

Humanity 961

Chapter 961 If I want to kill you, it's just a matter of one strike

In the grand hall, Liew Yuemei laughed triumphantly. Xiao Xinghe was heartbroken, staring blankly at the spot where Lu Ye had disappeared, filled with self-blame and regret.

Now, in this situation, he was powerless to intervene in any way. Once the power of an exotic treasure like the combat arena was activated, not to mention a True Lake Level 3 like him, even someone from the Divine Sea Realm could not interfere.

Little Junior Brother and Chen Ke had entered the small space of the combat arena; the outcome was already predictable.

He suddenly looked up, glaring at Liew Yuemei with anger: "Lord Mountain Pass Chief, aren't you afraid of Heaven's Augury backlash for such despicable actions?"

Liew Yuemei stopped laughing and snorted coldly: "Heaven's Augury backlash? I haven't violated any of the terms on the Heaven's Augury Pact, so how could there be any backlash?"

Xiao Xinghe suddenly realized: "Did you tamper with the Heaven's Augury Pact?"

"So what if I did?" At this point, Liew Yuemei no longer needed to hide anything. Entering the combat arena, only one could leave alive, and she believed it would surely be Chen Ke who walked out.

Xiao Xinghe was filled with rage, reaching for his saber hilt, when Lin Yinxiu caught his arm. Xiao Xinghe turned to look, seeing Lin Yinxiu shaking her head slightly.

Xiao Xinghe was only at True Lake Level 3. If he really drew his saber against Liew Yuemei, it would be a breach of hierarchy, defying the higher rank. Liew Yuemei could kill him on the spot without issue.

Xiao Xinghe knew this well, but Liew Yuemei, being in the Divine Sea Realm, calculated against his Junior Brother who was only True Lake Level 3, which made his anger erupt like a volcano.

"Anything is possible before the result comes out," Lin Yinxiu advised softly.

Xiao Xinghe paused, nodding slightly, forcibly calming himself down.

Liew Yuemei sneered, looking at Xiao Xinghe with some disappointment. She had hoped he would attack her just now, so she would have a legitimate reason to kill him.

But that didn't matter much. Just thinking about how Lu Yiye would inevitably die at Chen Ke's hands cleared much of her pent-up frustration from the past days.

...

In the small space of the combat arena, two figures suddenly appeared, standing apart on either side.

Lu Ye's face still held the panic from earlier, but it quickly turned calm.

Chen Ke, who initially wanted to savor the sight, was surprised to see Lu Ye settle down so quickly: "You have a pretty good temperament. What a pity. Tell me, how do you want to die? I'll try my best to fulfill your wish."

Saying this, he summoned his spirit weapon, which turned out to be a spear.

Chen Ke was quite striking in appearance, and with the spear in hand, his aura was profound, exuding a majestic presence.

Lu Ye said nothing, drawing the Boulder Mountain Saber slowly from his waist, silently calculating that this battle couldn't be won too easily. He had to have a hard fight against Chen Ke. If he won too effortlessly, it would only make Liew Yuemei suspicious, leading to unnecessary trouble later. The best outcome would be a narrow victory, killing Chen Ke but appearing severely battered himself, so he couldn't use his Mental Consciousness or some ultimate moves...

It wasn't too difficult to handle this.

Lu Ye's silence made Chen Ke's face darken, and he snorted coldly: "In that case, don't blame me for showing no mercy."

With those words, his figure blurred as he rushed towards Lu Ye.

Lu Ye moved at the same instant.

The two figures charged at each other, colliding in a flash, saber slashing down, spear thrusting out.

With a clang, spirit force surged, and a visible shockwave spread outward from their clash.

Chen Ke's expression turned slightly astonished at that moment because the imagined scene of his opponent collapsing instantly did not occur. The slash from Lu Ye was in no way inferior to his own in both speed and power, resulting in an evenly matched exchange.

This guy... is this strong?

In that instant, Chen Ke secretly rejoiced that Liew Yuemei hadn't sent Qi Wu to fight. Based on what he sensed from this brief clash, Qi Wu might not have been a match for his opponent.

No wonder he dared to enter the combat arena actively; he really had something to rely on.

Clang clang clang...

Chen Ke's mind was racing with thoughts, but his hands didn't stop, as his spear engaged and parried continuously with Lu Ye.

Yet the more they fought, the more shocked he became...

He hadn't used his full strength with the first spear strike, because he thought there was no need to go all out against an opponent whose cultivation was lower by four small levels.

Each subsequent spear attack was stronger than the last, and after six or seven strikes, he was holding nothing back, yet Lu Ye still countered flawlessly.

This made it all feel absurd to him.

Unbelievable, yet undeniable, Chen Ke shouted in anger, frantically unleashing spirit force, intensifying his ferocious assault.

At the clang of a weapon clash, the moment saber met spear, Chen Ke felt a numbness in his palm, causing his spear to lift involuntarily, almost flying out of his hand. Shocked, he gripped tightly, but this left him vulnerable.

A deadly killing intent rushed towards him, causing Chen Ke's pupils to contract because, at that instant, Lu Ye's saber thrust straight at his heart.

In the life-and-death crisis, Chen Ke demonstrated the profound foundation of a sect disciple. Facing such a slash, he didn't lose his composure, merely shifting slightly to the side while his spear thrust out in a life-for-life exchange.

He was fierce, and Lu Ye was no less so.

A hissing sound was heard as both sustained injuries, blood splattering.

Neither retreated, continuing to fight at close quarters.

The battle reached a fever pitch in an extremely short time. Both fought with only attack in mind, barely dodging even when faced with deadly threats.

As such, the fight appeared extremely brutal. In no time, both Lu Ye and Chen Ke were drenched in blood, as if cast from crimson.

With the accumulation of injuries and the prolonged effort, Chen Ke's sharp momentum showed signs of waning. In contrast, Lu Ye remained as steady as ever, his aura unwavering.

In yet another life-for-life struggle, Chen Ke dared not continue, defiantly taking a slash from Lu Ye to swiftly retreat, quickly distancing himself from Lu Ye.

Looking up, he saw Lu Ye standing calmly in his original spot, with no intention of pursuit, his breathing steady. Although he appeared somewhat disheveled, Chen Ke knew his injuries were not severe.

Moreover, throughout the battle, Lu Ye's every action gave Chen Ke a strange feeling.

He suddenly realized: "Were you playing with me?"

A chilling realization surged through his mind. This adversary before him... his strength actually surpassed his own, which is why he was able to control the battle's rhythm from beginning to end.

He could hardly believe the disparity in power despite being both at Level 4 cultivation seemingly meant nothing.

What kind of monster was he facing?

Dare not to delay, he hurriedly took out an elixir pill from his storage sack, swallowed it whole, and urged his spirit force to refine it.

At this moment, taking an elixir pill was naturally not for healing but to squeeze out his own potential. He already sensed that if the fight continued this way, his death was inevitable, so even though the elixir pill was precious and had severe aftereffects, he ignored it.

Once the combat arena is activated, only one can walk out alive. During this time, no one can interfere. To survive, he must do everything to kill the enemy before him.

Lu Ye just watched him indifferently, with no intention of interruption, which only increased Chen Ke's anxiety.

After three breaths, the spirit light around Chen Ke's body suddenly became much denser, and his spirit force almost boiled, with his aura soaring as a result.

Feeling the surging power within, Chen Ke's heart calmed slightly.

"Do you know..." Lu Ye suddenly spoke, his Boulder Mountain Saber twirling into a knife stance, his aura also becoming increasingly condensed.

Yet Chen Ke felt as though facing a formidable enemy. Under Lu Ye's aura influence, an irresistible illusion arose within him.

He knew this wasn't the best time to strike, but he couldn't suppress the fear in his heart.

Knowing that dragging on longer would rob him of the courage to strike, he immediately lunged forward, channeling all his power into the long spear in hand, nearly becoming one with it and turning into a rainbow light.

Enhanced by the elixir pill he had just swallowed, this was undoubtedly his strongest strike so far.

He didn't know if it could kill his opponent, but he knew that if this strike failed, it would be him who died.

In the blink of an eye, he was close at hand.

"If I wanted to kill you..."

Lu Ye thrust his long saber, and in that instant, Chen Ke's pupils shrank suddenly, inexplicably seeing a celestial space rise behind Lu Ye, dotted with Myriad Stars.

The stars fell, their overwhelming light engulfing him.

Each starlight was a glimmer of the saber...

An inexplicable force swept through his mind, causing a sudden brain-splitting pain, dispersing his spirit force, and rendering his all-out spear thrust powerless.

The two figures passed by each other, Lu Ye stood firm, lightly flicked his Boulder Mountain Saber, and sheathed it.

"It's just a matter of one slash!"

Several feet behind, Chen Ke remained in his spear-thrusting posture, as if immobilized by a curse, frozen in place.

His face was pale as paper, his expression twisted and pained, with his entire body trembling slightly.

As Lu Ye's words fell, countless fine blood columns suddenly burst from Chen Ke, especially violently from his chest.

"Mental Consciousness..." Chen Ke murmured, his long spear fell to the ground, and he collapsed forward with a heavy thud.

As Chen Ke's aura vanished, the small space of the combat arena swiftly became illusory.

In the grand hall, Xiao Xinghe waited anxiously.

Suddenly, the Void twisted, vaguely revealing a silhouette in the place where the combat arena disappeared.

Several pairs of eyes swiftly looked over.

Xiao Xinghe's eyes turned bloodshot, fearing he would see a scene he didn't want to, while Liew Yuemei's expression was one of joy tinged with a hint of madness, ready to witness a favorable turn of events.

However, soon her joyous expression turned into one of shock because it seemed that the emerging silhouette wasn't Chen Ke's but Lu Yiye's.

In the blink of an eye, the blurry silhouette solidified into Lu Ye, covered in blood, appearing in the grand hall, breathing lightly. He looked toward the worried and shocked Xiao Xinghe, revealing a smile: "I won."

Crack...

The table in front of Liew Yuemei shattered into pieces.

Chapter 962 Prevent Problems Before They Arise

In the grand hall, Lu Ye returned bloodied, Xiao Xinghe breathed a sigh of relief, and the always seated Liew Yuemei suddenly stood up with her hand on the desk, causing it to split into pieces as spirit force surged.

Qi Wu, who stayed behind, had his eye twitch violently, staring at the blood-soaked Lu Ye, unable to believe his eyes, feeling a sense of fear.

Originally, he didn't pay much attention to Lu Ye, as the gap in their cultivation was clear. Typically, fighting across realms meant crossing one or two minor levels. He was three levels above Lu Ye, and he himself was capable of fighting across levels.

Thus, he was utterly confident that he could defeat Lu Ye, even kill him.

He was somewhat dissatisfied with Liew Yuemei intervening at the crucial moment, replacing him with Chen Ke for the fight to the death with Lu Yiye, feeling the Lord Mountain Pass Chief underestimated him.

But the result...

The combat ended, Lu Yiye returned, Chen Ke was nowhere to be seen.

The result was obvious; Chen Ke was dead!

How did he do it?

The combat arena formed its own small space, unaffected by external forces, no one knew what actually happened inside, but the result was evident, sending chills down everyone's spine.

This Lu Yiye could kill Chen Ke, naturally he could kill him as well, since Chen Ke's strength was considerably higher.

Did he inadvertently escape with his life? Qi Wu pondered.

Meanwhile, upon seeing Lu Ye return, Lin Yinxiu showed no surprise, instead appearing as though this was expected.

In her childhood, she had heard many tales about Feng Wujiang from her mother, including instances of hanging by a thread yet achieving victory, and even slaying enemies deemed invincible. In her mother's stories, no matter how inexplicable things seemed, they became logical when happening with Feng Wujiang.

Her mother worshipped Feng Wujiang, lamenting she couldn't serve under him.

Her mother passed early, but under continuous influence, Lin Yinxiu was deeply affected.

This was why she insisted on joining the Justice Department, even pressuring Qian Wudang to arrange for her to team with Lu Ye.

From Lu Ye, she saw the shadow of Feng Wujiang.

Feng Wujiang was long dead; now there was only Lu Yiye. Naturally, she didn't want herself to grow old with past memories like her mother, full of regret.

Previously, when Lu Ye took out the combat arena, she was indeed a bit worried, even preparing to notify Qian Wudang about the situation here.

But she thought, if Lu Ye was truly a second Feng Wujiang, surely he would have fortune and means to overcome danger in such dire circumstances.

The outcome was as expected, the seemingly incredible events unfolded, invigorating her, confirming her judgment was correct.

"Impossible!" Liew Yuemei's expression was twisted and terrifying, looking at the suddenly appearing Lu Ye as if seeing Spectral Bewitchment.

How could he possibly win!

How could Chen Ke possibly lose!

Lu Yiye seemed heavily injured, suffered greatly, but how could he leave the combat arena alive?

She had already evaluated Lu Ye as highly as possible, seeing through his previous intentions, believing Qi Wu likely wasn't a match for Lu Ye, which was why he was taken away at the last moment and Chen Ke replaced, the result... was unbelievably so.

This youth... indeed had the ability to directly kill someone at True Lake Level 7?

Suddenly, Liew Yuemei felt a shock of fear, this was beyond her comprehension, revealing Lu Ye's terrifying potential.

Today he was at True Lake Level 3, capable of slaying at True Lake Level 7, what if one day he reached Divine Sea Level 3? Could he also slay someone at Divine Sea Level 7?

Having grudges with each other already, they've thoroughly offended each other today. Would he spare her when rising in ambitions one day?

In an instant, Liew Yuemei's mind spun through numerous thoughts, her aura turned dangerous.

Lu Ye suddenly felt a chill, his skin pricked painfully as if pierced by needles. Liew Yuemei's almost unmasked killing intent was clear to him. Instantly, he shouted: "Lord Pass Chief Liew, according to the pact in the Heaven's Augury, I'm taking Xiao Xinghe away. From now on, he belongs to the Justice Department!"

Justice Department...

Indeed, the Righteous Blood Sect youth belonged to the Justice Department. To kill him openly here would lead to irreparable consequences.

She could use her authority to openly and secretly suppress Xiao Xinghe, send him on dangerous missions, wishing for his early demise, but she couldn't really do it herself.

Especially at this Jinglan Lake Pass, her domain, if anything happened to someone from the Justice Department, Qian Wudang wouldn't let it slide.

Fixing her stare deeply at Lu Ye, Liew Yuemei finally contained her shock and resentment, coldly replied: "Naturally!"

"In such case, I take my leave!" Lu Ye clasped his hands respectfully toward Liew Yuemei, slowly backing away.

Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxiu closely followed beside him.

Liew Yuemei's gaze didn't waver in the slightest, staring straight at him like a sinister specter.

Until outside the grand hall, Lu Ye suddenly turned around, summoned his spirit ark, stepped onto it, and soared skyward, Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxiu each maneuvered their own weapons, three silhouettes burst out from Jinglan Lake Pass.

Nobody paid attention. Lately, battles at Jinglan Lake Pass have been frequent, and many cultivators come and go. Who would care about the three of them?

After leaving Jinglan Lake Pass, Lu Ye immediately turned his head and instructed Lin Yinxiu, "Report to Lord Department Chief, saying that this team leader has recruited Xiao Xinghe from Green Emperor City at Jinglan Lake Pass and will return immediately!"

Lin Yinxiu gave him a meaningful glance but obediently nodded, "Yes!"

She didn't use a guard token for transmission but instead raised her hand to make some gestures in the battlefield marking, sending out a message.

Xiao Xinghe felt a bit uneasy, "Junior Brother, we shouldn't leave Jinglan Lake Pass so quickly. At least wait until your injuries heal."

Lu Ye replied, "My injuries are not serious... Have you also noticed, Senior Brother?"

Xiao Xinghe said, "That woman may not be willing to let us go like this. She clearly had the intent to kill at the end, only hesitating because it's inconvenient to act on her own territory. But once we leave Jinglan Lake Pass, with her Divine Sea Realm methods, if she truly wants to attack us, we won't be able to resist."

"Indeed!" Lu Ye nodded.

If Liew Yuemei really wanted to do that, the three of them wouldn't be able to resist.

So, staying at Jinglan Lake Pass seemed like the best choice at this time.

But Lu Ye didn't dare!

Liew Yuemei's murderous intent had risen, and with ongoing battles at both Jinglan Lake Pass and Dark Moon Forest Pass, staying longer might trigger some unforeseen trouble, so returning immediately was the only option.

As for the transmission, he could also do it himself. Recruiting Xiao Xinghe into the Justice Department didn't require reporting to Qian Wudang, but he specifically had Lin Yinxiu do it.

Because he believed that once Qian Wudang received the information, he would clearly understand his current predicament.

Lin Yinxiu was with him, and whatever his situation was, Lin Yinxiu shared the same.

So whether they could survive this time depended on how much Lin Yinxiu mattered to Qian Wudang. The more she mattered, the faster he would come!

As for why not contacting the sect master... He was now part of the Justice Department, so naturally, he should approach his superior for any issues, without causing unnecessary alarm to the sect master.

Lin Yinxiu had guessed Lu Ye's intention but did not expose it. Just as she had told Lu Ye before, she was very obedient, doing whatever the captain instructed.

Transmissions are no big deal.

It took them two days to get here from Haotian City, but if a Divine Sea Realm like Qian Wudang pushed himself, he could probably arrive in two to four hours.

This trip wasn't a mission; it was Lu Ye himself recruiting team members, so he didn't want to bother his superiors. Relying on others for everything would only make him appear incompetent.

Besides, there would be times in the future when the superiors wouldn't be able to offer protection.

Only Liew Yuemei's final gaze made him realize he underestimated this woman's madness. Under normal circumstances, even if she harbored hatred against the disciples of the Righteous Blood Sect, she wouldn't take much action, as she needed to maintain some sense of status and reputation. But it was right after the pain of losing her son, and rationality, for her, might only extend to not acting within Jinglan Lake Pass.

Crazy and irrational women are incredibly terrifying.

No one could be sure if Liew Yuemei would give chase, but Lu Ye thought it highly likely. Some matters must be prevented before they happen.

"No need to rush, slow down a bit," Lu Ye said, reducing their flying speed.

The later they left the radius of Jinglan Lake Pass, the later the crisis would arrive.

Even if Liew Yuemei lost her mind, she couldn't let anything happen to them within the range of Jinglan Lake Pass.

In Haotian City, at the Justice Department main hall, Qian Wudang received Lin Yinxiu's message. For a moment, he was a little at a loss.

He thought to himself, "This kid Lu Yiye sure is quick, recruiting a team member already. But why report something so minor to me?"

Moreover, a normal report is completed using a guard token. This time, however, he received a battlefield marking transmission, which seemed somewhat... unusual?

"Oh no!" Suddenly, Qian Wudang reacted, hurriedly standing up.

The name Xiao Xinghe from Green Emperor City seemed familiar, as if he'd seen it somewhere. If this person was indeed who he thought, the situation might be dire.

Furthermore... What was that rascal Lu Yiye doing going to Jinglan Lake Pass for recruitment?

Jinglan Lake Pass belongs to the Sky Gate Checkpoint, doesn't he know who's in charge there?

If he knows and still went, it's foolishness.

If he didn't know, how could he have gone to Jinglan Lake Pass?

That brat...

Qian Wudang was almost furious, deeply regretting approving Lu Ye's position as team leader. In just a few days, he had ventured into the lion's den, and it wouldn't have mattered if it was just himself, but he brought Yinxiu along too.

No wonder he previously wanted the signed order permitting free recruitment of team members. Looking back, he had already made up his mind at that time, and Qian Wudang laughed at himself for not asking more questions.

"Lu Yiye!" Qian Wudang growled quietly. If anything happened to Yinxiu because of this, he swore he'd beat Lu so hard that he'd switch his surname to Lu!

Chapter 963: The Crazy Liew Yuemei

The cultivators standing guard at the entrance couldn't help but shrink their necks when they heard Lord Department Chief shout in anger. The next moment, a gust of wind swept past them, and they watched in astonishment as Lord Department Chief soared into the sky as if his tail was on fire, disappearing in the blink of an eye.

For a moment, they looked at each other in confusion, not knowing what had transpired.

Qian Wudang's speed was incredibly fast, and he exited Haotian City in the blink of an eye.

However, the next instant, he unexpectedly returned, swiftly heading toward a specific location within the city.

A moment later, he landed in a small courtyard.

In the courtyard, there was only one elderly cultivator with an immortal air and excellent spirit, leisurely enjoying his tea—it was Veteran Thang, the sect master of the Righteous Blood Sect.

Qian Wudang's purpose for coming here was simple. Today's events were instigated by Lu Ye, who is a disciple of the Righteous Blood Sect. A disciple in trouble is something that a sect master cannot ignore.

Especially since Qian Wudang knew that this sect master wasn't easy to deal with, and going together with him was far better than going alone.

"Chief Qian?" The sect master looked at the hurried Qian Wudang, puzzled as to why he was acting so hastily, as one of their cultivation levels should possess a calm demeanor even if a mountain collapses in front of them.

"Veteran Thang, there's been an incident." Qian Wudang spoke urgently, without the time for casual greetings.

The sect master, still leisurely sipping his tea, said slowly, "Speak slowly. You are now a department chief, after all. Don't be rash when faced with issues, or it'll make those below you speculate numerous things."

Qian Wudang silently acknowledged that a veteran is indeed a veteran. In his urgency just now, he had indeed lost some composure, and taking a deep breath, he said, "Veteran Thang, you are right to admonish me."

The sect master asked, "So, what exactly happened that made you, the department chief, so flustered?"

Qian Wudang quickly responded, "Your sect's disciple Lu Yiye recently went to Jinglan Lake Pass to dispatch Xiao Xinghe from Green Emperor City and is now on his way back."

"Crack..."

The teacup in the sect master's hand shattered, and in the next moment, his figure shot into the sky, flying directly towards Jinglan Lake Pass with a speed that even Qian Wudang could only admire.

A massive wave of air swept through, causing a wild gale to howl in the courtyard.

Qian Wudang's clothing fluttered, and his eye twitched slightly.

Veteran... is indeed a veteran! With just a simple sentence from him, Veteran Thang had evidently comprehended everything.

...

The sky was cloudless, the air clear as if washed.

Three figures glided casually through the sky, led by Lu Ye at the front, who studied the ten-part map. According to the map, it was only thirty more miles to leave the radiation range of Jinglan Lake Pass.

If Liew Yuemei truly intended to strike secretly, she would undoubtedly wait until they left the radiation range of Jinglan Lake Pass.

In other words, she was likely lurking somewhere ahead.

They traveled neither too fast nor too slow, naturally not matching the speed of Divine Sea Realm flight. Thus, if Liew Yuemei intended to ambush them at a spot ahead, it was feasible.

"Lin Yinxiu, has Lord Department Chief responded?" Lu Ye asked.

Lin Yinxiu replied, "Nope."

Lu Ye frowned slightly—it shouldn't be this way. Earlier at the Justice Department Hall, he twice witnessed Lin Yinxiu's intimate relationship with Qian Wudang, so how could Qian Wudang remain indifferent in Lin Yinxiu's current situation?

However, on second thought, if Qian Wudang was already on his way over, then regardless of whether he responded or not, it didn't matter.

With this thought, Lu Ye halted his movement and said, "Let's stop here."

This place was considered the edge of the radiation range of Jinglan Lake Pass. Even if Liew Yuemei truly intended to strike, she would have to consider the implications, so staying here was relatively safe. Once Qian Wudang arrived, they could rendezvous, and at that point, even if Liew Yuemei intended to attack, she wouldn't have the opportunity.

Of course, the most crucial thing was to confirm if Qian Wudang was indeed on his way over. If not, Lu Ye needed to send a message to the sect master.

Just as he was about to instruct Lin Yinxiu to inquire about Qian Wudang, Lu Ye's skin suddenly tingled as he turned to look back, only to see a stream of light swiftly approaching from that direction, even though it was far away, the cold killing intent could be clearly felt.

All three of their expressions changed dramatically.

The thing they feared most was happening; Liew Yuemei was indeed intent on killing them, and she had even become brazenly blatant without any concealment.

Lu Ye had guessed that Liew Yuemei would likely ambush at a position ahead, waiting for a chance to strike, but who knew she had no intention of hiding.

However, she probably intended to wait until they left the radiation range of Jinglan Lake Pass before making her move, but the sudden halt of Lu Ye disrupted her plans, making her impatient.

Thus, she decisively made her move.

Looking at it this way, she wasn't ambushing in front; instead, she had been following behind the three. As a Divine Sea Realm cultivator, she could follow them undetected, making it impossible for Lu Ye and the others to sense.

"Split up!" Lu Ye decisively commanded. As his spirit force surged around him, a pair of fiery red wings spread open, and with Move-Like-The-Wind enabled, he dashed forward.

Liew Yuemei's primary target would definitely be him, so he had to separate from Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxiu. Only by doing so could their situation be relatively safer.

Whether they survived depended on how long Lu Ye could hold out. As long as Lu Ye lived, they would be safe, but if Lu Ye died, Liew Yuemei would surely eradicate them to prevent any future troubles.

As Lu Ye took action, Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxiu started to move as well.

Both were quick-witted individuals and would naturally not hinder Lu Ye at such a moment by doing something foolish like insisting on living and dying with him. Immediately, they spurred their forms, flying out from the sides, and in the blink of an eye, the three split into two routes.

A dozen breaths later, Liew Yuemei had already reached the place where the three originally were, showing just how quick her approach was.

She indeed ignored Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxiu, pursuing Lu Ye directly instead.

No matter how many tricks Lu Ye had, no matter how fast he was, he still couldn't outpace a Divine Sea cultivator, and the distance between them closed rapidly.

Seeing that she was about to reach the range where Liew Yuemei could strike, Lu Ye couldn't help but roar angrily, "Liew Yuemei, you dare act so treacherously? If I don't die today, I'll surely take your head someday!"

Behind him, Liew Yuemei turned a deaf ear to him. Even though she could have tasked someone else with killing Lu Ye and his companions, she understood that saying nothing at this moment was the best response.

She wore a mask on her face at this moment, covering her true appearance, and even had a change of clothes, so as long as she denied killing Lu Ye afterward, there would be no conclusive evidence.

A Divine Sea Level 7 cultivator killing a True Lake Level 3 cultivator was simply a matter of course!

Once she killed Lu Yiye, she would have plenty of time to eliminate the other two.

Looking at the figure fleeing hurriedly ahead, under the mask, Liew Yuemei's expression was cold. As her Mental Consciousness surged, a formless and invisible force turned into a sharp strike, precisely targeting Lu Ye.

However, a surprising scene unfolded for her. The strike that she had been sure of had not much effect; the fleeing figure in front of her didn't even flinch, continuing to fly rapidly as if nothing had happened.

Liew Yuemei was momentarily puzzled but it did not stop her from launching another Mental Consciousness attack.

It was still ineffective.

This time she couldn't help but be shocked, wondering if Lu Ye was wearing some kind of treasure that could defend against soul attacks. Otherwise, how could her methods be ineffective?

But did such a treasure exist in this world?

Those so-called treasures that could defend against soul attacks were generally of little use, mainly just offering some protection against the shockwaves of an attack. If directly targeted, their efficacy greatly diminished.

This was the fundamental reason why True Lake cultivators were so vulnerable before Divine Sea cultivators.

She didn't attempt a third try; after two failures, any number of attempts would likely be useless. She fully channeled her spirit force, her speed increasing yet again.

This made Lu Ye secretly feel it was a pity, as he had sensed Liew Yuemei's Mental Consciousness attacking him, but the distance was too great for him to activate the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword. Otherwise, he would have made her taste its power.

The distance continued to close.

A short dozen breaths later, Lu Ye perceived the fierce spirit force fluctuations behind him. Glancing hurriedly over his shoulder, he saw Liew Yuemei raise her hand to strike towards him. In an instant, spirit force surged, and a giant spirit force palm descended from the sky.

Li Taibai nearly died under this palm.

Lu Ye had, of course, already discerned the power of this palm.

As he hastily turned around, the Boulder Mountain Saber was already unsheathed, spirit force surging around him, concentrating all his Essence Qi in an instant to the extreme.

In that moment, Lu Ye felt as if he were standing in the midst of endless stellar space, with a crescent moon hanging high behind him.

The long saber cleaved forward, unleashing countless crescent-shaped saber lights, slashing towards the giant spirit force hand.

The second move of the Tyrannical Saber, Crescent Moon!

The endless sound of slicing echoed incessantly.

Though it weakened the power of the giant spirit force hand, the disparity in cultivation was just too great, and the giant spirit force hand continued to strike down.

Lu Ye turned his saber once more, constructing exquisite spirit runes upon its surface.

Moon Return!

The giant spirit force hand slammed down fiercely.

Despite Lu Ye having made the best response in the first instant, he was still struck by the palm, feeling as though he were a lone boat on a vast ocean, drifting aimlessly with the constant threat of capsizing.

Fortunately, leveraging the force of the strike, his figure spun through the air.

Before he could stabilize himself, another spirit rune had already formed.

The spirit force surged, constructing itself upon his being. If Lu Ye's clothes were stripped off at this moment, countless complex Yin-Yang Dual Origins would be visible on his body.

With a flicker of his body, all the Yin-Yang Dual Origins detached from his form, yet retained the original outline, sketching out a figure identical to Lu Ye's.

Split Shadow!

This spirit rune had never been used by Lu Ye against an enemy before, only utilized many times in the Mirage Scene for honing its function.

This spirit rune had no offensive power; it was purely for self-preservation.

Just as at this moment.

Once the turbulent spirit force calmed, Liew Yuemei, pursuing behind, beheld an utterly perplexing scene: two figures of Lu Ye appeared within her sight, each shimmering with brilliant spirit light, making it exceedingly difficult to distinguish the real from the fake.

"Clone Technique?" Liew Yuemei was exceedingly astonished.

Chapter 964: Using the Golden Body Token

The Clone Technique is an extremely sophisticated spell, and only the most accomplished magic cultivators can perform it. Even she had only scratched the surface of this spell and couldn't fully execute it. Yet today, she saw it used by a mere combat cultivator at True Lake Level 3!

Upon closer examination, Lu Ye's clone had some differences from traditional Clone Techniques. The first being, even she, a Divine Sea Realm cultivator, found it hard to distinguish between the real and the fake, as both figures carried Lu Ye's identical aura.

The two figures darted left and right, giving Liew Yuemei no time to think. Instinctually, she raised her hand and cast a spell, blasting it towards one of the figures.

The shadow crumbled instantly and disappeared without a trace, revealing it to be a clone.

This brief delay allowed Lu Ye to widen the gap a bit, and his figure blurred as he activated the Clone Technique once more.

For Lu Ye now, the task was simple: delay for time while desperately fleeing.

He didn't know if Qian Wudang was coming or where he might be, but facing the pursuit of a Divine Sea Realm, his only option was to escape.

Currently, he was within the range of another mountain pass, where surely a Divine Sea Realm cultivator was stationed. If he could just escape to its vicinity, it would force Liew Yuemei to be cautious.

But, the road ahead was long, and accomplishing this seemed incredibly challenging.

Thankfully, the Split Shadow Spirit Runes came in handy at this time. Several times, Lu Ye used this rune to confuse Liew Yuemei's vision, buying himself some precious moments of respite.

A creeping sense of horror surged from his heart. Stealing a glance back in his busy escape, Lu Ye saw a massive tree's phantom suddenly appear behind the pursuing Liew Yuemei, a tree formed from spirit force, towering, lush, and leafy.

The tree looked verdant and thriving, yet it exuded an extremely horrifying feeling.

As Liew Yuemei channeled her magic, the tree slightly shook, and leaves started to detach, spinning and covering his direction, an endless torrent of leaves converging into an emerald green flood, sweeping toward his location.

Only then did Lu Ye realize that Liew Yuemei was a magic cultivator who had cultivated wood-type spells!

This spell was definitely not ordinary, and it was clear Liew Yuemei had run out of patience. Otherwise, with her cultivation level in the Divine Sea Realm, she wouldn't have resorted to such a spell to deal with someone at True Lake Level 3.

No doubt multiple failed attempts had thoroughly enraged her.

Such a spell's might was something Lu Ye, in his current strength, absolutely couldn't withstand.

Even activating the Dragon Throne wouldn't work. While the Dragon Throne's protection and quality might resist the spell's inherent power, its enormous impact wasn't something the Dragon Throne could mitigate, and once engulfed, Lu Ye wouldn't survive even ten lifetimes.

Enveloped in the chilling intent to kill, his whole being was on the verge of suffocating, birthing an unprecedented despair.

With a slight sigh in his heart, just as the emerald green torrent enveloped his position, Lu Ye triggered the Golden Body Token in his hand!

Previously, in his many perilous encounters, he had prepared to activate this item but always managed to avert disaster, saving considerable battle merit. But this time, it wasn't to be.

The emerald light swallowed the golden glow, and the sky-covering green leaves surged, slicing through every inch of the Void.

Liew Yuemei landed before the green torrent, watching coldly.

After a moment, as the spell's might gradually waned and the emerald glow dimmed rapidly, Liew Yuemei's eyes behind her mask turned to shock and uncertainty.

Because in the midst of the expansive green, she saw the golden light standing firm.

The greener it got, the more radiant the golden light became.

The spell's might completely dissipated, leaving Lu Ye, shrouded in a layer of golden light, and the mask-wearing Liew Yuemei staring at each other from thirty zhang away.

"Golden Body Token!" Liew Yuemei gritted her teeth, enunciating each word, her eyes turning a fiery red.

She thought that with her personal intervention, slaying someone at True Lake Level 3 like Lu Ye would be effortless, but she hadn't expected such a twist.

As a Divine Sea Realm cultivator, she couldn't be unaware of the Golden Body Token's effect. It's said to be divine protection granted by Heaven's Augury; once triggered, no one across the Nine Provinces could break it during its effective period.

This was precisely why the Golden Body Token was exceedingly precious and rare. Across all sects of the current Nine Provinces, the total Golden Body Tokens wouldn't exceed the number of two hands and were used extremely sparingly.

So she never imagined that someone at True Lake Level 3 like Lu Ye would possess a Golden Body Token.

Now that the Golden Body Token had been activated, she had absolutely no way to kill Lu Ye, unless she waited for its duration to expire.

She was on the brink of madness!

"How could you have such a treasure!" Liew Yuemei shrieked, fury boiling over, as she struck at Lu Ye, sending him flying like a rag doll.

Yet with the Golden Body Token's protection, he wasn't harmed in the slightest, merely unable to control his body.

After landing hastily, Liew Yuemei attacked again with another strike.

Though she knew she was powerless now, she had no outlet for her overwhelming anger, leaving her incredibly frustrated.

After the second fall, Lu Ye rose, staring coldly at Liew Yuemei and outright cursed, "Stupid bitch!"

It's not in Lu Ye's nature to insult or waste words during a fight. If someone provoked him and he had the power to retaliate on the spot, he would never hesitate. If lacking the ability, he would quietly mark it, knowing fate turns, and a chance for revenge would come.

The reason he insulted Liew Yuemei was not to vent some internal grievance but out of concern for the safety of Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxiu.

While he had the Golden Body Token for protection, the two of them did not.

If Liew Yuemei decided to abandon him and hunt down Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxiu instead, he wouldn't have the capacity to stop her.

So he had to find a way to keep Liew Yuemei engaged here. Unable to win in battle, all he could do was resort to insults...

This woman is somewhat crazy now, in a state that is easily provoked.

With a shout of anger, Liew Yuemei was stunned on the spot.

She had lived for so many years, born into privilege and of noble status, when had she ever been scolded like this to her face? For a moment, she couldn't react: "What did you say?"

Lu Ye stared into her eyes, enunciating each word: "Filthy! Bitch!"

Boom...

Liew Yuemei's powerful aura suddenly spread out, her entire anger erupting like a volcano, she gritted her teeth and shouted, "You're seeking death!"

Fortunately, she knew that Lu Ye had the Golden Body Token for protection, so taking action herself would be futile, hence she shouted fiercely but did not show any signs of making a move.

"Whether I die or not is none of your concern, I heard someone named Tan Shu died miserably a while ago? Tan Shu is your son?"

"I'll kill you!" The death of Tan Shu was the last thing Liew Yuemei wanted to hear now, yet Lu Ye continued to sprinkle salt on her wounds, how could Liew Yuemei tolerate this?

As the words fell, Divine Sea Realm's spirit force surged, and an imposing large tree appeared behind her once more, its leaves spinning down, enveloping the place where Lu Ye was.

But what use is it?

As the emerald green torrent retreated, the golden light did not dim in the slightest.

The protection time of the Golden Body Token was quite substantial, Lu Ye still remembered when he first used it in the hunting ground, it lasted for a long time without dissipating.

"People like you and your son, so vicious, should have died long ago. Tan Shu deserved to die, and you will meet no good end in the future either!"

Lu Ye continued to try to provoke her, but the effect was minimal. It was unclear whether Liew Yuemei had become so angry that she calmed down, or if she accepted the reality in front of her, as she didn't attack Lu Ye again, but instead reached out, and amidst the surging spirit force, wrapped Lu Ye up and soared into the sky.

Lu Ye secretly thought it was bad.

During the protection of the Golden Body Token, no harm would indeed come to him, but when confronted with a strong cultivator of the Divine Sea Realm like Liew Yuemei trying to restrain him, Lu Ye had no means to combat this.

So, while the Golden Body Token was powerful, it wasn't invincible.

Liew Yuemei was evidently planning to take him to a secluded place, wait for a few Shichen, for the effect of the Golden Body Token to dissipate, and then kill him.

How could Lu Ye let her have her way, he immediately swung his long knife, employing his techniques to resist.

The effect was negligible, only slightly delaying Liew Yuemei's flight speed.

At this moment, Liew Yuemei suddenly turned her head to look back, and Lu Ye clearly saw a flicker in her eyes.

Following her gaze, two points of light came into view, flying towards this direction at an extremely fast speed.

Reinforcements had arrived!

Lu Ye was overjoyed, but he was puzzled over why there were two people, who else could it be besides Qian Wudang?

He quickly found out who had come, for from afar, a commanding shout resonated: "Release him at once, or I shall leave you with no place to be buried!"

Sect Master!

It seemed that Qian Wudang had brought the sect master along when he came, greatly reassuring Lu Ye.

He quickly shouted, "Sect Master, help me!" and turned back to yell at Liew Yuemei: "You're doomed; our sect master is here!"

Acting all smug and triumphant.

Liew Yuemei was furious inside, but she also knew that it was hopeless, so she could only grit her teeth and curse, "Bastard!"

With a palm strike, she sent Lu Ye flying away.

Qian Wudang and Thang Yifeng, the two Divine Sea Realm experts, were in pursuit, and if she didn't release him, the situation would become uncontrollable. So, even if she was unwilling, she had to abandon Lu Ye and flee alone.

Lu Ye steadied himself in midair, the golden light of the Golden Body Token wrapping around him, dazzling like the big sun.

The sect master and Qian Wudang arrived quickly, seeing him safe and sound, though somewhat disheveled in appearance, both were relieved.

Qian Wudang asked anxiously, "Yinxiu, where is she?"

Lu Ye replied, "We separated and fled, they are in that direction, they should be safe."

Qian Wudang immediately darted in the direction Lu Ye indicated, evidently to search for Lin Yinxiu's whereabouts.

Seeing him leave, the sect master instructed Lu Ye, "Stay here, I'll go kill those Ten Thousand Demons Ridge scoundrels, such audacity in acting maliciously on the Haotian Alliance's territory, truly detestable!"

His figure flickered and transformed into a stream of light, darting in the direction that Liew Yuemei had fled.

With the Golden Body Token's protection, the sect master wasn't worried about Lu Ye's safety, but he couldn't remain indifferent to his disciple's peril.

The audacity of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge scoundrels to act so brazenly, as if he, Thang Yifeng, didn't exist.

Moreover, he had just reemerged and was worried about lacking an opportunity to establish his might; such a great opportunity could not be missed.

Chapter 965: Wear Your Mask Properly

Qian Wudang searched for Lin Yinxiu whose trail had vanished.

The sect master also pursued and attacked.

Leaving Lu Ye in place, deep in thought.

Clearly, it was Liew Yuemei overwhelming him with power to capture and kill, so how did it turn into a thief from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge in the sect master's words?

With a shift in thought, Lu Ye had a sudden realization.

Ginger... truly gets spicier as it ages! This time, Liew Yuemei is likely doomed!

Feeling the sect master's earnest protection, Lu Ye's heart was warmed. With the light of the Golden Body Token glowing in mid-air being somewhat conspicuous, he descended quietly and waited.

Several miles away, Liew Yuemei fled frantically, yet a strand of qi clung to her like a maggot, firmly locking onto her. The sharpness of that qi made even someone at her Divine Sea Realm secretly appalled.

Although both were in the Divine Sea Realm, she was at Level 7, yet she was aware of the huge gap between herself and the sect master of the Righteous Blood Sect.

This figure had already stood at the pinnacle of the Nine Provinces decades ago, and with decades of preservation and accumulation, no one knew what terrifying depths he had reached.

Thus, upon detecting the aura of Qian Wudang and Thang Yifeng, she had no choice but to abandon the captured Lu Ye and flee on her own.

The other side was relentless in pursuit.

How swift was the turn of fortune! Not too long ago, Lu Yiye was being chased by her, fleeing in panic like a stray dog, but now it was her turn.

How ironic.

The distance between them rapidly decreased, and despite being several miles apart, Liew Yuemei could clearly feel Thang Yifeng's overwhelming fury behind her.

"Where do you think you're running to, miscreant!" An angry shout, like thunder, exploded near her ears, leaving her shocked and dizzy. Under the strong and pure mental consciousness impact, Liew Yuemei's vision swirled briefly, her form stumbled slightly.

This delay closed the distance between them by another ten miles.

Intense spirit force ripples emanated behind her. Turning back, Liew Yuemei saw Thang Yifeng slowly extending a hand, directing it at her location and suddenly gripping it tightly.

With this grip, the world changed.

Liew Yuemei immediately felt the nature's spiritual energy around her solidify, transforming into an indescribable hindrance, leading her to feel as if stuck in a quagmire.

She shouted out, using all her strength to resist the invisible pressure from all directions, but as the sect master's hand tightened, she still let out a muffled groan, her qi turbulence destabilized.

Her body shot out of the space bound by spirit force, but before she could gasp for air, the sect master had already conjured a spirit force long whip in the Void.

He aimed it at Liew Yuemei and drew it forcefully through the air.

The whip was originally only a few yards long, but upon drawing it out, it rapidly absorbed Heaven and Earth spirit force, transforming in the blink of an eye into dozens of miles long, pressing down like a heavenly river towards Liew Yuemei.

Liew Yuemei was shocked, her hands swiftly changing seals, frantically stirring her spirit force, and instantly a budding flower appeared where she had been.

Her figure disappeared but was already wrapped by the spirit force flower. Who knows what kind of defensive magic and spells this were, but erected by one at the Divine Sea Realm, it was evidently extremely intricate.

The long whip struck down heavily on the flower bud.

The budding flower instantly shed its petals, Liew Yuemei fell from it, cracks spreading across her mask, blood already leaking from the corner of her mouth beneath it.

Looking back, there was already no sign of Thang Yifeng, yet a great danger bore down from above.

She hurriedly raised her head, only to see the Righteous Blood Sect's sect master surrounded by abundant spirit force, blood Qi surging, showing no sign of old age, his aura as vigorous and splendid as a great sun.

He swooped down like an eagle, throwing a straight punch at Liew Yuemei, his deep and vast starry-sky-like eyes filled with killing intent and anger.

He wanted to kill her!

Liew Yuemei was shocked.

Originally, when Thang Yifeng pursued her, though panicked, she was not scared. Regardless, she was someone of the Tianyuan Sect, a member of the Haotian Alliance, so she assumed Thang Yifeng would at most chastise her but wouldn't genuinely wish to kill her.

This time, she was the one who acted first, and if Thang Yifeng truly sought to discipline her, she would have no argument, merely a matter of a lesser skill.

Furthermore, she had obscured her appearance using a mask this time, and although it was effectively useless between them, as long as the mask remained, it didn't mean completely tearing faces.

Thang Yifeng's personality, well understood by the Tianyuan Sect over the years, was not one to rashly tear faces with anyone and was known for considering the bigger picture.

But this time, Thang Yifeng evidently had no such intentions to consider overall matters, utterly indifferent to the repercussions of such actions or if the Tianyuan Sect would retaliate; his fierce killing intent already clearly emphasized one thing.

At this moment, at this location, he intended to kill!

As these thoughts spun, Liew Yuemei crazily urged her spirit force for self-protection and activated the protective array of her treasure garment.

A punch crashed down.

The spirit force barrier was almost nonexistent, and the protective array of the treasure garment lasted less than three breaths before shattering. The punch—harbored for several decades—finally sought to unleash all its fury today, letting those who dared act against the Righteous Blood Sect know that as long as Thang Yifeng lived, his disciples were under protection!

It heavily struck Liew Yuemei's chest.

With a crunching sound...

Liew Yuemei plunged straight to the ground, the blood from her mouth visible with the splinters of organs.

Boom...

Dust surged as Liew Yuemei fell to the ground, creating a pit, her face mask almost shattered, revealing half of a miserable face.

Before she could get up, a large hand already covered her face, preventing the mask from further breaking.

A faint voice sounded near Liew Yuemei's ear, sending chills down her spine: "Keep your mask intact. If it breaks, it will be very troublesome!"

Another fist was already raised, spirit force surging on the fist's surface.

Determined to kill without mercy!

But before the sect master could land this fatal punch, a thread of thunder suddenly materialized in the air, then turned into lightning, striking directly at the sect master's chest.

The sect master reacted with incredible speed, retreating swiftly while layer upon layer of spirit force barriers appeared in front, forming and breaking continuously.

The lightning gradually dimmed, and the sect master retreated three miles before dissipating its power.

Looking up, he saw only a streak of thunder fleeing rapidly, within which was Liew Yuemei's extremely embarrassed figure, along with something resembling a short spear.

"Destructive Lightning Spear!" The sect master stood still, not giving chase.

Because it was already uncatchable, Liew Yuemei could never escape the sect master alone; he had countless ways to kill her, but with the power of the Destructive Lightning Spear, she fled so fast even he could not pursue her.

As a well-known sect-guarding treasure, the sect master could not be unfamiliar with the Destructive Lightning Spear, but he didn't expect Liew Yuemei to carry it with her.

One could only say her luck was immense; otherwise, she would surely be dead this time.

It was indeed a pity not to execute the plan fully.

Watching Liew Yuemei's fleeing direction, the sect master collected his killing intent, restoring his celestial, unworldly demeanor.

Lightly flicking off non-existent dust from himself, the sect master soared into the air, returning the way he came.

Lu Ye was still waiting at the original place, and before long, Qian Wudang returned with Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxiu. As a strong cultivator in the Divine Sea Realm, it was quite easy for him to find people, especially with the ability to communicate freely with Lin Yinxiu.

Seeing Lu Ye here alone, Qian Wudang immediately had a bad premonition: "Where's Veteran Thang?"

Lu Ye reported honestly: "The sect master went to pursue the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge villain."

Qian Wudang's eye twitched: "Who told you that was a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge villain?"

"The sect master said so." Lu Ye replied confidently, "Besides, with her at the Divine Sea Realm chasing us True Lake Realm is she from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge or the Haotian Alliance? Lin Yinxiu, don't you think so?"

Lin Yinxiu nodded like a pecking chick: "Captain is right!"

Looking at Lin Yinxiu's extremely obedient demeanor, Qian Wudang suddenly felt a pain in his heart.

Suppressing the unpleasant feeling, he instructed: "You all wait here!"

Saying so, he soared into the sky.

He realized the seriousness of the situation, as Veteran Thang had clearly intended to kill Liew Yuemei. Moreover, with Liew Yuemei wearing a mask, when Thang claimed she was a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge villain, no one could refute him.

But if Liew Yuemei was truly killed, it would be difficult to handle, possibly affecting Veteran Thang's status in the Elder Council.

Strong cultivators in the Divine Sea Realm killing each other did no good for Veteran Thang, no matter the reason.

He only hoped he could still stop it in time, hoped Liew Yuemei could hold on a bit longer.

Not long after he took off, he saw Thang Yifeng leisurely flying back from the distance and hurried to meet him, urgently asking: "Veteran Thang!"

"Alas!" The sect master sighed softly.

"That person... is she dead or alive?"

"She escaped." The sect master replied.

Qian Wudang let out a long breath: "Good, she escaped, that's good."

As long as that person wasn't dead, nothing serious would happen. It seemed he was overthinking; with Veteran Thang's methods, if he truly wanted to kill her, she would have no chance of survival. Since she escaped, it was evidently due to Veteran Thang's mercy.

The sect master naturally saw through Qian Wudang's thoughts but didn't intend to explain, only saying: "Let's go."

The reason for not fully executing the plan was Liew Yuemei possessing the Destructive Lightning Spear. Without this sect-guarding treasure, she'd undoubtedly be dead.

One could only say her luck was good.

This treasure was originally borrowed from the sect for overcoming challenges. With the busy war at Jinglan Lake Pass recently, there was no time to return it, allowing her to keep it and unexpectedly save her life.

If it had been a few days later and she returned the treasure to the sect, the outcome would differ greatly.

The two returned to where Lu Ye and others were, and from a distance, they saw Lu Ye surrounded by dazzling golden light, extremely radiant.

Lin Yinxiu looked extremely curious, repeatedly poking that layer of golden light with her hand, asking questions that made Lu Ye's heart ache, struggling to breathe.

That layer of golden light, worth a full two hundred thousand battle merits!

Chapter 966: Small Gathering

"Disciple Xiao Xinghe, pays respects to the sect master!"

The beefy guy made a grand gesture, bowing his head to the ground, kneeling and not getting up.

The sect master helped him up, a look of guilt on his face: "This old man is useless, has made you suffer over the years."

Xiao Xinghe shook his head, "It is I, your disciple, who is useless, disgracing the sect master and nearly implicating Junior Brother."

The sect master said, "You are brothers, don't mind such things. Your Junior Brother Yiye has potential, though his cultivation time has been short, his actions have been somewhat lacking. In the future, work with him and guide him more."

"Yes," Xiao Xinghe replied respectfully.

While the sect master was conversing with Xiao Xinghe, Lu Ye stood in place, eyes fixed, unable to focus on his own thoughts, as a sharp gaze was constantly fixed on him, making him feel uncomfortable.

And this gaze was evidently from his superior.

Qian Wudang probably wanted to ask him something, but he refrained due to the sect master's presence, and could only hold back, though he was quite displeased with Lu Ye, who had only joined the Justice Department two days ago, yet involved Lin Yinxiu in such a dangerous place and affair.

"Let's go, back to Haotian City," Qian Wudang called out.

Shortly after, two strong cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm, with three True Lake Realm cultivators, soared into the sky towards Haotian City.

The journey was peaceful.

In less than four hours, they returned to Haotian City.

Lu Ye, enveloped in a golden light, naturally attracted the attention of many passing cultivators, making them click their tongues in wonder. Those who recognized this as the golden light granted by the Golden Body Token were even more amazed.

After all, most people had only heard of, but never seen such a thing as the Golden Body Token, let alone used it, inevitably finding it novel.

"Lu Yiye, follow me." Qian Wudang, with hands behind his back, called Lu Ye without turning his head, and flew straight to the main hall of the Justice Department.

Lu Ye bid farewell to the sect master and hurriedly followed.

Soon, in the main hall of the Justice Department, Qian Wudang angrily slapped the table, roaring in Lu Ye's ear: "Do you know who is in charge at Jinglan Lake Pass, and do you know who Liew Yuemei is? Hmm? You know? You knew and still dared to go! It would be fine if you went alone, but you even brought Yinxiu along, you are simply audacious beyond belief, ridiculous!"

Lu Ye stood before the desk, not countering, nor talking back.

Qian Wudang roared for a while before his anger slightly subsided, glaring at Lu Ye with indignation, spoke wearily, "Tell me, who else do you need to requisition from the frontline pass? Report all the names, and I'll personally figure something out for you."

Indeed, the fear had grown, this time an oversight, and this young man had already gone to provoke Liew Yuemei. If left unchecked, he might provoke Yu Huajin next time.

It was also his carelessness when Lu Ye had him sign the permit for the free requisition of personnel, he didn't think much of it. After all, who wouldn't give face to the Justice Department Chief?

Who knew it would lead to today's situation.

Not to mention, Lu Ye indeed was bold enough to go to a place like Jinglan Lake Pass with just his True Lake cultivation.

"Thank you for your favor, sir, at present, I have no one to dispatch," Lu Ye replied.

Among the squad of six, three remained, and he was planning to reserve the remaining three spots for his Fourth Senior Brother and others.

The situation of Fourth Senior Brother was not much better than Third Senior Brother, and it would be more appropriate to join the Justice Department together once they entered the provincial guard.

Hearing this, Qian Wudang's heart finally calmed a bit, raising his hand to point outside the door, "Stay away from me for the next few days, don't let me see you."

"Then I'll take my leave!" Lu Ye clasped his fists, turned and left.

Leaving the main hall of the Justice Department, Lu Ye headed straight for the nearest Heaven's Augury Hall.

A moment later, within the Hall of Battle Merits, Lu Ye stood before the stone platform for exchanging Golden Body Tokens, sighed heavily, and reluctantly exchanged for a Golden Body Token.

An item to save one's life must always be kept on hand, no matter how great the cost.

Upon inspecting his battle merits, only over thirty thousand remained...

Lu Ye remembered that not long ago his battle merits were astonishingly over five hundred twenty thousand, yet in less than ten days, only thirty thousand were left.

Battle merits, after all, are never enough.

Fortunately, he had exchanged quite a few gold-hued spirit fortune sticks previously, so temporarily he was not lacking in cultivation resources, and there was a fixed source of battle merits every month. After

a few days, when the monthly payment and Explosive Fire Spirit Stone transactions were settled, his cash flow would become abundant.

Just as he was about to return to the small courtyard, a message came via the battlefield marking.

Lu Ye checked and found it was a message from Warlord Geng, asking to meet at the Hundred Fragrance House.

Lu Ye naturally agreed, remembering how last time he contacted Warlord Geng, A-3 squad was on task, they should have completed their task and returned by now.

The Hundred Fragrance House was the place where Lu Ye drank with A-3 squad last time; he was familiar with it.

Upon arriving, led by someone, he directly walked past the hall into a small courtyard at the back.

The courtyard featured flowing water over small bridges, winding streams, and a verdant environment, making it a pleasant setting.

In the center of the courtyard was a pavilion, within it was a long table, several individuals sat on either side, it was Warlord Geng and several members of A-3 squad.

The table was filled with exquisite food, accompanied by fragrant aromas.

When Lu Ye arrived, the five-member squad was drinking and making merry, the atmosphere cheerful.

Basically every time they returned from a mission, the A-3 squad would gather here, one to celebrate the mission's completion and two to support the business here.

Last time Lu Ye noticed that Warlord Geng seemed to have an unusual relationship with the proprietress of Hundred Fragrance House.

Although everything in Haotian City belonged to the Haotian Alliance, like those houses where people could stay and rest, any provincial guard coming to Haotian City could reside within, as long as they did not disturb others, no fees would be charged.

However, some places were rented out, cultivators with certain connections could rent venues from the Haotian Alliance to run businesses.

The Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union rented many places in Haotian City to do business, bringing substantial revenue to the Bingzhou guard every year.

Lu Ye wasn't clear about the background of the proprietress of the Hundred Fragrance House; their encounter was brief last time with little interaction, and Lu Ye wasn't particularly concerned about this, but to operate an inn in a place like Haotian City, one must have some backing or be supported by Warlord Geng.

Seeing Lu Ye arrived, the A-3 squad warmly welcomed him, seating him next to Warlord Geng.

Without much talk, they filled three bowls of wine first, claiming he was late and needed to be penalized and such.

Then, everyone looked at him with a smile.

Lu Ye had no choice but to accept the punishment, causing everyone to cheer loudly.

The atmosphere heated up, although they had only fought together once, Lu Ye left a very deep impression on the A-3 squad during that battle, who wouldn't want such a teammate?

This time Warlord Geng summoned Lu Ye for precisely this matter.

"I heard from Lord Department Chief that Junior Brother has joined the Justice Department." Warlord Geng asked, as everyone else also looked over.

"Yes, I joined a few days ago." Lu Ye nodded.

Xiao Ruyun hollered: "Now that Junior Brother Lu has joined the Justice Department, why not join our A-3 squad? Our squad is just one member short." Turning to Warlord Geng: "Captain might as well talk to the Department Chief and have him assign Junior Brother Lu to our team."

Warlord Geng shook his head: "Too late, Junior Brother Lu himself is now a squad captain."

Everyone was astonished.

Lu Ye was astonished too: "Senior Brother's squad is still one person short?"

Warlord Geng nodded: "It has never been supplemented."

"That liar!" Lu Ye gritted his teeth, Qian Wudang explicitly told him last time that the A-3 squad was already full, and said there were no spots in the other Justice Department teams, so he made him take up the captain role and start another team.

Now it seems that's not the case at all.

Qian Wudang just wanted him to be a captain and start a new squad.

For Lin Yinxiu? But why? Lin Yinxiu is at True Lake Level 7 cultivation, if she truly wanted to work in the Justice Department, she could be placed in any team, her looks are notable, surely any squad would welcome her.

Warlord Geng understood perfectly, grinning widely: "Did Lord Department Chief say something to you?"

Lu Ye sulked: "Initially, Lord Department Chief said he would assign me to the A-3 squad, it was all arranged, but for some unknown reason, he had me start a new team and take up the captain role."

Warlord Geng nodded: "Lord Department Chief values you, that's a good thing."

Lu Ye always felt it wasn't that simple, but he couldn't figure out the reason.

"But Junior Brother Lu is only at True Lake Level 1 cultivation, our Law Enforcement Hall doesn't have captains with such low cultivation, is Lord Department Chief being overly biased?" Xiao Ruyun frowned, realizing it wasn't appropriate: "Junior Brother Lu don't mind, I speak without thinking, I didn't mean that your cultivation is low."

Lu Ye understood Xiao Ruyun's character and naturally wouldn't take offense.

"True Lake Level 1?" Warlord Geng slowly shook his head, "I fear Junior Brother Lu is beyond True Lake Level 1 now."

Lu Ye hadn't used spirit force, so he couldn't gauge the depth, but he felt Lu Ye's cultivation wasn't what it used to be.

Muk Zheng curiously asked: "Junior Brother, what level is your cultivation now?"

"True Lake Level 3." Lu Ye did not hide it.

"Level 3..." Kang Yuanqiao and Shangguan Qiu were all shocked, how long has it been, and he already advanced two levels, is True Lake Realm cultivation this rapid?

Lu Ye laughed: "Thanks to everyone last time for the care, the last mission brought me quite a lot of battle merit, which I exchanged for some gold-hued spirit fortune sticks for cultivation."

"That was too fast..." Muk Zheng still found it hard to believe, even with enough cultivation resources, such speed of improvement is unheard of.

"Junior Brother Lu has exceptional talent, what you all can't do, others can naturally achieve." Warlord Geng raised his cup, "Come, celebrate Junior Brother Lu joining the Justice Department, celebrate Junior Brother Lu's rapid cultivation progress, and thirdly celebrate our mission's successful completion."

Everyone drank together.

Muk Zheng was clearly somewhat overwhelmed by the alcohol, his face glowing red, extremely cute.

It was at this moment when someone gracefully arrived, a buxom and beautiful woman, Lu Ye glanced over, it was indeed the proprietress of Hundred Fragrance House.

"Hello sister!"

Seeing her arrive, everybody in the A-3 squad hastily greeted her.

Chapter 967 True Lake Level 5

When called "sister-in-law," the cheeks of the owner of the Hundred Fragrance House flushed red. Seeing Warlord Geng giggling foolishly, she couldn't help but give him a playful scolding glance.

"I'm here to bring you two pots of good wine. But remember, even if the wine is good, don't drink too much." The woman walked over, sat beside Warlord Geng, poured him a cup, and then filled one for herself.

After a few casual words, she looked at Lu Ye and asked, "I saw this young brother last time. Warlord, is he a new member of your squad?"

Warlord Geng sighed, "I wish, but unfortunately, no. This is Junior Brother Lu Yiye from the Righteous Blood Sect. He's currently working in the Law Enforcement Hall and has gained the favor of Lord Department Chief. He's already at the post of captain."

"Such a young captain," the woman exclaimed in surprise. "Truly, heroes emerge from the young."

"Senior Sister flatters me," Lu Ye replied modestly.

The woman raised her cup, "I am Shen Manzi; I'll have to rely on Junior Brother to take care of me in the future."

"We are one of our own, it's only natural," Lu Ye smiled slightly.

After toasting Lu Ye, Shen Manzi also drank a cup with everyone else, without blushing or getting tired, before saying, "I have some matters to attend to at the front hall, so I won't stay. Let me know if you need anything."

"Sister-in-law, go ahead and get busy," Xiao Ruyun said.

Warlord Geng also added, "Go on," adopting the demeanor of someone in charge.

After Shen Manzi left, Xiao Ruyun said, "Captain, when will you marry sister-in-law? It's not right for a woman to always be out in the open like this."

Warlord Geng smiled bitterly, "It's not that I don't want to, but she has her own plans. Some things cannot be forced. Let's not talk about it; let's just drink."

The drinking never ceased.

Lu Ye rarely had such experiences, and for a moment found it quite amusing.

It wasn't until evening that everyone went their separate ways, returning to their own small courtyards. Lin Yinxiu promptly greeted him, "Captain, you're back?"

"What's up?"

"Nothing much, just thought you had something going on since you hadn't returned... What a strong smell of wine, did you go drinking at a flower house?"

"No, don't speak nonsense." He turned and looked, "Is my Third Senior Brother back?"

"No, he should be with Veteran Thang."

"Okay, I'm going to cultivate for a while, inform me immediately if there's anything."

"Got it," Lin Yinxiu replied obediently.

Lu Ye walked into the central room, activated numerous restrictions, exercised his spirit force, and dispelled the alcohol from his system.

Yiyi flashed out from within Amber, sat down obediently on the side, waiting to cultivate together.

Last time Lu Ye exchanged 20 gold-hued spirit fortune sticks in one go from the Hall of Battle Merits, and he had only used a few so far, leaving many more unused.

It had been three months since he advanced to True Lake Level 3, his realm was stable, it was time to elevate his cultivation again.

Crushing a gold-hued spirit fortune stick, the golden powder transformed into a vortex, from which pure, rich Heaven and Earth spirit force surged forth. Lu Ye further activated the powers of the Talent Tree, allowing invisible roots to explore into the vortex, absorbing the pure spiritual liquid within.

In just three days, after consuming three gold-hued spirit fortune sticks, Lu Ye's cultivation advanced to True Lake Level 4.

This rapid progress was naturally due to the accumulation over the recent three months, as well as his previous intermittent use of the golden spirit fortune sticks for cultivation.

Four sevens make a square, while Level 4 is just a small advancement over Level 3, the enhancement in strength was significant, and Lu Ye could clearly feel the subtle changes in his spirit force.

With the cultivation of Level 4, his spirit force had reached the fourth revolution degree, many times purer than when he initially entered the True Lake Realm; thus, the power he could exert by propelling his spirit force also became stronger.

The cultivation did not stop. Lu Ye almost maintained a daily consumption of a gold-hued spirit fortune stick.

It wasn't until all the gold-hued spirit fortune sticks in his possession were exhausted that he concluded this session of cultivation.

And his cultivation had reached the stage of True Lake Level 5!

The unique cultivation method of Theft of Heaven's Augury brought unparalleled benefits. Other cultivators, even using the gold-hued spirit fortune sticks, could only harness the Heaven and Earth spirit force that escaped from the vortex.

But he was different; the roots of the Talent Tree delved into the vortex for pure plunder. The efficiency of cultivation was much higher compared to the usual method.

In a mere 20 days, his cultivation advanced by two levels, which was somewhat astonishing.

Lu Ye had initially considered using Pseudo-Might to cover his cultivation, to avoid suspicions, but after careful thought, he decided against it.

The speed of his cultivation advancement could be hidden temporarily, but not permanently, it would be revealed eventually, especially since he frequently interacted with some strong cultivators of the Divine Sea Realm now, making it even harder to conceal.

Fortunately, he had already informed Qian Wudang that his talent was outstanding, possessing a Talent Tree of sixty-four leaves, hence the rapid improvement in strength had some foundation.

As for what Qian Wudang would think upon realizing that he had reached True Lake Level 5... Lu Ye didn't care.

Battle merit had increased again as it was the time for the monthly stipend distribution.

Moreover, today was the day to settle the delivery of Explosive Fire Spirit Stones with Cheng Xiu.

Lu Ye had already refined the Explosive Fire Spirit Stones, and he had made plenty; he just needed to deliver them on time.

Once the Explosive Fire Spirit Stones were delivered, it would mean a significant gain in battle merits.

Inside the room, Lu Ye stood up, Yiyi, seeing this, was about to flash back into Amber's body.

"No need to hide," Lu Ye said.

Yiyi looked at him, puzzled.

"Lin Yinxiu is both a member of the squad and lives here, so it's inevitable to run into her. Moreover... you should also have met the Third Senior Brother."

"I'll listen to you." Yiyi smiled sweetly.

Opening the door, Lu Ye was astonished to see outside piled with silver and snow flying; it was already winter. No wonder he felt a chill during his seclusion cultivation earlier.

The changes of seasons have little impact on the group of cultivators. After all, cultivators have spirit force to protect themselves, unaffected by the cold and heat. Ordinary seasonal changes are usually ignored by cultivators.

There was an extra row of snowmen in the courtyard. Lin Yinxiu was busy in front of an unformed snowman, displaying a childlike innocence.

Upon hearing the commotion behind her, Lin Yinxiu turned around, surprised: "Captain, you've left seclusion..." She hadn't finished speaking when she saw Yiyi standing beside Lu Ye, greatly amazed.

Because she had never seen Yiyi and had no idea when Yiyi had entered Lu Ye's room.

For a moment, she couldn't help but indulge in wild thoughts. No wonder someone so young could enter seclusion for so many days; it turns out there was a beauty accompanying him.

"Who is this..." Lin Yinxiu didn't know how to address Yiyi.

"Lu Yiyi, my sister." Lu Ye introduced.

"So it's Sister Yiyi." Lin Yinxiu suddenly realized, secretly thinking she had misunderstood. This was not the captain's woman, but his sister!

She still didn't understand, though, where this sister of the captain came from.

They exchanged greetings.

Lu Ye asked, "Has there been anything happening in the division lately?"

"Nothing." Lin Yinxiu shook her head.

Lu Ye couldn't help but frown.

During his seclusion cultivation, he didn't dare to immerse himself too deeply, fearing news might arrive without him noticing. Yet, unexpectedly, after nearly twenty days, there were no tasks issued in the division.

Since when did the Law Enforcement Hall become so idle...

Something seemed off.

The door of the room next door opened, and the figure of Xiao Xinghe emerged.

Lu Ye led Yiyi over: "Third Senior Brother."

Xiao Xinghe slightly nodded: "I heard you were in seclusion, so I didn't disturb you. Judging by your appearance, did you make progress?"

"My cultivation improved somewhat," Lu Ye replied, "Is Third Senior Brother's injury healed?"

"Already recovered." Xiao Xinghe nodded, then looked at Yiyi behind Lu Ye, "Is this Sister Yiyi?"

Yiyi stepped out from behind Lu Ye, gracefully greeted, "Greetings, Third Senior Brother." She was a little curious, "Third Senior Brother knows me?"

"Previously, I heard the sect master mention you. I didn't expect Sister to be so cute."

Yiyi shyly smiled, then turned to look at the snowmen in the courtyard, revealing a longing expression.

"Go play." Lu Ye said.

Yiyi cheered and rushed into the courtyard, joining Lin Yinxiu in building snowmen. As the snow flew, although it was their first meeting, the two little girls seemed to hit it off, soon chatting and laughing.

Under the corridor, Lu Ye and Xiao Xinghe stood side by side, delightedly watching this scene, their spirits lifting.

"Still haven't thanked Junior Brother for fetching me out from over there," Xiao Xinghe suddenly spoke.

Lu Ye said, "Brother, we're family, no need for thanks."

Xiao Xinghe grinned: "That's why I hesitated on whether to thank you. Never mind, let's pretend I didn't say it."

"Brother, there's something I don't understand."

"You're wondering why Green Emperor City didn't intervene?"

"Exactly."

"Regarding matters at Jinglan Lake Pass, Green Emperor City can't interfere, so even with intentions, they're powerless. You ought to know, the lord of the pass has absolute authority over their soldiers, especially during wartime. Green Emperor City thought about moving me from Jinglan Lake Pass several times but couldn't because they wouldn't release me. What can Green Emperor City do? Take this instance, if that Liew Yuemei had insisted on not letting me go, I wouldn't have been able to leave. It's good Junior Brother cunningly got her to sign the Heaven's Augury Pact."

Lu Ye nodded: "So, it isn't Green Emperor City's fault. But knowing Liew Yuemei's disposition, why send you to Jinglan Lake Pass?"

"Same goes for other passes. When I went to Jinglan Lake, it wasn't Liew Yuemei in charge yet; she arrived later. You must understand, the lord of a pass can also be reassigned."

"Tianyuan Sect truly exerted considerable effort." Lu Ye's expression turned cold.

"A small number of people, mostly behaving within regulations. But some disregard rules and remain incorrigible."

"Forget it, the sect master considers having taught that person a lesson enough."

"The sect master initially intended to kill her, but unfortunately, she had the Tianyuan Sect's sect-guarding treasure, the Destructive Lightning Spear, with immense power. Using it, she escaped, and the sect master was helpless."

"The old man is so fierce?" Lu Ye was astonished, but upon reconsideration, at that time, the sect master had already categorized the person as one of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge bandits. Treating Ten Thousand Demons Ridge bandits with rapid pruning was natural.

The old man's return has made him more assertive than before.

Chapter 968 Mission

Lu Ye wasn't too clear about what the previous sect master was like, but he could guess a thing or two just by looking at the Righteous Blood Sect's situation.

If the sect master had been truly assertive, the Righteous Blood Sect wouldn't have declined to this extent.

Previously, the sect master would never have thought to kill Liew Yuemei, yet this time he acted decisively. If it weren't for Liew Yuemei possessing the Destructive Lightning Spear, she would have surely died.

Having an assertive leader is beneficial for those below.

Although this move by the sect master could not completely deter those with malicious intent from having unnecessary thoughts, it did provide a huge deterrent.

In the future, few would dare to act recklessly outside of the rules.

"The sect master... has his own difficulties," Xiao Xinghe sighed softly.

"By the way, Brother, I've got something good for you," Lu Ye suddenly remembered something, and he took out a bead from his storage space and handed it to Xiao Xinghe.

"What is this?" Xiao Xinghe took it.

"It's a saber skill inheritance I obtained from a secret realm, containing three saber techniques that should be helpful to you."

This was, of course, the Tyrannical Saber Technique inheritance. Since Lu Ye could comprehend it, Xiao Xinghe should be able to as well. How much he could comprehend depended on his own perception.

Hearing it was such a valuable item, Xiao Xinghe immediately became interested. "Such an inheritance item is rare indeed. Have you comprehended all three saber techniques, Junior Brother?"

Lu Ye shook his head, "I comprehended the first form when I was in the Cloud River Realm, the second at the True Lake Realm, and the third one I have yet to figure out. I suspect it might require reaching the Divine Sea Realm to understand."

Xiao Xinghe couldn't help but be moved, "This truly is a treasure."

Only three forms, yet their scope spans from Cloud River to Divine Sea, revealing the depth of this saber skill. Such an item is in no way inferior to some inheritances of the top big sects in the Nine Provinces. If those top sects got their hands on it, they might use it to establish a new tradition within their sect.

Without any formalities, he solemnly kept it safe, "Junior Brother, when you need to comprehend it again, just let me know. Consider this as me borrowing it from you."

Lu Ye suddenly tilted his head, and a snowball whizzed past his cheek, shattering against the wall behind him, a cloud of snow rising up.

Looking back, he saw Yiyi rolling another large snowball and throwing it in his direction.

Lu Ye chuckled, his body unmoving. He tilted his head again, but unexpectedly, the snowball made a sharp turn an inch away from him and hit directly on his face.

The snowball broke apart, revealing Amber's figure hidden within, its four paws securely holding onto his face.

Lu Ye raised his hand, removed Amber from his face, and stared into its innocent eyes.

"Hahaha!"

Loud, unruly laughter came from Yiyi and Lin Yinxu in the courtyard.

Lu Ye raised his head, his eyes gleaming with a fierce light, "Alright, you asked for it!"

A moment later, snowballs were flying all over the small courtyard amidst Yiyi and Lin Yinxu's continuous exclamations, making quite a lively mess.

Cheng Xiu arrived just as Lu Ye held his ground imposingly, skillfully launching snowballs like arrows, creating an impressive scene. Even when Yiyi and Lin Yinxu teamed up against him, they were no match, left in a miserable state.

"Brother Yiye, you're really in high spirits," Cheng Xiu said with a laugh.

Lu Ye threw the last two snowballs in his hands and took out a storage sack, tossing it to Cheng Xiu, who checked it and returned a different storage sack to Lu Ye.

"Is Lord Department Chief in?" Lu Ye inquired.

Cheng Xiu replied, "He should be in. Lately, there's been no sign of him going out."

Lu Ye nodded.

After handing over the Explosive Fire Spirit Stones, Cheng Xiu quickly departed.

"You guys have fun," Lu Ye instructed, his spirit force coursing through him, quickly drying his slightly damp clothes, then soared up into the sky, heading for the Justice Department Hall.

Yiyi and Lin Yinxiu exchanged a glance, both pouting. Losing the snowball fight, they were displeased!

At the Justice Department Hall, after being announced, Lu Ye, with his saber strapped, walked inside.

Qian Wudang sat behind the desk, looking busy as usual. Lu Ye had always seen him like this, not knowing what he was occupied with.

"My lord!"

"Mm," Qian Wudang responded casually, "What brings you here?"

"May I ask, my lord, why there have been no tasks issued for such a long time?" Lu Ye got straight to the point.

Qian Wudang looked at him, speechless, "You've come here to ask for tasks?"

Lu Ye furrowed his brow, then questioned, "Is there a problem with that?"

Qian Wudang replied, "The tasks aren't issued from here!"

Lu Ye was taken aback, "You're the Justice Department Chief. If not from you, then who issues them?"

"Who said the Justice Department Chief has to issue tasks? If I had to handle such minor matters, what's the Justice Department for?" Qian Wudang set his work aside, leaned back, and flashed a meaningful smile, "I wondered why you all have been lazing around for so long, turns out you didn't know."

Know what? Lu Ye felt he might have misunderstood something but stayed silent, waiting for Qian Wudang to explain.

"The place where the Justice Department organizes and publishes missions is called the Hunting Pavilion. When you go out, turn right and walk a hundred meters; that's where you'll handle your missions in the future. There's no need to come to me. Of course, there are some exceptionally special missions that I will personally issue. Didn't Yinxu tell you these things?"

Lu Ye remained silent.

Lin Yinxu was too busy making snowmen. How would she remember to tell him all this?

Upon second thought, it wasn't really her fault. This is common knowledge. Anyone working in the Justice Department for a while would naturally know. Besides, Lu Ye had been in secluded cultivation for some time recently and Lin Yinxu didn't have the chance to tell him about these things.

He only just came out of retreat today and came straight here. If he had asked Lin Yinxu, none of this confusion would have happened.

"But your squad is not complete. Shouldn't you fill the team before executing a mission?" Qian Wudang asked.

"I'm waiting for someone," Lu Ye replied. "Can't a three-man team accept missions?"

"It's possible."

"Then I take my leave."

Seeing Lu Ye leave, Qian Wudang quickly sent out a message.

Upon exiting the Justice Department's main hall, Lu Ye turned right and walked a hundred meters. Sure enough, he saw a building with a sign reading "Hunting Pavilion." A cultivator was coming out; he was likely from the Law Enforcement Hall, either having taken a mission or coming to settle one.

Lu Ye stepped inside and scanned the room.

The interior of the Hunting Pavilion was simple, just a desk with a chubby old man sitting behind it, busy with work.

Lu Ye approached and gently knocked on the desk. The chubby old man looked up at Lu Ye and said curiously, "Never seen you before. You're new?"

Lu Ye nodded, "Yes."

Though he'd been part of the Justice Department for almost a month, he was still considered new.

"Here to accept a mission?" the chubby old man asked.

"Yes."

"Take a look yourself." The chubby old man said, taking out several jade slips and placing them in front of Lu Ye.

Lu Ye casually picked one up and immersed his mind to explore its contents. He quickly understood what was recorded inside.

After examining other jade slips, he gradually understood.

Each jade slip contained a mission, detailing the target of the mission, what guard discipline they violated, their current cultivation background, and in some cases, the last known location and time they were seen.

The mission information was quite detailed. Following it to capture someone shouldn't be difficult.

However, Lu Ye was a bit puzzled as these missions seemed a bit too simple. The most powerful targets among these jade slips were only at the True Lake Level 4, and most were at True Lake Level 1 or 2.

"Aren't there any other missions?" Lu Ye asked.

"No more," the chubby old man shook his head.

Having missions is better than having none. The Third Senior Brother really needed battle merit. These missions might not be very lucrative, but they could accumulate over time. Although the rewards were low, they were also easy to carry out.

Just as Lu Ye was about to accept a mission involving the last known location and time, another person stepped inside. The newcomer had a fierce aura, with clothes stained with some dried blood, seemingly having just gone through a fight. He stepped to the desk and handed over a jade slip. "Submitting a mission."

The chubby old man accepted it and smiled, asking, "Need another mission?"

"Naturally, I do!"

The chubby old man nodded and, like performing a trick, took out a large pile of jade slips and placed them in front of the man. Without closely examining them, the man casually grabbed one, glanced at it, and declared, "This one." Then he turned and left swiftly.

As soon as he left, Lu Ye reached out to grab from the pile of jade slips, but found nothing. All the mission slips had been taken away by the chubby old man without him noticing any movement.

"Didn't you say there were no other missions?" Lu Ye said, looking at the chubby old man.

The chubby old man smiled slightly, "What's suitable for others may not be suitable for you. For you, only those few tasks are appropriate."

Lu Ye squinted slightly. "Did Qian Wudang speak with you?"

The chubby old man smiled without saying a word.

Lu Ye immediately understood, filled with disdain. It seemed Qian Wudang was very concerned about Lin Yinxiu's safety, so he instructed them to only assign simple tasks to him.

"You need not seek out Lord Department Chief for an argument. Every new squad needs some honing. Young man, remember, you can't get fat in one bite," the chubby old man advised earnestly. "If you truly desire to accept more challenging missions, perhaps you should start with these and do your best. The Department Chief will naturally recognize your talents."

Lu Ye considered for a moment, then nodded, "You're right, elder." Saying that, he picked up his chosen jade slip. "This one, then."

The chubby old man looked at Lu Ye appreciatively, "Nowadays, there aren't many young people who listen to the advice of their elders. Off you go, and don't forget to contact the local Nightingale."

"Nightingale?" Lu Ye was puzzled.

"An intelligence agency under the Justice Department. They are a smart and capable group of young people responsible for gathering and organizing intelligence and also monitoring targets. With their help, missions are easier to complete."

Lu Ye understood, "Thank you for pointing that out, elder."

He thought to himself that he still needed to learn a lot. It seemed he should consult Lin Yinxu more often, as she was often around Qian Wudang and knew more about the Justice Department's operations than he did.

Chapter 969 Searching for Someone

Leaving the Hunting Pavilion, Lu Ye flew straight towards his small courtyard. Landing in the courtyard, Yiyi and Lin Yinxu were still building snowmen. Earlier, a snowball fight had left the previous snowmen shattered, and now there was a new batch.

Seeing Lu Ye return, the two girls exchanged a glance, feeling a tacit understanding, secretly rolling up snowballs.

"Stop playing, we have a mission," Lu Ye called out sternly.

Yiyi and Lin Yinxu quickly stood up straight.

Xiao Xinghe also walked out of the room.

Lu Ye waved the jade slip in his hand: "This is our squad's first mission in the strictest sense, so we must do it well."

"Yes." Yiyi and Lin Yinxu responded loudly in unison, and even Xiao Xinghe cupped his fist in agreement.

In private, he was the Third Senior Brother, but in this squad, Lu Ye was the captain, and he was clear about that.

"Let's go." Lu Ye called out, summoning his spirit ark.

Straight streams of light soared into the sky, quickly leaving Haotian City.

On the way, Lu Ye explained the detailed information of the mission. Lin Yinxu and Xiao Xinghe listened quietly.

When Lu Ye finished speaking, Xiao Xinghe spoke: "Looking at it this way, the hardest part of this mission is still finding people. But if we have the help of local Nightingales, it shouldn't be a big problem."

Lu Ye thought the same, but to be safe, he still asked Lin Yinxu, "What do you think?"

"What does the captain want me to think?" Lin Yinxu innocently retorted, maintaining a principle ever since joining Lu Ye's squad: whatever the captain says to do, she would be the most obedient one.

"I'm asking you now."

Lin Yinxu thought for a moment and said, "Finding the mission target may not be that simple."

"Why do you say that?"

"I heard Lord Department Chief mention before, tasks that seem simple like this are actually the ones that the Law Enforcement Hall squads are least willing to take. Because they spend a lot of time finding the mission target, some targets know they've committed a crime and naturally hide. Squads from the Law Enforcement Hall accepting such missions can't find the target's whereabouts over time and have to give up. So most times, these types of missions are assigned forcibly."

There's such a thing?

No wonder these seemingly simple tasks have stayed in the Hunting Pavilion. Lu Ye had thought it was because there wasn't much profit, but now it seems that's only part of the reason. The biggest reason is the difficulty in finding people.

It's understandable too, given the vastness of the Nine Provinces, even a single place like Bingzhou is expansive. If those cultivators who have committed crimes insist on hiding, it's indeed not easy to root them out.

Deploying a strong cultivator in the Divine Sea Realm to search with mental consciousness might be a good choice, but why would a Divine Sea Realm cultivator do such a simple thing? They have their important matters to attend to.

"Once we get there, how should I find the local Nightingales?" Lu Ye asked again.

"Captain can use the guard token. You now hold the position of captain in the Law Enforcement Hall of the Justice Department. Activate the guard token to send out a message; if there are Nightingales within thirty miles, they will come seeking you."

Lu Ye nodded slightly, finding it quite simple.

Flying all the way, Lu Ye considered going to Heaven's Augury treasure vault to find a larger flying spirit artifact, one that could at least carry six squad members. Just like Warlord Geng's squad, during travel, one member can steer while the others rest and cultivate, saving time.

Two days later, somewhere in Bingzhou, Lu Ye and his companions descended and looked around. Amidst the wild mountains, the vegetation was lush, and birds sang pleasantly.

The ten-part map showed this area as Gualiang Mountain, with no powerful sects nearby, only a few small families established here.

Lu Ye picked up the guard token from his waist, infused it with spirit force, and sent out a message, waiting quietly.

Soon, there was a response.

This meant that within thirty miles, there was indeed a Nightingale, which was quite lucky.

The Nightingale organization is extremely mysterious, and the list of Nightingales is only held by Qian Wudang. Apart from Qian Wudang, no one in the entire Justice Department knows the full list. This is primarily to protect the safety of the Nightingales and to hide their whereabouts.

After all, the Law Enforcement Hall mostly handles offending work, and the Nightingales gathering information in the shadows are equally hated and resented by many.

After waiting for an incense stick's time, Lu Ye suddenly turned his head to look in one direction, waved the guard token, and said, "Law Enforcement Hall's Lu Ye!"

From that direction, a figure slowly revealed itself, surprisingly a hundred feet away.

Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxiu were both stunned because neither of them had noticed this person's arrival, yet Lu Ye could sense it at the first moment. Just this sense alone left them in awe.

Judging by the appearance, the newcomer was a woman, and a Ghost Cultivator at that. Otherwise, she couldn't have approached within a hundred feet without being noticed by Lu Ye. She was petite and exquisite, wearing a mask that hid her true appearance.

Once she confirmed Lu Ye's identity, she swiftly advanced and cupped her fists, "Greetings, my lord!"

Lu Ye raised an eyebrow slightly. Since joining the Bingzhou guard, he had never been called "my lord." Being addressed this way for the first time was quite surprising.

From the spirit force fluctuations she displayed while approaching, it was apparent that her cultivation was only at Cloud River Level 6.

Someone with such cultivation not honing themselves at the Cloud River battlefield but becoming a Nightingale instead was evidently planning for their future, as Nightingales also receive monthly salaries. Moreover, if Lu Ye successfully completes this mission, she would also receive a share of the reward.

Battle merit is something everyone in the Nine Provinces cultivation world desires. Even among Cloud River Realm cultivators, some are diligent and others are far-sighted.

Lu Ye raised his hand, tossing the mission jade slip, "This is the target for this mission. Have you seen him recently?"

The Nightingale took the jade slip, checked it briefly, and said, "The last sighting of him was ten days ago, right here in Gualiang Mountain. After that, there's been no trace."

"Take us to the place where he last appeared," Lu Ye ordered.

"Yes!" Nightingale accepted the order and immediately dashed off in a certain direction.

The three-member squad followed closely behind.

An hour later, they arrived at a location deep within Gualiang Mountain. Only then did Nightingale halt and speak, "It's here. On that day, he encountered a monster here and fought with it. I saw it from afar."

The mission target was True Lake Level 3, while Nightingale was only Cloud River Level 6, so naturally, she didn't dare to get too close.

Ten days had passed, and any traces would have long vanished.

Lu Ye observed for a moment but found nothing, then spoke to Nightingale, "You may go. Be careful."

"Yes." Nightingale accepted the order and respectfully withdrew, soon disappearing from sight.

Her role was over in this matter.

"Shall we split up to search?" Xiao Xinghe asked.

Lu Ye nodded, "Contact me immediately if you discover anything." The target's cultivation wasn't very high; even if Xiao Xinghe encountered him alone, it wouldn't be a problem. Splitting up was naturally the most efficient.

Immediately, the three-member squad dispersed in three directions to begin searching.

Though Gualiang Mountain had no sect located here, quite a few independent cultivators resided within. As Lu Ye searched, he encountered some independent cultivators roaming the mountain.

Most were gathering herbs here to earn some meager cultivation resources.

Those independent cultivators who stayed here were generally those who didn't like being constrained or were cautious individuals. Otherwise, they could join the Bingzhou guard and not live so frugally here.

Lu Ye naturally wouldn't interfere in what others chose; everyone had their own goals, and it couldn't be forced. In the Nine Provinces cultivation world, the cultivation community was large, and all kinds of people existed.

Even those who committed wrongdoings knew the consequences of violating guard discipline, yet they still carried out wicked deeds. Even the strictest laws cannot restrain the complexity of human nature.

Though Lu Ye was at True Lake Realm, he had already developed Mental Consciousness. Under its spread, he could clearly sense any movements within a mile radius.

Therefore, his search efficiency was much greater than an average True Lake Realm cultivator. If the mission target appeared within a mile radius around him, there was no escaping detection.

Unfortunately, until nightfall, there was no gain.

As night descended, the three-member squad gathered again in one place.

Lu Ye realized the difficulty in this mission, just as Xiao Xinghe had said before. The task itself isn't hard; capturing a True Lake Level 3 cultivator is something any member of the squad can accomplish. The challenge lies in finding the person.

If the person can't be found, everything is a moot point.

This is the reason such missions aren't favored by Law Enforcement Hall squads and always have to be forcefully assigned.

However, the plump elder from the Hunting Pavilion was correct. If such tasks can't be accomplished, what greater endeavors can be expected? This is likely Qian Wudang's test.

This is the squad's first task in the strictest sense. If they return empty-handed, it would be disgraceful.

"Is it late? Shall we search tomorrow?" Xiao Xinghe suggested.

Other Law Enforcement Hall squads have six members, yet they only have three. This makes their search efficiency quite low.

"No need!" Lu Ye shook his head and took out an item from his storage space.

Xiao Xinghe looked closely and was slightly surprised, "This is...

"Tracking disc?" As someone close to Qian Wudang, Lin Yinxiu recognized the item in Lu Ye's hand at a glance and jubilantly remarked, "With this, finding someone is a breeze."

She then asked puzzled, "Captain, why didn't you use this earlier?"

You know nothing!

This item is worth thirty thousand battle merits.

For this task, it's unknown how many battle merits can be earned. Lu Ye initially thought to save where possible. But now it seems that wanting to save these thirty thousand battle merits means spending a lot of time to find the person, which is not worth it.

With the time saved from searching, he could do other things.

Despite the high cost, Lu Ye decided to use the tracking disc.

"It's quite wasteful," Xiao Xinghe remarked.

An exotic treasure like the tracking disc is so rare and desirable that he had only heard of it, never seen it in person.

Using it for a task targeting merely a True Lake Level 3 cultivator seems wasteful.

If this item were to be sold, no matter who it's sold to, it would fetch a substantial price.

"No worries."

While the tracking disc might be incredibly rare to others, to him, it's merely worth thirty thousand battle merits. As long as there are sufficient battle merits, it can be exchanged at the Hall of Battle Merits without issue.

Chapter 970 Another Serving

The Boulder Mountain Saber emerged from its sheath, and Lu Ye cut a small wound on his finger, using his own blood as a guide to write a name on the tracking disc, while contemplating the specific details of the mission target.

In the next instant, red light bloomed within the tracking disc, and the compass needle rapidly spun before suddenly freezing in place.

Glancing in the direction indicated by the needle, Lu Ye called out: "Let's go!"

Three figures darted through the Void, and merely two hours later, they stopped above a certain area of Gualiang Mountain.

At this moment, the needle of the tracking disc in Lu Ye's hand was spinning incessantly, which evidently wasn't due to a malfunction, but indicated that the target was right below.

Putting away the tracking disc, Lu Ye looked down but didn't notice anything obvious.

"Wait here." Lu Ye ordered, then swooped downward, descending swiftly.

Mental Consciousness spread out, carefully sensing.

Soon, he detected the presence of a living person hiding deep below, clearly the target of this mission, and he also noticed evidence of a Formation covering the nearby rock wall.

However, these formations appeared exceedingly crude to Lu Ye, indicating the target was not versed deeply in the Array Path.

Instead of rushing to act, he continued investigating the surroundings. Shortly after, he summoned Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxiu, who were waiting in mid-air, instructed Xiao Xinghe to guard this area, and took Lin Yinxiu to explore another direction.

The target of this mission evidently understood the logic of a crafty rabbit with three burrows, hence there was more than one entry and exit point for hiding, and all were extremely well concealed. A common True Lake Realm cultivator might not necessarily find them, but under Lu Ye's insightful probing, the extension direction of the underground passages naturally revealed itself.

Soon, Lin Yinxiu was also ready, blocking another entrance.

Only then did Lu Ye head toward the third exit, gently tapping Amber's head.

Yiyi flashed out.

There was no need for many words; Yiyi instantly understood Lu Ye's intention.

"Be careful." Lu Ye instructed.

"Mm." Yiyi responded crisply, her figure blurred as she slipped underground.

The night was thick, filled with incessant frog croaks and insect chirps.

Suddenly, a commanding voice from Yiyi's delicate mouth echoed from deep underground: "Law Enforcement Hall on duty, Chu Yue, your cover is blown, surrender quickly!"

Lu Ye found it amusing, almost picturing Yiyi's adorable appearance as she spoke such lethal words.

The young girl was clearly influenced by Warlord Geng. Last time when Lu Ye joined Warlord Geng on a mission, Warlord Geng shouted similar phrases.

Almost immediately upon Yiyi's declaration, violent spirit force fluctuations erupted from deep underground. Within Lu Ye's Mental Consciousness sensing, that fellow named Chu Yue, after attacking Yiyi, was frantically escaping in one direction.

And that direction was precisely where Lin Yinxiu was stationed.

He quickly rushed over.

Just upon arrival, a figure burst from a Formation-concealed hole, followed by Lin Yinxiu deploying an item from her hand.

It was a net-like treasure, and despite Chu Yue's vigilance, he was unable to resist, being securely ensnared by the net.

Though he continued to struggle and resist, Lu Ye had already stepped forward and delivered a kick.

With a booming sound, the kick firmly struck its target, causing Chu Yue, bound by the net, to slam heavily against a large tree, splitting it into two halves.

"Constrict!" Lin Yinxiu commanded sharply, and as spirit force surged, the net tightened briskly, rendering all of Chu Yue's struggles futile.

A long saber emerged from its sheath, resting against Chu Yue's neck. Lu Ye warned in a low voice, "Dare to resist further, and you will be executed without mercy!"

The Law Enforcement Hall of the Justice Department held the authority to execute mission targets, especially in cases of resistance, so even if Lu Ye killed the man here, it wouldn't be a problem.

Sensing Lu Ye's killer intent, Chu Yue finally obeyed, bound within the net, he looked up at Lu Ye and sighed heavily, showing a hint of acceptance: "In the end... they still came."

The sound of fluttering robes followed as Xiao Xinghe arrived, observing the situation, and relaxed.

Lu Ye gazed at the battle-weary Chu Yue and spoke calmly, "If you don't want to die, be obedient. If you exhibit any malicious act, I'll slay you on the spot, understood?"

"Having been captured, I harbor no intentions otherwise," Chu Yue nodded resignedly, "Entering the Penology Department might offer a slim chance at life. Resisting here only leads to death. I understand the gravity of the situation."

Lu Ye nodded subtly and returned the saber to its sheath.

The mission target was apprehended, and there was no need to linger further. Lu Ye called to his squad, and they embarked toward Haotian City overnight.

Chu Yue indeed had resigned himself to fate, showing no signs of resistance along the way, allowing Lin Yinxiu to bind him with the net-like treasure.

He spoke little, probably feeling there was little to converse about with the Law Enforcement Hall personnel.

Two days later, the group returned to Haotian City.

Now that the person was captured, he naturally needed to be escorted to the Penology Department.

The three parted ways, with Chu Yue being taken to the Penology Department by Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxu, while Lu Ye headed directly to the Hunting Pavilion.

"Hmm?" The stout elder was surprised to see Lu Ye and commented, "Back so soon? Was the task..."

"Completed." Lu Ye returned the jade slip he had received from there before.

The chubby elder was stunned: "You're quite lucky."

He was naturally aware of the difficulties of those tasks. He originally thought that Lu Ye and his team would need at least ten days to half a month to complete the mission, with a significant chance of failure. Yet, unexpectedly, it was done in less than five days.

Excluding the time spent on traveling back and forth, the efficiency was quite extraordinary, with luck being exceptionally favorable.

"Senior, how much battle merit can one usually earn from such a task?" Lu Ye asked.

"Around fifty thousand points or so," the chubby elder replied.

Lu Ye's eyelid twitched at this; this task had earned fifty thousand battle merits, while the tracking disc alone cost thirty thousand, meaning five days of effort yielded a mere twenty thousand battle merits...

Even needing to be divided among three people.

The harvest was truly meager.

It's worth noting that when he crafted Explosive Fire Spirit Stones, he could earn five thousand battle merits a day.

However, some things couldn't be measured solely by his standards. For other True Lake Realm cultivators, such a harvest was actually quite decent.

His battle merits came easily, but for Xiao Xinghe, the third senior brother, acquiring battle merits was not as simple, so some things were difficult to calculate.

"Let's take another one!" Lu Ye spoke up.

The chubby elder had no objection, then brought out the jade slips for the previous tasks. Lu Ye briefly examined them and casually chose one before leaving the Hunting Pavilion.

Turning left, within a hundred zhang, he directly entered the hall of the Justice Department.

Qian Wudang raised his eyes and looked over, equally surprised: "The Hunting Pavilion and the Penology Department have both reported. This mission was completed well."

"Sir, I have a request on this visit."

"Speak first and let me hear," Qian Wudang immediately became cautious.

Last time, Lu Ye requested him to sign a hand order for free personnel deployment, resulting in Liew Yuemei almost being beaten to death by Veteran Thang. With such a previous lesson, Qian Wudang was extremely alert to Lu Ye's so-called requests.

"For the battle merits earned from future missions, I won't take a single bit; they will all be distributed to the other members of the team."

Qian Wudang was surprised: "Not a single bit?"

Lu Ye nodded: "Can this be done?"

He knew that the distribution of battle merits was not Qian Wudang's decision to make; it was Heaven's Augury's operation. But since people like Qian Wudang and Nian Yuexian held high positions, they had a certain degree of interference ability.

Take the previous defensive battle at Gushan City as an example; if Nian Yuexian hadn't reported to Heaven's Augury, he wouldn't have gotten that grand battle merits.

"There should be no problem," Qian Wudang nodded slightly, looking at Lu Ye, "Taking care of your subordinates is commendable, but for yourself..."

"As you know, I don't lack battle merits, and now as my cultivation increases, the efficiency of crafting Explosive Fire Spirit Stones will gradually improve. It's still quite easy for me to earn battle merits in the future."

"That's true," Qian Wudang agreed with Lu Ye's reasoning.

Which True Lake Realm cultivator can steadily earn over two hundred thousand battle merits a month?

If it's true as Lu Ye said, with his cultivation increasing, and the efficiency of crafting Explosive Fire Spirit Stones enhancing, he will earn more battle merits in the future.

"Very well, I'll agree to this, and naturally, I'll petition Heaven's Augury, but the outcome is not for me to decide."

"Thank you then, sir. I take my leave."

Without rushing back to his small courtyard, Lu Ye went to Heaven's Augury Hall again and spent some merits to buy a spirit ark that could accommodate seven or eight people.

He then returned to the Hall of Battle Merits and exchanged for a tracking disc.

Upon returning to the small courtyard, Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxiu had already returned. Seeing Lu Ye come back, they both came to greet him.

Lin Yinxiu cheerfully said, "Captain, captain, I gained nearly thirty thousand battle merits from this mission!"

For someone her age, this was the first time she had earned so much from her efforts, and it was also the first time she obtained battle merits, so she was naturally quite delighted.

Xiao Xinghe was somewhat puzzled: "Junior brother, was there a mistake in handing out the battle merits? Why is it so much?"

Although he didn't quite understand the operations on the Law Enforcement Hall's side, in his original estimate, earning ten thousand battle merits for this mission would have been quite decent, possibly not even that much; how could there be nearly thirty thousand?

"This type of task had been delayed for too long, so even though it's not very difficult, the reward is quite substantial, and the battle merits were distributed by Heaven's Augury, so it's impossible to be wrong," Lu Ye casually made up an explanation.

In his heart, he marveled at the high efficiency on Qian Wudang's side, and clearly, Heaven's Augury also granted his petition, distributing the battle merits from this mission equally to Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxiu.

This was exactly what Lu Ye desired.

Xiao Xinghe still had some doubts, but after thinking it over, he agreed with what Lu Ye said. Battle merits and achievements were allocated by Heaven's Augury, so there couldn't be mistakes or omissions, thereby easing his mind.

"Captain, when will we execute our next mission?" Lin Yinxiu asked expectantly.

Having experienced a smooth mission, she couldn't help but grow fond of the feeling of running around for her cultivation resources, something she had never felt before in her life.

Previously, all her cultivation resources were arranged well by Qian Wudang, so she actually didn't need to do anything, merely focus on cultivation, even on the Spirit Stream battlefield.

As for the Cloud River battlefield... she had simply never been there.