

Nine-Dragon 71

Chapter 71: Deity Level Cultivation Technique

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu once again felt hope in their hearts!

Qiu Changjian chuckled. "It seems you have already made up your mind. Well then, make some preparations—tomorrow, the Evil Forest will be opened to you.

"By the way as a reminder—you have the opportunity to enter the Sanctuary Divine Vault as newly arrived prospective Holy Disciples, so you may select cultivation techniques and weapons." Qiu Changjian concluded before he left.

With the Sanctuary about to dissolve, he naturally needed to consult with all the other Holy Disciples. Together, they would investigate whatever had happened behind closed doors which had led to the dissolution of the Sanctuary. Su Yu bowed in gratitude—Qiu Changjian had helped him a lot.

After Qiu Changjian left, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu entered the Sanctuary Divine Vault. Inside was a vast collection of cultivation techniques and weapons.

Su Yu casually took a quick glance around; what amazed him was that even the lowest level technique was at an arguably advanced level—and they were just randomly scattered on the ground—like they were of no interest to anyone!

All over the counter one hundred cultivation technique manuals were neatly arranged. A closer look revealed them all to be Saint Level cultivation techniques!!

Of the entire Fenglin Empire, only the Royal Collection had a single Saint Level cultivation technique manual. Here, one hundred were casually lying on the table!

Xia Jingyu's heart immediately filled with joy as she set out to choose a Saint Level cultivation technique which suited her.

Su Yu was very interested as he thumbed through the Saint Level cultivation techniques. The diverse variety was dizzying and a feast for Su Yu's eyes; he wanted to try many of the cultivation techniques, but forced himself to remain rational with great self-control.

Since he already had Purple star Thunderbolt and Floating Light Shadow, he would only cultivate the most suitable cultivation technique. As he looked through, he realized the collection had no cultivation techniques which suited his needs.

Xia Jingyu, clear-eyed and bright, also did not choose a cultivation technique, softly sighed, "There is no cultivation technique suitable for me. If I forced myself to choose I would do more harm than good."

Su Yu could not help but secretly admire Xia Jingyu's self-control and rational nature—her attitude was excellent.

Suddenly, Su Yu caught sight of a seemingly additional layer of manuals hidden underneath the counter. Su Yu's pupils dilated as his enhanced sight activated—he was able to see down to the

smallest detail, and as such he spied a fine crack. With a stretch of his hand, he pulled open the hidden cubby effortlessly.

Three copies of cultivation techniques radiated a strange brilliance under Su Yu's gaze. One copy was named Icy Heart Core, another was named Reverie of Dewdrops, and the other was named Infernal Demon Pupils.

However, when both Su Yu and Xia Jingyu examined them more closely, they were shocked, "Deity Level cultivation technique?"

The Saint Level cultivation technique of Nine Styles of Jade Unicorn used by Senior Sister Liu against Feng Hao had been developed from the Deity Level cultivation technique, Icy Heart Core.

Back then, Su Yu and other people had been astonished by the simple concept of a Deity Level existing above Saint Level.

Whoa—

Su Yu held out his hand and pulled Icy Heart Core into his palm. Immediately there was a cold blast and his palm was instantly covered with white frost. Having had the foundation of Tempest, Su Yu did not feel the chill as he opened it with great interest.

"Icy Heart Core; Deity Level cultivation technique divided into three levels: lower, upper, and top.

"Lower Realm: the air will become frost and adhere to any foreign surface, which will turn anything into a divine weapon.

"Upper Realm: the body will turn into frost—every gesture can freeze all living things.

"Top Realm: the heart will transform into an icy heart core and absorb all the cold air to refine the cultivation of intense chill in the blood vessels.

"The basic requirement for this cultivation is the foundation of an ice cultivation technique; the core requirement is superbly powerful insight!"

At the bottom of the title page was a written comment from the Holy King, "My Sanctuary Disciple, if there is no comprehension within one day, immediately give up. Otherwise, you will face at least thirty, fifty, or many more years before you see any progress."

Su Yu's eyes were ablaze. This cultivation technique was simply tailor-made for him!

He had the foundation of Tempest and, with space-time manipulation he could cultivate fifty times fast than others—with that ability, even a poor level of insight would be sufficient for him to learn a thing or two. Su Yu thumbed through the technique on the spot, caught in the acceleration of space-time speed.

Xia Jingyu's eyes darted between the three Deity Level cultivation techniques. She immediately skipped over Infernal Demon Pupils, as this cultivation technique made her uncomfortable. Having no ice technique foundation, she also gave up on Icy Heart Core after contemplating for a moment.

She picked up Reverie of Dewdrops to flip through and, in a flash, her eyes lit up with delight; this Deity Level cultivation technique was obviously suitable for her cultivation. With anticipation, Xia Jingyu also began her comprehension on the spot.

Time slowly passed. After about half a day, Su Yu slowly opened his eyes—his eyes carried a cool edge.

Aha—

The air around his whole body became a white mist as the vapor in the air froze into ice needles which dropped to the ground, making crisp clinking sounds. This was a palpable, pleasant surprise. Half a day's time with fifty times the space-time speed was equivalent to a full twenty-five days of work! Su Yu had successfully comprehended Icy Heart Core to a lower realm!

At the Holy Meet, thanks to the transformation of my soul, my powerful insight seems to have taken a qualitative leap. Su Yu thought.

Of course, the greater help was still the space-time manipulation; without it, Su Yu's powerful insight would still need an entire month to achieve what he had just done. Seeing Xia Jingyu was still in meditation, Su Yu did not disturb her and instead looked at the remaining two Deity Level cultivation techniques.

Reverie of Dewdrops was obviously not suitable for Su Yu, but Infernal Demon Pupils flashed in front of Su Yu's eyes. Based on intuition, Su Yu sensed there was a layer of faint soul energy shrouding it—his suspicion was certainly confirmed the moment he opened it!

"Infernal Demon Pupils; Deity Level cultivation technique, secret technique of the soul, divided into two parts.

"The Soul Seeking part: upon successful cultivation, the user can unleash the soul seeking technique to forcibly search the memories in the mind of someone who is of the same, or lower realm than you.

"The Soul Control part: upon successful cultivation, the user can manipulate the other person's soul in a battle to control their physical body. The opponent must not be more than one level higher than the user."

Su Yu's pupils contracted. This was indeed the secret technique of the soul and, furthermore, the results were astonishing! Eyes ablaze, Su Yu manipulated space-time and immediately sank into comprehension on the spot.

Half a day later Su Yu slowly opened his eyes, filled with pleasant surprise. After the soul fusion, his innate soul talent had completely reached its peak! Successful cultivation of the secret technique of the soul depended on the right conditions. He had gained enlightenment on the spot with one Deity Level cultivation technique manual—cultivating a total of two parts!

The soul seeking and soul control techniques controlled the heart and mind at the same time! In a single day of training, he had cultivated two Deity Level cultivation techniques; Su Yu was filled with confidence for the Evil Forest journey!

As Su Yu reveled in his success Xia Jingyu opened her bright eyes. her pretty face was bursting with joy, "Brother Yu, I have succeeded in bringing my comprehension level to the lower level of maturity."

Reverie of Dewdrops was also divided into lower, upper, and top realms; Xia Jingyu had made a breakthrough to Lower Realm in just one day!

Su Yu inwardly gasped; he had only managed to comprehend the Lower Realm by using space-time manipulation to accelerate time, which meant he had essentially trained for twenty-five days. But Xia Jingyu had truly only needed a single day?!

This was a Deity Level cultivation technique! If he did not know Xia Jingyu's character, Su Yu would have suspected that she was bluffing!

He suddenly remembered that day amidst the pear blossoms under the moonlight, when he had hand-guided Xia Jingyu move by move and Xia Jingyu had managed to successfully comprehend Su Yu's Holy Decree after ten demonstrations.

Now, she had only taken a day to comprehend a Deity Level cultivation technique!

Xia Jingyu's powerful insight was twenty-five times stronger than his!

Was insight that powerful still even considered human?!

As he gazed at the smiling Xia Jingyu, Su Yu felt his brain numb; his intuition told him that Xia Jingyu's powerful insight was extraordinary! But, he could not divulge this matter—if he did, it could bring misfortune to Xia Jingyu.

Su Yu nodded with a smile. "Congratulations to Jingyu's greatly increased ability!"

The two of them exchanged what they had experienced while they had worked on their comprehension. Xia Jingyu's eyes sparkled upon learning that Su Yu had gained insight into the two Deity Level cultivation techniques. She recalled that Su Yu's powerful insight was seemingly outstanding and entirely unmatched.

Su Yu blushed with shame and felt guilt in his heart. His manipulation of space-time was actually cheating, how could it be compared to Xia Jingyu's supernaturally powerful insight?

When it came to choosing weapons, Xia Jingyu forfeited her chance as she was better with melee combat and using her hands—any weapon was more likely to be a burden to her than anything else.

Su Yu could consciously modify his pupils to see far, which was a big advantage and compatible with a bow and arrows—the combination usually carried impressive results. Unfortunately, there were no suitable bows or arrows when he looked around. The bows and arrows there were made of the finest materials, which required strong arms to exert formidable power. Su Yu's physique was not his strong suit, and therefore he had to forget about using the formidable bows and arrows.

Just as Su Yu was filled with disappointment, an unusual weapon drew his attention. It was a ball of hair-thin silk thread, transparent and clear, and difficult to detect with the naked eye. Su Yu tried to touch it with a finger.

Zing—

As though he had been electrocuted, Su Yu quickly retracted his hand and glanced at his finger. There was a fine cut on his finger and blood seeping with incomparable stinging. With a sharp gasp, Su Yu wondered—if he had allowed himself to put any more pressure than he had, would he have lost his finger?!

It was truly sharp silk thread!

He looked closely at its instructions.

"Entwined Dragon Silk, tenacious and soft—this silk can withstand the force of thirteen thousand pounds! Incomparably precise and invincible, this silk thread can easily cut gold and silver! Those using it must take extreme care!"

Su Yu's eyes were ablaze and his heart pounded. Perhaps the Entwined Dragon Silk was more suitable for him than bows and arrows! After he finished looking at its instructions, Su Yu retrieved the Entwined Dragon Silk. The Entwined Dragon Silk's unfolded diameter could extend to just over three-hundred feet!

Near the Entwined Dragon Silk was an unassuming black jade ring of a plain design. It was simply laid out and clearly made of a hard material, something able to withstand the Entwined Dragon Silk's cuts. When the Entwined Dragon Silk was not in use, it could be coiled within the black jade ring to prevent the user from hurting himself. When in use, the Entwined Dragon Silk could be unfurled with the flicking of the user's fingers.

The method was simple and convenient, coupled with the transparency of the Entwined Dragon Silk, both the defensive and offensive capabilities of the silk were incredibly effective.

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu had both reaped great rewards. They immediately hurried to the Evil Forest entrance.

At first glance, there were many people waiting for it to open. Among the familiar faces were Feng Hao, Senior Sister Liu, and Zhang Mingyi. Moreover, they had joined Du Lin's small team!

The top ten prospective Holy Disciples, each fighting each other, separately recruited other prospective Holy Disciples from beyond the top ten in order to form teams and join forces as they sought for fortune within the Evil Forest together.

Whether to boost their Holy Disciple qualifications or to ruthlessly drum up resources before the dissolution of the Sanctuary, the Evil Forest was the unrivaled choice for training. Not only was Du Lin present, but the other nine holy disciples were as well!

Even the number one ranked prospective holy disciple—Long Xiaoyue, a 25-year-old young woman—was present. Her ability was, without a doubt, the best of the prospective Holy Disciples; she was a Level Eight Peak, certainly the most eligible to boost her Holy Disciple qualifications.

Under her command, there were also the second and third ranked prospective Holy Disciples; each of them was at Level Eight cultivation base, with their combined power they were almost unrivaled in the Evil Forest!

Upon hearing the commotion, Long Xiaoyue glanced sideways and calmly fixed her gaze above Su Yu's figure, as if she was a high and mighty king. "You said what I should have said; in a month, it will be me who will become the Holy Disciple, not you." She stated haughtily.

Su Yu turned a deaf ear.

In the distance Zhang Mingyi's eyes held bitter resentment; his gaze fell upon Xia Jingyu and, unable to disguise his feelings, he leered, "Junior Sister Xia, how about you join your Senior Brother's team? Senior Brother Du is generous and magnanimous; if you are willing to abandon Su Yu, we will be able to accommodate you in our team."

"Senior Brother Zhang, you just worry about yourself. Brother Yu and I are together," Xia Jingyu responded indifferently.

"Pfft! In the Evil Forest, you both will not live more than three days without a strong protector," Zhang Mingyi glared at Su Yu and sneered as he then joined Du Lin and stepped into the Evil Forest.

Before Du Lin left, his eyes throbbed with murderous intent and he coldly shot a glance toward Su Yu. It was difficult to kill someone outside the forest—but, inside the forest, it would be hard for even the Holy King to investigate, should Su Yu mysteriously die!

The murderer of a younger brother was a sworn enemy for life!

Su Yu's heart suddenly turned cold when he saw Du Lin's murderous intent!

Did Du Lin think Su Yu was still a weak, bullied newcomer? Should they meet again, Su Yu would have to teach him an unforgettable lesson!

The sun set and the moon rose as midnight arrived above their heads. Please support us at <https://www.patreon.com/thedivineninedragoncauldron> to enjoy the advanced chapters.

Chapter 72: The Obscure Fiendish Duo

At the Evil Forest's entrance, the caretaker went among the people gathered in order to issue jade hammers and scrolls. The specific profile of each slayer was described on each scroll. The purpose of the jade hammer was to retrieve elixirs.

The elixir on each slayer's body was sealed in a hardy jade bottle; only the force of the Holy King could crack it open. Within each jade hammer, there was a trace of the Holy King's power. With their items carefully packed away, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu entered the forest.

Soon after entering the forest, everyone was completely dispersed and separated from the other teams in the vast expanse of forest. There was silence all around, only the cold wind could be heard whirling in the forest.

Xia Jingyu was alert and rapt with attention in order to safeguard against the unexpected. Su Yu smiled, dilated his pupils, and swept his gaze over all directions; every movement within a five-mile range was within his view. He shook his head in disappointment after he had scanned all the area he could see—there was no sign of a slayer.

The Evil Forest was divided into an outer periphery, an inner periphery and a core. A depth of forty miles belonged to the outer periphery. Forty more miles from the edge of the outer periphery led to the middle of the inner periphery. At the heart of the forest was the core, with a radius of twenty miles.

The slayers usually only appeared in the inner periphery in order to prevent being discovered and beheaded by Sanctuary disciples. It was said that there were scary Level Eight of the Martial Path slayers within the depths of the inner periphery.

In the core, legend stated that there was the existence of a Level Nine of the Martial Path slayer; he was known both as the Slayer King and the Evil Forest King—the two pieces of divine grade spirit elixir were on his body!

After a whole day, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu had crossed a span of twenty miles as they walked through the dense forest with great difficulty.

All of a sudden Su Yu, who had been scanning the forest ahead, twitched his eyebrows as his face adopted a grave expression. He quietly halted all movement and whispered to Xia Jingyu, "A slayer has appeared!"

Su Yu looked somber—was it not said that slayers usually only appeared in the forty-mile inner periphery? Why was there a slayer in the outer periphery?

He combed his mind for information on slayers and his face became even graver, "Is this Fenglin Empire's notorious slayer, The Obscurer? He is an expert in the art of concealment, proficient in the mechanisms of traps, and can cut people down like grass. He once massacred an entire town of weak, elderly, women, and children in a valley just so he could test a trap mechanism—hundreds of innocent people were exterminated overnight."

Xia Jingyu's pretty eyes turned cold. She had heard of this tragedy in her childhood—the slayer's savagery and viciousness often elicited hate and anger from others.

Swish—

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu leaned forward as they quietly walked through the thick forest.

"There are blood stains! He's hurt!" Xia Jingyu whispered when she saw blood with her sharp eyes as they arrived near a hidden cave entrance.

Near the cave entrance, several drops of fresh blood remained, emitting a faint smell.

Su Yu's eyes flashed. He slowly nodded, "Let's take advantage of his injury and kill him!"

He had no qualms about killing a slayer who was completely devoid of all humanity. Su Yu's eyes remained calm, however, and not impulsive as he whispered, "There's a trap at the mouth of the cave, it must have been set up before his injury to prevent enemy invasion."

Xia Jingyu examined the area closely and only just discovered the ground before the cave entrance was slightly peculiar; had it not been for Su Yu's warning, she may not have noticed it. The Obscurer had definitely proved to be proficient with traps!

"Hold on to me, I will use my Floating Light Shadow technique to fly past the trap." Su Yu slowly stood up. The trap occupied the entire area in front of the cave entrance.

Only the use of Floating Light Shadow could allow them to fly across, like a dragonfly skimming across the surface of a pond. Xia Jingyu murmured in agreement and held onto Su Yu's arm.

Su Yu's heart skipped a beat. He took a deep breath and used Floating Light Shadow. His figure was like a swallow flying between the river waves, dancing on the crests. With a tap of the tip of his toe, he floated thirty feet away. His body was as light as a swan, and there was a beauty in his embrace—together, they moved forward against the wind.

Swoosh—

Su Yu easily avoided the large trap at the cave entrance and ducked into the cave. Su Yu did not rush to charge in, however, but instead carried Xia Jingyu with a gentle stoop. There was a very fine wire at the cave entrance—if it had not been for Su Yu's keen, magical pupils and their enhanced observational skills, they may have accidentally tripped the wire trap.

The steel wire was the trigger for the trap; there were three sharp axes over the top of their heads, if they had touched the steel wire, the axes would have unexpectedly dropped from above and cut them in half! A chain mechanism!

Xia Jingyu gasped. The Obscurer's plan was flawless. They had escaped a trap only to land in another trap with scarce realization, luckily Su Yu detected the second trap in time! They made their way past the steel wire by bending over, and the area within the cave cleared!

A middle-aged big man with a bleeding leg groaned in agony on the ground; he matched the supposed appearance of The Obscurer! His cultivation base was a scary Level Seven Lower Tier!

"Ah, it's actually two Level Five juniors!" The Obscurer uttered in disbelief and great astonishment.

Whoosh—

Xia Jingyu's face paled as The Obscurer, clearly injured, unexpectedly stood up safe and sound with a cruel look looming in his gaze as he sized up Su Yu and Xia Jingyu.

"Never mind, it's enough that there's a jade hammer on you. I spent a lot of effort tempting you Sanctuary disciples to come here." The corners of the Obscurer's mouth curled with a tyrannical sneer.

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu were both surprised. So, The Obscurer's injury was intended to lure the Sanctuary disciples inside the cave? The fresh blood outside the cave was left intentionally in order to create the illusion that the Obscurer had been seriously injured!

His intention was to take away their jade hammers! What a crafty Obscurer! How terrifying was an uninjured Level Seven Lower Tier?

Su Yu's eyes flashed; his finger lightly flicked without The Obscurer realizing.

"Start!" Su Yu made the first move!

"Purple Star Thunderbolt!"

Aha—

Violet Thunder Arc pulsed with raging flames.

The air of destruction was terrifying and alarming.

Xia Jingyu also boldly made her move, "Reverie of Dewdrops!"

Crash—

The vapor in the air gathered like it had been summoned by the water god, condensed in the heart of her jade-like palm.

Ten dewdrops filled with pure vital energy shot outward!

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh—

The speed of the dewdrops was very fast; they pierced the air, making sharp cracking sounds which were abnormally ear-piercing.

The tyrannical face of The Obscurer froze; aghast, he paled, "Deity Level cultivation technique? Who are you guys? The Sanctuary disciples have never comprehended Deity Level cultivation techniques."

But it was too late; he was overwhelmed and stunned, having to withstand attacks from two people at the same time!

"Invisible Kick!" The Obscurer hollered! He stood on his left leg, his right leg continuously kicking—the speed was so fast his leg was practically invisible. Only a succession of residual shapes could be seen—it was impossible to distinguish where exactly his leg truly was. Even without his traps, The Obscurer's ability was still frightening!

Boom—

Purple Star Thunderbolt continued; its thunder flames ignited everything!

Ten dewdrops, capable of piercing all living things, flew onward—powerful and terrifying!

Ah—

Zing, zing, zing—

The Obscurer repeatedly stumbled back with an expression of horror! His abdomen had a thumb-sized hole, as he had been pierced by the dewdrops. Watery blood flowed from the wound. His right leg was scorched by the thunder-flames, and the sole of his foot smelled charred! He was already down after one fight!

If it had been one-on-one combat—even if the opponent had Deity Level cultivation techniques—it would have been difficult to defeat a Level Seven cultivation base slayer. But the combined force of two people was indeed really thorny. The Obscurer was supposed to be the hunter with his traps, but the prey was more powerful than expected—now, he was trapped!

Teeth clenched, The Obscurer bellowed loudly, "Big Brother! Quickly make your move!"

Boom—

A person suddenly emerged from an exceedingly well-concealed hiding place just outside the cave's entrance! His ability and cultivation base was also Level Seven Lower Tier! His appearance and cultivation base were almost identical to The Obscurer's!

Swish—

This new obscurer easily crossed over the trap at the cave entrance and leaned over to bypass the dangerous steel wire as they stood behind both Su Yu and Xia Jingyu with a sneer.

An obscurer in front of them and an obscurer behind them. Su Yu and Xia Jingyu were entrapped between two enemies from both sides—it was a deadly crisis!

The accursed Obscurer had a sneer on his lips and his eyes bubbled with venom, "Didn't expect that? The true obscurer is not one person, but two people! We hunt, never separate, and from the moment you stepped into the cave your fates were sealed!"

"You dare hurt me? I'll show you pain and torture with my traps!" The Obscurer growled, "Big Brother, together!"

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu were no match for two Level Sevens, no matter how much they had cultivated their Deity Level cultivation techniques!

Xia Jingyu's pretty face turned pale, but she remained fearless and resolute.

Swish—

Su Yu suddenly took hold of her jade-like hand.

Xia Jingyu's hand trembled and she subconsciously tried to break free, but she was tightly grasped by Su Yu.

"Listen to me, we'll make our move together in a moment's time." Su Yu's clear eyes glared at the injured obscurer in front but turned a blind eye to the attacker behind.

Xia Jingyu stopped struggling. She felt the desperate nature of the situation and slightly bit her red lips, but held onto Su Yu's hand.

Together, both obscurers charged forward!

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu, hands clasped together, ignored the obscurer behind them as they counterattacked where they stood!

"Reverie of Dewdrops!"

"Icy Heart Core!"

Aha—

A magnificent scene emerged!

Xia Jingyu shot out ten dewdrops and a pervading deep chill was created!

The Obscurer roared and resisted with his Invisible Kick maneuver!

Ah—

The Obscurer only resisted one blow and screamed in distress! His Invisible Kick stopped midair!

He was supposed to resist what ought to be dewdrops—but they had transformed into piercingly-cold ice thorns! A sharp ice thorn plunged deep into the base of his foot, which had already been burned by Purple Star Thunderbolt. The terrible chill quickly permeated his blood vessels and flesh and caused both his legs to become stiff—he couldn't budge!

The Obscurer watched, helplessly terrified, as the remaining nine dewdrops transformed into ice thorns and pierced his body! All of a sudden, more chills surged through him internally and caused his whole body to become stiff!

Pop—

The Obscurer's body lost all flexibility and crashed to the ground. His two eyes looked frightened, but he could not move! They had successfully overpowered a strong Level Seven.

However, a snarl came behind from the other obscurer, "You're looking for death!!!"

Boom—

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu turned around, but it was already too late!

The other obscurer had already charged forward with the speed of lightning, and was within ten feet of them!

A claw, the violent strike of a Level Seven which contained the power to shatter everything, came at Xia Jingyu's petite head. This strike would undoubtedly crush Xia Jingyu! Xia Jingyu was too late to react and she only glanced sideways as she gave Su Yu a sad smile.

Perhaps, this would be her last chance to smile in her life.

Chapter 73: The Mighty Entwined Dragon Silk

This fight was fierce; the difference between the first day at the Sanctuary and now was like yin and yang. Xia Jingyu felt regret in her heart—a regret that was too late to express.

Feeling the strong wind on her head, Xia Jingyu saved her last look in life and fixed her gaze on Su Yu. It was as if she wanted to engrave the last image of him in her heart during the last moments of her life.

The gale finally hit! Xia Jingyu was prepared to bear the anguish of death. But the gale brushed past the top of her head, bringing with it a warm gentle liquid. The anguish she had anticipated did not appear. In the end, death also never arrived.

Lifting her gaze, she saw a headless body stopped within ten feet of them. As she observed the size of the body she realized... was that not the big brother obscurer?

She realized the object which had flown over her head had been the man's head! Its face registered a look of wrath at death's door, along with a slightly puzzled expression. Until death, he had been unaware of any—the man had suffered only a mere puzzlement as to why he was separated from his body.

Upon closer examination, the spot behind the headless corpse had a transparent fine silk thread entwined around both sides of the rock wall, which extended horizontally across the cave at neck-height. It was this silk thread which had severed the neck of the obscurer, for two reasons.

Firstly, the height of the neck was a blind spot for human eyes. It was difficult to detect. Secondly, the second obscurer had been charged with anger and ran too fast—the sharp entwined dragon silk could cut all living things and the final result was inevitable with the high speed.

In fact, earlier while they had been five miles away, Su Yu had already observed these two obscurers setting up a trap. One of them pretended to be injured and entered the cave while the other hid outside, ready for the conjoined attacks before and after.

After some detailed calculations, Su Yu decided to benefit from the situation and take the risk of walking into the trap. Upon entering the cave, he immediately set up the entwined dragon silk at the entrance in order to achieve the result of catching the enemy unaware and destroying them.

Everything had gone according to plan; the two strong Level Seven Lower Tiers had fallen into his hands at the same time. Xia Jingyu could not bear to see too much of the bloody scene—her pretty eyes were furious, she wanted to kill the frozen obscurer.

"Wait, spare his life, I have a use for him." Su Yu's eyes flashed as he searched the two obscurers' bodies.

On their backs were sturdy jade bottles embedded into their flesh. The jade bottles seemed to be connected to their hearts; if the slayers tried to take off the jade bottles, it would shatter their hearts and cause death.

Su Yu nodded inwardly. Their exile to the Evil Forest was not without a cost. Presumably, they must have suffered the ultimate pain upon being embedded with the bottles.

At the same time, it was thanks to the direct connection from bottle to heart that the Sanctuary students did not need to worry about the slayers hiding or destroying their bottles. This ensured that every Sanctuary disciple could obtain a jade bottle if they killed a slayer.

Su Yu took out the jade hammer with the power of the Holy King and cracked open the jade bottle in order to retrieve the two pieces of scarlet body elixir. There was only a pin-prick's worth of liquid, but it was filled with intense energy, like a ball of sunlight radiating heat.

With some excitement and anticipation, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu each took one elixir and swallowed them on the spot.

Whoosh—

Boiling heat seeped into all four limbs and bones. There appeared to be an explosive surge of powerful force, increasing their stagnated cultivation bases dramatically.

Thump, thump—

Suddenly, the two of them broke through to the start of Level Six; furthermore, their cultivation bases did not stagnate and continued to climb as before. Finally, as anticipated by Qiu Changjian, they reached Level Six Upper Tier!

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu quickly glanced at each other, their eyes lit up with delight. The saint grade spirit elixir was indeed extraordinary!

If they could obtain a few more, breaking through to the top level would not be difficult!

However, they now understood the risk. Slayers were cruel, murderous, and extremely dangerous. The two obscurers had nearly caused their demise. But the obscurers had the weakest power among many of the slayer—they would fall if they encountered one who was even a little more tyrannical.

The two of them never stopped their cultivation—their actual cultivation bases were only a part of their cumulative skill level. Su Yu and Xia Jingyu had taken advantage of the battle in order to heighten their knowledge in tactics and strategy as well as increase their abilities.

While Xia Jingyu quickly reflected on her comprehension of the first use of Reverie of Dewdrops, Su Yu walked up to the front of the frozen obscurer. "What are you going to do?" The obscurer's face was fearful, as his flesh had gradually thawed.

Su Yu crouched down and looked at him directly in the eye. His pupils turned dark green in an instant, like jade in the dark night—both resplendent and eerie.

Swish—

After gazing into the jade-green pupils, the obscurer's eyes immediately became sluggish and his mind was completely blank. Su Yu slowly closed his eyes, and used the soul seeking technique to scan the obscurer's memory in his mind.

A moment later, he opened his eyes and secretly rejoiced. The soul seeking technique was truly magnificent; the obscurer's many memories were all searched and, from his memory, Su Yu had learned that the Obscure Fiendish Duo had clashed with Du Lin's team half a day ago.

No match for the enemy, the two had fled to this point and set up traps to lure in Sanctuary disciples in a vain attempt to seize a jade hammer and to take the saint grade spirit elixir for their own use, so they could break through their cultivation bases.

Next, Su Yu tried to use the soul control technique. Both of his pupils shone a bright, dark-green which illuminated half the dark cave.

Ah—

The obscurer screamed several times, seemingly unable to endure the boundless pain. When it was all over, the obscurer, though restored to normal, could not rid himself of the residual signs of feeble-mindedness.

Su Yu felt slightly sorry. The soul control technique manipulated the soul, it was oppressive and dangerous. It was inevitable that the controlled soul would be hurt, and that the controlled's ability would be slightly affected by the strength of the technique.

"I pay my respects to you, Master!" The Obscurer groveled and bowed.

Besides being oppressive, the soul control technique went beyond affecting the opponent's ability—it could make the other party unable to resist any orders.

Unless The Obscurer's strength one day broke into the next level, which would allow him to break out of his bondage—as the soul control technique only allowed Su Yu to control those a full level higher than him and below.

Su Yu nodded indifferently, "Guard the cave entrance, let no one disturb us!"

Swish—

The obscurer immediately dashed to the cave entrance and stood on guard. He watched the surroundings attentively for any movement.

Su Yu immediately sat down to ponder his experience of the recent fight.

When Icy Heart Core had first been used, it had complemented Xia Jingyu's Reverie of Dewdrops, and the resulting attack had multiplied! Su Yu wondered whether the two Deity Level cultivation techniques belonged together in a set and were meant to be used together. With the comprehension of Icy Heart Core memorized by heart, Su Yu took the opportunity to comprehend his other cultivation techniques.

After a day, Su Yu slowly opened his eyes.

The Saint Level cultivation technique Floating Light Shadow had progressed the most; he'd reached Stage Two Upper Class after a day of comprehension, now his flight speed was faster and his body was as light as a feather. If he could reach Stage Three, he could soar through the air and fly high in the sky.

Purple Star Thunderbolt was progressing slowly; it still had some ways to go before it reached Upper Class. Purple Star Thunderbolt was most likely a Deity Level cultivation technique, probably of a higher rank—as this explained the difference in comprehension speed. His comprehension of

the Saint Level cultivation technique Floating Light Shadow was quite fast, so it was abnormal for Purple Star Thunderbolt to be more challenging than the Deity Level cultivation technique, Icy Heart Core.

In the terms of the Holy Decree, Su Yu had progressed his technique. With his comprehension deepening over time, Su Yu increasingly felt that his previous simple emulations had been wrong. A true Holy Decree should originate from within one's self, not from emulating others. Su Yu had gradually broken away from emulation and had begun to find his own Holy Decree.

Hiss—

A fragrant aroma filled the area and greatly whetted Su Yu's appetite. He glanced sideways; it turned out to be the already awakened Xia Jingyu crouching at the cave entrance as she carefully cooked dinner.

As he gazed at the focused and beautiful image of a woman, graceful like a celestial beauty, Su Yu's heart sighed with regret. Whoever managed to marry Xia Jingyu would be blessed for the rest of his life.

The celestial beauty's exceptional features, lithe and graceful stature, tender-hearted nature, and her strong, perfect heart—she was truly beautiful on the inside and out. Women such as her were rare in the world. When Su Yu pictured Xia Jingyu married to another man, his chest ached.

With a wry smile, Su Yu whispered to himself, "I have Xianer and I'm still not satisfied... how can I have another woman on my mind?"

Hearing movement, Xia Jingyu turned back and smiled like a bashful lotus, pure and delicate. "You're awake, come eat."

Su Yu dared not gaze any further at that pure, beautiful face. He seamlessly avoided sitting across Xia Jingyu as he ate.

After they had eaten, the three of them set off for the inner periphery. As for the trap at the cave entrance, Su Yu not only kept it in place, he had also added another line of entwined dragon silk to the trap. Once an enemy fell into it, their doom was guaranteed!

Throughout the day they walked until, twenty miles later, they reached the border between the outer and inner peripheries. Beyond them was the inner periphery, where the vast majority of slayers dwelled. Level Seven Upper Tiers and Peaks were everywhere—even terrifying Level Eight slayers! If they were inattentive and encountered Level Eight slayers, it would be difficult to survive.

Ha—

Bang—

A sudden breeze blew over, carrying the sounds of fighting. Su Yu followed the direction of the breeze as he dilated his crystalline pupils and looked around.

"The Sanctuary disciplines are surrounded five miles away, we must assist right away!" The scene was a little far away so Su Yu could only roughly see the figures—he was unable to fully distinguish their appearances. Together, Su Yu and his companions rushed to help.

One mile away, Su Yu's gaze slightly cooled, "So it's Du Lin's team!"

Xia Jingyu did not have a good opinion of Du Lin; if she had known it was Du Lin there earlier, she would not have rushed over.

At that moment, Du Lin, Zhang Mingyi, Senior Sister Liu, and Feng Hao were engaged in difficult combat. They were surrounded by four Level Seven Lower Tier slayers—danger was on all sides.

Du Lin, a Level Seven Upper Tier, was entangled with three slayers. Zhang Mingyi was a Level Six Peak, and both Senior Sister Liu and Feng Hao were Level Six Upper Tiers. The three of them struggled to resist the pressure of a Level Seven Lower Tier slayer.

Du Lin was still fine and at ease. But Zhang Mingyi and the rest were in extreme danger!

Zhang Mingyi's mouth was full of blood, Senior Sister Liu's torso was slashed and bloody, and Feng Hao had three fingers chopped off, his fist dripped blood.

Four slayers were rebels from Luori Empire; they had killed and cut down countless men in the battlefield and had been deposed after the rape and assault of women. The four men harbored bitter resentment and committed evil everywhere. They slaughtered and exterminated common people in village—the nature of their heinous crimes was staggering. The four of them campaigned all year around; they were familiar with each other, skilled in coordination, and successful in every undertaking.

"Su Yu, what should we do?" asked Xia Jingyu.

Su Yu pondered for a moment before he helplessly offered a reply, "We can turn a blind eye to Du Lin's situation... But, we have no grudge or enmity with Senior Sister Liu... Moreover, there are four pieces of saint-grade spirit elixir right here, how can we give that up?"

"With them gathered like this, it's easier for us to capture all four of them. Otherwise, it would be difficult to cut down all four with one-on-one combat."

Xia Jingyu nodded in agreement and they immediately made their move! Only The Obscurer held back and remained still, following Su Yu's mental command.

"Reverie of Dewdrops!"

"Purple Star Thunderbolt!"

After their breakthrough to Level Six Upper Tier, the absolute crushing dominance of a Level Seven Lower Tier felt much weaker. Su Yu's Purple Star Thunderbolt's formidable power was fully taken advantage of!

Aha—

Boom—

Ah—

One of the Level Seven Lower Tier slayers who had Du Lin surrounded was struck in the torso by Su Yu in a flash and perished on the spot!!

Xia Jingyu's Deity Level cultivation technique's formidable power was not any weaker than the Purple Star Thunderbolt—it also struck down a Level Seven Lower Tier in a snap!

Chapter 74: Holy Decree Transformation

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu made a silent, joint decision as they quickly collected the saint grade spirit elixir before they turned around to kill the slayer suppressing Zhang Mingyi and his team!

At first, Du Lin was glad to receive help. Then, when he found out that the saint grade spirit elixir had been intercepted by Su Yu of all people, he was enraged! He wanted to prevent Su Yu from killing another slayer, but there was still one more slayer attacking him and Du Lin was unable to free himself!

Just as he had been about to kill the slayer attacking him, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu had joined forces and quickly killed the last slayer in order to obtain the saint grade spirit elixir. Within minutes, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu had obtained three saint grade spirit elixirs; Du Lin's team had only gotten one piece.

Logically, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu—as long as they both swallowed two pieces of the saint grade spirit elixirs at the same time—could further improve and successfully breakthrough to Level Six Peak. In other words, in order to make a breakthrough they just needed to kill one more slayer!

Although the risks were big in the Evil Forest, the potential for cultivation base improvements was great! Xia Jingyu and Su Yu were happy beyond words.

Full of gratitude, Senior Sister Liu endured her sharp pain and curtsied in respect. "Many thanks to Junior Brother Su and Junior Sister Xia!"

If the two of them had not intervened in time, she would have been doomed!

Feng Hao's face was fearful. Only a few days apart, the two of them had been able to join forces to kill a Level Seven Lower Tier? A tremendous pressure weighed on Feng Hao's chest. They were all newcomers from the Heavenly Sanctuary—but the disparity between their power was already like heaven and earth.

Zhang Mingyi's face turned pale, then red; before their departure, he'd mocked Su Yu and Xia Jingyu—he had said that they would not survive three days without any strong protector. But, now it seemed even with a strong man like Du Lin to protect them it would difficult to survive two days, much less three. Contrastingly, both Su Yu and Xia Jingyu had greatly increased their abilities even without any strong protector!

Su Yu lightly glanced at Zhang Mingyi and Feng Hao before he simply cupped his hands towards Senior Sister Liu. He nodded, about to leave.

"Stop!" A deep roar came from behind them. Su Yu and Xia Jingyu turned back to face the sullen, cold eyes of Du Lin.

"Put down the elixirs!" Du Lin snarled.

Having just seen them kill a Level Seven Lower Tier, Du Lin curbed his bloodlust, afraid of the consequences. Although he was fairly certain that he could kill both of them, he was uncertain that he would leave the battle unscathed. If by any chance, he were to be wounded by the two of them, it could turn bad very fast—he did not want to be wounded in the Evil Forest. Therefore, Du Lin only ordered them to put down the elixirs, instead of immediately fighting them.

"Shouldn't you first thank us for lending a hand?" Su Yu indifferently replied.

Du Lin's face turned red, his expression was exceptionally rude and unreasonable. "I didn't ask you for help! Why should I be thankful to you?"

Su Yu responded with a shrug. "Actually, I didn't even think about saving you. I only made a move for Senior Sister Liu's sake. Otherwise, if you had died I would have only rubbed my palms and laughed—you really don't have to thank me."

"You!" Du Lin's face flushed with anger as he growled, "I'm giving a final chance, put down the elixirs or die!"

Though Senior Sister Liu was weak and attached to Du Lin, her heart was full of righteousness.

"Senior Brother Du, Su Yu has saved us. How can you be this way?" Senior Sister Liu asked resolutely.

"Shut up! I'll kill you too!" Du Lin's cold eyes made Senior Sister Liu's heart jump, and she backed away in fear.

Du Lin glared at Su Yu. "Good! It looks like you do not intend to hand over the elixirs. Therefore I, Du, shall give it a try and see just how powerful you have become." He growled coldly through clenched teeth.

He had already wished to kill Su Yu, and now—provoked by the three pieces of saint grade spirit elixir—he had finally decided to make his move!

"Iron Horse Glacier!"

Du Lin growled as he focused his body into a wonderful state.

Holy Decree! A Top Grade Holy Decree!

Whereas Su Yu's Holy Decree was similar to entering a painting, Du Lin's Holy Decree was like entering a monumental moment in time!

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu felt as though they were watching an army of a thousand soldiers and ten thousand horses, trampling on a winter glacier. The army was destructive, crushing and destroying everything within ten thousand miles—over rivers and mountains!

Faced with such an imposing force, Su Yu's heart throbbed. Uninvited despair leaked into his chest; his confidence had diminished before the fight even began! This was Du Lin's Holy Decree: intimidate in order to weaken the enemy's fighting power!

Swish—

Su Yu resisted the fear in his heart with great difficulty as he held the soft body of Xia Jingyu. Xia Jingyu's palms shivered and her face flushed. She wanted to retreat, but she could feel the warmth and strength of Su Yu's big hands and, surprisingly, her heart gradually became calm and peaceful; her fear completely vanished. As long as Su Yu was around, she had a safe haven from hurricanes and storms of any sort.

Deeply calm, Xia Jingyu's snow-white cheeks turned crimson. She took Su Yu's hand and deeply savored the enriching moment of peace. At the same time, Su Yu fell into the state of his Holy Decree. He became disassociated from the material world, melting into a picturesque portrait of himself.

Xia Jingyu, who stood with him and held his hand, involuntarily entered the painting realm as well. In that instant, the two of them were like a celestial, immortal couple as they faced the incoming danger. Xia Jingyu's clear eyes slightly closed as she merged into Su Yu's Holy Decree. Her mind went into a state of emptiness. She could feel the power of his Holy Decree with her supernaturally powerful insight.

Just like that day amidst the pear blossoms under the moonlight—they held their hands together in the same way, comfortable and at peace with each other.

When her pretty eyes slowly opened she felt a profound sense of enlightenment which reverberated in her heart. Su Yu was shocked; Xia Jingyu had actually managed to comprehend his holy decree instantly!

Swish—

There was no time to think—Su Yu and Xia Jingyu made their move together!

Boom—

Both Holy Decrees were superimposed; the endless painting realm spread outward in all directions, swallowing everything within a mile radius.

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu took one look at each other. Their hearts connected, they took their shot at the same time! Their conjoined hands shot forward and hit outward with a punch.

Rumble—

It was clearly only an ordinary punch, but it had caused the entire painting realm to tremble like it was going to crack. In that instant, Du Lin's Iron Horse Glacier momentum was annihilated in a puff of smoke!

Wow—

Du Lin's mouth opened and spurted out a mouthful of blood as he fell back a few steps, his face deathly white. His internal organs had suffered several violent jolts, he was seriously injured! His eyes filled with deep horror!

Two Level Six Upper Tiers had joined forces together and had unexpectedly seriously injured him, despite his powerful condition!

Covering his abdomen, Du Lin was indescribably horrified; the two of them, joined together as a united force, created a formidable team!

Most chilling to see was Su Yu and Xia Jingyu enter a state of comprehension after they had used the Holy Decree.

Just from that single majestic blow, Su Yu was able to comprehend his previously stagnant Holy Decree. Ever since the Holy Meet, his comprehension of the Holy Decree had deepened, profoundly and incomparable. There was a continuous flow now, along with this new comprehension.

Even more wondrous was that Su Yu's and Xia Jingyu's Holy Decrees had come from one source. Now, both of their holy decrees had fused and become superimposed. This led to Su Yu's and Xia Jingyu's comprehension merging, they had achieved mutual awareness! Xia Jingyu's superb powerful insight caused Su Yu's deep and profound comprehension to deepen and transform.

Whoosh—

A nameless whirlwind reverberated around their two bodies. Their joined Holy Decree comprehension surged and soared!

Su Yu's eyes glazed over as he slowly raised his finger and muttered, "So this is the Holy Decree—deliberately harmonizing with nature... Just merging into the painting realm eventually had its flaws, only when the heart and body belong to nature can every movement in the painting realm become part of the natural realm.."

Xia Jingyu shared Su Yu's comprehension; her heart was joyful, she had relied on her extraordinarily powerful insight which had now deepened and transformed, making her comprehension deeper and clearer. The two held hands as they entered the wondrous state.

Du Lin's eyes were cold as he growled, "You three, go ahead and take this opportunity to kill them!"

Zhang Mingyi and Feng Hao hesitated; there was no life or death hatred between them and the two standing before them, so there was really no need to kill them. But when they thought of the saint grade spirit elixir, their hearts became greedy!

Eyes flashing, Zhang Mingyi and Feng Hao charged to kill!

Swoosh—

A beautiful shadow blocked them; it was the seriously injured Senior Sister Liu!

With her dignified expression, Senior Sister Liu admonished them, "Don't you have any conscience? Without them, the three of us would have already died at the hands of the slayers!"

"Move aside!" Zhang Mingyi could not help but feel angry at Junior Sister Liu.

Boom—

Bang—

Without another word, Zhang Mingyi immediately rushed forward against Senior Sister Liu! Feng Hao sneered and bypassed the two of them. He quietly sneaked up to attack Su Yu and Xia Jingyu, who were both still in a trance.

Feng Hao's heart lamented as he gazed at Xia Jingyu's alluring figure, but his eyes immediately clouded over. "Junior Sister Xia, don't blame me for being cruel. If you want to place blame, then blame yourself for choosing the wrong man."

Swoosh—

A dagger appeared in his palm. Both of his eyes looked vicious and ferocious as he stabbed at them, seeking to cause harm!

"No!" Senior Sister Liu was enraged!

Zhang Mingyi sneered. Eyes filled with venom, Du Lin's sneer was vengeful!

Just as it seemed Su Yu and Xia Jingyu's lives were in true danger...

Swish—

A sharp wave of vital energy wooshed outwards!

Ah—

Feng Hao's smirking face distorted with pain as he let out several terrible screams. The vital energy pierced his heart and caused his chest to burst!

A figure who had remained hidden in the distance abruptly came forward! The Obscurer!

Su Yu had taken several precautions before he had involved himself. He had arranged for The Obscurer to hide in the dark, instructed to only strike if there was a crisis.

"A Level Seven Lower Tier slayer?" Du Lin paled.

Zhang Mingyi felt fear strike him as The Obscurer's eyes landed on him.

Ah—

With a shriek, Zhang Mingyi was scared witless and his whole face turned dark crimson. He shoved back Senior Sister Liu and frantically fled! The Obscurer wanted to take chase but stuck near Su Yu and Xia Jingyu instead.

Their comprehension took an hour. When they opened their eyes, a wondrous scene greeted them. Su Yu and Xia Jingyu, with no change to their cultivation bases, emerged with totally different temperaments. It was as if they had gained an additional, inexplicable temperament.

Xia Jingyu became more alluring and beautiful than any celestial beauty. Du Lin and The Obscurer were both startled; they were deeply entranced by Xia Jingyu and only recollected themselves after a moment.

"What... what is it? Just one look and I'm hypnotized?" Du Lin was horrified!

Su Yu, with his flowing purple robes and starlike, limitless eyes now carried an air of synthetic artistry around him—his skin, eyes, and hair all seemed hyper-real, as though he had just stepped out from a painting.

Senior Sister Liu's beautiful eyes fixed on Su Yu's body as she was immersed in the inner meaning of the painting realm which encircled him. Su Yu was also, undoubtedly, a handsome man—and, like handsome men tend to do, his presence made her blush and her heart skip a beat. He was the most beautiful man she had ever seen.

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu smiled at each other; their Holy Decree journey had made new progress! They had intended for it to happen, but they had fully ingrained themselves with their Holy Decrees—they now lived in a state of hyper-reality, every movement carrying a strand of their Holy Decrees. They looked like celestial immortals among men.

The power of their Holy Decrees rose dramatically!

Su Yu's gaze swept fell on Du Lin, his eyes cold. He had originally not intended to kill anyone, but Du Lin had gone too far! This man could not remain!

Once again, the sun set as the moon rose—midnight in the Evil Forest arrived above their heads.

Chapter 75: The Nine Deadly Poison Devil

Swish—

Su Yu charged forward. His eyes were a dazzlingly dark-green which illuminated half of the forest.

Ah—

Amidst the mournful screams of Du Lin, his soul was successfully controlled by Su Yu. With the damage inflicted to his soul plus his bodily injuries, his ability was only slightly stronger than a Level Seven Lower Tier—much weaker than Level Seven Upper Tier.

Su Yu retrieved the spirit elixir from Du Lin; including the previous three elixirs, they had a total of four! Su Yu and Xia Jingyu each had two—enough to breakthrough to Level Six Peak!

"Senior Sister Liu, ahead of us is the inner periphery—it's dangerously unpredictable, you ought to speedily retreat." Su Yu said with his fists cupped.

Senior Sister Liu gratefully bowed and sighed with a wry smile; "After this, I really don't intend to go any deeper into the forest. The opportunities are plenty in the Evil Forest, but they're more than I can manage. Junior Brother Su, Junior Sister Xia, thank you for your kindness in saving me; I, will not cross over!"

Swish—

Senior Sister Liu turned away from the forest interior and left the Evil Forest. Su Yu and Xia Jingyu immediately led Du Lin and The Obscurer away from the spot as they looked for a remote hidden place to swallow the elixir and breakthrough to the next tier!

Zhang Mingyi had run in a panic, unaware of where he was going; it was dark when he realized that he'd already accidentally entered the inner periphery.

"Damn Su Yu!" Zhang Mingyi's face was wretched and resentful as he looked around the dark forest, feeling worried. Just then, he discovered a faint flare in the valley ahead. Zhang Mingyi was alarmed instead of happy, his eyes were afraid, he wanted to retreat.

The inner periphery was the territory seized by the slayers, where there was fire, there were people. There was a chance they could be Heavenly Disciples, but there was a ninety percent chance they were slayers!

Furthermore, the Heavenly Sanctuary disciples had enough common sense to not light fires at night, because the firelight in the night was enough to attract the attention of the slayers ten miles away.

Therefore, those who lit fires at night would be slayers, nine times out of ten. Zhang Mingyi, a Level Six Peak of the Martial Path, could not even compare to the lowest level slayers, an encounter with one meant death!

However, Zhang Mingyi suddenly caught a wisp of a fragrance in the breeze. One light sniff immediately paralyzed his entire body, he found it hard to move.

Rustling—

Light and graceful footsteps traveled from the darkness, a dark evil laughter like grating metal drifted to his ears, "Heh heh, very sharp—but you were already poisoned when you discovered the firelight."

A dark palm covered with pus-filled pimples landed on his shoulder and dragged him into a cave in the darkness. A pearl in the cave emitted some light. What made Zhang Mingyi gasp was that there were three corpses turned into pulp inside the cave! The charred bones and the bloody, pulpy flesh gave off an acrid pungent smell. The smell was vomit-inducing.

The scattered clothing made Zhang Mingyi even more horrified; "Sanctuary disciples!"

"Heh heh, not bad; you are the fourth Sanctuary disciple caught by my devil claws!"

Zhang Mingyi clearly saw the other person's appearance in the faint light.

It was not a face of a human. His features were rotten and his cheek was full of watery pus. A pair of eyes blended into his skin, all blood red colored.

"You are... the slayer, Nine Deadly Poison Devil!" Zhang Mingyi croaked as if he was choked, his expression frightened!

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil was known in Baicheng Empire as a fearsome criminal! His ability reached Level Seven Peak, just slightly away from reaching Level Eight! However, what terrified most people was his preferred profession—his poison techniques!

Steeped in poison techniques all the year round, his mind and temperament were wild; he employed cruel means, like using highly toxic poisons to torture anyone who caught his fancy, to death. The three pulpy corpses that lied right there, reeking of blood, were proof enough of the torture that they suffered before their death!

The Empire had dispatched masters to hunt and kill him nine times, and he had narrowly escaped each time; that was how the name Nine Deadly Poison Devil came to be.

"Heh heh, you already know my devil name—you should know what the devil wants to do next." The Nine Deadly Poison Devil wore an evil grin on his face.

Pop—

Zhang Mingyi went soft at the knees and knelt on the ground. His entire body trembled in fear as he groveled; "Lord Poison Devil, please let me go! I... whatever you want me to do, I'll promise you all!"

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil, evil grin still as wide, pulled out a bottle of black powder from his shirt.

Zhang Mingyi's stomach dropped and suddenly something sparked in his mind; "Lord Poison Devil! I know where there are more Heavenly Sanctuary disciples, they have four pieces of saint grade spirit elixir in their hands!"

Crack—

"Four pieces?" The Nine Deadly Poison Devil blood-red eyes flashed red hot, the bottle in his hand bottle was unconsciously crushed.

Zhang Mingyi saw from the corner of his eyes that the jade bottle inlaid on the Nine Deadly Poison Devil's back had been opened and the spirit elixir inside had disappeared without a trace—this led him to think of the death of the three Heavenly Sanctuary disciples.

The answer came to him; there were two reasons for why the Nine Deadly Poison Devil had hunted and killed Heavenly Sanctuary disciples here.

Firstly, it was to get the jade hammer, open the jade bottle on his back and to retrieve the elixir. Secondly, to cut down the Heavenly Sanctuary disciples and plunder their elixirs!

"Lead the way!" The Nine Deadly Poison Devil licked his lips, the terrible breath of a Level Seven Peak vaguely wafted past.

Eventually, they arrived at the location of the battle between Su Yu and Du Lin.

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil's bloody eyes looked around as some black poisonous powder sprinkled from his hand.

The poisonous powder was sensitive to blood and breath; it formed a thin line on the ground which pointed out the direction of Su Yu's hidden cultivation spot! Du Lin had bleeding wounds, this was the reason for their discovery!

Somewhere around a rock formation in the forest, Su Yu commanded Du Lin and The Obscurer to stay hidden and guard the spot. He and Xia Jingyu then began their breakthrough. After two saint grade spirit elixirs were swallowed, pure boundless energy imbued their flesh. The lightning speed of their breakthrough was visible to the naked eye for both of their cultivation bases!

Swoosh—

However, there was suddenly the sound of urgent footsteps!

"Enemy attack!" The Obscurer and Du Lin exclaimed at the same time as they emerged from their hiding place and blocked Su Yu and Xia Jingyu.

At that moment, just as the two of them were at the crucial point of their breakthroughs, the enemy invaded! The Nine Deadly Poison Devil appeared, his pus-filled eyes slowly rotating as he fixed his glare on Su Yu and Xia Jingyu's persons. The Nine Deadly Poison Devil became exceptionally angry! The elixirs were gone!

"Fine, while your elixir power is still in the blood, drinking your blood will have the same effect!" The Nine Deadly Poison Devil licked his lips, ferocious and inhumane.

"Invisible Kick!" The Obscurer brazenly attacked!

An airtight formation of kicks created a succession of residual images. The full-blown power of a Level Seven Lower Tier was astounding. The corner of the Nine Deadly Poison Devil's mouth curled up into an indifferent sneer. Both his hands were tucked into his sleeves, they did not move one bit.

Boom—

The Obscurer's leg swept forward in a lethal blow to the Nine Deadly Poison Devil's heart.

Ah—

But, the obscurer screamed once and flew backward! The extent of his right leg's corruption by the watery black blood was visible! The poison spread from his leg to his entire body; in a blink of an eye the Obscurer's body turned pitch black, his breath died out, and he perished on the spot!

A moment later, his flesh became watery blood! The bloody and savage scene made one's blood run cold! Du Lin looked grave; he knew not to touch the Nine Deadly Poison Devil.

"Iron Horse Glacier!"

His whole body poured into his Holy Decree, Du Lin was like the general of an army of ten thousand!

His magnificent momentum was crushing and vast!

Pop—

Not far behind was Zhang Mingyi, both of his legs weakened under the crushing and earth-shattering momentum. He collapsed, throwing up blood.

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil's eyes were mocking as he jeered; "Cheap tricks!"

Swish—

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil was merely seen to flick his finger once and a wisp of black dust fused with his vital energy and ejected.

Wow—

Pop—

In a flash, Du Lin was punctured in the chest, strong poisonous powder infected his chest and turned into a huge blood hole; he took his last breath on the spot!

Two strong Level Sevens, wiped out in a snap!

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil with his poison techniques and Level Seven Peak ability was extremely terrifying!

Without any more obstruction, the Nine Deadly Poison Devil, with an evil glint in his eyes, darted towards Su Yu and Xia Jingyu!

Swoosh—

Taking advantage of his nearness, his two pus-filled hands reached out to grab both of their heads!

Boom—

Just as he reached them, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu had their breakthroughs—just in time!

The breakthroughs created a violently strong cyclone that hindered the two giant hands for a moment!

Swish—

The two of them struck the ground and leaped back. A sweeping glance at the poisoned Du Lin and The Obscurer more or less surmised the recent fight.

A Level Seven Peak was the strongest enemy they'd encountered!

"His body is highly poisonous, do not touch him!" Su Yu's revolving pupils detected that his body was covered with a faint layer of poisonous mist, which made it difficult to distinguish with the naked eye.

The Obscurer, unable to detect the mist, had made contact with the poisonous mist and turned to watery blood on the spot.

If they could not attack at close range, then attacking at a distance was the only way! The two, with their deep connection, naturally held hands and stood.

"Icy Heart Core"

"Reverie of Dewdrops"

Aha—

Ten chilly dewdrops pierced the sky.

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil's evil grin froze and his expression turned somber for the first time as he coldly shook his head. "You've some skills, what a pity, it was too weak." His hoarse voice crowed.

Pop—

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil opened his mouth and spewed out ten drops of highly poisonous blood.

Aha—

Ten dewdrops were melted by the acid rain! Su Yu's and Xia Jingyu's pupils contracted; even the blood in his body was that toxic? A grave look emerged in their eyes.

They glanced at each other once before the two nodded and held hands as they prepared to attack!

Swoosh—

Together, they both instantaneously created a vast painting realm, enveloping everything within a mile radius. Even the Nine Deadly Poison Devil became part of the painting realm.

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu held their hands together to strike!

They delivered an ordinary, singular punch which contained an inexplicable rhythm.

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil gasped and gravely uttered; "Saint Grade Holy Decree!"

Holy Decrees were divided into a lower grade, middle grade, and top grade; Su Yu and Xia Jingyu had never heard of a saint grade above top grade before!

Boom—

Aha—

Wow—

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil suffered a blow from the virtual rhythm; an enormous blood gouge appeared in the pit of his stomach and he spurted out blood into the air.

Thud, thud, thud—

Falling a few steps backward, the Nine Deadly Poison Devil's bloody eyes intensified with graveness. He was hurt by this blow, but not seriously. If he were an average slayer, he may have

retreated by now—as he had realized that these two disciples would prove challenging. However, no one could speculate on the rationale of the Nine Deadly Poison Devil's ferocious nature.

Completely infuriated, the Nine Deadly Poison Devil ominous glint was revealed.

"Heaven's Annihilation!"

Crash—

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil's body shook violently. The poison powder around his body quivered as his surroundings blurred.

Leaves rapidly withered and rotted.

Grass quickly shriveled and died.

Insects were swiftly twisted and perished. Under the shroud of the black poison powder, all living creatures in heaven and earth belonged to the deathly stillness.

"Oh no!" Su Yu and Xia Jingyu were shocked at the same time!

They decided their next choice as one and made their move together.

"Icy Heart Core!"

"Reverie of Dewdrops!"

Aha—

The vapor around them solidified into a thin layer of ice. The incoming poisonous powder was absorbed by the ice which melded into a black liquid and snaked along the ice wall. The crystal clear ice wall instantly turned pitch black. The terrifying poisonous powder was temporarily warded off, but with more and more poisonous mist coming in, it was hard for the ice wall bear!

Crack—

The ice wall, unable to withstand such poison, started to crack! The situation was critical; Su Yu's expression was grave.

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil was an unprecedented, formidable enemy!

"Jingyu, I need to take a risk and try something; if I make a mistake, it will be up to you!" Su Yu uttered through clenched teeth.

Xia Jingyu felt uneasy. Not waiting to hear her objections, Su Yu, eyes flashing, struck!

Chapter 76: Ice and Thunder Feast

The words uttered by the Nine Deadly Poison Devil had given Su Yu some understanding of his own Holy Decree. When he joined hands with Xia Jingyu, it could bring out the power of a saint grade Holy Decree. So, if he were to make his move alone, the Holy Decree should only be half the saint grade level.

While his old Holy Decree was undergoing a transformation, his new Holy Decree had not yet formed. So there was only half the Holy Level. Su Yu wasn't sure if he was entirely correct with his newfound understanding, but he was going to have to give his theory a shot! In Su Yu's mind, there

already was a concept of a Holy Decree. Now, in his strong hands, he had formed a newly-improved Holy Decree!

Su Yu's every movement looked fluid and natural. Every part of him, inside and out, was simple and natural; nothing about him was artificially deliberate or man-made. In Su Yu's mind, there was a harmonization of all his learning and comprehension of the Holy Decree's essence.

I am nature, nature is me! Nature and all your power—listen to my command!

Swish—

As he flew towards the wall of ice, Su Yu's body was like a flashing light and a fleeting shadow; he was as weightless as a feather, drifting in the void. Deep comprehension glimmered in his eyes.

"Ice! And! Thunder! Feast!" Su Yu growled. The natural realm enveloped him from all directions with him as the center!

It was as if Su Yu became the supreme ruler of the natural realm! As Su Yu growled, a vision was born.

Aha—

Sizzle—

From Su Yu's index finger came a surge of pure sparkling white ice and violet rays of burning thunder-flames. Both fused together into one stream! The fusion of ice and thunder was a convergence of natural powers! A feast of ice and thunder! Ice and Thunder Feast!

Following Su Yu's pointed command, the ice and thunder flames fused together into an alternating purple and white light beam which shot across the sky into the Nine Deadly Poison Devil's chest.

Ah—

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil's face rapidly changed. He hastily resisted the attack, but this attack in the gesture of a finger resembled nature itself. It contained the power of nature and could not be resisted!

Pop—

His chest had a huge gaping blood hole made by the ice and thunder flames! The boundless power of nature struck him and sent him flying backward several dozens of feet away, and he heavily slammed against a big tree.

As he opened his mouth to violently spurt a mouthful of blood, the seriously injured Nine Deadly Poison Devil looked terrified. "Half a divine grade Holy Decree! No, it's a saint grade Holy Decree; it's definitely not as powerful as even half a divine grade Holy Decree!"

Swish—

A transparent silk thread lassoed his neck. The Nine Deadly Poison Devil, with his seriously injured body, found it difficult to fight back.

"Move and you'll die!" Su Yu had the black jade ring in his hand. He gently pulled, tightening the entwined dragon silk wound around the Nine Deadly Poison Devil's neck. A trickle of fresh blood flowed down from the Nine Deadly Poison Devil's neck. The Nine Deadly Poison Devil's face turned to horror as he stopped struggling, not daring to move.

Su Yu inwardly nodded. The entwined dragon silk material was astonishing; the Nine Deadly Poison Devil's blood, extremely poisonous and virulent, was helpless against the entwined dragon silk. The Nine Deadly Poison Devil waited for Su Yu to make his move. Suddenly, Su Yu had a sharp pain in his heart.

Pop—

Su Yu's knees weakened and he fell to the ground, clutching his chest in extreme pain. Visible to the naked eye, a trace of black poison was flowing throughout Su Yu's internal blood energy channel, heading toward his heart! Su Yu had unavoidably inhaled too much poisonous mist in the fight. The poisonous mist in the air had dissipated, but Su Yu was already deeply poisoned.

Xia Jingyu's pretty face was devastated. She smashed the ice wall and gracefully dashed over. Her beautiful eyes blinked once as Xia Jingyu pressed her jade-like hands onto Su Yu's chest.

"Reverie of Dewdrops!"

Crash—

The blood in Su Yu's body seeped from his pores and surrounded Xia Jingyu's jade-like hands. The blood was black and poisonous! Xia Jingyu used Reverie of Dewdrops, and the poisonous mist within his blood was absorbed by the water vapor in the air, which transformed into the venom and dripped to the ground.

After his blood was clarified, it once again permeated Su Yu's body through his pores and returned to his veins.

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil was surprised. "Water-based Deity Level cultivation technique, with a secret healing technique?"

Xia Jingyu labored unceasingly. She was soaked in sweat as she carried on her technique, and she was getting weaker and turning pale. Her eyes blacking out, Xia Jingyu almost fainted a few times. But, she did not stop until the end. Because, once she stopped, the poisonous blood would attack Su Yu's heart and even the gods would find it hard to save him.

Just as Xia Jingyu reached her breaking point, Su Yu's blood vessels were fully cleansed. But, Su Yu did not wake up—instead, within his chest ice was gradually taking over and freezing his body. His life force, as his body increasingly froze, gradually weakened.

"What's going on?" Xia Jingyu's beautiful eyes looked flustered. She glared at the Nine Deadly Poison Devil hatefully, "What poison did you give him?"

The entwined dragon silk around the Nine Deadly Poison Devil's neck was tightly fettered; if Xia Jingyu caught hold of the finger with the black jade ring and gave it a pull, his head would land on the ground, far from his body.

"Nothing to do with this devil's poison!" The Nine Deadly Poison Devil solemnly shook his head, "It must have something to do with his cultivation of the Deity Level cultivation technique!"

"Just now he succeeded in his comprehension of the saint grade Holy Decree, prompting the Deity Level cultivation technique to show signs of a breakthrough. But, Deity Level cultivation techniques have always been dangerous. During the breakthrough stage, one needs to have one's elders to watch over—as one's life is in great danger during this time. He must be at this stage."

Xia Jingyu's beautiful face paled. Deity Level cultivation technique breakthrough?

"How do I save him? Quickly, say it!" Xia Jingyu's tone was urgent and slightly sharp, as she was flustered. She dared not imagine it but... What if Su Yu were to perish, would she find peace in her heart again?

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil's cultivation experience was rich and plentiful—far more than a junior with insubstantial cultivation like Xia Jingyu. After staring intently for a while, he considered the situation for a moment. "The only way to save him is to prevent his body from becoming cold."

Xia Jingyu felt as if she'd caught a lifeline. She left the dense forest in a flurry to look for firewood. In a blink, she was muddy from head to toe, cutting a sorry figure, as her garments were torn with visible bloodstains. But Xia Jingyu was unaware of her physical state; her eyes were misty and her whole heart was focused on Su Yu's life and death.

With a bonfire burning, the frost on Su Yu's body surface gradually melted as his body temperature gradually returned to normal.

"Cold..." A subconscious murmur came from Su Yu's chilled lips.

The ice on the front of his body, which faced the fire, had already melted. But, there was still a dead corner of skin on his back where the ice still existed. Xia Jingyu lightly bit her red lips, bent down, and took Su Yu into her embrace as she hugged his cold back to her chest.

"Hiss—" Xia Jinghu gasped; the bone-chilling cold was like ice that pierced her body. She tightly clenched her white teeth and silently endured the cold, the weak corners of her mouth still showing satisfaction and gratification. "Your embrace has warmed me many times... This time, let me warm you..."

The following morning, the faint morning light penetrated the dense forest. Su Yu's whole body was comfortably warm as if he was wrapped in a winter quilt. From his neck down he was even warmer and sweet-smelling; an indescribable sense of coziness covered him. He unconsciously rubbed the soft weight on his chest and buried his face into the warmth, deeply inhaling its intoxicating fragrance.

Suddenly, his ears heard a shy voice. Then, the warmth that his head leaned against gently shivered. Su Yu opened his eyes and saw a pleasing sight of a beautiful and exquisite face, eyes still tightly closed and long eyelashes gently fluttering in the breeze. She was as quiet as a beautiful immortal in her deep sleep, her beauty moving him. He had stayed in her arms for an entire night. Her chest still had the remnants of the ice.

Boom—

Su Yu quickly jumped up; there was a roaring in his head as he focused his gaze and closely examined Xia Jingyu; her entire body was ice-cold and her complexion was slightly pale, she was suffering from signs of hypothermia.

He vaguely recalled what had happened the day before, and he instantly understood why she was so cold. Without thinking, Su Yu immediately imbued Xia Jingyu with vital energy to help her dispel the chill inside her body.

"I'm sorry." After a long while, Xia Jingyu slowly opened her eyes. Su Yu was remorseful, as well as thankful in his heart.

"I'm okay," Xia Jingyu gave a placid smile, dazzlingly beautiful like a summer lotus.

Su Yu was filled gratitude and respect; Xia Jingyu had saved his life again. How would Su Yu ever repay her?

Su Yu's gaze fell upon the Nine Deadly Poison Devil, and his eyes abruptly turned cold! He stepped forward to immediately use the soul control technique on the already overpowered Nine Deadly Poison Devil.

Unfortunately, the spirit elixir inside the jade bottle on the back of the Nine Deadly Poison Devil had already been ingested! Su Yu darkly cursed at his bad luck; there was nothing to be gained from such a dangerously strong individual. The only gain was probably the advancement of his body's ability.

His brand new Holy Decree was no longer the Heavenly Finger from the old man in the mural. Rather, it was entirely unique to Su Yu—it was the innovative Ice and Thunder Feast! Even more delightful was that the refinement of his Holy Decree had caused the two types of Deity Level cultivation techniques to breakthrough dramatically!

The first was Icy Heart Core; he actually had a breakthrough in one shot and had reached the Upper Realm! Although it almost cost Su Yu his life, there was no doubt that the gain was immense.

Although Purple Star Thunderbolt had no breakthrough up to the Upper Realm, he had reached the high point of the Lower Realm. The thunder flames were more violent and its formidable power had sharply increased!

In a sense, Purple Star Thunderbolt was more difficult to comprehend when compared to Icy Heart Core; it was rare and precious to have such a breakthrough.

Of course, another gain was gaining control over the Nine Deadly Poison Devil, the terrifying master of poisons, as a puppet! This invisible way of killing was far beyond any ordinary Level Seven Peak technique; it was extremely horrible, but also useful. Though he was badly wounded and his combat power had been halved, there had been no damage to his extensive poison ability.

The only pity was that Su Yu would be unable to get the saint grade spirit elixir. But on second thought, Su Yu felt once again at ease; they had just entered the inner periphery, there were still plenty of opportunities.

Next, he and Xia Jingyu wanted to breakthrough to Level Seven, so they each needed at least three pieces of saint grade spirit elixirs; a total of six pieces. It would be extremely difficult to track all six pieces down. The Nine Deadly Poison Devil only had one on his body—or had, at one point.

As he stroked his chin, Su Yu pondered for a moment. He used the soul seeking technique on the Nine Deadly Poison Devil. The slayer had stayed in the inner periphery of the Evil Forest for years and knew of other slayers' locations. However, while Su Yu was soul seeking, he unexpectedly discovered another piece of information.

"The Falcon Conclave?" Su Yu was surprised.

Previously, when the Sanctuary disciples had launched a large scale killing expedition in the Evil Forest, the inner periphery slayers had been scared. A group of them created the Falcon conclave in response. Its purpose was to retaliate and kill the invading Sanctuary disciples, so they could seize their jade hammers and retrieve their own spirit elixirs, sealed on their backs.

The Nine Deadly Poison Devil had been invited, but he did not participate. Rather, he had operated on his own. The Falcon Conclave had originally only invited six people, all Level Seven Peak slayers. But because the Nine Deadly Poison Devil had refused, there were five people in total. Five opportunities for Su Yu and Xia Jingyu to get spirit elixirs, all grouped together.

With the Nine Deadly Poison Devil's poison techniques and Su Yu's greatly increased ability, they could at least take two slayers! Best of all, the Falcon Conclave would gather tonight, and the location was in a valley close by.

His eyes brightened as Su Yu discussed his plan with Xia Jingyu. Xia Jingyu's beautiful face still retained some of her blush and she had already tidied her clothing, which was disheveled in the front.

Upon hearing about the Falcon Conclave, Xia Jingyu's smile faded. Her eyes filled with worry, "It will hard for us to deal with no less than five Level Seven Peaks."

With the trio of their abilities, dealing with three Level Seven Peaks simultaneously was their limit. Since there were five in total, their victory was nearly impossible to predict. They would be taking an extremely dangerous risk.

Only, in their perilous quest for riches, they had gotten their breakthroughs from Level Five Upper Tier to Level Six Peak in just a few days—all thanks to the risks they'd taken.

The greater the risk, the greater the gains!

If he could not earn the right to become a Holy Disciple in the Storm Competition, he may as well die; Su Yu had no choice but to take every risk he could. Lightly tapping his chin, Su Yu discussed his plan with Xia Jingyu.

In the dark of the night, the three of them moved stealthily and arrived at a spot in the small valley. The valley only had one exit, a clear bottleneck for any invaders—it made the valley easy to defend and difficult to attack. The five slayers had gathered there, aware of the risks they too had taken by gathering.

Chapter 77: Thousand-Miles Butcher

There were four of the five slayers inside the valley. They were involved in a discussion around an open fire; the fifth slayer watched over the narrow pass. His purpose was to be on guard and attack any enemies.

"Looking at the acquired intelligence, such a large entry of disciples arriving from the Heavenly Sanctuary is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

"That's right, we can rob them of their jade hammers, then use these spirit elixirs embedded in our backs—we're sure to improve our cultivation bases."

"Hehe... how can that be the only benefit? Don't tell me you haven't thought about it before—once we possess the jade hammers, we can rob and kill other slayers! We too can learn from those disciples—we can rake in the spirit elixirs without restraint, and greatly improve our cultivation bases!"

The eight pairs of eyes glowed. The slayers had no qualms about betraying other slayers.

"Alas, the only pity is that the Nine Deadly Poison Devil did not accept our invitation. With his poison techniques, poisoning a bunch of slayers would be child's play." Everyone nodded and darkly muttered with regret.

Just then, a light chuckle came from the valley opening!

"Since you missed the Nine Deadly Poison Devil so much, I came to deliver him to you!" Su Yu stood with his hands behind his back as he entered the valley.

The four slayers' color changed with a flash of understanding. They glanced over and glared at the young man and the young lady who walked side-by-side; behind them was the poisonous, pus-filled face of a middle-aged man—who else could it be other than the Nine Deadly Poison Devil?

They looked again at that slayer guarding the pass—who had long since been secretly poisoned and had already been reduced into a pile of watery blood.

"Everyone be careful! The Nine Deadly Poison Devil is being controlled!" One of the shocked slayers loudly warned the others when he detected that the Nine Deadly Poison Devil's gaze was slightly lifeless. The Nine Deadly Poison Devil was being controlled? Exactly what type of strange cultivation technique would allow such a strong man to be manipulated?

They'd gathered here for the sake of safety in numbers—but, instead, they had been unexpectedly trapped by the mighty to be killed like fish in a barrel! The only exit was occupied by Su Yu and his company. The four slayers were all cunning individuals.

"To capture the thief, first capture his king! Two of us must catch the Nine Deadly Poison Devil, and the other two—quickly kill those two ignorant kids!" The four slayers exchanged a look, then tacitly coordinated their moves and divided themselves accordingly.

Kill—

Swish, swish, swish—

The terrifying Level Seven Peak power, present in all the slayers, came crashing toward Xia Jingyu and Su Yu! Fortunately, the notorious Nine Deadly Poison Devil, still a fearsome presence among slayers, had distracted half of the enemies!

There were only two remaining Level Seven Peak slayers, each determined to capture and kill Su Yu and Xia Jingyu.

"Reverie of Dewdrops!" Xia Jingyu looked pleased and unafraid as she fought skillfully and easily. Although surrounded by perils, she did not falter. Her ability was not that much lower than a Level Seven Peak.

Another slayer with an ominous glint in his gaze, charged toward Su Yu.

"Boy! I wonder how your ability compares to your girl!" The slayer sneered, staying extremely vigilant.

Su Yu's purple clothes gently fluttered and his ink-black hair blew upwards. His deep eyes reflected self-confidence, "About the same."

"Then you can die!" The slayer, upon hearing the faint mocking tone of Su Yu's words, warily made his move.

"Fiery fists!" Both his fists blasted the air with bursts of sparks, like the air was burning.

Su Yu's eyes flashed and he brazenly counterattacked, "Icy Heart Core!" Su Yu attacked with both fists! Both of his fists were ordinary—without vital energy or skill. Like a fist of a mortal, it was completely without power.

Boom—

Bang—

However, when the four fists collided...

Crack—

The Level Seven Peak slayer was instantly frozen! His body was thickly covered with icicles, and he was unable to move one bit. His entire person had solidified into a crystal-clear ice sculpture! The slayer's breath completely froze!

The slayer in combat with Xia Jingyu gasped! Just one blow had turned the enemy into a frozen ice sculpture! This... What is this horrifying technique?

With a cold flash in his eyes, Su Yu quickly retrieved the spirit elixir and darted over to Xia Jingyu's side in a flurry of purple shadows. He joined forces with her against the enemy.

Crack—

Inadvertently, the slayer was turned into an ice sculpture! The two slayers who were entangled with the Nine Deadly Poison Devil were horror-stricken!

"You and I will split and run." Su Yu's ferocity made the slayers lose their fighting confidence. After withdrawing from the Nine Deadly Poison Devil, they separated and fled towards the valley pass. This way, there was only a fifty-fifty chance that the Nine Deadly Poison Devil might grab one of them—either way, at least one would escape.

The person on the left side was the unlucky one; he was intercepted by the Nine Deadly Poison Devil, who instantly killed him with poison. The other slayer fled toward the pass. Su Yu's eyes flashed and he gave chase as Xia Jingyu retrieved the spirit elixir from the poisoned slayer.

It was unusual for everything to go without a hitch; the Nine Deadly Poison Devil silently poisoning and killing the slayer on guard had been the key—but, more importantly, they had depended on Su Yu's terrifying ability! Xia Jingyu's beautiful eyes were worried; her ability was holding Su Yu back a bit.

On the other side of the valley, Su Yu sped to catch up with and kill the remaining slayer; once he defeated him, he and Xia Jingyu could collect the fifth spirit elixir—after which, they would only need one more before they could break through to Level Seven!

Swish—

However, just as the Su Yu was about to catch up to the slayer, a fierce red-clad figure suddenly burst into the valley!

Aha—

Ah—

Dozens of feet away, the red-clad figure, with a flex of the finger, sent out a frightening stream of vital energy which sent shivers down Su Yu's spine. The vital energy stream exploded the slayer's flesh and body to smithereens! What level of vital energy had such incredible power?

Su Yu turned and saw a scar-covered face of a thick, large man; the corners of his mouth formed a somewhat evil grin. His ability caused one's hair to stand on end.

"Level Eight Lower Tier!" Su Yu gasped! He was actually a strong Level Eight!

Su Yu did not attempt to retrieve the spirit elixir on the body of the slayer directly in front of him—instead, without any hesitation, he turned and ran back inside the valley!

"Huh! He's pretty sharp." The Level Eight slayer recalled his vital energy with his finger, which was hidden behind his back. If Su Yu had hesitated for a moment, he would have suffered the same end as the slayer—obliteration!

"But now, would my killing him not be like shooting a fish in a barrel? Boy, you all can't escape!" The strong Level Eight man leaned down and ripped the jade bottle from the slayer's back. He had not gotten the jade hammer and, therefore, his next targets were Su Yu and Xia Jingyu!

Xia Jingyu, back with their spirit elixirs, glimpsed Su Yu's grim expression face when he rushed back. She slightly frowned, "Su Yu, what happened?"

Su Yu's heart pounded. Uneasy thoughts rushed forth. If the profile information on each slayer was correct, then that red-clad big man was the extremely savage Thousand-Miles Butcher! Rumor had it that after he'd advanced to Level Eight Lower Tier, he had killed people along a thousand miles—giant saber in hand! Blood had flowed and skeletons littered the thousand miles road!

Of the empire's strong Level Eight men who had pursued him, three out of four died at his hands. One of them was lucky to have escaped and returned with both of his wrists cleanly snapped. The Heavenly Sanctuary dispatched many prospective holy disciples before they successfully seized and captured him. To run into such a savage and terrible person... That was definitely an unfortunate encounter for Su Yu!

Not to mention Su Yu was alone; even if he were to join forces with Xia Jingyu and the Nine Deadly Poison Devil, it would still be difficult to resist a blow or two from the Thousand-Miles Butcher's hands. What made Su Yu's heart feel even grimmer was that they were trapped in the valley!

When he saw Xia Jingyu approach, Su Yu's eyes filled with urgency. Looking around, Su Yu suddenly came up with a solution to this emergency—he would have to take another great risk!

Swish—

It was too late to even waste a second to explain his plan. Su Yu dashed forward and grabbed hold of Xia Jingyu's barely-there waist. Xia Jingyu was stunned and her face blushed crimson.

"Hold on tight!" Su Yu shouted. The entwined dragon silk in his fingers suddenly flung out, three-hundred feet long and transparent. Su Yu cast it toward the top of the valley.

Aha—

The end section of the entwined dragon silk fiercely shot to the top of a wide-barreled tree at the peak of the valley and twined itself around a thick branch. Lightly tapping his toe tip, Su Yu pushed

his Floating Light Shadow to the limit. Su Yu stepped on the sheer cliff and precipitous rock face like a parkour warrior and climbed towards the top of the valley.

Su Yu's body was as light as a bird. The light and graceful Xia Jingyu in his arms did not affect Su Yu's movement technique! Xia Jingyu's heart was in her throat as she held on tight to Su Yu, her petite head buried deep into his chest. She only dared to open one eye and saw they were dozens of feet away from the ground; her heart started beating wildly.

What truly terrified Xia Jingyu, however, was the sight of a red-clad hulking figure who charged into the valley. The Nine Deadly Poison Devil, defying life and death, charged forward and fully unleashed his range of poison techniques!

As powerful as the Nine Deadly Poison Devil was, however, he was still instantly obliterated by the red-clad big man. With a snap of his fingers, the Nine Deadly Poison Devil was exterminated with a blood-curdling scream on the spot!

"Thousand-Miles Butcher!" Xia Jingyu's pretty face turned pale; she knew the origins of the red-clad big man, considered an extremely dangerous slayer among all slayers!

Thousand-Miles Butcher looked around and was surprised to see there was no trace of Su Yu! Then he glanced up and was astonished to discover Su Yu holding Xia Jingyu as he gracefully climbed upwards—he was nearly three hundred feet from the top of the valley, he had nearly escaped!

"Such a powerful movement skill! What a tough and durable silk thread!" The Thousand-Miles Butcher looked astounded. Immediately after, his look was replaced by a savage glint in his eyes. He grinned evilly as he lifted his finger and a frightening vital energy launched towards them, "If I let you escape, wouldn't I become a laughingstock?"

Rumble—

Feeling the frightening vital energy, Su Yu felt a sense of foreboding send chills down his spine! Just things seemed hopeless, Su Yu's suddenly exerted more force into his technique. Su Yu and Xia Jingyu, under the pull of the entwined dragon silk, swung mid-air in a semicircle.

Bang, boom, pow—

As they swung away their original position was blasted by vital energy, leaving a huge gaping hole ten feet in diameter! The solid rock wall was cracked into countless pieces and several boulders tumbled down three hundred feet below and smashed on the ground; it sounded as if the sky itself had collapsed.

If they had stayed where they were, they would have been struck and sent to the ground along with the rockslide—they would have been crushed!

Taking advantage of the blast, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu glided to the peak of the valley. Su Yu gave the entwined dragon silk a pull, taking advantage of their momentum as he pulled them from the air back to a boulder above valley!

"Quickly go!" Su Yu's head felt numb. They made their escape out of the valley—but that did not mean that everything was over. The horror of Level Eight was definitely not something Su Yu had anticipated.

"Floating Light Shadow!" Su Yu carried Xia Jingyu as they leaped through the forest to the mountains, a span of thirty feet with a light tap. The two of them left a bit of thread in the air...

"Want to run? Huh!" The Thousand-Miles Butcher looked savage. He was faster than Su Yu by a hair's breath—he dashed out of the valley to pursue Su Yu!

Half a day later, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu had fled to the outer periphery. Su Yu looked back, activated his enhanced sight, and was slightly surprised. "Three miles away, still in pursuit!"

It seemed that the Thousand-Miles Butcher was an expert in tracking; he'd chased them for dozens of miles and had not lost their trail. Su Yu and Xia Jingyu's mood was tense—they were on edge. Once he caught up, both of them would have no chance of survival!

As for calling for help—among the ten great prospective Holy Disciples, only the top three could stand a chance against the Thousand-Miles Butcher. There was no one they could ask for help! The distance between them and the Butcher was closing fast.

"There's only one thing left to try!" Su Yu said through clenched teeth.

An unprecedented enemy had left Su Yu with no choice but to give his all and put everything on the line!

Chapter 78: Breakthrough to Level Seven

With the sunlight and shade interlacing at his feet, a fleeting purple shadow cut through the forest.

Half a day later, Su Yu faced the Thousand-Miles Butcher at a distance of no less than three hundred feet apart! Within three hundred feet was the kill-range for the Thousand-Miles Butcher!

"You two children, you're both so arrogant to let me chase you all day and night!" The Thousand-Miles Butcher grinned nastily; there was barely concealed anger in his tone. A dignified Level Eight Lower Tier had spent a whole day chasing two Level Six Peak juniors; if word got out, everyone would think it was outrageous.

The purple-clad boy had top-rate speed, thanks to his movement technique. He was just slightly slower than the slayer by only a few beats. A day of pursuit had only intensified the Thousand-Miles Butcher's killing intent! Luckily for him, the Thousand-Miles Butcher had sensed Su Yu's physical strength was largely used up—as his speed gradually declined.

He was one-thousand feet away one moment, then seven-hundred... six hundred... three hundred... before, finally, the slayer stood only one-hundred feet away.

The Thousand-Miles Butcher sneered as he amassed his vital energy in his fingers; it was enough to penetrate any enemy within three-hundred feet!

"Die!" The Thousand-Miles Butcher flagrantly made his move; three-hundred feet of vital energy was loudly launched toward Su Yu's heart from behind!

Swish—

Just in time, a winding cave emerged just ahead and Su Yu dodged inside, still carrying Xia Jingyu.

Boom—

The Thousand-Miles Butcher's accumulated vital energy shot was forced to divert from its target. Instead of Su Yu, the vital energy hit some century-old ancient trees off to the side. Three massive trees were smashed with a loud rumble!

Vexation appeared in the slayer's eyes. "Damn boy!"

If he were to destroy the cave, the rocks would either crush or trap the two disciples—it would take Thousand-Miles Butcher time to dig them out, and he would have to spend significant energy to do so. Additionally, what if the jade hammers are destroyed in the collapse? No, attacking the cave was out of the question.

"Huh! They've brought on their own destruction!" The Thousand-Miles Butcher coolly glance at Su Yu who was breathless and pale as he stumbled into the cave—his energy was already spent!

But the Thousand-Miles Butcher was not reckless. His intuition told him that perhaps Su Yu was counting on something inside the cave. Cautiously arriving before the cave and squatting down, the Thousand-Miles Butcher carefully looked inside, and his pupils suddenly dilated!

At the cave's entrance, there were several extremely fine entwined dragon silk threads, strung up at neck height! They were set up silently by Su Yu after he entered the cave. If the slayer had quickly charged, he would have inevitably been dismembered by the sharp, entwined silk thread!

The Thousand-Miles Butcher was nervous. He angrily laughed and took several large strides into the cave, "I've been pursued and hunted by men stronger than you many times, you think a mere little trick can deceive me..."

Ah—

His voice had not finished before there was suddenly an empty space at the feet of the Thousand-Miles Butcher! A thought flickered through his head; could it be that this was... a series of traps!

The Thousand-Miles Butcher was, after all, no ordinary man! His reaction speed was extremely fast—just as the floor opened beneath him, one hand grasped the edge of the trap and he did not fall. He looked down and saw the bottom of the trap was densely covered with sharp spikes up to two feet tall. If he had fallen in, his body would have been impaled many times over and he would have died.

The Thousand-Miles Butcher gasped; what a close call! The murderous rage in his eyes surged! He had nearly fallen into the hands of a Level Six boy twice, the Thousand-Miles Butcher looked murderous!

"Boy! I want you to die a horrible death."

The Thousand-Miles Butcher's voice spontaneously stopped; when he had started to climb the rock face, he had suddenly found his other arm did not obey—in fact, that arm was not there at all. Suddenly, he began to fall.

He looked down and saw his body from his chest down was all cut up, with flesh from his wounds falling downward. Looking closer, there was a dense layer of transparent silk thread at chest-level. It was like a spider web, all evenly laid out in the trap. Anything that fell in would be cut into chunks by the razor-sharp spider web!

Though the Thousand-Miles Butcher did not fall into the bottom, he'd already fallen into the razor-sharp web made from the entwined dragon silk. He had already been cut into pieces—because it was so sharp, he had only just now started to actually separate!

Boom—

Both his eyes turned white. The remaining half of the Thousand-Miles Butcher, still unable to reconcile with his fate, fell to the bottom of the trap as he took his last breath! Among all Su Yu's enemies, there was no doubt the Thousand-mile Butcher had suffered the most miserable death—death by dismemberment!

Not long after the slayer fell, Su Yu dragged his tired body out of the cave. He stood on the edge of the trap, his expression grateful. This particular trap, along with those which covered the whole cave, had been set up by Obscure Fiendish Duo to lure them in and trap them.

Before they had left the cave the first time, Su Yu felt the traps could be valuable in the future. He had laid an additional layer of the entwined dragon silk in the trap, and now it had finally come in handy.

Although this trip had been treacherous, they had managed to ensnare and kill a Level Eight Lower Tier! It was unimaginable. Su Yu took the Thousand-Miles Butcher's spirit elixir and combined it with the spirit elixir he had plundered in the valley. He set the traps back up and went back inside the cave.

In addition to the four pieces they already had, plus two from the Thousand-Miles Butcher, there were six in total! Three pieces for Su Yu and three pieces for Xia Jingyu; both of them were filled with anticipation and nervousness as they swallowed their pieces of spirit elixir on the spot. This time, they were going to breakthrough to Level Seven!

Xia Jingyu's father, the martial arts training institute's Housemaster, had only reached a mere Level Seven Lower Tier in his forty years of cultivating. They had only entered the Sanctuary a few days ago, could they possibly surpass their parents' generation? How could they not look forward to that and be excited?

The thing that made Su Yu feel equally excited as well as envious was when he observed the way Level Sevens and above could exude energy from their bodies. They could wound people dozens of feet behind them. Su Yu had coveted that ability for a long time.

He swallowed the spirit elixir and closed his eyes in preparation for the breakthrough. The potent strength of the elixir melted into Su Yu's limbs and bones, nourishing every fiber of his being.

An hour later, a buzzing sound filled the air.

The air slightly vibrated. Boundless waves of energy simultaneously surged through his and Xia Jingyu's entire bodies! Both opened their eyes simultaneously and an abundance of powerful vital energy started exuding from their bodies through their pores.

Swish—

Su Yu flexed his thumb and forefinger together and touched the tips. A boundless vital energy compressed into a narrow flow and blasted outward!

Bang—

The rock wall trembled and cracks developed across the surface. Then, a portion collapsed explosively! Su Yu was happy and Xia Jingyu felt even more wonderful than before; if her father could see her achievement now, how proud would he be?

After the breakthrough of their cultivation base, the two immersed themselves into their comprehension of cultivation techniques.

With joining the Upper Realm of Icy Heart Core, Su Yu became better practiced in the technique. His one palm could now turn the enemy into ice sculptures, it truly deserved to be called a Deity Level cultivation technique!

He made the greatest progress with Floating Light Shadow; through days of fleeing and using it in various ways, he had unknowingly caused a breakthrough to Stage Two Top Class! Now, when he used that technique he could glide twenty meters with one step.

If he could breakthrough to Stage Three, he could fly high up in the sky! Just thinking of it, Su Yu was filled with endless anticipation. Rumor said that the deities could fly in all directions high up in the void of the sky. This power could be within Su Yu's control soon!

Of course, this adventure had come at a cost. A powerful assistant like the Nine Deadly Poison Devil had been killed by the Thousand-Miles Butcher's vital energy, his body was lying cold in the valley.

Stroking his chin, Su Yu slightly muttered to himself while thinking. After a day, he returned to the valley with Xia Jingyu. Looking around at his surroundings, Su Yu spent two full days setting up the valley.

"Brother Yu, who are you dealing with by setting up this trap?" Xia Jingyu squatted off to the side, her spotless chin rested on her snow-white slender arms, and she wore a demure and placid expression as she watched Su Yu set up with interest.

Su Yu shook his head. "It's for a rainy day, in case we encounter unexpected enemies," he said.

"Oh." Xia Jingyu Qing smiled prettily as she gazed at Su Yu's figure of concentration. Her heart swelled sweetly. It seemed was endlessly joyful about feeling so at peace by Su Yu's side.

After two days, Su Yu cut a sorry figure and was utterly exhausted. The whole little valley had been booby trapped. Everywhere was filled with traps, invisible dangers capable of killing anyone who wandered into them. If enemies tried to invade the valley, Su Yu could rely on the traps to fight back!

After setting up everything, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu left the valley. Standing at the valley pass, Su Yu stared into the depths of the inner periphery. Now was the time to explore deeper.

The common inner periphery no longer had many slayers, and Su Yu and Xia Jingyu wanted a breakthrough to the next tier. For that, they each needed four pieces of spirit elixir, therefore, the two of them would require eight pieces in total! That many slayers could only be found in the depths of the inner periphery.

As he scanned ahead, Su Yu's pupils suddenly dilated.

"A Level Eight Lower Tier slayer!" Three miles away, a Level Eight slayer was oddly dashing towards the outer periphery.

Su Yu already knew about this slayer; his profile showed he was a rapist from Qingcheng Empire who had dishonored countless innocent women, Yue Wuhua! The rumor was that any woman he had ever had his eyes on had never been able to escape the palm of his hand, and all were maimed and murdered by him. From ordinary civilians to princesses, many women had been brutally dishonored by him!

He had wreaked havoc on the Qingcheng Empire for ten years. Countless women had suffered from his persecution, and more many women who had cherished their innocence—unable to bear any dishonor and face the world—committed suicide. The scourge was abhorrent and repugnant! In the end, the Sanctuary had stepped in and captured him.

Upon learning it was Yue Wuhua, Xia Jingyu, as a young woman, was even more disgusted. Now, with both of their abilities greatly advanced and their breakthroughs to Level Seven, they would not need to be as terrified of fighting a Level Eight anymore!

"Let's give it a try." Xia Jingyu beautiful eyes implied a sense of anticipation. With Su Yu's pupils locked onto Yue Wuhua, he would never escape their gaze.

Half a day, somewhere along the river, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu, concealed by the water, observed Yue Wuhua from afar.

Thirty-something years old and young in appearance, his features were attractive, more beautiful than a woman's. He wore a suit of flowing green clothing of an elegant and smart style. If they did not see the depravity hidden his eyes, it would be hard to imagine this was the brutal rapist, Yue Wuhua!

"Hehe, I sense some friends from afar, how fun! Since my two friends are here, why not come out and show yourselves?" Yue Wuhua lightly glanced straight at where Su Yu and Xia Jingyu were hiding! Such keen awareness! Su Yu was secretly surprised!

Swish—

Out in a flash, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu glared at him. This was the first confrontation with a strong Level Eight that held any true significance.

Yue Wuhua swept past Su Yu and laid his eyes on Xia Jingyu, his eyes bright and blazing, "Wonderful! Really wonderful! Of all the women lucky enough to sleep with me, Mr. Yue, no more than five could compare to you!"

Xia Jingyu's pretty face turned angry, "Destroy a person's innocence, maim someone, and you call those women lucky? Despicable scoundrel, even death is too good for you!"

"Hehe, little beauty, did you know you're even more alluring when angry? I, Mr. Yue, take pity on you. I've decided you'll serve me tonight!" Yue Wuhua greedily stared at Xia Jingyu, looking her up and down.

Su Yu's eyes slightly cooled, and he brazenly made his move.

"Icy Heart Core!"

Bang, boom, pow—

A pair of fists containing a veiled chill attacked Yue Wuhua with a loud rumble. With a slight smile on Yue Wuhua's lips, his eyes became grave. He felt a massive amount of power coming from Su Yu's one punch.

Pop—

Yue Wuhua turned over his palm to take out a fan concealed by his vital energy. He abruptly pointed it forwards!

Su Yu's punch and Yu Wuhua's fan suddenly collided!

Boom—

Ice formed on the fan and it was smashed into several pieces! Yue Wuhua's expression slightly changed. He gave up his fan just in time and stepped back several steps.

Su Yu haphazardly retreated several steps away from being struck by the powerful vital energy of a Level Eight. The two's blows were both equally powerful.

Chapter 79: Brutal Reality

Though their attacks seemed equally matched, Su Yu had only used half of his ability! So, after his breakthrough to Level Seven, his ability had indeed advanced a tier. That said, Yue Wuhua also never used his full force. If the two fully used their abilities, Su Yu could still hold his own against a Level Eight. While he was got ready to make a move again there came a sweet breeze and Xia Jingyu floated in the air to his side.

"Brother Yu, let me!" With an eager anticipation in her eyes, Xia Jingyu had entered her Holy Decree. With half a saint grade Holy Decree, the natural realm was everywhere. Every movement was vast and natural.

Whoosh—

The boundless natural realm enveloped the surrounding area in all directions. Xia Jingyu's beautiful eyes surged with deep comprehension. Su Yu was stunned; this was... Xia Jingyu in her absolute Holy Decree? Thinking about it, all of Su Yu's doubts were immediately relieved. Xia Jingyu's comprehension was twenty times better than Su Yu's. Su Yu could cheat by using his comprehension of space-time manipulation. Her comprehension was entirely natural.

"Oh, the little beauty wants to make her own move? Mr. Yue is deeply honored." Yue Wuhua's lascivious eyes clung onto and looked up and down at Xia Jingyu's graceful figure.

Though Su Yu was strong, that blow just now had been his best—Yue Wuhua was confident that tonight this little beauty will inevitably be his plaything underneath his hips! However, when he realized Xia Jingyu's half Holy Decree was nearly halfway to being considered saint grade, his expression turned grave! Xia Jingyu's bright eyes turned around to face him with profound enlightenment. Her fair hand aimed at Yue Wuhua pointed from a distance.

"The Flowery Finger!"

Pop—

The blood within Yue Wuhua's chest, like it had somewhat been beckoned, split open his flesh and opened a fingertip-sized hole in his chest. Blood gushing, Yue Wuhua looked aghast, overwhelmed with horror. Following Xia Jingyu's series of gestures, Yue Wuhua's body was checkered with holes.

Yue Wuhua could sense that Xia Jingyu had not yet fully developed this skill; once her skill matured, her mind could make all the blood in his body gush outward, killing him on the spot!

Swish—

Yue Wuhua was gripped by fear; how could he still dare to lust after Xia Jingyu's loveliness? As a stealer of innocence, Yue Wuhua's strength was not direct combat, but movement techniques! His shadow flashed, his speed exceptionally fast!

Swish—

Before he could escape, a purple figure suddenly overtook him!

"Ice and Thunder Feast!" Su Yu's every movement carried the natural realm. The power of ice and thunder was condensed within his fingers. A purple and white beam pierced Yue Wuhua's chest!

Ah—

Boosh—

Yue Wuhua horrified, suffered serious injuries! This young man also had the enigmatic saint grade Holy Decree!

"The Flowery Finger!" Just after Su Yu had attacked a slightly chilly voice came from behind him!

Popping—

Yue Wuhua's blood exploded out of him unceasingly; it wasn't long before he had lost forty percent of his blood.

Plop—

Having to bear their conjoined Holy Decree attack, Yue Wuhua fell to the ground from his serious injuries! However, everything was not over yet!

"Infernal Demon Pupils!" There was a flickering flash of dark green and Yue Wuhua's mind suffered unbearable pain! Finally, Yue Wuhua's eyes drooped as he stood deferentially in front of Su Yu. Su Yu and Xia Jingyu looked at each other, feeling a little relieved.

With their combined power, they had been able to successfully subdue a Level Eight Lower Tier. If it had been a one-to-one combat duel, they still would have been alright. Their great progress was hard to imagine. Not long ago, they had only been able to flee when faced with a Level Eight Lower Tier.

While Su Yu retrieved the spirit elixir and used the soul seeking technique on Yue Wuhua, Xia Jingyu fell into a state of comprehension. Her Holy Decree entered the rank of saint grade. The refinement of her Holy Decree gave her a brand-new comprehension of Reverie of Dewdrops.

After a long while, Xia Jingyu slowly opened her eyes in delight, "Brother Yu! My Deity Level cultivation technique, I had a breakthrough to Upper Realm!"

Su Yu was happy and envious. The same breakthrough he had just barely manage to achieve for his Deity Level cultivation technique had flowed naturally to Xia Jingyu like water in a canal. The gap between their powerful insights was flabbergasting! Xia Jingyu's ability greatly increased, she had caught up with Su Yu's tier.

Now, with their conjoined power, even if two Level Eight Lower Tiers were to come, they had no reason to be afraid! Now that they had gotten one piece of saint grade spirit elixir, they were still seven pieces away from their breakthrough to Level Seven Upper Tier.

With excitement glittering in his eyes, Su Yu said, "Xia Jingyu, our opportunity has come!"

It turned out that the reason Yue Wuhua had dashed towards the outer periphery was that a team of extremely brave Sanctuary disciples had fought their way into the core zone!

The combined force of the three people had killed and injured many Level Eight slayers. They were, without a doubt, the team of Long Xiaoyue with the second and third ranked prospective Holy Disciples! Their abilities were enough to sweep away almost all the slayers!

Yue Wuhua had been lucky to escape this raid, so he had fled to the outer periphery. There were others like him; many Level Eight strong individuals were now in hiding after they had fled to the outer periphery, one after another. At this point, if they were to head towards the depths of the inner periphery, they could kill many strong Level Eights!

Swish—

The three of them, Yue Wuhua under Su Yu's control, cut through the silent forest in the mountain and headed towards the depths of the Evil Forest.

After three days, Su Yu, Xia Jingyu, and Yue Wuhua stood at the border between the deepest end of the inner periphery and core zone. On the way, they'd encountered many strong Level Eights fleeing from trouble.

But they were all traveling together in packs of threes or fours. Su Yu and the others could only withdraw for the time being, as they did not dare make a move. As they headed closer and closer to the core zone, there more and more strong slayers out and about.

Suddenly, there was a shout. Su Yu engaged his heightened sense of sight and looked over; five miles away there was a Heavenly Sanctuary disciple entangled with two strong Level Eight Lower Tiers! That Heavenly Sanctuary disciple was the fearsome and strong Yan Chu, ranked third among the prospective Holy Disciples. Around twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old, his ability reached Level Eight Lower Tier!

Yan Chu was besieged by the two Level Eight Lower Tiers; he only had the strength to ward off their attacks—he was surrounded by danger! Su Yu's eyes flashed as he charged forward with Xia Jingyu and Yue Wuhua! Yan Chu's chest was slashed and had a huge blood gash, which bled continuously. His inner strength was waning, he had been physically overexerted.

But the two slayers, thanks to their combined forces, were sufficiently strong and unharmed.

"Big Brother! He can't hold on any longer!"

"Do not be reckless, just grind him down to death, lest we meet a counterattack!"

Yan Chu was furious; their team had suddenly encountered a large-scale team of slayers and was intercepted. The three of them were scattered, and he was besieged by two slayers of the same level, his chance of survival was bleak!

Swish—

But at this moment, three figures, fast as lightning, came charging!

Ah—

The three charged with the ferocity of a powerful flood! The two slayers were instantly struck!

"Infernal Demon Pupils!" Immediately, an emerald green ray of light shone. The two slayers screeched and were subsequently brought under controlled. Though the series of events seemed to have occurred over several minutes, it had only been the blink of an eye! Yan Chu didn't even have time to react.

Among the Sanctuary disciples, besides their three-person team, there was another strong combination? Upon closer examination, it was Su Yu, the one who had defied the Holy King! Beside him was Xia Jingyu, who had pleaded for Su Yu! The last one was a Level Eight Lower Tier slayer, whose eyes were glazed from being controlled!

"It's you all!" Yan Chu was surprised!

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu, in his memory, were still a new generation of prospective Holy Disciples. Their abilities had been barely passable, but also just about the same as Zhang Mingyi's. Su Yu smiled in response and retrieved the two pieces of spirit elixirs. There were a total of three saint grade spirit elixirs now.

With the two Level Eight Lower Tiers under control, Su Yu had a total of three puppets; if they were to encounter packs of threes or fours slayers, they could completely ambush them!

Xia Jingyu's beautiful eyes sparkled with joy. Looking at the current circumstances, not more than ten days would pass before they may be able to collect eight pieces of spirit elixir—then, they could break through to Level Seven Upper Tier!

"Wait!" Yan Chu caught a glimpse of them taking away the spirit elixirs and his eyebrows slightly creased.

Su Yu's gaze was cool, "What, Senior Brother Yan feels we don't deserve to have the spirit elixirs?"

No good deeds went unpunished, he was already numb to it. If Yan Chu was ungrateful, Su Yu would by no means be lenient.

Unexpectedly, Yan Chu lightly shook his head; he did not covet the spirit elixirs. "That's not it. Since you are the ones who attacked and killed them, the spirit elixirs are rightfully yours."

"Then what would Senior Brother Yan like to advise?" asked Su Yu.

Yan Chu looked around Su Yu to the three puppets behind him and his eyes lit up. Then, he directly looked at Su Yu, lightly nodded, and issued an order, "From this moment on, you shall listen to my command, lead these three puppets, and regroup with Senior Sister Long."

Immediately, his gaze swept across to Xia Jingyu at his side and he slightly frowned and hesitated for a moment, "She can also come along on your account, as long as she doesn't drag us down or hold us back."

"Well! Let's set out!" Yan Chu's mood was pleasant as he waved his big hand and headed back, toward the direction from where he fled to look for Long Xiaoyue. But, no one moved behind him.

Looking back, Su Yu had turned a deaf ear and was readying himself to make his own way in the other direction. Yan Chu slightly staggered, and coldly chided him, "Su Yu! What are you doing? You have not heard my orders!"

Su Yu coldly glanced at him and retorted, "Who do you think you are? Why should I listen to your orders?"

"You!" Yan Chu was sanctimonious, before he patiently explained in a matter-of-fact tone, "When it comes to facing enemies in a contingency, I'm certainly more suitable to command the puppets; in this way, we can then maximize the role of the puppets. The right approach saves effort and leads to better results. My orders will be to your ultimate benefit!"

Somewhat annoyed, Yan Chu snorted before he continued, "So many people want to curry favor with me and all did not get anywhere; now I'm giving you a chance, you don't fully appreciate what I'm offering you!"

He wasn't exaggerating. Yan Chu, as the third-ranked prospective Holy Disciple, had an exceptional aptitude. Many prospective Holy Disciples hovered around the lowest ranks for years, unable to bear the fierce competition. All of them wanted to find a powerful backer, to protect them as well as mentor them, and possibly share resources with.

Countless prospective Holy Disciples had fawned over Yan Chu for this reason. To be commanded by him was something that most prospective Holy Disciples desired. Unfortunately, it was difficult for common prospective Holy Disciples to catch a sight of him, not to mention the opportunity to be ordered around by him.

For new disciples like Su Yu and Xia Jingyu, with their common ability levels, following him would have been a sensible decision if they wanted to climb the ranks faster.

Shaking his head, Yan Chu realized that Su Yu and Xia Jingyu, each only 14 years old, had little understanding of the ways of the world; it was normal for them to be tactless and overly emotional in their decision-making.

But what made Yan Chu secretly angry was Su Yu's faintly mocking gaze. "Since you're so powerful, you can catch your own puppet—why order me?" Su Yu asked.

"As for the chance to curry favor with you, you can leave it to others; we don't want it." Su Yu left along with Xia Jingyu, both without concern.

Yan Chu was sanctimonious, "Su Yu! You don't know what's good for you! When we return to the Heavenly Sanctuary, one word from me will make life difficult for you!"

Among the prospective Holy Disciples, who would dare to turn him down?! All he had to do was give a few quiet orders and there would be plenty of prospective Holy Disciples deliberately making things difficult for Su Yu.

"What, you?" mocked Su Yu.

Yan Chu could not help but laugh angrily, "By relying on the puppets, your self-confidence has inflated—aren't you forgetting your place?"

"You can give it a try." Su Yu stood with his hands behind him and stepped out from among the puppets. His meaning was obvious—with or without a puppet, he could still afford to disregard Yan Chu.

Repeatedly met with Su Yu's scorn, Yan Chu was incensed. He took a few big strides forward. Level Eight vital energy surged forward, "Very well! You, a newcomer, still asleep in that sweet dream of imperial kings and proud rulers; let senior brother teach you a thing or two about brutal reality!"

Su Yu's patience had been exhausted. Yan Chu's ego was too much! Su Yu would have to teach him about the brutalities of reality!

Chapter 80: The Slayer King

Swish—

Just as the two men were about to make their moves, two figures rushed forward.

"Stop!" There was a shout from a haughty voice, dignified and awe-inspiring. Yan Chu trembled all over. He had no alternative but to stop, and he turned back with reverence in his eyes as he respectfully greeted the new arrivals, "Senior Sister Long, Senior Brother Qin."

A young woman with an impressive stature and appearance had arrived alongside a refined-looking youth in white robes. They were the strongest prospective Holy Disciples, countless Holy Disciples looked up to them.

Long Xiaoyue, a Level Eight Peak prospective Holy Disciple, was the strong contender closest to becoming a Holy Disciple! Qin Yueming, a Level Eight Upper Tier prospective Holy Disciple, was only a few steps away from becoming a Holy Disciple!

The arrival of these two intensified the oppressive atmosphere. Su Yu's and Xia Jingyu's hearts started pounding. This was the Evil Forest; if Long Xiaoyue and Qin Yueming harbored any treacherous thoughts, it would hard for all of them to escape.

In particular, Long Xiaoyue worried Su Yu. Su Yu declared had his intention to become a Holy Disciple in public, which had stirred up Long Xiaoyue's resentment.

Long Xiaoyue's temperament was deep and profound, like an unsheathed razor-sharp sword; ultimately motionless—but, once moved, it would cleave the skies and crack the earth!

Her pair of bright, cold eyes gently drifted until they fixed on Su Yu. She stared so intently that Su Yu and Xia Jingyu were busy mentally preparing for escape when she nodded faintly. "No wonder you feel you can be disrespectful to the Holy King, your ability had made even me take notice. Just a brief ten days and you've already broken through to Level Seven Lower Tier—amazing!"

Yan Chu looked slightly startled. Ten days ago Su Yu had been a mere Level Five Upper Tier, and now, he was a strong Level Seven. Such rapid progress was unimaginable.

Sweeping her gaze over to the puppets behind him, she implied with disdain, "If I were to also cultivate the technique to control puppets, I alone could sweep across the Evil Forest, there would be no need to say anything!"

Long Xiaoyue's bright eyes quickly glanced at the three puppets behind Su Yu. She nodded and said, "How about cooperating with us? We are about to step into the core zone to capture and kill the rumored Slayer King!"

The Slayer King? The most powerful Level Nine slayer?

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu gasped! It was rumored that it had taken three Holy Disciples to catch the Slayer King alive, and consequently, one of the Holy Disciples was wounded—more proof of the Slayer King's ferocity.

As a result of his power, the Slayer King's body had two pieces of divine grade spirit elixirs! The divine grade elixir's efficacy was hard to estimate! Long Xiaoyue would spare no energy and put everything she had into the battle. It was highly risky, but the lure of the elixir was strong!

Su Yu pondered for a moment. Mentally, Su Yu could accept cooperating with Long Xiaoyue and the others, but his instincts were warning him...

Xia Jingyu spoke Su Yu's worry out loud, "Senior Sister Long, please pardon your Junior Sister for her blunt words but, if we join forces and sweep across the Evil Forest, we may not be greatly opposed, but we still may be somewhat inadequate to capture and kill a Level Nine."

The difference between the thresholds for Level Eight and Level Nine was heaven and earth. Long Xiaoyue's charming face looked confident and spirited, "Well... let's just say that I'm certain of the outcome."

Swish—

Long Xiaoyue flexed her palm and retrieved a fiery red ball which contained a heart-palpitating power!

"This is the Fire Soul Pearl, it contains the absolute power of the Holy King's strength. One strike and the Level Nine Lower Tier will be annihilated and turned to ashes!" This had been procured in exchange for Long Xiaoyue's credit, which she had collected over her many years spent capturing slayers for the Heavenly Sanctuary; there was only one piece.

"Furthermore, Senior Brother Qiu Changjian, who besieged the Slayer King, previously said the Slayer King was seriously injured in a war and found it hard to recover. His cultivation base has also fallen below Level Nine, he's barely stronger than me. That's all. So, if you all join in too, attacking and killing him will be a cinch."

Long Xiaoyue smiled and looked at Su Yu, "So how about it? If you are willing, I can now help you both break through to Level Seven Upper Tier."

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu were instantly tempted! Were they going to fight the Slayer King so soon?

The two of them looked at each other several times and they contemplated the choice for a good while. Then, Su Yu slowly nodded, "Yes! But you must let us have a breakthrough first! Share with us five pieces of spirit elixirs, that will suffice."

"Yan Chu, give them." Long Xiaoyue smiled and forthrightly agreed.

Five pieces? It greatly pained Yan Chu to do so! But most of his spirit elixirs had been given to him by Long Xiaoyue. Saint grade spirit elixirs had little effect on Long Xiaoyue, so she had gifted all the spirit elixirs to Yan Chu. Yan Chu was quietly furious as he took out five pieces of spirit elixirs! Why give them to Su Yu? If Long Xiaoyue forcefully commanded him to follow her, would Su Yu dare to resist and face her power?

Seemingly aware of Yan Chu's unwillingness to take out his elixirs, Long Xiaoyue slightly shook her head. "You should be glad that you did not fight with Su Yu, otherwise, you will be miserable," she said lightly.

Intentionally or unintentionally, Long Xiaoyue gave the three puppets a glance. Within the Sanctuary Divine Vault there existed three Deity Level cultivation techniques; that was an open secret among ten great prospective Holy Disciples. Only the most powerful disciple, Zhao Guang, would be able to comprehend them, anyway.

Su Yu's puppetry technique reminded Long Xiaoyue of one of the three great Deity Level cultivation techniques—the Infernal Demon Pupils technique. If Su Yu's control technique came from Infernal Demon Pupils, had he comprehended the other two Deity Level techniques too? If he did, it would be difficult to use cultivation base as a measure of Su Yu's terrifying ability.

Yan Chu misinterpreted the look in Long Xiaoyue's eyes. He took the gaze to mean that the puppets were the ones to fear, if Yan Chu forcibly made his move just now, he would be seriously wounded by the puppets.

His face turned pale and flushed red. Yan Chu, still resentful, lightly snorted, "What's so amazing about relying on the puppets? With ability alone, I can crush him with one finger!"

Long Xiaoyue secretly shook her head but did not further explain. Next, taking five pieces of the unexpectedly obtained saint grade spirit elixirs, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu, under the protection of everyone present, swallowed the elixirs.

Hum—

An hour later, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu both had a breakthrough to Level Seven Upper Tier! Yan Chu watched jealously. He remembered when he and his friends had their breakthroughs to Level Seven—how many years and trials had they gone through to reach that point?

Yet, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu had found one opportunity after another; just ten days in the Evil Forest and they had gone from Level Five Upper Tier to Level Seven Upper Tier!

Long Xiaoyue looked calm, but did not feel that Su Yu and Xia Jingyu had deserved their breakthroughs; so far, they had progressed thanks only to luck. The Evil Forest had existed for a long time, but how many people with inadequate cultivation bases had continuous breakthroughs for ten straight days, as these two had?

It was as rare as phoenix feathers and unicorn horns. Opportunities were created equally within the Evil Forest; only ability and bravery determined who got what opportunity. Yan Chu, before he had reached Level Seven, would not dare to venture into the Evil Forest—therefore, his breakthrough was slow.

He tried to focus on their survival in the Evil Forest, rather than dwell in jealousy over Su Yu and Xia Jingyu's good luck. How could they defeat the strong slayers who remained, when they stood at a disadvantage?

Finally feeling the power of the Level Seven Upper Tier, Su Yu's and Xia Jingyu's faces lit up. If they were to encounter a Level Eight Lower Tier again, Su Yu and Xia Jingyu were confident they would be victorious; they still had the advantage even in one-on-one combat with a Level Eight Upper Tier.

Long Xiaoyue softly chuckled, "In our coming journey, how many spirit elixirs you get will depend on you—I will not help anyone. Let's go!"

They were a team of eight members, each with a comparably strong Level Eight ability. They were practically invincible! All slayers they encountered would be suppressed and killed! In just three short days Su Yu and Xia Jingyu, relying on the strength of numbers, had snatched six pieces of spirit elixirs.

But, Su Yu was increasingly puzzled. The core zone was the area where the slayers usually gathered, but during these three days, it seemed as if the closer they got to the core, the fewer slayers there were. Long Xiaoyue was also aware that something was not right, and she secretly frowned.

"That ancient temple is the dwelling of the Slayer King." Putting away the doubts in her mind, Long Xiaoyue, concealed within the woods, quietly pointed to a temple hidden within the lush green forest, about two miles away.

Su Yu looked over, his expression slightly apprehensive, "There are three Level Eight Upper Tier guards near the temple!"

"Hey!" Long Xiaoyue looked at Su Yu with an odd expression, "How do you know so many details?"

"Senior Brother Qiu Changjian said that the Slayer King was once a prince of a country. He started a coup and failed, and was reduced to becoming a bandit. He committed indiscriminate killings everywhere, surrounded by four faithful imperial bodyguards; together, they were captured and taken back to the Evil Forest.

"Among them, one is Level Eight Peak, and three are Level Eight Upper Tier."

All this information was not in the profile... How did Su Yu know all of this?

Long Xiaoyue was even more curious about Su Yu's ability. Along the way, he and Xia Jingyu almost never made any direct attacks; all they did was command the three puppets to destroy their enemies.

Su Yu's pupils contracted. There was a Level Eight Peak? He looked around intently but did not find the Level Eight Peak slayer anywhere.

Yan Chu squinted his eyes and snorted, "What a fraud!" Along the way, Su Yu, who had depended only on his puppets, had made him insanely jealous.

"Well, get ready to attack!" Long Xiaoyue's eyes looked fierce, "Three Level Eight Upper Tier imperial bodyguards. We will separate and break them up, then swarm in together and take them out

one by one. When they're dealt with, we will consolidate our power, target the Level Eight Peak, and then, finally, I'll deal with the Level Nine Slayer King!" Long Xiaoyue mapped out their plan.

Everyone nodded and they began to sneak forward!

Rustling—

The eight figures were overwhelming and swift like a tsunami! Among them were a Level Eight Peak and a Level Eight Upper Tier; such a formidable combination of abilities meant even Level Eight Upper Tier slayers didn't stand a chance!

Ah—

As they killed the first slayer, Su Yu, with his keen eyes and quick hands, took away the spirit elixir with a tug of the entwined dragon silk, before Yan Chu and Qin Yueming had a chance.

Yan Chu and Qin Yueming immediately killed the second slayer!

Ah, ah—

Two screams, one after another. The last two Level Eight Upper Tier slayers had perished on the spot! Their counterattack had caused Su Yu to sacrifice a puppet, but Su Yu still got all three spirit elixirs!

He'd already gathered nine pieces of the saint grade spirit elixirs—if he could collect another piece, he and Xia Jingyu would have the chance to breakthrough to Level Seven Peak!

Of the remaining slayers, one was a Level Eight Peak slayer, and the other was the legendary Slayer King!

"After breaking in, you all will besiege the Level Eight Peak bodyguard, and I will exterminate the Slayer King!" Long Xiaoyue's eyes sparkled, her palms sweaty.

The Slayer King, the exceptional Level Nine slayer, must be killed with one strike! Although he had serious bodily injuries, he could still easily obliterate them all!

Su Yu and Xia Jingyu were afraid.

Swish—

The team made their move!

Boom—

The temple door, under the conjoined force of eight people, opened with a jolt. However, a nearly vacant hall was what greeted them.

At the highest point of the hall, there was an ancient and decaying throne. On that throne, an imposing figure was faintly discernible! He seemed to be like an old king! An air of tyranny, like a great wild beast, assaulted the senses!

Su Yu's breath froze and he whispered in alarm, "The Slayer King!"

Scanning with his enhanced senses, Su Yu's face became even more aghast, "Oh no! His injuries have been healed!"