

Humanity 1051

Chapter 1051 Returning

Encountering enemies that are equally matched or slightly stronger, Lu Ye still has time to gather power, but when facing an opponent that crushes him, there isn't much time to prepare.

Moreover, many battles are often decided in an instant, so although he has these two trump cards, Lu Ye seldom uses them from beginning to end.

If burning Essence Blood can solve this problem, it would be good news for him. Lu Ye found an opportunity to test it and discovered his hypothesis was correct. Burning Essence Blood can indeed instantly trigger Bloodstain Spirit Runes.

However, with the improvement in cultivation, the boost from Bloodstain Spirit Runes is not as significant as before.

In previous times when Lu Ye activated the Bloodstain Spirit Runes, there was a considerable enhancement to his strength, but now, at the Divine Sea Realm, the increase is very limited.

This trump card has become somewhat inconsequential.

Fortunately, Lu Ye now has more than just this trump card.

Beast Transformation can't be tried, as it requires coordination with Amber.

Time passed day by day; under the tempering of a different senior mentor each day, Lu Ye quickly mastered his strength, from initially being one-sidedly crushed to gradually standing on equal footing with them.

This is growth; something that can be tangibly felt.

Lu Ye didn't think about defeating them; that was unrealistic. Every senior mentor's cultivation is profound. Even if they suppress their power to just manifest as Divine Sea Level 1, their years of combat experience and perception are unmatched by him.

In their eyes, Lu Ye is just a child learning to speak.

During occasional leisure, he would drink and chat with the senior brother.

One day, Lu Ye opened the door and was taken aback.

Outside the door, with the senior brother at the lead, gathered many senior mentors. Upon seeing him appear, some displayed amused expressions, some smiled faintly, some remained calm.

Lu Ye immediately wore a bitter face: "Senior brother, we agreed it would be one by one."

Before, there was only one senior mentor waiting outside each day. Why did they all come today? If they all came at once, how could Lu Ye have a chance to perform? He might as well lie down and let them teach him a lesson.

"The time has come," Feng Wujiang spoke.

Lu Ye instantly realized: "So soon!"

Indeed, it had been three or four months since he ascended to the Divine Sea. However, lately, he was so engrossed in wits and courage with the senior mentors that he forgot some things.

"Anything you need to prepare, junior brother?" Feng Wujiang asked.

Lu Ye shook his head; there wasn't anything to prepare. When he came here, he brought Dao Thirteen. Naturally, when he leaves, he doesn't need much.

The premise is that he can actually leave.

"Then let's go." Feng Wujiang beckoned.

A group of people marched grandly toward the Heaven's Augury Hall.

Shortly after, inside Heaven's Augury Hall, Lu Ye stood before the Heaven's Augury Pillar, turned around, and respectfully bowed: "In this period, many thanks to the senior mentors for their care, I have gained much and will never forget it."

Tofu Lady smiled slightly and said, "I usually don't see you being so polite, only today do you appear so courteous." As she spoke, she took out a jade tablet and handed it to him: "Take this."

"What is this?" Lu Ye accepted with confusion.

"It's nothing, but if you ever get bullied by someone from Myriad Magic Sect in Leizhou, just show them this."

Lu Ye immediately understood. This thing probably served as some sort of token.

The sound of a sword resonated, and in front of Lu Ye, a small flying sword floated. Jian Guhong's voice echoed: "If you need help from Beixuan Sword Sect, carry this to Mount Tian."

Another token.

Lu Ye had just put it away when another jade tablet-like item flew over. From somewhere in the crowd, an elder spoke: "This is my identification tablet. Even though many years have passed, there should be someone at Canglang Sect who recognizes it, take it with you."

One token after another gathered, each representing a big sect, and Lu Ye carefully stored them all.

Not every senior mentor had a token, such as Wuchang, a loner; even if he gave one to Lu Ye, it would be useless as there is no sect background for him in Nine Provinces.

However, such people are ultimately the minority.

"Do the senior mentors have any messages for me to deliver?" Lu Ye asked.

Lady Moon replied: "For our sect, we have long been considered dead. Perhaps these tokens can serve a purpose, but if you tell them we are still alive, I'm afraid they won't believe it, and it might cause you trouble. Just take care of yourself."

"Perhaps I can't go back?" As soon as Lu Ye uttered the words, Lady Moon knocked on his head.

"Don't jinx it."

Lu Ye rubbed his head and stood obediently.

He looked again at Feng Wujiang: "Does senior brother have any instructions?"

Recently, in their leisure time, he would drink and chat with the senior brother. From him, the senior brother learned about Feng Yuechan's situation, but Lu Ye didn't know what was going on with Qiu Min on the other side, as he hadn't met this senior sister-in-law, so he couldn't provide specifics to Feng Wujiang.

Feng Wujiang shook his head: "When you return, there's no need to say anything; it'll only add worries. If there's a day to meet again, we shall meet again."

"I understand." Lu Ye nodded.

Time passed, and everyone waited quietly.

Until half an hour later, the dead-silent Heaven's Augury Pillar suddenly rippled with a subtle energy fluctuation.

Compared to the usual fluctuation of the Heaven's Augury Pillar, this ripple was almost negligible; if Lu Ye's Mental Consciousness hadn't grown stronger now, he wouldn't have sensed it at all.

The Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury sends a large amount of materials here every few years, including but not limited to elixir pills, Spirit Stones, Spiritual Artifacts, and so on. After all, the environment of the Blood Refinement World isn't very friendly to human race cultivators who practice here, with no external forces to borrow except nature's spiritual energy.

Except when sending materials, the Heaven's Augury Pillar always remains in a silent state.

Now that the Heaven's Augury Pillar reacted, it was apparent the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury was sending materials again.

The subtle energy fluctuation continued rippling, until finally, a large pile of storage sacks appeared out of thin air before the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

"Junior brother, it's time to leave!" Feng Wujiang looked at Lu Ye.

Lu Ye did not hesitate, gestured to Dao Thirteen, and both simultaneously stepped forward, raising a hand to press on the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

To leave or stay, it depends on this moment.

In the next instant, Lu Ye's body trembled, gaining insight, realizing he could leave!

He turned to Feng Wujiang: "Senior brother, I'll definitely come back!"

As his words fell, the originally subtle energy fluctuation suddenly turned fierce and intense, the area where Lu Ye stood became distorted and transformed, as though space rippled like water.

With the rippling of the water waves, Lu Ye's figure also quickly became blurred, as if about to disappear from this world.

In contrast, Dao Thirteen there had no change, just stupidly raising his hand to press on the Heaven's Augury Pillar, motionless.

Rumble...

A muffled thunder suddenly rolled across the sky, and from the void, a great malice descended, causing many elder cultivators in the Heaven's Augury Hall to look up at the sky.

Even with the domed roof obstructing, their Mental Consciousness penetrated the barrier, seeing clearly.

Just as clouds of blood gathered oddly in the sky, within those blood clouds, crimson lightning rolled, tiny bolts within the thundercloud rapidly converging, instantly forming a massive bolt, soaring like a Thunder Dragon.

Almost as soon as this massive bolt formed, it directly struck down, like a Blood Dragon swooping from the sky, targeting the direction of the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

"Not good!" Feng Wujiang uttered in a low voice, his figure leaping up, passing through the dome of the Heaven's Augury Hall, heading straight towards the lightning.

Silhouettes simultaneously rushed forth, closely following behind Feng Wujiang.

Some remained on the ground like Lady Moon and other magic cultivators, their spirit force urged, casting exquisite magic spells, some attacking the Blood Dragon, others shielding the Heaven's Augury Hall; the sudden change had the crowd coordinating seamlessly.

The sound of cracking was deafening, even these top talents of the Nine Provinces felt their eardrums ache; this was heaven's wrath, the manifestation of the Blood Refinement World's Heaven and Earth's Will.

Previously, as the Heaven's Augury Pillar stayed in silence for years, even when transporting materials, they cautiously took care, so the Blood Refinement World's Heaven and Earth's Will never discovered Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury's methods.

But this time, it was different.

Lu Ye's transport via the Heaven's Augury Pillar wasn't quiet.

The Blood Refinement World's Heaven and Earth's Will sensed it, immediately unleashing its thunderous wrath.

Feng Wujiang, shining like a big sun, collided first with the blood-colored thunderbolt, his body suddenly jolting, skin on his body surface cracking into lines, blood spurting out.

His figure rapidly plunged downwards, yet he stubbornly resisted without evasion.

Silhouettes followed closely, each displaying their techniques, blasting at the blood-colored thunderbolt.

This burst wasn't the usual measure to temper Lu Ye, these elder powerful figures showed no reservation, combining their force such that no one in the world could withstand, even a Sacred Seed coming would be shattered to pieces instantaneously.

Nonetheless, heaven's wrath was ultimately heaven's wrath, even if Blood Refinement World's Heaven and Earth's Will lacked the clarity and intensity of the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury, such a method surpassed cultivators' limits.

A rumbling sound echoed, many silhouettes rushing into the sky fell like meteorites, dispersed and scattered.

Yet the blood-colored thunderbolt's size clearly dwindled substantially, the resistance of this strongest group from the Nine Provinces was not in vain.

In the blink of an eye, the blood-colored thunderbolt fell within the Heaven's Augury Hall, causing Lady Moon and others staying behind to activate their protective measures, changing their expressions.

Momentum unstoppable, layer upon layer of protection shattered.

Lady Moon and others' figures flew out helplessly.

However, due to the obstruction by numerous protective measures, the blood-colored thunderbolt's size shrank again, less than twenty percent of its original size.

The sudden change happened swiftly; from Feng Wujiang's ascent to the blood-colored thunderbolt impacting inside the Heaven's Augury Pillar, only two breaths' time had elapsed.

When Feng Wujiang and others' figures swayed and they returned again to the Heaven's Augury Hall, the place had already returned to calm, even the gathered blood clouds in the sky had scattered away.

Feng Wujiang stood where he was, brow furrowed, feeling an undefined unease in his heart.

Chapter 1052 Back

Feng Wujiang was the first to be struck by the blood-colored thunderbolt, injured severely, yet his mental consciousness stayed closely alongside the blood-colored thunderbolt, watching helplessly as it weakened through various means, disappearing along with Lu Ye's figure.

This meant that their resistance had not been fully successful. Despite the reduced power of the blood-colored thunderbolt, less than twenty percent of its original strength, whether Lu Ye could withstand it was uncertain in Feng Wujiang's mind.

Feeling something, he turned his head, his brows furrowed even more deeply.

No reason but Dao Thirteen stayed behind!

He had predicted this because the transmission through the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury consumed enormous energy. Lu Ye might have the chance to return to the Nine Provinces, but Dao Thirteen might not.

And now it seemed that the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury indeed did not intend to send Dao Thirteen back; otherwise, he wouldn't have been left behind.

This made Lu Ye's situation increasingly perilous. With Dao Thirteen nearby, there was at least someone to assist, but now he had to rely on himself entirely.

At this moment, within the indescribable passage, Lu Ye felt a dizzying sensation, and though he had already advanced to the Divine Sea Realm, greatly increasing his strength, he couldn't avoid the unpleasant sensations of long-distance transmission.

Even more discomforting was the substantial crisis rapidly approaching from behind.

At the moment his figure disappeared beside the Heaven's Augury Pillar, Lu Ye also saw the blood-colored thunderbolt descending from the sky, realizing it was the Wrath of Heavens hailing from the Blood Refinement World.

He saw his senior brothers and others using methods to resist but failing to fully halt it.

The crisis he felt now was clearly the weakened blood-colored thunderbolt.

With clarity in his heart, he knew that if he could withstand it, he would live; if he couldn't, death was certain.

He forcibly steadied his mind, briefly sensing the intensity of the blood-colored thunderbolt from behind, then immediately abandoned the thought of forcibly resisting; even though it had been weakened by the methods of his senior brothers, its current power was not something he could contend with.

Attempting to resist recklessly would likely result in disaster.

Since he couldn't withstand it, the only option was to keep running. Here, in the passage of transmission, the blood-colored thunderbolt was akin to rootless wood, water without a source after leaving the Blood Refinement World. As long as enough time was delayed, its power would gradually weaken until he could withstand it.

Normally, his speed couldn't possibly outpace such Wrath of Heavens.

But at this moment, during transmission, the speed he demonstrated wasn't his own speed, but it could barely delay, though the distance between him and the blood-colored thunderbolt was evidently closing swiftly.

He didn't know why this transmission was especially prolonged, unlike before, when it almost felt like the transmission completed instantly.

With his mind made up, Lu Ye immediately activated one of the three drops of Essence Blood within him; as his mind moved, the Essence Blood exploded, enveloping him with a layer of blood mist, speeding him up considerably, almost transforming into a streak of blood light.

Blood Escape.

This was the first time Lu Ye had used this secret technique, and using the Essence Blood to do so, the effect was extraordinary.

Originally, the distance between him and the blood-colored thunderbolt was quickly closing, but after using the Blood Escape Technique, although he still couldn't escape entirely, the distance no longer closed.

Without hesitation, he continued charging forward, occasionally using his mental consciousness to sense the situation behind.

As he expected, without the support of the Blood Refinement World, the power of the blood-colored thunderbolt was indeed weakening fast.

As its power diminished, its speed simultaneously slowed, posing less and less threat to Lu Ye.

After one incense stick's time, the blood mist enveloping Lu Ye suddenly scattered, his speed returning to the initial level, with a sense of fatigue flooding him, although it wasn't a significant problem.

This was the most intricate aspect of the Blood Refining Technique.

The Blood Race could refine their own Essence Blood normally, using it as a reserve energy store, to use critically when fighting or fleeing. Since it was reserve energy, the damage to the self wasn't severe provided the body could withstand it.

If normal methods were used to activate the Blood Escape Technique, Lu Ye would have had significant depletion of vital energy at this moment.

By now, Lu Ye had abandoned the thought of turning back and resisting. Since the power of the blood-colored thunderbolt continued to weaken, if he kept running like this, it was bound to disappear eventually, with no need to risk resisting it.

No matter how weak its power became, it was still Wrath of Heavens, one never knew what tricks might lie within.

The slowed blood-colored thunderbolt was already hard-pressed to catch up with Lu Ye, and it continued to weaken; one could say the crisis had passed.

After another incense stick's time, in Lu Ye's senses, the blood-colored thunderbolt behind suddenly shattered and vanished without a trace.

At this point, he finally relaxed his mind.

Immediately afterward, he felt as if penetrating through something, his vision changing sharply from the previous bizarre transmission passage.

As far as the eye could see, Lu Ye was shocked to his core, unable to return to his senses for a long time.

Because what greeted his eyes was an enormous water-blue celestial body, spanning the celestial void as though a dormant beast.

An inexplicable familiarity emanated from the enormous celestial body, surprisingly evoking a feeling of a wanderer returning home within Lu Ye.

Instantly understanding that this enormous celestial body was the Nine Provinces!

He had returned!

Never had Lu Ye imagined that one day he could view the Nine Provinces from this perspective; was this his reward for the expedition to the Blood Refinement World?

Living within the Nine Provinces and observing the entire Nine Provinces World from this standpoint offered a completely different experience, highlighting his insignificance against the grand vastness of the Nine Provinces.

As he journeyed to the Blood Refinement World, he once experienced an elevation of his mental consciousness and witnessed the overall appearance of the Blood Refinement World. However, that experience differed from this one; the former was merely a mental observation, whereas this time, he was seeing it with his naked eyes, making the visual impact even more pronounced.

Watching intently, Lu Ye felt as if his Mental Consciousness was undergoing sublimation.

However, his attention was soon drawn to some presences beside the Nine Provinces because around this massive celestial body, numerous irregular floating lands hovered. These landmasses varied in size, most as small as dust particles. But Lu Ye knew they weren't genuinely that small; it was simply a visual illusion in comparison to the colossal Nine Provinces.

Two of the floating lands were the largest, floating to the left and right sides of the Nine Provinces World, like two grand protectors!

Lu Ye looked toward one of the floating lands and faintly sensed two mysterious connections emanating from it.

He furrowed his brows, unsure of what these two connections could be.

As he pondered, he barreled towards the Nine Provinces World at immense speed, enveloped by a peculiar force, just like when he initially arrived at the Blood Refinement World — a mysterious power enshrouded his body surface then as well.

This should be the protective force granted by Heaven's Augury.

He didn't know what cultivation level one needed to survive in such an environment, but it wasn't something a newly ascended Divine Sea Realm person like him could achieve.

Without this protective force from Heaven's Augury, even a cultivator at Divine Sea Level 9 standing here would quickly perish.

From this perspective, the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury proved to be quite reliable, at least in providing him with safe protection.

As the distance drew closer, the link he felt from one of the significant floating lands became increasingly clear.

Lu Ye finally understood what those connections were.

It was his connection with the Heaven's Augury Pillar!

Innumerable Heaven's Augury Pillars exist across the Nine Provinces, and naturally, Lu Ye had no connection with the typical pillars, but in one particular place, there were two Heaven's Augury Pillars he had requested with merit!

Nominally, those two Heaven's Augury Pillars belonged to him, thereby creating an unbreakable bond.

That enormous floating land, was it the Cloud River battlefield?

On the other side, was the huge floating land the Spirit Stream battlefield?

If so, then the other floating lands around the Nine Provinces World should be the locations connected with various secret realms.

This discovery left Lu Ye amazed.

In the Nine Provinces, whether it's the Spirit Stream battlefield, the Cloud River battlefield, or the Nine Provinces itself, countless secret realms exist. Lu Ye had often wondered where all those secret realm spaces were situated.

Until today did he realize that all these secret realm spaces surrounded the Nine Provinces World.

He didn't know if anyone else had discovered this, but he reckoned that only he had the chance to witness such a sight through the ages.

Approaching closer to the Nine Provinces World, as the vast and immense celestial body rushed towards him, anyone would feel a sense of awe.

As he skimmed past a floating land, Lu Ye turned to scrutinize, straining his Ocular Power to its utmost.

In such an environment, distance assessment became incredibly ambiguous. Perhaps with stronger cultivation, one could judge accurately, but Lu Ye, at this moment, could not.

The floating land appeared close, yet it remained far away.

Even as Lu Ye strained his Ocular Power, he couldn't discern the scenes on the floating land.

In haste, he constructed Insight Spirit Runes to take a deeper glimpse.

However, in the next instant, he furrowed his brow.

He vaguely saw some clawed, sprawling creatures on that floating land, with some being quite colossal.

Could it be...the Insect Race?

He couldn't see it clearly enough to verify because the distance had once again widened significantly from that floating land.

Lu Ye furrowed his brow deeply; the Insect Race was not unfamiliar to the Nine Provinces cultivators. Almost every cultivator faced an Insect Plague in the Spirit Stream battlefield, and in the Nine Provinces homeland, small Insect Plagues occasionally broke out, only to be swiftly suppressed, much like the previous scenario.

In his field of vision, the surging sea of clouds appeared, pristine white like cotton wool.

He could clearly feel the formidable gravitational pull from below, increasing his speed more and more.

Breaking through the sea of clouds, the familiar world came rushing towards him.

At this moment, the protective force that had been enveloping Lu Ye vanished entirely, and he dropped straight downwards like a meteor falling from the sky.

The speed was so high that the friction caused his skin to sting with pain. Lu Ye quickly circulated his spirit force to resist that frictional force.

Yet, he continued plummeting, utterly unable to stabilize himself.

A cultivator's flight isn't without its limits; it has a certain height limit too.

His current position obviously exceeded his limits, making him descend further to stabilize himself.

Chapter 1053 1,000,000 Battle Merit

Falling straight from tens of thousands of feet up, Lu Ye finally managed to regain control over himself.

This height was his limit for flying through the air; any higher, and no matter how much effort he put in, he couldn't ascend, as if some invisible force was restraining him.

Yet Lu Ye continued to let himself fall, merely activating his spirit force for protection.

Because although he could fly at this altitude, it was too strenuous, consuming too much of his spirit force. He needed to find a height that was comfortable and energy-efficient.

That's why cultivators traveling outdoors don't always fly as high as possible, as the higher they fly, the greater the cost to themselves.

Especially when one's cultivation isn't sufficient, they generally don't fly too high, as they might easily encounter someone stronger.

Falling to nearly ten thousand feet, Lu Ye finally stabilized himself. This height was undoubtedly acceptable to him and was generally the height Divine Sea Realm cultivators chose for outdoor travel.

He looked down at the scene below, his heart surging with emotion.

Nine Provinces, I have returned!

This journey took quite a long time, a full two years. When he left, he was at True Lake Level 7; upon returning, he was in the Divine Sea, a massive increase in strength.

Of course, if he were in the Nine Provinces, his cultivation would likely have progressed even faster because he could utilize the spirit fortune stick.

But in cultivation, merely advancing quickly is of little value. In these two years of traveling in the Blood Refinement World, although his cultivation didn't rise swiftly, each level was extremely solid, especially in the months after advancing to the Divine Sea. The gains from the countless trials by older warriors were incomparable to mere cultivation advancements.

Dao Thirteen didn't return with him, which Lu Ye found a bit regrettable. It wasn't that he wanted to abandon him, but the matter of transport wasn't up to him—Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury was at work. If Heaven's Augury didn't bring Dao Thirteen back, Lu Ye was powerless.

He would return to the Blood Refinement World!

The words he spoke before leaving to the elder brother were not spoken lightly.

After the recent Blood Race encirclement, the defense line of the outer islands of Righteous Blood Sacred Land had been breached, and the damage at the Sacred Land was not insignificant. If the Blood Race returned, Righteous Blood Sacred Land might not be able to resist.

He needed to figure out a way to return before the next Blood Race encirclement of Righteous Blood Sacred Land to lend a hand to the elder brother and others.

If he could bring along a batch of helpers, all the better.

Of course, achieving this wouldn't be easy, but since the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury could send him there once, it could send him there twice.

Lu Ye believed Heaven's Augury wouldn't ignore Righteous Blood Sacred Land. Otherwise, there was no need to send him there this time. Heaven's Augury made it very clear: use his abilities to help Righteous Blood Sacred Land fend off the Blood Race army, and he had somewhat accomplished this—whether by commanding Blood Race Dao soldiers or using the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc, both played significant roles in this battle.

He couldn't stay on the Righteous Blood Sacred Land side and wait, as he needed to find a way to quickly enhance his strength. Thus, he needed to return to the Nine Provinces, improve himself as much as possible before the next Blood Race invasion, and find a way back, preferably with trustworthy helpers.

There was still some time to plan slowly.

For now, he wouldn't think about these things. Since he was back in the Nine Provinces, the first step, naturally, was to determine his location.

Lu Ye hurriedly took out the ten-part map to check, and the result left him astonished, as he found himself at Liyuan.

Right near the entrance to the Sword Weapon Sect's secret realm.

What a coincidence indeed.

There was no need to look for the Sword Weapon Sect's secret realm anymore, as its foundation had been destroyed and the secret realm had collapsed long ago.

Just as Lu Ye was contemplating how to return to Haotian City, his battlefield marking grew slightly warm.

Lu Ye hadn't sensed any activity from the battlefield marking in two years, so he quickly focused his mind to investigate.

Name: Lu Yiye.

Identity: Disciple of Righteous Blood Sect, Capital Commandant of the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Hall.

Cultivation Level: Divine Sea Level 1.

Location: Liyuan.

Merit: 972,812 points.

Battle merit: 1,000,000 points.

The changes to his battlefield marking were significant, starting with his identity.

He remembered that his former identity was the captain of Team D-9 in the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Hall, following being a disciple of Righteous Blood Sect. Now, it had changed to Capital Commandant.

Was his captain's position revoked?

It made sense. With no news from him for two years, Team D-9 needed someone in charge, and they couldn't wait for him indefinitely. Changing captains was only logical.

Among Team D-9, the third senior brother Xiao Xinghe had the greatest strength, so if nothing unexpected happened, he should have taken over the captain's position.

In terms of merit, there wasn't much change. When Lu Ye went back to the sect during a mission execution, he traded a large amount of materials to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, accumulating nearly a million in merit, which he hadn't used or had little opportunity to use afterward.

The battle merit had significantly changed.

He couldn't remember the exact number of battle merit he had back then, but he had a rough idea—it was about two hundred thousand.

But at this moment, a full one million battle merits, breaking the record again.

A million battle merits could not come out of thin air. This was clearly the reward from Heaven's Augury for his journey to the Blood Refinement World. At first glance, it's a lot, but if you really calculate it, it's not much.

Because this is what Lu Ye gained after spending two full years.

Moreover, in the encirclement and suppression of the Blood Race's army, the Blood Race Dao soldiers under Lu Ye's command and the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc they provided had made great contributions, not to mention he personally killed many Blood Race members, including those in the Divine Sea Realm.

Of course, Heaven's Augury couldn't specifically compile these achievements, because it knew nothing about the situation of the battle at that time. Probably for this reason, the battle merit reward this time conveniently came out to be a round number.

However, Lu Ye was satisfied. Having something is better than nothing, and it was such a large sum of battle merits.

Just as he was examining the battlefield marking, it reacted slightly again.

This time, someone was sending a message.

He had just returned to the Nine Provinces, and someone was sending a message. Without even thinking, it must be Yiyi.

Only Yiyi would react so quickly. It's not that he and Yiyi were telepathic, but mainly because he had a pet contract with Amber, and further bound with the Life Origin Method and Beast Seal Method. As Lu Ye's natal demon beast, Amber would surely sense his return immediately.

And Amber was always inseparable from Yiyi. If Amber knew, then Yiyi surely would too.

Checking the message, sure enough, it was from Yiyi.

"Lu Ye, you're back? Where are you?"

Lu Ye flew downward while replying: "At Ten Thousand Demons Ridge."

"What are you doing there? Where have you been these two years?" Although they could judge Lu Ye's life and death through the battlefield marking imprint, two years without news, and Lu Ye's imprint had always been in an uncontactable state, inevitably caused concern.

"It's a bit complicated. I'll tell you in detail later. Is everyone doing well?"

"Everyone is well, but many things have happened over these past two years. Now that you're back, you must be careful. The Nine Provinces are now swarming with the Insect Race."

Lu Ye couldn't respond in time because he had already seen the Insect Race, a large swarm of mosquito-like creatures flying towards him. The key issue was that each of these mosquitoes looked fierce and terrifying, with unusually large bodies, almost the size of a palm.

Individually, their power wasn't much, vaguely emitting only Spirit Stream Realm aura, but the terrifying might emanated from the gathered insect pall was shockingly at the level of the Divine Sea Realm.

In terms of sheer numbers, there were likely no fewer than tens of thousands.

Lu Ye had never seen such Insect Race creatures, but insects had one trait, they were extremely sensitive to fluctuations in spirit force. It's clear that the traces of his use of spirit force had attracted this swarm.

Dealing with such creatures, weak individually but strong when gathered, the means a combat cultivator could employ were very limited. These Insect Race creatures had a very strong restraining effect on the average combat cultivator.

The strength of combat cultivators lies in one-on-one confrontations. Even if Lu Ye could chop down dozens or hundreds of such insects with one blade, how many more swings could he make once engulfed by the insect pall?

Fortunately, he was not an ordinary combat cultivator.

At this moment, he hadn't realized how terrible the information from Yiyi was. Otherwise, he wouldn't have entertained any thoughts about this swarm.

Raising his hand to grasp the air, spirit force surged in his palm, the Yin-Yang Dual Origins quickly outlined and interlocked, in the blink of an eye an oval-shaped mass of spirit force had gathered above his palm.

At a glance, it seemed like an egg, its surface consumed by roaring flames.

As Lu Ye urged his spirit force, the flaming egg cracked open, a clear and resonant cry sounded forth, and a Fire Phoenix with a wingspan of thirty fathoms shot out, diving towards the swarm of insects.

Faced with such a swarm, the methods of magic cultivators were most suitable.

In the past, when his strength was insufficient, Lu Ye needed to use himself as a foundation to construct the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes, but now having reached the Divine Sea, it was no longer so troublesome.

The enormous Fire Phoenix collided head-on with the swarm. Lu Ye initially thought it would incinerate the entire swarm, but an astonishing scene unfolded.

A large portion of the Insect Race perished, but as they died, they desperately consumed the spirit force within the Fire Phoenix, weakening its power, causing the Fire Phoenix to shrink rapidly.

The Fire Phoenix was shattered, yet about sixty percent of the swarm remained.

Just as Lu Ye was about to strike again, a buzzing sound emanated from below.

Looking down, his scalp tingled with numbness. A massive number of insects rose densely from below, converging towards him, clearly attracted by the earlier waves of spirit force.

The sheer scale was simply unbelievable.

Moreover, during their flight, the insects continuously gathered, enlarging the insect pall and rapidly increasing their might.

In his line of sight, was only darkness, the ground no longer visible.

Lu Ye had no more desire to make a move, given such circumstances, retreat was the best choice!

He caught sight of a direction and transformed into a long rainbow, streaking through the sky with the insect pall in relentless pursuit behind him.

Fortunately, the insect pall's speed wasn't fast. Lu Ye flew for a while and finally managed to shake them off.

A moment later, he found a concealed spot and descended, concealing his aura.

Chapter 1054 Plague of Insects

The insect pall in the distance hovered in the air for a while, losing Lu Ye's trail before finally settling back down.

Lu Ye's expression was grave.

Earlier, when he had just returned to the Nine Provinces, he had been immersed in the joy of returning to his homeland, without paying much attention to other matters. Now, he finally noticed something unusual.

The most direct change was in Liyuan.

Liyuan is a vast plain, considered a strategic buffer zone for the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge in Bingzhou. It is devoid of human habitation, yet, as a plain, naturally it should be teeming with life.

At the very least, when Lu Ye followed Nian Yuexian here the last time, looking down from high above, Liyuan was a sea of waving greenery.

But now Liyuan showed no trace of green; what met the eye was desolation, devoid of vitality.

Combining this with the insect pall just witnessed, Lu Ye could clearly discern the root of all these circumstances.

Wherever the Insect Race went, not a blade of grass survived; life was completely extinguished.

The battlefield marking contained a lot of information, which Yiyi had just transmitted. As Lu Ye continued to investigate, he grew more and more astonished.

He hadn't expected that during the two years he was away from the Nine Provinces, such major events would occur.

An Insect Plague swept across the Nine Provinces!

And this Insect Plague's magnitude and intensity was the most ferocious and terrifying ever recorded in Nine Provinces history.

Every patch of land, every corner of the Nine Provinces was besieged by the Insect Race.

The last time the Misty Sea Insect Plague erupted, many sects had to exert a lot of effort before quelling it, but the scale was limited and the impact was not significant.

But this time, the situation was completely different—it wasn't an Insect Plague, but a full-scale insect disaster.

Not only were the numbers overwhelming, but among the diverse Insect Race varieties, there were many that rivaled the Divine Sea Realm.

The insect disaster erupted exactly two years ago, almost the moment Lu Ye departed from the Nine Provinces.

The origin was an earthquake that swept across the Nine Provinces.

The entire world was in upheaval; deep, unfathomable ground fissures appeared nationwide and overnight, the Nine Provinces became a paradise for the Insect Race.

Due to the insect disaster, the conflicts between the Haotian Alliance and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge two factions calmed significantly, and now basically all cultivators were fighting against the Insect Race.

Cultivators understood clearly that whether it was the Haotian Alliance or the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, they were ultimately the human race, while the Insect Race was an alien species. Under such a crisis, internal feuds could be set aside temporarily; eradicating the alien race was the urgent priority.

According to Yiyi, these insects came from deep underground, unseen and unknown to humans, as cultivators typically wouldn't venture too far underground due to the interference from the origin magnetic field. The deeper one goes, the more spirit force gets suppressed.

Thus, the deep underground has always been a forbidden zone for cultivators.

But after that earthquake, creating fissures all over the Nine Provinces, the insects emerged from underground.

No one knows how many years these insects have been proliferating, the species are many and their numbers vast. Over the past year, Nine Provinces cultivators have courageously battled the insects, yet they remain inexhaustible.

Unable to eliminate the insect hives.

The insect hives are deeply buried underground, extremely difficult to find, and even strong teams of Divine Sea Realm experts returned empty-handed, for the deeper one goes, the more numerous the Insect Race becomes, and their cultivation is suppressed even more significantly. In such an environment, once a battle erupts, it becomes endless. Success is elusive unless achieved with one decisive strike.

This is a disaster.

Yet for the Nine Provinces cultivators, it's also a feast.

Because killing the Insect Race can earn battle merit.

Lu Ye checked his battle merit and indeed noticed an increase of several hundred points.

For Nine Provinces cultivators, merit and battle merit are lifelong pursuits in cultivation; especially the latter is extremely important as it can be exchanged for spirit fortune sticks for cultivation.

Normally, the avenues to gain battle merit are limited; provincial guard battle merit is usually dispensed through monthly salaries, with a fixed amount unless assignments are undertaken.

But now killing the Insect Race yields battle merit—how convenient!

This led to a phenomenon where the number of cultivators in the Cloud River battlefield greatly decreased!

Almost all Cloud River Realm cultivators with ambition and background left the Cloud River battlefield to return to the Nine Provinces and kill insects. Now on the Cloud River battlefield, it's rare to see cultivators above Cloud River Level 5 realm.

All have returned to the Nine Provinces.

The powerful insect beings they cannot deal with, but the biggest advantage of the Insect Race is their sheer numbers. While strong insect beings exist, their numbers are minuscule compared to the total headcount.

Thus, as long as one's luck isn't too bad, casually wandering anywhere can yield results.

No need to mention the True Lake Realm cultivators; over these two years, many Nine Provinces cultivators have fallen, but those who survived managed to reap substantial rewards. Previously, they had to calculate their battle merit to exchange for spirit fortune sticks for cultivation; now that's unnecessary. If lacking battle merit, they'd go kill insects and earn some through the battles.

Take Team D-9 for instance—the squad's overall cultivation soared remarkably over these two years.

Two years...

This timing is quite coincidental, and Lu Ye can't help but think about it.

What concerns him even more is that on his way back to the Nine Provinces, he vaguely spotted many figures of the Insect Race on a piece of floating land. However, at the time, it was just a glimpse, and he couldn't be entirely sure that what he saw were indeed Insect Race.

But if those were really the Insect Race gathering on a floating land, do they have anything to do with this insect disaster?

Unable to confirm.

As expected, Team D-9 is now led by Third Senior Brother Xiao Xinghe as the captain. At present, they are stationed in a city, safeguarding its safety together with other cultivators.

This is unavoidable because the insect disaster sweeps across the Nine Provinces. Regardless of their strength, all sects have their means of self-protection.

But such cities, where many ordinary people gather, are not capable of protecting themselves and need nearby sects to allocate manpower to assist in defense. Some sects have good resources and can send enough people, but some sects with weak foundations have no one to spare and must seek help from Haotian City.

Team D-9 was dispatched under such circumstances. In two years, the squad has traversed most of Bingzhou and is currently at their seventh city for co-defense.

Through the information conveyed by Yiyi, Lu Ye roughly understands the current situation in the Nine Provinces.

"Take care of yourselves; I'll return to Haotian City first and then come to find you," Lu Ye sent a message.

"Okay, you be careful too," Yiyi replied.

On the city wall of Red River City, Yiyi ended the transmission, showing a relieved smile.

Lu Ye has returned, that's great!

Beside her, the members of Team D-9 gathered, always listening to Yiyi relay Lu Ye's words. Xiao Xinghe laughed heartily, "With Junior Brother's return, we should celebrate with insect blood. Everyone, follow me to kill some bugs?"

"As Senior Brother commands, this junior will naturally follow!" Li Baxian stood up.

Moments later, under the leadership of Xiao Xinghe, the squad sped out of the city to battle.

On Liyuan, Lu Ye used the Thousand Faces Spirit Runes to change his appearance and altered the color of the Crimson Dragon Battle Suit to white, put away the Boulder Mountain Saber, and hung the sword gourd at his waist.

In an instant, a dashing sword cultivator emerged!

This was ultimately the territory of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, and acting with his original appearance could be troublesome. Although he has now ascended to the Divine Sea realm, in the vast Nine Provinces, many are still stronger than him. He wouldn't arrogantly think he's invincible.

Reducing trouble as much as possible is naturally wise to keep a low profile.

He conjured a streak of sword light, speeding forward.

Along the way, he frequently encountered scattered Insect Race, and quite a few of them were of considerable strength, giving Lu Ye a slight realization of the severe degree of the insect disaster in the Nine Provinces.

Even the desolate Liyuan had such scenes, letting one imagine the situation in places bustling with people.

After advancing for two hours, he gained several hundred points of battle merit.

This made him sigh, though the current overall environment in the Nine Provinces is harsh, it is now much simpler for cultivators to earn battle merit than before. Of course, relatively, the risk is also greater.

But cultivation is like this; to gain, one must give and take risks.

The Insect Race he had slain along the way, many were at the True Lake Realm, though he hadn't encountered any at the Divine Sea Realm; it didn't mean they didn't exist.

Just like the initial mosquito-like Insect Race he encountered, a single Insect Race wasn't much, but once they gathered into an insect pall, even he had to avoid them.

Sensing a fluctuation of spirit force from a direction, Lu Ye turned his head and saw several cultivators fleeing desperately with a Mantis Insect Race hot on their heels.

Cultivators encountered in such a place naturally belonged to Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

If it were before, Lu Ye probably wouldn't care about the life or death of these people. The opposition of factions destined him and the people of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge only to become enemies.

But his journey in the Blood Refinement World left him with many insights.

The biggest one was that cultivators from two major factions could coexist peacefully and unify for a common goal.

In the Blood Refinement World, he received much favor from many senior ancestors, half of whom were from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Of course, this had to do with the special situation of the Blood Refinement World and also with the mindset of the ancestors. Having reached their level, many grudges from their youth could be laughed off.

Before leaving, many ancestors gave him their tokens, saying that if he encountered their disciples bullying him, he could take out these tokens to show those disciples. But from another perspective, weren't those ancestors also subtly implying for Lu Ye to lend a hand when their disciples were in danger?

Some words are just hard to say outright.

Their acknowledgment of Lu Ye's abilities assured them that as long as Lu Ye was given enough time, he would certainly reach their heights, perhaps even surpass them.

Truly at that point, who in the Nine Provinces would be his adversary?

Each token was a gesture of trust and an intangible responsibility.

The journey in the Blood Refinement World caused a subtle shift in Lu Ye's mindset. Previously, upon seeing cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, his first thought would be how to kill them.

But now, not anymore.

Who knows if among the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, there were descendants of those senior ancestors, even if the probability is small.

Chapter 1055 Reunion with an Old Acquaintance

The cultivators who were fleeing all had the strength of the True Lake Realm, and the spirit force fluctuations emanating from the leader were at the level of True Lake Level 6.

It was a squad of four, with quite respectable strength.

Yet, they were still being chased into a dead end because the Insect Race hunting them down was unexpectedly of the Divine Sea Realm.

The quartet was out to hunt the Insect Race, as were many such squads scattered across the Nine Provinces. Initially, everything went smoothly, and they delved deeper boldly, until they unexpectedly encountered an opponent they couldn't rival.

Now, among the four, one was grievously injured, held in the arms of a companion, covered in blood.

The other two were using their respective skills to fend off the attacks of the Insect Race from behind, one was a magic cultivator wielding considerable casting power, and the other seemed to be a Ghost Cultivator, but in such circumstances, their contributions were extremely limited.

The Ghost Cultivator sect excels at stealth and surprise attacks, but when forced into a head-on confrontation, their overall strength diminishes. For such a sect, if they miss, they retreat swiftly beyond a thousand miles.

Given the situation, if the Ghost Cultivator abandoned their companions and fled, there was a chance for survival, since he was the fastest. He didn't need to be faster than the Divine Sea Realm Insect Race, just faster than his three companions.

Yet, he clearly had no intention to escape alone, and matched the magic cultivator's efforts to desperately defend.

Such a task was originally meant for a physique cultivator, and there was one in the team initially, but he had already fallen heroically. With no alternative, the Ghost Cultivator had to step up.

Lu Ye suddenly found the Ghost Cultivator familiar, and upon closer inspection, was astonished.

How did this guy end up here? Wasn't he supposed to be over at Gushan City Pass?

Gushan City was tens of thousands of miles away; this place fell under the jurisdiction of Dark Moon Forest Pass.

What he didn't know was someone had actively requested a transfer from Gushan City Pass to escape his shadow, and as for where they were transferred, it didn't matter as long as it was not Gushan City Pass.

More than two years ago, after the war between Dark Moon Forest Pass and Jinglan Lake Pass erupted, Dark Moon Forest Pass needed a large influx of personnel, and so he was transferred here.

Indeed, after two years of peaceful living, he no longer had to live in apprehension at Gushan City over there.

Thanks to the Insect Plague, he had reaped considerable rewards during these two years and had now reached the level of True Lake Level 6 in cultivation!

With a decent background and excellent talent, though not necessarily calling the shots at Dark Moon Forest Pass, he was at least somewhat renowned.

Ying Wuji had finally found his footing!

Upon meeting an old acquaintance after a long time, coupled with Lu Ye's intention to rescue them, he hesitated no longer. With a shake of the sword light beneath his feet, he charged towards the battle over there.

Ying Wuji's Spiritual Artifact spun in his hands, struggling to fend off the storms of attacks from the Mantis Insect Race. Although it didn't possess much spiritual intelligence, fighting and killing were its instincts. It seemed naturally skilled in saber skills as if a masterful saber user, causing Ying Wuji to be flustered.

Moreover, every strike carried immense force.

He was forced to abandon the usual combat tactics of a Ghost Cultivator and confront it directly.

Had it not been for the assistance of the magic cultivator, or if the Insect Race knew how to wield psyche force, their squad would have perished long ago.

The gap between the True Lake Realm and Divine Sea Realm was like an abyss.

How he resented saber users, even if the opponent was just an Insect Race!

There's nothing good about saber users.

He had already sent a message for help to his Mountain Pass Chief, but it would take time for him to arrive, and it was uncertain if he would even come. Currently, Dark Moon Forest Pass had only one Divine Sea Realm Mountain Pass Chief, who was sometimes stretched too thin.

If the Mountain Pass Chief didn't arrive, they faced little hope of survival. But even if he did, could they really hold out until then?

As these thoughts rushed through his mind, tremendous force surged from the front, causing Ying Wuji's arm to go numb and raise up high, exposing his midsection.

In his vision, the mantis sabers of the Insect Race gleamed with a cold light, plummeting straight down with incredible speed, leaving a shadow in their wake.

An icy chill enveloped Ying Wuji, knowing his end was near. As a Ghost Cultivator, to have tangled with a Divine Sea Realm Insect Race for this long was a testament to his deep foundations, but he could hold on no longer.

In this life-or-death moment, he found himself devoid of fear, with no urge to retreat. Nine Provinces cultivators, from the Spirit Stream Realm onward, live amidst the constant opposition of two major camps, undergoing countless battles of various scales in their lifetime. None fear death—one could say most cultivators face their demise with acceptance.

But even in death, one must die valuably!

Following the yearning in his heart, he lunged forward, shouting, "Go!"

Even if it meant buying but a moment, he sought to give his companions a chance to escape.

Suddenly, in his vision, a bright light descended from the sky. Ying Wuji couldn't discern what it was, nor had he time to spare a glance. Thrusting his dirk forward, he pierced directly into the grotesque, undulating mouth of the Mantis Insect Race, unleashing a spirit force blast that shattered its mouthparts.

This was the final burst of strength in his life, naturally exerting every ounce of power he had.

Yet death did not arrive as expected. Instead, he felt a chill on his head, combined with a wet, sticky feeling dribbling down his cheeks, the scent of blood wafting across his nose.

The sharp mantis saber of the Insect Race was lodged atop his head, penetrating half an inch into the flesh, a mere fraction from claiming his life.

Feeling the pain sear through his head, Ying Wuji gasped heavily, momentarily unable to discern the situation.

I'm not dead?

Not only am I not dead, but I've also killed this Divine Sea Realm Insect Race?

In an instant, Ying Wuji's eyes welled up with tears. He really stood up...

However, in the next moment, a thin line of blood appeared across the forehead of the mantis insect. The line quickly spread, cutting through the whole body.

With a loud sound, the mantis insect split open, the cut neat and clean, splattering emerald-green blood all over Ying Wuji.

Ying Wuji blinked, and only then did he see the figure standing not far away.

Earlier, this figure had been obscured by the mantis insect.

The first impression was that this guy was truly handsome!

With such looks, even without much cultivation, a simple beckon would gather many admirers around.

Immediately, a chilling sensation surged up from deep within his heart. He didn't know where this feeling came from, but as soon as he saw this stranger, his heart skipped a beat, and he felt inexplicably uneasy.

Instinctively, he thought it was a side effect of surviving a near-death experience.

He quickly took a step back, eyeing the newcomer warily.

Dressed in white, with an air of immortality, poised and elegant, with a gourd hanging from his waist. His aura emanated spirit force, marking him as a Divine Sea Realm strong cultivator!

Ying Wuji finally understood that he wasn't alive because of his own prowess but because he was saved by someone else.

The brilliant flash of light he had glimpsed earlier must have been this person's technique, likely a sword light.

Only such a powerful individual could so cleanly and swiftly kill a Divine Sea Realm Insect Race.

Steadying his mind, Ying Wuji solemnly clasped his hands in respect, "Dark Moon Forest Pass's Ying Wuji, many thanks for saving my life, may I ask your honored name?"

He didn't know why, but though he wanted to sincerely thank him, he felt uneasy. Moreover, this Divine Sea Realm strong cultivator's gaze upon him seemed somewhat odd.

It seemed somewhat... playful?

Ying Wuji found it difficult to meet his eyes; after all, the man was a Divine Sea Realm strong cultivator, and it was impolite, not to mention the fact that he had just saved his life.

"You are... Li Taibai?" Behind him, the magic cultivator seemed as if he'd seen a ghost, staring at Lu Ye in shock.

Back when Lu Ye transformed into Li Taibai, he fought the Haotian Alliance cultivators of Jinglan Lake Pass six times, winning all six. The last battle, he even struck down Tan Shu, who was several minor levels above him. Many Dark Moon Forest Pass cultivators witnessed this and were awed by him.

Subsequent reports from minor Mountain Pass Chief Lin Yue revealed that Li Taibai was a significant figure on par with Lu Yiye from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Lu Yiye, a fearsome character, had caused significant trouble for Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's top sects since the Spirit Stream Realm. His terrifying feat of slaying two thousand people in a single battle in the Cloud River Realm made him unchallengeable, with even the second-ranked Lan Ziyi avoiding him, taking the spotlight effortlessly.

No other cultivator in the Nine Provinces could compare in the same era and realm, and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge saw him as a threat to be eliminated.

When the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge finally produced someone like Li Taibai, they naturally boasted about him.

However, tragically, Tan Shu's death triggered a two-pass battle, and Jinglan Lake Pass's Liew Yuemei personally dealt with Li Taibai using her Divine Sea Realm prowess to oppress the weaker. In that battle, Li Taibai, unfortunately, fell!

The legend fell, and the many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators of the Dark Moon Forest Pass were furious, but what could they do if he was already dead?

This magic cultivator was present on that day witnessing Li Taibai's decisive slay of Tan Shu, holding immense admiration for him.

He never expected the supposedly deceased to appear before him again, and within slightly over two years, he had advanced to Divine Sea Realm!

He almost thought he was dreaming.

"What? You are Li Taibai?"

Ying Wuji was also shocked.

Having been at Dark Moon Forest Pass for two years, he naturally heard of his legendary deeds. Many had spoken to him about it, and he felt it was unfortunate, as if the Dark Moon Forest Pass cultivators' descriptions were not exaggerating. Li Taibai was indeed a match for Lu Yiye, but he arrived too late to witness Li Taibai's greatness.

Yet today, unexpectedly, he has the fortune to meet him.

Unbelievable, beyond comprehension.

As far as he knew, two years ago, Li Taibai was only at True Lake Level 3, not much stronger than himself. In two years, he advanced to True Lake Level 6 rapidly, and Li Taibai was already at Divine Sea?

What kind of great elixir pill was he eating?

Being recognized in person, Lu Ye wasn't surprised, only nodding slightly, "That's me."

When activating the Thousand Faces Spirit Runes, he considered changing to an unfamiliar face, but the sword gourd was too conspicuous, so he simply stuck with Li Taibai's appearance.

This place being the Dark Moon Forest Pass's territory, encountering their cultivators and being recognized was only normal.

Chapter 1056 Conscription

The identity of Li Taibai is recognized by the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, making it convenient to act using the guard token.

Recognizing Lu Ye's identity, Ying Wuji's squad of three saluted again: "Thank you, sir, for your aid."

The fourth member of the squad was severely injured and unconscious, currently being carried by another member on their back. Although they were shocked by Li Taibai's rapid improvement in cultivation, they were fortunate to have encountered a Divine Sea Realm ally here; otherwise, their fates would have been uncertain.

Lu Ye neither affirmed nor denied. A Divine Sea Realm should have the demeanor of a Divine Sea Realm. He turned his head to look in a direction where a Divine Sea Realm's aura was rapidly approaching, and it was clear from the fluctuations that it was not an ordinary Divine Sea Realm.

There was a familiar feeling; Lu Ye roughly understood who was coming.

It seemed that Ying Wuji and the others had sent a message for help, which prompted the other party to rush here.

After a brief consideration, he did not avoid them but calmly stood his ground. Avoiding them now would seem like a guilty conscience.

The person quickly arrived nearby. As the brilliance dissipated, a graceful figure appeared; it was none other than Lin Yue, the Mountain Pass Chief of Dark Moon Forest Pass.

Not seen for a few years, her cultivation had advanced. She was now at the Divine Sea Level 7, yet her face was full of undisguisable fatigue, and even her hairpin was slightly disarrayed.

Landing, her eyes swept around, and she quickly understood what had happened; then she looked at Lu Ye in astonishment: "Li Taibai?"

She remembered this handsome young man clearly. Back then, she even considered bringing him into the sect, and if it weren't for some unexpected events that destroyed his future, she would have been pleased to facilitate a match with her disciple niece.

Unfortunately, in the battle where Jinglan Lake Pass overcame Dark Moon Forest Pass, Li Taibai narrowly survived, but his psyche was injured by Liew Yuemei, leaving him with no chance for further progress. After that battle, she hastily sent this young man away and announced externally that Li Taibai had died in battle, mainly to prevent her niece from getting entangled.

Every time she thought of him afterward, she felt great regret.

But that's how the cultivation world is. Since ancient times, many talented individuals have gained fame in their youth, but if they cannot reach the end, they are merely ephemeral.

The Nine Provinces are vast, with numerous geniuses, but those who cannot grow up will ultimately be useless.

She also never expected to see this young man again after a few years, and at this place too.

"Chief Lin, long time no see." Lu Ye smiled slightly. Back when he was a True Lake Level 3 facing Lin Yue, a Divine Sea Realm, the pressure was immense, but now, upon seeing her again, he was unfazed.

Lin Yue was dazed, looking at Lu Ye incredulously: "You... are in the Divine Sea Realm?"

"I happened upon an opportunity and had some gains, fortunately advanced," Lu Ye casually lied.

The Nine Provinces are full of opportunities; just because one cannot find them does not mean others cannot. Lin Yue had sent Li Taibai away because his psyche was wounded and his future bleak, but there is no real dead end in the world. Now it seems Li Taibai has survived through adversity and must have great fortune, or else how could a mere independent cultivator have such an opportunity?

"A small secret realm?" Lin Yue immediately speculated.

Not having seen Li Taibai for years and suddenly emerging as a Divine Sea cultivator, combined with mentioning an opportunity, only a small secret realm could explain it.

Lu Ye smiled without speaking.

Lin Yue also realized she had said too much; such matters are best left unasked. Even though her cultivation was higher than Lu Ye's, who doesn't have a few secrets? She was just too shocked, and recent overwork made her speak without thinking.

Li Taibai's silence was expected, and she didn't blame him.

"Where are you planning to go?" Lin Yue asked again.

Lu Ye replied, "I just left seclusion recently and intend to travel around. You know, having just advanced to Divine Sea, my mindset and cultivation haven't settled. I should broaden my horizons and experiences."

This was indeed true, but Lin Yue shook her head: "In the past, that wouldn't be a problem, but in the last two years, the Nine Provinces have undergone major changes, making it unsuitable for travel."

"Major changes?" Lu Ye looked puzzled, "Does it relate to the Insect Race? I saw desolation above Liyuan and Insects rampant; what's going on?"

Lin Yue sighed, "Disasters have descended, beyond human resistance." Her face was full of weariness, then she shifted topics, "Would you be willing to accompany me to Dark Moon Forest Pass?"

For the past two years, she had been stationed alone at Dark Moon Forest Pass, unable to support it alone. She repeatedly sent requests to Ten Thousand Demons City for reinforcements, but with insect disasters everywhere in the Nine Provinces, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's Divine Sea cultivators were all occupied with tasks, leaving no excess manpower to dispatch to her.

Not only Ten Thousand Demons Ridge but Haotian Alliance was also in the same situation.

Otherwise, how could a Divine Sea Level 7 cultivator like her be so exhausted? If she could bring Li Taibai to Dark Moon Forest Pass, it would surely lighten her burden.

With Ten Thousand Demons City's reluctance to send reinforcements, she understood, but surely she could enlist one strong person herself?

And in any case, Li Taibai has some connection to Dark Moon Forest Pass, making it a convenient opportunity.

Lu Ye had no intention of going to Dark Moon Forest Pass with her; having just returned from the Blood Refinement World, he planned to go back to Haotian City and did not want to complicate matters.

Just as he was about to refuse, Lin Yue noticed his thoughts and raised her guard token from her waist, waving it: "Lin Yue, Mountain Pass Chief of Dark Moon Forest Pass, requisitions independent cultivator Li Taibai to the pass for cooperation in defense. The order is given, and defiance is not tolerated!"

This is trying to use military rank and position to pressure him.

Lu Ye couldn't help but laugh.

Disguised as Li Taibai, he just wanted to take advantage of this identity to easily carry out his tasks. As long as he passed through Liyuan and beyond the territory controlled by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, he could return to his original appearance.

And now he's facing this issue.

Under the guard token, Li Taibai had no chance to refuse. Of course, Lu Ye could also try to kill all the people in front of him and end things once and for all.

Lately, there hasn't been any thoughts like this from Lu Ye, considering whether he can accomplish this or not. Just fight first, even if it exposes Li Taibai's identity and his method to disguise as a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator, there's no real loss.

But now, he has more to consider than before.

So after a brief contemplation, he cupped his fists and said, "Li Taibai accepts the order!"

The Dark Moon Forest Pass couldn't restrain him; if he really wanted to leave, there's no rush, so there was no need to stir up any trouble here.

Lin Yue smiled: "Very good, from now on, you will be the Mountain Pass Chief of Dark Moon Forest Pass!"

Just been recruited, given a significant role, which Lu Ye hadn't expected.

He wondered: "Wasn't the Mountain Pass Chief of Dark Moon Forest Pass you, Senior? Have you been promoted? What happened to the original Chief?"

He remembered the original Chief was named Zhang Kun, whose cultivation was slightly higher than Lin Yue's.

"You are now in the Divine Sea, so there's no need to call me Senior. Among cultivators, we judge our rank based on cultivation. If you don't mind, call me Senior Sister; makes me feel younger." Lin Yue clearly had high hopes for Lu Ye.

Imagine an independent cultivator without a sect or mentors, able to defeat a Level 7 cultivator when at True Lake Level 3, and quickly advancing to the Divine Sea within two years—such talent is unparalleled.

And now she needs people desperately, so she naturally wants to win over Lu Ye.

"Senior Sister Lin," Lu Ye went along with it smoothly.

"The current situation in Nine Provinces is something you might not understand; now every place needs a Divine Sea Realm to oversee. Brother Zhang Kun was transferred, and Dark Moon Forest Pass only has one Divine Sea overseer. It isn't really a promotion, just filling a position." Lin Yue explained.

Lu Ye understood.

"Let's head back to the mountain pass, I will explain everything thoroughly on the way," Lin Yue said.

While the two were talking, Ying Wuji's squad members stood quietly aside, except Ying Wuji himself, who removed the two mantis sabers of the Mantis Insect Race and carried them on his shoulder in a showy manner.

Seeing Lu Ye looking over, Ying Wuji explained a bit awkwardly, "This thing is tough and sharp, just perfect for refining artifacts."

Although the insect disaster in Nine Provinces caused quite a bit of damage, it also provided a bounty of precious materials. Take this mantis saber for example; it's extremely solid and sharp, making excellent materials for artifact refining.

Therefore, cultivators now gain battle merit by killing the insect race and collect various odd materials, which can be sold to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault for a good profit.

Lu Ye nodded.

Ying Wuji added, "Besides, I can't stand seeing knife-like things, and I loathe those who use knives. Mountain Pass Chief, since you are a sword cultivator, you must know whoever uses knives are not good—just a bunch of brutes. They lack the elegance and grace of sword cultivators."

In Nine Provinces, those who use knives look down on those who use swords, and vice versa. Their mutual disdain is no secret.

Li Taibai was a lifesaver, and Ying Wuji naturally wanted to say things he liked to hear, as he'd be working under the Mountain Pass Chief of Dark Moon Forest Pass in the future.

Lu Ye's eyes narrowed, nodding frequently: "You have a point. You're quite good, I have high hopes for you."

Though it was a compliment, Ying Wuji felt a bit uncomfortable hearing it, and goosebumps involuntarily appeared on his skin.

"Let's go." Lin Yue, in high spirits, realized that her rushed visit saved no one, yet she recruited Li Taibai to ease her troubles, allowing her not to be so burdened in the future.

In fact, if the squad didn't have Ying Wuji, she wouldn't have hastily run here. When cultivators are out, their fortunes and misfortunes are their own, and it's impossible to have elders guarding them all the time. Cultivators can't grow if such circumstances are true.

But Ying Wuji's background in Senluo Hall forced her to prioritize, so upon receiving his request for help, she rushed over.

Spirit force activated, the group, led by Lin Yue, flew towards Dark Moon Forest Pass.

Lu Ye and Lin Yue flew ahead, with Ying Wuji's team following closely behind.

On the way, Lin Yue explained the current situation in Nine Provinces, which was mostly consistent with the information Lu Ye got from Yiyi, but more detailed.

Chapter 1057 Lu Yiye Returned to the Nine Provinces

Yiyi naturally wouldn't hide anything from Lu Ye, but due to insufficient cultivation and level, the things she came into contact with weren't as comprehensive as Lin Yue's.

In Lin Yue's description, the situation in the Nine Provinces was more severe than Lu Ye imagined.

So severe that the two major factions, the Haotian Alliance and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, tacitly paused their disputes and each began handling their own messes.

This is indeed the first time in history.

Since the beginning of the two big factions, the conflicts and fights between them have never ceased, whether on the Spirit Stream battlefield, the Cloud River battlefield, or in the Nine Provinces itself, the strife was endless. But due to the spread of the insect disaster, the two factions were forced to make some changes.

What is despairing is that the current situation has lasted for two years, and it's unknown how long it will continue.

The Insect Race emerging continuously from the depths underground cannot be exterminated, yet the cultivators now lack the ability to delve deep underground to destroy the insect hives.

If the source of the insect hives is not resolved, the problem of the Insect Race will persist.

It is a deadlock.

The most urgent problem that the experts of the two factions want to solve is how to safely go deep underground. Once this problem is solved, there is hope to eradicate the insect disaster.

Upon arriving at the Dark Moon Forest Pass, Lu Ye keenly noticed that the number of cultivators stationed here had significantly decreased.

Less than a tenth of the total from the last time he was here.

Though some cultivators are now outside killing the Insect Race to earn battle merit, the numbers are not so few.

This situation isn't brought about by battlefield loss but because most cultivators have been redeployed, just like how Zhang Kun was redeployed.

This is, after all, the frontline of the two factions' confrontation, with nothing else but mountain passes. Even if the Insect Race occupies it, there isn't much actual loss.

Unlike the hinterlands of the two factions, where there are many cities and human settlements that need to be defended.

But this is the frontline pass after all, and it cannot be left unattended, so a portion of cultivators ultimately need to stay here.

As for those cultivators who have been redeployed, most have been sent to locations that require cultivator defense.

The number of Nine Provinces cultivators is vast, yet in the face of this insect disaster sweeping across the entire continent, manpower is still tight.

Ying Wuji and others left, taking their severely injured companion to find a healing cultivator for treatment, while Lin Yue led Lu Ye to a grand hall and went inside: "This was originally Senior Brother Zhang Kun's residence. Since he left, this place has been vacant. You will stay here from now on."

Lu Ye had no objections.

"You've just arrived, so take a rest first. I will request your promotion to the small Mountain Pass Chief of Dark Moon Forest Pass at Ten Thousand Demons City. Before the official appointment is issued, you don't need to do anything, but considering that manpower is needed everywhere, this time won't be long, so prepare yourself mentally."

Lin Yue soon left, in a very good mood.

She had been extremely tired recently, and capturing a Divine Sea Realm from their side in the wilderness this time barely counted as being acquainted, even if he was only Divine Sea Level 1, at least he could help share some of the pressure.

After seeing Lin Yue off, Lu Ye went to the nearby sleeping quarters and sat down cross-legged.

Being drafted by Lin Yue didn't affect him much, it only delayed his journey by a few days. Two years had passed, and he wouldn't care about these few days.

Moreover, the identity of Li Taibai was convincingly consistent. When he disguised himself as Li Taibai, he wasn't seen through by the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Now, with such chaotic circumstances in the Nine Provinces, it's even less likely to be exposed.

It's a good opportunity to place a stake on the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side. Last time when Lu Ye disguised as Li Taibai, he considered this, but then he lacked sufficient cultivation and abandoned the thought.

Now he is in the Divine Sea, and with this serendipitous opportunity, Lin Yue needs manpower urgently, so everything fell into place naturally.

It's not like he's going to do anything unspeakable to the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. He alone can't shake the foundation of such a large faction, he doesn't have that kind of ability.

It's simply a matter of going along with the flow.

Perhaps this action is meaningless, or maybe it will play a crucial role at some point, who knows? It's just a leisurely strategy within his capability.

The only trouble at Dark Moon Forest Pass is a single person, and that is Tong Shuyao.

Lu Ye remembered that this Senior Sister was extremely attentive to Li Taibai. After the last battle, Tong Shuyao was severely injured and unconscious, and Lin Yue declared to the outside world that Li Taibai had died in battle, also intending to dispel Tong Shuyao's thoughts. Now that he has come back to life, he is yet to know if Tong Shuyao will still come to entangle him.

However, speaking of which, Tong Shuyao may not be here.

A large number of cultivators were redeployed from the Dark Moon Forest Pass, and Tong Shuyao might have been redeployed too, so she is quite possibly not here.

After considering for a moment, Lu Ye stood up, walked out of the sleeping quarters, and directly headed towards where the Heaven's Augury Hall was.

The Heaven's Augury Hall at Dark Moon Forest Pass, he had been there before, so he was familiar with it.

In the hall, there were more than a dozen cultivators, all connecting with the Heaven's Augury Pillar, either buying or selling, and among them, Lu Ye found a familiar figure, it was Ying Wuji.

Beside him was that magic cultivator companion.

This outing had yielded quite a few gains for them. Not to mention, the materials collected from the Insect Race could be sold to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault in exchange for merits.

The cultivation of True Lake Realm cultivators requires a massive amount of merits, so for cultivators, merits and battle achievements are equally important. Of course, in terms of value, battle achievements are undoubtedly more significant.

The area around the Heaven's Augury Pillar was crowded with people, leaving no room to stand. Lu Ye quietly waited in line not far behind Ying Wuji.

Looking at Ying Wuji, Lu Ye suddenly realized a problem.

With his cultivation speed, the gap between him and his peers would only grow wider. Before the metamorphosis of his Talent Tree was complete, although his cultivation speed was quite fast, it wasn't as exaggerated as it is now.

But since the Talent Tree's metamorphosis and the acquisition of the devouring power, his cultivation speed had become somewhat abnormal.

The current Divine Sea Level 1 cultivation stage was the result of his repeated deliberate suppression. If not restrained, his cultivation level would certainly be higher.

This meant that his former companions and even enemies who once could stand shoulder to shoulder with him would soon be left far behind.

Ying Wuji is such an example, as are people like Xiao Xinghe and Li Baxian.

This left Lu Ye with a faint sense of melancholy.

Originally, he wanted to play a little prank on Ying Wuji, but now he lacked the mood.

Ying Wuji quickly finished his transactions with a look of joy. The harvest from this time was enough to sustain his cultivation for a while. As he turned around, he was startled and quickly saluted, "Greetings, my lord."

Lu Ye nodded lightly, displaying the demeanor of someone from the Divine Sea, stepped forward, and placed his hand on the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

Ying Wuji held his breath and swiftly slipped away.

He wasn't sure why, but every time he met this Li Taibai, he felt an inexplicable sense of pressure. He could confirm that he had never seen this person before, nor could there be any conflicts, but that inexplicable pressure was truly present.

Although he didn't understand, Ying Wuji still secretly warned himself to stay as far away from this person as possible in the future. Cultivators follow their instincts, and it must be said, as a Ghost Cultivator, Ying Wuji had a strong sense of potential threats.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Leizhou, a graceful figure flew through the air, and a Divine Sea Realm insect approached head-on, its mouthparts twitching, exuding an aggressive aura.

As the graceful figure brushed past it, the insect suddenly froze, and not until the figure had flown a hundred yards away did it suddenly explode into a mist of blood.

She continued on, idly checking her battlefield marking as she always did.

In the past two years, this was the thing she did most. It wasn't truly out of boredom but to check on a person's life or death through the imprint.

She thought it would be the same as before, with no change in the imprint, but with one glance, the woman was suddenly stunned and immediately stopped.

The imprint that had remained unchanged for two years now showed a state capable of contact, in other words, that person has returned to the Nine Provinces!

This truly was a strange event.

Since the minor realm collapse two years ago, that person disappeared, and the imprint remained in a state that couldn't be contacted. The Venerable Lord deduced he must have gone to another minor realm.

But she couldn't figure out what kind of minor realm could trap someone for two years.

Anyway, this was good news for both her and the Venerable Lord because this person was someone the Venerable Lord valued greatly, an irreplaceable choice for accomplishing a significant task. In the entire Nine Provinces, no one else could do it, not even the all-powerful Venerable Lord.

Quickly she sent a message to the Venerable Lord: "Lu Yiye has returned to the Nine Provinces!"

A few breaths later, a response from the Venerable Lord arrived: "Bring him here!"

Yu Daiwei extended her scarlet little tongue, licked her lips, and softly murmured, "Little thing, this time you won't get away!"

The last time she trapped him in the minor realm, leaving Dao Thirteen to guard, she thought it was foolproof. Yet the Venerable Lord had a particular intuition that he had a way to escape, because he was a person carrying great fortune, capable of doing the impossible.

Yu Daiwei believed that if she were in his situation, she would have no option but to grow old and die in the minor realm.

She often went to check on the brat, just to see what tricks he might pull.

But she never found anything until one day when she tried to investigate, she was shocked to discover that the minor realm where the brat was placed had collapsed!

She simply couldn't believe it.

She knew the collapse of the minor realm must be related to that brat, but she truly couldn't understand how he did it. Although she wasn't constantly at the minor realm, she checked frequently and never found anything suspicious.

As the Venerable Lord said, those carrying such great fortune always have capabilities beyond ordinary means.

The minor realm collapsed, the person disappeared, and the imprint remained incommunicable for two years; today, the brat finally returns. Rather than executing the task given by the Venerable Lord, she was more curious about how he managed to dismantle the minor realm and where he had been these past two years.

A woman's curiosity is extremely strong, but fortunately, these two matters were not conflicting.

To capture someone back, she first needed to determine his position.

Fortunately, in the Nine Provinces, achieving this was not difficult.

Chapter 1058 The Extra Stone Platform

With a flip of her hand, a tracking disc appeared in her palm. She raised her hand to bite her fingertip, writing the three characters of Lu Yiye on the tracking disc. The needle spun a bit and pointed in a certain direction.

That direction was precisely where Bingzhou was located.

The tracking disc was rare and difficult to obtain, but not entirely unobtainable. Most top big sects in the Nine Provinces had tracking discs as spares.

The one in Yu Daiwei's hand was bestowed by the Venerable Lord. If it weren't to capture that boy quickly, she would be reluctant to use it.

Pointing toward Bingzhou was also normal, as Lu Yiye was from Bingzhou. Now, having returned to the Nine Provinces from some small secret realm, he would definitely head to Bingzhou.

She did not think this mission would be too difficult. Nowadays, with the world in turmoil and cultivators scattered everywhere, capturing a True Lake Realm cultivator herself wasn't a challenging task—something she had done once before.

Yu Daiwei activated her spirit force and hurried towards Bingzhou. With her cultivation at the Divine Sea Level 8, her speed was quite fast.

At this moment, on a spirit mountaintop, Mount Tai stood with his hands behind his back, observing the clouds rolling and gathering below.

He, as powerful as he was, was caught off guard by the various changes in the Nine Provinces in the past two years. The sudden outbreak of the insect plague forced him to make many changes to his plans.

But the core of his grand plan remained unchanged and unalterable.

The outbreak of the insect plague was a crisis for the Nine Provinces. Without the large number of Nine Provinces cultivators, the world might already have been in ruins.

But for him, it was an opportunity!

A great opportunity to win over people's hearts.

The Nine Provinces, plagued by insects for two years, brought both commoners and cultivators to their wits' end. If someone or a force could emerge at such a time to solve the insect plague, they would surely gain immense prestige.

He wanted to create a third faction beyond the Haotian Alliance and Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, to eliminate the endless strife between the two major factions, which required the courage and strength to break the existing order.

He had courage, and although he lacked a bit of power, it was not a significant issue. The key was timing.

The outbreak of the Nine Provinces' insect plague indeed disrupted his original plans, but it also presented a great opportunity in front of him.

However, before executing this plan, he needed the assistance of one person, because only that person had the ability to use that exotic treasure, get Heaven's Augury's permission, and establish the third faction.

Last time, he wasn't qualified because the timing wasn't right. But now the timing has come; there's no need to test, as Mount Tai also knows that person already has the qualification to use that exotic treasure.

This was a feeling in the midst of mingming; at his level of cultivation, many times, feelings were the truth.

As long as he brings him over and explains the situation, borrowing his power to create Chaos, and using Chaos as the capital to solve the Nine Provinces' insect plague, Chaos will be qualified to stand in the

world. He believed the Haotian Alliance and Ten Thousand Demons Ridge wouldn't be so base as to turn against them after crossing the bridge.

Establishing Chaos is just the first step. There are too many cultivators in this world tired of the endless confrontation between the two major factions. Once the name of Chaos is out there, coupled with the great merit of solving the insect plague, who's afraid that no one will join?

By then, slowly eroding the foundations of the two major factions will gradually change the landscape of the Nine Provinces.

This is not something that can be accomplished in a short time; it's a long-term plan that requires lasting for hundreds of years, even a few centuries.

Mount Tai has ambitions and has long been accustomed to waiting.

In the Heaven's Augury Hall at the Dark Moon Forest Pass, Lu Ye spent a large amount of merit to exchange for some Spirit Stones and elixir pills. These cultivation resources were usually not much use to him, at most just recovery after a big battle. However, having experienced the Blood Refinement World, Lu Ye knew it was better to have more of these things, as one never knows when they might come in handy.

In addition, he also bought many spiritual and magic artifacts, all meant for the sword gourd to devour.

The Sword Qi within the sword gourd was running low. As Li Taibai now, to use sword cultivator methods, the sword gourd was his most reliant object.

Nearly a million points of merit, leaving only a hundred thousand as reserve, the rest were spent in a short amount of time.

Then Lu Ye connected with the Hall of Battle Merits.

Soon he stood in front of the heavy door, and the gold and silver flood dragons immediately awoke. The silver flood dragon poked its head out from inside the door, extremely eager: "Little guy, why haven't you visited us for such a long time? Haven't you forgotten about us?"

In these two years, the two flood dragons had been extremely anxious, not because they coveted the food Lu Ye brought each time, but because they didn't want to lose the one person they had finally waited for. Not seeing Lu Ye for two years, the two flood dragons thought he had encountered some misfortune.

Finally seeing Lu Ye appear, the silver flood dragon was naturally delighted, and even the usually more stable gold flood dragon's eyes showed concern.

Lu Ye smiled and said, "How could I forget you two, seniors? It's just that I've been caught in a predicament recently, unable to escape, but now that I'm free, I've come to pay a visit to you both."

"At least you have a conscience," the silver flood dragon relaxed.

However, the gold flood dragon sensed something amiss: "Did you encounter a strong enemy? Why has the method we left in your Divine Sea been broken?"

"You could say that," Lu Ye didn't bother to explain in detail.

The gold flood dragon was even more surprised: "You... have advanced to the Divine Sea?"

It's not been that long since Lu Ye last came here at True Lake Level 5. Even knowing Lu Ye is favored by Heaven's Augury, the speed of his cultivation is terrifying.

Lu Ye took out the beast meat he had just bought from his storage sack and tossed it to the two flood dragons. The silver flood dragon immediately started munching it, mumbling indistinctly, "Delicious, really delicious."

It always looks like a famished ghost reincarnated, whereas the gold flood dragon is undoubtedly much more composed.

"You two enjoy your meal first. I'll go check inside," Lu Ye said with a slight smile, not mentioning the idea of having the two flood dragons set up the Twin Dragons Guarding the Sea technique in his Divine Sea again.

No need anymore.

Previously, he hadn't ascended to the Divine Sea, and though he had luckily nurtured a soul body and awakened a Mental Consciousness, it wasn't a true Divine Sea realm, and couldn't be compared to a real Divine Sea realm.

When the flood dragons applied their technique, it was more effective at repelling some Mental Consciousness attacks from strong cultivators in the Divine Sea realm.

But now that he's ascended to the Divine Sea, he doesn't need external assistance anymore. Moreover, his Divine Sea houses the Soul Suppressing Pagoda, so ordinary Mental Consciousness attacks are nothing for him to worry about.

Pushing open the grand doors, Lu Ye stepped into the Hall of Battle Merits.

This time, he didn't have any particular needs, spending 30,000 battle merit points to replenish the consumption of the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword.

In the Blood Refinement World, the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword was a great help. Without it, Lu Ye couldn't have torn through Dao Thirteen's psyche defense and planted the Soul Taming Divine Runes on him. In such an environment, his cultivation was suppressed, and he likely faced several dangers that were difficult to resist.

At least in the early stages of the Blood Refinement World, having Dao Thirteen helped him avoid many unnecessary troubles and made things much easier for him.

Since he has now ascended to the Divine Sea, he will inevitably have to contend with Divine Sea realm cultivators in the future, so the Mental Consciousness Destruction Sword becomes even more crucial.

However, though it is sharp, it is a one-time exotic treasure and needs to be replenished at the Hall of Battle Merits afterwards, which is quite inconvenient.

He spent 30,000 of his more than a million battle merits, not even a fraction of the total, and then Lu Ye prepared to exchange some gold-hued spirit fortune sticks.

Thanks to the senior experts of the Blood Refinement World, his cultivation in the Divine Sea Level 1 realm had long been solidified, so Lu Ye planned to further enhance his cultivation. Of course, there's no need to rush; he'll go with the flow.

However, before Lu Ye could exchange for the gold-hued spirit fortune sticks, he keenly noticed that there had been some changes in the number of stone platforms inside the Hall of Battle Merits.

Having repeatedly entered and exited the Hall of Battle Merits, though he hadn't counted the number of stone platforms, he had a clear sense of their arrangement.

At a particular position, there were now more stone platforms than before.

This wasn't the first time such a thing happened; as Lu Ye's cultivation enhanced, the Hall of Battle Merits often housed items he had never seen before, all of considerable value.

Lu Ye usually just looked without much interest. Firstly, although he earned battle merits easily, their consumption was also considerable, and his rapid enhancement in strength relied heavily on pouring battle merits into it.

Secondly, although these treasures are valuable, they are ultimately external items.

Comparatively, Lu Ye prefers exchanging gold-hued spirit fortune sticks to boost his cultivation.

Relying on external force is normal for a cultivator, but one shouldn't overly depend on external force, which is why besides the Boulder Mountain Saber, he has only the Crimson Dragon Battle Suit. The original reason for exchanging the Crimson Dragon Battle Suit was considering the body expansion during beast transformation state.

If it weren't for this consideration, he wouldn't have exchanged for even the Crimson Dragon Battle Suit.

Though he doesn't intend to exchange anything this time, there's no harm in taking a look, just to broaden his horizons. If someone uses these items against him in the future, he'll at least know what they are and better target them.

He stepped up to those stone platforms and gazed at one of them, raising his eyebrows.

Because placed on the stone platform was a saber!

Its style was plain and ordinary, much like a machete that could be found anywhere in the mundane world.

Seeing such an item, Lu Ye instantly lost interest. Undeniably, the saber placed here is of far higher quality than the Boulder Mountain Saber, possibly reaching the level of a spirit treasure.

But Lu Ye is accustomed to using the Boulder Mountain Saber, already having formed a bond with it. With one saber in hand, he can unleash his full strength, whereas switching to another unfamiliar saber, even if its quality is superior, even if it looks identical to the Boulder Mountain Saber, it's useless if it doesn't feel right when wielded.

In the Hall of Battle Merits, there are several sword-type treasures, all superior to the Boulder Mountain Saber. If Lu Ye wanted to switch, he would have done so long ago, not waiting until today.

So upon seeing that it's a saber, Lu Ye lost the will to investigate further.

Yet before he could avert his gaze, the saber suddenly wriggled and morphed into a mass of jet-black fluid, not liquid, appearing much denser, akin to the state of certain metals once melted.

The fluid continued to wriggle and transform, in the blink of an eye taking on the shape of another saber.

Lu Ye was greatly intrigued.

He observed intently for a moment, noting that the object was constantly changing forms, albeit always in the shape of a saber.

Only then did Lu Ye become genuinely interested, investigating the specific information about this object.

Chapter 1059 Soul Severing Saber

On each stone platform, there's a layer of restriction. Without breaking the restriction, one cannot take the items on the platform.

The method to break the restriction is quite simple as well. It involves consuming a corresponding amount of battle merit. In the Hall of Battle Merits, there's no need to engage in any strategic or physical contests. Battle merit is the best pass.

However, just to investigate the nature and function of the treasures on the stone platform, you don't need to spend battle merits.

Lu Ye raised his hand and pressed it against the restriction on the stone platform, concentrating his thoughts, and soon, he understood.

Soul Severing Saber!

This item is clearly a Soul Device, which can be stored in the Divine Sea, and when encountering a psyche battle, it can be summoned to kill enemies!

Prior to the Divine Sea Realm, cultivators had various combat methods, but ultimately, they were just tests of physical foundation, with all attacks and magic spells driven by spirit force.

But reaching the Divine Sea Realm involves psyche battles.

When strong cultivators in the Divine Sea Realm engage in combat, there are often visible and invisible layers. The visible aspect is the contest of techniques, while the invisible is the clash of Mental Consciousness, which particularly impacts battles between those in the Divine Sea Realm.

It can be said that the side with stronger Mental Consciousness often holds the advantage in battles. Of course, unless the power gap is too vast, defeating an opponent's psyche is not an easy task.

Previously, Lu Ye didn't need to understand these things. His realm hadn't reached that level, so understanding them would have been useless.

But now he can be considered a member of the Divine Sea Realm, and it's about time he learned about these things.

The appearance of the Soul Severing Saber is a pleasant surprise. It seems the Hall of Battle Merits also noticed his elevation in realm, which is why such items appeared.

In terms of psyche, he has the Soul Suppressing Pagoda to protect his Divine Sea from breaking. But ultimately, it is just passive defense, and psyche attack methods are lacking.

In fact, he also has attack methods. Whether it's Bewitchment Psyche or Soul Taming Psyche, they can barely be considered attack methods.

But realistically, when confronting enemies in the Divine Sea Realm, he cannot simply bewitch or tame people; this is unrealistic, and if it fails to harm the enemy, it will only bring ridicule upon himself.

Simply using Mental Consciousness to launch an impact is possible, just as the Xianxia Mountain traitor Ning Hu did. At that time, all members of A-3 squad were shaken in spirit by the impact and fell into the lake.

But that was due to the massive gap in cultivation, which produced such an effect.

If the cultivation levels were similar, such straightforward, direct psyche impacts can be easily blocked by the enemy.

Only when one's psyche power is turned into genuinely effective attacks does it count as psyche attacks. On that day, if Ning Hu had mastered true psyche attacks, A-3 squad would have lost their combat power in an instant.

Psyche power is like a weapon without an edge, and mastering psyche attack methods is akin to sharpening this weapon, unleashing incomparable lethality.

Therefore, every strong cultivator in the Divine Sea Realm learns some Psyche Secret Techniques, either for attack or defense, as this is the trend. When others have it and you don't, you're naturally at a disadvantage in contests.

Apart from that, one can also leverage Soul Devices, like the Soul Severing Saber in front of him, saving the time and effort to cultivate Psyche Secret Techniques.

However, Soul Devices are extremely rare and not easily crafted. While there is a considerable number of cultivators in the Divine Sea Realm across the Nine Provinces, how many possess a Soul Device? Perhaps less than one-tenth.

This highlights the preciousness of the Soul Device.

If this were merely a saber, even if it were a spirit treasure, Lu Ye wouldn't be swayed. But it being a Soul Device makes all the difference.

Without rushing to redeem the Soul Severing Saber, Lu Ye glanced over at several other stone platforms.

Without exception, they were all Soul Devices, equipped for both attack and defense, dazzling him.

It must be said that the newly appeared items on these stone platforms are all superb, leaving Lu Ye wanting them all, but he also knows that it's quality, not quantity, that matters with Soul Devices. As for defense, the Soul Suppressing Pagoda is sufficient for now. What he currently lacks is a means of attack.

Wandering around, he came back to the Soul Severing Saber.

The reason for choosing it is not just because of its saber shape, but primarily because this item is not an ordinary Soul Device in the usual sense.

Conventional Soul Devices can only be housed in the Divine Sea, existing between reality and illusion. However, the Soul Severing Saber before him is not; it can merge into tangible objects.

For example... the Boulder Mountain Saber!

It doesn't have a fixed form and can transform back and forth between different styles of long blades. Therefore, merging it into the Boulder Mountain Saber poses no issue, effectively empowering the Boulder Mountain Saber with the ability to harm psyches.

Once wielding such a Boulder Mountain Saber to slash an enemy, it would similarly cause psyche impact on the enemy, making it rather hard to defend against.

Imagine, during a confrontation, when flesh wounds turn into psyche injuries, how terrifying that is. In the heat of battle, a moment's misstep could mean life or death.

Lu Ye then examined the price of the Soul Severing Saber and the next instant, his face turned black.

Five hundred thousand battle merits!

That's nonsensical!

The Soul Suppressing Pagoda costs only one hundred eighty-eight thousand eight hundred eighty-eight battle merits, so how could the Soul Severing Saber require five hundred thousand battle merits? Both items are Soul Devices, and even if there's a difference in quality, the disparity should not be this large.

So far, the most expensive item in the Hall of Battle Merits is the Golden Body Token, priced at a hefty three hundred thousand battle merits each.

But that's for life-saving purposes, and its high price has a valid reason.

What makes the Soul Severing Saber so special?

Upon checking the prices of other Soul Devices, they were similar to the Soul Suppressing Pagoda, some even less expensive.

Yet, the one I have my eye on is outrageously priced high.

Lu Ye severely suspected that the Hall of Battle Merits set prices based on appearances; he had just received a significant amount of battle merit from Heaven's Augury, accumulating to a million, and suddenly, a five-hundred-thousand item popped up, coincidentally the one he wanted.

Left hand gives, right hand takes — Heaven's Augury surely knows how to count its profits!

Lu Ye was somewhat indignant but found no place to argue, so he could only grit his teeth and exchange for the Soul Severing Saber.

He didn't look at other Soul Devices anymore; firstly, he didn't need them, and secondly, if he exchanged further, his battle merits would be depleted. Arriving at the stone platform for the gold-hued spirit fortune sticks, he exchanged for ten of them before leaving the Hall of Battle Merits.

The silver flood dragon warmly greeted him, "Come again next time."

"Never coming again!" Lu Ye retorted angrily.

Damn swindler!

The silver flood dragon was baffled, entirely unsure of what had happened.

Leaving the Heaven's Augury Hall and returning to his residence, Lu Ye took out the Boulder Mountain Saber, laying it across his knees. He calmed his mind and ran his hand over the blade.

Where his hand passed, a jet-black liquid substance appeared out of nowhere, gradually enveloping the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Moments later, the Soul Severing Saber covered the Boulder Mountain Saber, just as he had imagined, transforming into a sheath for the Boulder Mountain Saber. From the outside, there was no discernible difference since the Soul Severing Saber's form and color were also black, perfectly matching the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Weighing it slightly, the Boulder Mountain Saber seemed significantly heavier, though this was a good thing for him.

With his cultivation reaching a higher realm, the previous weight was somewhat unsuitable, but now, even though it was on the heavier side, he could manage it.

Just as he was about to explore the powers of the Boulder Mountain Saber, the sheath suddenly changed. Lu Ye clearly sensed the sheath attached to the Boulder Mountain Saber, like flowing water over quicksand, rapidly merging into the Boulder Mountain Saber and disappearing without a trace.

This sudden change left him bewildered, momentarily lost.

But in the next instant, a heart-wrenching scene unfolded before him.

The restrictions within the Boulder Mountain Saber were shattering and collapsing at lightning speed.

The quality of a spirit and magic artifact entirely depends on the number of restrictions; the more restrictions, the higher the quality.

Having undergone several upgrades, the Boulder Mountain Saber was now a long saber of magic-artifact class, its restrictions naturally numerous. Normally, unless the blade was severely damaged or cracked, the restrictions shouldn't be destructible.

Yet, this event was unfolding right under Lu Ye's eyes.

The Soul Severing Saber clearly had the effect of dissolving restrictions!

In the Hall of Battle Merits, when Lu Ye investigated the Soul Severing Saber's introduction, he hadn't seen such details. Naturally, introductions to treasures in the Hall of Battle Merits were generally vague, without a lot of specifics. For instance, the Soul Suppressing Pagoda's introduction was summed up in one line: guards the Divine Sea.

As for how it guarded the psyche and its effectiveness, those were matters the user needed to discover through observation.

Cultivators are not children; they have their judgments, and many things don't need to be overly detailed.

But this time was different; the restrictions within the Boulder Mountain Saber were disappearing incredibly fast, and its entire quality was rapidly declining.

Lu Ye wanted to stop it, hurriedly channeling spirit force into it, but it was futile.

He watched helplessly as the long saber that had grown with him in cultivation fell from magic-artifact class to supreme-grade spirit artifact, then to top grade, mid grade, and low grade...

Ultimately becoming a blade without any restrictions.

Lu Ye's forehead veins throbbed violently.

The Soul Severing Saber was so expensive that if it could truly work as intended, that would be one thing, considering it was for facing enemies eventually.

But it had achieved nothing yet and had ruined his Boulder Mountain Saber, which was too much.

Of course, saying it was ruined isn't entirely accurate; the Boulder Mountain Saber still existed and hadn't sustained any physical damage. It could be restored to its original quality with remelting and recasting.

For now, Lu Ye could barely manage that himself, without needing to rely on outsiders.

But it would require a significant amount of time and energy, along with some special crafting materials. Constructing each restriction required different materials.

With furrowed brows, he immersed his mind in sensing; soon, Lu Ye's expression turned one of surprise and doubt.

He could clearly perceive an addition inside the Boulder Mountain Saber, likely the black liquid substance which formed the Soul Severing Saber. These materials filled every corner of the Boulder Mountain Saber, perfectly fusing with the blade, inseparable.

Moreover, after dissolving all restrictions, these peculiar substances settled down. Lu Ye attempted to control them, maneuvering them smoothly, seamlessly.

He could manipulate these unique substances, making them circulate within the blade at will, and could even extract them.

Initially, he didn't think much of it, but gradually, Lu Ye's expression turned solemn as a bold idea wildly surged in his mind.

Chapter 1060 No Destruction, No Construction

The black liquid perfectly merged into the blade's body, yet it was still under the control of one's Mental Consciousness. So, could these black liquids be used to construct restrictions within the blade?

If so, as long as the constructed restrictions are ample, the Boulder Mountain Saber could restore its original quality, or perhaps even exceed it...

This means that from now on, the Boulder Mountain Saber will become a personal weapon that can change its quality according to his desires. If such a thing could truly be accomplished, it would be of immense help to Lu Ye.

All along, Lu Ye had a vague worry.

That is, with the growth of his own strength, to what extent can the Boulder Mountain Saber accompany him?

This is also the awkward situation that most combat cultivators face.

Combat cultivators have high demands on their personal weapons. Long-term companionship, growth, and enemy defeat make a combat cultivator and his weapon as one in spirit and action. With the Boulder Mountain Saber in hand, Lu Ye can unleash his full potential. The same goes for other combat cultivators; however, if he were to switch to another weapon, even if the reduction in power was minimal, it would inevitably have some effect.

In the struggle between the strong, any external influence can be fatal.

Therefore, Lu Ye has consistently opted to spend more battle merit upgrading the Boulder Mountain Saber, never considering replacing it with another long saber. If he wanted to change, the Hall of Battle Merits was full of long blade-type Magic Artifacts available for exchange.

But the foundation of the Boulder Mountain Saber is too weak. It was originally just a low-grade Spiritual Artifact. It can be upgraded to a top-grade Spiritual Artifact or even a Magic Artifact, but can it be upgraded to a spirit treasure?

Maybe it can, maybe it can't.

There are significant risks involved in the upgrading process. If upgrading fails, the Boulder Mountain Saber may shatter. At that time, even if Lu Ye finds someone to craft an identical one, it wouldn't be the Boulder Mountain Saber; it would require him to nurture it anew and establish a new connection with it.

One key point is that Lu Ye's cultivation has been advancing quickly, leading to a high frequency of upgrades for the Boulder Mountain Saber, which increases the risk of future upgrades.

He is now in the Divine Sea Realm, and currently, the quality of the Boulder Mountain Saber is not quite suitable for his use. It's time to upgrade it again.

Originally, he planned to handle this matter himself when he had some free time, accumulating more experience.

Always seeking outsiders from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault for upgrades involved too many uncertain factors, because there was no guarantee on how much care they would take during the upgrade.

The cultivation's advancement triggers a series of subsequent issues, all of which require dealing with.

But the current change made Lu Ye see a possibility.

If his guess proves true, he will no longer have to worry about upgrading the Boulder Mountain Saber. He can change its quality at any time and place, making it more suitable to his current realm's capabilities.

After deliberating steadily for a moment, Lu Ye felt that this was feasible.

The fact that the black liquid constituting the Soul Severing Saber could be controlled at will was a signal in itself.

With resolve, Lu Ye's Mental Consciousness surged, pouring into the Boulder Mountain Saber.

The manipulation of the black liquid requires relying on one's own Mental Consciousness, something Lu Ye had just verified. Activating spirit force had no effect.

As the Mental Consciousness surged, the black liquid transformed within the Boulder Mountain Saber into small Yin-Yang Dual Origins, quickly constructing a spirit rune.

With the Mental Consciousness withdrawn, the spirit rune became fixed within the Boulder Mountain Saber. Since it was already integrated into the saber, it caused no damage to its interior.

This was a restriction.

It truly worked!

Lu Ye grew interested and continued his efforts. Moments later, nine restrictions were added within the Boulder Mountain Saber, classifying it as a low-grade Spiritual Artifact.

He tried channeling spirit force into it; the restrictions operated smoothly and could perform perfectly.

After playing with it for a while, Lu Ye dispelled the restrictions within.

That was only a kind of attempt. Now that it was confirmed feasible, he needed to plan carefully.

The foundation of restrictions in Spiritual Artifacts lies in the spirit runes. A Sharpness spirit rune constitutes a restriction, and so does a Foundation Fortification spirit rune; they have different effects.

Spiritual Artifacts of the same quality might be hefty, sharp, or graceful. This is not only due to the different materials used but also depends on the type and ratio of restrictions inside.

If there are more Foundation Fortification restrictions, the Spiritual Artifact is sturdier. More Sharpness restrictions make the Spiritual Artifact sharper.

How to balance the types of restrictions is what Lu Ye needs to consider now.

Previously, when upgrading the Boulder Mountain Saber, he would always find that Feathered Master and state his requirements simply, leaving Feathered Master to work freely. Whether the finished weapon was good or bad, whether it met his needs or suited his desires, depended on Feathered Master's level of Artifact Refining.

But now it's different. What he was doing now was equivalent to crafting to suit himself.

Only he can truly know what he most needs.

Lu Ye has always demanded that the Boulder Mountain Saber be hefty, as it needs to be used in close combat, and not being hefty enough would make it prone to damage.

Thus, the proportion of Foundation Fortification restrictions should be higher to ensure the Boulder Mountain Saber wouldn't break in a fight.

Sharpness, of course, is also necessary. Though he generally adds Sharpness spirit runes to the long saber when fighting, the Boulder Mountain Saber itself needs to be sufficiently sharp as well.

It's inevitable that he will have to confront opponents in the Divine Sea Realm in the future. At this level of cultivation, their self-protection is very strong, and a weapon that isn't sharp enough won't be very effective in battle.

Hefty Weight is a good thing — it must be added, and there can't be too few of them.

Although the Boulder Mountain Saber itself is not light, it is not too heavy either. However, if the Hefty Weight spirit runes are activated in the midst of fierce combat...

It's clearly just a single slash, but upon receiving it, one finds it has the weight of a mountain. Can you withstand it?

Of course, the reality won't be as exaggerated, but the presence of the Hefty Weight restriction will undoubtedly make Lu Ye even more formidable in battle, allowing him to better utilize the power of his physical body.

Cactus can exist.

Sometimes it's difficult to inflict effective damage on a strong opponent, but the presence of the cactus restriction can turn minor injuries into severe ones.

Is it possible to add restrictions such as Lightning Attracting or Golden Arc to the Boulder Mountain Saber?

Clearly, it's just a slash, but the activation of Lightning Attracting Technique and Golden Arc Slash seems like it could take the enemy by surprise?

Lu Ye realized there were too many restrictions to choose from...

The root of this is his Talent Tree, which currently has forty spirit runes activated. Although many are not suitable for weapon construction, quite a few are appropriate.

After contemplating for a long time, he eventually abandoned some of his flashy ideas. The restrictions within a weapon, like a cultivator's learning, should be high quality rather than numerous. Adding too many flashy things unnecessarily dilutes the restriction composition and may not be very effective.

If he really wanted to activate magic and spells, Lu Ye could do it himself; there was no need to waste the restriction allocation of the Boulder Mountain Saber.

The final decision was that the restrictions within the Boulder Mountain Saber should prioritize Foundation Fortification and Sharpness, supplemented by Hefty Weight, with two additional Cactus restrictions.

He immediately set to work, letting his Mental Consciousness surge and directing the black fluid within the blade to construct each spirit rune restriction.

Time passed by.

The spirit runes chosen by Lu Ye were all those activated on his Talent Tree, making them easy to construct without much effort.

The command over the black fluid was as natural as moving his arm, and as the two came together, the quality of the Boulder Mountain Saber steadily increased with the number of restrictions.

Low-grade spirit artifact, mid-grade, top-grade, supreme grade, low-grade magic artifact, mid-grade magic artifact...

In just a moment, the work was done.

Carefully examining the Boulder Mountain Saber lying across his knees, it appeared unchanged at first glance, still with an ink-black blade, simple and unadorned.

But the Boulder Mountain Saber now had undergone a transformation compared to before.

The previous Boulder Mountain Saber, though at the magic-artifact class, was only the lowest quality, a low-grade magic artifact, containing seventy-two restrictions.

After all, the last time Lu Ye upgraded the Boulder Mountain Saber was when he was at the Cloud River Realm, and a Cloud River realm cultivator couldn't use anything of too high quality.

Throughout the entire True Lake Realm, he had not upgraded the Boulder Mountain Saber, and strictly speaking, it could no longer keep up with his cultivation advancements.

Now, with a total of one hundred eighty restrictions concealed within the Boulder Mountain Saber, this blade that had accompanied Lu Ye across the land had finally been promoted to a supreme-grade magic artifact.

The next step up would be the spirit treasure level.

Lu Ye could indeed upgrade the Boulder Mountain Saber to a spirit treasure, as for him now, it was merely a matter of constructing a few more spirit runes, very simple.

The reason he didn't construct them was that he needed a process of familiarization.

The leap from a low-grade magic artifact to a spirit treasure was too great, which would undoubtedly have a considerable impact on his own combat strength. The current quality of the Boulder Mountain Saber was just right.

Additionally, the material of the Boulder Mountain Saber was an issue.

The Boulder Mountain Saber was crafted by Feathered Master, and although some materials were added during its creation, it was only improved to support the restrictions of a magic artifact.

If Lu Ye really were to raise the Boulder Mountain Saber to spirit treasure quality, it might not withstand the load with its current material.

He certainly did not want the Boulder Mountain Saber to suddenly break during a fierce battle.

The solution is quite simple, merely a matter of recasting it with the addition of some precious materials to enhance its quality.

Lu Ye himself could handle this task and plans to do so when he has the time and opportunity in the future.

Grabbing the Boulder Mountain Saber and channeling spirit force into it, he immediately felt the difference.

The consumption of his own spirit force was more than three times before, as the number of internal restrictions required a substantial spirit force to activate.

This undoubtedly made it easier for him to exert his strength.

An almost imperceptible layer of aura fluctuated on the jet-black edge of the Boulder Mountain Saber, which was the aura of Sharpness.

The restrictions Lu Ye constructed on the Boulder Mountain Saber this time had a significant proportion of Sharpness, making it naturally sharp once activated.

Looking at the Boulder Mountain Saber, Lu Ye was extremely satisfied.

It truly is a case of destroying to build anew.

The things in the Hall of Battle Merits were indeed reasonably priced and fair, the fifty thousand battle merits spent were worth it. Had he known the Soul Severing Saber had such characteristics earlier, he wouldn't have hesitated to spend even a million.