

Humanity 1221

Chapter 1221: Huang Tongtong and Lü Yingying

The discussion among the fairies concluded, and Jin Shanshan stood up with a serious expression: "We've decided, we agree to your requests and will send out the two strongest fairies to assist you!"

That sounded... a bit off.

Clearly, it was Lu Ye and Yuk Yaorao who came to help them resist the enemy's invasion and restore peace to Tree World, but Jin Shanshan's words seemed to have a flipped meaning.

However, with the fairies, there's really no need to argue about these things; they are naturally this way.

Yuk Yaorao nodded: "That's best, may I ask which two fairies will your tribe be sending?"

Jin Shanshan chuckled: "Well... we still need to discuss!"

Turning his head, the fairies began their deliberation again.

About which fairy was strong or weak, Lu Ye couldn't tell. In his perception, there wasn't much difference in the aura of these fairies, it seemed even their Cultivation Realm was similar, but presumably, there was a standard among them to distinguish the strong from the weak.

Furthermore, this concerns the future of Fairy Tree World, they certainly wouldn't be careless. Since they said they would send the two strongest fairies, naturally they...

But quickly, Lu Ye realized he overthought it.

Because the fairies were all reluctant, the discussion turned into a quarrel. When the situation was about to get out of hand, Jin Shanshan jumped into the air, placed his hands on his hips, and shouted: "In that case, let's do it the old-fashioned way. There's a saying among the human race, 'Life and death are destiny, wealth and honor are provided by heaven.' It applies to us fairies too, so later, no matter who it is, don't complain!"

A group of fairies became solemn, ready for whatever would come.

Just as Lu Ye thought they were going to decide on the title of the strongest through some sacred and just method, Jin Shanshan shook his hand, and suddenly a large cylinder appeared in his hand. Holding the cylinder with both hands, he shook it up and down, left and right, before slamming it down, shouting, "Who's first!"

The fairies began to jostle and push each other, showing great courtesy.

"Everyone has a share, no one can escape!" Jin Shanshan took on the air of a Clan Leader and pointed at a fairy wearing yellow attire: "You first!"

Usually, any fairy would dare defy Jin Shanshan as Clan Leader, but when he gave orders, no one dared disobey. The yellow-attired fairy immediately sulked forward, stretched out a small hand into the cylinder, and when he retracted his hand, there was a long segment of something black, unknown material.

The yellow-attired fairy immediately cheered and laughed heartily.

With the first done, the rest was simple; the fairies one by one stepped forward, each drawing a small black stick from the cylinder, some elated, some anxious.

Lu Ye noticed that those who were elated had clearly drawn longer black sticks, those anxious had drawn shorter ones.

He understood now; this wasn't some sacred and just ritual, it was simply a lottery of luck!

When all the fairies had drawn their respective black sticks, Jin Shanshan shook the cylinder again, and nearly all the fairies' black sticks flew back into it, leaving only two fairies still holding theirs.

"Haha, the result is out!" Jin Shanshan looked at the two frowning fairies and settled it: "It's you two!"

Of the two fairies, one wore yellow attire, but not the one who drew first, rather another one.

The second wore green attire.

The yellow-attired one was male, and the green-attired one was female, not sure if it was a coincidence.

Jin Shanshan brought the two fairies to Lu Ye and Yuk Yaorao, adjusted his expression: "Honored guests, these are the two strongest members of our Fairy Race, they will certainly provide you the best blessing on your journey ahead!"

Lu Ye had no idea what to say. If he hadn't seen their selection process with his own eyes, he might have believed this old man's nonsense!

Yuk Yaorao, however, appeared unsurprised, smiled and said, "Then thank you, Clan Leader, and please rest assured, we will protect them well."

Jin Shanshan nodded: "Then the rest is up to you."

Pushes the two selected fairies forward, turns around to leave, a large group of fairies scurrying after him, quickly disappearing from sight. From afar, Jin Shanshan's voice echoed, "Children, in life one must seek timely enjoyment, let's continue with the feast!"

Prompting cheers in response.

Leaving two humans and two fairies staring at each other.

The two fairies clearly displayed anxiety about the upcoming events, their eyes filled with fear. Yuk Yaorao understood, gently reassured them: "Don't worry, we definitely won't let anything happen to you."

The two fairies both nodded, the fear on their faces dissipating significantly.

Lu Ye spoke up: "But you must be obedient, if not and something happens, it'll be in vain!"

He's genuinely astonished by this group of fairies' unreliability; ever since meeting them, it's been one absurd situation after another. Such unreliability doesn't matter much in ordinary times, but if it appears in battle against the enemy, it could cause unnecessary trouble.

The dynamic of red-faced and black-faced is an instinct of the human race; Yuk Yaorao played the red-faced role, leaving him with the black-faced one.

Honestly, if not for his curiosity about the fairies' blessings, he wouldn't want to take these two along, but judging from Yuk Yaorao's expression, it seems she's quite satisfied with them.

The faces of the two fairies, which had just calmed a little, turned fearful again. Death... for them, it's the most malicious word in this world.

"So in the upcoming actions, you must assist us well. We will do our utmost to protect you!" Yuk Yaorao continued.

"But if there's anyone disobedient, who deserts in battle, I'll cut them down first!" Lu Ye added.

Yuk Yaorao smiled knowingly and didn't say more. Instead, she asked, "So, the blessings you two offer, in what direction do they lean?"

The male fairy in yellow spoke first, quite calmly: "My blessing leans towards reinforcing the body."

The female fairy in green spoke softly: "My blessing leans towards reinforcing weapons."

Yuk Yaorao understood and pointed to the fairy in yellow: "Then you'll go with me, and the other will follow Junior Brother Ye."

Being a magic cultivator, she wouldn't wield a saber, so the green fairy's blessing would be useless to her. This arrangement was reasonable.

The fairy in yellow nodded like a pecking chick, while the fairy in green looked at her tearfully: "Can I..."

"No!" Lu Ye raised his hand, grabbed her over, and set her on his shoulder.

The green fairy clutched a lock of his hair, trembling.

Yuk Yaorao smiled wryly and said, "Let's start by introducing ourselves, shall we? I know that for your Fairy Race blessings, you need the name of the blessing's target. I'm Yuk Yaorao from the Jiuxuan World, and this is Junior Brother Ye from the Nine Heavens World!"

The fairy in yellow said, "My name is Huang Tongtong."

The fairy in green still spoke softly: "My name is Lü Yingying."

What kind of ridiculous names are these, Lu Ye thought, but noticed Yuk Yaorao's smiling expression, as if she had expected this.

"So now we know each other."

It must be said, Yuk Yaorao is not only beautiful but also adept at easing relationships. Interacting with such a person, unless opposed, would be quite enjoyable and relaxing. In just a few words, the two fairies were no longer as jittery and nervous as before.

"Before action, could we first experience the power of your Fairy Race's blessings? It will be convenient for cooperation afterward," Yuk Yaorao suggested. It was a reasonable proposal; even if she hadn't mentioned it, Lu Ye would have.

If they're to cooperate, they should familiarize themselves first. It wouldn't do to wait until the heat of battle to figure things out.

"No problem," Huang Tongtong nodded, then swiftly flew to Yuk Yaorao's shoulder. Although the words he muttered were indiscernible, a layer of bright yellow light soon spread out and entered Yuk Yaorao's body.

Yuk Yaorao arched her eyebrows and silently felt it, sighing with marvel: "Fairy blessings are indeed worthy of their reputation!"

The reinforcement to the body wasn't just about enhancing the physique. Usually, that wouldn't mean much to a magic cultivator, but under such a blessing, she clearly felt the flow of spirit force within her body accelerate, and her thinking seemed much clearer too.

This alone could increase her strength by at least ten to twenty percent.

If a physique cultivator were to receive such a blessing, the enhancement would likely be even greater.

"And you?" Lu Ye, seeing Yuk Yaorao had apparently benefited, turned to the fairy on his shoulder, Lü Yingying.

Lü Yingying was startled, almost falling off his shoulder, feeling this human race was much more intimidating than the other one. When he opened his mouth, it seemed as if he was going to eat someone. Without delay, she urged her blessing technique.

Lu Ye waited a moment but felt nothing. Remembering what Lü Yingying mentioned earlier, her blessing seemingly leaned towards reinforcing weapons, he drew his saber from the sheath.

Lü Yingying burst into tears: "Don't kill me, don't kill me, I've tried my best already!"

"Shut up!" Lu Ye scolded, and Lü Yingying, looking pitifully at him, quickly stopped crying.

Lu Ye frowned: "It's useless, isn't it?"

The Boulder Mountain Saber showed no change.

Yuk Yaorao was puzzled: "It shouldn't be."

"There's truly no change," Lu Ye said as he glanced again at Lü Yingying, "Did you mess up the blessing?"

"No! I absolutely didn't!" Lü Yingying waved her tiny hands, and her wings flapped along.

Yuk Yaorao said, "Fairy blessings don't go wrong. If it's useless, there's only one possibility..." She looked meaningfully at Lu Ye: "Junior Brother, did you give a fake name?"

"What do you mean?" Lu Ye did not understand.

Yuk Yaorao explained, "Fairy blessings are a mysterious power. Once, a Great Cultivator studied them but found it's a capability that only fairies can execute. It involves some mystery beyond any other race."

Chapter 1222: Blessing

The so-called mystery refers to things that cannot be explained, expressed, observed, or even felt, yet truly exist. The blessing of the Fairy Race is related to such mysterious forces.

This is the main reason why, besides the fairies, no other race can use the blessing.

"The names of living beings indeed harbor a hint of mystery. This is why many powerful beings in the stellar space don't easily reveal their names. The blessing of fairies requires the real name of the blessed. If the name is false, the blessing won't work."

Lu Ye remained calm: "That's indeed my name."

Having been cautioned by Yang Qing, he wouldn't casually divulge the existence of the Nine Provinces, but there was no need to hide his own name. As someone in the Divine Sea Realm, why bother with deceit regarding his name?

Yuk Yaorao, observing his genuine demeanor, couldn't help but get curious: "Then why is that?"

I, too, would like to ask why... Lu Ye thought to himself.

However, Yuk Yaorao soon remembered something: "Junior Brother, is there another name within your home world that the beings recognize you by? If there is, that might be the reason."

Lu Ye's eye twitched; there indeed was, "Lu Yiye?"

Yuk Yaorao looked at Lü Yingying, who understood instantly and activated the blessing again.

This time, Lu Ye immediately sensed a difference. It was as if an almost imperceptible power suddenly enhanced his Boulder Mountain Saber. Externally, it showed no change, yet he could clearly feel the saber growing sharper!

It was as if Lü Yingying had imbued it with the Sharpness spirit rune, but the sharpness was far greater than a mere blessing with Sharpness.

With the saber in hand, he suddenly felt an illusion of being able to effortlessly cut through anything before him!

Spirit rune? It wasn't a spirit rune, just a feeling similar to it.

The Sharpness rune was the first spirit rune he received from the Talent Tree, greatly aiding him in his cultivation combat, compelling him to apply the Sharpness rune on the Boulder Mountain Saber frequently, sometimes even the Double-Sharpness Spirit Runes.

Due to the nature of the Boulder Mountain Saber being not sharp enough, it emphasized weight, forcing him to enhance it with the Sharpness rune during battles.

When his cultivation was low, the Sharpness rune was impressive, nearly capable of slicing through anything.

But as his cultivation grew and he encountered more formidable foes, the sole Sharpness rune became less effective, even the Double-Sharpness Spirit Runes weren't enough, especially when battling those Blood Race Sacred Seeds in the Blood Refinement World. Without Lu Ye's saintliness suppressing the enemy, it would have been hard to inflict effective damage using only the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Recently, Lu Ye had been pondering whether to reforge the Boulder Mountain Saber to make it sharper, but he hadn't decided yet.

However, if his Sharpness rune could reach the level of the Fairy Race's blessing, there'd be no need for reforging.

While his mind was buzzing with thoughts, Yuk Yaorao chuckled softly, "It seems Junior Brother Lu's other name is the one truly recognized!"

For the fairies' blessing to be effective, the name must be genuinely recognized by more beings.

In the current Nine Provinces, nine out of ten cultivators would call him Lu Yiye. Only the closest group would call him Lu Ye; even the Heaven's Augury's verification and battlefield marking had long listed his name as Lu Yiye...

Lu Ye felt perplexed. Yiye was merely a nickname that spread within the Nine Provinces, but now, having ventured into the stellar space, he still couldn't shake it off...

"Let's go!" Lu Ye didn't want to linger on the matter, sheathing his saber and heading out.

Currently, they were in the Fairy Tree World, and at its very center. This area, spanning a few hundred miles, had been hidden by the Fairy Race, so even with only a hundred clan members, they stood unyielding against the Insect Race's invasion.

Despite the simple spiritual intelligence of the Insect Race, occupying most of the Fairy Tree World, they could never locate their haven.

This was already explained earlier by Jin Shanshan's introduction.

This was also why they were always calm and composed; it was a situation they were accustomed to. Even without Lu Ye and Yuk Yaorao, their safety wouldn't be threatened.

Moreover, even if Lu Ye and Yuk Yaorao helped solve the current troubles, new insect invasions would occur again after some time.

When the next Divine Sea Realm cultivators came in a century, some would still be sent here to assist them.

Unless the Reincarnation Tree changed its founding principles, the Tree World would never be at peace, as the Insect Race could also rely on it, securing a foothold in other Tree Worlds.

Just moments later, the two exited the fairies' hiding place, breaking through an invisible barrier, and the lively world in view transformed into desolation. Various forms of the Insect Race crawled the ground and flew in the sky, searching for fairy traces but to no avail.

Seeing the hideous-looking Insect Race, Lu Ye felt Lü Yingying's tension on his shoulder, as he painfully felt her hair being yanked.

This race has various flaws—cowardice, impracticality, unreliability—but undeniably, they are innocent and kind-hearted beings. Such traits are ill-suited for survival in the stellar space, and perhaps, that's why they lost their homeland, forced to seek refuge in the Tree World.

"Junior Brother Lu, do you have any good suggestions?" Looking at the multitude of Insect Race surging toward them upon sensing their presence, Yuk Yaorao asked.

Lu Ye slowly drew his saber, and uttered a single word: "Kill!"

Dealing with the Insect Race is simple and straightforward; no need for unnecessary complications.

His figure shot forward like an arrow from the bowstring, the sudden acceleration made Lü Yingying exclaim in surprise, clutching a strand of his hair with one hand and grabbing his collar with the other to avoid being thrown off.

In the Tree World, beings cannot exceed the Divine Sea Realm in cultivation; it's not that it can't happen, but once it does, they must leave the Tree World.

This is the only time the Reincarnation Tree will actively expel living beings because once they reach the Constellation Realm, they have the strength to traverse stellar space, and there's naturally no need to stay in the Tree World.

Its numerous Tree Worlds are only provided to those who do not have the ability to survive in stellar space.

For Lu Ye at present, as long as it isn't the Constellation Realm, he can defeat them.

Wherever he goes, a scene of blood and chaos follows, Lü Yingying's screams have not ceased since the start, making Lu Ye's eardrums throb painfully.

Yuk Yaorao carried a faint smile at the corners of her lips, walking leisurely beside Lu Ye. Though she took no visible action, no Insect Race approaching from the sides could come within about 30 miles. Once they crossed that limit, they inexplicably died.

One charged straight forward, while the other handled the troubles from the sides, making for a complementary team.

She was observing Lu Ye.

She wasn't clear about what kind of domain the Nine Heavens were, but since elders had brought him to the Reincarnation Tree, it must certainly be a large domain, and in such a place, Divine Sea Level 9 cultivators definitely exist.

Yet Lu Ye, at Level 8, was here, leaving two possibilities: either his power is stronger than Level 9, or his backing is so strong that even with insufficient cultivation, he got this opportunity.

Yuk Yaorao wanted to know which situation Lu Ye fell into!

Their current alliance in the Fairy Tree World was natural, but if they passed the test here and entered the next stage, they might become opponents.

She wouldn't miss such a close chance to gather intelligence.

After her observation, Yuk Yaorao quickly confirmed, Lu Ye was the first type! The power he displayed was by no means inferior to Divine Sea Level 9, and it seemed he was even beyond!

Indeed, a large domain typically breeds extraordinary figures. Nobody brings people to a place like the Reincarnation Tree casually, and relying solely on strong backing here would not only be embarrassing but potentially fatal.

While observing Lu Ye, wasn't Lu Ye also observing her?

This wasn't Lu Ye's first time encountering cultivators from other domains, but it was his first meeting with a Divine Sea Level 9 human race from outside stellar space, naturally wanting to see their capabilities.

The result was discovering he couldn't see through her...

Because Yuk Yaorao mainly relied on the power of a spirit treasure to kill enemies rather than showcasing much of her own strength.

Of course, this was also because the opponents they faced weren't strong enough; perhaps true prowess would shine when stronger enemies appeared.

Due to the need to clear the Tree World of the Insect Race, their advance was slow, drawing scattered Insect Race toward them.

Glancing around, it seemed like a storm of death was brewing from the hiding place of the Fairy Race, spreading out endlessly, leaving a trail of insect corpses.

Lü Yingying finally started contributing.

After the initial panic, she remembered her duty, beginning to apply blessings to Lu Ye's Boulder Mountain Saber.

Blessings had a limited duration, not very long, about half a stick of incense's worth of time, so Lü Yingying had to reapply the blessing before it expired.

As Lu Ye silently focused on slaying enemies, he also quietly sensed the blessing on the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Although it wasn't a spirit rune, it clearly shared some commonality, as the effect was similar, only the blessing's power is stronger.

His expertise in the Path of Spirit Runes was considerable, and following the Talent Tree's second metamorphosis, he now had the ability to derive spirit patterns.

He wanted to try if he could reverse engineer a new spirit rune that possessed the same power as the blessing.

It was no doubt a bit far-fetched, yet it was a direction worth striving toward!

Chapter 1223: Observation

The fairy's blessing is very strong. Most of the Insect Race Lu Ye encountered during his charge were not worth mentioning, but some were of the Divine Sea Realm!

This is not the Nine Provinces; the spiritual energy in the Tree World is dense and pure, providing any lifeform cultivating here with a unique advantage, making it easy to reach the upper realm.

The Insect Race is no different, so the proportion of Divine Sea Realm insects is indeed not low.

Their bodies are naturally covered with a thick layer of carapace, let alone the Divine Sea Realm insects, which each have astonishing defenses.

Back then, when Lu Ye killed those big insects in the Nine Provinces, he had to look for their weak points.

But here, that's completely unnecessary!

The Boulder Mountain Saber cuts through, and even the carapace of big insects is easily sliced like tofu. This has a lot to do with his increased strength, but it's undeniable that Lü Yingying's blessing has also played a huge role.

After a prolonged fierce battle, the two killed many of the Insect Race, and then Yuk Yaorao discovered a problem...

"Junior Brother Lu, the insect hive is in this direction."

She found that the direction Lu Ye was raiding was completely wrong, going in the opposite direction of the insect hive.

Neither she nor Lu Ye knew where the insect hive was, but the fairies did, and just asking Huang Tongtong nearby would reveal it.

To resolve the Insect Race here, the first thing to solve is the insect hive. Only by dealing with the insect hive can the problem be fundamentally resolved.

Not far ahead, Lu Ye quickly made a large circle and adjusted his direction.

Yuk Yaorao chuckled silently, as expected from a combat brute, acting without any plan, moving as the interest strikes, following where the saber points!

She slightly misunderstood Lu Ye. If Lu Ye were alone, he would surely ask Lü Yingying for the location of the insect hive, but since he had companions, he left the worries to them. Besides, he was currently immersed in the mysteries of the blessing and couldn't pull himself out of it.

The entire range of the Tree World is not very large, because the Fairy Race's population is quite small, and occupying such a large Tree World is unnecessary.

Thus, among all the Tree Worlds, the Fairy Tree World is considered relatively small.

This saved the two human race cultivators a lot of trouble.

Continuing forward in battle, after two hours, a huge insect hive came into view, and the two knew the moment of truth had arrived.

The insects encountered before had some with decent strength, but they were not many nor concentrated, making it hard to pose a threat to cultivators of their level. However, inside the insect hive, it was bound to be different, generally gathering the strongest insects of the hive, serving as the Insect Race bodyguard, guarding the core of the hive.

Yuk Yaorao was about to discuss a cooperative plan with Lu Ye when she saw him rush forward head-on, charging straight at the insect hive!

She sighed inwardly. That's why she least wanted to cooperate with this kind of combat brute, entirely lacking foresight and planning, acting purely on instinct.

Even though she's a genius of the Jiuxuan World, stronger than the average Divine Sea Level 9, she dares not be careless facing such a large-scale insect hive.

This is probably why the Reincarnation Tree arranged for the two to come to the Fairy Tree World. From the Reincarnation Tree's perspective, neither of the two humans could handle the matter alone; only through mutual cooperation could they achieve success.

A loud explosion resounded, and saber light burst forth. The insect hive standing on the ground and the nearby Insect Race exploded simultaneously. Yuk Yaorao looked up and saw that Lu Ye was nowhere in sight. The original location of the insect hive now had a pitch-black passage leading deep underground.

This guy... Yuk Yaorao was speechless.

In the previous negotiations with the fairies, she did not feel this way, but since the action began, she had been passive, always being led by the nose, which made her very uncomfortable.

In the Divine Sea Realm hierarchy of the Jiuxuan World, she had always been the one calling the shots and being in charge; this was the first time for her to be led by someone else.

But there was no choice but to follow suit; resolving the issue of the Fairy Tree World was a task shared by both of them, and she couldn't let the combat cultivator take all the risk alone.

Helplessly, she bit her teeth and followed, rushing into the underground passage. As a magic cultivator, she has always been cautious and careful, activating a protective spirit treasure to guard herself before entering.

Following the combat cultivator's aura all the way forward, the path was littered with insect corpses, and who knows how many he killed. There was no fear of losing direction because the cries and shouts of Lü Yingying kept coming from the front, whether out of fear or excitement...

Yuk Yaorao felt the former was more likely.

Proceeding all the way, she finally caught up with the combat cultivator's pace. The Insect Path's space was not roomy, and with the combat cultivator upfront, she found herself idle, seizing the chance to recover her own spiritual energy.

A tough battle was imminent! Though dragged into this situation by the combat cultivator, honestly speaking, in such an environment, one could only charge straight forward, with little room for strategic maneuvers.

Fundamentally, this test wasn't too complicated in itself.

The Insect Path was long, winding, and interconnected, yet under the probing of his Mental Consciousness, Lu Ye managed not to get lost.

All the way to the heart of the insect hive, it was no different from the insect hives he had entered before—a massive underground space, surrounded by flesh walls with sac-like structures standing upright. Various powerful auras lay dormant here; these were the bodyguards of the insect hive!

Like a grain of salt thrown into a pan of oil, when he and Yuk Yaorao burst into this place, the dormant insect race bodyguards awakened one after another, hissing fiercely as they charged at the two of them.

Yuk Yaorao felt a chill in her heart because she discovered the number of insect race bodyguards here was more than she had anticipated.

This was undoubtedly not a good start.

In such a situation, it was only right for the two of them to cooperate to kill the enemies.

One far, one close—they were inherently the best formation, with the combat cultivator blocking the front for her, while she activated her magic and spells, maneuvering and striking down enemies amidst chaos, making it easier to unleash a massacre once she had control over the battlefield.

However, the combat cultivator clearly had no intention of cooperating with others. Upon sensing the overwhelming number of insect race bodyguards, he charged forward recklessly, as if invigorated with adrenaline. In the pitch-black core space of the insect hive, dazzling and bright saber light flickered, the sound of saber light breaking through the air mingled with the hissing of the insect race and the panicked screams of Lü Yingying, creating a cacophony.

Yuk Yaorao sighed, knowing she couldn't rely on the combat cultivator; ultimately, she had to depend on herself.

Not that she necessarily wanted to rely on a companion, but cooperating was simply the best approach. As the most outstanding Divine Sea Realm cultivator of her generation in Jiuxuan World, being brought to the Reincarnation Tree by her elders was the best testament to her capabilities!

Unlike the combat cultivator's brainless and valiant approach, her response was much more orderly: first, focusing force to protect herself, then maneuvering to avoid the insect race's harassment, before finally seeking targets to strike down.

Lu Ye felt exhilarated. Bone carapaces, big insects, little insects—none could withstand the Boulder Mountain Saber blessed by the fairy's blessing.

For the combat cultivator, there were only two types of enemies in this world: those that could be severed, and those that couldn't.

If he relied solely on his own activation of Sharpness spirit runes, slicing through these heavily defended insect race might require more effort, but with the blessing of Lustrous, most problems could be resolved within two or three cuts. Note that the insect race bodyguards here were elite among elites!

The blessing's enhancement to cultivators' strength was no mere exaggeration.

Lu Ye still displayed an apparent cultivation of Level 8, yet the killing power of the Boulder Mountain Saber had skyrocketed, massively boosting his combat potential.

While slaying enemies, he even had the leisure to spare a portion of his mind to observe the situation on Yuk Yaorao's side.

On one hand, the two of them were allies currently. Although there was no substantial cooperation, the mere fact they could join forces to slaughter enemies constituted a form of collaboration, and it wouldn't be proper to ignore her entirely, as he might need to lend a hand if she encountered danger.

On the other hand, he also wanted to gauge the true strength of this female cultivator from Jiuxuan World.

When Yang Qing brought him here, there was no extensive information exchange, but over time, he had gained significant Insight.

The Reincarnation Tree served as a gathering place for monstrous cultivators from major domains. Any brought here by their elders were undoubtedly the most outstanding Divine Sea Realm talents of their respective domains.

This was a perfect opportunity to assess the strength levels across various domains within the stellar space.

Thus, he was keen to ascertain whether the cultivators from other domains were comparatively stronger or weaker than those from the Nine Provinces.

He then realized Yuk Yaorao was overwhelmingly strong! Compared to the cultivators of Nine Provinces, the capabilities she demonstrated were in no way inferior to Lady Moon before her ascension to Constellation.

This was quite incredible.

Lady Moon had accumulated her profound foundation over centuries at the Divine Sea level, yet Yuk Yaorao clearly seemed only in her early twenties, an age disparity of an incalculable scale.

It's undeniable that these larger domains are not to be underestimated. Although ascending to the upper realm seemed somewhat easier than in the past Nine Provinces, resulting in shorter periods of accumulation within certain realms, due to the guidance of stronger mentors, their cultivation path and combat proficiency could skip years of detours, yielding deeper foundations.

A cultivator's strength is not merely the growth of their cultivation realm, but also lies in their heritage and sect's teachings. If we only consider cultivation realm, what value does cultivation hold?

In the future, cultivators of the Nine Provinces will not be inferior to those from other domains, but for now, they are still somewhat lacking.

Of course, Yuk Yaorao being brought to the Reincarnation Tree by her elders indicates she is the pinnacle Divine Sea Realm of Jiuxuan World, so comparing the general state of the Nine Provinces to Jiuxuan's peak might seem somewhat unfair.

Moreover, Yuk Yaorao currently benefits from the blessing of the fairy, enhancing her fighting power compared to her normal state.

However, if we eliminate the possibility that she is not unleashing her full potential, then her strength should be on par with Lady Moon's at that time.

Ultimately, the Nine Provinces are not inferior—what they currently lack is the top-tier combat power, the kind that can hold the fort and prevent external forces from encroaching on the Nine Provinces!

Yang Qing does not count, as he will eventually leave the Nine Provinces, and Lu Ye vaguely senses that this time won't be too long.

Chapter 1224: The Choice

Ever since cultivators from two different domains broke into the insect hive's core, the screeches of the Insect Race have never ceased. Under the dance of Lu Ye's long saber, almost every few breaths would see an insect bodyguard perish.

To Yuk Yaorao, his actions matched the definition that the world has for combat cultivators, which is to ignore everything in battle and just charge forward with brute force.

But in fact, Lu Ye's battle style, rather than being recklessly bold, is more of an aggressive approach, a habit he's cultivated since his weaker days.

When dealing with enemies, especially those with comparable cultivation, the first thing to do is to overpower them with momentum. If one can't even do that, how can one kill?

Moreover, although his actions seemed reckless, he never truly puts himself at risk.

The number of bodyguards inside this insect hive core is large, likely due to the experiences from past generations. It's important to know that this Fairy Tree World was visited not only by him and Yuk Yaorao.

Every hundred years, the doppelganger of the Reincarnation Tree will enter a cycle, attracting monsters from major domains of the stellar space. Often, monsters from different domains are sent into different tree worlds by the Reincarnation Tree to participate in such trials.

Almost every time, the Fairy Tree World is never missed because the Insect Race's plotting against the Fairy Race has never stopped!

In other words, even if this time Lu Ye and Yuk Yaorao help solve the issue in the tree world for the fairies, it won't be long before a new batch of Insect Race returns to build a new hive here and continue their invasion of the Fairy Tree World.

The fairies have long been accustomed to this life. As long as they hide themselves well, the insect race, with little spiritual intelligence, will never find them, let alone capture them.

As for what becomes of the other parts of the Fairy Tree World, they couldn't care less.

After all, the insect hive here has been eradicated countless times in history...

The new insect hives will naturally hatch more insect bodyguards to prepare for the centennial destruction!

Theoretically, two monsters from different domains would have to join forces, putting in great effort to tackle the insect hive here, which meets the standard level of this test.

But the Reincarnation Tree has clearly underestimated Lu Ye's strength. Even though it is a stellar space supreme treasure existing for unknown years, having seen many demonic figures, it's ultimately not human, lacking a clear understanding of human limits and bursts of power.

With such an insect hive, even without Yuk Yaorao's assistance, Lu Ye alone could flatten it.

When killing enemies, he never lets himself get surrounded by the insect bodyguards. Although he has the capability to handle it alone, being truly surrounded wouldn't end well.

His strategy is to quickly kill a bodyguard with two or three strikes, then maneuver and shift his position.

Without the fairy's blessing, relying solely on his Sharpness spirit rune, he couldn't swiftly slice through with such ease. To kill such insect bodyguards, one must strike their weak points or deliver more strikes.

In battles this intense, even if you strike an enemy one extra time, it changes the entire situation.

Lü Yingying's blessing gave him the capital to quickly resolve enemies.

He couldn't help but wonder if Huang Tongtong and Lü Yingying being selected was simply bad luck or a deliberate choice by Jin Shanshan?

One blessing focused on the flesh, the other on the weapon, clearly tailor-made for him and Yuk Yaorao.

But one must admit, even though the fairies are timid, they are quite dutiful. Lü Yingying's screams have never stopped, yet she always manages to renew Lu Ye's Boulder Mountain Saber's blessing at the most appropriate moment.

The number of insect bodyguards gradually dwindled, and the situation began to clarify.

Yuk Yaorao had many sentiments. Although she wasn't entirely pleased that the combat cultivator didn't cooperate with her, the overall result was satisfactory. Moreover, comparing the number of enemies killed, the combat cultivator had the majority, an unavoidable fact. As a magic cultivator, she wasn't as crisp and efficient at killing, especially when their Cultivation Realms were nearly equivalent.

By this stage of the battle, there was little suspense left, with the remaining insect bodyguards less than thirty percent of the initial count. With their combined strength, it wouldn't take long to finish them off.

This is the advantage of collaborating with combat cultivators; they often simplify complex matters. While they may seem reckless, they're relatively efficient.

That being said, if given a choice, Yuk Yaorao still wouldn't want to work with Lu Ye. There are just too many uncontrollable variables.

Magic cultivation may be more tedious, but it offers stability.

From the time the two of them charged into the insect hive core, until about one hour had passed, when the last insect bodyguard was slain, the intense spirit force fluctuations suddenly calmed down.

Along with it, Lü Yingying's screams also subsided.

The little fairy had been clinging tightly to Lu Ye's hair and lapels, now swaying and dizzily, almost falling off Lu Ye's shoulder as if drunk.

Her eyes were watery, with clear tear marks at the corners, and her mouth was pouting...

In this short battle lasting less than one hour, it was undoubtedly the most thrilling experience of her life, enough to make her have nightmares for decades.

Yuk Yaorao flew down from mid-air. Unlike Lu Ye, whose blood Qi surged as he stood with his saber, she remained unperturbed; the battle hardly affected her except for some consumption of her spirit force.

Alongside her, Huang Tongtong also seemed untroubled, her expression unchanged, as she glanced sympathetically at Lü Yingying, who seemed like a lost soul.

Only feeling fortunate to be assigned to the female cultivator's side, had she been with the male cultivators, she'd have suffered the misfortune.

At the center of the insect hive was a huge flesh pouch, which typically stored vast amounts of vitality, sometimes even forming a vitality core.

This was the energy source for the Insect Race to hatch new members.

As long as this flesh pouch was destroyed and set ablaze, the insect hive would be eradicated.

Lu Ye looked up at Yuk Yaorao, who nodded slightly.

Lu Ye raised his saber and slashed down, as if slicing through a water pouch; the flesh wall shattered, but contrary to expectation, the vitality didn't spill out. Instead, it collapsed inwardly, with no trace of a vitality core.

This left both Lu Ye and Yuk Yaorao puzzled.

Both having dealt with the Insect Race and ventured deep into many insect hives, what they saw now seemed rather different from past experiences.

In the blink of an eye, a swirling vortex appeared before them, with faint, strange energy wafting through from the other side.

Lu Ye raised an eyebrow: "A portal?"

Yuk Yaorao was quicker to react: "It must be a portal to the Insect Race Tree World!"

Lu Ye pondered briefly and roughly understood the situation.

The Reincarnation Tree's domains are numerous, each clan that seeks its refuge is arranged into a domain, logically, the Fairy Tree World should only house the Fairy Race.

Yet, the woes within the Fairy Tree World owed to the fact that the Insect Race Tree World managed to invade, clearly using some means to connect two domains.

This is why the Fairy Tree World suffers constant insect attacks; as long as this passage to the Insect Race Tree World remains, the problem can't be fundamentally solved. They might have cleared the insect hive this time, but once they leave, more will come through the portal to establish a new hive.

Lu Ye wasn't sure how domains could connect, he only wondered: "Could non-intelligent insects achieve this?"

Yuk Yaorao explained: "Low-level insects certainly can't, but the Insect Race is characterized by plunder and invasion. Within them, there are some highly intelligent beings, akin to the difference between demon beasts and the Demon Race. Ordinary demon beasts aren't very intelligent, but once they awaken and become part of the Demon Race, they're just like humans."

Lu Ye couldn't help recalling the Insect Matriarch from the Great Secret Realm of the Nine Provinces Insect Race. It undoubtedly had spiritual intelligence despite never displaying it, only uttering a bizarre phrase when dying during the Nine Provinces cultivators' siege.

It turns out, the insects he encountered were mostly low-level entities, unrelated to strength, but due to low spiritual intelligence. Nonetheless, some within the Insect Race did awaken their spiritual intelligence and represent the true Insect Race.

This portal was undoubtedly tied to the true Insect Race.

In seeking to plunder the Fairy Race, they naturally had to find a way to connect two domains; possibly, the Insect Race's attacks on rare races don't just target the Fairy Tree World, perhaps more domains experienced invasions too!

Gazing at the swirling portal, Lu Ye's expression turned inscrutable.

Yuk Yaorao was slightly startled: "Junior Brother Lu, you wouldn't be thinking of..."

Lu Ye looked at her, unmasking his intentions: "What does Senior Sister Yuk think?"

Yuk Yaorao said: "Our trial solely involves the Fairy Tree World. It's mostly completed now, the remaining task is to clear out the scattered Insect Race from the Fairy Tree World, then we've passed the test."

She didn't elaborate, but the meaning was clear.

Lu Ye nodded slightly: "Makes sense!"

The other side is presumably the Insect Race Tree World, filled with countless insects—charging in recklessly is unwise, risking getting overwhelmed by the insect tide.

This was Yuk Yaorao's concern; a test is just a test, she was willing to take it under manageable conditions, but recklessly risking one's life needed careful consideration.

As they conversed, the two fairies didn't express much; Lü Yingying hadn't yet recovered her senses, whereas Huang Tongtong seemed indifferent, well-accustomed to the choices of the helpers.

It's certain that not only Lu Ye and Yuk Yaorao faced this choice; surely many geniuses from various domains stood here before, facing the same decision, but given the Insect Race's ongoing invasion of the Fairy Race, their choice is beyond question.

Chapter 1225: Broaden Your Horizons

"Let's go." Yaorao called out, the insect hive in the Fairy Tree World was already destroyed, all that was left was the clean-up. As long as they exterminated the scattered Insect Race within the Tree World, the two of them would have passed this trial.

Overall, it went fairly smoothly.

This was expected, the Reincarnation Tree's trials for prodigies across various domains were never absurdly difficult. They're generally within a range that prodigies could handle, so as long as they didn't mess around, they generally could pass their trials.

Of course, there were unlucky ones who faced accidents, but such people were ultimately the minority.

Strictly speaking, this trial was actually a form of assistance.

When races and groups within various Tree Worlds faced difficulties, they would request help from the Reincarnation Tree, which would arrange for prodigies to come in. It was both a form of assistance, and naturally, the Reincarnation Tree wouldn't make things difficult.

Yaorao had already turned to leave, and Lu Ye stepped forward to follow.

But just moments later, she suddenly turned around, astonished, "Junior Brother Lu, what are you doing?"

Lu Ye's voice came, "Sister, please go ahead and finish up, I'll go over and broaden my horizons." As his words fell, he stepped into the vortex, and his figure quickly disappeared.

Yaorao gritted her teeth, "Madman!"

Never expecting this combat cultivator to be so wild, daring to recklessly intrude into the Insect Race Tree World! Even though she had witnessed his recklessness before, she never imagined he would make such a choice.

The combat cultivator had already vanished, leaving her with only two paths: one was to follow him and cooperate to kill insects, the other was to ignore his fate and continue with her clean-up task.

Yaorao was confident in her abilities, but not to the point of arrogance; this is the caution that a magic cultivator should have, unrelated to temperament.

They were unstoppable in the Fairy Tree World due to knowing themselves and their enemy, but the situation in the Insect Race Tree World was unknown.

It's certain that the Insect Race Tree World had never been attacked before, with years of accumulation and development, the power they possess is definitely not comparable to this side.

Moreover, if they lose the battle here, they can retreat to the fairy's sanctuary, but in the Insect Race Tree World, once the battle fails, it's a situation of certain death.

Yaorao didn't believe the combat cultivator hadn't thought of this point, yet he still wanted to broaden his horizons?

How dare he?

Instinctively, she wanted to follow his steps, but her caution told her it wasn't a wise choice.

Just as she had told Lu Ye earlier, their trial is only within the Fairy Tree World, the affairs of the Insect Race Tree World aren't something they need to intervene!

For a moment, she was indecisive, but ultimately sighed, turned around, and left.

She and the combat cultivator were just acquaintances, temporarily allied under the Reincarnation Tree's arrangement. In this Fairy Tree World, they could assist each other, and she didn't mind helping out within her means, but if the combat cultivator wanted to take risks, she couldn't assist.

Their relationship wasn't good to that extent.

On Yaorao's shoulder, Huang Tongtong turned to look at the spot where Lu Ye disappeared, with an inscrutable expression.

Over the years, many guests have come to the Fairy Tree World, each from different races, but all strong, almost every one could buy the Fairy Tree World some time of peace, but ultimately it's treating the symptoms, not the root cause.

As long as the passage between the Insect Race Tree World and the Fairy Tree World remains, in no more than ten to twenty years, the Insect Race will come back in force.

No one has ever dared, like that human, to step into the passage of the Tree World and fight to the opposite Insect Race domain!

Because that's not part of the guests' trials.

That human combat cultivator was the first!

Huang Tongtong didn't know what his final outcome would be, but she knew that Lü Yingying would definitely be scared out of her wits.

By this time, Lu Ye had arrived at the Insect Race Tree World, the transfer through the Tree World passage happened in an instant, and when Lu Ye stepped into the vortex, it felt like breaking through a thin film.

Lü Yingying wasn't scared out of her wits, she was just a little dumbfounded, turned her head, and stared blankly at Lu Ye, stammering, "You, you, you..."

She hesitated for a long time but didn't make any coherent statement.

"Shut up, focus on bestowing blessings!" Lu Ye wielded his saber, and shouted in a low voice.

Ultimately, there was no way he could stand by without intervening. If he truly didn't have the capability, it would be fine, the Fairy Tree World has managed these years without him having to risk himself.

But if he did have the ability, witnessing it and not interfering, he'd always feel uneasy.

Especially when the opponent was the Insect Race!

Lu Ye had interacted with very few stellar space races so far. After all, the world is limited, his perspective is limited, but the one he hated most unmistakably was the Insect Race. This point is unlikely to change even if he interacts with more stellar space races in the future.

So even though he knew Yaorao was right, ultimately he still turned around and charged in.

As for whether he really had the ability to resolve the issue here... He would only know after fighting!

The place where he appeared was the core space of the insect hive, which was expected. Lu Ye suspected that the reason the passages between the two Tree Worlds could be opened was due to the powerful life energy of the hive's core. As for how it operated and started, he could not investigate further.

This was a plot by the Insect Race, and they had obviously used some unknown means.

In his perception, the core space of this insect hive was more than ten times larger than the one in the Fairy Tree World. In other words, the hive here was bound to be extremely vast.

Understandably, since it was the Insect Race Tree World, the main base of the Insect Race.

All around, powerful and menacing auras began to awaken and stir. Soon after, the sound of rustling filled the air as countless large insects started rushing madly at Lu Ye from all directions.

If Lu Ye were merely a human race combat cultivator, there was no way he could take such a risky action. His personal strength was indeed formidable, but human strength has its limits. Especially with such a reckless intrusion into enemy territory, it was easy to fall into an ambush. No matter how strong he was, the outcome could be dire.

He dared to venture inside because he had something to rely on.

When a few drops of Essence Blood exploded, the sound of a rushing river came forth, with him at the center, a blood-red tide suddenly expanded all around!

The bloody scene was boundless, the waves fierce, causing the leading insects to lose their footing and tumble forward.

The blood light spread incessantly, and in just a few breaths, it filled the entire core space.

Lü Yingying looked at the scene in astonishment, momentarily unable to discern whether Lu Ye was a human or a Blood Race!

The Fairy Race may be unreliable at times, but they have longevity and long-standing heritage. Each member is well-versed in knowledge.

Lü Yingying naturally saw at a glance that Lu Ye was using the Blood River Technique of the Blood Race!

Except... could the Blood River Technique be of such magnitude? In her understanding, the Blood River Technique was merely a blood river, but what she saw was no mere blood river—it was a blood sea.

This was still limited by the space of the insect hive. Without the limitation, who knew how vast it could become.

However, it is said that among the human race, there are those who cultivate Blood Techniques, and the power of the Blood Technique they wield seems similar to the Blood Race, but Lü Yingying had never seen it, only heard of it.

Tonight, she had gained knowledge!

The Blood River Technique was Lu Ye's greatest reliance in storming this place.

Intruding into enemy territory, it is impossible to gain any geographical advantage, but the Blood River Technique can create its own geographical advantage.

With the concealment of the blood river, he could avoid being surrounded. His next task was simple: drive out and kill all the insect race bodyguards trapped in the blood river and completely destroy this insect hive!

Without the need to extend his Mental Consciousness, every drop of Blood Water in the blood river was Lu Ye's feeler, maneuvering within which he clearly sensed.

In the insects' hive of the Fairy Tree World, he hadn't initiated the Blood River Technique because there was no need, plus Yuk Yaorao was present, which could lead to misunderstandings. But here, being alone, he could act without restraint!

"Crunch, crunch!"

Lü Yingying was still in shock by the immense magnitude of Lu Ye's Blood River Technique when she suddenly heard a crisp sound near her ears. Turning quickly, she saw the human race cultivator holding a piece of supreme-grade spirit stone, crunching it loudly.

The crucial point was that the supreme-grade spirit stone was clearly only half left!

"You..." Lü Yingying was dumbfounded once again, feeling that what she experienced today was unreal, like a dream.

Can humans... eat spirit stones? What kind of freak is this?

To Lu Ye, either Blood Crystal or demonic pill could be eaten, so why couldn't spirit stones?

He shoved the remaining half of the spirit stone into his mouth, quickly replenished the spirit force he had consumed earlier, then brandished his long saber: "Charge!"

Lü Yingying awakened from her daze, hastily casting a blessing for Lu Ye.

His figure passed through the blood river, and he pounced in a flash before one of the large insects. That insect was still struggling, as under Lu Ye's control, the surrounding Blood Water exerted an extremely powerful binding force. Though it couldn't immobilize it completely, it made its movements cumbersome.

The swirling Blood Water also greatly restricted its perception, so it only realized after Lu Ye's saber struck down.

It was too late to dodge and block; the Boulder Mountain Saber descended heavily on its back, and the hard bone carapace couldn't withstand the sharpness of the saber, directly carving out a one-foot-deep gash.

Lu Ye raised his eyebrows.

Because the power of this strike was somewhat unexpected, the Boulder Mountain Saber... seemed to have become sharper.

When the second strike came down, this large insect split amidst the sound, dividing into two, its body broke into halves, releasing insect blood!

Lu Ye didn't pause, heading straight for another large insect.

Again, it was two strikes.

A moment later, Lu Ye discovered where the problem lay—the blessing cast by Lü Yingying had seemingly become even stronger!

In the insect hive of the Fairy Tree World, when he killed these insect race bodyguards, he often needed three strikes. But here, two strikes were sufficient; he didn't need a third!

Chapter 1226: Loathesome Aphid

Lü Yingying's spirit state was noticeably different.

In the Fairy Tree World, this little fairy was in a state of extreme fear and anxiety, especially when Lu Ye was rushing back and forth defeating the enemies, she was constantly shouting.

But at this moment, she wasn't making any noise. She was still anxious but kept her mouth tightly shut, with a pair of watery eyes showing a hint of determination and excitement!

Since ancient times, there have been so many visitors to the Fairy Tree World, but never has anyone made a choice like this human combat cultivator. Regardless of his initial motivation or the outcome, he was contributing to the fairies!

With this premise, how could Lü Yingying not be grateful, how could she dare not to assist wholeheartedly?

"What's your situation? Were you slacking off earlier?" Lu Ye's voice sounded.

The little fairy looked aggrieved: "No, it's just that the blessing powers of our Fairy Race are related to willpower. The stronger the will, the stronger the blessing, the weaker the will, the weaker the blessing..."

Lu Ye understood.

Because the Fairy Race itself didn't care much about the insect race in the Fairy Tree World, they always knew it was an incurable problem, so even if Lü Yingying was responsible for enhancing his blessing, it was just fulfilling the task assigned by her race.

But now it was different. When he stepped into the Tree World passage and came to the Insect Race Tree World, Lü Yingying had a firm will to assist him, which made her blessing powers stronger.

"Can it be even stronger?" Lu Ye asked.

Lü Yingying's little face turned red, seemingly exerting effort: "I'll try!"

Lu Ye laughed heartily: "But don't push yourself too hard!"

If the blessing could be strong enough to let him slay an Insect Race bodyguard with one strike, this battle would be much easier, but for now, killing one with two strikes was still quite good.

As his figure passed, powerful auras disappeared one after another. Undoubtedly, the Blood River Technique was the best secret technique for dealing with group battles. When the Blood Sea spread out, it was difficult for enemies to gather together, and challenging to find his trace amidst the chaos.

If it weren't for having something to rely on, Lu Ye would be mad to come in alone.

Yuk Yaorao hadn't followed him in, if she wanted to come, she would have appeared by now. For this, Lu Ye wouldn't demand anything. They were mere acquaintances, and he didn't have many connections with the Fairy Race, he could venture courageously into this place but wouldn't force others.

It's an unreasonable thing!

Loathesome Aphid was running along the Insect Path.

In the stellar space, races varied and were numerous, the human race undoubtedly was the largest entity occupying the most domains, but beneath the humans, other large races existed.

The Insect Race was one of them, thanks to its powerful hatching ability and unique invasion system, the Insect Race occupied quite a few domains in the stellar space.

The once-every-hundred-years Divine Sea battles naturally also included the Insect Race.

Loathesome Aphid was among them, this time following the elders from his race here, first to participate in the upcoming Divine Sea battles, and second to retrieve some items from the Insect Race Tree World here.

In places like the Tree World, only those in the Divine Sea Realm could enter, so his elders couldn't come in.

The Insect Race had been plotting for thousands of years in the Tree World here, during which they had some good harvests, but in recent centuries had gained nothing, until this time!

All the harvests were stored in the core space of the insect hive, so it's up to him to retrieve them.

The mission was simple, he just needed to bring back this expedition's gains. However, as he was about to leave the Insect Path, he vaguely sensed intense spirit force fluctuations behind him.

Loathesome Aphid halted, looked back, and his expression was uncertain.

After sensing for a while longer, he finally confirmed the commotion came from the core area of the insect hive, it seemed like a strong intruder was there!

Who could it be?

Loathesome Aphid didn't know, but the Insect Race Tree World connected with at least a dozen other races' Tree Worlds, so if there truly was a strong intruder, they must have come through one of those dozen Tree Worlds.

Highly likely it's the human race, because among all the stellar races, humans were the most meddlesome!

Probably some human anomaly descended upon that Tree World, after solving the Tree World's problem, they followed the passage into this place.

What audacity!

The Insect Race Tree World stood here for millennia, and not without powerful anomalies breaking in, but most of those anomalies had unfortunate ends. The power the Insect Race Tree World accumulated

over the millennia was incomparable to insect hives from other Tree Worlds, it was always ready to respond to intrusions, especially during such times.

After a brief contemplation, Loathesome Aphid changed course, heading down the Insect Path.

He wanted to see which mighty being dared to come and test the Insect Race's mettle!

Being able to follow an elder to the Reincarnation Tree, he naturally was an anomaly of his own domain, such beings were usually confident, never considering themselves inferior to anyone.

The further he went, the more shocked he was, because in his perception, the auras belonging to the Insect Race bodyguards were vanishing too quickly, almost reaching the rate of one per breath.

If not for knowing that the Tree World forbids traces of Constellation Realm beings, Loathesome Aphid might have assumed this was the work of some Constellation Realm cultivator.

Startled, Loathesome Aphid hurriedly restrained his own aura, concealing his whereabouts.

As a member of the Insect Race, knowing that there was a powerful figure ahead, he couldn't just sit idly by. The Insect Race had heavily invested in the Tree World near the Reincarnation Tree and had been plotting for a long time; if the insect hive here were destroyed, the losses would be incalculable.

Although they could send another group to occupy a Tree World, the Reincarnation Tree likely wouldn't refuse, yet there would be no hope of opening a path to another Tree World. In such a case, occupying a single Tree World would hold no significance.

The Insect Path is long, and when Loathesome Aphid reached the entrance to the core space, he was greatly shocked upon peeking in.

Because contrary to his expectations, the meddler here was not a human race member but a Blood Race!

He didn't see the Blood Race figure; everything visible was drenched in a thick blood color, the entire insect hive core enveloped in a sea of blood.

How could this be?

As one of the two most notorious plundering races in the stellar space, the Insect Race and Blood Race were natural allies, with any other race potentially opposing the Insect Race, except the Blood Race wouldn't, as everyone understands the principle of mutual support; only by joining forces can they establish a footing in the vast stellar space.

So Loathesome Aphid was puzzled, wondering why a Blood Race member came here to commit slaughter?

Could it be they wanted a piece of the pie? This thought made Loathesome Aphid somewhat irritated; he had heard elders say that the Blood Race was extremely greedy, and upon hearing the Insect Race had arrangements near the Reincarnation Tree, always wanted to get involved. However, alliances aside, interests are interests, and the Insect Race invested greatly in its arrangement near the Reincarnation Tree, not easily allowing other races to profit from it. Thus, facing Blood Race requests, they were always outright rejected.

Is this a matter of destroying what they can't gain, or applying pressure on the Insect Race?

As Loathesome Aphid pondered, the blood mass before him suddenly squirmed and expanded, rapidly wrapping around him.

Damn! Loathesome Aphid realized he was exposed, although he didn't understand why, as he had been cautious arriving here, and the other party was causing chaos. Logic suggested they shouldn't have detected him.

Yet the changes in the blood sea undoubtedly indicated his exposure.

The opponent intended to drag him into the blood sea!

Never compete with the Blood Race in the blood sea! This is common knowledge among all stellar space races, so witnessing the blood sea's expansion, Loathesome Aphid immediately fled backward.

However, the blood sea's expansion was incredibly swift and sudden, and although Loathesome Aphid accelerated to the limit, he could not evade the blood sea's embrace.

No escape!

Immediately following, Loathesome Aphid felt a sharp, aggressive aura lock onto him, as if a blade suddenly hung above his head.

He could choose to continue retreating, aiming to escape the blood sea's range, but this seemed unlikely. No matter how fast he was, he couldn't outpace the spread of the blood sea; being enveloped made escape difficult.

Realising the dire situation, he decisively chose not to retreat but to advance, charging towards the insect hive's core space!

Retreating meant facing the formidable monster alone; given the blood sea's size and aura's might, Loathesome Aphid felt he was likely unmatched.

He needed assistance!

The core's bodyguards were naturally his allies!

So, despite his reluctance, he could only dive into the blood sea.

Upon entering the blood sea, he immediately felt the surrounding viscosity reduce his pace.

Yet since he dared plunge in, he surely relied on something; he deployed some wonderful method unknown to others. What ought to slow his speed suddenly heightened again, swiftly propelling through the blood sea.

Lu Ye was not far behind, pursuing relentlessly.

Meanwhile, he clicked his tongue in amazement.

Even though his earlier conversation with Yuk Yaorao made him realize his previous impressions of the Insect Race were overly simplistic, as his experience with them was limited to the Insect Matriarch inside the Insect Race Great Secret Realm, he did not expect to encounter a real more advanced Insect Race member so soon!

The infiltrating creature was utterly unlike the Insect Race Lu Ye knew; upon first glance, it bore little difference from humans, possessing all human traits, yet subtly varied in some respects.

Firstly, the creature had a sharp head, seemingly wearing a pointed hat.

Secondly, its eyes were large hexagonal compound eyes, bugging out as if the eyeballs might burst, appearing extremely comical.

Beneath those compound eyes, a smaller pair of eyes were situated on its cheeks.

Furthermore, its hands had only three fingers instead of five.

Of course, the most conspicuous anomaly was the gray flesh wings on its back, resembling bat wings.

Though Lu Ye had witnessed various Insect Race forms, he struggled to associate this one's appearance with any specific Insect Race; it seemed more like a blend of several Insect Race traits affixed to a human-like body.

Chapter 1227: Buying Life with Wealth

The Blood River Technique, as the culmination of the Blood Race secret techniques, is integrated with both offense and defense, its power and magnitude are closely related.

This doesn't mean that the larger the Blood River spreads, the better. On the contrary, the larger it is, the harder it is to control, and the weaker its power.

Lu Ye had no choice this time; to maneuver freely within the insect hive, he could only fill it with the Blood Sea. For him, the spread of the Blood Sea was merely an auxiliary means to kill the enemy, not the decisive factor in determining victory.

Yet even so, the power of the Blood Sea cannot be underestimated. This is evident from the reactions of the slaughtered Insect Race bodyguards. Even if they were strong, they were still bound by the power of the Blood Sea.

The Insect Race powerhouse that suddenly burst in, however, seemed completely unaffected. Through the feedback from the Blood Sea, Lu Ye clearly sensed that a mysterious force was surrounding him, preventing the Blood Sea from shackling him in any way. He moved freely in the Blood Sea like a fish in water.

These monstrous beings from various major domains are really not to be underestimated.

Just this skill alone is something the Divine Sea Realm of the Nine Provinces cannot accomplish. Of course, this might be an ability unique to the Insect Race.

While he was both pursuing and observing this monstrous Insect Race, the other party suddenly pursed his lips and let out a penetrating whistle, which instantly echoed in all directions.

In the next moment, the Insect Race bodyguards floating in the Blood Sea, confused and disoriented, seemed to receive some command and collectively dashed toward his direction.

Lu Ye's figure suddenly accelerated.

He could move freely within the Blood Sea, not because he was truly able to confront so many enemies alone, but because he could take them down one by one. Although these Insect Race bodyguards were strong, they lacked spiritual intelligence. Once trapped by the Blood Sea, they would only act on instinct and couldn't form a large-scale force. Even if a few occasionally gathered together, Lu Ye would quickly prioritize dealing with them.

If he continued to fight like this, Lu Ye could eventually kill all the Insect Race here without paying any cost himself.

Yet this suddenly intruding high-level Insect Race could gather the lower-level Insect Race, which he couldn't tolerate.

He didn't know where this opponent came from or what he was doing here, but since he had intruded, it was either his death or the other's.

Loathesome Aphid sensed this the moment Lu Ye accelerated, a chill sweeping over from behind made him tense up involuntarily, and he quickly called out, "Fellow Daoist, hold on!"

Hold on to your head!

Lu Ye turned a deaf ear and within three breaths was upon him, swinging the Boulder Mountain Saber in a flurry of blade light at him.

Loathesome Aphid roared in rage, turned back to defend, and somehow two short maces appeared in his hands, each about half a fathom long. It was unclear from what material they were forged, but they looked mighty and weighty.

The two figures clashed in an instant, the sounds of clashing metal ringing continuously, while ferocious sparks erupted in the blood-hued ocean.

Lu Ye was slightly surprised. He hadn't expected this Insect Race guy to also be a combat cultivator, and quite powerful!

It could be concluded that this fellow was a prodigy from a domain controlled by the Insect Race, similar to Yuk Yaorao's status in the Jiuxuan World, otherwise, he wouldn't appear in such a place.

This implies that the domain controlling this Insect Race has the same backing as the Insect Race Tree World over here.

A domain that can plot so precisely in the Tree World must be a top-tier domain without doubt; a prodigy from a top-tier domain in the Divine Sea Realm must be strong, right?

Even the pair of short maces in his hand were top-tier spirit treasures, coveted even by Constellation Realm cultivators in stellar space.

While Lu Ye was pondering this, Loathesome Aphid's mind was a tempest of shock.

Previously, sensing the speed at which the opponent slaughtered the Insect Race bodyguards, he knew the guy was incredibly powerful, but once they were truly engaged in battle, he realized that he had severely underestimated his opponent.

The opponent's blade strikes were extremely violent, with every slash feeling as if he was defending against a descending mountain instead of a blade. Yet the speed was incredibly swift, almost conjuring up blade shadows, and the angles of attack were exceptionally treacherous. After only a few breaths of engagement, Loathesome Aphid broke out in a cold sweat.

If it weren't for his own solid foundation, he would have already lost within just these few exchanges!

What made him feel uneasy was that the opponent was killing the Insect Race bodyguards, who gathered because of his whistle, while fighting him.

Almost every two strikes killed one, and the way he swiftly dispatched insects made one's scalp tingle.

Bear in mind, even if he were to take action, he couldn't efficiently kill the Insect Race bodyguards like this. Though the Insect Race bodyguards here are only low-level insects, their strength is considerable and they aren't someone that just anyone could kill with impunity.

If that were all, it would be fine, but the most startling thing was, during the close combat, he sensed that the opponent's cultivation was only at Divine Sea Level 8!

One level lower than his own cultivation!

How could that be?

He, a native of the Insect Emperor World, the most outstanding Divine Sea Realm of this generation among the Insect Race, was actually being suppressed by an opponent with one level lower cultivation. No one would believe this if it were told.

In a battle at the same realm level, if someone said there were others stronger than him, that would be unquestionable. The stellar space is vast, and talents emerge one after another; no one dares to claim invincibility at their realm. There's always a higher mountain, a stronger person. But to be defeated by someone with weaker cultivation, that's just out of the question.

There was another thing that puzzled him...

When did the Blood Race start wielding sabers and swords? Weren't these guys always the ones who believed only in their Blood Technique and claws?

The enveloping and obstructing of the Blood Sea, the fierce combat, left him with no energy to probe his opponent's specific circumstances. He was entirely unaware that his adversary was not any Blood Race, but a human race; thus, he naturally had no idea that a little fairy who could bestow blessings sat on this human's shoulder.

In the midst of the fierce battle, the pressure on Loathesome Aphid grew greater and greater. In just less than ten breaths, his movements slowed by a beat, watching helplessly as a sharp flash of saber light slashed toward him.

Can't block, can't dodge!

Loathesome Aphid gritted his teeth and exerted all his strength to protect himself. Next came a pain in his body, followed by the soul-tearing agony, making him cry out involuntarily.

The power of the Soul Severing Saber is still so sharp. Anyone caught unprepared and slashed by it wouldn't fare any better.

Lu Ye found that the body of this Insect Race was even stronger than the bone carapace of the Insect Race bodyguards. With the blessing from Lü Yingying, those bodyguards' bone carapace was just slightly harder for him, yet it was resolved in two strikes. But the body of this Insect Race was much stronger than carapace.

This slash only left a not too deep nor too shallow wound on the other's chest, not too serious and didn't hurt the core.

However, for Lu Ye, as long as he landed a slash in a fight, the rest was simple. Because the impact of the Soul Severing Saber would instantly plunge the enemy into intense pain.

The long saber danced continuously, accompanied by Loathesome Aphid's screams, slashing down one blade after another.

After more than a dozen slashes, he had cleaved the entire body in half. During this time, Lu Ye even killed several Insect Race bodyguards that had gathered!

But something wasn't quite right, because the opponent wasn't dead!

Lu Ye glanced at what he had slashed into two and found that it was actually just an empty shell.

The real enemy had already fled to the side, his face pale, eyes full of terror and apprehension.

This guy... actually used a gold cicada shedding trick on him! What a peculiar ability? But being from the Insect Race, having some peculiar abilities didn't seem that strange.

Although he escaped a calamity, the aura of this Insect Race guy evidently weakened a lot. In another combat environment, he must have fled as far as possible by now, never staying here.

But in the Blood Sea, where could he possibly run to?

Loathesome Aphid had a mouthful of bitterness. He really hadn't expected that he would fall into such a life-and-death crisis just on a task to procure goods!

If he had known earlier, why did he turn back to watch? It was simply courting disaster.

"Fellow Daoist, please wait. I am Loathesome Aphid from Insect Emperor World, may I know which Blood World Fellow Daoist is from?" Loathesome Aphid hurriedly spoke up, fearing that if he spoke late, he'd lose the chance.

Being in this Blood Sea, all schemes and tricks couldn't be deployed. He could only lower his stature. For a being like him, declaring one's origin domain in such an encounter was already a sign of weakness.

The Insect Emperor World is renowned in this stellar space. Anyone with some knowledge should have heard of it, especially the Blood Race.

Lu Ye had never heard of any Insect Emperor World but roughly guessed that it was a powerful domain occupied by the Insect Race.

He didn't have the habit of wasting words with the enemy. Right now was the perfect time to strike while he's down. Why dilly-dally and give the opponent a chance to recover?

Just as he was about to charge with his saber again, Loathesome Aphid spoke, "The Blood Race and my Insect Race are the most steadfast allies in the stellar space. What Fellow Daoist is doing here, perhaps there's some misunderstanding."

Lu Ye's heart moved, Is this... mistaking me for some Blood Race?

With a sudden realization, he thought, with his Blood River Technique deployed, whoever came would surely misunderstand.

Lu Ye's silence undoubtedly made Loathesome Aphid uneasy. But upon sensing the faint killing intent coming from Lu Ye's side, he still gritted his teeth and said, "I know what Fellow Daoist wants. I won't

hide it from Fellow Daoist; this time, there's a total of three harvests. I'll share one with Fellow Daoist to take back as an explanation. How about Fellow Daoist spare me?"

What kind of deal is this? Lu Ye was a bit confused. He had no idea what the other party's harvests were, but it was apparent that the Insect Race misunderstood something. This was a classic scene of using wealth to buy life!

So he continued to remain silent.

Loathesome Aphid cursed at the Blood Race's insatiable greed, but could only painfully say, "I'll give Fellow Daoist two shares at most! I must bring back one share for explanation. Besides, Fellow Daoist need not worry about me reporting to the elders in my domain afterward, because if this matter were to be exposed, I would be the first to suffer!"

Chapter 1228: I Swear

After speaking, the Loathesome Aphid added, "If Fellow Daoist is still not satisfied, then we can only fight to the death. I may not be your match, but before I perish, I can still destroy those things. The choice is yours, Fellow Daoist!"

He would not plead bitterly for someone to spare his life. Since the other party appeared here, many things were evident, and incessant begging would only encourage others to go further, especially the Blood Race known for their greed!

Properly lowering one's stance while holding on to the last line is the correct way personalities like them should interact.

Lu Ye's thoughts turned; the situation was now clear. The other party had mistaken him for a Blood Race and thought he was here to compete for something. He had three gains here and was willing to give up to two to let him off!

As for what the gains were, Lu Ye was unsure, but he could roughly guess.

But, thinking back, were the Blood Race and Insect Race allies? It was strange, yet on second thought, these two races were no good entities, always fond of invading and looting others' domains. Birds of a feather flock together, after all.

Had the Loathesome Aphid not mentioned the three gains, he would have certainly wielded his saber. But with suspicions in mind, he couldn't let the other party go for broke.

So he spoke calmly, "Deal!"

The Loathesome Aphid finally breathed a sigh of relief, afraid that this Blood Race wouldn't care. Then he would indeed have to fight to the death while destroying the three gains.

There was no chance of victory; he would likely perish here, but he couldn't let others profit for nothing.

"Words are not enough; I ask Fellow Daoist to swear a bloodline oath!" The Loathesome Aphid didn't let his guard down just because Lu Ye agreed. Throughout history, countless have been killed due to slight negligence; advanced Insect Races can be cunning, and so can the Blood Race!

A bloodline oath again!

Lu Ye heard about this from Number Nine; supposedly, only a bloodline oath could restrain Yang Qing since the Dragon Race places immense importance on bloodlines. Once sworn, it cannot be broken.

The Blood Race has a system of bloodlines too. Lu Ye gained many Blood Race secret techniques while refining the Sacred Blood, but the bloodline oath was unfamiliar to him.

How to swear it? If the procedure or vow is incorrect, it would arouse suspicion from the other party.

He could only feign with authority, "Do you not trust me?"

The Loathesome Aphid said in a deep voice, "If Fellow Daoist does not swear, it will lead to mutual destruction!" As he spoke, he wiped his waist, and three bags appeared in his hand.

He was in the Blood Sea, affected by it, and unable to see Lu Ye clearly. But Lu Ye could perceive his situation through the Blood Sea and found that the three bags brought out were indeed three spirit beast sacks!

Just as he thought, the three spirit beast sacks held the Insect Race's three gains this time!

While Lu Ye contemplated making a casual vow to bluff the other party, suddenly, Lü Yingying's transmission came to his ears.

The Fairy Race is indeed unreliable and timid, but due to their long lifespan and other special reasons, they are the most knowledgeable race.

Lu Ye did not understand the Blood Race's bloodline oath, but Lü Yingying did.

He remained expressionless and slowly spoke, "I, Li Taibai of the Blood World, swear by the name of the supreme Blood Ancestor. If Fellow Daoist Loathesome Aphid of the Insect Emperor World is willing to give me two gains, I will let him leave without disturbance. If violated, may my bloodline burn within."

As his words echoed, the Blood Sea at the insect hive core surged violently, spontaneously creating numerous large and small undercurrents.

It seemed the bloodline oath mysteriously applied some restraint, but in reality, Lu Ye just slightly activated the Blood Sea's power; otherwise, it wouldn't have convinced others.

It was Lü Yingying's advice; without Lü Yingying by his side, achieving such an authentic effect would be impossible.

After Lu Ye's voice fell, he felt the Loathesome Aphid on the opposite side visibly relax; his face still showed discontent, but he wasn't as vigilant as before.

He raised his hand and tossed out two of the three spirit beast sacks. Lu Ye controlled the Blood Sea's undercurrent to pull them to him, checked carefully to ensure they were tampered with, and then leisurely put them away.

An unexpected gain...

His intention was to handle the insect hive via the Tree World's path; he didn't expect to encounter a strong Insect Race, nor that events would unfold like this.

The other party still had one spirit beast sack...

He had to make it complete somehow.

"Li Taibai of the Blood World..." Loathesome Aphid murmured softly, "I'll remember you! But please rest assured, Fellow Daoist. What happened today is known only to us and will not reach a third party."

As he mentioned earlier, if this matter were leaked, he would be the first to suffer. The high-ranking officials of the Insect Emperor World would surely hold him accountable, and no matter how talented he was, his future would be bleak.

After speaking, Loathesome Aphid turned and swept towards the direction of the Insect Path.

His Mental Consciousness remained locked on Lu Ye's position. Despite the restraint of the Blood Race's blood oath, he didn't believe this Blood Race member would dare to break the vow. Still, one must always remain cautious, a necessary mindset for cultivators of all major races traveling through stellar space.

The other party showed no intention of blocking or moving, merely waiting in silence for his departure, which pleased Loathesome Aphid greatly.

The distance to the Insect Path grew increasingly short, and through the edge of the Blood Sea, the vague outline of the Insect Path was faintly visible.

With one more step, he had left the Blood Sea!

It was only then that Loathesome Aphid's entire body fully relaxed.

At that moment, within the Blood Sea, two Void Spirit Runes formed simultaneously!

One appeared beneath Lu Ye's feet, the other at the edge of the Blood Sea behind Loathesome Aphid.

The instant the two spirit runes formed, they shattered, but Lu Ye, who was originally standing deep within the Blood Sea, appeared behind Loathesome Aphid with spectral swiftness.

Yang Qing had demonstrated his mysterious ability to appear and vanish suddenly more than once in front of Lu Ye and the Nine Provinces cultivators, his movements impossible for anyone in Nine Provinces to trace, leaving people in awe, marveling at his god-like skills.

Although Lu Ye's current technique was significantly different from Yang Qing's, the effect was the same.

This was why he was always so fixated on the appearance of Void Spirit Runes on his Talent Tree, because using Void Spirit Runes as a foundation, he constructed a unique assassination method that required him to instantly create two Void Spirit Runes simultaneously, facilitating a short-distance teleportation!

The derivation of the Void Spirit Runes had long been completed, now imprinted on the newly burning leaves of the Talent Tree. Although perhaps not perfect and in need of improvement, it was the extent of Lu Ye's current capability for derivation. As his cultivation deepens and his mastery of the Path of Spirit Runes improves, he could further refine and amend it later.

Thus, Lu Ye need not worry about the possibility of construction failure.

Every drop of Blood Water in the Blood Sea could serve as a carrier and medium for forming Void Spirit Runes.

Loathesome Aphid thought he was safe once he'd left the Blood Sea, unaware that the moment his guard relaxed was the very time Lu Ye's killing attack would explode.

Under normal circumstances, even without this kind of sudden ambush, Lu Ye had the ability to kill Loathesome Aphid here; their previous skirmish had already proven this fact. However, to prevent the opponent from destroying that last spirit beast sack, he had to act this way.

Loathesome Aphid never expected that a Blood Race member would dare to ignore the recently sworn bloodline oath. It was something he perceived as an impossibility, which was why he let his guard down, subconsciously feeling he was secure.

When he realized something was wrong and wanted to resist, it was already too late.

At the entrance of the Insect Path, at the edge of the Blood Sea, a big sun suddenly rose, blooming like a lotus flower. However, the petals of this lotus were sharp saber lights.

The lion fights the rabbit with full strength; Lu Ye intended to take down his opponent in the shortest time possible, so why would he hold back? Therefore, he attacked with his strongest killing move from the start.

A severed arm flew out, clutching a spirit beast sack. Lu Ye reached out to grab it, looking calmly forward.

The light of the Saber Lotus gradually faded, and Loathesome Aphid, missing an arm, stood in place, his already protruding compound eyes nearly bulging out.

Because standing in front of him was not the Blood Race member he imagined but a human!

How could this be?

Loathesome Aphid clearly wanted to say something but could no longer speak. A gentle breeze blew past from outside the Insect Path, and his whole body collapsed into fragments, blood flowing everywhere.

Lu Ye bent down to pick up the two short maces from his hands, inspected them briefly, and found them to be made of excellent material, of exceptional quality. These things weren't materials that ordinary domains could produce, most likely obtained from some part of stellar space or the Insect Emperor World.

Satisfied in his heart, he thought, "These materials will be perfect for reforging the Boulder Mountain Saber!"

For Lu Ye, the Boulder Mountain Saber was something he couldn't easily abandon. But as his cultivation continuously improved, the Boulder Mountain Saber needed constant upgrading. Although one or two instances were manageable, repeated upgrades could lead to unforeseen complications.

Fortunately, he acquired the Soul Severing Saber from the Hall of Battle Merits, which could be perfectly integrated into the Boulder Mountain Saber, allowing many restrictions to form under his control, thereby enhancing the quality of the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Thus, after obtaining the Soul Severing Saber, the reforging of the Boulder Mountain Saber became much simpler. He only needed to continuously enhance the saber's material quality to better match his current cultivation, while the restrictions within could be entirely replaced by the Soul Severing Saber.

This perfectly avoided any possibility of the Boulder Mountain Saber breaking or becoming damaged during continuous upgrades.

Besides that, there was also a ring worn on Loathesome Aphid's hand, seemingly ordinary, the purpose of which was unclear.

Picking it up and inspecting it briefly, he discovered it was filled with restrictions and felt oddly familiar to him, like an extremely complex restriction lock.

Chapter 1229: The Source

"Is this for storage?" Lu Ye asked, holding the ring.

Lü Yingying nodded, "This is a storage ring, only cultivators above the Constellation Realm can craft it." She felt curious inside, this human is evidently so powerful, why does he seem so inexperienced? He doesn't even recognize a storage ring.

Lu Ye had no idea what a storage ring was. The appearance of cultivators in the Constellation Realm in the Nine Provinces was only a recent development, and no one had been able to craft them. Everyone commonly used storage sacks instead.

He was initially puzzled about why the Loathesome Aphid didn't have a storage sack, but it turned out they had something more advanced.

The restriction lock on a storage sack is generally not complicated because of the material of the storage sack, so for locksmiths, the restriction lock on a storage sack is not difficult to crack. Lu Ye had also specifically worked as a locksmith for some time to familiarize himself with the construction and decryption of spirit runes.

But as for the restriction lock within this storage ring, he was hesitant to tackle it lightly because it was too complex, and one wrong move could destroy it.

"I... I can do it!" Lü Yingying suddenly said in a small voice.

"What?" Lu Ye was puzzled.

"I can help you unlock the restriction lock inside here; the Fairy Race is naturally endowed with such means."

Lu Ye tossed the storage ring to Lü Yingying without hesitation and turned around to dive back into the Blood Sea.

Due to the disturbance caused by the Loathesome Aphid, he hadn't entirely wiped out the Insect Race bodyguards inside yet.

Continuing with his previous actions, he assassinated one Insect Race bodyguard after another in his sweep, taking nearly another hour to completely eliminate the bodyguards.

With the Blood Sea retracting, the core space of the insect hive was strewn with corpses, the elite forces accumulated by the Insect Race over millennia utterly annihilated. Yet, this was not the end; as long as the insect hive stood here, the Insect Race could return, so to root them out entirely, he not only needed to destroy this insect hive but also to eradicate the Insect Race from the entirety of the Insect Race Tree World.

Lu Ye found himself with a headache. He hadn't considered so much when he charged in with passion, only intending to kill as many of the Insect Race as possible. But every task needs a beginning and an end. While killing was a thrill, the conclusion needed to be handled beautifully for the job to be complete.

Lu Ye contemplated his next actions, gradually forming a vague plan.

Meanwhile, Lü Yingying had already unlocked the restriction lock on the storage ring. Lu Ye took it back, eagerly investigating only to find nothing much of value inside; just some basic supplies for survival, cultivation, and healing.

It did, however, resemble his storage sack in its simplicity.

Thinking it over, Lu Ye understood that the Loathesome Aphid must have had a storage space opened up with Void Spirit Runes as the core, just like him, and all the truly valuable items were kept there, which were now likely lost with the Loathesome Aphid's death.

A bit disappointed, yet it was no big deal, as he hadn't really counted on it.

The storage ring itself wasn't a very valuable item either, and it appeared quite unremarkable. Lu Ye dared not use it recklessly, for fear it might catch the attention of some powerful individual connected to the Loathesome Aphid and thus invite unnecessary trouble.

While recovering the consumed spirit force, Lu Ye also retrieved the three spirit beast sacks.

These were the three gains from the Insect Race's side. As for what was inside, Lu Ye had some guesses, and they shouldn't be too far off.

The spirit beast sacks also had restriction locks, but they weren't too complicated, and he could break them easily.

As the first spirit beast sack was unlocked, suddenly an exotic beast with a snow-white, flawless body, adorned with shimmering spots and a single horn on its head, appeared with astonishing beauty.

No sooner had the snow-white exotic beast appeared than it grew larger against the wind, suddenly expanding to the size of a water buffalo, its horn emitting a brilliant white glow that carried an extremely dangerous aura.

Lu Ye just quietly observed it, while Lü Yingying fluttered up to it, calling out loudly, "Wait, wait!"

The snow-white exotic beast seemed momentarily stunned upon seeing a fairy, as it was different from what it had anticipated. It had thought that upon reappearing, it would be surrounded by the Insect Race, ready to fight to the death!

The white glow on its horn gradually retracted, as Lü Yingying flew up to it and chatted a bit, though Lu Ye couldn't tell what they were saying. The snow-white exotic beast occasionally glanced at Lu Ye, its two eyes gradually growing gentle and filled with gratitude.

It stepped forward, nodding twice at Lu Ye in gratitude. Lu Ye waved his hand in response.

He had no idea what species this single-horned exotic beast belonged to, but the Insect Race had been plotting here for years, all for some rare species residing in the Tree World. This single-horned exotic beast must have been captured in its Tree World and brought here.

The Loathesome Aphid had come to take away decades of harvest from the Insect Race Tree World, only to meet Lu Ye, sealing its fate in death and oblivion.

Lu Ye opened the second spirit beast sack, cautious after his earlier experience.

But surprisingly, after waiting for a while, nothing emerged from inside.

Could it have suffocated? Lu Ye cautiously reached his hand in and soon retrieved an item from the spirit beast sack.

It was a tree!

As Lu Ye took it out, he clearly saw that a tiny eye was furtively peering out from the tree's trunk, cautiously observing the surroundings.

Lü Yingying approached and began explaining the current situation to it.

Lu Ye recognized it; this tree was of the Wood Spirit Race, the same race that the Fairy Race had previously transformed into!

Gradually, the wood spirit relaxed its vigilance and sprouted limbs, speaking in human language, "Thank you, Fellow Daoist, for your rescue. I am Mu Kui of the Wood Spirit Race, eternally grateful!"

Lu Ye still waved his hand, saving the other was merely an accidental gain, so there was no need to pay too much attention to it.

He then opened the third spirit beast sack.

The two spirit beast sacks that Lothesome Aphid handed to him contained the snowy exotic beast and the wood spirit, while the third one was kept in his hand. From this, it seemed that the most important one was inside this third spirit beast sack, otherwise, Lothesome Aphid wouldn't have made such a choice.

Lu Ye was quite curious to see which race was given such importance by Lothesome Aphid.

The spirit beast sack opened, but it was silent for quite a while. However, Lu Ye could feel there was a small thing inside. After waiting for a moment, a small head peeked out from the spirit beast sack, timidly observing its surroundings.

Lü Yingying was extremely surprised, "Hong Dandan?"

"Hmm?" The small head turned its direction and upon seeing Lü Yingying fluttering aside, exclaimed in surprise, "Lü Yingying!"

Hong Dandan was thrilled and dashed out of the spirit beast sack, rushing to Lü Yingying's side, and the two little fairies immediately embraced each other, both crying and laughing.

It turned out that inside the third spirit beast sack was actually a fairy!

Lu Ye was quite stunned because if there were a missing member within the Fairy Race, why hadn't Jin Shanshan mentioned it? It must be known that the Fairy Race only has a little over a hundred members in total, and the disappearance of any one is quite apparent.

Jin Shanshan not mentioning it might be reasonable, maybe because she didn't expect herself to reach the Insect Race Tree World, hence not counting on him to rescue the captured member.

But Lü Yingying not mentioning it was particularly odd.

She had come here with him, she ought to know about this, yet she seemed genuinely surprised at seeing Hong Dandan just now.

The reunion of the two little fairies was lively, and it took quite a while for their emotional excitement to settle down.

Lü Yingying then asked, "Hong Dandan, how did you end up here?"

Hong Dandan, feeling quite aggrieved, replied, "You really forgot about me..."

Lü Yingying looked embarrassed, "We thought you were summoned by the Tree God for duty."

Hong Dandan burst into tears, "I wasn't, I was captured by the Insect Race. They locked me up for such a long time, waahhh..."

Lu Ye stood aside, speechless.

Over a hundred members in total, yet one was missing and the entire tribe was oblivious. From this, it's clear how unreliable the Fairy Race was.

Lü Yingying's voice rose, "Stop crying, your crying is making me want to cry too, waahhh..."

The snowy exotic beast and Mu Kui nearby, upon seeing the scene, either felt touched or for some other reason, also began crying, making the scene highly lively.

Lu Ye felt a headache forming and quickly walked to the core of the insect hive, raising his knife to slash down.

To destroy the insect hive, its core had to be obliterated; only then would the hive lose its ability to hatch new members.

In the Fairy Tree World, when he and Yuk Yaorao destroyed the insect hive core, a passage to the Insect Race Tree World appeared. He had thought the situation here would be similar, but when Lu Ye broke open the insect hive core, he discovered an exotic item inside.

A section, entirely snow-white, resembling lotus root, was placed right in the center of the core, brimming with a peculiar power throughout.

Curious, Lu Ye examined it carefully and soon gained insight into its purpose.

This item turned out to be the root cause of establishing passages through the Tree World.

Lu Ye had been curious about how the Insect Race managed to open passages to different Tree Worlds. Logically, the lower-level insects with little spiritual intelligence couldn't have such a capability.

Now it seemed, the insects themselves indeed lacked this capability, but there was a treasure that had it!

The more advanced Insect Race in the Insect Emperor World had a group of insects bring this treasure to the Tree World. Utilizing the power of this treasure, they slowly opened passages to other Tree Worlds and then carried out invasions and plundering.

Whether it's the snowy exotic beast or Mu Kui, or even Hong Dandan, they were all victims of this.

There must surely be more victims, considering the Insect Race had plotted here for tens of thousands of years.

As it's the Insect Race's scheme, no need to be polite! Lu Ye immediately retrieved the treasure. Without this thing, the Insect Race could no longer attempt to invade other Tree Worlds in the future, solving the problem truly from its root. This was even more effective than eliminating the insect hive here.

Of course, the insect hive still needed to be eradicated, it couldn't be left to take root and sprout here.

Toying with the lotus root-like treasure in his hand for a bit, Lu Ye clearly felt that this item indeed had some inexplicable connection with numerous Tree Worlds, and he could easily use it to open the passages to those Tree Worlds.

Chapter 1230: Opening the Passage

"The core of the Void Beast!" Lustrous suddenly spoke.

She had stopped crying, and Hong Dandan, Mu Kui, along with the snow-white exotic beast, quietly stood aside.

Lu Ye turned his head to her: "Do you recognize this thing?"

Lustrous nodded: "There are exotic beasts in the stellar space, among them is a kind called the Void Beast, born with a peculiar spatial ability, capable of traversing the void to any place in the stellar space.

This is the core left behind after its death. The Insect Race placed it here, using its power as a source to explore nearby Tree Worlds and then open passages to those Tree Worlds!"

Hong Dandan also said: "However, the number of Void Beasts is very small, even less than our Fairy Race, and because they possess spatial abilities, they are hard to hunt. I don't even know where the Insect Race got this thing from."

Lu Ye sighed inwardly, realizing fairies are indeed knowledgeable and versatile, if only they were more reliable.

"So, this thing must be very valuable?" Lu Ye realized a problem.

Both fairies nodded together: "Very valuable and very rare!"

Lu Ye smiled slightly: "It now belongs to Lu!"

Though he didn't know what to use it for, since it was precious and rare, there was no reason to let it go. At least this trip yielded a good harvest. This shows how much the Insect Emperor World values their scheme on this Tree World, otherwise, they wouldn't have placed such a valuable thing in the insect hive here.

The strong figures behind the Insect Race probably didn't anticipate that someone could actually venture into this place alone and effortlessly slaughter all the insect bodyguards here.

In fact, in history, there have been some outstanding individuals from various races who indignantly broke in here, but without exception, they all became nourishment for the insect hive.

After fiddling slightly with the core in his hand, Lu Ye suddenly turned his head to look at Mu Kui: "The Wood Spirit Tree World has also been constantly invaded by the Insect Race, right?"

Mu Kui's wooden face immediately showed an angry expression: "Yes, many of our clansmen have died in battle because of this, and some have been captured."

"If you were given a chance to take revenge, would you cherish it?"

He realized that eliminating this Insect Race Tree World on his own was possible but would consume a lot of time and effort, and he didn't even know how big this Insect Race Tree World was.

The Fairy Tree World is not very large, but the Insect Race Tree World certainly isn't just as small as the Fairy Tree World. Even if it is only two or three times bigger, it is still tremendously troublesome.

So Lu Ye wondered if he could leverage outside forces.

If the Void Beast's core can connect with some Tree Worlds, then opening a passage to bring in those who want revenge should be feasible, right?

This shouldn't be difficult, as during his investigation earlier, he clearly felt he could use the core of the Void Beast to open those passages, as the positions of those Tree Worlds are imprinted in the core.

Though Mu Kui seemed wooden, he was also smart. Upon hearing Lu Ye's suggestion, he knew what it meant and said solemnly: "We shall fight the Insect Race to the end!"

Every clan living in the Tree World had lost their homeland before. They had finally managed to settle in the Tree World, yet still suffered from the Insect Race's invasion and destruction, something they could no longer tolerate. Unfortunately, each race's situation was not ideal, barely able to protect themselves, let alone mount a counterattack.

If someone could give them such an opportunity, it's believed no race would refuse it.

Lu Ye then turned his head to the snow-white exotic beast, which nodded repeatedly, its meaning clear.

"Very good!" Lu Ye became invigorated; with this, the biggest problem was solved. Now, it was up to him to showcase his methods.

However, although the core space of the insect hive was quite large, it was ultimately not spacious enough. With a wave of his hand, he declared: "Let's fight our way out first!"

A group of figures dashed toward the direction of the Insect Path. Before leaving, Lu Ye channeled spirit force and started a fire in the core of the insect hive, burning the surrounding flesh wall completely clean.

Along the way, they occasionally encountered some solitary Insect Race members, but under Lu Ye's Boulder Mountain Saber, they had little ability to resist.

The two little fairies sat on his shoulders, one on the left and the other on the right, each bestowing blessings, one enhancing the Boulder Mountain Saber, the other enhancing the body. Lu Ye felt that even if there were a Constellation Realm blocking his path, he could still slash through it!

It didn't take long to charge out of the Insect Path and step onto a barren wilderness, looking around at the desolation.

Areas ravaged by such low-level Insect Race typically appeared as if on the brink of apocalypse. Only where more advanced Insect Race lived would there be signs of civilization.

Although Lu Ye had a rough idea for clearing out the Insect Race Tree World, actually implementing it was an uncertain matter, and if he faced insurmountable problems, he would have to slowly handle it alone.

It would merely consume a considerable amount of time.

Holding the Void Beast Core, which resembled a lotus root, Lu Ye carefully sensed it.

In the core, there were more than ten markings, which were likely Tree World imprints. These imprints were the result of years of Insect Race efforts on this side, not to say there were only these few Tree Worlds in the Reincarnation Tree.

The Tree World of the Reincarnation Tree had countless branches, housing numerous clans of stellar space, but even though the Insect Race had plotted for so many years, they couldn't possibly connect all Tree World passages. More than ten connections were already substantial.

Theoretically, as long as these imprints are linked, the core's power can open connections to those Tree Worlds.

The issue, however, is that Lu Ye didn't know which Tree World these imprints were connected to, ultimately requiring him to test each one. First, he needed to gather the Wood Spirit Race and the snow-white exotic beast's clans.

Choosing a mark at random, Lu Ye channeled his power into it. Instantly, the Void in front of the lotus-like core distorted, as if a stone had been thrown into a calm water surface, creating ripples.

The ripples gradually expanded and quickly formed a spinning vortex. From the vortex, an unusual aura surged forth, and through it, one could vaguely see some scenes from the Tree World on the other side.

This simple? Lu Ye was somewhat astonished.

However, Lu Ye soon stopped channeling the spirit force because he realized that the Tree World now connected was surprisingly the Fairy Tree World.

He wasn't planning to involve the fairies in this matter. It wasn't that he doubted their reliability; their wondrous ability to bestow blessings was undeniable. However, Lu Ye had deeper considerations and strategies in mind, which made it unsuitable for the fairies to continue to meddle.

The vortex disintegrated.

Lu Ye attempted a second mark. With prior successful experience, he did it more effortlessly this time.

Luck was on his side; this time, the portal led to the Wood Spirit Tree World.

Mu Kui volunteered: "I'll return home and bring our people over."

Lu Ye nodded.

Mu Kui plunged into the vortex and vanished.

The moment Mu Kui passed through, Lu Ye noticed the issue—his own spirit force was suddenly siphoned off a large portion by the Void Beast Core...

This had become a bit of a problem!

He hadn't realized it earlier, but upon reflection, any act of transmission inherently consumes energy. In the Nine Provinces, whether relying on the Heaven's Augury Pillar or Formations for transmission, the same principle applied. There was no reason for it to be any different here.

If it was merely about maintaining the existence of the portal, the consumption of Lu Ye's spirit force wasn't substantial, as it relied more on the ability of the Void Beast Core.

However, if living beings passed through, the consumption was tremendous—one or two didn't matter... but if the number increased, he surely couldn't sustain it!

This was rather embarrassing.

This level of spirit force consumption couldn't be replenished by consuming elixir pills and Spirit Stones. He needed to find a solution.

Just as Lu Ye pondered whether to use the core of the Void Beast to set up a Formation, his spirit force was suddenly siphoned off again.

From the vortex passage, Mu Kui's figure returned, declaring in a crisp tone: "Mission accomplished without disgrace!"

Lu Ye's eyelid twitched as he felt another part of his spirit force being siphoned off, while another Wood Spirit figure emerged from the vortex passage.

The Wood Spirits were highly efficient and rapid, emerging one after another from the vortex passage. Lu Ye felt his spirit force reserves plummeting at an alarming rate.

He really wanted to shout at them: "Stop coming over!"

But at this point, shouting was futile, and they wouldn't hear before coming over from the other side, so he hastily took out a handful of elixir pills and swallowed them.

The two fairies looked on in bewilderment, not knowing what had made Lu Ye suddenly go crazy and start gobbling pills like that.

The Wood Spirits, having come from their own Tree World, all regarded Lu Ye with the utmost respect and attention because Mu Kui had informed them that a human was in the Insect Race Tree World, opening a portal and giving them a chance for revenge!

They expected such a strong human to be dignified and extraordinary, but arriving here, they were shocked to find him bizarrely popping pills like mad...

Lu Ye felt he couldn't hold on any longer; this spirit force consumption wasn't something that could be replenished by swallowing elixir pills.

At a certain moment, with his spirit force down to just twenty percent, he steeled himself, prepared to sever the Tree World portal.

He felt he had done his best! But even though his consumption was enormous, only about a hundred Wood Spirits arrived from the other Tree World.

A force like this... was surely better than going it alone.

He comforted himself with this thought but was surprised to discover that despite his lack of continuous spirit force injection, the vortex passage persisted, and more Wood Spirits continued to appear.

Lu Ye was dumbfounded.

This made no sense; crossing through the passage equated to undergoing a transmission, and any such transmission consumes energy.

His spirit force was consumed in this process.

But now, even without his continuous channeling, the transmission continued.

So... where was the power for the transmission coming from?