, "Be careful!"

Xiao Xinghe hadn't expected his own people to trip him up at such a critical moment. Though the slap seemed light, it caused a sudden ripple in his spirit force.

Seeing this, Mu Tianxing's eyes gleamed, and he thrust his spear out, aiming directly at Xiao Xinghe's heart.

This thrust would determine life or death!

Lu Ye raised his hand to his waist to steady his long sword, but before he could act, he saw Xiao Xinghe shift, the spear piercing through his shoulder as he swung out a saber in return.

Blood spurted out, and a head flew off.

The headless body fell from mid-air.

Gasping heavily, Xiao Xinghe slowly turned around, his eyes cold, staring at the Haotian Alliance cultivator who had just slapped him, saying nothing, but with killing intent in his eyes.

The Haotian Alliance cultivator had a face like a jade crown; he was handsome and dressed in luxurious attire, obviously of uncommon origin. Despite Xiao Xinghe's glare, his expression remained indifferent, slightly activating spirit force to shield himself, "What do you want to do? You better think clearly!"

The cultivation emanating from him was of True Lake Level 7. Among those present, only Tong Shuyao could compare.

"What's the situation over there?" Lu Ye slightly narrowed his eyes and asked.

What had just happened was not easily noticed, but everyone present was a True Lake Realm cultivator, so who hadn't seen it clearly? Many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators watched with confusion, not understanding why it seemed like some internal strife on the Haotian Alliance side, yet they were happy to see it.

However, the fact that their combatant was killed by Xiao Xinghe in one strike was somewhat embarrassing.

Under normal circumstances, these duels wouldn't result in deaths because the strengths of both sides were not vastly different. Once they realized they couldn't win, they would concede.

Mu Tianxing had been too careless earlier, thinking he had succeeded and letting down his guard, consequently being killed by Xiao Xinghe.

As a result, not only could Xiao Xinghe harvest more battle merit, but he could also take Mu Tianxing's storage sack.

"I don't know, I don't come here often," Tong Shuyao shook her head, then turned to the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator who had just spoken, "What's going on with them?"

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator replied, "That Xiao Xinghe doesn't seem to be well-received there, maybe he offended someone."

"Who did he offend?" Lu Ye asked.

"That I don't know. But lately, Xiao Xinghe often shows up to fight, seeming very desperate for battle merit."

Chapter 938 Meeting Senior Brother

The situation in the arena was delicate.

Normally, a victory for our cultivators would undoubtedly be uplifting and would elicit cheers.

However, after the strange event that just transpired, even though Xiao Xinghe had defeated a strong foe, he didn't receive much cheering. Instead, he found himself subtly encircled by a few people led by that True Lake Level 7 cultivator.

Some Haotian Alliance cultivators who understood the situation saw this scene and sighed, shaking their heads. There were some who wanted to stand up for justice but were held back.

Xiao Xinghe's background from the Righteous Blood Sect caused some issues at the Sky Gate Checkpoint. Although some people couldn't openly act against him, there were some vile and despicable means behind the scenes that were looked down upon.

After a prolonged eye contact, Xiao Xinghe spoke faintly, "There won't be a next time!"

The True Lake Level 7 cultivator snorted lightly and said almost inaudibly to others, "And if there is... what then?"

"You can try it!" Xiao Xinghe turned his head and spat out a mouthful of blood water, raised his hand to pull out the lance lodged in his shoulder, casually tossed it aside, turned around, and faced the grand lineup of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

"Who's next to die?"

As soon as the words fell, someone unable to hold back charged out and immediately engaged in a brawl with Xiao Xinghe.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator who charged out was a magic cultivator but only had True Lake Level 3 cultivation. He was even less skilled than the previous one, probably thinking to take advantage of Xiao Xinghe's injury, only for Xiao Xinghe's pent-up frustration to enhance his saber skills, which became increasingly ferocious. He endured several magic and spell attacks, charged forward, and sliced down with his saber, breaking the cultivator's protective spirit force, sending him flying away.

The magic cultivator was fortunate to survive, but with such heavy injuries, he would likely need some time to recover.

The thunderous cheering finally erupted, rising one after another.

After all, only a small number of people were deliberately targeting Xiao Xinghe. Most people shared a common enemy with him, and seeing his formidable power naturally inspired them greatly.

Xiao Xinghe, still filled with lingering anger, was unwilling to leave the stage. He rested his long saber on his shoulder, presenting an unyielding stance, with sharp eyes fixed ahead: "Bring on another one!"

Many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were furious. Although the tradition of combat here had endured for many years and numerous powerful cultivators had appeared, such arrogance was indeed rare.

Generally, cultivators who fought continuously for three rounds would take a rest, first to give others a chance and secondly because continuous fighting depleted energy and made them weary.

However, today, Xiao Xinghe had fought five rounds, with five Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators there wounded and one dead. If they continued losing, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's reputation would be thoroughly tarnished.

So, as Xiao Xinghe's words fell, many True Lake Level 5 and Level 6 cultivators began to move.

At this moment, they couldn't care much about being accused of bullying with superior numbers; winning this round was crucial, and preferably killing Xiao Xinghe publicly to restore their dignity.

However, before these True Lake Level 5 and Level 6 cultivators could charge out, a new white-robed figure appeared on the field.

The person wielded a longsword and had a gourd hanging at the waist, with a cultivation only at True Lake Level 3, yet his movements were faster than anyone else's.

It could be said that almost simultaneously with Xiao Xinghe's words, he rushed up impatiently, with a pose resembling someone eager to steal glory, causing everyone from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge to frown deeply.

"Junior Brother Taibai..." Tong Shuyao was also a bit dumbfounded, not expecting Lu Ye to enter the field.

She had brought Lu Ye here just to watch the spectacle, never intending for him to engage in a fight, but now that Lu Ye had rushed up, it was impossible to call him back.

Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had already lost face; recalling him now would only add to the disgrace.

Recalling Lu Ye's previous performances, Tong Shuyao felt reassured. Although Xiao Xinghe was strong, he was now injured and exhausted, and Junior Brother Taibai had even fought against Divine Sea Realm cultivators, so defeating him shouldn't be difficult.

This rare opportunity for fame and merit naturally shouldn't be missed.

Maybe feeling new and wanting to make an impression? Tong Shuyao thought to herself, assuming she understood Lu Ye's motives; otherwise, he wouldn't have rushed up so quickly.

Many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, although encountering Lu Ye for the first time and unaware of his origins, had seen the scene of Tong Shuyao bringing Lu Ye over and noticed them standing side by side in an seemingly intimate manner.

Therefore, even though they felt disgruntled, fearing that the boy would take advantage, they couldn't say much and chose to observe silently.

In the field, Xiao Xinghe couldn't help but take a few more glances at Lu Ye, not because of his handsome appearance, but because this attire reminded him of Li Baxian.

The fourth brother had this suave demeanor that often attracted women, hence... those who wielded swords were never any good.

"Dark Moon Forest Pass, independent cultivator Li Taibai, greetings Senior Brother!" Lu Ye clasped his hands respectfully.

The word 'Senior Brother' was heartfelt.

The reason for charging out now wasn't to steal glory but because he noticed his third senior brother was running out of steam, staying only because of unvented anger, continuing to fight Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Yet, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge wouldn't allow him to continue. If Lu Ye didn't rush out, the next opponents for the third senior brother would be True Lake Level 5 and Level 6 cultivators.

These opponents would certainly aim to kill, and with his current condition, the third senior brother might not hold off. If he conceded too slowly, the consequences would be unpredictable.

Lu Ye intervening assured a controlled measure.

Xiao Xinghe's body was filled with a fierce intent to kill that suddenly felt somewhat out of place. He originally intended to raise his saber and hack away immediately, but with Lu Ye being so courteous, he could only return the courtesy: "Jinglan Lake Pass, Green Emperor City, Xiao Xinghe!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he lunged at Lu Ye like a tiger descending the mountain, and the murderous intent he had just restrained became even more fervent.

He knew his own condition well. After a series of great battles, his energy was greatly depleted, and coupled with numerous injuries, he could only fight this one last battle. Although this guy named Li Taibai in front of him seemed like an easygoing and courteous person, given their opposing alliances, he would not show mercy.

If he wanted to win this battle, a swift victory was necessary.

The knife skills of his third senior brother were somewhat similar to Lu Ye's style, both being fierce and aggressive. Once the saber momentum formed, there was no stopping it, even if facing a thousand foes.

Lu Ye was very familiar with such saber momentum.

As the sound of a sword's cry arose, Lu Ye had already wielded the supreme-grade spirit artifact longsword, opting not to use the flying sword technique, and instead softly thrust the longsword towards Xiao Xinghe.

Using softness to counter strength!

Reflecting on the origin of the Soaring Dragon World, Lu Ye had witnessed different styles and techniques of various sword cultivators throughout different periods in Soaring Dragon World. His Sword Dao cultivation was even stronger than his saber skills; he simply did not have the opportunity to display it usually.

Now, as soon as he made a move, it made the eyes of many sword cultivators in the field light up.

Sword cultivators were not only skilled in using flying swords; such hand-to-hand combat was also the foundation of a sword cultivator.

Many sword cultivators noticed this strikingly handsome fellow, whose entire swordsmanship was remarkably accomplished.

Xiao Xinghe felt extremely uncomfortable because his normally invincible saber momentum, once unleashed, seemed to sink into a mire, and he couldn't fully exert his strength.

He felt something incredible, which was that this guy named Li Taibai in front of him seemed very familiar with his moves, and every time there was any change in his saber momentum, the opponent could respond to it immediately.

First, pump oneself up, but then exhaust and wane...

After merely thirty breaths of confrontation, Xiao Xinghe's entire saber momentum came to a complete standstill.

Even more unbelievable for him was that the enemy in front seemed not to have used full strength.

"Senior Brother, please rest!" Lu Ye spoke gently, sending his longsword forward amidst Xiao Xinghe's fierce saber momentum, precisely piercing a flaw. As spirit force surged, Xiao Xinghe urgently retreated.

Once he regained his stance, he was already ten feet away from Lu Ye.

Lu Ye did not pursue, merely stood at his original spot, holding the sword with one hand: "Thank you for letting me win!"

The breeze blew, making his white clothes flutter.

Not only did it make Tong Shuyao's beautiful eyes sparkle, but many female cultivators from both camps could not take their eyes off him.

After a moment of silence, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators erupted into thunderous cheers, as if greatly avenging previous humiliations.

However, some were still slightly discontent because Lu Ye didn't strike harshly or pursue. The several opponents who fought against Xiao Xinghe, met with death or severe injuries, yet this Li Taibai did not even harm Xiao Xinghe in the slightest. Although he did ultimately defeat him, it wasn't quite satisfying.

Xiao Xinghe stood in place, somewhat puzzled as he looked at Lu Ye, because throughout the battle, he never sensed any killing intent from Lu Ye.

At first, when he saw Lu Ye rushing over eagerly, like everyone else, he assumed Lu Ye was looking for an easy win, intending to kill him swiftly.

But now, it seemed the opponent genuinely wanted to simply drive him back without any other intentions.

This person truly is... quite strange.

Unable to comprehend, after a brief moment of contemplation, Xiao Xinghe cupped his fists to Lu Ye and peacefully withdrew.

He made no stops, flying directly towards Jinglan Lake Pass, evidently not wanting to get involved in the upcoming excitement, but rather intending to return for healing.

Lu Ye watched him off.

A moment later, he withdrew his gaze, looking towards the Haotian Alliance's camp, and smiled slightly: "Next, please!"

Xiao Xinghe had just said these words; now Lu Ye echoed them back. The difference was that when Xiao Xinghe said it, murderous intent filled the air, whereas when Lu Ye said it, it was like a warm spring breeze, devoid of thunderous sound, yet brimming with strong confidence. Listening to it, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were incredibly stirred, shouting in unison: "Next, please!"

A silhouette flashed into the field...

A moment later, this person retreated with a solemn face, not forgetting to cup his fists in salute toward Lu Ye.

Although they all had Level 3 cultivation, the depth of their foundations and the strength of their techniques differed; this person lasted even shorter under Lu Ye's sword than Xiao Xinghe did.

This time, both the Haotian Alliance cultivators and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were somewhat astonished.

Chapter 939 Another One

In the eyes of both sects, Lu Ye defeating Xiao Xinghe was undoubtedly a stroke of fortune. Xiao Xinghe had fought in several consecutive battles, and it was uncertain how much strength he could exhibit against Lu Ye.

Yet the next challenger, who was in peak condition, was swiftly defeated, indicating that Lu Ye's foundation was exceptional and not typical of a True Lake Realm cultivator.

"Next!"

In the arena, Lu Ye still wore a gentle smile, like a spring breeze, yet these simple words made many Haotian Alliance cultivators feel disgraced.

Immediately, a True Lake Level 4 cultivator flashed onto the scene, not bothering with small talk, launched a fierce attack before even settling his stance, aiming to catch Lu Ye off guard.

Mere moments later, this True Lake Level 4 cultivator withdrew with embarrassment.

Because he also didn't last long against Lu Ye, although he came with murderous intent, Lu Ye treated him kindly. Only this grace made him feel ashamed. After being repelled by Lu Ye's single blow, he admitted defeat, gave his respects, and left without contention.

Three battles, three victories, all relaxed and stylish; the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge camp once again erupted in jubilant cheers.

Many Haotian Alliance cultivators' expressions grew solemn. Previously, Xiao Xinghe had won consecutively, injuring and killing his enemies, which was highly encouraging. Yet the tide had turned unexpectedly swiftly.

From the three battles, many began to perceive an implication that this cultivator named Li Taibai, although only of True Lake Level 3 cultivation, possessed an immensely profound foundation. Otherwise, it wouldn't make sense for him to win effortlessly against higher levels.

Level 3 wasn't a match, Level 4 wasn't a match, so they could only send a Level 5 to battle.

In such duel combat, generally, the cultivation difference between the combatants wouldn't be vast. After all, both sides had cultivators at various True Lake levels. If one side sent higher-level cultivators into battle, the other naturally had counters.

Except for rare circumstances, like the current one.

Even so, the Haotian Alliance strictly adhered to a tacit rule: the cultivators sent into battle would increase in cultivation level incrementally.

Level 4 was defeated, so naturally, the next was Level 5!

Still no match!

Though the duration persisted a bit longer.

Cultivators from both camps were dumbfounded; initially, they thought Lu Ye fighting Xiao Xinghe was just taking advantage, but observing the powerful foundation Lu Ye demonstrated, even if Xiao Xinghe had been in peak condition, he likely wouldn't have been a match; there's no need for cheap tricks.

Lu Ye came here to establish his fame!

The only comfort for the Haotian Alliance was that Li Taibai only defeated opponents and did not kill them, indicating a lack of excessive murderous intent.

Level 5 wasn't a match, so they could only send out Level 6.

The thunderous cheers from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge quieted; each person intently focused on the arena, anxious about whether Li Taibai could maintain his undefeated streak.

After all, being able to triumph and kill across cultivation levels was traditionally the exclusive domain of Nine Provinces major sect core disciples. To defeat a Level 5 as a True Lake Level 3 was exceptionally formidable. Although Lu Ye previously displayed ease, facing a Level 6, could he win? Even the people of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge lacked certainty.

If he lost, it would be understandable, but if he won... needless to say, after this battle, Li Taibai's name would undoubtedly resound throughout Dark Moon Forest Pass, and even the two Mountain Pass Chiefs might bestow rewards!

Ten Thousand Demons Ridge was tense; the Haotian Alliance cultivators were equally tense.

Although in the previous battles, Haotian Alliance's cultivators retreated unscathed, and Lu Ye had not killed anyone, defeat was defeat; if they couldn't win this battle... now that would be disgraceful.

"Let me try." As a voice was heard, a young man carrying a Sword Box on his back strode forward.

Sword Boxes are similar to supplies boxes; both can house and nurture Spiritual Artifacts. Supplies boxes nurture weapon control artifacts, while Sword Boxes nurture flying swords.

Li Baxian's wine gourd, strictly speaking, shares characteristics with Sword Boxes, although the wine gourd can not only house and nurture flying swords but also store wine.

Typically, only the purest sword cultivators would carry Sword Boxes.

So merely by observing this person's attire, Lu Ye knew he was a sword cultivator.

As he stepped forward, many Haotian Alliance cultivators couldn't help but breathe sighs of relief. They obviously placed great hope in him, believing he would surely defeat Li Taibai.

"Beixuan Sword Sect, Zhang Youlin!"

He cupped his fists and bowed lightly, his eyes slightly narrowed: "I perceive Fellow Daoist should also be a sword cultivator?"

"Correct." Lu Ye nodded.

"Then why hasn't Fellow Daoist used flying sword techniques before?"

Lu Ye vaguely understood: "This Fellow Daoist wishes to compete in flying swords with me?"

Zhang Youlin nodded: "Please enlighten me."

"Sure." Lu Ye grinned, and as his words landed, the longsword in his hand transformed into a stream of light, flying towards Zhang Youlin.

Zhang Youlin remained motionless, yet the sound of a sword resounded. The Sword Box on his back shivered slightly, and a sword light slashed out, meeting Lu Ye's flying sword.

With a clear clang, sparks burst forth as the two flying swords collided.

Soon after, constant clangs and clashes echoed. Each controlled a flying sword, engaging in persistent combat in the arena, akin to dragon shadows casting, leaving onlookers enraptured.

Cultivators from both camps were astonished.

Because what Lu Ye demonstrated was truly uncanny. With True Lake Level 3 cultivation, he could contend evenly in flying sword techniques against a Level 6 cultivator from the Beixuan Sword Sect.

"Be careful, Fellow Daoist!"

Unable to gain the upper hand, Zhang Youlin shouted in a low voice. The Sword Box behind him hummed once more, and several streams of light shot out, sweeping past the two flying swords clashing in mid-air, directly slashing towards Lu Ye.

Lu Ye remained calm as usual, channeling spirit force into the sword gourd at his waist, and several sharp Sword Qi released at his will, meeting the incoming flying swords and blocking them all.

"Hmm?" Zhang Youlin raised an eyebrow, realizing Lu Ye's strength, hesitated no longer. The Sword Box behind him hummed continuously, with streams of sword light shooting out like stars chasing the moon. In just a moment, more than a hundred flying swords nurtured in his Sword Box were all unleashed, clearly intending to use his full strength.

For every flying sword he launched, Lu Ye countered with an equal amount of Sword Qi. In an instant, the battlefield between the two was flooded with sword light, drowning their figures, making it impossible for the observing cultivators on both sides to clearly see the situation.

At a certain moment, the ocean of sword light split, retracting to the left and right, simultaneously transforming into two sword dragons.

Beneath the two sword dragons were the distant figures of Zhang Youlin and Lu Ye standing off against each other. When their gazes met, sparks seemed to flicker in the void.

The sword dragons roared, charging towards each other, quickly colliding.

Sword light wantonly surged, and flying swords clanged.

Suddenly, both sword dragons shattered, and piercing Sword Qi scattered in all directions, forcing the surrounding observers to temporarily step back.

Numerous sword lights converged towards Zhang Youlin's side. He wore a serious expression as he retracted over a hundred flying swords, forming a Sword Array before him for protection.

As soon as the Sword Array took shape, the myriad Sword Qi followed like shadows, pouring into the formation.

The sound of hissing was incessant.

When the dust settled, Zhang Youlin's Sword Array was broken, with blood even trickling from the corner of his mouth. He wasn't injured by the Sword Qi but suffered minor internal injuries due to the immense expenditure of energy.

Looking at Lu Ye again, his face was slightly pale, and he was panting heavily, evidently greatly fatigued.

The entire venue fell silent, with everyone staring at the scene in disbelief.

The hearts of the Haotian Alliance cultivators sank straight down.

After a long moment, a voice that they found hard to accept came from Zhang Youlin's mouth: "I... lost!"

"Roar!"

A beast-like roar erupted from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge camp, soon spreading continuously, venting the excitement and joy in their hearts.

A True Lake Level 3 defeated a Level 6 opponent, and not just an ordinary Level 6, but a strong sword cultivator from the Beixuan Sword Sect, someone capable of defeating enemies beyond his level.

Yet, such a person still lost to Li Taibai.

It was unbelievable, but it truly happened right before their eyes.

How could the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators not be exhilarated by such a scene?

The previous frustration and depression from Xiao Xinghe's successive victories were completely dispelled, and now they only felt elated and extremely satisfied.

It should be known that Xiao Xinghe's opponents in those battles had power levels similar to his own, at most just a level higher, but Li Taibai's opponents were each stronger than the last; now, having defeated even a Level 6, the resulting encouragement was even greater than what Xiao Xinghe achieved.

"Senior Brother Zhang..." someone cried out, unable to accept such a result.

They thought that with Zhang Youlin stepping in, defeating Li Taibai was a sure thing, but who knew Zhang Youlin couldn't even match him.

Then who can be his opponent?

Amidst one side rejoicing and the other worrying, Lu Ye took a deep breath, seemingly calming the churning blood Qi in his chest, lifting his sword slightly, and pointing towards a certain position in the Haotian Alliance camp, his face breaking into a smile once more: "Bring on another!"

The words struck like a bolt from the blue!

The cheers from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge came to an abrupt halt, and everyone looked at Lu Ye in disbelief.

The radiant-eyed Tong Shuyao suddenly snapped back to her senses and hastily called out, "Junior Brother Taibai, you've done enough, come back now."

Defeating a Level 6 should be sufficient, shouldn't it? Five battles and five victories; if this continues, there's no one left in the Haotian Alliance to fight him.

Additionally, Tong Shuyao could see that Lu Ye had expended a lot in the last battle, and if he encountered another strong opponent, he might not necessarily win.

It would be best to retreat bravely now, rather than continue to pursue ruthlessly.

Immediately, many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators began to persuade him, because they noticed that the direction Lu Ye's sword was pointing unmistakably indicated the sole Level 7 cultivator in the Haotian Alliance camp!

That person was the same individual who had previously had a spat with Xiao Xinghe.

Lu Ye, ignoring the many pleadings of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, acted as if he heard nothing.

His bold move this time was not merely to safeguard Xiao Xinghe; his goal had always been singular.

It was that fellow who had previously troubled Xiao Xinghe!

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side was too far away, and previously hadn't heard clearly what that person had said or fully understood what had transpired.

But Lu Ye had already developed Mental Consciousness. Under its perception, nothing from before had escaped his investigation.

Chapter 940 The Drawing of the Sword

Lu Ye clearly saw that when Xiao Xinghe retreated, the person deliberately blocked behind him.

He even more clearly heard the conversation between the two!

That person originally intended to kill with a borrowed knife! If it weren't for Xiao Xinghe's own strong capability and his sidestep at the critical moment, he might have been pierced through the heart by now.

Lu Ye naturally knew that the Haotian Alliance was not a monolithic entity. Where there are people, there are disputes. This is unavoidable and will not disappear because they are in the same camp.

Just as it is with the Haotian Alliance, it is the same with the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Previously, several True Lake Realm under Lin Yue's command were also attacked and killed entirely.

He himself encountered many dangers when he went to Haotian City to report back then.

But there are some things in a fight that can't be done too excessively.

To kill with a borrowed knife so blatantly, such a heart is condemnable!

Lu Ye didn't know what grudges or conflicts exist between Third Senior Brother and that person. If he hadn't witnessed it, that would be it, but since he saw it, he naturally wanted to stand up for Third Senior Brother.

Just as well, he, Li Taibai, was in the capacity of a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator, making it convenient to do this.

"You... want to challenge me?" That Level 7 cultivator looked at Lu Ye with some astonishment, not expecting that this Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator would be so audacious.

"Besides you, is there anyone else who can fight?" Lu Ye looked at him blandly.

Five battles and five victories, even Zhang Youlin from the Beixuan Sword Sect was defeated. On the Haotian Alliance side, the only one stronger than Zhang Youlin was the lone Level 7 cultivator.

All of Lu Ye's previous actions were paced to culminate here, the plan now clear as the hidden dagger emerges.

In this situation, that person could not refuse Lu Ye's challenge, otherwise, they wouldn't even be able to pass their own inner gate.

"Very well!" The cultivator's gaze suddenly turned cold and stern, anger surging in his heart, feeling subtly underestimated.

"Senior Brother Tan, teach him a lesson!" a cultivator accompanying that person spoke.

"I will naturally... teach him a good lesson." The Tan-named cultivator smirked coldly, slowly stepping forward.

"Junior Brother Taibai, you... how can you be so reckless!" Tong Shuyao was infuriated, never expecting Lu Ye to be so insatiable. Although he could defeat a Level 6, between the four realms of cultivators, each realm has its thresholds at four and seven. Once broken through, there's a significant boost in power.

Although the gap between Level 6 and Level 7 is just a small realm, the disparity in power is great.

This is also why few with cultivation above Level 7 participate in such combats. If it weren't for bringing Lu Ye over to watch the excitement, Tong Shuyao wouldn't have come here.

As for Level 8 and Level 9, they wouldn't appear in such scenarios.

So even if Lu Ye could defeat a Level 6 sword cultivator, he might not win against a Level 7, not to mention in the last fight, Lu Ye was clearly heavily depleted, and no one knows how much strength he can exert now.

Tong Shuyao wished she could go up now, knock Lu Ye out, and carry him away, but if she intervenes, it could very likely trigger a direct confrontation between the two factions' cultivators. By then, it wouldn't be as simple as one or two deaths, and who could bear the responsibility for such a drastic change?

Numerous Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators also looked towards Lu Ye nervously and worriedly...

Lu Ye didn't expect that he, the infamous Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer in the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge camp, could one day make them so concerned, while some in the Haotian Alliance couldn't wait to get rid of him.

Truly, some situations in the world are unpredictable...

But this doesn't diminish the resolve in his heart.

Today's situation is what he encountered, and there surely are many more he hasn't encountered. Third Senior Brother can dodge one calamity, but not necessarily more.

So to ensure Third Senior Brother's peace, there is only one way!

The Tan-named cultivator was already standing ten zhang in front of Lu Ye, a very dangerous distance for a True Lake Realm.

He was unafraid precisely because his cultivation was four Minor Stages higher than Lu Ye's. Even though Lu Ye performed remarkably moments ago, he still felt he could defeat Lu Ye.

Lu Ye still politely cupped his fists: "Li Taibai, independent cultivator, from Dark Moon Forest Pass!"

No matter what, it's necessary to understand where this guy comes from. A True Lake Level 7 cultivator absolutely cannot act that way unless someone is supporting him from behind, most likely his sect!

The Tan-named cultivator lightly smiled, wishing he could kill Lu Ye now but unwilling to lose etiquette under the watchful eyes, casually returned a gesture: "Tianyuan Sect, Tan Shu!"

Tianyuan Sect!

One of Bingzhou's Ten Great 1st grade sects.

Even before he joined a sect, a woman named Yu Xiaodie once told him about these in Evil Moon Valley.

One palace, two halls, three sects, four sects, referred to the Ten Great 1st grade sects of Bingzhou. The one palace is the Jade Cloud Palace, the two halls are Senluo Hall and Yuanhong Hall, and the three sects are the Righteousness Sect, Qingyu Sect, and Luosheng Sect, while the four sects are the Wuji Sect, Red Moon Sect, Beixuan Sword Sect, and Tianyuan Sect.

Among them, five are in the Haotian Alliance, five in the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, standing in opposition to each other.

Later Lu Ye came to know, this Tianyuan Sect was originally not a 1st grade, but only a 2nd grade. It ascended to 1st grade due to the decline and depression of the Righteous Blood Sect.

In other words, the Tianyuan Sect filled the vacancy left by the Righteous Blood Sect, so this sect is relatively weaker compared to other 1st grade, but much stronger than 2nd grade.

But regardless, the current Tianyuan Sect is recognized as a 1st grade sect by Heaven's Augury, with powerhouses aplenty within.

Thinking over and over, Lu Ye realized that from the beginning of his cultivation till now, he doesn't seem to have had much dealing with people from the Tianyuan Sect...

His heart instantly calmed.

"Enough with the nonsense, rest assured, I will give you a swift end!" Tan Shu, with his noble background and formidable foundation, had reason for his arrogance. Challenged by Lu Ye in front of all eyes, he came with a murderous intent.

Lu Ye smiled, "I just want to say one thing to you."

"What is it?" Tan Shu spoke while summoning his Spiritual Artifact. This guy was also a combat cultivator who used a blade. The gleam on his long knife revealed that it was of the magic-artifact class, and not just an ordinary one.

"There won't be a next time!" Lu Ye spoke lightly, in a voice only the two of them could hear.

"What?" Tan Shu clearly didn't understand, but the next moment, his expression changed dramatically. Accompanied by a humming sound, a wave of Sword Qi suddenly spread out, with the piercing Sword Intent and killing intent enveloping him as if they were tangible.

The enemy before him, who had seemed defeated earlier, suddenly became terrifyingly fierce. The aura emanating from him was unprecedentedly overwhelming.

Just a mere True Lake Level 3 cultivator, and yet in this instant, he induced a sense of dread in him.

Suddenly realizing, he understood that in the previous battles, the enemy had never used his full strength, not even conserving it in the last battle against Zhang Youlin.

Yet he went all out against him.

This guy... was targeting him!

What had he done to offend him? And what did he mean that there wouldn't be a next time?

As countless thoughts rushed through his mind, Tan Shu remained unperturbed.

After all, he was a True Lake Level 7 cultivator, with a background not inferior to Zhang Youlin's, and his strength was outstanding. So despite being caught off guard by Lu Ye, he remained calm and composed.

But just then, a sharp pain struck his mind.

Mental Consciousness!

Tan Shu's face changed drastically.

He had once faced the might of a Divine Sea Realm strong cultivator and had been caught in the aftermath of their Mental Consciousness attack, so he naturally knew what he was encountering now.

Was there a Divine Sea Realm strong cultivator hidden nearby?

His heart was filled with terror. Although he wore a treasure that protected his psyche, like Lu Ye's golden lock, it wasn't very effective and could only provide limited protection.

He thought a Divine Sea Realm strong cultivator was secretly attacking him, unaware that this Mental Consciousness attack came from Lu Ye.

This was the first time Lu Ye used Mental Consciousness to attack an enemy after developing his Divine Pool.

Although he was not afraid of a True Lake Level 7 cultivator, killing him wouldn't be easy. The aid of a Mental Consciousness attack changed everything.

So Lu Ye exerted all his efforts, almost draining all his Mental Consciousness in that instant.

Faced with such a sudden turn of events, Tan Shu's spirit force dispersed, his pupils dilated slightly, and the knife strike aimed at Lu Ye became weak and powerless.

Perhaps it was a last flash of brilliance, or the immense crisis stimulated him, but at the moment of imminent death, his mind became clearer than ever before.

He finally understood what Lu Ye's earlier words meant.

After he secretly attacked Xiao Xinghe, Xiao Xinghe had said to him, "There won't be a next time."

And he had replied, "If there is... so what?"

So before making his move, this person called Li Taibai told him, "There won't be a next time."

Was he standing up for Xiao Xinghe?

Why?

On what grounds?

He couldn't figure it out, as the boundless sword light surged forward, engulfing him completely.

When the sword light faded away, everyone stood in place, staring dumbfounded at the scene before them.

A blood-drenched, lifeless corpse fell from the sky.

Countless eyes followed the falling corpse, and as it hit the ground with a heavy thud, breaking into pieces, everyone felt their hearts likewise shattered.

Haotian Alliance's cultivators found it hard to believe.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were equally incredulous.

The sword light had surged fiercely, and none had seen how Lu Ye and Tan Shu exchanged blows, but in just a moment, life and death had been decided.

And the one who died was none other than Tan Shu, a True Lake Level 7 cultivator. In contrast, although Lu Ye's face was pale and his form swayed, he was unharmed!

Was he really this powerful?

When Tan Shu took the stage, no one thought Lu Ye could win. Even so, Lu Ye had already brought great glory to Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, and now, even greater glory had arrived.

Six battles, six victories, against enemies with progressively higher cultivation, including some from 1st grade sects.

The last battle had him slay a True Lake Level 7 cultivator, crossing four minor levels to kill his opponent.

Such a fantastical scene, one only heard of in legends, unfolded right before their eyes, making each person feel as if in a dream.

It was only when a cry of astonishment broke out that everyone's senses were yanked back to reality.

"Senior Brother Tan!" Several people who had been by Tan Shu's side earlier cried out with grief, springing forth, some charging angrily at Lu Ye, others rushing to Tan Shu's fallen corpse, causing chaos.