

Humanity 981

Chapter 981 Medical Clinic

A group of men walked bare-chested through the dark passageway and stepped out of the prison.

Under the blazing sun, the deep cold in their bones dissipated quite a bit, giving them a sense of narrowly escaping death.

This experience was destined to be etched in the minds of many for life, and they were certain to keep their distance from this hellish place.

Zhou Kui and Zhang Cheng led their team members away quickly. Before leaving, Zhou Kui didn't forget to give Lu Ye an angry glare.

"Yiye, this time I dragged you into this," said Warlord Geng.

Lu Ye looked towards the direction where Zhou Kui departed and shook his head slowly: "We still don't know who dragged whom into this."

"What do you mean?" Warlord Geng was puzzled.

"That Zhou Kui is probably targeting me. I went to his Zhou family and brought someone back two days ago!" Lu Ye explained.

Originally, he thought this incident started because Warlord Geng couldn't control his temper, leading to a conflict between several teams.

But when Lu Ye learned that the person who fought him was actually named Zhou Kui, some previously unclear matters suddenly became clear.

When the conflict broke out, he rushed to help, and Zhou Kui immediately blocked him. At the time, Lu Ye felt something was off; this guy was a physique cultivator at the True Lake Level 9 realm, and it didn't make sense for him to focus on Lu Ye first.

In such a situation, he should have been focusing on Warlord Geng.

But if this person is Zhou Kui, then it all makes sense.

When he captured Zhou Wang in the Zhou family, the external affairs elder Zhou Ze had mentioned Zhou Kui's name, possibly hoping Lu Ye would be lenient and let Zhou Wang off the hook.

But Lu Ye didn't know who Zhou Kui was and not only confiscated the items Zhou Ze sent but also broke into the Zhou Family Manor, capturing Zhou Wang right under the eyes of a group of cultivators.

This news must have reached Zhou Kui's ears.

That's why today's events happened.

Maybe the original conflict between them and Team A-3 was also part of the reason.

But Zhou Kui definitely wanted to take this opportunity to teach Lu Ye a hard lesson and vent his anger.

He simply didn't expect that Lu Ye could surpass him in physical combat, resulting in Lu Ye turning the tables!

Warlord Geng was unaware of these intricacies and, after listening to Lu Ye, smiled: "Anyway, it is what it is. No matter who dragged whom, we all suffered together. Let's go, get treated in the medical facility."

Law Enforcement Hall teams typically don't have healing cultivators because the number of healing cultivators is relatively small, making it impossible to ensure every team is equipped with one.

Thus, the medical facility exists.

Cultivators traveling to Haotian City who are injured can go to the medical facility for treatment, with all expenses covered by the provincial guard. Additionally, healing cultivators treating the injuries of soldiers can earn battle merit as a reward.

Lu Ye was aware of the medical facility but hadn't been there. It was rumored that many beautiful healing cultivators from sects throughout Bingzhou worked there, though there were male healers too...

This medical facility belongs to the Medical Services Department, which manages all healing cultivators of the provincial guard, including those stationed at major mountain passes on the frontlines, under strict jurisdiction of the Medical Services Department.

Under Warlord Geng's guidance, the group arrived at the medical facility.

The number of cultivators coming and going was considerable. Cultivators often engage in disputes outside, and getting injured is commonplace. Even after injuries heal, some lingering issues might remain.

Thus, they frequently visit the facility, either to heal injuries or manage lingering health issues.

The healers in the facility are quite accustomed to this.

Upon entering the facility and presenting their guard tokens, someone escorted them into small rooms to await treatment.

Lu Ye lay down with his bloodied back exposed, while Lin Yinxiu sat beside him, expressing concern: "Captain, does it hurt?"

"No kidding!" Lu Ye retorted, suddenly realizing that having female cultivators on the team wasn't necessarily a good thing; at the very least, he'd be hit more with the Reversed Dragon Spike.

Lin Yinxiu stuck out her tongue: "Next time, don't take the punishment for me. I can handle it myself just fine."

Lu Ye ignored her.

With Qian Wudang there, how could he not take the punishment for Lin Yinxiu? Moreover, for a woman to be punished like that was indeed inappropriate. Men were whipped until their backs were bloody and raw, and if a woman went up there, considering Old One-eye's ruthless nature, he likely wouldn't show any mercy.

As they were talking, the door opened, and a female cultivator entered, presenting a respectful salute before Lu Ye: "Greetings, Senior Brother. I am Yu Xiaodie from the Medical Services Department, ordered to treat you."

Lu Ye slowly lifted his gaze, and a long-missed face appeared in his field of view.

"Hmm?" The visitor, upon seeing Lu Ye's face, lit up with joy: "Big Brother Lu?"

"Junior Sister Yu!" Lu Ye smiled as well, "Life certainly has a way of bringing people together unexpectedly. I didn't expect to meet you here."

The visitor introduced herself as Yu Xiaodie, and indeed, she was the Yu Xiaodie Lu Ye knew.

It's just that since their parting at Evil Moon Valley years had passed.

Back in those years, both were just rescued by the Haotian Alliance. One had opened only one orifice, and the other two. Now, one has reached the True Lake Level 5 realm, while the other, though not in the True Lake, has entered the Cloud River. As for which level in Cloud River, Lu Ye temporarily couldn't discern.

In a few years, time has changed so much.

Yu Xiaodie obviously didn't expect that the person she was to heal this time was Lu Ye and seemed very happy: "Big Brother Lu, how come you're in Haotian City?"

After asking, she realized, "They said that there were several teams from the Justice Department in a conflict this time, and they all got punished in the prison. Big Brother Lu, were you also..."

"I was one of them," Lu Ye sighed inwardly. Indeed, good news doesn't go out, but bad news spreads far and wide. Even the medical hall has heard about the recent events. Surely everyone in Haotian City knows by now.

"It must be their fault," Yu Xiaodie said angrily. "But Big Brother Lu, you are impressive to have joined the Justice Department. I heard that working there is quite prestigious."

Lu Ye couldn't help but laugh. Indeed, the things women care about are a bit different. He replied, "Prestigious it is, but the work offends many people and easily incurs resentment."

"That doesn't matter. If you get hurt again, come to the medical hall, and I'll heal you."

While they chatted away, Lin Yinxiu, who was watching the show, suddenly said, "Junior Sister, if you don't tend to the captain, he'll bleed out."

Yu Xiaodie gasped in surprise, blushing, and apologized, "Sorry, Big Brother Lu, I... I forgot."

Saying this, she hurriedly sat by the bed, took some healing supplies from the storage sack, and carefully tended to Lu Ye.

"I remember Junior Sister joined the Hundred Flowers Valley?" Lu Ye asked casually.

Back then, in Evil Moon Valley, he followed Pang Dahai's advice and joined the Righteous Blood Sect, while Yu Xiaodie chose the Hundred Flowers Valley, and both were selected, embarking on the path of cultivation.

"That's right," Yu Xiaodie replied. "I've heard a lot about Big Brother Lu over the past few years. Many sisters in the valley admire you a lot. They know I know you and are envious."

"What you heard is surely not good news," Lu Ye smiled slightly.

"That's not true. I heard all about how amazing Big Brother Lu is. Your name still echoes on the Spirit Stream battlefield, and many stories about you spread on the Cloud River battlefield. But life must have been tough for you these past years, Big Brother Lu?"

Others only see the glory under Lu Ye's name but can hardly imagine the bitterness and hardship behind it. Yu Xiaodie's thoughts are noticeably different from others. Listening to those inspiring stories, she can imagine the adverse conditions Lu Ye was in.

"It's okay," Lu Ye responded casually. Hard work was inevitable, but overcoming it brings more rewards.

While tending to Lu Ye's wounds, Yu Xiaodie casually chatted with him, clearly in a good mood.

Lin Yinxiu sat quietly on the side and did not interject.

After one hour, Yu Xiaodie said, "Big Brother Lu, your physique is strong. The injuries seem severe but are not serious. Come back in a couple of days for another change of medicine."

Lu Ye stood up, moved his muscles and bones, feeling at ease, praised, "Junior Sister has good skills."

Yu Xiaodie smiled sweetly, "Healing cultivators can only help you with such things. It's good that Big Brother Lu does not mind." After pausing, she added, "But for someone like Big Brother Lu, who roams outside and often engages in combat, there might be some hidden injuries and residual effects in the body. If you have time, come to the medical hall, and I'll introduce you to a True Lake realm senior sister to help you with those hidden injuries."

"Alright," Lu Ye agreed readily, putting on his clothes.

Moments later, he led Lin Yinxiu out. In the outer corridor, the third senior brother was waiting.

The three of them gathered and bid farewell to Yu Xiaodie, flying towards the small courtyard.

Just as they landed in the courtyard, they saw the sect master's figure, with Amber and Yiyi waiting there.

Since Qian Wudang appeared, Amber had slipped away early, and Qian Wudang pretended not to see it. After all, he couldn't punish even a demon beast.

Of all those involved in the brawl, only Amber escaped unscathed.

The three bowed quickly.

The sect master looked at them, "Didn't suffer any loss?"

Lu Ye replied, "Third Senior Brother suffered a little, but I avenged it."

The sect master nodded approvingly, "As long as you didn't suffer. If you're injured, just rest well and don't wander around these days."

"Yes."

The sect master just came to check on them and left after seeing they were fine.

Yiyi rushed to greet them, asking with concern. Naturally, Lu Ye assured her there was no problem, not wanting her to worry unnecessarily.

The next few days were extremely peaceful. Lu Ye's injuries healed quickly. After all, with the foundational remnants of Soaring Dragon World's origin, his vitality was strong, and no matter how severe the Reversed Dragon Spike wound was, it was only skin-deep.

When Old One-eye inflicted punishment, he avoided damaging their muscles and bones.

During this period, Lu Ye went to the medical hall for another round of medicine. Whether it was Yu Xiaodie spreading his name around, many healing cultivators gathered enthusiastically to see him.

The monthly salary was distributed, and more Explosive Fire Spirit Stones were settled than the last time, finally replenishing his battle merit.

Lu Ye went to buy a tracking disc immediately, though he didn't plan to use it for tasks again.

Executing tasks with a tracking disc, as before, was too costly and not a long-term plan.

Chapter 982 Doppelganger

During the recovery period, apart from imprinting the Soaring Dragon Origin, Lu Ye had nothing else to do.

Other cultivators spend most of their lives on cultivation, and their high-level cultivation is accumulated bit by bit in such monotonous and silent practice, resulting in the enviable glory and brilliance.

Lu Ye had just advanced from the True Lake Level 3 to the Level 5 realm not long ago and had no plans to enhance his cultivation for the time being. Rapid advancement in cultivation isn't always beneficial as it can lead to an unstable foundation.

By settling into the current realm for some time, the foundation can become more stable.

After another session of imprinting the Soaring Dragon World Origin, Lu Ye slowly opened his eyes to review his gains.

A moment later, he turned his head to see Amber sleeping soundly nearby, appearing to have consumed a demonic pill, while a golden vortex was spinning in front of Yiyi, with pure and dense spirit force gushing out for her to refine and absorb.

Ever since Lu Ye adopted the cultivation method of Theft of Heaven's Augury, Yiyi felt a sense of crisis because Lu Ye's growth speed had increased again, and it was alarmingly fast.

Originally, she barely managed to keep up with Lu Ye by cultivating alongside Amber, but after Lu Ye advanced to the True Lake, the gap between them widened.

So she spent all her spare time on cultivation these days.

The little girl had her private resources...

She had her own battlefield marking, naturally possessing her own merits and battle merits, and could employ any cultivation techniques available to all cultivators.

Seeing Yiyi's dedication to cultivation, Lu Ye didn't disturb her. He quietly got up and walked outside.

The small courtyard was tranquil, not a single person in sight, as Xiao Xinghe and Lin Yinxiu's doors were both closed, indicating they were in cultivation.

Lu Ye shot up into the sky, intending to visit the sect master.

But when he reached the sect master's courtyard, the old man was nowhere to be seen. The sect master had made a strong comeback and was now part of the Elder Council, naturally busier than before.

Standing in the sect master's courtyard, Lu Ye suddenly felt a bit lost.

How did he become so idle all of a sudden?

He needed to find something to do! Such valuable time in youth shouldn't be spent idly!

After a brief moment of thought, Lu Ye had an idea.

He hurried back to his small courtyard, found an empty room, went in, sat cross-legged, and immersed his mind, observing the Talent Tree.

Now, the Talent Tree had taken shape, with large patches of leaves blazing, especially the branch where the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes were located, which at a glance seemed like a magnificent Fire Phoenix perched on the branch.

So far, nearly forty spirit runes on the Talent Tree had been activated, each being of great use to Lu Ye, whether for cultivation, combat, or support.

One could say his achievements today owe much to the Talent Tree.

He had mastered almost all the spirit runes and knew the purpose of nearly all of them, except for one spirit rune that he couldn't figure out because there was no target to use it on, besides Spirit Stream.

Immersing his mind, he observed the spirit rune on the Talent Tree.

Single-Stalk Twin Lotus!

This spirit rune was once activated soon after, but it had no effect.

So, at that moment, with a thought, Lu Ye constructed the Twin Lotus spirit rune in his palm, but apart from looking like a lotus flower, it had nothing special.

This spirit rune perhaps wasn't meant for himself? Like the Twin Flying Phoenixes, which requires two people to activate it.

Thinking so, Lu Ye returned to his room and carried the soundly sleeping Amber out.

Amber was still in deep sleep, not because it lacked vigilance, but because even in its dreams, it could sense Lu Ye's presence, naturally unalarmed.

With a stranger, it might have alerted it with just slight proximity.

Bringing Amber back, Lu Ye placed a hand on Amber's small head, channeling spirit force to construct the Twin Lotus on it.

A splendid spirit light immediately appeared on Amber's forehead in the shape of a lotus.

Still useless, as Amber showed no reaction, and Lu Ye felt nothing unusual.

From this, it seemed that his previous thought was incorrect; this spirit rune wasn't meant to be used on others either.

Useless when applied to himself, useless when applied to others, where else could it be used? Using it for an array setup or to enhance the Boulder Mountain Saber seemed even more impractical.

Frowning, Lu Ye delved deep in thought.

After a moment, a bold idea suddenly popped into his mind...

With a thought, as spirit force surged, dense Yin-Yang Dual Origins rapidly enveloped his entire body.

With a flicker, a figure identical to his appeared beside him, as if shedding an outer garment, maintaining the same cross-legged posture as his true form.

Split Shadow!

Lu Ye had used this spirit rune when being pursued by Liew Yuemei, which played a significant role in making Liew Yuemei mistakenly believe it was a sophisticated Clone Technique.

In truth, it was just an illusion constructed from spirit force. Because of the augmentation provided by spirit force, it could be maintained for a brief moment. Moreover, the radiance was so dazzling that it was hard to distinguish between the real and the illusion, allowing one to confuse the enemy's sight, thereby gaining time to escape.

Of course, it was also quite effective for combat.

At the height of fierce battles, the sudden appearance of a doppelganger could achieve fantastic results, catching the enemy off guard.

However, Lu Ye had yet to encounter an opponent with whom he needed to engage in a hard-fought struggle. The people he faced were either no match for him, or he was no match for them, so there was naturally no need to use the Split Shadow Spirit Runes.

The Single-Stalk Twin Lotus spirit rune could not be augmented on himself nor could it be placed on others, much less used for array setup or combat.

Could it be augmented on one's doppelganger?

The sudden emergence of this thought was really due to the name "Single-Stalk Twin Lotus."

The names of spirit runes aren't fabricated out of thin air. For example, "Sharpness" enhances the sharpness of the Boulder Mountain Saber when activated. Another, "Guard," can transform into protection.

Single-Stalk Twin Lotus, born from the same root, can only be called such when there are two lotuses on a single stalk.

The true self and the doppelganger are like two lotuses born from one stalk.

Raising his hand towards the illusion, even though he had not yet applied it, Lu Ye had a strong sense that he had found the direction this time.

His large hand pressed onto the doppelganger, spirit force activated, constructing the Single-Stalk Twin Lotus Spirit Rune.

The instant the spirit rune took shape, Lu Ye suddenly felt a strange sensation.

Originally, the doppelganger was constructed from his spirit force, so he could manipulate it and exert simple control, akin to weapon control. However, there was nothing else special about it beyond that.

But at this moment, he felt his sensory perception had seemingly extended to the doppelganger. It was a very peculiar feeling!

Before he could savor it, an anomaly arose.

From where the Root Spiritual Orifice was located, the Talent Tree suddenly shook uncontrollably. Following that, an invisible root extended out, probing towards where the Single-Stalk Twin Lotus was, piercing into the doppelganger.

Lu Ye was slightly astonished; he had never anticipated such a change.

He stabilized his psyche and quietly observed the transformation.

The next moment, Lu Ye's expression darkened, as he sensed the Talent Tree wildly drawing his blood Qi energy and spirit force, injecting them into the doppelganger.

He immediately guarded his psyche, controlling the Talent Tree's anomaly.

Fortunately, everything went smoothly. Under his control, the Talent Tree ceased its absorption of his strength.

Nonetheless, in that brief moment, a considerable amount of blood Qi energy and spirit force had already been injected into the doppelganger. When Lu Ye looked closely, he was greatly amazed.

Because the originally spirit-force constructed illusion now appeared much more real than before, and he could clearly feel that the connection between his true self and the doppelganger had become more intimate, as if the doppelganger was truly an extension of himself.

He quickly inspected himself.

Realizing that he had merely expended some blood Qi energy and spirit force, his foundation remained unaffected.

Calming his mind slightly, recalling his earlier experience, Lu Ye roughly discerned the mystery of the Single-Stalk Twin Lotus.

He couldn't help feeling excited, for if things were truly as he imagined, then this Single-Stalk Twin Lotus Spirit Rune was undoubtedly the most mystical one he had encountered so far!

With a thought, the Talent Tree again began siphoning power from his main body and channeling it into the doppelganger. However, this time, under Lu Ye's control, the siphoning and infusing process became much smoother.

The doppelganger grew increasingly realistic, as if it truly had flesh and blood.

A moment later, the doppelganger fully solidified.

The root of the Talent Tree inserted into the doppelganger's body snapped at that instant, and subsequently, the root transformed into a lotus blossom form within the doppelganger.

Amber woke up at some point, staring with wide tiger eyes at Lu Ye's main body and doppelganger. It tried hard to figure out why, upon waking, it suddenly had another owner!

Lu Ye turned to look at it, and the doppelganger also turned to look at it.

Amber's fur bristled in surprise, meowing as it dashed out, disappearing without a trace.

"Such a fuss over nothing!" Lu Ye snorted and continued to study his doppelganger.

The current doppelganger was entirely different from the initial construct. The former merely served to confuse the enemy's vision and shattered with a touch, but now the doppelganger appeared no different from a real person at first glance, complete with flesh and blood. Anything present on Lu Ye's body, it had too, even the small black mole on his arm.

This doppelganger was no longer simply a shadow; it was a true doppelganger!

Perhaps due to a section of the Talent Tree's root being injected into the doppelganger's body, the connection between the main body and the doppelganger became incredibly close. Lu Ye could clearly perceive everything about the doppelganger and control it to do anything he wished.

The vision also became peculiar; everything seen appeared as two different scenes...

Lu Ye felt a bit dizzy, so he quickly closed his eyes.

Luckily, his psyche was strong and his mind resilient, so it only took him a moment to adapt to this form of vision, and he discovered that if he focused his mind solely on either the main body or the doppelganger, the vision of the other would blur considerably.

This was indeed a good thing.

Chapter 983 Drinking Tea

The advantages of a strong psyche are multifaceted.

Just like now, Lu Ye took less than one hour to familiarize himself with this doppelganger, and can multitask, allowing both his main body and the doppelganger to do different things simultaneously without any interference in their visions.

It was only until now that Lu Ye finally confirmed one thing.

The deployment of the Single-Stalk Twin Lotus must be predicated on the Split Shadow; these two spirit runes need to combine to truly display their power, which can be considered as finding a correct usage method.

After the initial novelty wore off, Lu Ye examined himself.

His spirit force was largely consumed, which was of no concern since it could easily be replenished, and his blood Qi energy had also been substantially depleted, yet this too was of no consequence.

He was brimming with vitality, so what did it matter to lose some blood Qi energy?

The only thing that concerned Lu Ye was that severed root of the Talent Tree.

For now, the Talent Tree seemed unaffected, but that root was still an extension of the Talent Tree, considered as part of its foundation, and thus must not be easily lost.

One or two roots are not much of an issue, but if many are lost, the Talent Tree's power might be somewhat affected, and since the Talent Tree is Lu Ye's most crucial foundation, it must not be damaged.

Therefore, although the doppelganger is not his main body, it must be protected. If the doppelganger perishes, that particular root of the Talent Tree will surely be unretrievable.

Lu Ye could feel that taking back the root of the Talent Tree was simple; he only needed to activate the Talent Tree's power on his main body to completely reabsorb everything from the doppelganger.

Previously, when he saw his master possess a doppelganger of Little Butterfly, Lu Ye was quite amazed; yet to his surprise, he himself now could have a doppelganger.

Moreover, it was more advanced and mysterious than the doppelganger created by his master's cover armorer methods.

Only it's uncertain whether the doppelganger could be seen through by others.

Anyway, as far as Lu Ye was concerned, the doppelganger was identical to the main body, without any differences, and it was certain that True Lake Realm cultivators could never see through the real and illusory of the doppelganger.

As for whether the Divine Sea Realm could know... perhaps an attempt could be made.

Thinking so, Lu Ye took a set of clothes out from the storage sack and tossed it to the doppelganger, which swiftly dressed itself.

The two figures rose together, standing opposite as if looking in a mirror.

Lu Ye then untied the Boulder Mountain Saber from his waist and handed it to the doppelganger, which received it and secured it at its waist, then pushed the door open to leave.

Activating spirit force, he soared into the sky, heading straight for the Justice Department's main hall.

Soon, he arrived in front of the main hall; the cultivators on duty were all familiar faces, and upon seeing Lu Ye arrive, they smiled and said, "Brother Lu, why have you come here instead of properly recuperating?"

A few days ago, the event of several Law Enforcement Hall teams getting into a brawl had already spread throughout Haotian City. Such happenings were rare in the city, inevitably becoming a hot topic among people.

"I'm here to see Lord Department Chief. Is the lord present?" Lu Ye asked.

"The lord is inside, Brother Lu, feel free to go in."

Previously, notifications had to be made when coming here, but now that's no longer necessary.

Lu Ye then controlled the doppelganger to walk straight into the hall. Upon entering, he saw Qian Wudang and cupped his fists in salutation, "My lord!"

"Hmm." Qian Wudang responded with a nod, indicating, "Sit down for a while first."

Lu Ye had no objections; his purpose in coming this time was to find out whether Qian Wudang could discern the nature of his doppelganger. Although he had great confidence in the doppelganger, such matters always require verification to be known.

Thus, he sat down calmly at the side.

Qian Wudang, after attending to his matters, then looked at Lu Ye, "Do you have any business?"

While speaking, he rose and walked to the side, brewing and bringing a cup of tea over.

Lu Ye was flattered, hastily standing up to accept, "It's nothing. I just came to see if my lord had any instructions."

Lord Department Chief personally serving tea—this was the first time!

However, judging by the current situation, it was clear Qian Wudang hadn't noticed any flaws in the doppelganger. Otherwise, he surely would have pointed them out.

Qian Wudang listened, slightly speechless, casting Lu Ye a meaningful glance, perhaps misunderstanding something, and then sat down again, speaking slowly, "Last time's matter was handled well."

"Which matter?" Lu Ye was contemplating whether it would be inappropriate for the doppelganger to drink tea; the doppelganger appeared as flesh and blood, identical to the main body, but it was ultimately just a doppelganger...

Regardless, trying it would provide the answer. So he raised the cup and took a sip.

Unexpectedly, he could even taste the flavor of the tea, quite miraculous. Under his perception, the tea entered the stomach without any issues, except that the doppelganger lacked the actual structure of flesh, so the ingested tea was merely stored within, incapable of digestion.

"Yinxu hasn't experienced much hardship since childhood. I'm pleased that you can look after her. However, this girl has been spoiled by me and may have little tempers at times; please bear with her in the future," Qian Wudang spoke.

Lu Ye then realized he was referring to the matter of him being punished on Lin Yinxu's behalf a few days ago. It seemed that today's personal serving of tea by Lord Department Chief was due to this matter.

"Yinxu is very obedient and well-behaved," Lu Ye casually replied, sipping another mouthful of tea, savoring it.

Hearing such an evaluation from a man, Qian Wudang's pleasant mood suddenly became somewhat stifled, feeling slightly disinclined to speak with Lu Ye.

He remained silent, and Lu Ye also didn't bother speaking, merely sipping his tea quietly.

After a while, Qian Wudang finally spoke up, "Anything else?"

"None at all."

"Why don't you scram then!" Qian Wudang looked at him.

Why did he suddenly get angry without reason...

Lu Ye reluctantly put down the teacup, stood up, and cupped his fists, "I take my leave!"

It's confirmed, the doppelganger is perfect; Qian Wudang couldn't see any flaw.

And scanning across the entire Nine Provinces, Qian Wudang is top-tier among the Divine Sea Realm, if even he couldn't see any flaw, Lu Ye couldn't think of anyone who could.

Casually walked out of the Justice Department hall, Lu Ye then went to prepare to pay a visit to the plump old man in the Hunting Pavilion. Although that old fellow seemed unassuming, after a few interactions, Lu Ye noticed something; the old fellow must be a strong Divine Sea Realm cultivator, but was unsure why he was guarding a place like the Hunting Pavilion.

However, just as he reached the entrance of the Hunting Pavilion, a person walked out to greet him, both their figures stopped at the door, a foot apart, facing each other.

It truly was a narrow escape from an enemy, Lu Ye thought.

No wonder, the person he accidentally bumped into was Zhou Kui, whom he had fought a few days ago.

Upon seeing Lu Ye, Zhou Kui's eyes were ablaze.

Lu Ye maintained his composure.

After a brief clash of gazes, Zhou Kui suppressed his anger, gloomily said, "Sooner or later, I'll make you regret!" He then shoved Lu Ye aside with a hand, "Out of the way!"

Having suffered last time, he was unwilling to dispute with Lu Ye again in the city, the taste of the Reversed Dragon Spike wasn't pleasant.

Lu Ye turned his head to watch him depart, when a leisurely voice of the plump old man came to his ear, "Endure and calm the storm, retreat and broaden the sea and sky."

Only then did Lu Ye retract his gaze, turned around, and entered the Hunting Pavilion.

The plump old man smiled at him, "Recovered from your injuries?"

Everyone must come to inquire about his injuries...

"Did he come to take a mission?" Lu Ye asked.

"Otherwise, why else would he come; there's nothing else here, you here for a mission?"

"Not taking one for now, just came to visit you, elder."

The plump old man was somewhat perplexed, "Visit me for what?"

Lu Ye casually said, "Just came to see you, nothing more."

Mainly here to let you see...

"Then I bid you farewell." With that, Lu Ye turned around and left.

Leaving the plump old man to ponder deeply, unable to figure out why Lu Ye came.

After exiting the Hunting Pavilion, Lu Ye stood still in contemplation, turned left, walked about 100 feet, and arrived at the Justice Department hall, entering directly.

Qian Wudang looked at him, somewhat puzzled, "Is there anything else?"

"I haven't finished my tea yet." Lu Ye pointed to the spot where he previously sat, sat down again, and sipped his tea lightly.

Qian Wudang stared at him for a moment, then said, "Youngster, if you have no business, focus on cultivation. At your age, it's precisely the time for excellence and improvement; don't think that gaining some cultivation allows you to become arrogant. The most taboo in cultivation is complacency."

"The Lord's admonishment is wise, I will remember it." Lu Ye said this yet made no move to leave, "But this tea was poured by you, Lord, it's wasteful not to drink it. You go about your business, I'll leave after finishing the tea!"

"Are you sure you have nothing else?" Qian Wudang suspiciously looked at him, feeling Lu Ye was odd today.

"Absolutely no business!" Lu Ye replied seriously.

"Then suit yourself." Qian Wudang was too lazy to bother, not his son-in-law after all; why bother so much? Although he had high hopes for Lu Ye, he wouldn't give constant reminders, young people without self-discipline aren't benefited by others' advice.

Meanwhile, while the doppelganger sipped tea, in the small courtyard, Lu Ye donned a mask and soared upwards, heading straight for outside the city.

Simultaneously, a spirit ark lifted off from somewhere in Haotian City, flying outwards; in its cabin, Zhou Kui explained the details of the mission to several team members.

Team A-5 was not new to external missions and was familiar with the many procedures of a mission. Soon after, Zhou Kui finished his explanation, and each of the team members had a clear understanding.

The mission this time, while not overly difficult, also wasn't easy, inevitably a confrontation would occur. Though, the mission rewards should be quite satisfactory.

About 200 miles out of Haotian City, the cultivator controlling the spirit ark on the deck suddenly spoke, "Captain, someone has been following us."

Zhou Kui, who had been resting with eyes closed, suddenly opened them, stepped across the deck, towards the direction pointed out by the team member and indeed saw a silhouette flying a few hundred feet away, accompanying them.

Upon closer inspection, the person wore a mask, concealing their true appearance.

Zhou Kui's brows furrowed slightly, though he didn't overly mind, primarily because the spirit force emanating from the other person was merely at True Lake Level 5 Realm.

Instinctively feeling the person was likely just traveling in the same direction, yet for safety, still gave a reminder, "Be cautious."

"Captain, don't you find the person's figure somewhat familiar?" the team member asked.

Had it not been said, Zhou Kui hadn't thought deeply about it, but upon hearing it, Zhou Kui suddenly realized, the other's silhouette was indeed quite familiar.

In an instant, a name popped into his mind.

"Lu Yiye?"

Chapter 984 Never Holding Grudges

"Captain, he's coming." The cultivator steering the spirit ark suddenly uttered in a low voice, as the person previously flying alongside with a mask turned and swooped directly towards them.

Moreover, the momentum was aggressive, with spirit force swirling.

The visitor harbors ill intent!

Zhou Kui shouted sternly, "Lu Ye, how dare you!"

He truly couldn't fathom what scheme Lu Ye was up to, to dare attack them so openly, and to do so alone.

They had previously clashed at the Hundred Fragrance House, where Zhou Kui suffered some losses, which made him realize one thing: though Lu Ye's cultivation was inferior, his physique was not.

However, in that encounter, both sides restrained themselves and did not go all out. With a cultivation gap of four small levels, Zhou Kui believed that if he went all out, Lu Ye would not be a match for him.

He lost face in the elegant courtyard of the Hundred Fragrance House and had held a grudge against it. That was why he spoke harshly when meeting Lu Ye at the Hunting Pavilion. Yet, before he could trouble Lu Ye, Lu Ye came to him instead.

Despite his anger, Zhou Kui felt pleased.

Since Lu Ye had attacked them first, retaliating was justified, and even if the matter reached the Lord Department Chief, he would hold the moral ground.

Today, he must teach him a harsh lesson to vent his grievances.

With many thoughts racing through his mind, Zhou Kui stepped forward and dashed out of the spirit ark, heading straight towards Lu Ye.

His body was surging with spirit force and blood Qi, forming a dense and sturdy protective layer on the surface, reaching the peak of his momentum in an instant.

At the same time, he launched a powerful punch forward.

Clang...

The sound of a long blade being unsheathed echoed as it slashed down at Zhou Kui.

The Boulder Mountain Saber was with the doppelganger; currently, Lu Ye used a spare long blade. Though it was inferior in quality to the Boulder Mountain Saber, it was still handy.

The long blade clashed against the fist, a momentary stalemate occurring, both spirit forces colliding intensely.

Zhou Kui's expression changed, as he clearly sensed the sharpness of the blade, noticing his protective layer formed by his own blood Qi and spirit force was faltering.

Daring not to persist, knowing that if the protection broke, his physical body alone might not withstand the blade.

He followed through with another powerful punch.

Physique cultivators, in lower cultivation phases, utilize defensive spirit artifacts like shields, as their blood Qi wasn't plentiful, nor their bodies sufficiently strong. Defensive spirit artifacts help avoid damage and better protect themselves and allies.

But at Zhou Kui's level, the protection formed by his blood Qi and spirit force surpassed any defensive spirit and magic artifacts.

For physique cultivators, their robust physique is the best protection.

Thus, high-level physique cultivators seldom use defensive treasures, for if their strong body is unreliable, no spirit artifact could help.

Facing Zhou Kui's second punch, Lu Ye remained unfazed, his long blade pressing downwards, causing his already violent spirit force to surge even more fiercely.

Spirit light flashed on the long blade.

Double-Sharpness Spirit Runes activated!

Zhou Kui's expression drastically changed, as at that moment, he clearly perceived his protection being torn apart, and a bloody gash appeared on his fist, deep enough to see bone.

Had Zhou Kui's physique not been strong enough, any other cultivator would have had their whole arm split in two by that blade.

Despite the intense pain washing over him, Zhou Kui maintained extreme composure, smoothly deflecting Lu Ye's long blade, with his second punch still carrying its momentum.

The fist landed on Lu Ye's chest, yet did not cause much impact, as a Defense Spirit Rune absorbed the punch's force.

Though the rune shattered, it diminished most of the punch's power.

Lu Ye withdrew his blade, assuming a ready stance.

In an instant, Zhou Kui felt a chill run down his spine and inexplicably found himself amidst an endless stellar space, with points of light rushing towards him from all directions.

The overwhelming brilliance left him at a loss for how to respond momentarily.

Fortunately, with rich combat experience, facing such a crisis, he swiftly curled into a ball, crisscrossing his arms, shielding his chest's vital points.

Sizzling sounds emerged as blood splattered forth.

Zhou Kui's body rapidly plummeted, densely covered with small puncture wounds.

"Captain!" came the startled cry, as several figures leaped from the spirit ark, members of Team A-5.

Initially, they hadn't planned to intervene, given their captain's True Lake Level 9 cultivation. Across Bingzhou, only a Divine Sea Realm cultivator could pose a threat to him.

But unexpectedly, within just a moment of fighting, the captain already suffered such a huge blow, unable to hold back any longer, they all sprang into action.

In mid-air, Lu Ye relentlessly pursued Zhou Kui's plunging figure, his long blade continuously slashing down.

Zhou Kui struggled to harness his power to protect himself, but the long blade enhanced by Double-Sharpness Spirit Runes was so sharp, coupled with Lu Ye's current True Lake Level 5 cultivation, there was no defense he couldn't cut through under the Divine Sea Realm.

Every slash left a new wound, with blood continuously splattering.

However, Zhou Kui was, after all, a physique cultivator with deep foundations. Although Lu Ye could break through his defenses, killing him would require either using his Mental Consciousness or a fair amount of effort.

Moreover, Lu Ye never had the intention to kill.

Half an hour ago, he didn't even intend to make things difficult for Zhou Kui. He knew that Zhou Kui harbored resentment towards him because of a matter involving Zhou Wang, and the conflict at Hundred Fragrance House's elegant courtyard was likely aimed at him, but since he didn't suffer any loss in that incident, he let it go.

Lu Yiye had always been generous, never holding grudges.

But Zhou Kui just had to leave harsh words, threatening that he would get him eventually...

If others aimed to make things difficult for him eventually, then naturally, he had to make it hard for them, too. This time, he came to teach Zhou Kui a lesson.

He didn't know how many slashes he had delivered. During the period, Zhou Kui attempted to resist, but under Lu Ye's storm-like attacks, he hardly had any strength to fight back, forcing him to exert all his strength to defend himself.

Boom...

Zhou Kui crashed heavily to the ground, both feet embedded deeply into the earth. The great impact left his legs numb and his heart sank, realizing trouble as he looked up to see Lu Ye landing with a kick aimed at him.

He hurriedly raised his hands to defend, but it was too late.

Lu Ye's kick, launched with full force, landed squarely on Zhou Kui's cheek, sending him flying dozens of meters high and leaving a remarkably clear shoe print on his face.

Only then did several members of Team A-5 arrive in pursuit and launched attacks on Lu Ye.

Lu Ye had long been prepared, and after delivering the kick, he soared into the sky, darting towards the distance, leaving behind a riotous, flamboyant laughter along the way.

The members of Team A-5 split into two groups, leaving one to tend to Zhou Kui, while the remaining four chased after Lu Ye. However, they lost sight of him after just a moment and returned in frustration.

At this moment, Zhou Kui was leaning against the trunk of a large tree, his clothes soaked with blood, riddled with stab and slash wounds, the flesh at those wounds turning over grotesquely.

A particularly clear shoe print marked his face... looking both pitiful and comical.

Compared to the physical wounds, Zhou Kui felt even worse inside.

A physique cultivator at True Lake Level 9 like him actually got beaten by Lu Yiye! And beaten so miserably, it made his face darken terribly, like the bottom of a pot.

Looking at Zhou Kui's tragic state, the members of Team A-5 were each filled with righteous indignation.

"Lu Yiye went too far, captain! We can't let this go!"

"That's right, captain. Attacking a fellow like this is a major crime, we can't just let him off so easily."

They clamored, seemingly ready to hold Lu Ye accountable immediately.

"The one wearing the mask... none of you saw his face, who can be sure it was Lu Yiye?" suddenly a voice rang out, from the magic cultivator in the team.

In Team A-5, he always served as the strategist role, often offering plans during missions, and enjoyed Zhou Kui's trust deeply.

"The body shape matches, the cultivation matches, that's enough. Besides, I've heard Lu Yiye uses a blade, and that person was wielding a blade too!"

The magic cultivator slowly shook his head, "Not enough! There are many with similar builds, and cultivation isn't always what it seems. There are always ways to disguise it. If that person really were Lu Yiye, then his power would be terrifying."

Crossing four minor realms and disciplining his own captain like disciplining a grandson... could that really be achieved by someone at True Lake Level 5?

Following the magic cultivator's reasoning, the group fell silent. Initially, they were sure that the assailant was Lu Yiye, but now they felt uncertain.

Crossing four minor realms to easily defeat someone with higher cultivation was indeed unbelievable.

But if it wasn't Lu Yiye, then who could it be?

"It was Lu Yiye!" Zhou Kui, who had been silent, suddenly gritted his teeth and spoke. He hadn't seen the attacker's face clearly, but the close combat was enough for him to conclude the person's identity.

The magic cultivator slightly frowned, not fully agreeing, but since the captain was so certain, he dared not argue further, just asking, "What does the captain intend to do?"

"This can't just be set aside." Zhou Kui rose, looking towards the direction of Haotian City, "Let's go back to Haotian City with me, I will report this to Lord Department Chief!"

This time, he indeed suffered a lot, getting disciplined without any power to fight back. His body, barely recovered, was again heavily injured, requiring further healing. However, if Lu Yiye dared to act like this, then Zhou Kui wouldn't hesitate to retaliate.

As one of the earlier members mentioned, attacking a fellow cultivator is a major crime. If it turns out that Lu Ye committed such an act, he wouldn't get away without serious consequences.

Though Lu Yiye always wore a mask, Zhou Kui believed that the Lord Department Chief could certainly verify the matter. Before a strong cultivator at the Divine Sea Realm, Lu Yiye's crimes would certainly have no way to hide.

"Captain," the magic cultivator spoke gravely, "Please reconsider this, today's events ultimately had you at a loss. If it reaches Lord Department Chief, it might affect your reputation."

Chapter 985 Lu Yiye Hit Me!

If today's events weren't caused by Lu Yiye, it would be fine, since the Law Enforcement Hall often deals with offending people. Team A-5 has offended quite a few people over the years, inevitably leaving some with grudges, waiting for an opportunity to strike and vent their anger.

But if it truly was Lu Yiye, what should be said if this escalates to Lord Department Chief?

Zhou Kui, a physique cultivator at True Lake Level 9, was beaten by a combat cultivator at Level 5? And it happened right under the noses of other Team A-5 members...

If word gets out, it won't sound good; it makes Team A-5 seem too incompetent, and Zhou Kui as the captain would lose face.

Zhou Kui was abruptly enlightened by a remark, his expression shifting unpredictably, and decisively said, "Return to Haotian City!"

As long as Lu Yiye can be heavily punished, losing some face is nothing.

In the great hall of the Justice Department, Qian Wudang looked silently at Lu Ye, "Does this tea still have any taste?"

Lu Ye had already drunk three cups...

He didn't hold back, and after finishing, he poured himself another cup.

"It's alright."

Qian Wudang helplessly rubbed his forehead, "If you like this tea, you may take some back with you."

"Then I thank you, Lord." Lu Ye quickly expressed his gratitude.

Heavy footsteps approached from outside, and shortly after, a sturdy figure stepped in, his presence filled with the scent of blood.

Qian Wudang raised his eyes, seeing Zhou Kui's miserable condition, and his face suddenly darkened: "What happened?"

Zhou Kui clearly looked like he had been beaten, and the perpetrator had used a Spiritual Artifact, judging by the fresh bleeding wounds on his body, obviously injured by sharp objects. The most noticeable was the large shoe print on his face, looking extremely comical, obviously from a kick.

Zhou Kui possessed True Lake Level 9 cultivation; whoever could beat him to such a state was likely from the Divine Sea Realm.

Qian Wudang instinctively thought it was a Divine Sea Realm cultivator from Haotian City who attacked Zhou Kui.

In the end, Zhou Kui was one of his subordinates, having performed well over the past few years. Even if he made mistakes, it should be Qian Wudang, the Justice Department Chief, who punishes him, not someone overstepping their bounds.

"I ask you, my Lord, to stand up for your humble servant!" Zhou Kui clasped his fists, calling out in a deep voice, slightly tilting his head, appearing extremely ashamed, "Two hundred miles outside the city, your humble servant was ambushed!"

"Who did it?" Qian Wudang coldly asked, fury raged within him.

Ambushing his subordinates, how could this be tolerated? Inwardly vowing, no matter which Divine Sea Realm cultivator did it, he must demand an explanation today!

Harming his subordinates was akin to striking at Qian Wudang's face, defiling the Justice Department's honor! How could such a thing be allowed?

"Lu Yiye!" Zhou Kui gritted his teeth to report a name, his face showing even more humiliation, since he, at Level 9, admitted to being beaten by Lu Ye, a Level 5 cultivator, which was indeed embarrassing.

But as long as Lu Yiye could be punished, the sacrifice would be worth it.

Qian Wudang was stunned and raised his eyes to look not far behind Zhou Kui, where Lu Ye sat in a chair, legs crossed, holding a teacup.

As their eyes met, Lu Ye had a look of bewilderment.

"Who did you say?" Qian Wudang frowned.

"It was Lu Yiye, with whom I had an altercation at the Hundred Fragrance House a few days ago!"

"When did this happen?" Qian Wudang inquired again.

"Just one incense stick's time ago."

"What nonsense are you talking?" A somewhat familiar voice suddenly came from behind him, followed by footsteps, and Zhou Kui suddenly turned around, seeing Lu Ye standing up with a teacup, walking towards him.

"Why are you here?" Zhou Kui's eyes burned with anger. Earlier when he entered, he was solely focused on complaining and hadn't noticed someone behind him.

"Why shouldn't I be here?" Lu Ye snorted, placed the teacup on the table before Qian Wudang, and clasped his fists, saying, "Lord, Zhou Kui is falsely accusing and slandering a colleague; I hope you see clearly."

Zhou Kui raised his hand to grab Lu Ye's collar, fiercely saying, "It's you; don't think I didn't notice."

Lu Ye didn't resist and turned his head to Qian Wudang: "Lord, you see, he even wants to attack me. How can such arrogance be tolerated in front of you? Please allow me to instruct him, to teach him the rules of our Justice Department."

"Let go!" Qian Wudang sternly shouted while maintaining his composure.

Zhou Kui dared not disobey and promptly released Lu Ye's collar, apologizing, "Lord, forgive me. Your subordinate lost composure because that fellow bullied me excessively!"

Lu Ye raised his hand to smooth the wrinkles on his collar, calmly standing where he was.

Looking at Zhou Kui, Qian Wudang spoke in a deep voice, "You said Lu Yiye ambushed you one incense stick's time ago?"

"Yes!" Zhou Kui responded solemnly, "Just earlier, I took a mission from the Hunting Pavilion, leading a squad out of Haotian City, when two hundred miles outside the city, this fellow suddenly attacked, catching me off guard. Lord Department Chief, look at my injuries; they were all inflicted by this barghest. Such audacity, secretly attacking a colleague, is reckless. I hope, my Lord, you investigate!"

"I don't know what you're talking about." Lu Ye snorted coldly.

"Do you dare say it wasn't you?" Zhou Kui turned to glare angrily at him, "Don't think you can deceive the Lord by running here after beating people; the Lord's discerning eye sees through everything and can determine the truth!"

"Of course, it wasn't me." Lu Ye looked at Zhou Kui as if he were an idiot. "I know you've suffered a little under my hand these past few days and you're resentful, looking for an opportunity for revenge. But you don't need to resort to such despicable means." He then turned to Qian Wudang: "Lord, this man is maliciously slandering me and trying to tarnish my reputation. I ask for your justice!"

Qian Wudang, irritated by their argument, looked at Zhou Kui and asked, "Did you see him attacking you with your own eyes?"

Zhou Kui replied, "He wore a mask when he struck, hiding his true face, but his build is the same, his cultivation is the same. I fought with him at close range for a moment, and I'm sure it was him!"

"It couldn't have been him!" Qian Wudang spoke.

Zhou Kui's face of anger turned to astonishment as he looked at Qian Wudang in confusion.

"He was with me for one incense stick's time, drinking three cups of tea! If you were truly attacked before a tea break, it was definitely not him!"

Zhou Kui was dumbfounded.

If someone else had said that, he would have found it hard to believe, but the words came from his own Department Chief, making it impossible not to believe.

"This is impossible!" Zhou Kui began to shout.

The one who ambushed him was clearly Lu Yiye. How could it not be him?

If it wasn't him, then who could it have been?

With such a close confrontation, Zhou Kui was confident he couldn't have mistaken the person.

"Do you think I, the Department Chief, am deceiving you?" Qian Wudang coldly glared at Zhou Kui.

Zhou Kui jolted, hurriedly saying, "I dare not!" He suddenly recalled something and turned to Lu Ye: "If you truly weren't the one who ambushed me earlier, do you dare to swear by Heaven's Augury?"

Under Heaven's Augury, all lies are judged!

"Why should I?" Lu Ye sneered, "With the Lord Department Chief testifying for me, why would I need to swear by Heaven's Augury?"

"If you don't swear by Heaven's Augury, then it was you!"

"Having done so many shady things yourself, you don't even know who gave you a lesson, yet you come here to splash dirt on me, how ridiculous!"

Seeing Zhou Kui still wanted to argue, Qian Wudang slapped the table: "Enough!"

Murmuring endlessly, what could this turn into?

Zhou Kui and Lu Ye both fell silent.

"I, the Department Chief, said it's not him, Zhou Kui, stop entangling this!"

Zhou Kui opened his mouth, but in the end, he only replied, "Yes!"

Could it really not be him? But if it wasn't him, who else could it be? At that moment, Zhou Kui's firm belief started to waver.

Thinking about it again, could Lu Yiye at a Level 5 realm have such formidable strength? In that brief engagement, he was almost unable to fight back at all. That was definitely not the ability of a True Lake Level 5 realm.

Could it really have been a Divine Sea Realm who concealed their cultivation to teach him a lesson?

Zhou Kui's heart skipped a beat as he pondered possible candidates, but he had no leads.

While he was lost in thought, Lu Ye seized the moment to make his move: "Lord, Zhou Kui harbors resentment and seeks revenge, slandering his colleagues. If not for your testimony, I would have had no way to clear my name. If our Justice Department people all act like this, speaking without evidence and fabricating slander, how can we enforce justice? In the long run, the Justice Department will lose its authority. I implore you to severely punish him to uphold the Justice Department's integrity!"

"You..." Zhou Kui turned, glaring at Lu Ye, utterly surprised that after failing to make a complaint, Lu Yiye would take advantage of the situation to further trouble him. Moreover, this guy was using the banner of the Justice Department to pressure him, making Zhou Kui feel a sense of unease.

Qian Wudang glanced at Lu Ye, not wanting to escalate the situation. No matter what, Zhou Kui got beaten this time, and Lu Ye didn't suffer any loss. It would be best to turn great issues into small ones and small ones into nothing.

But with Lu Ye putting it this way, if he didn't punish Zhou Kui, it seemed unreasonable. After all, Lu Ye was indeed slandered, and Zhou Kui was indeed making baseless accusations.

"Then what do you think... should be the punishment?"

Lu Ye said solemnly, "The Justice Department is under your command, Lord, I only act according to orders!"

Qian Wudang looked at him with some annoyance, inwardly cursing him for being shrewd, then turned to Zhou Kui: "Without evidence, slandering a colleague, spreading rumors, Zhou Kui, you'll be fined a month's salary and receive ten lashes from the penal bureau. Do you have any objections?"

Zhou Kui didn't dare to have any objections, bowing his head like a wilted eggplant, weakly clasping his fists: "I accept the punishment!"

"Go ahead." Qian Wudang waved his hand.

Zhou Kui turned away, looking somewhat lost, not because of the punishment, but pondering one thing: if the previous incident wasn't Lu Yiye's doing, then which Divine Sea Realm was teaching him a lesson...

Being watched secretly was an uncomfortable feeling, especially when the one watching was a Divine Sea Realm.

"Don't undertake missions for a while; it's important to recover well." Qian Wudang further advised.

"Yes." Zhou Kui responded.

Watching Zhou Kui leave, Qian Wudang then looked at Lu Ye: "Satisfied?"

Lu Ye clasped his fists: "The Lord enforces justice impartially, I will certainly follow your example and strive to emulate it. Now, I'll leave you to your work, Lord. Farewell!"

Chapter 986 Junior Brother, We Are Here

At the entrance of the Justice Department's main hall, several members of Team A-5 were waiting.

Seeing Zhou Kui walk out, they hurriedly stepped forward to meet him.

"Captain, what did Lord Department Chief say?"

"What punishment did Lu Yiye get?"

"He won't escape a whipping, the sting of the Reversed Dragon Spike is no joke."

They all chimed in one after another, but only the magic cultivator noticed that Zhou Kui looked off and frowned, "Captain, did Lord Department Chief not stand up for you?"

Zhou Kui slowly shook his head, "It wasn't him!"

"What?"

"Lu Yiye was drinking tea with Lord Department Chief for one incense stick's time, it wasn't him who attacked me!" Zhou Kui said.

Everyone was extremely surprised, "If it wasn't him, then who could it be?"

Zhou Kui shook his head, he too wanted to know who it was!

While they were talking, Lu Ye leisurely walked out of the Justice Department's main hall, carrying a box of tea leaves in his hand.

The members of Team A-5 all looked at him.

As Lu Ye passed by them, he paused and said, "Remember to take your captain to the medical clinic for treatment later, the sting of the Reversed Dragon Spike... tsk tsk!"

He walked away further and further.

Everyone was puzzled, and the magic cultivator vaguely sensed something, saying, "Captain, does he mean that..."

Zhou Kui gave a bitter smile, "Lord Department Chief accused me of slandering and framing a colleague, fined me a month's salary, and ordered me to receive ten lashes in the punishment prison!"

Everyone winced at those words, clearly recalling the pain of being whipped a few days ago.

The captain's injuries had just healed, and now he'd be whipped again, this is just endless!

Lu Ye didn't return to his own courtyard; after covering some distance, he soared into the sky, flying straight toward the distance.

He wanted to test how closely linked his main body and doppelganger were.

Just now, the doppelganger was in the Justice Department's main hall, while the main body went to attack Zhou Kui. Though separated by about 30 miles, the main body could still clearly sense everything from the doppelganger's side without any discordance.

No problem within 30 miles, but what about 90 miles, or 180 miles?

How far would it have to be for the connection between the main body and doppelganger to break?

Lu Ye didn't know, but he would find out by trying.

Racing along the way, he flew toward the distance.

Soon Lu Ye noticed another problem: the doppelganger's spirit force was continuously depleting, and if it ran out, it might not be able to sustain itself.

Can the doppelganger replenish spirit force?

This issue hadn't occurred to him before, which resulted in the doppelganger only being equipped with a Boulder Mountain Saber, without carrying Spirit Stones or elixir pills.

It wasn't a big deal though, he found a Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union nearby, borrowed the Heaven's Augury Pillar, and spent some merit points to buy some elixir pills.

In a secluded place, Lu Ye concentrated his mind, activating the powers of the Talent Tree; invisible roots extended from the palm to probe into the elixir, quickly draining the spirit force of one elixir pill.

He could clearly sense that the spirit force within the doppelganger had been somewhat replenished.

The doppelganger can replenish spirit force!

Reasonably so, since the foundation of the doppelganger is the combination of Split Shadow and Single-Stalk Twin Lotus, and inside the doppelganger, there is a root of the Talent Tree, and with roots, the powers of the Talent Tree can be activated to naturally replenish spirit force.

Lu Ye was delighted, so long as he wished, a doppelganger can be maintained, even engage in combat, though how much power the doppelganger could manifest from the main body still needed verification.

This matter was not urgent; confirming the distance issue came first.

While flying, Lu Ye also tried to activate various spirit runes, finding that they all came to him readily without any difficulty.

Thus it seemed that the doppelganger possessed nearly all the abilities of the main body, and even a Divine Sea Realm would have difficulty distinguishing between them. Such a doppelganger likely exceeded the comprehension of Nine Provinces cultivators.

90 miles, 180 miles, 360 miles...

Lu Ye kept flying forward non-stop, draining and replenishing spirit force with elixir pills as needed.

The connection between the main body and doppelganger remained as tight as ever.

There's no need to continue testing; Lu Ye had a feeling that as long as they were in the same world, the connection wouldn't sever, no matter the distance.

As for what would happen if they were in different worlds, that was uncertain.

But Lu Ye faintly felt that if they were indeed in two different worlds, the connection would undoubtedly sever, and whether the doppelganger could be maintained was anything but certain.

This matter could not be tested anyway.

The doppelganger headed back toward Haotian City.

Meanwhile, the main body was busy forging Explosive Fire Spirit Stones. He had just delivered a month's batch a few days ago, but now had some free time, so it was natural to prepare for the next batch to avoid rushing later.

Moreover, Explosive Fire Spirit Stones might come in handy for himself, so Lu Ye intended to forge a few more.

Amidst the hustle, the rustling of clothes suddenly sounded, as if someone had landed in the courtyard, followed by a familiar voice: "Junior Brother, we're here!"

Lu Ye was taken aback for a moment, quickly realizing, and hurriedly got up to go out the door.

In the courtyard stood three figures, two men and one woman.

The foremost was a handsome and dashing figure, with a head of white hair, wearing a white robe with red clouds, making him look celestial. A large wine gourd hung at his waist. Just this charming and elegant demeanor alone was rare in the entire Nine Provinces; it was Li Baxian.

On his left, Feng Yuechan was glancing around, while on his right, the towering Giant Armor stood like an iron tower, its frame as robust as a ferocious beast.

Hearing the door open, the three turned their heads simultaneously.

Meeting eyes, Lu Ye exclaimed joyfully, "Fourth Senior Brother!"

The door to the adjacent room also opened, and Xiao Xinghe emerged, followed by Yiyi and Amber, who had heard the commotion.

"Senior Sister Feng!" Yiyi chirped excitedly, dashing towards Feng Yuechan. The two women had spent quite some time together on the Cloud River battlefield, becoming very familiar, and had missed each other after months apart.

Amber followed Yiyi, leaping towards Giant Armor, who caught and gently stroked it in his palm, making Amber close its eyes in delight.

On ordinary days, besides being close to Lu Ye and Yiyi, Amber was closest to Giant Armor.

"Third Senior Brother!" Li Baxian looked at Xiao Xinghe, saluting solemnly.

Xiao Xinghe nodded slightly, looking Li Baxian up and down: "True Lake now?"

"True Lake indeed!" Li Baxian replied.

He had only left the Cloud River battlefield because he had advanced to True Lake and come to Haotian City.

"Then you must hurry in your cultivation; Junior Brother's cultivation is quickly outpacing us."

"What cultivation does Junior Brother have now?" Li Baxian asked, and Feng Yuechan also looked on curiously.

Lu Ye slightly urged his spirit force.

Li Baxian was dumbfounded: "How are you cultivating?"

How had he reached True Lake Level 5 in just a few months? Such a rate of growth was terrifying.

Even on the Cloud River battlefield, he noticed Lu Ye's fast progress and was pushing himself to catch up, but now it seemed, despite not being slow himself, he was far behind Lu Ye.

Feng Yuechan was equally amazed: "Junior Brother Lu, you're truly incredible."

Even though she hailed from a 2nd-grade sect and had seen many young talents, compared to Lu Ye, they were mere fireflies next to the brilliance of the moon.

"I've recently gained some battle merit, which sped up my cultivation a bit," Lu Ye explained, glancing behind them.

Feng Yuechan caught on, giggling, "Looking for Junior Sister Hua Ci? She's still in the Cloud River battlefield."

Though anticipated, he felt a twinge of disappointment.

Just like in the Spirit Stream battlefield back then, Hua Ci, despite having the ability to break through to the Spirit Stream Realm, suppressed her cultivation to continue in the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest, only advancing leisurely once the forest was nearing disappearance, and moved into the Cloud River battlefield.

It seemed the same now; with environments like the Five Poisons Pond in the Cloud River battlefield, Hua Ci would surely utilize them well.

Her cultivation differed from regular cultivators; she had little thirst for Spiritual Energy or spirit force, and even spirit fortune sticks meant little to her. Instead, special environments like the Ten Thousand Poisons Forest and the Five Poisons Pond greatly benefited her.

Though she was suppressing her cultivation now, once she left the Cloud River battlefield, her cultivation would surely rise quickly.

Feng Yuechan added, "Junior Sister Hua Ci asked me to tell you to cultivate well and take care of yourself."

Lu Ye twitched his eyes, "She's being nosy."

Feng Yuechan chuckled softly.

In the courtyard were stone tables and stools, and they each took a seat.

"Have you paid respects to the sect master?" Xiao Xinghe asked.

Li Baxian nodded, "We just came from the old man, or we wouldn't have known Junior Brother lived here." He turned to Lu Ye, "Junior Brother, the sect master's intention is for us to join you. He said you're now a captain in the Law Enforcement Hall under the Justice Department, with three open slots in your team."

"These three slots are reserved for Senior Brothers."

"Thanks to Junior Brother for being considerate. I must thank you," Li Baxian laughed heartily.

When he set out, he wondered where he would be assigned in the provincial guard. Upon meeting the sect master, he learned Lu Ye had arrangements, which put his mind at ease.

Lu Ye inquired about the situation at Great Reversal Valley Spirit Ground, learning that a batch of disciples from the sect had advanced to the Cloud River and entered the battlefield there, now cultivating in Great Reversal Valley Spirit Ground.

Most of the sect's disciples were in the Spirit Stream Realm; with the first batch already advancing to Cloud River, soon there would be a second and third batch, continuously...

In a few years, the sect surely would slowly recover its vital energy.

The Great Reversal Valley Spirit Ground, crafted personally by him, was guarded by wolves, so safety was assured. The disciples could cultivate peacefully on the Cloud River battlefield, improving their self-defense abilities as they grew in cultivation.

Having ventured alone from the Cloud River battlefield himself, he knew the challenges of solo adventuring. He didn't want his Junior Brothers and Sisters to endure the same hardships.

"Have you gone to the Recruitment Department yet?" Lu Ye asked.

Li Baxian shook his head, "We just arrived here, paid respects to the old man, and came straight here. We haven't had time to report to the Recruitment Department."

"I'll take you there." Lu Ye stood up, inviting them along, intending to also report to Qian Wudang at the Justice Department.

His awaited team members had arrived!

Chapter 987: Team Ding 9

Leading Li Baxian and others to the Recruitment Department, they registered, recorded their previous battle merits, determined their military ranks, and received their guard tokens—completing the entire set of processes familiar and swiftly.

The battle merits that the few had previously gained were not much, so all of them only obtained the rank of Major.

This is also the rank that most newcomers at the True Lake Realm entering the provincial guard can receive.

The rank influences the monthly pay significantly. With the rank of Major, the monthly salary is only 10,000 battle merits, incomparable to Lu Ye's rank of Capital Commandant.

The monthly salary for a Capital Commandant is 30,000, and Lu Ye receives double the monthly salary, equating to 60,000 battle merits each month.

This was the condition Qian Wudang negotiated when he appointed him as the team leader.

Lu Ye initially thought that every team leader was treated the same. However, in a recent conversation with Warlord Geng, he learned that it's not the case; it seemed that he was the only one in the entire Law Enforcement Hall who received double the monthly pay!

Moreover, he was the only one to have his own residence in Haotian City, whereas other team leaders had no fixed place of residence at all.

Only a strong cultivator in the Divine Sea Realm is qualified to have a residence in Haotian City.

Lu Ye realized then that the conditions Qian Wudang gave were not the rules of the Justice Department but ones he had set himself.

The purpose was nothing but to tempt him to take up the leader's position, giving him the opportunity to embed Lin Yinxiu into his team; truly an elaborate plan.

Having reported in to the Recruitment Department, as per the normal process, within three days, new guards would be dispatched to various mountain passes needing reinforcement.

Thus, Lu Ye had Xiao Xinghe take the fourth senior brother and others to tour around Haotian City, while he hurried to the hall of the Justice Department to meet Qian Wudang.

He requested Qian Wudang to transfer Li Baxian and the other two into the Justice Department and further into his own team.

Inside the hall, Lu Ye met with Qian Wudang and explained his purpose.

Qian Wudang chuckled and said, "Indulging in nepotism, aren't you!"

Lu Ye's team had been missing three members, and he showed no signs of recruiting, so Qian Wudang knew he was waiting for someone. Who exactly he was waiting for, Qian Wudang wasn't sure until now.

"Sir, though my fourth senior brother and others have just advanced to True Lake, they possess profound foundations and can fight beyond their level. Although their current cultivation is on the lower side, with a little time, it certainly won't be a problem. Besides, as we are familiar with each other, working together on tasks is more coordinated."

Qian Wudang nodded, "I've heard of the names of Loyal Heart Sect's Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan and know about their foundation... what about this Giant Armor, what's so special about him? What makes you value him so highly?"

"Giant Armor is exceptionally talented, and I dare say, among his peers, no physique cultivator has a stronger physique than he does!"

Qian Wudang was moved, "Really?"

"Absolutely!" Lu Ye nodded solemnly, "I've witnessed it with my own eyes. Even those physique cultivators from 1st grade sects pale in comparison to Giant Armor."

"With physique cultivator, magic cultivator, sword cultivator, combat cultivator, and ghost cultivator all accounted for, the setup is quite reasonable; you've thought this through. In that case, I'll grant your request."

"Thank you, Sir!" Lu Ye cupped his fist. Although he knew Qian Wudang wouldn't oppose his request, hearing him agree personally allowed Lu Ye to relax.

"With your team now complete, it will be assigned as Team D-9."

"Yes." The teams in the Law Enforcement Hall are numbered for easy tracking of task completions and handovers. Since Lu Ye's team was incomplete before, it hadn't been assigned a number, something he had asked Warlord Geng about and naturally understood.

Team numbers don't signify importance or power, and Lu Ye had no objections to the D-9 designation.

Qian Wudang then signed and handed Lu Ye a command, "Take this to the Military Supplies Department, where you can collect a set of specialized artifacts for the Law Enforcement Hall, but remember these artifacts are very difficult to refine, try not to lose them."

"Yes!" Lu Ye answered.

The so-called Law Enforcement Hall specialized artifacts are nothing more than the Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock.

Lu Ye had used it once before, requiring a squad of six to coordinate. When activated, it can prohibit the flow of spirit force within a certain range, specifically for capturing targets.

However, Lu Ye always felt it was a bit redundant.

Because everyone in the Law Enforcement Hall's teams is at True Lake, ordinary targets can't rival them, hence there's no need to use the Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock.

Anyone who could defeat an entire squad would undoubtedly be a strong cultivator in the Divine Sea Realm!

And the Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock has no effect on the mental consciousness of those in the Divine Sea Realm... they suffered from this at Xianxia Mountain last time.

Under the activation of Ning Hu's mental consciousness, the Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Lock was broken in an instant.

But since it's a part of the Law Enforcement Hall team's equipment, it's better to have it than not, just in case there's an opportunity to use it.

Leaving the Justice Department's hall, he headed towards the Military Supplies Department. Upon reaching there, he presented Qian Wudang's signed command and successfully obtained a set of six Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Locks.

He returned to his courtyard and began distributing the Six-Element Spirit-Sealing Locks. During the distribution, he suddenly noticed there was one extra.

"Where is Lin Yinxiu?" It was then that Lu Ye realized Lin Yinxiu had not shown up.

Yiyi shook her head, indicating she had no idea where Lin Yinxiu had gone.

While he was searching around, Lin Yinxiu suddenly swiftly approached from a distance, landing directly in the courtyard. Delightfully, she said, "Captain, I heard our team has new members?"

She had evidently heard this from Qian Wudang. She was previously busy with something but had hurried back upon hearing the news.

Lu Ye introduced both sides briefly. Since they would be in the same team from now on, it was naturally better to get familiar as soon as possible.

Among everyone present, Lin Yinxu had the highest cultivation, with a True Lake Level 7, which was quite impressive anywhere.

Li Baxian and the others all addressed her as Senior Sister Lin. Lin Yinxu's eyelashes fluttered with joy.

Usually, Lu Ye just called her by her name, so it was rare for her to enjoy such an honor of being called Senior Sister.

Feeling happy, Lin Yinxu suggested, "Captain, why don't we have a welcome feast for Junior Brother Li and the rest? It would also be a celebration of our team finally being fully assembled."

"Great suggestion!" Lu Ye nodded.

"Shall we go to Hundred Fragrance House?"

"Sure!"

Lin Yinxu cheered and led the way enthusiastically, and those who had just met her for the first time, like Li Baxian, were taken aback by her childlike demeanor, thinking perhaps they called her Senior Sister a bit too early.

Soon, everyone arrived in front of Hundred Fragrance House.

But to Lu Ye's astonishment, today, Hundred Fragrance House was not open; its doors were tightly closed.

Recalling the incident of the brawl last time, Lu Ye frowned and contacted Warlord Geng to inquire about the situation.

He quickly received a response; according to Warlord Geng, since the last incident, Shen Manzi intended to transfer the management of Hundred Fragrance House, which is why it hadn't been open for the past few days.

"Don't misunderstand, it's not because we've implicated her. That event was nothing major; it's just that Manzi doesn't want to work so hard any longer, and now she plans to join my team and work with me in the Law Enforcement Hall."

Warlord Geng's team has always been understaffed, so Shen Manzi joining was indeed suitable.

"Fellow Daoist Lu, are you hosting a feast?" Warlord Geng asked.

"My fourth senior brother and the others have arrived. I planned to host them at Hundred Fragrance House... Do you have any good recommendations, Warlord?"

"White Cloud Chamber is a nice place."

After finding out the location of White Cloud Chamber, Lu Ye led everyone there.

Just as they reached the entrance, a rotund person, dressed in luxurious clothes, greeted them with cupped hands, "May I ask if you are Fellow Daoist Lu Yiye?"

"Yes, that's me." Lu Ye was curious about how this person knew him.

"I am Qien Julai, the manager of White Cloud Chamber!"

Lin Yinxu chuckled softly, finding this person's name amusing; Qien Julai sounded a lot like 'money comes', openly greedy for wealth.

"Please come in. Fellow Daoist Geng has informed us in advance and also reserved an elegant room for all of you."

Lu Ye then realized. He hadn't met this person before, so it was Fellow Daoist Geng who had given them a heads-up.

It seemed Warlord Geng indeed had some reputation in Haotian City.

"Thank you very much." Lu Ye called to everyone, following behind Qien Julai as they went inside.

The main hall was lively, every table occupied with many cultivators engaged in enthusiastic conversations, toasting and exchanging cups of wine.

"Is White Cloud Chamber under Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union?" Lu Ye asked, pondering.

Mainly because businessman Qien didn't seem like someone capable of fighting. Although he had some cultivation, his indulgent physique suggested he was used to a life of luxury and would unlikely be able to exert his cultivation-level strength in combat.

Usually, only cultivators from Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union would be like this.

Qien Julai smiled faintly, "Fellow Daoist Lu, you have keen insight. White Cloud Chamber indeed belongs to Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union. In the future, if you have any banquets, please consider our establishment."

"Since it's recommended by the Warlord, there's no problem at all," Lu Ye readily agreed. Since he'd be working in Haotian City, there would inevitably be some occasions to host feasts, and having a preferred and familiar place was quite nice.

Led by Qien Julai, they passed through the main hall and arrived at the rear private rooms.

Everyone took their seats, and soon, exquisitely prepared dishes were served.

There was wine, and they drank together, becoming slightly tipsy, and the atmosphere gradually became lively.

This feast made everyone happily exhausted. Even Lin Yinxiu and Feng Yuechan drank a few more cups, and Amber also ended up having too much.

Initially, it wanted to try because it saw Giant Armor drinking joyously. Turned out, after a few cups, it felt nothing, thinking its tolerance was extraordinary, but as the alcohol kicked in, it was already dizzy and lay flat on its back.

Not until the stars filled the night sky did everyone leave White Cloud Chamber. The cold wind blew, dispersing much of the drunkenness.

Back at the courtyard, they each found an empty room and went inside to rest.

When Lu Ye initially chose this courtyard as a residence, he had considered this situation; there were quite a few rooms here, enough to accommodate all six members of the team.

In his room, Lu Ye sat cross-legged, dispelling the alcohol's effects, and continued refining Explosive Fire Spirit Stones, quietly perfecting plans for the future.

Now the team was complete, and once his fourth senior brother and the others took a couple of days to rest, they could go to the Hunting Pavilion to accept tasks. This way, they could quickly earn battle merits and enhance their cultivation. During the day, Lu Ye noticed one thing that was Xiao Xinghe's cultivation had already advanced to True Lake Level 4, which evidently was the result of his recent cultivation with spirit fortune sticks.

Chapter 988: Mist Cliff

The door suddenly swung open, and a doppelganger stealthily slipped inside.

Yiyi, who was cultivating beside Lu Ye, quickly opened her eyes. Under the moonlight, she saw Lu Ye with a saber, raising a finger to his lips as a sign to stay quiet, and then swiftly closing the door.

Yiyi stared blankly at the doppelganger and then looked at Lu Ye beside her.

She was stunned!

There were two Lu Yes!

The key point was, even someone like her, who spent every day and night with Lu Ye, couldn't tell which one was real and which one was fake.

Amber, who had seen this scene in the daytime, fluffed up again and swiftly hid behind Yiyi, using its two paws to cover its eyes.

The doppelganger sat cross-legged in front of the main body. Lu Ye took the Boulder Mountain Saber from its hands, then placed his hand on the doppelganger's chest. The power of the Talent Tree was activated, its roots extending and piercing into the doppelganger.

In an instant, the lifelike doppelganger turned to nothingness. The spirit force, the blood Qi energy, and even the broken roots of the Talent Tree that were consumed to manifest the doppelganger were all reclaimed, leaving only a pile of clothes.

Lu Ye put them away.

Only after Lu Ye had finished did Yiyi, still shocked and uncertain, ask, "Lu Ye, Lu Ye, what's going on?"

Lu Ye wouldn't hide it from her.

If there was anyone in this world who could know all his secrets, it was undoubtedly Yiyi.

"This is the Doppelganger Technique, a new ability I've comprehended."

"How is it identical to the real one?" Yiyi exclaimed in amazement.

Lu Ye smiled and said, "In a certain sense, it truly is no different from my real body."

"So miraculous." Yiyi's eyes sparkled as she grabbed Lu Ye's arm and whined, "Do it again and let me see."

"That won't do." Lu Ye firmly refused.

Mainly because the freshly manifested doppelganger was stark naked, which was somewhat unsightly and naturally couldn't be displayed in front of Yiyi.

He casually found an excuse: "It consumes a lot. I'll let you see it next time when there's a chance."

Though a bit disappointed, Yiyi nodded obediently upon hearing his words, "Okay."

"Go on with your cultivation." Lu Ye patted her on the little head.

Just as he finished speaking, there was movement from the guard token.

Lu Ye's expression turned serious as he quickly checked.

If there's movement in the guard token, there's only one possibility: an order from above, and such matters cannot be delayed.

After inspecting, he discovered it was Qian Wudang instructing him to immediately proceed to the Justice Department hall.

To be summoned to the Justice Department hall at this time...

Lu Ye faintly sensed something was happening.

"I have to go out!" Lu Ye said as he stood up and pushed the door open.

A short moment later, in the brightly lit Justice Department hall, Lu Ye stepped in. Qian Wudang stood there with hands behind his back, a frown etched on his forehead, evidently waiting for him.

"My lord," Lu Ye cupped his fist in salute.

"Yesterday, a Nightingale reported noticing some unusual movements under Mount Mi Fog Cliff, suspecting a ferocious beast had settled there. Originally, Team A-5 took the task to investigate during the day, but the incident delayed it."

Lu Ye was naturally aware of what had happened. It was simply because Team A-5's leader, Zhou Kui, got beaten up by some mysterious person, then came to the Justice Department to falsely accuse him, only to be reprimanded.

Now Zhou Kui probably needs several days to recuperate and won't be able to lead a squad for any mission in the short term.

"What do you mean, my lord?"

"Originally, it wasn't a serious matter. Ferocious beasts are widely found across the Nine Provinces, and Bingzhou is no exception. The Nightingale's report was vague, and a few days' delay didn't matter. But just now, a message came from the Nightingale Den; the reporting Nightingale is out of contact."

The Nightingale Den is an agency under the Justice Department, tasked with managing Nightingales nationwide. The information reported by Nightingales is organized and compiled by the Nightingale Den.

Lu Ye had never dealt with anyone from the Nightingale Den, as it's directly under the jurisdiction of the Justice Department Chief. No outsiders can interfere, and no one even knows who the members of the Nightingale Den are.

Lu Ye raised an eyebrow slightly; the Nightingale discovered some anomaly, then suddenly went out of contact. This was evidently unusual.

"Is that Nightingale alive or dead?"

"For now, still alive."

It's easy to determine a person's life or death: just see if their battlefield marking imprint has dissipated.

The Nightingale's marking hasn't dissipated, indicating he's still alive.

"With your tracking skills, this task is best suited for you," Qian Wudang spoke.

Only then did Lu Ye understand why, among so many teams in the Justice Department, they specifically sought him. It turned out they were interested in his tracking disc.

He had initially decided to avoid using the tracking disc to complete tasks, to prevent excessive consumption. Unexpectedly, things didn't go as planned.

Moreover, the reason this task fell to him was ultimately his own doing.

Originally, Team A-5 accepted the task and was ready to execute it, but two hundred miles out from Haotian City, Zhou Kui got beaten up...

There wasn't much resistance to it; a task was still a task, and completing it would bring rewards.

Though he originally intended to let his fourth senior brother and others rest for a couple of days, with a task assigned, rest was out of the question.

"You go and find the Nightingale, see what his situation is, and also explore the Mist Cliff of Mount Mi. If there truly is a ferocious beast, slay it!"

Lu Ye accepted the order and then asked, "What is the Nightingale's name?"

Qian Wudang provided a name, which Lu Ye silently memorized.

He then said, "Be careful, if you encounter an invincible enemy, contact me immediately."

"Understood!"

"Go on." Qian Wudang waved his hand.

Lu Ye turned around and left the main hall, quickly returning to his courtyard.

Landing in the courtyard, Lu Ye said, "Everyone, we have a mission."

All the surrounding doors quickly opened, and several figures darted out.

Li Baxian smiled and said, "We already have a mission so soon?"

He roughly knew the procedural operations of the Law Enforcement Hall. Having a mission meant there was a chance to earn battle merit, something crucial for a new guard who had just entered the True Lake Realm.

"Captain, what mission is it?" Feng Yuechan asked.

She usually referred to Lu Ye as Junior Brother Lu, but now as a member of the D-9 squad, Feng Yuechan quickly positioned herself right, addressing Lu Ye as Captain like Lin Yinxiu.

"Let's talk while we move." Lu Ye summoned the spirit ark specially prepared for the squad.

Everyone boarded, and soon, under Lin Yinxiu's control, the spirit ark broke through the night, turning into a stream of light.

On the spirit ark, Lu Ye was examining the ten-part map while explaining the mission details.

Li Baxian was startled upon hearing, "Mount Mi Fog Cliff?"

Lu Ye looked up at him, "Fourth Senior Brother, do you know this place?"

Li Baxian smiled, "This place is less than a thousand miles from the Loyal Heart Sect; strictly speaking, it is under the Loyal Heart Sect's jurisdiction. There is a Chen family there, an inferior sect to the Loyal Heart Sect, whose ancestors were disciples of the Loyal Heart Sect."

That indeed was quite a coincidence.

"How much does Senior Brother know about the Fog Cliff?"

Li Baxian shook his head, "I've never been there, and I don't know much about it." He turned to look at Feng Yuechan, "Chan'er, do you know?"

Feng Yuechan said, "I heard from my mother that the Fog Cliff is called so because it is shrouded in dense fog all year round, unfathomably deep. My mother says the thick fog at Fog Cliff is quite peculiar, seemingly able to block the investigation of Mental Consciousness, so even those of the Divine Sea Realm are not willing to enter that place easily. Years ago, the sect did send someone from the Divine Sea Realm to investigate, but they didn't find anything special. After many years, if a ferocious beast has indeed been born and entrenched there, it's not entirely impossible."

"If there truly is a ferocious beast entrenched in such a place, it must not be weak. Be careful this time." Lu Ye cautioned.

Everyone solemnly nodded.

Lu Ye once again took out the tracking disc he had purchased from the Hall of Battle Merits, preparing to locate the exact position of the Nightingale, but the guard token suddenly had some activity.

Lu Ye quickly checked and then revealed a speechless expression.

"What's wrong?" Xiao Xinghe asked.

"The Nightingale has contacted, apparently he just reached a critical point in cultivation earlier, and it was inconvenient to reply before."

At least a tracking disc was saved, what a good thing.

Since the Nightingale had been contacted, handling the matter was now much easier. When they arrived at the location, they only needed to connect with the Nightingale, then explore the Fog Cliff, find the possible persistent ferocious beast, and slay it.

The spirit ark's speed was still very fast, and the full squad complement allowed them to continue without rest.

In just over a day, the party arrived at Mount Mi.

"There is the Fog Cliff." On the spirit ark, Feng Yuechan pointed below.

Lu Ye looked down and saw the thick fog rolling beneath, his hand scarcely visible before his face, even the fierce sun couldn't penetrate through the dense fog, indeed very mysterious.

"Descend." Lu Ye commanded.

Feng Yuechan, who was controlling the spirit ark, obeyed, immediately directing the spirit ark downwards.

In a moment, a group of six appeared on the edge of the Fog Cliff, Lu Ye had already activated the guard token to send out a message, waiting for the Nightingale to come seeking them.

Meanwhile, a few dozen miles away, at the Chen family.

In the main hall, the Chen Family Patriarch, Chen Tianchui, sat immobile, seemingly waiting for something.

The Chen family's grade wasn't high, only 6th grade, far inferior to the Xianxia Mountain where Lu Ye once visited.

However, as the patriarch of this generation of the Chen family, Chen Tianchui's cultivation was quite outstanding, reaching the Level 9 of the True Lake Realm, such cultivation was the strongest sequence below the Divine Sea.

The Great Elder, Chen Lie, hurried in, cupping his fist and saying, "Patriarch, the Nightingale sent a message, people from the Law Enforcement Hall have arrived."

Chen Tianchui slightly nodded, "The Law Enforcement Hall is always quick to act, since they've arrived, let's proceed as planned and let them see a good show, then send them away early."

"Understood." Chen Lie responded and then sent a message out.

Chen Tianchui snorted coldly, "Being so careless in handling matters, allowing a small Nightingale to sense something amiss. If it weren't for the Venerable Lord leaving behind methods, this wouldn't end well!"

Chen Lie said, "Those unworthy ones have already been punished, and it won't happen again."

"There better not be a next time, or if the Venerable Lord holds us accountable, no one can bear it!" Chen Tianchui said angrily, with some heartache, "The Venerable Lord's methods left behind are limited, using them on a Nightingale is such a waste!"

Something on their side was accidentally discovered by a Nightingale, so the Chen family was naturally quick to apprehend the Nightingale but dared not kill him. Mainly because if the Nightingale died, the

Justice Department would inevitably investigate thoroughly, and the Chen family would not be able to escape responsibility, ultimately having to use the Venerable Lord's left-behind methods.

Chapter 989: Green-Scaled Python

"Fortunately, the worst outcome didn't occur, and Nightingale was subdued. As long as this operation is handled properly, it won't be a big problem," Chen Lie spoke.

Chen Tianchui nodded slightly and casually asked, "Which team from the Law Enforcement Hall is coming this time?"

"There's no news yet. Nightingale is going to make contact, and we'll know once they've met."

"Report at any time!" Chen Tianchui ordered calmly, secretly vigilant, hoping it wouldn't be one of those particularly troublesome teams. The secret beneath Mist Cliff must not be exposed.

On the edge of Mist Cliff, while waiting, Lu Ye spoke, "You all wait here, I'll go down and take a look."

"I'll go with you." Li Baxian stepped forward.

Lu Ye pondered for a moment and agreed.

The two of them, one following the other, leaped into the dense mist.

The moment they fell into the dense mist, the light around them disappeared, replaced by darkness. Lu Ye, while sensing Li Baxian's position, slowed down.

Initially, there wasn't much of a problem, but as the two of them descended, Lu Ye discovered that his own perception seemed to be suppressed by an invisible force, making it difficult to detect Li Baxian's presence.

He quickly activated his Mental Consciousness and immediately realized that Feng Yuechan was right. The dense mist here has a magical suppression on Mental Consciousness, and the deeper they went, the more obvious this suppression became.

Less than a hundred feet ahead, Lu Ye's expression changed, and he called out, "Fourth Senior Brother!"

"Origin Magnetic Field!" Li Baxian's voice came from nearby, sounding somewhat surprised.

For no other reason, the spirit force flowing within the two of them showed signs of being suppressed, clearly the work of the Origin Magnetic Field.

Li Baxian only sensed the presence of the Origin Magnetic Field, but Lu Ye, with his Mental Consciousness, felt it more clearly despite the constant suppression.

Scattered in the dense mist were dust-like particles, and the Origin Magnetic Field was emanating from these particles. These particles were clearly the dust of Origin Magnetic Ore!

"We can't go any further down," Li Baxian said.

Mere suppression of perception and Mental Consciousness wasn't too problematic, as long as they were vigilant enough to avoid potential risks. But the Origin Magnetic Field was a cultivator's bane; the deeper they went, the stronger the Origin Magnetic Field's concentration. If the spirit force within them was completely suppressed, they would inevitably plummet to the bottom of the cliff, and not to mention any possible dangers, it would be problematic to climb up again.

No wonder even those at the Divine Sea Realm were reluctant to easily enter this ghostly place.

Mental Consciousness is the greatest advantage of the Divine Sea Realm, and this advantage is rendered useless here. Coupled with the presence of the Origin Magnetic Field, this place is truly a place of great danger.

"Let's go!" Lu Ye shouted, taking advantage of the fact that his spirit force suppression wasn't yet too pronounced, and flew upwards.

Li Baxian followed closely behind.

In no time, they broke through the dense mist's barrier and returned to the edge of the cliff.

As they landed, they immediately saw a cultivator wearing a mask standing beside them, presumably the Nightingale of this place.

Lu Ye picked up the guard token at his waist and gave it a shake, "Law Enforcement Hall, Team D-9, Lu Ye!"

"Greetings, Sir!" Nightingale saluted.

"Report your findings in detail!" Lu Ye commanded.

Nightingale began to report his previous discoveries, but before he could say much, screams and shouts suddenly echoed from afar.

Everyone looked towards the source of the sound, but saw nothing. The commotion seemed to be some distance away, but the sounds indicated that something had happened.

"Let's go take a look." Lu Ye said, taking off into the sky in that direction.

The others followed closely behind.

Nightingale, with the lowest cultivation level, just below the True Lake Realm, fell to the back of the group. Taking advantage of no one's attention, he tapped on his battlefield marking and sent a message.

In the Chen Family's main hall, the Great Elder Chen Lie looked up and said to Chen Tianchui, "A message from Nightingale. The team on this mission is Team D-9, led by someone named Lu Ye."

Chen Tianchui released a breath he had been holding, "As long as it's not those teams... What did you say the leader's name was?"

"Lu Ye!" Chen Lie replied.

"The Lu Yiye from the Righteous Blood Sect?"

"It should be him." Chen Lie nodded, "I heard before that he joined the Law Enforcement Hall and caused quite a stir in Haotian City not long ago."

The incident of some Law Enforcement Hall teams engaging in brawls had already spread throughout Haotian City, and the swift communication among cultivators made it no surprise that Chen Lie had heard of it.

Seeing Chen Tianchui's expression, Chen Lie curiously asked, "Does the Family Head know him?"

"I've never met him," Chen Tianchui shook his head, "but the Venerable Lord has long instructed that if we encounter him, we are to make friends at any cost!"

Chen Lie couldn't help but be moved, "The Venerable Lord holds him in such high regard?"

"The Venerable Lord has his reasons!" Chen Tianchui showed an invigorated look, "This is truly a godsend opportunity."

Originally, there was a risk of exposure on the Zhou family side, and even if they remedied the situation afterward, some punishment would inevitably follow. However, if they could make connections with that Lu Yiye as per the Venerable Lord's instructions, or even enlighten him to serve under the Venerable Lord... it would certainly be a great achievement! By then, they could offset their mistakes with merits.

"Is the show about to start?" Chen Tianchui asked.

"Almost there, the Third Elder has sent out the green-scaled python, which is enough for them to report back," Chen Lie replied. It was a pity about that python, as the Third Elder had nurtured it for decades, and it was unlikely to remain in one piece this time. Without such assistance, the Third Elder from the beast-taming faction would see a significant reduction in strength, which is quite the blow.

But there's nothing that can be done about it.

The Nightingale has already reported sightings of ferocious beasts in the area. The Law Enforcement Hall wouldn't leave easily without uncovering something. Only by giving them something to report back would they leave, and thus the secret beneath Mist Cliff could be preserved.

Though the secret isn't something that can be easily explored by just anyone, one must always guard against the unexpected.

"Go in person and invite Lu Yiye over. He led the team that slew the ferocious beast and saved my Chen family members. It's only proper for my Chen family to sincerely thank him!"

Chen Lie naturally understood Chen Tianchui's intentions and immediately accepted the order: "Yes!"

By this time, Lu Ye and his group had hurried to where the commotion originated. Looking from afar, they saw several figures desperately fleeing for their lives, shouting incessantly, pursued closely by a giant serpent over ten feet long.

The giant serpent had a massive build, covered in emerald green scale armor, with bulges faintly protruding on either side of its head, exuding extraordinary might.

Even from a distance, one could feel its fiendish aura, and if this serpent advanced any further, it might just morph into a flood dragon.

The belly of the serpent was bulging, resembling a human shape, indicating that someone had already fallen victim and been swallowed whole. Those still alive were scared out of their wits. Under such circumstances, it was natural for them to scatter and flee in hopes of survival. Yet, they clustered together, clearly frightened out of their wits and losing their heads.

The cultivators weren't strong; they were all only at the Spirit Stream Realm, unable to escape through the air and slower than the green-scaled python at that.

Just as the serpent opened its gaping maw to attack, a hissing sound suddenly arose, and with it, the flight of flying swords from behind Lu Ye, slashing towards the head of the green-scaled python.

Li Baxian was the first to make a move.

Sword cultivators were the strongest in killing, and the speed of the flying swords was swift. In the blink of an eye, they slashed at the head of the green-scaled python.

Sparks flew everywhere, the emerald scale armor covering the python's body was exceedingly tough, actually withstanding the onslaught of numerous flying swords without sustaining severe injuries.

However, the impact of the collision caused the giant serpent to stagger slightly, allowing the Spirit Stream Realm cultivators to barely avoid the disaster.

Lu Ye had already rushed forward, stepping on the head of the green-scaled python, reverse-gripping the Boulder Mountain Saber, and fiercely stabbed down onto its head.

The blade shimmered with brilliance, enhanced by the Double-Sharpness Spirit Runes.

When the saber fell, the green-scaled python obviously sensed the impending danger. As its head swayed, demonic power surged, forming a solid defense.

The blade pierced through the protective demonic power, stabbing half a foot into the python's head but advancing no further.

The green-scaled python hissed in pain, its tongue flickering, trying to shake Lu Ye off.

But out of nowhere, the Giant Armor came charging in, gripping its tail tightly with both hands, giving it a mighty yank backwards.

The giant serpent, over a dozen feet long, was forcibly straightened and slammed heavily onto the ground.

Li Baxian traveled through the air nearby, sending a barrage of sword light downwards with his flying swords, while beside him, Feng Yuechan remained solemn, rapidly forming and casting intricate magic and spells.

Xiao Xinghe also charged in, drawing his blade to slash, taking advantage of the moment when the giant python couldn't get up, causing sparks to fly and blood to spill from its body.

A spectral and bewitching figure suddenly appeared beside the python's head; it was Lin Yinxiu stealthily approaching, mercilessly thrusting her cutlass into the serpent's eye.

With one strike, the serpent's eye shattered.

The green-scaled python was enraged, turning its head to bite at Lin Yinxiu.

Instantly, a putrid wind surged toward her, making it almost impossible for Lin Yinxiu to keep her eyes open.

Her body continuously floated back, yet the green-scaled python's gaping maw pursued relentlessly, clearly intending to bite her dead.

A towering figure suddenly stood in front of Lin Yinxiu, the Giant Armor's blood Qi surging around him. He crouched slightly, lowering his center of gravity, standing firm as if rooted, with the giant snake's head crashing into him without budging an inch.

He suddenly lifted a hand, clasp onto one of the fangs on the upper jaw of the green-scaled python, while grabbing onto a lower jaw fang with the other hand, letting out an angry cry, and with a fierce twist, the giant serpent's body was whipped up like a rope, spun half a circle, and slammed down heavily onto the ground.

Dust rose all around.

Yet, the assault from the others didn't cease, as Li Baxian's flying swords and Feng Yuechan's magic spells continued to rain down, alongside the relentless blade swings of Lu Ye and Xiao Xinghe.

Slammed onto the ground, the green-scaled python attempted to raise its head, but the Giant Armor had already stepped on its head with one foot, pummeling its head with his fists.

Every punch landed, making the ground tremble along with it.

No matter how the green-scaled python struggled, it couldn't break free of the Giant Armor's foot's restraint.

Lin Yinxiu seized the opportunity, using her cutlass to target the green-scaled python's weak points relentlessly, stabbing fervently.

At first, the green-scaled python still resisted vigorously, but gradually, its movements grew weaker until it finally fell silent.

With the final punch from the Giant Armor, the head of this green-scaled python, which was comparable to the True Lake Realm, was cracked open.

Chapter 990: Chen Family

The battle came quickly and ended just as fast. Within the span of twenty breaths, this ferocious demon beast was subdued. Several Spirit Stream Realm cultivators who were rescued stood aside, looking on in shock, unable to come to their senses for a long time.

It was only then that the Nightingale arrived, leisurely.

Lu Ye stood on the green-scaled python and pulled out the Boulder Mountain Saber, glancing at the Nightingale: "Was it this ferocious beast?"

"It should be," Nightingale nodded.

Mission accomplished!

This task was much easier and more straightforward than the search mission, mainly because the squad of six cooperated seamlessly, and each of the six was immensely powerful, allowing them to subdue it perfectly.

There was no need to hurry back. To be prudent, it would be better to inspect the surroundings, and it wouldn't take much time anyway.

Thinking this in his mind, Lu Ye suddenly raised his head and looked in one direction. Over there, a stream of light was rapidly approaching, and from the spirit force fluctuations, it was clearly a True Lake Realm cultivator.

Lu Ye subtly waved his hand, and the Nightingale silently clasped her hands in salute and retreated, disappearing from sight quickly.

The identity of the Nightingale was highly concealed; it was best not to show up in front of others.

Lu Ye didn't know who was coming, but it was highly likely someone from a sect or family nearby, detecting the commotion from the battle, and came to investigate.

A moment later, the person landed, revealing their figure. Lu Ye glanced over and saw a half-elderly man with graying hair, though aged, his build was robust, and his blood Qi was ample, indicating the path of a physique cultivator.

"Great Elder!" The Spirit Stream Realm cultivators, still shaken, cried out mournfully.

"What happened?" The old man demanded.

Among them, a slightly older youth calmed his mind and explained what had transpired: "We were ordered to follow Senior Brother Wan to patrol the surroundings. When we passed by here, this barghest suddenly attacked, swallowing Senior Brother Wan in one gulp... It was about to eat us, but those people saved us." As he spoke, he pointed to Lu Ye and the others.

Upon hearing this, the old man flew into a rage: "How could such a ferocious beast appear in the Chen family's territory without any prior notice!" He looked distressed.

Turning, he addressed Lu Ye and his group: "I am Chen Lie, Great Elder of the Chen family at Mount Mi. May I ask who you are...?"

Lu Ye clasped his hands and said in a deep voice, "Lu Ye of Team D-9, Law Enforcement Hall, Justice Department."

Chen Lie showed a look of surprise: "Law Enforcement Hall?"

Lu Ye explained: "We received intelligence recently suggesting the presence of a ferocious beast in this area, so we came to investigate, just in time to encounter this barghest attacking people."

"I see." Chen Lie's expression softened, "I must thank you all for saving the lives of several of my Chen family's incompetent disciples."

"Eradicating evil and protecting the weak is within the purview of the Law Enforcement Hall."

"It may be within the Law Enforcement Hall's duty, but to my Chen family's disciples, it was a life-saving favor." Chen Lie turned to those cultivators, "Hurry and thank these senior brothers and sisters."

Those cultivators quickly stepped forward, sincerely expressing their gratitude.

Lu Ye waved his hand, indicating not to mind. Their trip here was to execute a mission, though it was regrettable that they arrived too late to save Senior Brother Wan's life.

Chen Lie said, "A life-saving favor cannot be forgotten. If you wouldn't mind, could you come to my Chen family so we may extend some hospitality to you?"

"Great Elder, there's no need for such formalities. We've completed our mission, and after surveying the surroundings, we'll return immediately." Completing the mission meant they needed to hurry back to report and claim their battle merits, with no time to waste here.

"If that's the case, you can rest assured. I will immediately send someone to carefully probe within a thirty-mile radius. If there's any anomaly, we'll notify you right away. After all, this is the Chen family's territory, and safeguarding the safety of the mortals within is our responsibility. How could we trouble the talents of the Law Enforcement Hall?" Chen Lie advised, "Though your squad is strong, it's still only six people. Why not let my Chen family handle this carefully? There will be no negligence, how about it?"

Lu Ye pondered briefly and nodded, "That sounds good."

Normally, matters within a sect's territory are handled by the sect itself. Even if the law enforcement team hadn't arrived, the Chen family wouldn't ignore any commotion caused by the green-scaled python and would have dispatched internal experts to subdue it.

Letting the Chen family thoroughly inspect the territory to ensure no other ferocious creatures are at large would save them some trouble as well.

Moreover, it's already evening, and although this doesn't significantly impact their travel, it's ultimately less convenient than during the day. Resting at the Chen family overnight before leaving wouldn't be too late.

"Please!" Chen Lie extended his hand, inviting them, then took the lead to guide the way.

Lu Ye nodded slightly, leading the group in following Chen Lie.

In no time, they reached the Chen family's location. Unlike the Zhou family in bustling Dingtian City, the Chen family resided at the foot of Mount Mi, in a more serene environment.

Although there was a visible difference in grade between them and the Zhou family, the Chen family's scale was undeniably larger. At the foot of the mountain sprawled a stretch of buildings; all were Chen family properties, with many cultivators moving about.

As they walked in front, Chen Lie introduced the Chen family's circumstances to Lu Ye and the others, with a display of enthusiasm.

Yet, the age difference was considerable, and with differing status tiers, and Lu Ye not being much of a conversationalist to begin with, he could only occasionally respond, rendering the atmosphere neither cold nor lively.

Soon, they arrived at a large hall, presumably the Chen family's visitors hall.

Lu Ye and the others each took a seat.

Chen Lie said, "Please wait a moment, I will go invite the Clan Leader and arrange for personnel for the patrol."

Lu Ye had no objection.

Chen Lie departed.

After a short moment, a maid from the Chen family brought tea.

On their journey, they had just fought a battle. Lu Ye was somewhat thirsty, so he picked up the tea cup and took a sip.

As he swallowed the tea, his expression slightly changed. He looked up at Lin Yinxiu across from him: "Don't drink!"

Lin Yinxiu had already lifted the tea cup to her lips, and was startled by his words: "What's wrong?"

The others also paused in the action of raising their tea.

"It's poisoned!" Closing his eyes, Lu Ye concentrated his mind and inspected the Talent Tree. At this moment, a gray mist arose from the tree, and not only that, he suddenly sensed an anomaly in his Divine Pool.

He quickly examined it.

Outside the Divine Pool, there was a foreign object, resembling an unknown insect. If Lu Ye hadn't developed Mental Consciousness, he would have been unaware of it.

It was unclear what kind of insect it was, but even the Talent Tree couldn't immediately burn it away.

It must have entered his body through the sip of tea he just took.

Lu Ye suddenly understood, there wasn't poison in the tea, it was this foreign object!

The Talent Tree has a keen reaction to foreign objects invading the body, which is why it burned a gray mist.

Before the insect could approach the Divine Pool, a cluster of flames enveloped it out of nowhere. Lu Ye faintly heard a sharp, shrill scream, and the insect vanished.

The flame that burned the insect shared the same color as the flames on the Talent Tree, clearly the Talent Tree had exerted its power.

"Clang." Lin Yinxiu was so frightened that she dropped her tea cup. Though she didn't understand how Lu Ye could discern whether the tea was poisoned with just one taste, she was always the most obedient, following the captain's orders without question.

Lu Ye opened his eyes, suddenly stood up: "Let's go!"

This place of right and wrong is not suitable for staying long.

He had a strange feeling earlier, because the Law Enforcement Hall's reputation has always been bad, often offending people. Generally, sects and families kept their distance, yet the Chen family warmly invited them.

Lu Ye hadn't thought much of it, after all, they did save some Chen family disciples. It was only natural for them to be thanked and appreciated.

But now it seemed, this so-called gratitude was nothing but a facade, the Chen family had plans against them.

He couldn't understand what the Chen family was trying to do!

Offending the Law Enforcement Hall wouldn't end well. Such a large family had no reason to play with fire like this.

What was the use of the insect?

Time was pressing, Lu Ye didn't have the leisure to ponder too much. He only knew the priority was to leave here quickly.

Meanwhile, in a concealed chamber, a Moon Reflection Disc displayed the situation within the main hall. Chen Lie and Chen Tianchui were observing the developments inside.

Seeing Lu Ye take a sip of tea, Chen Tianchui couldn't help but show a happy expression; the situation was as good as settled, but soon his happiness turned to astonishment.

Because Lu Ye actually noticed the anomaly in the tea and quickly stood up, while across from him, a woman even dropped her tea cup.

"What's happening?" Chen Lie was a bit dumbfounded. The means bestowed by the Venerable Lord couldn't be detected by anyone below the Divine Sea Realm. No matter how capable Lu Yiye was, he shouldn't have noticed it.

Just like that Nightingale before, who obediently complied soon after being captured by them, now that Nightingale may officially still belong to the Justice Department, but in reality, he was already theirs.

Yet all indications clearly showed their methods had truly been exposed by Lu Ye.

"Don't let them escape!" Chen Tianchui's reaction was undoubtedly much swifter than Chen Lie's. Realizing something was amiss, he immediately took out a jade cluster, infused spirit force into it.

The next instant, a buzzing sound echoed out.

"The big array has been activated, hurry and take people to intercept them. They must not be allowed to leave, nor given a chance to transmit messages! Except for Lu Yiye, the rest can be killed!" Chen Tianchui urgently ordered.

"Understood!" Chen Lie responded and swiftly dashed out.

Chen Tianchui felt sweat on his forehead, feeling that things today were not going well. Mostly because he truly didn't expect Lu Ye to be so alert and capable of detecting the anomaly in the tea.

A person valued by the Venerable Lord indeed shouldn't be underestimated!

Although flustered, he quickly concluded, Lu Yiye had already drunk the tea and the thing should have hatched, making Lu Yiye one of their own.

As long as they didn't allow the other five an opportunity to communicate, and eliminated them here, the situation could still be salvaged.

Many thoughts quickly crossed his mind. Chen Tianchui wiped away his sweat and tapped on his battlefield marking, sending out a message: "Kindly report to the Venerable Lord..."

Meanwhile, in a remote place in Bingzhou.

The lake shimmered, and the autumn water rippled.

By the lakeside, two grass huts stood. Along the lake's edge, a man held a fishing rod; he hadn't caught a fish after a long time, yet he wasn't in a hurry, merely sitting calmly on the chair with a leisurely expression.

Beside the man stood a curvaceous woman silently, it wasn't clear how long she had been standing there, but there was no hint of impatience on her face. Occasionally glancing at the man's profile, her eyes were filled with admiration.