

Humanity 1011

Chapter 1011 Bright Moon Cave Residence

As soon as the words were out, he saw the Boulder Mountain Saber dripping with blood in Lu Ye's hand, and couldn't help but be taken aback: "You killed him?"

This was truly an astonishing matter, mere Blood Food actually daring to kill a Sacred Race member? In all his years, he had never seen such a thing.

However, he had just sensed the fluctuation of spirit force from Lu Ye; merely a human race cultivator of the Spirit Stream Realm, presumably a villager from nearby. How could one with such cultivation kill a Sacred Race member?

After all, that Sacred Race member was at least in the Cloud River Realm.

While he was still in a state of shock and uncertainty, his brow suddenly furrowed, and he fixed his gaze on Lu Ye: "What are you eating?"

Lu Ye looked at him, chewing with a crackling sound, a noise incredibly familiar to the Blood Race.

He, too, had eaten a fellow blood crystal before...

What horrified him even more was that these two Blood Food, upon seeing him, were not even the least bit frightened but seemed rather eager to try something.

The Blood Race member finally realized something was amiss. His figure spun, ready to flee, but the next moment his mind was struck with pain, as if an invisible sledgehammer had struck his head, causing him to stagger a few steps before falling to the ground.

When he regained his senses, there were already two figures standing in front of him, looking down from above, expressionless as they gazed at him.

"How dare you!" roared the Blood Race in anger, thinking how his noble Sacred Race had ever been so contemptuously regarded by mere Blood Food? He immediately felt humiliated.

Dao Thirteen had already slapped his shoulder, and the Blood Race immediately felt as if his whole body was about to fall apart, feeling the overwhelming power coming from his shoulder. He finally panicked but continued to shout with a tough exterior: "Let me go, if you dare to disrespect me, you're dead."

Lu Ye examined this stubborn Blood Race, contemplating whether to kill him for the Blood Crystal or use Soul Taming to enslave him.

The Blood Crystal indeed had a great effect on him. At this moment, he could clearly feel the confinement force within his body rapidly dissipating. In such a short moment, his cultivation had already been restored to the Spirit Stream Level 7, and it was still recovering.

If he obtained another Blood Crystal, restoring to the Cloud River Realm cultivation would be no issue.

But doing so would be a one-time deal.

Enslaving the Blood Race would undoubtedly be better; he could use this Blood Race to track down more Blood Race members and acquire more Blood Crystals.

With this thought, Lu Ye made his decision, raising one hand to point at the Blood Race.

The Blood Race was still struggling, but after an impatient slap from Dao Thirteen, he immediately quieted down.

With a finger touching his forehead, Lu Ye activated the Soul Taming Psyche, feeling the Blood Race's resistance, but this Blood Race was merely at the Cloud River level, his psyche naturally not as strong as Lu Ye's.

A few days ago, Lu Ye couldn't enslave Dao Thirteen because Dao Thirteen's psyche was stronger than his, forcing him to use the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword to break Dao Thirteen's psyche defense.

There was no need to bother with such trouble for a Cloud River level Blood Race.

As the Soul Taming Divine Runes imprinted, the Blood Race's resistance grew weaker until it completely stopped.

Lu Ye withdrew his hand, sensing the connection between himself and the Blood Race before him, knowing the divine runes were established.

In fact, if the Blood Race's physique wasn't significantly different from the human race, he wouldn't have needed to go through such trouble. By activating the Thousand Faces Spirit Runes, he could transform into the form of a Blood Race.

But the physique difference was too significant, and the Blood Race's skin was red, which couldn't be disguised.

The Blood Race stood up, looking at Lu Ye with a face full of caution and reverence. The Soul Taming Divine Runes only enslaved the other's heart and would not affect their intellect. At this moment, in the Blood Race's heart, Lu Ye was sacred and inviolable, but he was at a loss as to how to address Lu Ye, revealing some awkwardness.

"What's your name?" Lu Ye asked.

"Zhang Julai!" the Blood Race answered honestly.

Lu Ye frowned: "Why do all you Blood Race have human race names?"

The Blood Race he'd killed earlier also had a human race name. He hadn't paid much attention at the time, thinking it was just a coincidence, but now it seemed otherwise.

Zhang Julai replied: "Human race names are pleasant sounding and easy to remember. Our Sacred Race used another type of name in ancient times, but those names were both awkward and obscure,

gradually being abandoned. The current rule of the Sacred Race is to kill the first human race and take their name as our own."

Lu Ye thought back briefly and realized that the information he had obtained from the dead Blood Race did contain this detail, but it was so vast and complex that it was hard to digest it all at once and he hadn't noticed.

The Blood Race in front of him was called Zhang Julai, which meant there was once a human race called by that name.

"And if there's someone named Naughty Dog among humans..." Lu Ye squinted slightly.

Zhang Julai answered: "There are indeed such names in the Sacred Race...but if one doesn't like it, they can completely abandon it and take another."

After all, it was just a matter of killing a few more humans, which really wasn't a hassle for the Blood Race.

It is because of such rules that the names of the Blood Race are so varied and peculiar, often with the Blood Race from one area not sharing the same surname, making them extremely distinctive.

"Take me to your cave residence!" Lu Ye commanded.

Unlike the sect structure that is prevalent on the Nine Provinces continent, the Blood Race, due to the simplicity of their cultivation, has no concept of sects. From birth, they inherently know how to cultivate, with cultivation techniques ingrained deep within their bloodline. As long as they follow the steps and have enough resources, they can continuously gain powerful strength.

In this regard, the Blood Race is much stronger than the human race.

For humans to cultivate, they must first have the aptitude for cultivation. Even if they have the aptitude, if it's not good enough, it's difficult to go far.

But on the Blood Race side, it's almost all tribespeople who are cultivators. They can enhance their cultivation by refining the essence of blood or by hunting their kin to obtain Blood Crystals, especially the latter, which significantly boosts the Blood Race's power.

Therefore, there is no need for any sects, nor is there a need for mentors to impart teachings.

They primarily gather based on cave residences. The number of the Blood Race gathered in a cave residence and the strength of their cultivation determines the size of the cave residence.

There are frequent conflicts between cave residences, with incessant attacks upon each other, both to seize the other's Blood Crystals and to claim the humans within the other's territory.

To the Blood Race, the human race is both livestock for grazing and resources for cultivation, as well as a breeding ground for their tribespeople.

Zhang Julai and the Blood Race member who was killed by Lu Ye earlier belonged to two different cave residences and already had grudges with each other. This village is under the territory of Zhang Julai's cave residence, and by rights, the humans here are the property of the cave residence Zhang Julai inhabits.

That Blood Race member came here without reason, and naturally, Zhang Julai would not tolerate him, leading to a fight. In the conflict, Zhang Julai had a slight upper hand, and the Blood Race member was driven away and came here to this village to hunt Blood Food to replenish himself, but was killed by Lu Ye and Dao Thirteen.

Due to internal conflicts, the Blood Race suffers heavy casualties each year. However, the dead Blood Race members become nourishment for other Blood Race members to grow. Coupled with the Blood Race's easy breeding and simple cultivation, the overall number of the Blood Race in the Blood Refinement World has not diminished continuously but is able to keep being replenished.

With the Soul Taming Divine Runes, Zhang Julai naturally would not resist Lu Ye's orders, and immediately led him deeper into the mountains.

As dawn broke, the villagers of Cangnan Village began to head out, but Lu Ye and Dao Thirteen were nowhere to be seen. Additionally, a girl was missing from a family in the village.

The villagers had long been accustomed to this, feeling only slightly saddened, continuing with their farming or hunting as usual.

On another side, Zhang Julai activated a blood light, enveloping Lu Ye and Dao Thirteen as they arrived deep in the mountains. A large cave mouth on a rock face loomed, like the gaping maw of a beast, with three large characters engraved above.

Bright Moon Cave.

This place is the cave residence where Zhang Julai lives. Along the way, Lu Ye asked Zhang Julai many things and learned that there are over ten Blood Race members gathered at Bright Moon Cave, most of whom are at the Cloud River Realm, with a few at the Spirit Stream Realm.

The owner of the cave residence is a female Blood Race member named Sun Miaozyu, with a cultivation of Cloud River Level 9, making her the strongest in Bright Moon Cave. The area within about 30 miles can be considered the territory of Bright Moon Cave, overseeing four to five villages like Cangnan Village.

Blood Race members guard the cave entrance, and upon seeing Zhang Julai's fleeing light from afar, they shouted a warning: "Who goes there?"

Zhang Julai replied, "It's me!"

As he spoke, he had already landed at the cave entrance.

The Blood Race member saw that it was Zhang Julai and grinned: "So Brother Zhang has returned." Seeing Lu Ye and Dao Thirteen following Zhang Julai, he couldn't help but question: "Brother Zhang, who are these two Blood Foods?"

"My newly acquired Blood Slaves," Zhang Julai casually replied.

The Blood Race can activate a special Blood Seal that is branded into the body of a human race cultivator. Its use is somewhat similar to Soul Taming, but with less absolute control.

Back in the secret realm of the Soaring Dragon World, Lu Ye had heard of the term Blood Slave, and on the way here, he had discussed with Zhang Julai how to deal with it.

The Blood Race member glanced at Dao Thirteen with some envy: "Brother Zhang has a keen eye, this Blood Food is full of blood Qi, very good. If you cultivate it well, it might become a great asset in the future."

He then looked at Lu Ye and shook his head: "This one is much worse."

Lu Ye, for the first time in his life, was considered so disdainfully, but now his identity was that of Zhang Julai's Blood Slave, so naturally, he wouldn't react much, just seemingly respectfully standing behind Zhang Julai.

"Has anything happened in the cave recently?" Zhang Julai asked.

The Blood Race member shook his head: "What could happen? It's still the same."

Zhang Julai nodded slightly, leading Lu Ye and Dao Thirteen inside.

The passage inside the cave mouth was wide, not damp, with oil lamps for lighting, so it wasn't dim.

After walking a distance, many cave rooms appeared on both sides of the passage.

The first few cave rooms were empty, seemingly uninhabited, but not far along, Lu Ye noticed a figure inside one of the cave rooms.

Casually glancing, he didn't pay much attention initially, but soon stopped in his tracks, frowning.

Chapter 1012 This Blood Slave Is Well Taken

Lu Ye discovered that living in the cave was not a member of the Blood Race, but rather a human, a woman of notable appearance.

The woman looked somewhat weak and pale, yet what caught Lu Ye's attention was not her complexion, but her belly.

The woman had a bulging belly, evidently pregnant.

When her gaze met Lu Ye's, the woman appeared frightened and quickly retreated to the side, hiding away.

Lu Ye frowned, not inclined to investigate for the moment, and continued forward.

However, he soon realized something was amiss; there were many pregnant women residing within these caves, at least seven or eight he had seen along the way.

There were also a few women who were not pregnant, but they only hid in their caves, not daring to show themselves.

Without exception, these women had fair appearances.

Lu Ye vaguely speculated, his mood heavy with thoughts.

Bright Moon Cave housed not only these human women but also a few men, albeit not many, who were captured by the Blood Race to serve them, yet these humans were not even considered Blood Slaves. If a Blood Race member were injured or in the mood, they could freely capture and consume their fresh blood.

As they ventured deeper, the passageways became more intricate and interconnected. Zhang Julai seemed to know the paths well, leading Lu Ye and Dao Thirteen in a particular direction, soon arriving at his abode.

This place was undoubtedly much more spacious than where those pregnant women lived outside, and the environment was better; the entrance had a door shielding it, and a restriction enveloped it.

Returning here, Zhang Julai's tense expression finally relaxed. He bowed respectfully to Lu Ye: "Sir, this is where I live and cultivate."

He did not know how to address Lu Ye; he initially called Lu Ye his master, but Lu Ye disliked that title, so he resorted to calling him "Sir."

Lu Ye sat down, his face stern, and asked, "What's going on with those pregnant women outside?"

Zhang Julai replied, "They were brought back from nearby villages for the clan's enjoyment, and also, they serve as mothers to be."

Lu Ye at that moment was probing the memories of the deceased Blood Race member, and indeed found it as Zhang Julai described, similar to what he had thought before.

These women were captured for the Blood Race's pleasure. Although the Blood Race tended to be taller and more robust than humans, their bodies were otherwise similar, and their aesthetic appreciation seemed to lean more towards humans; beauties among humans were likewise regarded as beautiful by them.

Thus, the male Blood Race favored human women, having little interest in their own female kind.

In their indulgence and licentiousness, it was inevitable that some human women ended up pregnant.

Perhaps because of the strong Bloodline of the Blood Race, offspring conceived between the two races were invariably Blood Race, which is why the Blood Race has long viewed humans as vessels for

nurturing their kin, the very reason many humans live under the rule of every Blood Race cave residence.

To the Blood Race, humans were not just mere assets but had the role of perpetuating their lineage; it can be said today nine-tenths of the Blood Race in the Blood Refinement World were born of humans.

Once these Blood Race infants are born, they are sent to a special place for collective nurturing.

This is why the Blood Race of the Blood Refinement World does not live as family units; they simply have no families, most Blood Race members do not even know who their parents are, how could they live in family units?

Zhang Julai had been out before delivering a Blood Race infant birthed by one of the women in Bright Moon Cave.

Listening to Zhang Julai's words, while probing the memory of the deceased Blood Race member, Lu Ye's fist clenched and unclenched, repeating the motion.

Perhaps sensing Lu Ye's displeasure, Zhang Julai dared not even breathe loudly.

The room fell into a silent mood, only Dao Thirteen naively glancing around.

The sound of knocking broke the silence abruptly, a jarring intrusion in the quiet atmosphere, giving Zhang Julai a start, prompting him to quickly look to Lu Ye.

Lu Ye tilted his head slightly.

Zhang Julai then opened the door, revealing a young Blood Race member outside, who appeared to have low cultivation, likely one of the several Spirit Stream Realm Blood Race members here. The figure placed a hand on his chest in salute, bending forward, addressing Zhang Julai: "The cave residence master requests your presence."

Zhang Julai nodded: "I will head there shortly."

The Blood Race member looked past Zhang Julai into the room, adding, "The cave residence master heard you acquired two new Blood Slaves, bring them with you."

A shadow of gloom flashed in Zhang Julai's eyes as he replied somberly.

Only then did the Blood Race member leave.

Closing the door, Zhang Julai looked at Lu Ye: "Sir, that woman likely has no goodwill." Speaking so, his gaze wandered to Dao Thirteen, hesitating to say more.

"What do you mean?" Lu Ye asked.

Zhang Julai awkwardly replied: "She seems to have taken a liking to this one."

Concerning aesthetics, the male Blood Race indeed favored human women, yet the female Blood Race differed; most Blood Race women preferred to bond with male kin, though exceptions existed.

The cave residence master of Bright Moon Cave, Sun Miaozyu, was such a Blood Race.

She always had strong human men from various villages around her to keep sorrow at bay, and once they no longer suited her purpose, she transformed those human men into Blood Food to enhance her cultivation.

Anyway, to her, humans are just livestock, to be taken or abandoned at will, and no one dares to oppose her.

Dao Thirteen, being so robust and full of blood Qi, naturally sparked Sun Miaozyu's interest. Who knows which loose-mouthed Blood Race reported Dao Thirteen's presence to her as soon as they returned.

Zhang Julai naturally was not surprised by this, but as he is now Lu Ye's soul slave, he had to consider Lu Ye's feelings in all aspects.

Moreover, he could see that Lu Ye following him to Bright Moon Cave was clearly not for leisure, but for some major matter!

As for what major matter it is, Zhang Julai is no fool and can naturally guess.

Feeling apprehensive and a little nervous.

Lu Ye turned to look at Dao Thirteen, chuckled lightly, "If she's interested, then go meet her."

Zhang Julai immediately turned around to lead the way.

The group headed deep into the cave residence, stopping only at a spacious hall where faint decadent sounds emerged. Lu Ye looked up and saw a Blood Race woman lying crosswise on a massive stone bed, her overly slender figure swaying seductively in the dim light. On the bed were also two robust human youth, one kneeling by her feet, massaging her legs, the other kneeling behind her, striking her shoulders.

Both the Blood Race woman and the human men wore shamefully little, truly an eyesore.

This Blood Race woman was undeniably the cave residence master of Bright Moon Cave, Sun Miao Zhu.

Zhang Julai led Lu Ye and Dao Thirteen forward, saluting with Blood Race etiquette, "Cave residence master."

Sun Miao Zhu ignored him completely, her gaze fixed only on Dao Thirteen beside him, a smile curling at her lips. She lifted a hand, beckoning Dao Thirteen, "Come over."

Dao Thirteen stood motionless.

Only after Lu Ye kicked him did he reluctantly step forward, standing by the stone bed.

Sun Miaozyu inspected Dao Thirteen from head to toe, her interest clearly growing stronger. She waved her hand, and the two human youths serving her immediately stepped aside.

Gradually rising, Sun Miaozyu stood before Dao Thirteen.

Though Dao Thirteen was a physique cultivator, his figure wasn't tall, only sturdy. Comparing the two, Dao Thirteen's height merely reached Sun Miaozyu's chest.

She extended a hand, gently stroking Dao Thirteen's solid chest, her breathing suddenly quickening a bit. She gripped Dao Thirteen's chin, slightly tilting his head.

After a careful examination, Sun Miaozyu burst into coquettish laughter, "Zhang Julai, you picked this Blood Slave well; he'll be mine from now on."

Zhang Julai replied respectfully, "Since the cave residence master has spoken, there's naturally no problem."

"You all can leave." Sun Miaozyu waved them off, not once looking at Lu Ye.

Lu Ye turned and walked away, Zhang Julai hurriedly following.

Outside, Lu Ye closed the door quietly and stood still.

Moments later, Sun Miaozyu's startled voice echoed from within, "What are you doing? Let go!"

Then came muffled grunts and thuds, as if something heavy had fallen to the floor. Sun Miaozyu's sharp cries rang out, faint spirit force stirring inside, but it quickly subsided.

Lu Ye silently waited until the commotion inside completely died down, before pushing the door open and walking back inside.

Zhang Julai quickly followed, eyes widening in shock.

Beside the stone bed stood Dao Thirteen quietly, on the ground lay a slender figure—none other than Sun Miaozyu herself. Yet the Blood Race woman, once smiling as bright as flowers, was now a heap of mangled flesh.

No one knew what Dao Thirteen had done to her; Sun Miaozyu's body was in several pieces, with clear depressions on her chest and head, likely from fist impacts.

The floor beside the stone bed was awash with blood.

On the stone bed, those two human youths huddled, trembling, having witnessed the most unbelievable scene in just a brief moment.

Zhang Julai couldn't help but swallow hard.

He always knew that Lu Ye and Dao Thirteen's strength couldn't be judged by their spirit force fluctuations, but he had no idea how strong they truly were.

Until now.

The strongest in Bright Moon Cave, Sun Miaozyu, had been killed by Dao Thirteen in such a short time, and judging by Dao Thirteen's demeanor, it seemed he had merely slaughtered a cat or dog, utterly calm and unfazed...

Even someone in the True Lake Realm wouldn't be able to accomplish such a feat here, right?

Seeing Lu Ye reappear, Dao Thirteen's expression showed some resentment, as if blaming him for abandoning him, but he still bent down to extract a Blood Crystal from Sun Miao Zhu's chest, casually wiping it on his own clothes, then handing it to Lu Ye.

He knew well this object would be of great use to Lu Ye.

The sound of breaking through the air came from all directions, evidently other Blood Race members of Bright Moon Cave were alarmed by Sun Miao Zhu's earlier scream and were coming to investigate the situation.

Chapter 1013 Plotting for Power and Usurpation

"My lord!" Zhang Julai turned his head to look at Lu Ye, his expression inquiring.

Lu Ye pondered for a moment, then said, "From now on, the Bright Moon Cave will be under your command!"

According to his initial plan, he was to massacre all the Blood Race here.

But he hadn't expected to find some kidnapped human women here, and those women were all pregnant!

It would not be difficult to kill all the Blood Race here, but what would happen afterward? How to settle those women?

Keeping them here was inappropriate; if they were sent to nearby villages, they might be fine for a short time, but once they gave birth to Blood Race babies, the situation would become even worse.

There must be a space where they can live safely; Bright Moon Cave is the only choice, so its current state can only be maintained for now.

Only after they give birth to the Blood Race babies can they be relocated separately.

Zhang Julai was overjoyed upon hearing this, turned around, bent down, severed Sun Miao Zhu's head, and carried it by hand, striding out the door.

A group of Blood Race members rushed over from various places, and when they saw the glaring, wide-eyed head in his hand, they were all shocked.

One of the Blood Race shouted, "Zhang Julai, you killed the cave residence master? How dare you!"

Zhang Julai snorted coldly, throwing Sun Miao Zhu's head out, "From now on, I will be the master of the Bright Moon Cave. Who agrees? Who opposes?"

The blood-stained head rolled on the ground a few times, stopping in front of the Blood Race member who had shouted. He stepped forward, his expression fierce, "You think you are worthy of being the master? You don't have the qualifications."

In Bright Moon Cave, Sun Miao Zhu's strength was undoubtedly the strongest, followed by this Blood Race member who shouted, and after him, it was Zhang Julai and another Blood Race of similar cultivation.

With Sun Miao Zhu dead, no matter how Zhang Julai killed her, by Blood Race rules, only the strongest had the right to succeed the master position. The strongest Blood Race was naturally dissatisfied.

"Then let me show you whether I have the qualifications." In the past, Zhang Julai naturally wouldn't vie for the master position, as he was self-aware, but now that Lu Ye had spoken, how could he not comply?

Besides, with Lu Ye and Dao Thirteen standing behind him, who in the Bright Moon Cave did he need to fear?

"Dao Thirteen!" Zhang Julai shouted sharply.

Lu Ye immediately signaled to Dao Thirteen with a glance.

Dao Thirteen then strode out from behind Zhang Julai, heading straight for the Blood Race member who had spoken, spirit force surging around him.

The Blood Race couldn't help but laugh, "A mere Spirit Stream Realm Blood Slave dares to get arrogant!"

As he said this, he advanced and reached out to grab Dao Thirteen's head. His sharp nails pressed against Dao Thirteen's forehead, but as blood Qi spirit force surged, the Blood Race's expression suddenly changed, as the expected scene of crushing the Blood Slave's head did not occur. Instead, he felt as if he was grasping an indestructible golden stone.

What's happening?

Just as confusion appeared on his face, a fist suddenly enlarged in his field of vision.

With a loud bang, a visible shock wave burst out, blood splattering.

With one punch, Dao Thirteen exploded the head of this Blood Race member, who had the cultivation of Cloud River Level 8.

From the severed neck, blood gushed out vigorously.

This shocking scene made all present Blood Race members' faces change drastically, and they looked at Dao Thirteen in fear, finally understanding how Zhang Julai managed to kill the cave master and had the confidence to inherit the master position.

They had thought he merely subdued a robust Blood Slave, not knowing that this Blood Slave possessed such terrifying brute force.

The headless corpse wobbled, then collapsed to the ground with a thud.

This sound was like a massive hammer crashing into the heart of every Blood Race member, awakening them suddenly, and the way they looked at Zhang Julai changed.

Some were fearful, but more were envious.

"Who else thinks I am not qualified to inherit the master position?" Zhang Julai swept his cold gaze over them.

The Blood Race members looked at each other, then all knelt on one knee, placing a hand on their chest, and shouted in unison, "Greetings, Master!"

Zhang Julai's back stood much straighter, a sense of self-satisfaction emerging spontaneously.

He never thought he would have a day to inherit the master position, but of course, he hadn't forgotten that all this was brought by Lu Ye.

Though it was Dao Thirteen who acted, he was following Lu Ye's orders.

Internal struggles among the Blood Race are frequent and severe, but such conflicts generally wouldn't occur within groups gathered in one cave residence, as they understand the importance of unity.

However, exceptions do occasionally occur, and power struggles within the same cave residence sometimes happen.

This is also why many Blood Race members could quickly accept Zhang Julai; with such a powerful Blood Slave, he naturally had the qualifications to be the master.

If anyone else from the Blood Race took that position, they would struggle to win over the masses.

"Everyone retreat, and go do what you need to do. I'll call on you if there's anything," Zhang Julai waved his hand.

The Blood Race members dared not oppose and returned to where they came from.

After they retreated, Zhang Julai stepped forward, retrieved the Blood Crystal from the Blood Race member Dao Thirteen had killed, and respectfully handed it over to Lu Ye with both hands.

Lu Ye nodded slightly, "Find me a clean place."

Zhang Julai immediately led the way.

Shortly after, they arrived at a relatively spacious cave. Lu Ye casually arranged some simple restrictions and sat down cross-legged.

He took out some clean water, washed two Blood Crystals, chose the one from Sun Miao Zhu, and threw it into his mouth, crushing it.

His cultivation had now recovered to the 7th Heaven level, and the benefits of consuming a Blood Crystal were far greater than hunting in the mountains and consuming the flesh of those beasts and demon beasts, allowing him to clearly feel the unraveling of the confinement force within himself.

With this Blood Crystal, restoring his cultivation to the Cloud River Realm should be no problem.

Crunch crunch...

While chewing, Lu Ye gestured to Dao Thirteen, who was standing beside him.

Dao Thirteen then sat down next to him.

Lu Ye handed the other Blood Crystal to him, "Try it!"

Having been sent to this world by the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury, his greatest and only ally was undoubtedly Dao Thirteen. He needed to restore his strength quickly, and Dao Thirteen needed it just as much.

However, Lu Ye was unsure if Dao Thirteen could absorb the energy from the Blood Crystal.

This thing could rapidly dissolve the confinement force, but it contained many impurities. At this moment, a large amount of gray mist rose from the Talent Tree, clearly indicating that the Talent Tree was burning away those impurities.

Dao Thirteen did not have a Talent Tree, and it was uncertain if consuming the Blood Crystal would cause any issues.

But since he was a body of the Divine Sea Realm, even if something went wrong, it shouldn't cause too much harm, at least he wouldn't die. So, Lu Ye decided to let him try it.

Dao Thirteen took the Blood Crystal and frowned deeply. It was clear that he was very reluctant to eat this thing.

But since it was Lu Ye's order, he did not resist and threw the Blood Crystal into his mouth, starting to chew.

Crunch crunch...

Master and servant, both with puffed cheeks, their chewing sounds echoing.

Soon, Dao Thirteen started to show some unusual reactions. A layer of blood light appeared on his skin, flickering on and off. Even his eyes were filled with bloodshot lines, making him appear extremely agitated, with no outlet to vent his anger— only visible gusts of air exhaling from his nostrils like an enraged beast.

Lu Ye clearly felt that the spirit light on Dao Thirteen's body had become more obscure.

However, the fluctuations in Dao Thirteen's spirit force had obviously increased.

Lu Ye understood that swallowing the Blood Crystal was beneficial to Dao Thirteen, but it wasn't as effective as it was for him, because without the Talent Tree, Dao Thirteen couldn't refine all the Blood Crystal he consumed like Lu Ye could.

With his robust body of the Divine Sea Realm, he could only refine a small part of the power within.

Moreover, since the Blood Crystal contained the power of the Blood Race, it had a certain impact on Dao Thirteen's spirit force, similar to how cultivators consuming too many elixir pills too quickly would lead to the accumulation of pill poison.

The obscuring of the spirit light on his body was the most telling evidence.

In the end, Lu Ye concluded that Dao Thirteen could use the Blood Crystals to restore his cultivation, but the frequency must be controlled, or it would do him no good.

Lu Ye had already refined all the energy from the Blood Crystal, as expected, his cultivation was restored to the Cloud River Realm.

But from the external manifestation of spirit force fluctuations, it was only at the Cloud River Level 1 degree.

He still needed more Blood Crystals!

After organizing numerous thoughts about the Blood Race in his mind, Lu Ye made up his mind.

After a while, he summoned Zhang Julai and gave him a series of instructions, to which Zhang Julai continuously nodded.

A moment later, in a cave within the Bright Moon Cave, Zhang Julai sat on a stone chair, with Lu Ye and Dao Thirteen standing as protectors on his left and right, and below were a dozen or so Blood Race members.

This was the first gathering of the Blood Races for discussion after Zhang Julai became the cave residence master, and the Blood Races naturally came promptly upon hearing of it. Everyone was present except for the one stationed at the entrance of Bright Moon Cave.

This was largely due to Dao Thirteen's earlier public demonstration of might. A simple Zhang Julai wouldn't warrant such fear, but the Blood Races had witnessed Dao Thirteen's fierce power firsthand, and none thought they could withstand a punch from him.

"I've gathered everyone to announce two matters," Zhang Julai spoke, following Lu Ye's prior instructions.

The gathered Blood Races listened quietly.

"First, from today onwards, in our Bright Moon Cave, no Sacred Race member is to wantonly hunt or bully Blood Food. If anyone violates this, do not blame me for being ruthless!"

His words caused an uproar in the room.

Zhang Julai taking the position of cave residence master raised no objections, since he was fortunate enough to have acquired such a powerful Blood Slave. In the Blood Refinement World, power reigned supreme.

But Zhang Julai's order to refrain from hunting or bullying Blood Food was difficult for the Blood Races to accept.

In the deeply ingrained mindset of the Blood Race, Blood Food was merely livestock to be harvested at will. For so many years, this was how it had always been in the Blood Refinement World. Zhang Julai's command directly challenged their deeply rooted beliefs, making it hard to implement, as they needed cultivation, and obeying this order would make it difficult for their cultivation to improve.

Though the Blood Race could also enhance their cultivation by absorbing nature's spiritual energy or drawing power from Spirit Stones, such methods were nowhere near as fast as consuming the fresh blood of Blood Food.

Chapter 1014 Staying Behind

For a moment, the scene was chaotic, even with Dao Thirteen present, it seemed difficult to maintain control.

Zhang Julai slapped the armrest of his chair and angrily shouted, "Silence, all of you!"

Only then did the Blood Race quiet down, but one still spoke up, "Cave Residence Master, if that's the case, what about our future cultivation?"

Surely we can't really rely on consuming nature's spiritual energy or extracting power from Spirit Stones, what advantage would the Sacred Race have left then?

Zhang Julai had already received Lu Ye's instructions, so he confidently explained, "Banning your slaughter of Blood Food is precisely for the sake of your future cultivation! While Blood Food is easy to breed, it's hard to cultivate them to maturity. If we kill too many, sooner or later we'll end up with none to use. In the future, I will have people bring fresh blood from nearby villages periodically, ensuring your needs for cultivation."

In fact, the Blood Race absorbing human blood doesn't necessarily mean killing humans, but during the process of absorbing fresh blood, it's easy for the Blood Race to lose control, making it hard to restrain themselves, resulting in humans being drained dry.

But if merely drawing some blood from the body, it harms humans temporarily but is not life-threatening.

This too was a method thought up by Lu Ye.

He had a plan in mind, but to implement it, he had to leverage the Blood Race's power, as his identity as a human within the Blood Refinement World left him with little to accomplish.

To utilize the Blood Race's power, it was essential not to oppress them too harshly; ensuring their needs for cultivation was the bare minimum requirement.

According to this method, nearby villages need only contribute some blood periodically, and no one would die because of the Blood Race.

The Blood Refinement World is ruled by the Blood Race; unless there is strength to eradicate them entirely, improving the human race's status is difficult.

A member of the Blood Race shouted, "The blood let out... doesn't taste good."

The method Lu Ye thought of, naturally, had occurred to others before, but it was abandoned after being tried for a while due to issues of taste and flavor primarily.

The feeling of capturing a living person and consuming their fresh blood is fundamentally different from drinking blood extracted in advance.

The Blood Race inherently has a craving for consuming living blood.

Of course, it doesn't significantly affect cultivation.

Zhang Julai shouted angrily, "This is the first command of this Cave Residence Master; you will listen whether you want to or not!"

Although the Blood Race was not too happy, when they saw Zhang Julai get angry, they still agreed verbally, unaware of why he would issue such an order.

"Don't think of acting secretly; if anyone dares to disobey under the guise of compliance, you will not be spared." Zhang Julai commanded again.

This is the rule of the Blood Refinement World; the bigger fist rules. With Dao Thirteen as deterrence, none of the Blood Race under him dared disobey in his presence.

"The second matter..." Zhang Julai spoke again, "I plan to attack the Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion!"

The Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion is adjacent to the Bright Moon Cave Residence, naturally leading to some friction. The Blood Race member who fought with Zhang Julai before was from there.

The Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion had attacked the Bright Moon Cave Residence three times, but each time was repelled by Sun Miao Zhu leading Zhang Julai and the others, though at the cost of some Blood Race lives, planting seeds of hatred.

So when Zhang Julai announced his intention to attack the Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion, the previously gloomy Blood Race suddenly became excited, with someone shouting, "We should have attacked them long ago, Cave Residence Master, I'll be the first to charge in!"

"Cave Residence Master, count me in!"

"I'm going too!"

The crowd's emotions surged, eager to march to the Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion immediately and show them what they're made of.

Lu Ye stood silently beside Zhang Julai, observing, realizing the Blood Race's eagerness for battle. While he had a lot of information about the Blood Refinement World in his mind, witnessing it firsthand was different.

The Blood Race is so eager for mutual conflict, all for Blood Crystals!

Compared to nature's spiritual energy, Spirit Stones, or the fresh blood of Blood Food, Blood Crystals are the resource the Blood Race most desires for cultivation, akin to how demon beasts in the Nine Provinces World often clash because they also enhance themselves by consuming demonic pills.

The announcement of the second command quickly dispelled the oppression and discontent brought by the first command.

Zhang Julai nodded in satisfaction, "Very well, in that case, rest today, and we set off tomorrow!"

Someone asked, "Cave Residence Master, are all of us going? Do we need to leave anyone to guard?"

"No need to guard, everyone is going." Zhang Julai waved his big hand, even making those few from the Spirit Stream Realm excited, not fearing death at all, though it's unclear what use they could have there.

Sending everyone out was naturally Lu Ye's idea, for him, there would inevitably be losses in this battle, especially those at the Spirit Stream Realm, likely having no chance of returning alive.

As long as Dao Thirteen stays with Zhang Julai, the battle situation can be controlled, how many die or survive depends on Dao Thirteen's actions.

Zhang Julai certainly wouldn't feel sad over Blood Race deaths; in fact, the more that die, the better, as each member has their own Blood Crystal, albeit of varying quality.

Currently, what he lacks are Blood Crystals.

However, not too many can die, they need to gather more people than they have now because his target is not limited to the Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion.

He had more ideas to implement, and all of this required a strong enough power base. It was difficult to achieve anything by relying on himself alone.

An uneventful night passed, and the next morning, Zhang Julai led the Blood Race of Bright Moon Cave Residence out with a fierce momentum.

Dao Thirteen followed along.

Lu Ye stayed behind, officially under Zhang Julai's order to guard the cave residence, but in reality, Lu Ye didn't want to waste time. His current abilities were limited, so the task of attacking the Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion was left to Dao Thirteen.

Throughout the entire Bright Moon Cave Residence, apart from him, there were only the human captives, mostly women, with only a few men.

With no Blood Race guarding them, they didn't even know how to escape, mainly because they couldn't.

The cave entrance hung on a cliff wall, making it impossible for these humans with little cultivation to leave.

Lu Ye set up a warning formation at the cave entrance and stayed in his own cavern.

He didn't need to concern himself about those humans, primarily because he didn't know how to manage them. Survival was not something he needed to worry about; the Blood Race at Bright Moon Cave Residence had brought in captured wild beasts and Spirit Rice from nearby villages, enough for the humans to survive on.

They only needed to take care of themselves.

Sitting cross-legged in his cave, Lu Ye immersed his mind, observing the new spirit runes on his Talent Tree.

Previously, in the Nameless Secret Realm, he had obtained two spirit runes, one being Soul Taming, which had a significant impact. Both Dao Thirteen and Zhang Julai could be considered his soul slaves.

Under Soul Taming, he had absolute control over the soul slaves, without worrying about any rebellious thoughts arising from them.

The other was As-Close-As-Siblings.

This spirit rune was somewhat similar to Twin Flying Phoenixes, both used to borrow power, but it was easy to perform and hard to maintain.

Unlike Twin Flying Phoenixes, once the Twin Flying Phoenixes Spirit Runes are formed, they imprint on the contact point between Lu Ye and another person, maintained by Lu Ye, making it impossible for them to dissipate.

But As-Close-As-Siblings didn't have such strong stability. When spirit force surged, the spirit runes might collapse.

Moreover, because this spirit rune's effect was not limited to two people, there would be more uncontrollable factors involved.

When he first obtained this spirit rune, Lu Ye didn't think much, but as he calmed down to ponder, he realized this rune was a killing weapon!

A killing weapon that could exert immense power in certain situations.

For example, in a battle between two armies, even if the cultivators on one side were well-coordinated, they couldn't borrow power from each other. On the other side, if the cultivators used As-Close-As-Siblings, with their auras interlinked, the stronger and weaker strength would be evident at a glance.

More so, with this spirit rune as the core, one could set up an unprecedented large array, concentrating the power of all cultivators within the array. If achieved, its impact would be beyond imagination.

It was only at this point that Lu Ye realized he had underestimated the use of this spirit rune.

He had borrowed many books on spirit runes from his master's Bibliotheca, reading and learning about numerous spirit runes, but he had never heard of such a rune.

Including Soul Taming, Twin Flying Phoenixes, and the telepathy-like spirit runes, before they were activated on his Talent Tree, Lu Ye never imagined such mystical runes existed in the world.

The Path of Spirit Runes was indeed vast and profound!

The uses of the As-Close-As-Siblings Spirit Runes still needed thorough research.

However, he could first use this spirit rune as the core to refine an array disc, making it possible for anyone holding an As-Close-As-Siblings Formation to activate its effects anytime, allowing companions nearby to borrow power from each other, thereby enabling one to exert greater strength.

This would help with some plans in his mind.

Once thought, it's time to act.

Lu Ye had studied Artifact Refining for two months with Khong Khong in the Sword Weapon Sect's secret realm, and he had already had an introductory knowledge of the Path of Artifact Refining, though he hadn't delved deeply into it due to a lack of distraction.

Still, for him, even without the right tools, refining an array disc using his own fire attribute spirit force was no difficult matter.

The most it would do was take some effort due to his currently restricted cultivation.

He had many materials in his storage sack, from which he picked some, using spirit force to envelop and incinerate them.

Time passed, and Lu Ye spent half a day refining an array disc containing the As-Close-As-Siblings Spirit Runes, although the array disc wasn't very exquisite due to his current Cloud River Level 1 cultivation.

Channeling spirit force into it, the array disc hummed, and a halo rippled outwards, revealing that the halo was obviously constructed from fine Yin-Yang Dual Origins, radiating a range of one square meter centered on the array disc.

Lu Ye couldn't help but frown.

This was somewhat different from what he had imagined...

The range of one square meter meant that within this range, cultivators could borrow power from each other. Once outside this range, it wouldn't work.

Chapter 1015 Lann Qiyue

If the power of an array disc could only cover such a small range when activated, then its effectiveness would be rather limited.

Of course, this might be related to his current cultivation being restricted, along with his lack of skilled techniques in refining the array disc.

Perhaps in the future, when his cultivation increases and his skills improve, this kind of array disc might cover a larger area.

Just as he was thinking this, a heart-wrenching scream suddenly came through.

Lu Ye furrowed his brows and looked in the direction the sound came from.

The scream came again. Initially, Lu Ye thought someone had fallen victim to something sinister, but he quickly realized the situation might not be as he imagined.

He stood up and walked out of the cave, following the direction of the sound.

The sound came from the direction of the cave entrance, where the human race women who were pregnant resided.

As Lu Ye approached, the pregnant mothers in each cave dwelling peeked out, faces full of worry.

When they noticed Lu Ye's footsteps, these women quickly retracted their heads, hiding in the corners.

Lu Ye walked straight to the doorway on his left, glanced inside, and found a woman sitting on the ground with a pale complexion. Her face and forehead were covered in sweat, her hair disheveled. One hand was gripping the stone wall beside her so tightly that blood dripped from it, while the other hand was on her belly.

Blood was flowing between her legs.

This woman... was about to give birth.

Even though he had guessed this, Lu Ye had never encountered such a situation before and did not know how to handle it for a moment.

Fortunately, he quickly reacted and turned his head to shout, "Does anyone know how to deliver a baby?"

This couldn't be the first time a human woman had given birth here. Surely someone had given birth before and someone had experience.

No one dared to speak.

To these human women who were taken here, they hadn't left their cave dwellings since arriving here, nor had they spoken to anyone. Naturally, they dared not answer Lu Ye's question.

Lu Ye frowned and had to speak again, "Who has experience? Come out and help!"

Still, no response.

Lu Ye had no choice but to enter the cave himself since he couldn't just grab someone randomly to help; it might make things worse.

As he walked in, the woman in labor looked up, gazing at him with a mixture of pain and a pleading look in her eyes.

Lu Ye stepped forward, thought for a moment, and placed his hand on her shoulder, "I don't know what to do, this is something you'll have to work on yourself, but I'll try my best to support you."

Saying this, he gently channeled some spirit force into her body.

The woman was not an ordinary person; she possessed some cultivation, but it was low, at the Spirit Stream Level 4.

Even so, the pain of childbirth was unbearable for her. In such an environment, without anyone to assist, there was a real danger to her life.

With the activation of spirit force, the woman's tightly furrowed brows relaxed slightly, and she took a deep breath, exerting effort, letting out a suppressed scream.

At this moment, Lu Ye had a look of disbelief on his face, because he had discovered something difficult to comprehend as he silently sensed the woman's internal condition by channeling spirit force.

Time passed, and the woman's labor was not progressing well. Despite several bursts of strength, she still couldn't deliver the fetus, becoming weaker instead, and even her life force gradually waned. How could she have the strength to continue giving birth?

The human race giving birth to the Blood Race's offspring required a vast consumption of the mother's essence. Typically, women who had given birth to a Blood Race child wouldn't live long.

Often, human women would die during childbirth.

At such times, the Blood Race would cut open the abdomen to retrieve the embryo.

As for now, Lu Ye could clearly feel that the embryo within the woman's womb was voraciously devouring everything from the mother's body, which was why, despite her Spirit Stream Level 4 cultivation, she couldn't successfully deliver the fetus.

Had it been a normal fetus, it would have been born by now.

Feeling the woman's dwindling life force, Lu Ye knew that if he did nothing, she would surely die here.

Without further hesitation, he activated the Twin Flying Phoenixes Spirit Runes on the woman.

In an instant, the spirit runes were constructed, and the woman, who had fallen into despair with tears at the corners of her eyes, suddenly opened her eyes. She felt a surging and astonishing life force being infused into her in an unknown way, like a parched land receiving rainfall, not only granting her strength but also swiftly replenishing the essence devoured by the fetus during pregnancy.

She naturally knew the source of all this, turned her head to look at Lu Ye gripping her arm, and cast him a grateful glance before exerting her strength again.

Shortly after, with the woman's final scream, the fetus was successfully born.

Lu Ye looked up ahead, his eyelids slightly drooping.

There was no sound of a baby's cry because the Blood Race's offspring did not emerge in the form of a baby.

What the woman gave birth to was an oval-shaped, blood-red egg with visible veins.

At a glance, it looked like a fleshy egg, with its surface veins gently pulsing, as if it were breathing.

In the Blood Race's terminology, this was a Blood Embryo!

To nurture a blood embryo, the Blood Race must send it to certain special places, only then will it hatch and transform into a true member of the Blood Race. And the place to nurture these blood embryos is called the Blood River!

Throughout the Blood Refinement World, the Blood River runs through all directions, with branches in various locations. One could say the Blood River is the foundation of the Blood Race in the Blood Refinement World.

Without the Blood River, there would be no Blood Race.

These pieces of information were all glimpsed by Lu Ye from the memories of the deceased Blood Race member.

Lu Ye gazed at the blood embryo, recalling the intelligence he had obtained, only to be caught off guard when the woman beside him suddenly stood up and drew the Boulder Mountain Saber from his waist, fiercely chopping at the blood embryo between her legs.

With just one slash, a gap was cleaved into the blood embryo.

However, because the Boulder Mountain Saber was not particularly sharp, it failed to cut it open completely.

The woman's action of pulling out the saber undoubtedly left Lu Ye astonished. In this world, within the beliefs of the human race, the Blood Race was sacred and inviolable. No matter what the Blood Race did to them, they would silently endure it. Even if their lives were demanded by the Blood Race, they wouldn't resist.

This was neither weakness nor cowardice, but ingrained ideology at work over a long period.

Not only did the Blood Race treat the human race in this world like livestock, but even the human race themselves only saw themselves as such.

Under such overwhelming forces, for a human woman to have the courage to draw a saber and strike at a blood embryo was utterly unbelievable.

So, although he could have stopped her, he didn't take action.

He just watched as the woman cried and shouted, wielding the Boulder Mountain Saber, and hacked the blood embryo into pieces.

The ground was flowing with fresh blood.

When the blood embryo was completely unrecognizable, the woman finally broke down into tears, a heart-wrenching sob.

Lu Ye silently retrieved the Boulder Mountain Saber, sheathed it, and stood up to exit the cave.

Though he had no experience in childbirth, he knew at least one thing: a lot of hot water was needed at this moment.

He decided to boil some hot water.

There was no need for him to do it himself; he called upon two humans who had previously served Sun Miao Zhu, gave them simple instructions, and soon a basin of hot water was brought.

Lu Ye personally delivered it to the woman's cave, allowing her to cleanse herself before he left.

Though pregnancy and birth had depleted her significantly, with the nourishment of the Twin Flying Phoenixes Spirit Runes, she had replenished herself. After resting briefly, she was completely restored.

A flurry of activity.

Two hours later, while Lu Ye was researching how to better refine the Spirit Runes Array with the As-Close-As-Siblings Spirit Runes, he heard footsteps approaching. Soon, someone stopped in front of his cave entrance.

Lu Ye set down the array disc he was holding and looked up to see the woman standing there shyly. She must have washed herself; the previous filth was gone, but her clothes were still dirty with nothing to change into.

Her hair was slightly tidied, yet a bit disheveled.

She stood nervously at the cave entrance, meeting Lu Ye's gaze. After a moment's hesitation, she raised her head and walked straight in, knelt before Lu Ye, and knocked her head on the ground several times.

Probably intending to express gratitude.

After all, without Lu Ye, she would most likely be dead.

Lu Ye activated his spirit force and raised a hand.

The woman's upper body involuntarily straightened.

"What's your name?" Lu Ye asked.

The woman replied, "Lann Qiyue."

Her voice carried a trace of hoarseness. Although her body's depletion had been restored due to Lu Ye, she had just been shouting so loudly.

"Why did you kill the blood embryo?" Lu Ye asked again, "After all, it was birthed by you."

The now-calm Lann Qiyue suddenly became agitated again, "The Blood Race are all vile! If he grew up, who knows how many people he would harm, so I killed him!"

Lu Ye noticed one thing: she referred to the Blood Race not as the Sacred Race but directly as the Blood Race, and there was no reverence, only endless hatred and resentment.

This was something entirely absent in the villagers of Cangnan Village.

It seemed that even under the overwhelming forces of the Blood Refinement World, there were still those who were naturally resistant.

"Do you think I shouldn't have killed?" Lann Qiyue looked at Lu Ye.

"No." Lu Ye shook his head, "Even if you hadn't killed, I wouldn't have let him live."

Though innocent the young might be, blood race is ultimately blood race. As Lann Qiyue said, if he grew up, who knows how many humans he would harm. Lu Ye never intended for the blood embryo to survive.

Receiving such an answer, Lann Qiyue was clearly surprised. She looked at Lu Ye with a stunned expression. She did not know who Lu Ye was; she only saw him return with Zhang Julai the previous day and assumed Lu Ye to be Zhang's Blood Slave.

But today, her life had been saved by Lu Ye, so she did not want to deceive him and answered straightly.

As it turned out, the man before her didn't seem like a Blood Slave. After all, a Blood Slave would never harbor intent to harm a Blood Race member.

Chapter 1016 Innate Taoist Body

"Would you like to cultivate?"

As Lann Qiyue was lost in thought, she heard Lu Ye's voice again near her ear.

Lann Qiyue was startled and quickly bowed down to the ground once more, respectfully kowtowing, "I wish to cultivate with you, master!"

Lu Ye nodded, becoming more certain that this woman was different from the majority of the human race in the Blood Refinement World.

There were two reasons why he decided to teach her cultivation.

In just one Bright Moon Cave Residence, there were many pregnant mothers waiting to give birth. In the future, these mothers were surely going to give birth to Blood Race infants, and it wouldn't be appropriate for him, a man, to always be the one to help with the childbirth.

So he needed someone by his side who could assist in this aspect.

Dao Thirteen couldn't be relied on for this; that simple-minded guy was probably even less capable than himself.

Lann Qiyue was undeniably the best choice. She had her own opinions, a heart that resisted the Blood Race, and had experience with childbirth.

Entrusting this matter to her was most fitting.

However, childbirth was extremely dangerous for human mothers. Lann Qiyue's cultivation at Spirit Stream Level 4 was ultimately too low, and a higher level of prowess would better ensure the safety of those human mothers.

As for the other reason...

It was something Lu Ye had discovered when he had previously channeled his spirit force to protect Lann Qiyue during childbirth.

This woman before him, the numerous spiritual orifices within her were all open, with no orifice barriers at all. When he channeled his spirit force into Lann Qiyue's body, there was not the slightest blockage; the spirit force flowed through her, unimpeded.

This was an extremely incredible matter.

Take Lu Ye himself, for example. Back when he was at the Spirit Stream Realm, opening one spiritual orifice after another required breaking through orifice barriers, from none to some, until he opened 360 orifices to perform the Major Circumambulation.

This is how it is for most human race cultivators, and it's also why many cultivators' cultivation remains forever at the Spirit Stream Realm. The further they go, the harder it becomes to break the orifice barriers. Those who can't open 240 orifices can only linger in the Spirit Stream Realm. Only by opening 240 orifices can there be hope of advancing to Cloud River.

Even those who can open 240 orifices are not necessarily able to reach the full 360-orifice Major Circumambulation tally.

In the Nine Provinces World, those who could achieve such feats were promising candidates for the Divine Sea Realm.

But the numerous spiritual orifices within Lann Qiyue's body were naturally in a state of openness, which was why Lu Ye was so astonished at the time.

Natural orifices; Lu Ye had heard of them before. Such people are usually called Innate Taoist Bodies!

Such individuals, so long as they have ample cultivation resources, face no bottlenecks at the Spirit Stream Realm level, meaning Lann Qiyue could easily bypass this level and enter Cloud River.

As for how far she could progress after entering Cloud River, that would depend on her own cultivation aptitude.

However, with an Innate Taoist Body, their talent is top-notch, so it can be anticipated that Lann Qiyue's future accomplishments won't be low.

If it were an ordinary human woman, Lu Ye wouldn't want to waste his effort and Heart Power. But finding such an Innate Taoist Body was rare, and it would be a great pity to leave her untended.

This is why Lu Ye decided to teach Lann Qiyue cultivation.

"We're about the same age; you might even be two or three years younger than me, so you don't need to call me master. From now on, just call me Senior Brother."

"Senior Brother?" Lann Qiyue looked confused.

In the Blood Refinement World, there were no sects, thus there were no titles like Senior Brother and Junior Brother.

"My surname is Lu, named Ye."

"Senior Brother Lu Ye." Lann Qiyue quickly responded.

Lu Ye nodded, "Extend your hand."

Lann Qiyue extended a hand.

Lu Ye placed his hand on her wrist, slightly channeling his spirit force, following the path of the Great Sun Glazed Glass Method, circulating spirit force through her body once.

Lann Qiyue closed her eyes, silently feeling and remembering the flow of spirit force.

In the Blood Refinement World, although the human race could cultivate, the Blood Race would even intentionally impart some cultivation techniques to the human race, but none of those cultivation techniques were complete because the Blood Race would not allow the human race to develop cultivators with too high a cultivation level.

In various places where humans gathered, Spirit Stream Realm cultivation level was the most common and prevalent. Only those valued by the Blood Race and taken as Blood Slaves would receive more gifts and have the chance to cultivate to higher realms.

After a moment, Lu Ye withdrew his hand, "Did you memorize it?"

Lann Qiyue nodded thoughtfully, "I remembered."

"The cave dwelling next to mine is vacant; you can live there from now on. If you have any questions about cultivation, come ask me." Lu Ye said this, then took out a storage sack, turned it over, filled it with some elixir pills, Spirit Stones, and a few sets of clothes for her. He also cautioned her not to ingest too many elixir pills during cultivation to avoid accumulating pill poison in her body.

"Thank you, Senior Brother Lu Ye." Lann Qiyue accepted the sack and expressed her gratitude.

"Also, those women outside will need your care. If there are any who give birth, help them."

Lann Qiyue nodded with pursed lips, acknowledging that she would do this even if Lu Ye hadn't mentioned it.

After a moment's hesitation, she asked, "Senior Brother Lu Ye, about the Blood Embryos they give birth to..."

"Kill!" Lu Ye uttered the word coldly.

Lann Qiyue's gaze was firm, gladly agreeing.

Lann Qiyue settled in the kiln cave next to Lu Ye.

A day later, Zhang Julai returned triumphantly and reported the battle situation to Lu Ye as soon as possible.

The overall strength of the Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion is somewhat stronger than that of the Bright Moon Cave, mainly because they have a larger number of Blood Race members, which is the reason why the Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion has been the aggressor.

However, with Dao Thirteen accompanying the battle and holding the line, the Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion had no power to resist.

In a single battle, both sides lost more than half their forces, but the fierce battle turned one-sided after Dao Thirteen intervened.

Especially after seeing Dao Thirteen easily kill the cave master of the Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion, the remaining Blood Race members lost their will to resist and surrendered one after another.

Although the struggles among the Blood Race are intense, there is an unspoken rule that surrender is acceptable in these situations, and it is not considered disgraceful.

So Zhang Julai led out about a dozen Blood Race members and brought back a similar number, with little change in quantity but a significant improvement in overall strength.

The Spirit Stream Level Blood Race who went out to battle indeed did not survive, all dying in action over there.

"According to the lord's instructions, I have brought back the human captives from the Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion, while others have been sent to safe places for dispersal. Additionally, the battle yielded eleven Blood Crystals, five of which were distributed, leaving six."

Zhang Julai spoke as he respectfully offered the six varied-quality Blood Crystals.

Distributing half of the acquired Blood Crystals was also Lu Ye's directive.

Lu Ye understood that you need to feed the horse to make it run, so while he urgently needed Blood Crystals to restore his cultivation, he wouldn't take everything for himself.

Moreover, Zhang Julai had already ordered the Blood Race at Bright Moon Cave not to consume fresh blood anymore, which had discontented many. Seizing all the spoils would not aid future governance.

Distributing half of the Blood Crystals is the best approach, allowing the Blood Race to have enough to eat, but not too much.

Lu Ye raised his hand and took five of the Blood Crystals.

Zhang Julai was overjoyed, "Thank you, lord, for your generosity."

He had thought Lu Ye would take them all, so he was naturally grateful to be left with one.

"Advance to the True Lake Realm soon; your cultivation is too low!" Lu Ye said indifferently.

"Yes, I will not disappoint the lord," Zhang Julai responded with trepidation.

He could feel that Lu Ye had great ambition. For now, his Cloud River Realm cultivation was still of some use, but as time went on, his importance would only diminish. If one day he could no longer assist Lu Ye, he would be deemed worthless, and his fate would certainly be tragic.

Zhang Julai had never been so eager to cultivate.

"Tell the newcomers about our rules. You should know what to do with those who defy them."

"Yes."

"You may leave now." Lu Ye waved his hand dismissively.

Zhang Julai withdrew.

Holding five Blood Crystals, Lu Ye took out one of the smaller ones and handed it to Dao Thirteen standing nearby.

It wasn't that he was stingy. It's just that Blood Crystals are the essence of a Blood Race member's life-long cultivation, similar to demonic pills. Dao Thirteen, without a Talent Tree, couldn't burn away the impurities in Blood Crystals and it wasn't healthy to consume too much.

Given his robust foundation as a physique cultivator with a Divine Sea Realm base, Lu Ye dared to let him consume this.

But to help Dao Thirteen quickly restore his cultivation, he had to use Blood Crystals, thus the timing had to be managed.

Dao Thirteen accepted it and started chewing right away.

Lu Ye also picked up a Blood Crystal and placed it in his mouth.

Currently, he had restored his cultivation to the Cloud River Realm level; these four Blood Crystals might allow him to reach the True Lake Realm.

The Blood Race at Bright Moon Cave rested for two days before setting forth again under Zhang Julai's leadership.

In the vicinity, there were multiple grottos like the Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion to attack. Typically, the Blood Refinement World had a Blood Race grotto every thirty miles or so.

To recover his cultivation with Blood Crystals, Lu Ye could only target these Blood Race members.

Four Blood Crystals did not let Lu Ye restore to the True Lake Realm, as he got stuck at Cloud River Level 9, which was quite embarrassing. However, once Zhang Julai returned, reaching True Lake Realm wouldn't be a problem anymore.

When the Blood Race was not at Bright Moon Cave, Lu Ye spent most of his time studying the array disc of the As-Close-As-Siblings Spirit Runes, pondering improvement methods.

He was also contemplating why the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury had sent him to the Blood Refinement World.

Surely, it wasn't to make him unify the Blood Refinement World.

That's too ambitious a goal. Based on the information he's gathered, this realm is a world not inferior to the Nine Provinces, with many Divine Sea Realm experts.

If he truly had the power to unify the Blood Refinement World and eliminate all the Blood Race, he could just as easily unify the Nine Provinces.

Therefore, the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury certainly didn't send him here to unify the Blood Refinement World.

Nor could it be to save the human race here.

The state of the Blood Refinement World is such that rescuing the humans here would first require unifying the Blood Refinement World and exterminating all the Blood Race.

Lu Ye couldn't figure out for the moment the purpose behind the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury sending him here.

Chapter 1017 Zhang Julai's Choice

On another note, Lu Ye felt rather helpless. How was he supposed to return to the Nine Provinces?

This experience was different from the last time he entered the Unparalleled Continent.

Before entering the Unparalleled Continent, he had four Heavenly Pillars. With the Heavenly Pillars as a connection, he could teleport back to the Nine Provinces.

This time, without the Heavenly Pillars, there was naturally no way to teleport back to the Nine Provinces.

He had no clear direction for the moment.

But finding a way back was undoubtedly the most pressing task at hand. Only by finding the route back could Lu Ye act without worry, fully engaging in the Blood Refinement World. Not daring to claim he could unify the Blood Refinement World and save the human race here, at the very least, he could strive to ensure that as many humans as possible were not persecuted by the Blood Race.

Lann Qiyue's cultivation was going smoothly. Since that day of departure, she had been continuously cultivating and by the time Lu Ye saw her again, she had already reached Spirit Stream Level 6.

This couldn't help but make Lu Ye marvel at the terror of an Innate Taoist Body. Of course, it was also related to the ample cultivation resources he provided. Lann Qiyue's Innate Taoist Body faced no bottleneck at the Spirit Stream Realm, and with abundant resources, the cultivation speed was naturally quick.

Time passed, and in the blink of an eye, a month had gone by.

The number of Blood Race members in the Bright Moon Cave Residence had visibly increased. Now, there were about forty to fifty of them. Originally, only over ten Blood Race members lived in the Bright Moon Cave, which was quite spacious, but now it felt cramped with more people.

Among these Blood Race members, aside from Zhang Julai, only two from the original group at the Bright Moon Cave Residence survived. The rest were all surrendered from nearby cave residences.

Not only had the Blood Race increased, but the number of pregnant human mothers had also surpassed a hundred.

Every time a cave residence was captured, Zhang Julai would bring back the pregnant mothers to the Bright Moon Cave, which was also Lu Ye's instruction.

These unfortunate human women, carrying the Blood Race's blood embryos, couldn't simply be left at their original residences, and relocating them to nearby villages was even more unrealistic, so they could only be brought back for now.

As for those women who were not pregnant or men taken to serve the Blood Race, they were all sent to safe places for dispersal.

With more Blood Race members, the Bright Moon Cave became somewhat chaotic.

However, after Dao Thirteen intervened and killed two unruly Blood Race members who attempted to violate the human women, the Blood Race members settled down.

Over the month, Lu Ye consumed many Blood Crystals, and his cultivation had fully recovered.

Dao Thirteen still needed some time. Currently, his apparent cultivation was only at the Cloud River Level 7. To restore his original Divine Sea Realm cultivation would undoubtedly take more time, but with his Divine Sea Realm foundation, as long as he didn't encounter a Divine Sea Realm Blood Race, there was basically no one who could match him.

In Lu Ye's cave, Dao Thirteen sat cross-legged on the side, appearing quite bored.

Zhang Julai glanced at Lu Ye with a nervous expression, "Sir, given the current situation, we either expand the cave residence or move to capture a larger territory. What is your decision, Sir?"

The small Bright Moon Cave Residence now housed too many people. Not to mention the Blood Race, even the pregnant human mothers were crowded, several in one kiln room.

To have a stable living environment, there was no choice but to find another solution.

Expanding the cave residence or capturing a larger territory were the only two methods Zhang Julai could think of.

The former was simple, only requiring the Blood Race to exert some effort for a while, but if it were the latter, it would mean attacking a location guarded by True Lake Realm Blood Race.

This was quite stressful for Zhang Julai.

Because even if they succeeded, his lack of cultivation would make it hard to command respect. He understood that the strength of his current subordinates was not due to his own abilities but because of Lu Ye's support.

Indeed, he also knew Lu Ye could not be content with the current situation. Since he started frequently leading people to attack nearby cave residences, he knew it was only a matter of time before confronting a higher-level residence.

These days he was constantly worried about this.

"You don't know what I want?" Lu Ye looked at him blandly, "Why ask me?"

Lu Ye was quite dissatisfied with this soul slave of his, mainly because this guy's cultivation improved too slowly.

During their small skirmishes, his Cloud River Realm cultivation could hold the scene, but if his cultivation couldn't break through to the True Lake Realm, he would be less effective in the future.

Zhang Julai broke into a sweat, knowing Lu Ye's intentions, and said, "Sir, please give me a few days."

"For what?"

"I plan to make a trip to the Blood River!" Zhang Julai gritted his teeth and said.

The Blood River is the essence of the Blood Race. It is not only the cradle for hatching blood embryos but also a miraculous place for washing the Blood Race bloodline, enhancing the Blood Race's power in a short time.

But the Blood River is an extremely peculiar place.

Placing blood embryos in it generally doesn't pose significant problems. Most blood embryos can hatch safely in the Blood River, and Blood Race infants can grow rapidly within, maturing into adults within a few years.

However, there is a substantial risk for adult Blood Race entering the Blood River.

Nobody knows why, but it has been like this since ancient times.

But if one can survive those risks, the Blood Race can gain unimaginable benefits, with major power boosts being the most basic. If lucky enough, one might even refine their bloodline to become a true Sacred Race.

The Sacred Race is what the human race in the Blood Refinement World calls the Blood Race.

They call themselves that too.

But within the Blood Race, there are truly noble ones, commonly referred to as Sacred Seeds.

Compared to ordinary Blood Race, Sacred Seeds have greater potential, can wield more formidable power, and naturally suppress ordinary Blood Race through bloodline.

However, even in the vast Blood Refinement World, the number of true Sacred Seeds is extremely rare.

Zhang Julai never thought he could become a Sacred Seed. He just knew that it was impossible for his cultivation to significantly improve in a short time, and once he became useless to Lu Ye, his fate would be grim.

Under the effect of Soul Taming Divine Runes, Zhang Julai bore no rebellion against Lu Ye, but he was unwilling to become a dispensable figure by Lu Ye's side.

In the past, he never dared to venture into the Blood River for cultivation because it was too dangerous. Out of ten thousand Blood Race entering the Blood River, perhaps not even one would survive.

He didn't think he had anything special compared to other Blood Race, and entering the Blood River was surely a near-death experience. Yet, to continue serving Lu Ye, he decided to brave the Blood River.

"Have you made up your mind?" Lu Ye naturally knew what he was thinking.

"Yes, I ask for your permission, sir." Although Zhang Julai was afraid, he remained resolute.

Lu Ye nodded, "In that case, go tomorrow!"

"Yes!" Zhang Julai withdrew, evidently to prepare for entering the Blood River — at the very least, to recuperate in anticipation of tomorrow's trial.

After Zhang Julai left, a figure suddenly appeared at the door. Lu Ye looked up to see it was Lann Qiyue, who lived in the neighboring cave.

Recently, Lann Qiyue's cultivation had advanced rapidly, now reaching Spirit Stream Level 8. At such a cultivation speed, no cultivator in the Nine Provinces could compare.

Back then, Lu Ye's cultivation speed was considered fast, but at the Spirit Stream level, he averaged two to three months to progress a level.

Especially in the late Spirit Stream Realm, each level upgrade took quite some time.

Seeing Lann Qiyue advance four small levels in just a month, Lu Ye couldn't believe it without witnessing it firsthand.

Lann Qiyue came to ask Lu Ye some questions regarding cultivation.

Clarifying Lann Qiyue's doubts took little effort.

Finally, Lann Qiyue said, "Recently, two more sisters have given birth to a Blood Embryo. Fortunately, their lives are not in danger. I've taken care of the Blood Embryos, but it's not suitable for them to stay here. I'd like to ask Brother Thirteen to help me escort them out."

Having attacked many nearby cave residences, all pregnant women were concentrated at the Bright Moon Cave Residence, increasing the birth frequency. Previously, some had delivered Blood Embryos, and Lann Qiyue handled it the same way.

The Blood Embryos were directly eliminated to prevent future troubles. For women who birthed Blood Embryos, she asked Dao Thirteen to help relocate them to nearby villages. She accompanied them because Dao Thirteen struggled with human interaction, and she, being a human of this world, found communication easier.

"I'll go with you tomorrow," Lu Ye said.

Lann Qiyue asked, "Brother, are you going out tomorrow?" It was a curious thing, as Lu Ye had stayed in his cave the whole time, only leaving that day to assist her in childbirth.

"There's something I'd like to see," Lu Ye casually explained.

Lann Qiyue naturally had no objections.

The night passed without conversation, and by the next day, Zhang Julai left the Bright Moon Cave Residence with a solemn expression. He was surprised upon seeing a figure standing at the entrance and whispered, "Sir, you are...?"

"I'll accompany you to see the Blood River," Lu Ye was naturally curious about the existence of the Blood River. Earlier, when his cultivation hadn't recovered, he couldn't wander around, but now he could take a look and see why the Blood River is so miraculous.

Zhang Julai assumed Lu Ye was concerned for his safety, feeling somewhat moved.

Lu Ye then summoned the spirit ark, loaded the two human women aboard, called Lann Qiyue, and set off in one direction, with Zhang Julai following closely.

Dao Thirteen stayed to guard, as Blood Race was never a peaceful bunch, and without anyone watching the place, who knew what they might do to those pregnant women.

Lu Ye didn't want to return to find a tragedy had occurred.

They swiftly traveled, and soon arrived near Cangnan Village. Lu Ye stopped the spirit ark and instructed Lann Qiyue, "Take them into the village."

Before, it was always Lann Qiyue who personally escorted those human women to Cangnan Village for settlement.

Lann Qiyue complied and returned shortly, evidently having handed the two women over to the village chief.

The group set off again.

They flew for less than half a day's time, arriving at a bare mountaintop. This mountain was very peculiar, with a radius of dozens of miles without any vegetation, appearing extremely desolate.

At the mountain's peak was a pond two to three acres in size.

The pond wasn't filled with clear water but a thick, blood-red liquid.

It appeared as though the entire pond was filled with fresh blood.

Chapter 1018 Accident

Before even getting close, the smell of blood assaulted my nostrils.

Blood Pool!

This is also one of the manifestations of the Blood River in the Blood Refinement World.

The Blood River is an underground river, hidden deep underground and not flowing on the surface. These blood pools scattered across the Blood Refinement World serve as pathways and entrances for the Blood Race to dive into the Blood River.

Standing beside the Blood Pool, Lu Ye focused and examined it, frowning deeply.

Although he had obtained some information about the Blood Pools from the memories of the dead Blood Race, seeing them firsthand was a different experience altogether.

The blood water in the Blood Pool, at first glance, in its form, color, and even smell, was indistinguishable from real blood—it was exceedingly bizarre.

On the surface of the Blood Pool, bubbles of various sizes continuously rose from below and burst, causing blood water to splash.

At this place, Zhang Julai's expression became increasingly heavy; moving forward, life or death depended on his own fortune. But now, as Lu Ye's soul slave, if he wanted to follow Lu Ye for the long haul, he had to take this step.

Taking a deep breath, he turned around and performed a salutation customary among the Blood Race: "My lord, I'm going."

Lu Ye nodded slightly.

Without hesitating further, Zhang Julai leapt into the Blood River, not even causing a splash.

Lu Ye activated his Mental Consciousness, trying to probe Zhang Julai's condition, but to his surprise, his Mind Consciousness couldn't penetrate within one zhang (about 3.3 meters) into the blood water.

The blood water in this Blood Pool unexpectedly had the effect of blocking Mental Consciousness.

However, Lu Ye didn't care much about this; although Zhang Julai was his soul slave, as a member of the Blood Race, how could he not have taken lives? Before encountering Lu Ye, he must have caused harm to some humans.

So even if Zhang Julai were to die here, Lu Ye wouldn't feel grief. A soul slave is something he could easily acquire again. Now that his cultivation had been restored, Blood Race below the Divine Sea Realm was no match for him.

He bent down, enveloped his hand with spirit force, and dipped it into the Blood Pool, feeling the mysteries of the blood water.

Soon, a look of surprise surfaced on his face; this blood water undoubtedly had strong erosive properties, as the spirit force he used to protect his hand was being rapidly consumed, with a sizzling sound emerging.

Having encountered the Blood Race in the Soaring Dragon World, he was not surprised by this.

What surprised him was that the blood water seemed to contain incredibly abundant energy, reminding him of the Earth Veins of the Nine Provinces.

In the Nameless Secret Realm, when he devoured the Earth's Veins within the secret realm, he had felt this kind of abundance, but the energy here in the Blood River was undoubtedly more abundant than that in the Nameless Secret Realm.

The only difference between the two is that the energy in the Earth's Veins of the Nameless Secret Realm was more suitable for cultivation absorption, whereas the energy in this blood water was not.

If a human cultivator rashly absorbed it, there would undoubtedly be great danger; just the Erosion Power alone was not something a human cultivator could withstand.

If one forcibly absorbs it into the body, it would cause significant damage to the spiritual orifices and meridians.

This Blood River... could it be the Earth's Veins of the Blood Refinement World? A thought suddenly popped into Lu Ye's mind.

The more he thought about it, the more possible it seemed. The Earth's Veins of a domain must permeate the entire domain, which is why peculiar places like Blood Pools existed in the Blood Refinement World, with each connected to the underground Blood River.

Indeed, the great world is full of wonders.

"Stay here, I'll go down and have a look." Lu Ye instructed Lann Qiyue.

Since the blood water in this Blood Pool contained a surging amount of energy, it would undoubtedly be greatly beneficial to his cultivation.

Here in the Blood Refinement World, he couldn't connect to Heaven's Augury to exchange for the gold-hued spirit fortune stick for cultivation. Although he still had plenty of cultivation resources at hand, and consuming Blood Crystals was also a way of cultivation, it couldn't compare to the ease of using a spirit fortune stick.

But if he could rely on the Earth's Veins of this Blood Refinement World for cultivation, although the speed might not be as fast as using a spirit fortune stick, it would still be much faster than the usual methods.

Having been in this domain for over a month and having fully restored his cultivation from being suppressed was itself a process of consolidation. The cultivation stage of True Lake Level 7 had stabilized, so continuing to enhance his cultivation would naturally be without significant risks.

In this alien world, he needed to acquire as much strength as possible; after all, he couldn't rely on Dao Thirteen for everything.

"Be careful, Senior Brother." Lann Qiyue couldn't help but worry, but she didn't obstruct him either.

Lu Ye nodded slightly, enveloped himself in spirit force, and leapt down.

The splashing blood water obscured his figure.

Immediately, a sizzling sound resonated from all directions, his spirit force was rapidly consumed, and Lu Ye tried dispersing the protective spirit force. The instant the surrounding blood water made contact with his skin, the sensation of needles was felt.

And it was as if countless needles were pricking all over his body.

Fortunately, it was still within a tolerable range.

The surging energy in the blood water didn't need Lu Ye to actively absorb it; it seemed to have its own consciousness, drilling into his body through his pores.

The pain intensified.

On the Talent Tree, there was suddenly a movement; Lu Ye immersed his mind to observe and saw that dense gray mist ignited on the Talent Tree.

This undoubtedly indicated that the blood water contained a large amount of harmful substances to him, which, upon entering his body, were burned away by the Talent Tree.

Lu Ye quietly felt it for a moment, confirming that there was no great danger, just that the needle-pricking sensation needed endurance.

This was the wonder of the Talent Tree.

It's known that the Blood River is a perilous place for even adult members of the Blood Clan; entering means a near-certain death. The river's water harbors terrifying dangers, making it even more so for a person of the human race like Lu Ye.

Yet, after being burned by the Talent Tree, all those horrors dissipated into a gray mist, leaving Lu Ye with just a tingling pain all over his body.

Extending his Mental Consciousness to sense his surroundings, it was still restricted to just one meter around him.

There was no sight of Zhang Julai anywhere around; Lu Ye had no idea where he'd gone.

Lu Ye's body sank downward, and after several dozen meters, an undercurrent suddenly surged around him.

He stayed still for a moment but didn't dare delve deeper; without the use of Mental Consciousness, getting caught by an undercurrent could mean losing the way back.

Moreover, he discovered that while using the Blood River for cultivation was feasible, it was not sustainable.

This was because doing so consumed too much fuel from the Talent Tree.

He had stored a lot of fuel for the Talent Tree, not to mention that he had mobilized the Talent Tree to absorb Earth Core Fire for a full two months in the Sword Weapon Sect's secret realm, and all that energy had been stored in the Talent Tree as fuel to burn impurities.

But in this Blood River, the amount of harmful impurities in the Blood Water was overwhelming. Lu Ye had never seen such dense gray mist rise from the Talent Tree.

At this rate, Lu Ye felt that cultivating here for a month or two would deplete the Talent Tree's fuel.

This was undoubtedly a bad trade-off. The Talent Tree was his greatest asset, and Lu Ye could not afford to let it lose its ability to burn impurities, especially in the Blood Refinement World, where he had no way to replenish the Talent Tree's fuel just yet.

So, though he felt a bit regretful, he had no choice but to give up reluctantly.

With spirit force, he propelled upwards.

In a matter of moments, he burst out of the Blood Pool, and with spirit force protecting his body, he remained untouched by the Blood Water.

Landing, Lu Ye immediately turned his head to the side, lowering his gaze.

Lann Qiyue was nowhere in sight, and instead, a strange Blood Clan member stood by the Blood Pool.

The Blood Clan member was holding a Blood Embryo, seemingly having come here to hatch it. When Lu Ye emerged, he was peering nervously into the Blood Pool.

Lu Ye's appearance startled him.

Upon seeing Lu Ye's face, the Blood Clan member was shocked and then roared angrily, "You impudent Blood Food! How dare you trespass into our Blood Clan's forbidden land!"

The Blood River is foundational to the Blood Clan; it's the cradle for hatching Blood Embryos, and naturally, the Blood Clan holds it in high regard.

In the Blood Refinement World, the human race has no right to step into the Blood Pool.

So, seeing Lu Ye emerge from the Blood Pool left the Blood Clan member enraged.

"Where is she?" Lu Ye asked in a low voice.

There were no traces of battle around, nor any blood, yet Lann Qiyue was missing. Lu Ye had his suspicions about her whereabouts.

He hadn't expected that in the moment he delved into the Blood River, such an incident would occur, leaving him briefly filled with self-reproach.

If he'd known earlier, he would have escorted Lann Qiyue back after settling the two human race brood mothers instead of taking risks.

At the time, he thought it was convenient to bring Lann Qiyue along, planning to return together after investigating the Blood River, thereby saving time.

But now it seems, Lann Qiyue must have discovered the arrival of this Blood Clan member, with nowhere to hide, she likely jumped into the Blood Pool to find Lu Ye.

In such a place as the Blood River, even the pure Blood Clan faces near-certain death; let alone Lann Qiyue, a human?

Moreover, her cultivation was only at the Spirit Stream Realm.

"You'd better take care of yourself first," the Blood Clan member shouted angrily, raising a hand to grab Lu Ye, his five fingers frostily sharp.

The clash resounded, a blade flashed, and the Blood Clan member froze in his attacking stance, his arm severed at the elbow.

The blade was too swift, leaving him feeling no pain, and not even the blood had time to flow.

But he clearly realized what had happened, staring in disbelief at Lu Ye, unable to fathom how a Blood Food dared to strike at him.

Another flash of the blade, and the Blood Clan member's body went completely rigid.

He was of the Cloud River Realm, nowhere strong enough to withstand Lu Ye's slashes.

Lu Ye turned and leapt back into the Blood River, expanding his Mental Consciousness to the fullest, searching for Lann Qiyue.

Not until after Lu Ye departed did the Blood Clan member's body sway, his head abruptly detaching and rolling off, blood from his neck spurting skyward, before he collapsed onto the ground with a thud.

A half-hour later, Lu Ye burst out of the Blood Pool once more, his expression dark as if water could drip from his face.

He hadn't found Lann Qiyue.

The environment beneath the Blood Pool was too extreme, with treacherous undercurrents and great suppression of Mental Consciousness, making the search for someone in such conditions incredibly difficult.

By the time Lann Qiyue jumped in, he should've been right inside the Blood Pool; yet even then, he didn't detect her presence, let alone search for her afterwards.

A Spirit Stream Realm cultivator falling into the Blood River is almost a certain death.

Chapter 1019 Golden Light

Full of guilt.

Shouldn't have been careless and not sent Lann Qiyue back in time, but instead brought her along, and especially shouldn't have left her here alone.

The main reason was that Lu Ye really didn't expect that in such a short time, the Blood Race would arrive.

Lann Qiyue deeply suffered from the Blood Race's poison. Under such circumstances, she had nowhere to escape and could only throw herself into the Blood River searching for Lu Ye's trace.

She probably didn't know the dangers of the Blood River, having seen little, so when she saw Lu Ye jump into the Blood River, she followed suit.

If she had known the Blood River's dangers, she would've waited for Lu Ye to come up and save her. In that case, no matter what, her life would have been secured.

Lann Qiyue was gone, and Lu Ye felt guilty, but there was another thing that made him feel even more distressed.

Zhang Julai was also gone...

Because of the Soul Taming Divine Runes left in Zhang Julai's mind, Lu Ye could sense Zhang Julai's existence, but just now, when he was deep in the Blood River searching for Lann Qiyue's trace, the sense between himself and the Soul Taming Divine Runes suddenly vanished without a trace.

This undoubtedly indicated that Zhang Julai couldn't endure the Blood River's baptism and refinement of his bloodline, and had already fallen somewhere in the Blood River.

This was actually within Lu Ye's expectations. For the Blood Race, going deep into the Blood River was a life of nine deaths, and Zhang Julai wasn't particularly special compared to other Blood Race members. The probability of survival was low.

But due to Lann Qiyue's accident, this expected event made Lu Ye inevitably feel a bit stuffy.

Now it's just great, they came in a group of three, and left lonely and solitary.

The corpse of the Blood Race he just killed lay horizontally beside him, separated head from body, and the blood had already dried up.

Lu Ye stepped forward, took out its Blood Crystal, and then wielded the knife to smash the Blood Embryo that had rolled to the side, before soaring into the sky and darting towards a direction.

...

Deep in the Blood River, dark currents surged, and Lann Qiyue drifted with the waves, only feeling her vitality rapidly draining away.

That was the erosion brought by the Blood River's water.

Lu Ye could activate his spirit force to shield against the Blood River's corrosive water, but how could Lann Qiyue do so? Under the erosion of the Blood Water, her entire skin became ulcerated.

She did not manage to find Lu Ye's trace, and with her current mere Spirit Stream Realm cultivation, it was utterly impossible to break out of the Blood River. Tossed by the dark currents, she no longer knew where she was.

As life was nearing its end, she surprisingly didn't feel much fear.

She was originally an ordinary human race girl, considered Blood Food and a plaything by the Blood Race. On the day she gave birth to a Blood Embryo, she thought she would undoubtedly die, but was rescued by Lu Ye, reclaiming a life.

During this period, she also killed several Blood Embryos.

It was already enough, so dying like this didn't seem too regrettable.

Consciousness was continuously sinking.

Suddenly a golden glow burst in her vision. In this deep Blood River, filled with crimson Blood Waters, this golden glow was particularly brilliant and dazzling.

Lann Qiyue didn't know what this golden glow was, at this moment, even her thoughts were on the verge of cessating.

Yet instinctively she reached out, grasping the golden glow in her palm, as if scalded by a branding iron. Lann Qiyue quickly let go, but the golden glow had imprinted into her body, running along her arm upwards, finally landing in her chest.

The next moment, Lann Qiyue opened her mouth, as if in a scream, but her mouth was filled with Blood Water, no sound could come out.

The golden glow from her chest suddenly shone brightly, illuminating Lann Qiyue with a dazzling golden radiance.

...

In the Blood Refinement World, there were countless large and small gathering places of the Blood Race. The smallest in scale was undoubtedly the cave residences, including the Bright Moon Cave Residence and Hundred Leaps Grotto Mansion.

In such gathering places, it was usually the Cloud River Realm Blood Race who ruled, overseeing a surrounding area of about 30 miles.

But above the cave residences, there were even more advanced existences, namely the Blessed Lands. By comparison, the area governed by a Blessed Land was much larger, at least 300 miles, with some larger Blessed Lands governing 300 to 500 miles.

Within their jurisdiction, all humans were considered property of the Blessed Land's Blood Race, at their disposal.

The difference between cave residences and Blessed Lands wasn't just in scale and the number of Blood Race members, but also in the cultivation level of the Blood Race.

The reason why Bright Moon Cave Residence could only be called a cave residence was that the strongest was merely at the Cloud River Realm.

If back then, Sun Miao Zhu had the cultivation of the True Lake Realm, it would have been Bright Moon Blessed Land.

Therefore, in every Blessed Land where the Blood Race gathered, there was a True Lake Realm Blood Race seated.

Further up are the Grotto Heaven-level gathering places, with Divine Sea Realm Blood Races in charge, governing at least a territory covering thousands of miles.

In comparison, whether it's cave residences, blessed lands, or grottos, they are equivalent to the sects of the Nine Provinces, except that the Blood Race has no need for imparting knowledge and thus lacks camaraderie.

For the Blood Race, the blood crystals within their kin are the most coveted cultivation resources, which results in the unique chaotic order of the Blood Refinement World.

The Thousand Streams Blessed Land is situated in the Thousand Streams Mountain, a thousand miles from the Bright Moon Cave Residence, and nominally, the Bright Moon Cave Residence is under the jurisdiction of the Thousand Streams Blessed Land.

Many small cave residences conquered by the Bright Moon Cave Residence in the past month are regarded as under the governance of the Thousand Streams Blessed Land.

Throughout the entire Blood Refinement World, the scale governed by the Thousand Streams Blessed Land is not very large, because its master, Yu Lingfeng, does not have very high cultivation, only at the True Lake Level 7, and although there are some True Lake Realms under his command, their cultivation is weaker than his.

In the Thousand Streams Mountain where the blessed land is located, a vast complex of buildings brimming with nature's spiritual energy far superior to the cavernous environment of the Bright Moon Cave Residence.

Such a place can easily accommodate hundreds of people, and with a little expansion, it could house even a thousand.

At this moment, in the conference hall of the Thousand Streams Blessed Land, more than a dozen True Lake Realm Blood Races were seated on both sides, and Yu Lingfeng sat at the head of the hall, discussing matters with the other True Lake Realm Blood Races under his command.

The topic of discussion was related to the recent actions of the Bright Moon Cave Residence.

"Blessed Land Master, Bright Moon Cave Residence has been overreaching recently. Reports say they've conquered all nearby cave residences within a month, most of the kins were killed on the spot, and only a few survived. Now there are about fifty or more clan members gathered at the Bright Moon Cave Residence, all above the Cloud River Level 7."

Although internal conflicts within the Blood Races are frequent, such incidents as the one with the Bright Moon Cave Residence have never occurred, primarily because the strength between cave residences is generally equal, and it's hard to tell who would win if a war breaks out.

Winning one or two battles might be possible, but it's impossible to always win.

However, the received information suggests that the Bright Moon Cave Residence has been sweeping away nearby cave residences like a hot knife through butter, exterminating them while constantly consolidating and expanding its power.

Under normal circumstances, higher-ups among the Blood Race don't interfere in the conflicts of the lower ranks. As long as there's Blood River, the Blood Races are continuous; what's the loss of some lives? Moreover, the blood crystals of the deceased Blood Races provide nutrients for the growth of the surviving ones.

But with the Bright Moon Cave Residence continuously consolidating and expanding its power, the Thousand Streams Blessed Land cannot afford to ignore it.

Currently, the Bright Moon Cave Residence hasn't threatened the strength of the Thousand Streams Blessed Land, but if this continues, who knows if they will attempt usurpation? Such matters have happened in the Blood Refinement World, and they often occur.

Moreover, the destruction of so many cave residences also affects the tributes.

In the Blood Refinement World, every three months, each cave residence must capture some Blood Food within its jurisdiction to offer to the upper blessed lands for the enjoyment of the Blood Races there.

Fewer cave residences mean less tribute in Blood Food, which undoubtedly impinges on the interests of the blessed land.

"A mere Bright Moon Cave Residence, where does it get the audacity? I recall that the cave residence master of the Bright Moon Cave, Sun Miao-zhu, is just a Cloud River Realm. Could it be that she advanced to the True Lake Realm?" Yu Lingfeng showed displeasure.

"Blessed Land Master, that Sun Miao-zhu is dead. Now, a person named Zhang Julai is in charge of the Bright Moon Cave Residence, and the recent anomalies began after he took over."

"Zhang Julai?" Yu Lingfeng had no impression of this name. He had numerous cave residences under his command but could only remember a few masters, let alone Zhang Julai.

"This person is not a True Lake Realm; it's said that he has acquired two powerful Blood Slaves, which is why he acts so audaciously."

Although information transmission in the Blood Refinement World is not as convenient and fast as in the Nine Provinces, items like audio transmission stones relay information effectively. A month is neither too long nor too short; with the continuous external conquests of the Bright Moon Cave Residence, the movement is significant and could not have gone unnoticed by the Blood Races.

"What kind of Blood Slaves can be so formidable?" Yu Lingfeng was somewhat puzzled.

"Blessed Land Master, now is not the time to be concerned about the Blood Slaves. What should we do about the Bright Moon Cave Residence? Please make a decision."

Yu Lingfeng pondered briefly before saying, "Wan Fang."

A True Lake Realm stood up from below, placing a hand on his chest, "Present."

"Take a trip to the Bright Moon Cave Residence, command Zhang Julai to immediately cease his current actions, and also order him to promptly deliver the latest batch of Blood Food tribute, including the shares of the cave residences he destroyed."

"What if he doesn't comply?" Wan Fang asked.

"Then kill him and replace him with an obedient cave residence master!" A glint of cold flashed in Yu Lingfeng's eyes.

"Understood!" Wan Fang turned and left swiftly, exiting the hall shortly.

After concluding this matter, the group of True Lake Realm Blood Races discussed other affairs for a while before dispersing.

Yu Lingfeng, with his hands behind his back, headed towards his sleeping quarters, pondering that if given the chance, meeting Zhang Julai's two Blood Slaves and recruiting them under his own service would be beneficial.

Though he's the Blessed Land Master of the Thousand Streams Blessed Land, his days haven't been easy lately.

The Blood Race lacks a strong hierarchical loyalty concept, largely operating under might rules. With his True Lake Level 7 cultivation, he barely maintains his position as Blessed Land Master, but one of his subordinate True Lake Realm members is nearing equal strength.

When the time comes, he will either have to expel that True Lake Realm member to let him set up on his own or share power.

Neither option pleases him; as for killing that Blood Race and eradicating the source, it's also inappropriate. Killing him might yield a good blood crystal, but it would also weaken the foundation of the Thousand Streams Blessed Land. If other blessed lands come to attack, it would mean one less capable person under him.

Chapter 1020 Flow Blessed Land

Yu Lingfeng was in a dilemma, while the other Blood Race members only saw him as lofty and limitless, who could know his predicament?

While pondering, his figure suddenly halted, and he looked ahead.

A mysterious figure caught his sight, that person stood quietly with hands folded over a long saber, staring at him.

Yu Lingfeng suddenly felt a chill down his spine, as he hadn't noticed the presence of this person until he saw their silhouette.

Moreover, upon closer inspection, the person turned out to be a human race!

Being cautious by nature, Yu Lingfeng instantly recoiled backward and attempted to shout.

Without knowing the opponent's cultivation level, engaging recklessly was unwise.

The other could sneak in without a trace, evidently possessing certain skills; the best course was to alert his subordinates and capture this inexplicable human.

Yet, just as his mouth opened, his vision blurred profoundly, as if struck by a giant hammer, leaving his thoughts muddled and hard to articulate.

Soon after, excruciating pain emanated from deep within his head, as if his brain was being smashed apart.

The intense pain momentarily cleared Yu Lingfeng's mind as he realized what had befallen him.

He was under Mental Consciousness attack!

In other words, waiting for him here was a Divine Sea Realm individual?

Moments later, Yu Lingfeng stood in pain, humbly before Lu Ye.

Being forcefully embedded with Soul Taming Divine Runes, his reaction was far more intense than Zhang Julai's, not due to Lu Ye's aggression, but due to cultivation differences.

Zhang Julai was merely a Cloud River Realm; Lu Ye's Mental Consciousness easily broke through his psyche defense to implant Soul Taming Divine Runes, Zhang Julai scarcely sensed much throughout.

But Yu Lingfeng wasn't far from the Divine Sea; although not yet nurturing a soul body or generating Mental Consciousness, his natural psyche defense was much stronger than Zhang Julai's.

Lu Ye's forced intrusion caused disturbances to his psyche.

"Is this the Thousand Streams Blessed Land?" Lu Ye asked, holding a piece of beast hide with a crude map sketched by Zhang Julai, leading him here.

But whether this was indeed Thousand Streams Blessed Land, he wasn't entirely sure, although likely correct.

"Yes." Yu Lingfeng answered respectfully.

"Who is the Blessed Land Master here?" Lu Ye inquired further.

"That's me."

How fortuitous.

Lu Ye came here merely intending to casually enslave a True Lake Realm, regardless of whether they were the Blessed Land Master, as with him backing them, becoming the master wouldn't take long.

"Are you Yu Lingfeng?" This name he had gathered from Zhang Julai.

"Yes."

Lu Ye nodded slightly, sparing some hassle, and straightforwardly said: "I have matters to instruct; heed them well."

Yu Lingfeng promptly composed himself to listen attentively.

The night passed in silence, until the next day when Yu Lingfeng, nearly recovered, summoned his True Lake Realm subordinates for a meeting.

In the grand hall, more than ten True Lake Realm gathered without knowing why Yu Lingfeng had summoned them today.

Nonetheless, the new presence beside Yu Lingfeng intrigued them: a young human male whom none had seen before.

"Blessed Land Master, who is this human?" A curious middle-aged Blood Race member inquired, looking at Lu Ye.

"This is my newly acquired Blood Slave, pay him no mind," Yu Lingfeng declared standing from his seat,

"I called you here to announce two matters today."

The Blood Race members immediately sat upright with attentiveness.

"Firstly, from today, all offerings from my subordinate regions in the Blessed Land shall replace blood food tribute with human blood, additionally, no Sacred Race is permitted to harm humans recklessly."

Previously, a month ago, Zhang Julai had announced something similar at Bright Moon Cave Residence, causing an uproar.

This time was no different.

With Yu Lingfeng's words finished, the Blood Race members felt astounded as if hearing the most unbelievable thing, and the middle-aged Blood Race immediately asked: "May I ask Blessed Land Master, why make such a decision?"

Consuming blood food was natural for Blood Race, a tradition enduring from ancient times, unchanged by precedent.

"No why, this is the Blessed Land Master's command." Yu Lingfeng's attitude was firmly compliant, under Lu Ye's directive, merely executing orders, for Lu Ye was his all, why question.

"I disagree." The middle-aged Blood Race member shouted harshly, "I suppose none of you here would agree either."

"Indeed, Blessed Land Master, canceling the tribute of Blood Food is truly inappropriate. I urge you to reconsider."

"While the blood of the human race can certainly be consumed, how can dead blood compare to the exquisite taste of live blood? If we lose Blood Food, where will we get live blood in the future?"

Concerning their own interests, the Blood Race members present could no longer sit still and clamored loudly.

Especially that middle-aged Blood Race member who initially spoke out, he shouted the loudest. His cultivation was almost equal to Yu Lingfeng's, earning him a high position in the Thousand Streams Blessed Land. He also sensed Yu Lingfeng's complex attitude towards him recently, and he was considering his future path, whether to stay and continue serving Yu Lingfeng or to establish his own dominion.

Given his cultivation, he could have long established himself as a Blessed Land master, but not all of the Blood Race wanted to be cave residence masters or Blessed Land masters. Sometimes, relying on others allowed for a more carefree existence, with someone above to shoulder any trouble.

Moreover, considering the current Blood Refinement World, each Blessed Land had its own territory; even if he established dominance, it would be useless without land to control.

So he hadn't expected that at this critical moment, Yu Lingfeng would issue such a foolish command. His heart couldn't help but feel a bit tempted. If he seized this opportunity and allied with other Blood Race members, there was a great chance to overthrow Yu Lingfeng, and he could become the master of the Thousand Streams Blessed Land, wouldn't that be liberating?

As he was thinking this, Yu Lingfeng slapped the table beside him and shouted angrily, "Who dares to disobey the command of this Blessed Land Master!"

The other Blood Race members shrank their necks; Yu Lingfeng still held some authority.

But that middle-aged Blood Race member gritted his teeth and said, "If the Blessed Land Master's command is wrong, we can disobey it!"

A resonant clang sounded as a long blade was slowly drawn from its sheath.

Lu Ye, who had been standing beside Yu Lingfeng the entire time, wielded the Boulder Mountain Saber and slowly approached the middle-aged Blood Race member.

All the Blood Race members were stunned, but upon sensing Lu Ye's killing intent, they immediately reacted. The middle-aged Blood Race member was even more furious, "A mere Blood Slave dares to show such insolence!"

As he said this, blood light surged around him, forming into several arrow-shaped forms. With a wave of his large hand, the blood arrows shot towards Lu Ye.

Though he had the idea of replacing Yu Lingfeng as this Blessed Land's master, actually confronting Yu Lingfeng face-to-face made him nervous. But as for Lu Ye, this "Blood Slave," he had no such reservations.

Killing this Blood Slave would also serve as a warning to Yu Lingfeng. If he remained stubborn, it would be necessary to unite with other Blood Race members to overthrow Yu Lingfeng.

Thinking this, his expression drastically changed.

Only because the blood arrows he unleashed had no deterrent effect on Lu Ye. Several blades of light flashed, and the blood arrows shattered with a roar. Immediately after, Lu Ye closed in within three meters of him, and a slash came down.

Alarm bells rang in the middle-aged Blood Race member's heart; he frantically surged his blood Qi and spirit force, forming a solid barrier.

Yet this barrier was still broken with a single slash.

As the long blade fell, the body of the middle-aged Blood Race member was split in two, and under the powerful impact, the remnants of his body toppled sideways.

Fresh blood stained the foundation of the great hall.

The Blood Race members who had been shouting just moments ago fell silent, all gazing in terror at Lu Ye who was skillfully extracting Blood Crystals.

It wasn't until this moment that they realized this Blood Slave, whom they hadn't even noticed, possessed the terrifying skill to easily kill them all!

Looking across the Thousand Streams Blessed Land, aside from Yu Lingfeng, the Blessed Land Master, the middle-aged Blood Race member just killed had been the strongest. Yet even he couldn't withstand a single slash from the opponent.

Such strength, even Yu Lingfeng likely couldn't block a blow from him.

It's truly impossible to understand where Yu Lingfeng found such a Blood Slave...

They were wary; a Blood Slave of this caliber couldn't have appeared out of nowhere. They must have been subdued by Yu Lingfeng long ago, kept hidden until today for a display of might.

"Who else disagrees?" Yu Lingfeng coldly scanned left and right with a stern face.

No Blood Race member dared to utter a word.

The example was right before them; at this moment, disagreeing would be courting death!

"Dead blood or live blood is merely for cultivation purposes. Apart from taste and flavor, it makes no difference to cultivation. This matter is settled. Henceforth, under the jurisdiction of my Thousand Streams Blessed Land, no Sacred Race member is allowed to harm the human race indiscriminately. Let the cave residences designate personnel to regularly and appropriately gather blood from human villages!"

"Yes," came the sparse response.

Yu Lingfeng, seeing through their thoughts, continued, "Compared to Blood Food, what benefits our Sacred Race most are Blood Crystals! It's laughable that you think of Blood Food instead of Blood Crystals."

"Blessed Land Master, Blood Crystals are good, but they aren't that easy to obtain," one Blood Race member bravely said.

Each Blood Crystal represents the life of a Blood Race member. While they have the ability to kill weaker Blood Race members for Blood Crystals, it doesn't do well to target their own subordinates. Doing so would leave them without manpower, forcing them to sneak into others' territories. This approach also carries risks; getting caught by another Blessed Land Master leads to conflicts and disputes, and they might even have their Blood Crystals coveted.

"Obtaining Blood Crystals is not difficult," Yu Lingfeng said with a cold snort, "Immediately gather personnel from each cave residence; I plan to attack Beimin Blessed Land!"

Lu Ye stood quietly to the side, recalling Zhang Julai's swagger from a month ago, marveling at how similar this scene was.

Of course, with his secret guidance, how could things not turn out similarly?