

Humanity 1301

Chapter 1301 Dilapidated Spirit Ark

What kind of quality does a flying sword that even a Sun Blaze Realm expert doesn't dare look back at have? Lu Ye didn't know.

Moreover, such a flying sword was intelligent. Lu Ye thought if such a sword targeted him, he could only do one thing: wash his neck and wait.

However, the sword targeting him now wasn't the original sword, just a single sword light split from it! So, it might be possible to resist it.

Along with the first movement of the Tyrannical Saber being executed by the Boulder Mountain Saber, the supplies box at Lu Ye's waist trembled, and a weapon was already flying out.

This was a layer of security; before truly coming into contact with it, he wasn't sure if he could block the sword flashes.

Starlight blossomed across the void, accurately stabbing the incoming sword flashes, Lu Ye's expression darkened, the long saber wheel turned like a moon, and instantly the saber lights flew out like snow, heading towards it together.

However, whether it was the previous first movement of the Tyrannical Saber or the current second movement, neither could obstruct the advancement of the sword light. This sword flash seemed unimposing but was as unstoppable as a surging river.

His saber lights touched it and melted away like snow under the blazing sun!

Is this something the Constellation Realm can withstand?

That Fong Rumu, he's simply causing harm!

Upon realizing something was wrong, Lu Ye turned and ran, pushing his spirit force to the limit, reaching extreme speed quickly.

But the sensation of a sharp blade against his back grew clearer, and the distance between the sword flashes and himself increased, with a sharp aura letting Lu Ye know that if pierced by such a sword flash, he definitely couldn't defend it, even with his powerful physique.

After escaping for less than 5 breaths, Lu Ye had no choice but to activate the Void Spirit Runes, disappearing instantly from his position.

Almost the moment he vanished, the sword flash pierced the spot where he had originally been.

A thousand miles away, Lu Ye reappeared, but before he could catch his breath, that feeling of being locked on by spirit force came again. Looking up, a point of light was swiftly coming toward him from a thousand miles away.

Even though it's just a separated sword light, it has the effect of locking onto and pursuing the enemy. Lu Ye's teleportation didn't shake it off; of course, mainly because the time was pressing, and the teleportation distance wasn't far enough.

The recently retrieved weapon was thrown out again, and this time not just one, but five or six, rapidly flying across the stellar space.

Lu Ye held his saber, standing firm, watching the sword flashes quickly approaching him, judging the distance between them.

Until it reached about 30 miles away, he suddenly struck out with his saber, unleashing saber lights in succession.

He could be certain, even if he borrowed the Void Spirit Runes to teleport again, the sword light would continue to chase him. Continuing like this would waste an unknown amount of time.

So to shake off this sword light, there was only one way—continuously deplete its energy!

It's just a sword light split out, rootless wood, water without a source. Once its energy is consumed to a certain extent, it will naturally vanish.

Lu Ye dared not let it get close, so he could only lash out with saber lights in defense; although the effects weren't known, he prioritized safety.

Other Constellation Realm cultivators certainly couldn't emulate his approach; facing such a sword light could only mean fighting hard, with a high probability of unfavorable outcomes.

Crescent-like saber lights were continuously unleashed as Lu Ye swung the Boulder Mountain Saber, precisely striking the sword flashes. When the distance between them was about 5 miles, Lu Ye activated the void and left his spot.

Appearing at another location, sure enough, the sword light chased after him again.

Employ the same method!

Initially, no results could be seen; there were no signs of the sword light's brilliance or power diminishing.

But as time passed and as Lu Ye continued to act, he could clearly sense the sword light weakening.

Until after half a day, the sword light's gloss dimmed to almost unnoticeable levels. This time, Lu Ye didn't activate the Void Spirit Runes but rushed towards the sword light with his saber.

As they passed each other, he struck with his saber.

The sword light shattered!

The feeling of being locked on also vanished.

Lu Ye steadied his body and couldn't help but sigh.

A mere sword light cost him half a day to dissipate; how terrifying must the flying sword itself be?

Moreover, to say nothing, this wasn't something the Constellation Realm could shake off or withstand; Fong Rumo perhaps wanted him dead?

If he really intended it, why bother going to such lengths?

Lu Ye indeed misunderstood; Fong Rumo was certain that the sword light wouldn't take Lu Ye's life by releasing him at that moment.

Of course, suffering and getting injured were inevitable, but once cultivation reached the Constellation Realm, recovery became stronger; as long as one didn't die at that time, rest would eventually lead to recovery.

According to Fong Rumo's estimates, the injuries Lu Ye sustained this time would take one or two months to fully recover, then he'd be fine.

He underestimated Lu Ye's methods. Mainly relying on Void Spirit Runes to teleport, even in the Constellation Realm, let alone the Sun Blaze Realm, it's difficult to accomplish, unless prepared in advance.

Lu Ye used a clever method to avoid suffering.

After resolving the sword flashes, Lu Ye found a nearby desolate planet.

In the stellar space, these desolate planets are most numerous, along with drifting meteors, almost ubiquitous. These lifeless planets do not nurture any life, but there's a high chance of finding spirit jade.

Lu Ye had previously obtained spirit jade on many such desolate planets.

This time, however, he wasn't looking for spirit jade but needed a place to recover himself and determine his current location.

Swept away by Fong Rumo, he'd already left Lu Ye's planned range, but fortunately, he wasn't very far, so it wasn't a big issue.

The entanglement with the sword flashes had left him quite drained. He took out the spirit jade and held it in his palm, activating the power of the Talent Tree to absorb it, controlling the process at a sensible efficiency without wasting it.

Lu Ye then determined his location based on the positions of Taiyang Star and Taibai Star.

He had tried this method several times on previous journeys, gaining some experience, so shortly after, he roughly understood his position relative to Nine Provinces.

Then he examined his Boulder Mountain Saber.

Fong Rumo said there was a secret technique sealed in the Boulder Mountain Saber, but didn't specify what kind. Lu Ye didn't know either.

Upon careful examination, Lu Ye found traces of a seal within the Boulder Mountain Saber, but the seal wasn't very strong, so if he injected enough spirit force, it could be broken, allowing the secret technique inside to manifest.

This should be the method to deploy the secret technique.

The power of the secret technique was unknown to Lu Ye, since it was one-time-use, so he couldn't just experiment with it. But since it was bestowed by a Sun Blaze Realm expert, it should be extraordinary.

He rested for half a day, recovering fully.

Lu Ye then pondered the opportunity Fong Rumo had mentioned. Two choices lay before him: He could follow Fong Rumo's guidance to explore. The secret technique sealed in the Boulder Mountain Saber was prepared for this opportunity.

Of course, Lu Ye could choose not to go. After all, the seal in the Boulder Mountain Saber was already a benefit, keeping it might provide life-saving capital in the future.

Moreover, as Fong Rumo mentioned, while it was indeed an opportunity, it also carried risks.

But where there is opportunity, there are risks, and Lu Ye understood this as he traversed all the way to this point.

Not wanting to miss a chance pointed out by a Sun Blaze Realm expert, Lu Ye leaped up, flying in the direction indicated by Fong Rumo.

He decided to first take a look. If it proved too dangerous, he would abandon it. One couldn't just ignore it, as a cultivator never avoided challenges. Especially for someone like Lu Ye, not knowing was one thing, but knowing meant having to investigate.

In some respects, a robust curiosity isn't unique to the Fairy Race; almost every species possesses it.

Fong Rumo had merely pointed in a direction casually, and Lu Ye, during the entanglement with the sword flashes, had constantly maneuvered and altered his course. Thus, determining the original direction pointed by Fong Rumo was somewhat challenging.

In the stellar space, without suitable reference points, it's impossible to discern directions; often a slight error leads to deviations of about 30 miles.

Fortunately, Lu Ye's sense of direction was fairly good, and he approached the situation with optimism, thinking: If I find it, I'll look; if I don't, it's fine.

Flying while probing along the way, he discovered nothing.

He flew for over half a month, finding only a few pieces of spirit jade and nothing else.

Lu Ye was considering heading back, estimating he must have gotten the direction wrong; otherwise, he should have found the opportunity Fong Rumo pointed to.

He decided to search the surrounding area for another half month; if nothing was found, he would return and explore in the direction of Nine Provinces.

This thought made him feel more relaxed.

However, it took less than half a month; in just under ten days, Lu Ye saw a broken spirit ark from afar.

The spirit ark was large, with three levels, resembling the spirit arks from Nine Provinces, but clearly of higher quality, suitable for long voyages in stellar space.

This spirit ark appeared to be of an aggressive type, its design quite ferocious, like a lurking ferocious beast.

But it was unclear what it had encountered, as the ark looked battered, seemingly having undergone a fierce, arduous battle. The most apparent damage was a huge hole on the side, piercing straight through its interior.

In the stellar space, this ominous and damaged spirit ark drifted slowly, evoking a strange and eerie feeling.

Is this the opportunity Fong Rumo mentioned? Lu Ye wasn't sure.

But if he hadn't gotten the direction wrong, this should be it.

What kind of opportunity does a broken spirit ark represent?

Lu Ye didn't approach rashly but instead circled the spirit ark several times, cautiously extending his Mental Consciousness to probe from afar.

Chapter 1302 - Can't Get Away

As a result, Lu Ye didn't sense any signs of life from this spirit ark.

It makes sense, considering the spirit ark clearly went through a brutal battle and was damaged to this extent. How could any cultivators remain? They must have either died or fled.

At this point, Lu Ye couldn't be certain if this spirit ark was indeed the opportunity pointed out by Fong Rumo.

The spirit ark drifted from some unknown part of the stellar space and continued to drift to an uncertain destination, having undoubtedly wandered for many long years before Lu Ye encountered it.

Thus, other cultivators must have encountered this ark as well. If there were truly anything valuable on board, it wouldn't have waited for him to find it.

Lu Ye was convinced that this was most likely just a worthless wreckage of a warship.

He felt a bit uninterested, but having stumbled upon it, he decided it was only right to explore.

Flying around the spirit ark a few more times, Lu Ye's Mental Consciousness crisscrossed in exploration with no unusual discoveries. Only then did he stop, condensing a doppelganger.

Even if one can conclude there's no risk on this spirit ark, he still needed to be cautious. A cultivator traversing the stellar space would invite trouble sooner or later if not careful enough.

Soon, the sword cultivator doppelganger appeared beside Lu Ye. After dressing the doppelganger, he didn't equip it with a sword gourd this time since it was merely reconnaissance, and the sword gourd should be unnecessary.

With a thought, the doppelganger descended onto the spirit ark.

Stepping onto the deck, he saw traces of the battle that remained everywhere, with some speckled bloodstains and numerous holes of varying sizes, numbering over a hundred.

After a search, nothing valuable was found on this wrecked deck. In fact, the entire deck was empty.

The doppelganger moved toward the interior of the cabin.

A moment later, the original body, which remained outside until now, also leaped onto the spirit ark and explored together with the doppelganger.

As Lu Ye had previously thought, there was no danger on this spirit ark. So he could be sure of one thing, this was not the opportunity Fong Rumu had pointed out before. Encountering this dilapidated spirit ark was merely coincidental.

The doppelganger started searching from the cabin on the third level, while the original body searched from the bottom cabin upwards, thus improving efficiency.

One room after another was inspected.

Half a day later, the doppelganger and the original body converged at one place, and Lu Ye dismissed the doppelganger with a wave.

A busy yet fruitless endeavor! It was just a piece of junk; there was nothing of value on the spirit ark, not even its own shell had any value left.

Thinking about it, if it still had the slightest bit of value, the cultivators who discovered it would have long taken it away, how could it still drift in the stellar space?

Lu Ye was about to leave, but just as he lifted his form, a sudden transformation occurred.

A dense Mist appeared out of nowhere, enveloping everything, rendering sightless vision and impassable Mental Consciousness.

Lu Ye was shocked! He immediately drew the Boulder Mountain Saber, aided by the Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes, his spirit force secretly surged, poised and ready.

He didn't understand what had happened. There was nothing unusual discovered on the spirit ark during previous investigations, yet just as he was about to leave, this bizarre change occurred.

Something was obviously off!

His figure rushed upward rapidly, but the strange thing was, the dense mist still swirled around him, impossible to shake off!

Lu Ye split off a thread of his mind to inspect the Talent Tree, discovering no abnormalities with it, which confirmed that this mist was non-toxic, but it was certainly not an ordinary mist; otherwise, even a Constellation Realm Mental Consciousness like his would have been able to pierce through it.

Illusion Array? Or a Delusion Array?

Lu Ye could only conclude that he had fallen into some advanced formation, so he activated Insight Spirit Runes to bless his eyes, looking around carefully, but found nothing special.

It's not a formation!

Given his decent proficiency in the Array Path, if there were any formation remnants on the spirit ark, he should have noticed. Yet, in fact, the previous exploration by both his original body and doppelganger revealed nothing.

If it's not a formation, then what could it be?

Even though caught off guard by this incident, Lu Ye didn't panic but searched for a solution. The eerie thing was, no matter how fast he flew, he couldn't escape the mist's embrace.

It felt like he had flown a thousand miles in that brief moment, yet the mist still enveloped him thickly all around.

As Lu Ye was pondering, a horrifying wail suddenly echoed in his ears, coming from all directions and directly into his mind. In such an environment, amidst such eeriness, even a courageous person might be terrified.

Lu Ye's expression was somber, constantly scrutinizing with his gaze, Mental Consciousness flickering back and forth, trying to find any signs of anomaly.

Suddenly, a loud shout came from deep within the mist: "Sailing off!"

The ghostly wailing began to turn mocking at this moment...

Lu Ye sharply turned his head toward the source of the sound.

At that very moment, the dense mist suddenly dissipated, and Lu Ye finally regained clarity in front of him.

A face covered in a bushy beard appeared in Lu Ye's sight. This was a beefy guy with a robust build, appearing to be only in his thirties, wearing a short shirt, his well-defined muscles bulging prominently.

Without a second thought, Lu Ye swung his saber at this guy. On the pitch-black Boulder Mountain Saber, the light of the Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes flashed brilliantly to the extreme!

However, as Lu Ye swung, a flood of information suddenly surged uncontrollably in his mind. This influx of information came inexplicably, carrying knowledge he never had before, as if someone forcibly implanted it into his mind.

Qin Zong! Constellation Late Stage! First Mate of the Long Dragon battleship!

In an instant, Lu Ye discerned the identity of the bearded man.

This strike was Lu Ye's full-power outburst, undeniably strong, but Qin Zong's cultivation level was two minor tiers higher than Lu Ye's, and he was also a physique cultivator, allowing him to react swiftly. He seemed to have anticipated this and had activated his protective spirit force before Lu Ye made his move.

The strike pierced into the opponent's protective spirit force but did not break through.

Qin Zong took the opportunity to leap back, looking at Lu Ye in astonishment: "Captain, what are you doing?"

A few figures beside also turned to Lu Ye, each looking puzzled.

Holding his saber, Lu Ye stood on the spot, eyelids drooping as he quickly sifted through the information that had surged in his mind moments ago, his gaze sweeping over those figures, comparing them with the bizarre information that appeared.

Xiao Jianming, Constellation Late Stage, Second Mate of the Long Dragon battleship.

Zhou Xing, Constellation Mid-Stage, Array Master of the Long Dragon battleship.

Xu Qingwei, Constellation Mid-Stage, Ship Doctor.

Only these few people were around him, but obviously, there were more. Lu Ye's Mental Consciousness sensed a dozen or so lifeforms around, all of them in the Constellation Realm.

And he himself, was astonishingly the captain of the Long Dragon battleship!

This group, active in stellar space as galactic pirates, roamed and plundered, committing numerous misdeeds.

Lu Ye felt somewhat bewildered. He was clearly exploring a tattered spirit ark, having found nothing and preparing to leave when thick mist enveloped him. As it dissipated, he found himself in this bizarre situation.

The Long Dragon battleship, it seemed, was the name of the tattered spirit ark he had been exploring. Through his Mental Consciousness sweeping, Lu Ye could essentially confirm this, as the layout of the present Long Dragon battleship was identical to the tattered spirit ark, except one was intact while the other was dilapidated.

What on earth was going on?

Even with his experience, Lu Ye was somewhat at a loss.

The tattered spirit ark transformed into a perfectly intact battleship, and where there was previously emptiness, now stood over a dozen Constellation Realm individuals, and inexplicably, he had become the captain of this galactic pirate group.

There was an air of eeriness about the whole situation.

As Lu Ye pondered, Xu Qingwei softly spoke, "Captain, are you alright?"

As the ship doctor of the Long Dragon battleship, seeing Lu Ye not quite himself, she naturally had to inquire.

Lu Ye did not immediately respond, remaining in thought.

After a good while, he calmly said, "I'm fine, just momentarily dazed," then slowly sheathed his Boulder Mountain Saber.

It was certain these people knew something about his circumstances, yet they all acted oblivious, making it awkward for Lu Ye to ask directly.

Not to mention whether they would speak, the difference in power was not something Lu Ye could bridge. He couldn't possibly use force. The first and second mates of the Long Dragon battleship were both at the Constellation Late Stage. One-on-one, Lu Ye estimated he might barely manage, but one-on-two... certainly not.

Upon hearing him, they all breathed a sigh of relief. Qin Zong grinned, "Captain, your skill is truly formidable. That strike was extraordinarily sharp and startled me!"

He wasn't being insincere. Despite being at the Constellation Late Stage, with Lu Ye just entering the Constellation realm, the strike almost broke through his protective spirit force, showing its extraordinary nature.

Lu Ye didn't respond.

He initially thought that the tattered spirit ark was something he stumbled upon by chance, but now it seemed somehow related to the opportunity Fong Rumu had hinted at earlier.

Unfortunately, Fong Rumu hadn't said anything back then, leaving Lu Ye now completely in the dark.

The most crucial point: how did a tattered spirit ark suddenly become a fully intact Long Dragon battleship!

And the personnel on board were complete.

If this were an illusion, it would make sense, but everything Lu Ye saw and felt told him one thing: this was no illusion; this was real!

Yet, Lu Ye could confirm one thing: this was definitely an illusion!

The thick mist was merely a trigger, but the level of this illusion was so high that he couldn't discern any flaws.

If so, the people before him might not even be alive. They looked no different from living beings, but in reality, who knows how long they've been dead. The location he found himself in must still be that tattered spirit ark, merely transformed by the illusion into seeing a perfectly intact Long Dragon battleship.

Chapter 1303 - Life Is So Short

Slowly clarifying his own situation, Lu Ye immediately understood that this was a dangerous place, and it was not suitable to stay for long! The information he currently possessed seemed comprehensive, but in reality, it was utterly useless. In such an environment, it was naturally wise to slip away first.

As for the opportunity Fong Rumo mentioned... whatever opportunity it was, ensuring his own safety was the priority.

Instantly, he stepped outside.

Xu Qingwei caught up quickly, "Captain, is everything really alright?"

Lu Ye originally didn't want to pay attention to her, but after a moment's thought, he turned his head and said coldly, "I'm going out for a walk, don't follow!"

Xu Qingwei then stopped moving forward.

Lu Ye walked out of the cabin and discovered that his current location was the third layer of the battleship, the same layer the doppelganger first explored, and the place he had just been was roughly where the Central Hub of the Long Dragon battleship was located.

Looking up, he saw the sky full of stars covering the view, the Long Dragon battleship was currently sailing in the stellar space.

Lu Ye tried to locate his familiar Taiyang Star and Taibai Star, but found nothing.

This made his heart sink; the previous unexpected changes were already strange enough, and now even the environment seemed to have changed?

He couldn't afford to think too much about it at the moment; what needed to be done was to leave here quickly.

With a leap, he flew outward, but soon Lu Ye sensed trouble, as he realized he couldn't leave this spirit ark no matter how he flew. He could only linger within a range of a hundred zhang from the spirit ark, as the Long Dragon battleship seemed to have a mysterious force holding him tightly within it. He didn't notice it usually, only when he wanted to leave did it take effect.

Such a method was already beyond his understanding.

Things were indeed not that simple.

Even though he was mentally prepared, upon discovering this issue, Lu Ye couldn't help but frown.

It seemed related to his current identity; as the captain of the Long Dragon battleship, naturally, he was tightly bound to it, as the saying goes, 'As long as the battleship exists, so shall he, and if the battleship dies, he will perish.'

Just as this thought sprung out of his mind, Lu Ye's heart skipped a beat, vaguely feeling a sense of impending catastrophe.

"Enemy attack!" Suddenly, a loud shout echoed across the deck, and Lu Ye looked in the direction of the sound, only to see a young cultivator at the top of the mast's lookout, loudly warning.

Lu Ye hurriedly scanned the surroundings and indeed saw traces in one direction; it was three battleships different in shape from the Long Dragon battleship, rapidly approaching in a triangular formation.

From afar, the front end of those three battleships lit up, evidently gathering power.

When Lu Ye was in the Nine Provinces, he had dealt with battleships before; the Haotian Alliance of Nine Provinces had a kind of flying dragon battleship, specialized in siege and would possess immense power, incomparable to the force cultivators could exert.

Battleships within the domain were already significant, let alone those outside the domain; who knows what level the three rapidly approaching battleships were at, targeting the Long Dragon battleship, Lu Ye immediately felt things were not looking good.

Moreover, he was unable to fly away from this battleship.

After the warning sound was issued, crew members began running over from various places, distributing themselves into array hubs on the deck, quickly taking their respective duties.

One female crew member, when passing by Lu Ye, transmitted an audio message, "Quickly go back to the place you came from, don't die too many times, otherwise you'll never be able to escape!"

Lu Ye turned his head, looking at the girl's back, vaguely feeling that she seemed somewhat different from the other crew members.

But there was no time to think about this now, as Qin Zong had already flashed over with a tense expression, "Captain, quickly control the battleship!"

Lu Ye took one last glance at the girl's back before flying onward, arriving at the cabin he had just left.

With a swift glance, he immediately spotted, in the center of the cabin, a complex big array with a sphere.

This was the Central Hub for controlling the Long Dragon battleship.

Lu Ye quickly stepped forward, raised his hand onto the sphere, and spirit force fused with Mental Consciousness flowed in, all pouring into the sphere. In the next instant, a wonderful feeling emerged throughout his entire being.

He felt like he had become one with the Long Dragon battleship; he was the Long Dragon battleship, and the Long Dragon battleship was him.

He could clearly feel every change in detail within the battleship and grasp its strengths and weaknesses.

But Lu Ye ultimately had no experience controlling battleships, and while experiencing this feeling, he was suddenly haunted by a terrifying sensation.

He lifted his gaze, his eyes deep, seemingly able to pierce through the Void, and clearly saw three beams of light, rapidly approaching the Long Dragon battleship in a triangular formation.

It was precisely the attack from the three battleships he had seen on the deck earlier.

Lu Ye instinctively wanted to dodge, but his mind had already merged with the Long Dragon battleship, making it not so easy to dodge. He needed to control the battleship to make evasive maneuvers.

This was completely different from controlling his body.

The battleship suddenly trembled, as the first attack had hit, though it failed to dodge, fortunately, the crew of the Long Dragon battleship were well-trained and had already activated the protective array.

The attack struck the array's light screen, immediately causing ripples to emerge.

Next came the second, and the third attack...

Lu Ye exerted all his strength to control the battleship, but one step late, step after step, that series of incessant attacks arrived, even though they couldn't break the protective array's screen, they pushed the Long Dragon battleship to spin uncontrollably under immense force.

Not only was the battleship being flipped, so was Lu Ye's Mental Consciousness.

In Lu Ye's perception, he felt like a target flying in mid-air at this moment, completely unable to control his position, let alone avoid the subsequent attacks.

Beside him, Qin Zong was jumping anxiously, while urging his spirit force to steady his mind, he shouted, "Captain, quickly evade!"

Damn it, don't I already know to evade? I need to have that ability first!

Lu Ye nearly cursed out loud.

As someone who had never controlled this type of battleship, starting out was really full of too many discordant elements.

In just the short span of ten breaths, the protective screen of the Long Dragon battleship shattered with a bang. As the bright light once again formed a geometric pattern and came at them, Lu Ye couldn't help but sigh.

The stellar space... truly dangerous, never thought that this would be the end of my journey.

The geometric-patterned attacks struck, the protective screen broke, all bombarding the hull, the violent force swept through, and the crew on the deck cried out in agony and died one by one.

Lu Ye did not struggle, he calmly accepted all this, because at this moment, any struggle was already meaningless.

At the final moments of life, Hua Ci's face emerged in his mind.

Could it be... that woman would really bear his child?

In this calm, Lu Ye suddenly sensed something strange, turned his head, only to see Qin Zong and the others all looking at him, the previous fear and despair vanished without a trace, instead showing an odd smile.

Under the white light, all life inside the Long Dragon battleship was wiped out! Even the entire battleship had become battered.

Lu Ye suddenly opened his eyes, gasping for breath, the feeling of death was incredibly unpleasant, but soon he bore a puzzled look.

Because just a moment ago, he clearly sensed he had died, yet why did he live again?

Activating his Mental Consciousness, he examined his body, finding no signs of injury, no deficiencies.

What is going on?

Looking around, he saw Qin Zong and others, and the place he was at now was clearly the battleship's control Central Hub.

Seeing Lu Ye look over, Xiao Jianming said, "Captain, any orders?"

Lu Ye fixed his gaze on him for a while, slowly shaking his head.

Strange! Too strange!

The event of apparent death and revival was something Lu Ye could not believe, even if someone did possess this ability, it couldn't be widespread, yet his Mental Consciousness sensed that the crew who had died moments ago were all alive and well.

It seemed that everything he just experienced was mere illusion!

But would such an event really be an illusion? If it was, it certainly was too realistic, as Lu Ye distinctly felt the tearing pain when he died.

"Captain, are you unwell?" Xu Qingwei asked with concern.

Lu Ye looked at her, his expression somewhat befuddled. Right before his apparent death, these few people all turned to him with an eerie smile, especially Xu Qingwei, who had clearly been facing away, yet her head turned completely around.

Now appearing as if nothing had happened...

"No!" Lu Ye responded somewhat stiffly.

Qin Zong laughed heartily: "Our captain's first voyage must be nerve-wracking. Initially, we were the same. Captain, I tell you, there's no need to be nervous, getting robbed once is bilking, twice is routine, thrice becomes adept, the more you go through, the more accustomed you become."

"What's going on with you guys?" Lu Ye asked.

Everyone was baffled.

Lu Ye tried a different question: "What was the situation just now?"

Their expressions became even more bewildered, Qin Zong scratching his head: "Captain, what are you talking about, what happened just now?"

Lu Ye closely observed their expressions, yet found no flaws, making him slightly doubt himself.

But just then, a stern shout suddenly came from the direction of the deck's lookout: "Enemy attack!"

The crew, who were dispersed resting within the battleship, immediately sprang into action, rushing to the deck, each manning their posts.

Lu Ye's expression froze.

He hurriedly placed his hand on the sphere before him, the feeling he experienced rushed to his heart once more, his being seemingly merged with the Long Dragon battleship.

His gaze pierced through the Void once again, seeing in the depths of stellar space three battleships forming a geometric pattern, speeding towards them, the tops of the three battleships already glowing with bright light.

This scene... was all too familiar, like a rewind of time!

Lu Ye's eye twitched involuntarily.

Qin Zong shouted from beside him: "Captain, quickly control the battleship!"

Chapter 1304 Hai Tang

Intense bombardment kept coming, the protective light screen of the Long Dragon battleship was on the verge of collapse. Lu Ye immersed himself in the ship, becoming one with it. Despite his efforts to dodge, he was still unable to do so effectively.

This time, the duration lasted a few more moments than before, but that was all. The battle array of the battleship's protection shattered, and bright, dazzling light filled the field of vision once again, making it impossible to open one's eyes, while the pain of the body being torn apart distinctly transmitted.

Lu Ye opened his eyes again, calmly observing his surroundings.

Sure enough, he was still alive, just like before, standing in front of the control central hub of the Long Dragon battleship, even the positions of Qin Zong and the others remained unchanged.

Was it really a rewind of time? Or a bizarre loop?

"Captain, any orders?" Xiao Jianming asked, repeating the same words as before.

Lu Ye shook his head: "No." He turned to Xu Qingwei: "The body is fine, no need to ask further."

Xu Qingwei opened her mouth, a bit confused.

Standing in place, Lu Ye pondered, looking at the current situation, it's likely that there will soon be another attack, and the choices before him are only two: to leave this Long Dragon battleship before the attack, but he had tried this before, and it didn't work at all. A mysterious force trapped him on this ship, preventing him from flying beyond a hundred feet.

So actually, there's only one choice for him!

Control this ship well and engage with those attacking three battleships! Defeat them, crush them!

The confrontation between battleships is not quite the same as the battle between cultivators; Lu Ye had already somewhat experienced this in the previous two instances. Even if he had many techniques, they couldn't be used while controlling the battleship, all he could rely on was his own experience in controlling the battleship, and the performance of the ship itself.

Lu Ye was uncertain about the performance of the Long Dragon battleship, but it shouldn't be bad, because during the previous two attacks, the Long Dragon battleship endured strike after strike, and the protective array's light screen could still maintain itself until it finally couldn't hold any longer, and shattered.

If in the process, Lu Ye could control the battleship to correctly dodge and avoid some of the attacks, then the crew could better maintain the protective array, and the duration they could hold on would definitely greatly increase.

In the entanglement, seek opportunities to crush the enemy's battleships; this is the true way of battleship conflict.

No fancy tricks like the conflicts between cultivators, but the danger level is no less.

Of course, if a cultivator's individual strength reaches a certain level, there's no need for such trouble, directly charging single-handedly against anything, smashing it with one hit.

But for Lu Ye, he had never deeply understood or come into contact with battleships before, nor did he know how to control them more effectively and conveniently. Being suddenly thrown into a confrontation in the stellar space with three mysterious enemy ships seemed too forced.

So Lu Ye thought of a method, he turned to Qin Zong and the others: "Can any of you control a battleship?"

Since he couldn't, he would let someone else do it.

Qin Zong smiled: "We all can."

This was normal, as few galactic pirates who had roamed the stellar space for years could not control a battleship, the only difference being the level of skill.

"Who is the best?" Lu Ye asked again.

Qin Zong proudly smiled: "Of course it's me!"

"Then you will control it!" Lu Ye spoke.

Qin Zong immediately showed joy: "Seriously?"

"If I say you do it, you do it!" There wasn't much time left, Lu Ye couldn't bother saying more.

Qin Zong immediately stepped forward, standing in front of the central control orb of the battleship, his expression suddenly became extremely serious, confirming again: "Captain, really transfer control to me?"

"Stop the nonsense!" Lu Ye impatiently urged.

"Then here I go." Qin Zong chuckled lowly, raised his hand and placed it on the orb, not forgetting to remind Lu Ye: "Please assist a bit captain, this way the control transfer can proceed smoothly."

Lu Ye didn't know what to do, so he nodded: "Do what you need to do."

Qin Zong immediately initiated his spirit force into the orb.

The next moment, Lu Ye realized something, understanding how to cooperate with him. The orb was originally filled with his imprint aura, so he had the highest level of control over the Long Dragon battleship. Of course, other crew members also had a part of the control, but Lu Ye's was the highest priority.

Now what he needed to do was, while Qin Zong acted, dissipate his own imprint aura, and once the orb is filled with Qin Zong's imprint, the Long Dragon battleship would be controlled by him.

The transfer of control wasn't a momentary matter, but it didn't take very long either, like a buy-sell transaction, one willing to buy, and one willing to sell.

But during this process, Lu Ye suddenly felt a sense of unease, though he couldn't tell where it came from.

His eyes inadvertently glanced, and suddenly noticed that Xiao Jianming and Xu Qingwei were both staring at the orb with that ominous grin Lu Ye had seen before.

Looking up at Qin Zong, this guy was also smiling!

That uneasiness grew stronger, as if once he lost control of the Long Dragon battleship, something terrifying would happen.

Lu Ye immediately withdrew his hand.

Qin Zong was stunned: "Captain, what's wrong?"

Lu Ye paused for a moment and then spoke: "It's best not to trouble you now."

Qin Zong shrugged indifferently, seemingly not bothered by it, and Xiao Jianming and Xu Qingwei both returned to normal.

"Enemy attack!" That familiar fierce shout came from the lookout again.

Lu Ye sighed, stepped forward, injected spirit force into the orb, and began to control the Long Dragon battleship. However, because the control authority had previously been transferred, a part of Qin Zong's aura remained in the control orb. Normally, Lu Ye could take some time to dispel this aura, but there was no time now.

He immediately felt that controlling the Long Dragon battleship wasn't as smooth and fluid as the previous times; there was always a slight sense of obstruction.

Already unfamiliar, coupled with such disadvantages, the Long Dragon battleship's evasion against the enemy attack in the stellar space was even more worrying.

This time, they didn't last as long as the previous time; the battleship was blown up.

In the fourth cycle, Lu Ye opened his eyes and immediately sensed something was amiss.

Between himself and the Long Dragon battleship, there seemed to be a peculiar connection. This connection felt completely different from before—it wasn't the meaningless captain-to-ship link but rather a tangible, inexplicable connection.

There hadn't been such a connection in the previous cycles.

Lu Ye originally planned to flee the battleship while practicing his control skills during this cycle to prepare for the impending danger. After all, within this cycle, he wouldn't truly die, so as long as he utilized the interval before the enemy ship's approach, he could become a competent captain, leading the crew on the battleship against the invading enemies.

But now, this sudden change made him nervous.

Ever since stepping onto this Long Dragon battleship, there had been an eerie vibe, and now things had become even more unsettling.

Lu Ye began to investigate this connection but couldn't discern anything. Suddenly, he recalled that during the first cycle, a female crew member had passed by and transmitted a message to him.

The woman had told him not to die too many times, or he would never be able to escape!

Back then, he didn't understand what the woman was saying and didn't have the time to ask further. But looking back now, it seemed related to his current situation?

This was the fourth cycle; he had already died three times. With a mysterious connection added between himself and the battleship, if he died more times, would this connection become stronger until he was forever trapped on this battleship, unable to escape?

During the second cycle, Lu Ye had asked Qin Zong and the others, hoping to glean some information from them, but those guys knew nothing.

Now, it looks like to gather intel, he still needs to find that woman!

The woman seemed different from the others...

Mental Consciousness surged, and Lu Ye immediately pinpointed the woman's location, his figure darting outward.

Although practicing control skills of the battleship was important, preparation lessens the stress of cutting wood, and Lu Ye felt it was more crucial to gather more intel first. At the very least, he needed to understand what he had gotten into.

Qin Zong's voice came from behind: "Captain, where to?"

"I have something to do, don't follow!" Lu Ye ordered rudely, with no affection towards Qin Zong and the others.

They didn't seem out of place, but were actually all strange, especially with their smiles, making Lu Ye feel very uncomfortable.

The woman's location was in a room on the second level of the battleship. Lu Ye found the place accurately and was about to knock when the door opened, a pretty face coming into view.

Lu Ye hesitated for a moment, soon realizing that the woman knew he was coming!

It seemed that he had indeed found the right person.

Silent and invisible eyes met, the woman turned sideways, Lu Ye stepped in, and she closed the door, activating the room's restrictions.

The room's setup was simple, but Lu Ye had no intention to inspect further, getting right to the point: "Fellow Daoist, could you teach me?"

The woman sighed and didn't answer, instead asking, "How should I address you?"

"Lu Ye!"

The woman nodded, introducing herself, "Hai Tang!"

"Fellow Daoist's cultivation is higher than mine, so if you don't mind, I'll address you as Senior Sister." Lu Ye said, seeing no objection from her, he continued smoothly: "Senior Sister Hai Tang, what exactly is going on here?"

Senior Sister is certainly more affectionate than Fellow Daoist, this is the time to close the distance.

Hai Tang said: "You speak first of what you know."

"I don't know anything. I just know that after dying, I come back to life, seemingly like a cycle," Lu Ye said truthfully.

"Cycle..." Hai Tang gave a bitter smile, "If it were truly just a cycle, that would be fine, but this cycle will only entrap you deeper. You came to find me; you must have noticed the strange connection between you and this battleship."

Chapter 1305 - Ghost Ship

"Exactly." Lu Ye nodded. It was because he noticed the strange connection during this cycle that he remembered the woman's previous warning and came to seek her out.

Hai Tang said, "This connection will become increasingly close as the number of your deaths increases, until ultimately you and the Ghost Ship will fully merge, becoming inseparable."

"Ghost Ship?" Lu Ye looked at him in confusion.

"Yes, this Long Dragon battleship is the renowned Ghost Ship in stellar space! No one knows how it appears, but historical records can trace back tens of thousands of years."

From Hai Tang's words, it seems this Ghost Ship is quite famous in stellar space, but as a fledgling who has just entered stellar space, Lu Ye has never heard of the Ghost Ship. Not just him; no one in the Nine Provinces knows about it.

"The Ghost Ship drifts and wanders all over stellar space; traces of it could appear anywhere. Before entering, it looks like a tattered battleship from the outside, but once any creature steps inside, it triggers changes in the Ghost Ship."

This change must be the dense Mist Lu Ye saw earlier. When the Mist disperses, the decrepit spirit ark transforms into the Long Dragon battleship, and the intruder naturally becomes the captain of the Long Dragon battleship.

Lu Ye asked, "Is this change real, or is it an illusion?"

Hai Tang said, "To you, it's an illusion, but to me, it's real."

"What's the difference?"

"You haven't fully integrated into the Ghost Ship yet, so you still have a chance to escape, whereas I..."
Hai Tang's expression was somewhat dim.

Lu Ye suddenly understood, "Senior Sister, could it be that you, too, were drawn to this ship and trapped within it?"

Hai Tang nodded, "I fell into this place not long ago and have gone through everything you have experienced."

Lu Ye laughed helplessly, "Since you knew this is the famous Ghost Ship, why did you still venture deep inside?"

Hai Tang smiled bitterly, "I realized it after coming in." Shaking her head, she continued, "Now I'm trapped here, able to maintain my sanity for a short time. Once too much time passes, I will perish, and everything about me will turn into nourishment for the Ghost Ship. You're lucky; had you come a few months later, you wouldn't have seen me. Other crew members won't tell you any of this; they are the original existence of the Long Dragon battleship."

Lu Ye suddenly realized, no wonder during the first cycle, Hai Tang transmitted audio to remind him. It turns out she is indeed different from the other crew members.

The other crew members are all considered a part of the Ghost Ship, but Hai Tang is an outsider like him. Though trapped now, she still retains her sanity, so she kindly reminds Lu Ye.

It seems that she, having been rained on, is willing to hold an umbrella for others.

But such a state is destined not to last long; soon she will completely disappear.

Lu Ye felt distressed and asked, "How can one escape from this?"

"Control the Long Dragon battleship, lead the crew members, and defeat the enemy that invades. Only then can you break free from this ship and regain freedom!"

That's precisely what Lu Ye wanted to do before, but thinking is one thing; accomplishing it is quite another. Not to mention, this is already the fourth cycle, and Lu Ye still hasn't gotten used to controlling the battleship, let alone battling the three incoming battleships in air combat.

"The Ghost Ship has a mysterious secret." Knowing Lu Ye has little time, Hai Tang sped up her speech, "That is, no matter the cultivation of anyone entering this place, they can only wield power at the Constellation Early Stage, even those at the Sun Blaze Realm. This is the Ghost Ship's rule."

Lu Ye actually did not know this, since he himself is at the Constellation Early Stage level. This rule has no significance for him.

"This rule is extremely stringent, greatly limiting the cultivators' ability to exert their power, so even though they know there are opportunities on the Ghost Ship, cultivators who recognize it in stellar space do not rashly intrude. Generally speaking, as soon as they see it, they stay far away."

"Opportunity?" Lu Ye raised his brows, "There are opportunities here?"

Hai Tang chuckled, "In such a perilous place, naturally there are opportunities, especially for such peculiar entities as the Ghost Ship. However, if you can't defeat the invading enemies, you won't obtain that opportunity."

Lu Ye then confirmed that the opportunity Fong Rumo had pointed out was indeed this Long Dragon battleship.

He couldn't help but grumble; that sloppy old man did tell him the opportunity was dangerous, leaving it for him to consider. But nothing seemed dangerous before entering the Ghost Ship. Once inside, it was too late to realize!

Fong Rumo's reminder was practically useless.

Yet one can't blame him; it was a chance encounter, and after grabbing some of Lu Ye's food and wine, he not only pointed out the location of an opportunity to Lu Ye, but even sealed a secret technique on Lu Ye's Boulder Mountain Saber. From Fong Rumo's perspective, their exchange was clear. Whether Lu Ye dies because of the Ghost Ship... what does it matter to him?

The stellar space is fraught with danger everywhere. Even without the Ghost Ship, other dangers abound. Moreover, nearly at every moment, cultivators perish for various reasons in stellar space.

"What kind of opportunity?" Lu Ye asked.

Hai Tang said, "It is said that there are various valuable treasures within the Ghost Ship, the kind that would tempt even Sun Blaze Realm cultivators. If you manage to free yourself from this ship and restore your freedom, you can freely choose an item from the ship to take away!"

A valuable treasure that even those in the Sun Blaze Realm would covet! What quality must it be?

If this is true, then it is understandable why this Ghost Ship holds such a great reputation in the stellar space.

Such an opportunity is bound to attract heroes from all over to temper themselves. Cultivators have never lacked the spirit of adventure.

"Senior Sister Hai Tang, I think we could collaborate a bit!" Lu Ye suggested.

"How do we collaborate?" Hai Tang looked at him, puzzled.

"Senior Sister has already experienced everything I have, so you must be more familiar with controlling the battleship than I am. How about this: I will transfer control of the battleship to you, and you..."

"No!"

Before Lu Ye could finish, Hai Tang interrupted him.

She looked at Lu Ye with a serious face: "You absolutely must not transfer your control over the Ghost Ship!"

"Why is that?"

"The control over this ship is the essence of your captaincy. With this control, you remain the captain and can continue to face the trials of the Ghost Ship. But once you lose this control, you will immediately find yourself in my situation, trapped on this ship until one day you become nourishment for the Ghost Ship!"

Lu Ye finally understood the unease he felt earlier when he was about to transfer control of the battleship to Qin Zong. There was more to it. Fortunately, he sensed something was amiss and halted the transfer. Otherwise, both he and Hai Tang would be doomed, stuck eyeing each other tearfully forever.

Those bastards in Qin Zong's group surely knew what would happen if the control was transferred but none of them warned him. Instead, they wore sly smiles during the process.

"Enemy attack!" From the deck came the sharp cry of warning from the lookout, and in the next instant, the crew on the Long Dragon battleship began to move.

Time was running out for Lu Ye. He quickly asked, "Senior Sister, do you have any other instructions?"

Hai Tang said, "All the crew on the Ghost Ship, though they are part of the ship, as long as you remain the captain, they will strictly follow your every command. This is one of the rules of the Ghost Ship. Make good use of this! Many cultivators have fallen to the Ghost Ship, many in the Constellation Realm, even in the Sun Blaze Realm. However, there are precedents where they successfully escaped, obtained valuable treasures, and left. As long as the final outcome is undetermined, never give up!"

"Understood."

Turning away, he ran outside. While still on his way, he heard Qin Zong's panicked shout: "Captain, hurry back and take control of the battleship!"

"Shut up!" Lu Ye dashed past him straight to the cabin, quickly arriving in front of the orb, where he stood still and channeled spirit force into it.

After more than ten breaths, the Long Dragon battleship was shattered under the overpowering attacks from the approaching forces, leaving no crew members aboard alive.

On the fifth cycle, when Lu Ye opened his eyes, he immediately checked the peculiar connection between himself and the Long Dragon battleship, finding that it was indeed more intimate than before.

This connection continues to deepen with each death until it reaches a certain limit, at which point Lu Ye will become just like Hai Tang, completely trapped here with no escape.

So everything he is experiencing now, Hai Tang has experienced before.

Alone in such a strange environment, inching toward the end, unless one possesses a strong heart, they will quickly crumble.

Lu Ye did not know how many times he could "die"; the feeling was not deep enough for him to make an accurate judgment, but he knew that escaping the Ghost Ship was a long and arduous journey.

This death was not true death, as everything he is experiencing is just an illusion. However, this illusion unfolds under the rules of the Ghost Ship, far too sophisticated for Lu Ye to discern a single flaw.

Steadying his mind, Lu Ye immediately raised his hand to press on the orb in the Central Hub, linking his mind with the Long Dragon battleship, and began familiarizing himself with controlling the battleship.

But before that, he first increased the speed of the Long Dragon battleship, fleeing into the distance.

He thought simply: Since a strong enemy is pursuing them, accelerating the ship could help maintain some distance and stall for a bit longer.

But soon, Lu Ye realized he had thought too much.

Because when that familiar call of enemy attack was shouted out, Lu Ye found that he had not stalled for any extra time. At the exact same moment, the lookout on the tower issued a warning!

What is happening? With no time to ponder, Lu Ye continued to devote himself fully to maneuvering the Long Dragon battleship to fly forward.

In no time, the enemy ships caught up, the distance closing constantly, their massive beam-like attacks surging from behind.

Under Lu Ye's control, the battleship twisted and turned, dodging most of the attacks, but some still fell on the protective barrier, causing it to wobble and teeter.

Chapter 1306 - Reincarnation

However, because Lu Ye manipulated the battleship to avoid many attacks, the protective light screen lasted longer than ever before, thanks to the crew's efforts to maintain it.

The crew aboard the Ghost Ship are indeed part of the battleship, but when facing enemies, they make every effort without the slightest negligence, which is undoubtedly good news.

If in such an environment, even one's own crew cannot work together harmoniously, then there is no point in continuing this test; it would be utterly meaningless.

In the sixth cycle, Lu Ye promptly controlled the battleship, accelerating to escape far away, while taking out two As-Close-As-Siblings Array Discs from his storage ring and tossing them to Qin Zong, commanding: "You all take these and gather all crew to the deck for defense. Strong enemies are coming soon!"

The As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc played a significant role in the Nine Provinces' resistance against the insect hives during the expedition to the Blood Refinement World, allowing many Nine Provinces cultivators to borrow power from each other, easily form formations, and using it here was indeed a good choice.

The crew, though all at the Constellation Realm, vary in cultivation and have varying amounts of spirit force. Thus, when controlling the Formation on the deck, the power displayed by the Formation would be different, but with the help of the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc, they can collaborate better.

Qin Zong gave a low shout: "Yes!"

Immediately, he led Xiao Jianming and Xu Qingwei to the deck.

Just as Hai Tang said, although these guys harbor ill feelings toward Lu Ye, they still strictly execute his orders.

Lu Ye stood alone, immersing his mind, becoming familiar with various controls over the battleship.

Still at that time, the warning shout rang out.

Upon hearing the sound, Lu Ye realized it's likely one of the Ghost Ship's rules. No matter how hard he accelerates beforehand, he can't achieve the goal of delaying; the incoming threat always appears at the same time in the lookout's view.

Soon, the battle erupted.

This time was pleasing. Under Lu Ye's control and the crew's efforts, the Long Dragon battleship managed to hold for nearly one incense stick's time before it was blasted apart.

Lu Ye discovered he seemingly has a knack for controlling the battleship, perhaps linked to his background as a combat cultivator.

Combat cultivators are adept at close combat; when controlling the battleship, it's merely substituting the individual's body with the battleship itself. Though controlling a battleship is more challenging, once the tricks are found and familiarized, it becomes traceable.

If a magic cultivator were to do it, it probably wouldn't be so simple.

Moreover, Lu Ye found another advantageous piece of information for himself: the deeper immersed his mind, the more spirit force he injects, the easier the control over the battleship.

These things are not taught by others; they require deep personal experience.

Lu Ye estimated that if he could escape this predicament, encounters with anything like battleships in the future should lead to easy control.

This counts as a form of honing; acquiring an additional skill is ultimately not detrimental.

But soon, Lu Ye discovered another problem.

The consumption is too great, and he finally understood why the Ghost Ship imposes a rule where any cultivator, regardless of cultivation, can only exert Constellation Early Stage strength.

Because Constellation Early Stage is the start of the upper three realms, with the smallest reserve of spirit force.

Controlling the battleship demands a massive expenditure of spirit force—at such consumption levels, a cultivator at the Constellation Early Stage would exhaust their cultivation within six hours. Even if elixir pills are used to recover midway, it won't extend much longer.

Especially for better control of the Long Dragon battleship, more spirit force is required, accelerating the individual cultivator's consumption.

In other words, a cultivator who enters this ship must pass the test within a few Shichen, only then to leave and gain opportunities.

If time drags on, the situation will become increasingly unfavorable, eventually falling into a vicious cycle, leading to inevitable doom.

Hai Tang never mentioned this to Lu Ye; it's unknown whether it slipped her mind due to urgency or she deemed it unnecessary to say, thinking Lu Ye would perceive it.

This issue is a significant hurdle for other cultivators, but for Lu Ye, it's really not a problem.

In his cultivation with spirit jade, controlling rhythm is necessary for optimal efficiency. Realizing the excessive consumption of spirit force, Lu Ye immediately stuffed a piece of spirit jade into his mouth, chewing down.

As for the wasted energy from the spirit jade... at this moment, does it really matter?

When he left the Nine Provinces, he had around fifteen thousand pieces of spirit jade. The quantity has hardly changed since, as his finds along the way mostly suffice for his daily cultivation needs.

At Constellation Early Stage, the use of spirit jade remains minimal.

In the seventh cycle, Lu Ye turned his head to find Qin Zong and the others standing gawkily beside him like three quails.

Seeing his gaze, Xiao Jianming asked the familiar question again: "Captain, do you have any orders?"

"Where are the things I gave you?"

All three were bewildered, Qin Zong said: "What things?"

Lu Ye realized that after reincarnation, everything had been reshaped, and the two As-Close-As-Siblings Array Discs he had given them before were lost without a trace.

He immediately tossed out two array discs and issued the same orders as before.

After the three left, Lu Ye began to get familiar again with controlling the battleship. This time he didn't waste energy to accelerate since no matter how he sped up, the enemy's attacks would always arrive punctually, so he decided not to waste that energy.

He simply channeled all his spirit force into the orb controlling the Central Hub, familiarizing himself with every Array on the battleship and the power of every treasure embedded within those Arrays, all while controlling the battleship.

Intense combat broke out once more, but it was more of a passive beating than a battle.

Although Lu Ye's orders led Qin Zong and others to try to counterattack while defending against the enemy on the deck, such counterattacks needed Lu Ye's cooperation because Lu Ye controlled the battleship's movement and maneuvers; without proper coordination with the crew, effective counterattacks were difficult.

Qin Zong activated several Arrays' powers, but they all struck empty space because the aim was off...

In this situation, the defeat of the Long Dragon battleship was only a matter of time.

What Lu Ye needed to do was to survive for as long as possible to continually accumulate experience in controlling the battleship.

The eighth time, the ninth time, the tenth time...

Unlike the other crew members, Hai Tang was always closely monitoring the changes in the battleship to infer Lu Ye's condition.

In the beginning, she was pleased because Lu Ye was clearly improving rapidly in his control of the battleship, performing much better than she had before. This sort of progress could be directly felt, as the battleship could withstand enemy attacks for increasingly longer periods.

But soon she noticed something wrong, as Lu Ye kept dodging and never retaliated.

Gradually, she sighed, knowing that if things continued this way, no matter how much Lu Ye's skill in piloting the battleship advanced, it would be futile. This was because a Constellation Early Stage cultivator's spirit force reserve was insufficient to support prolonged control.

And once Lu Ye's spirit force was exhausted, the Long Dragon battleship would become a target unable to dodge, until repeated deaths slowly but surely tied Lu Ye and the Ghost Ship together, leaving him unable to escape.

She couldn't believe Lu Ye hadn't noticed this problem. But since he did, why wasn't there any change?

As time passed, she began to notice something strange. The Long Dragon battleship was still deftly maneuvering and dodging, and the anticipated situation where the battleship became a sitting duck due to Lu Ye's depleted spirit force never occurred.

Hai Tang couldn't quite figure it out. Did this Junior Brother Lu Ye have such deep spirit force reserves? This shouldn't be something a Constellation Early Stage cultivator could possess.

But regardless, this was indeed happening, and if such a situation could be maintained, perhaps...there was hope?

The sixteenth reincarnation!

Lu Ye could clearly feel that his connection with the Long Dragon battleship had become very strong. Although he no longer worried about spirit force consumption, one matter could not be overlooked—his deaths were limited. Once he exceeded this limit, no matter how much effort he put in, it would be futile.

Twenty times!

This was the maximum number of deaths he assessed that he could endure. Exceeding this number would put him in danger.

So, the opportunities left for him were few.

Fortunately, through these repeated deaths, he had reached a point where controlling the Long Dragon battleship was as fluid as moving his own arm, without the initial discordance and awkwardness.

This was as expected, because cultivators, especially those in the Constellation Realm, were not like ordinary people. Even if they had never encountered certain things before, they could quickly master them given enough time.

Controlling a battleship wasn't inherently too difficult. The greatest problem faced by cultivators here was the terrifying spirit force consumption, which was the fundamental reason why many cultivators fell to the Ghost Ship.

In the past, cultivators who came here would, after a few reincarnations, realize the issue of spirit force reserves and had to account for their own spirit force consumption. But this problem simply didn't exist for Lu Ye; he continuously exerted the maximum use of his spirit force from start to finish.

Of course, this also had to do with the Long Dragon battleship's size. It's ultimately a battleship suitable for a little more than ten people to sail together, and when compared in stellar space, it's only a small battleship. If it were a large battleship, controlling it wouldn't be as simple.

This time, during reincarnation, the frequency and number of times the Long Dragon battleship was attacked by enemies was significantly reduced to a minimum. In this state, even if an unfortunate hit occurred, as long as the protective array didn't break immediately, the crew could swiftly make amends and brace for the next attack.

In other words, if the spirit force was sufficient, the Long Dragon battleship could continue to tangle with the invading enemy indefinitely!

Chapter 1307 - Counterattack

Lu Ye could hold out, but the crew couldn't; their spirit force depletion couldn't be quickly replenished, even with the help of the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc.

So when he realized the crew's spirit force reserves had reduced to a significant level, Lu Ye suddenly maneuvered the Long Dragon battleship, turning it to collide head-on with the enemy!

In the earlier entanglements, Lu Ye confirmed one thing: that the speed of the Long Dragon battleship was inferior to the three pursuing enemy ships, which was expected. If it were faster, then there wouldn't have been any subsequent trouble.

It was the same logic as his earlier attempts to fly in stellar space; the speed of the Long Dragon battleship was the maximum he could control. Exceed this limit, and it might crash into something, leading to the destruction of the ship and loss of lives.

Outmatched in speed, unable to shake off the enemy, Lu Ye now wanted to know how tough these three enemy ships were!

But considering the Ghost Ship's rules, it shouldn't be too outrageous. Ghost ships have their own rules, under which a glimmer of hope usually hides. If the enemy ships were tough to the point where the Long Dragon battleship couldn't break through, then this wasn't a test or opportunity but a dead end.

No one could have ever completed this test and taken benefits from the Ghost Ship.

Therefore, Lu Ye believed that the strength of these enemy ships shouldn't be too outrageous, at least not beyond what the Long Dragon battleship could break through.

While steering towards the enemy ships for a head-on collision, Lu Ye communicated mentally, issuing orders to Qin Zong and Xiao Jianming.

The Long Dragon battleship has a protective array, and naturally, it also has an assault magic array. Ordinary crew members, led by Xu Qingwei, manage the protective array, while Qin Zong and Xiao Jianming control the assault magic array. Objects of vast power are placed in these arrays, capable of tremendous destruction.

Though both are assault magic arrays, their types are somewhat different. The array controlled by Qin Zong has greater power but takes longer to gather strength, thus unable to attack continuously. The array Xiao Jianming controls is slightly less powerful but attacks much more frequently.

Lu Ye had discovered this earlier and witnessed these two lieutenants deploying the arrays in previous cycles.

However, prior counterattacks were mostly ineffective, primarily due to poor coordination.

This time was different; Lu Ye wished to test the enemy ships' toughness. Charging towards the three enemy ships with only minor dodges allowed Qin Zong and Xiao Jianming a better grasp of their attack directions.

Rays of light came rushing from the front, and the Long Dragon battleship unleashed its fury. Despite the speed gap, in terms of attack, the Long Dragon battleship was not inferior and was even stronger.

After all, to fight one against three, without sufficiently powerful attacks, it wouldn't be feasible.

The approach was a measure of life and death, and Lu Ye's mind focused through the battleship, intently watching the attacked enemy ship.

This was the ship positioned in the middle. They were dodging and maneuvering, but Xiao Jianming skillfully controlled the array, leveraging its high frequency to repeatedly unleash it and block the enemy's escape routes.

What seems purposeless often has another aim.

Qin Zong, with telepathy, worked in harmony, utilizing the opportunities Xiao Jianming created, striking successfully each time!

Even if Lu Ye knew these two harbored ill intentions towards him, he couldn't help but cheer them up now.

The special rules of the Ghost Ship were, indeed, beneficial to cultivators who intrude, allowing strict order adherence without any slackening under Lu Ye's command.

In a blink, they were within less than ten miles of each other, which, for battleships of this size, was practically face-to-face.

At this point, the protective light shield of the Long Dragon battleship is very dim. Despite Lu Ye's full control, it was hard to avoid all attacks in this close pursuit.

Luckily, the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc he distributed earlier allowed the crew to lend each other strength and repair the defenses, preventing a worse situation.

Looking again at the enemy ship locked by the Long Dragon battleship's attacks, its protective shield was also on the brink of collapse, although its situation was slightly better.

After all, facing the attacks from three enemy ships, while the enemy just withstands attacks from one of ours, the defensive responses differ naturally.

Qin Zong and Xiao Jianming's coordination was a great success.

The two battleships on the enemy's left and right continued pouring attacks, while the middle ship began maneuvering, seemingly attempting to avoid the Long Dragon battleship's charge.

But Lu Ye certainly wouldn't let it escape; he needed to gauge the enemy's toughness by crashing through; without that, the clarity remains elusive.

He immediately heightened the spirit force drive, and the Long Dragon battleship's speed abruptly increased.

The next moment, the two battleships collided, after a brief squeeze, a huge burst of light erupted. Lu Ye felt his mind shudder, producing an inevitable feeling of slamming against something solid.

During the spaceship control process, he was closely linked with the battleship. He could observe everything in all directions through the battleship and manipulate flexibly. One could say, the battleship was him, and he was the battleship!

This is probably the fundamental reason why, after so many deaths, his connection with the battleship became increasingly tight.

Enduring various discomforts, Lu Ye quickly observed. In his perception, both the Long Dragon battleship and the enemy ship it collided with had become ragged, with each of their protective arrays collapsing.

Before Lu Ye could observe further, bright lights from the left and right had already overwhelmed his vision.

And then there was nothing more. When Lu Ye opened his eyes, he had already entered the seventeenth reincarnation! He couldn't help but grumble; that enemy battleship even struck its own, how absolutely ruthless!

At the end of the last reincarnation, the central battleships of both sides essentially perished together, but the cultivators on the battleships were still alive. Lu Ye originally wanted to see what kind of enemies were on the enemy ship, but he didn't even have a chance to investigate and was blasted to pieces.

There was no time for much sentimentality; Lu Ye issued the same orders as before and simultaneously threw two array discs.

After each reincarnation, everything on the Long Dragon battleship would be restored. All the array discs he had taken out before were gone, but there was a benefit, which was that the spirit force consumed by the crew members would return, keeping each crew member in their peak state.

This was also the reason during the last reincarnation that Lu Ye boldly rammed into the enemy ship. By that point, the crew had expended much and could no longer support the following battle, so it was better to make a test and then start over.

Including this time, there are four more chances; Lu Ye dared not be careless in any way.

Once the crew received the order and took their positions, Lu Ye immediately maneuvered the spaceship, turning to fly away.

Even so, at the predetermined time, the sinister silhouettes of three enemy ships entered the field of view. However, this time was different from every previous encounter; the Long Dragon battleship was no longer the passive target but an active attacker!

During the approach, tentative attacks had already begun, and as the distance between them increased, the intensity and frequency of attacks started to escalate as well.

Having previous experience, Lu Ye controlled the battleship more skillfully this time. He focused more on cooperating with Qin Zong and Xiao Jianming, which is what a qualified commander should do because only by coordinating with these two can their controlled assault magic array exert maximum effect.

The effect was significant. In this entanglement, the Long Dragon battleship only paid the price of reducing the protective array's power by half to blast the protection of one enemy ship.

Lu Ye was elated!

With one less enemy ship among the three, the Long Dragon battleship had to dodge 30% less attack, and the situation was bound to improve greatly.

As long as they maintain this pace and blow up the remaining two enemy ships one by one, it doesn't seem too daunting a task.

While Lu Ye was contemplating this, he suddenly saw masses of dark shadows flying out from the enemy ship whose protection was blown up, swiftly heading towards the other two enemy ships.

Lu Ye's expression changed immediately and ordered, "Kill them!"

Those dark shadows weren't visible in appearance, nor did they have concrete forms, but undoubtedly, they were the crew members of the enemy ship.

Their battleship couldn't be preserved, so they escaped in advance, heading to their other two battleships.

This was not good news for Lu Ye.

Even though he issued orders quickly and Qin Zong and Xiao Jianming flawlessly executed their commands, they still didn't succeed entirely. Over half of the enemy crew received support from their other battleships, hiding within them.

Immediately after, Lu Ye noticed that the other two battleships, whether in the power of protective arrays or the intensity and frequency of assault arrays, showed a marked improvement.

This was undoubtedly the effect brought by the crew members who escaped, having more available manpower to enhance the performance of the battleship.

Not only did the enemy ships have this advantage, but the Long Dragon battleship would likewise improve if their crew members increased by another fold, and the situation would not be as intense.

Lu Ye was filled with hatred in his heart! However, given the circumstances, there was no more strength to change things, only continuing to entangle with the remaining two enemy ships.

The enhanced performance of the enemy battleships made them even more troublesome, and as time passed, the performance of their crew waned. Each one suffered significant depletion in spirit force and Mental Consciousness.

A little over half a day later, under the flank attack of the two enemy battleships, the Long Dragon battleship was blown apart.

The crew on the battleship did not abandon the ship as the enemy did because it was pointless. The enemies had support from allied ships after abandoning theirs, whereas they had none, becoming sitting ducks.

The eighteenth reincarnation began, and Lu Ye repeatedly issued orders, seizing the moment before the enemy ships surfaced to contemplate the past gains and losses.

Chapter 1308 - Misconceptions

Without a doubt, my strategy was correct; rather than being passively beaten, it's better to actively strike. Attack is the best defense.

The previous achievements have already proven this point.

But some unexpected events always come unnoticed. Lu Ye didn't expect that after the enemy ship's protection was shattered, the enemy crew would escape, thereby greatly enhancing the power of the remaining two enemy ships.

A solution must be found for this, or it will be hard to achieve a major victory.

Solely relying on the assault magic array controlled by Qin Zong and Xiao Jianming is pointless. The array managed by Qin Zong isn't meant for dealing with individual cultivators; because the attack frequency is low, within the short time the enemy crew scatters and escapes, he can at most trigger the array's power twice. Although Xiao Jianming's side is better, it is limited.

So what our side needs now is more frequent and concentrated attacks!

Lu Ye immediately surges his Mental Consciousness externally for audio transmission, the recipient being Hai Tang, meticulously advising her.

Although, judging from the current situation, the crew of the Long Dragon battleship will strictly follow his orders, Lu Ye still doesn't trust them too much. This critical assistance can only be entrusted to Hai Tang.

His opportunities are running low. If in the next three struggles, he cannot achieve the expected results, he may truly follow in Hai Tang's footsteps and become inseparable from this Long Dragon battleship forever.

This is not the scenario he wishes to see.

Once again, he checks

the situation in various places aboard the Long Dragon battleship; Lu Ye's gaze penetrates the Void, looking forward, waiting for the arrival of enemy ships.

Moments later, three battleships come into sight.

Like last time, the scene replays; under Lu Ye's control, the Long Dragon battleship advances towards the enemy ships, as the distance closes, attacks between them interweave and shuttle.

Having paid the cost of our side's protective array's strength being decreased by half, the protection of the targeted enemy ship by the Long Dragon battleship is on the verge of collapse.

At this moment, Lu Ye's Mental Consciousness surges, accompanied by a low call: "Senior Sister Hai Tang!"

On the deck, Hai Tang, who was collaborating with other team members to stir up the protective array's power, immediately dashed out as Lu Ye's voice rang out, hurrying to the side of the deck.

At that location, there is an assault magic array that hasn't been activated yet!

Actually, there are several similar assault magic arrays on the Long Dragon battleship, never activated due to a shortage of manpower.

Each array has different characteristics and uses; the array Hai Tang hurries to is one that has a very high attack frequency but not significant power.

Of course, "not significant power" is relative. The array's power has minimal effect against battleships but is most suitable against cultivators.

It can be said that this array is specially designed to deal with cultivators.

Hai Tang just got in place and stimulated the spirit force to activate the array's power when the Long Dragon battleship made a divine dragon's tail swing, lying horizontally in front of the enemy ships.

At the same time, Qin Zong's side launched an extraordinarily powerful strike, hitting the enemy ship.

The protective light curtain was completely shattered. At this moment, countless shapeless black shadows quickly dashed out from the enemy ship.

Also, at this moment, Hai Tang activated the power of her controlled array.

A multitude of light orbs swiftly flew out from the array, spreading wide.

The several black shadows fleeing from the enemy ship, momentarily caught off guard, collided with the light orbs, and in an instant, the light orbs blossomed with lightning, wrapping those patches of shadows.

Vaguely visible, the shadows are writhing intensely, seemingly struggling, yet never breaking free from the lightning orb's confinement, gradually dissipating.

More light orbs flew out like fireflies, under Hai Tang's control, slaughtering the enemy ship's crew.

Lu Ye's spirit continuously focuses on the situation here, relaxing only upon seeing satisfactory results.

The Long Dragon battleship shakes ceaselessly, and while Hai Tang controls the array, the remaining two enemy battleships are far from idle, attacking continuously here. In order to better assist Hai Tang in obliterating the enemy crew, Lu Ye doesn't dare attempt large maneuvers.

This results in the Long Dragon battleship taking several heavy hits from the enemy's aggressive attacks, at the cost of the protective light curtain's strength being further reduced by another tenth!

Daring not to continue, the Long Dragon battleship lifts again, trying to avoid the enemy ships' attacks.

The three assault magic arrays on our side continue to pour power; Qin Zong and Xiao Jianming's roles need not be mentioned; they have always been the primary combatants against the enemy ships. Seeing the remaining three enemy crew get assistance and no longer be exterminated, Hai Tang flashed and returned to her original position, joining the sequence maintaining the protective array.

A whole enemy ship was destroyed, and nearly all the enemy ship's crew were thoroughly obliterated; now the Long Dragon battleship only needs to deal with the entanglement of two remaining enemy ships.

Compared to before, the situation is undoubtedly much better.

The only disadvantage to our side is that the protective array's strength has reduced far too much, only about forty percent of its peak period.

Trying to rely on such array strength to oppose the remaining two battleships is undeniably challenging.

Lu Ye is more focused than ever on controlling the battleship, occasionally executing meticulous coordination with Qin Zong and Xiao Jianming.

Moments later, when our protective array's strength remains only at its last tenth, the protection of the second enemy ship is also on the verge of collapse.

Having experience once, Hai Tang doesn't wait for Lu Ye's instructions but acts, quickly reaching position and activating the array's power.

The next moment, the array of the second enemy ship broke, and a scene similar to before entered their eyes as the crew of the enemy ship fled and headed toward the last remaining battleship.

Hai Tang activated the array's power to intercept and kill, while Lu Ye did his best to cooperate with her.

However, before Hai Tang could achieve significant results, the Long Dragon battleship shook violently, and the shields broke!

The last image Lu Ye saw was a bright beam of light bursting forth from the enemy ship!

So close but no cigar!

The nineteenth cycle, Lu Ye stood before the control central orb, frowning.

The most recent cycle, they had undoubtedly made maximum efforts here. Whether it was he, or Qin Zong, Xiao Jianming, or Hai Tang, all performed admirably, fighting three with one, managing to destroy two enemy ships—a remarkable feat, yet they failed at the critical moment.

Their cooperation was flawless, so the sole issue remained with the sheer number of enemies.

How could they improve?

They couldn't split their personnel to control more assault magic arrays; doing so would weaken the protective array and might be counterproductive.

If Lu Ye had enough opportunities to further synchronize with his crew, he believed they could definitely win.

But what he lacked now was the opportunity.

Counting this time, he had only two chances left, with one foot already on the cliff's edge.

While pondering, Lu Ye found no good solution, but this did not prevent him from ordering his crew again, assigning them their respective duties.

Hai Tang's voice came to his ear: "Junior brother, you've done very well, this time I'll try to perform better!"

This wasn't consolation but admiration.

Because throughout her attempts as the captain, she had always been on the defense; not only had she failed to destroy two enemy battleships, but not a single one was taken down.

It led her to question whether anyone had truly passed the trials on this Ghost Ship.

But now she understood that someone indeed had passed such trials. Her own incompetence didn't mean others were the same!

She was already trapped in the Ghost Ship unable to escape, soon she might truly perish, and then her presence would no longer remain on this Ghost Ship.

Having suffered loss herself, she hoped no one else would follow her footsteps, even if just a fleeting acquaintance.

That's why she had spoken up to remind Lu Ye on his first cycle, and as he came seeking her later, she shared her information without reservation.

"Senior Sister, you've done great, the issue is with me," Lu Ye replied.

The success or failure of the battleship confrontation primarily depends on the person controlling the battleship, as the crew ultimately follows his orders.

But how to solve the issue at the critical moment, where the protective array's power can't withstand the enemy attack? Lu Ye couldn't find a headway, unless he could better maneuver the battleship to evade enemy attacks.

Even if he had some talent in this aspect, having become familiar with the battleship's controls after numerous cycles, the ultimate time is too short, and he had reached his limit where improvement was no longer possible.

"Enemy attack!"

The familiar call rang out again, and Lu Ye quickly steeled his mind, focusing on controlling the battleship.

Though he knew that unless he solved the problem faced at the critical moment, no matter how many cycles occurred, the situation would remain unchanged, there was no spare time for additional contemplation now.

With enemy ships attacking, he had to concentrate entirely on the control of the battleship; leveraging his doppelganger to control another assault magic array was out of the question.

Most times, he could multitask, even during fierce battles with certain strong foes, but controlling the battleship was impossible to achieve that.

When controlling the battleship, his entire consciousness was immersed within it, unable to effectively control the doppelganger.

Before long, the fierce combat erupted.

The situation repeated as before, once their protective array's strength reached halfway, one enemy ship was blown up, Hai Tang swiftly shifted formation, eliminating the enemy ship's crew, and after dealing with the matter, she returned to the protective array's side.

Another round of intense entanglements ensued, and when the protective strength of their battleship dwindled to the last tenth, precariously swaying, the second enemy battleship was blown up.

Hai Tang once again shifted positions...

If this continued, the situation would mirror the previous one, with no changes, and Lu Ye was destined to enter the twentieth cycle!

At this critical juncture, Lu Ye suddenly had a revelation, noticing a cognitive trap he was in.

Why did they have to kill the crew of the second enemy battleship?

The crew of the first enemy battleship had to be killed, because once they were rescued and entered the remaining two enemy ships, it would significantly boost the enemy ships' performance.

But it seemed unnecessary to completely eradicate the crew of the second enemy ship?

Chapter 1309 - The Last Chance

In such a battlefield, the presence of crew members is to bolster the warship's power. Now, the enemy has only one warship left. If this warship can be quickly dealt with, it doesn't seem to matter whether the crew of the second enemy ship survives or not.

What does it matter if we let them live?

Lu Ye suddenly felt a sense of clarity, as if the clouds parted, and his thoughts were immediately enlightened.

The main issue was his lack of experience. Before this, he had never encountered this mode of combat, which caused a misunderstanding in his thinking.

Now that the shackles on his mindset have been released, he immediately saw a ray of hope.

He quickly sent a message to Hai Tang, instructing her to return and assist Xu Qingwei in controlling the protective array, while Lu Ye poured his power wildly into the Central Hub of the battleship!

At this moment, the connection between himself and the battleship reached an unprecedented level of closeness.

This also led Lu Ye to a realization: if he fails this time, there won't be a twentieth chance. This is his last opportunity.

The Long Dragon battleship, which had been moving unpredictably, suddenly halted under Lu Ye's control and then charged straight at the last enemy ship, turning into a stream of light in an instant!

Hai Tang, who had just returned to her position, immediately understood Lu Ye's plan. In a rush, she also frantically channeled her spirit force, assisting Xu Qingwei in maintaining the protective array.

The enemy ship's attacks poured in, and Lu Ye tried to dodge as much as possible.

If possible, he didn't want to evade, but the Long Dragon battleship's defenses were too fragile now. It could only withstand one more fierce attack from the enemy ship, so he had no choice but to dodge!

With the current close connection between himself and the battleship, controlling the ship became a bit easier than before. Several times, enemy ship's attacks barely missed the Long Dragon battleship, nearly hitting it, making Hai Tang break into cold sweats.

The last enemy warship, seeing the Long Dragon battleship charging directly towards it, obviously realized Lu Ye's intention and immediately tried to change course to escape from the side.

However, there was no chance, as Lu Ye's decision was made on a sudden impulse without any prior hint, and he went all out after making his decision.

The time and space for the enemy ship's reaction were very limited.

"Senior Sister Hai Tang, protect yourself!" At the last moment, Lu Ye hurriedly sent an audio transmission to Hai Tang.

The collision between the warships was earth-shattering. Whether the other crew members would die because of it, Lu Ye didn't care. They were not really alive; they were part of the Ghost Ship, but he owed Hai Tang some gratitude, so he had to remind her.

Hearing Lu Ye's message, Hai Tang quickly summoned a protective spirit treasure to guard herself.

In the next moment, the two massive battleships collided with a thunderous boom.

The Long Dragon battleship's defenses broke down instantly. After all, it only had ten percent of its power left initially, and with this collision, there was no possibility of maintaining it any further. For a moment, the crew members on board stumbled and staggered, unable to stand steadily.

Lu Ye's psyche monitored the enemy ship's movement closely through the battleship.

Under the immense impact force, the enemy ship's protective array did not break down immediately. Instead, it heavily dented at the point of impact, looking extremely resilient.

Seeing this, Lu Ye did not dare to hesitate and aggressively channeled more spirit force into the Central Hub.

Success or failure hinged on this single effort. If he didn't succeed this time, he would truly be left with only Hai Tang for company here, who might dissipate in a few months, leaving him completely alone. Just the thought was chilling.

But no matter how Lu Ye exerted himself, he still couldn't break through the enemy's defenses. Instead, the enemy ship's array began humming, and bright lights and strong spirit force ripples started to resonate.

Lu Ye's face turned dark, realizing the situation was dire. At this moment, it was clearly too late to escape, but continuing like this seemed impossible to break through.

He was genuinely caught between a rock and a hard place.

However, just then, the entire Long Dragon battleship suddenly shuddered, and a bright light beam burst out, hitting the enemy ship's defenses at close range!

Like the straw that broke the camel's back, under the impact of this bright light beam, the dented defenses shattered instantly!

Lu Ye was overjoyed, and with a flash of understanding, he immediately knew who was responsible.

It was none other than Hai Tang. At that moment, she was standing where Qin Zong originally was, activating the assault magic array Qin Zong had controlled before.

This was an attack magic array specifically meant to deal with warships, and its power was evident at such close range.

As for Qin Zong... he had already been knocked out during the earlier collision.

It wasn't that he reacted too slowly; the change was too sudden. Only Hai Tang, who had received Lu Ye's reminder, held her ground. All the other crew members were thrown from their original positions.

Seeing the situation going awry, Hai Tang immediately took over Qin Zong's position, allowing for a timely response.

As the light faded, the deck of the third enemy ship was left in a ravaged state, with many arrays completely destroyed, leaving the entire warship in tatters.

Success!

Lu Ye nearly laughed out loud. Truly, the world is ever-changing, and the universe is unpredictable. He never imagined that Hai Tang would make such a significant contribution at the last moment!

His heart was filled with gratitude.

However, Lu Ye's smile quickly froze on his face, because from the tattered enemy ship, the aura of a strong Moon Jade Realm cultivator emanated. Not only that, there were also the auras of several Constellation cultivators.

Moreover, the surviving crew members of the second battleship surrounded them from all directions.

This trial... isn't over yet!

Lu Ye originally thought that as long as he destroyed the three enemy ships, he would have passed the Ghost Ship's trial, but now it seemed he had celebrated too soon.

Destroying the enemy ships was just a process; the real goal was to kill all the enemies on the ships.

From what he sensed, the number of enemies was not small, about thirty or so. Lu Ye didn't care much about the others, but the key issue was that they had a Moon Jade Realm among them!

How could he possibly defeat that?

But soon, Lu Ye recalled something.

With his own strength alone, he was naturally no match for a Moon Jade Realm, but he still had a trump card.

The secret technique sealed by Fong Rumo in the Boulder Mountain Saber, perhaps, was meant for this moment?

If that were the case, then Fong Rumo must have been very knowledgeable about the Ghost Ship, which is why he left Lu Ye with such a means.

No time for Lu Ye to ponder more, the Moon Jade Realm from the enemy side had already locked onto Lu Ye with their Mental Consciousness. A shadow, larger than any Lu Ye had seen before, flew out from the enemy ship, rushing straight toward him.

Lu Ye flashed to the outside, staring at the shadow, and quickly drew his Boulder Mountain Saber, infusing it with spirit force.

He had investigated the specific situation of that seal before and knew that unsealing it wasn't difficult, just required sufficient spirit force. As for its power... only a test would tell.

A slight vibration came from within the Boulder Mountain Saber, indicating the seal had been broken.

In an instant, a heart-palpitating aura emanated from the Boulder Mountain Saber, causing Lu Ye's hand holding the sword to tremble, almost unable to steady the long saber.

He quickly used both hands, locked his Mental Consciousness onto the Moon Jade Realm's shadow, raised the saber high, and made a slashing motion.

When Lu Ye broke the seal, the shadow realized something was wrong. Originally, it was pouncing towards Lu Ye, but now it started retreating.

As Lu Ye's long saber slashed down, a golden light flew out from the blade, rapidly enlarging, and in an instant transformed into an exotic beast that Lu Ye didn't recognize.

At first glance, it looked like a fierce tiger, but it wasn't quite the same as the tigers Lu Ye knew, because it had a single horn on its forehead and was covered in densely packed Scale Armor, looking vivid and lifelike, as if it were alive.

The exotic beast opened its mouth and roared, and even in stellar space, the roar accurately reached everyone's ears.

Lu Ye's psyche was slightly dazed for a moment, as waves rose in his Divine Sea. If not for the protection of the Soul Suppressing Pagoda, even his spirit might have been destabilized.

Lu Ye was only affected by the aftermath, but the Moon Jade Realm shadow bore the brunt of it and became increasingly weaker; the shadow that was trying to retreat suddenly froze in place.

The golden exotic beast pounced, opening its bloody maw and swallowing the shadow in one gulp.

Not only that, but several Constellation shadows that were following closely behind the Moon Jade Realm shadow also suffered misfortune and became food for the golden exotic beast.

After devouring these enemies, the golden exotic beast roared to the sky, then transformed into golden light and disappeared.

Such a mighty display was truly awe-inspiring to witness.

And this was merely a secret technique sealed by Fong Rumo in the Boulder Mountain Saber. One wonders what it would be like if he took action himself.

No time to marvel, Lu Ye already wielded his saber and dashed out, transmitting through Mental Consciousness to all directions, "Kill!"

He flashed into the enemy crowd, unleashing a massacre!

The roar of the golden exotic beast affected almost everyone present, but at the level of Constellation cultivators, almost everyone had methods to protect their psyche, differing only in strength.

Thus, the recovery time varied.

Lu Ye targeted those enemies who hadn't fully recovered, making it easy to kill them. The Boulder Mountain Saber, enhanced with Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes, almost took down one per swing.

Just as he started, Qin Zong and Xiao Jianming came to assist. These two were Constellation Late Stage and recovered faster than the others.

A few moments later, regardless of friend or foe, all recovered, and a full-fledged battle erupted.

In terms of numbers, the enemy undoubtedly held the advantage, but first, several enemies were swallowed by the golden exotic beast, and then Lu Ye cut down a few more unsuspecting ones, so the numerical gap wasn't too large.

Our side also had its advantages. Upon Lu Ye's order, our crew split into two battle arrays, led by Qin Zong and Xiao Jianming, respectively, like two unstoppable arrows, weaving through the enemy formations.

In contrast, the enemy, with the death of their sole Moon Jade Realm cultivator, fell into disarray, unable to counter such tactics.

Under such circumstances, the slight numerical advantage was difficult to leverage, and once an enemy was targeted by our battle array, they had no chance of survival.

Chapter 1310 - Treasure Vault

Lu Ye fought alone, without forming an array with others, mainly because he was agile enough. Using weapon control, he constructed Void Spirit Runes, appearing and disappearing like a specter. Taking advantage while the enemies were entangled with his side's battle array, he harvested freely like a

ghost. Empowered by the Divine Sharp Edge, the Boulder Mountain Saber was unrivaled in sharpness. Among the Constellation, no one could withstand the might of his blade.

The battle did not last long. Within less than one incense stick's time after the golden exotic beast vanished, the last enemy was slain on the spot.

Holding his saber, Lu Ye looked around and exhaled deeply.

On one side of the battlefield, within the battle array led by Qin Zong, Hai Tang watched the scene with a dazed fascination.

It's done, he actually did it.

During the time trapped on the Ghost Ship, she had been introspecting, deducing various hopeful possibilities from the past. But no matter how she deduced, she came to a despairing conclusion.

A conclusion that with her strength, once falling into the Ghost Ship, there'd be no hope of escaping.

She always felt that it was impossible for anyone to pass the test of the Ghost Ship completely, as the greatest challenge lay in the issue of spirit force reserves.

The cultivators who entered here were different from the Ghost Ship's crew. Spirit force continuously depleted and wouldn't rewind with reincarnation.

Yet the Ghost Ship had restrictions that anyone, regardless of cultivation, could only exhibit the Constellation Early Stage level, so even if someone in the Sun Blaze Realm entered, their performance might not be better than hers.

Although every death meant a fresh start and allowed one to accumulate more experience for countering, if spirit force reserves weren't sufficient, what use was accumulating more experience?

Hai Tang didn't know how Lu Ye managed to solve this problem, to still maintain ample spirit force operation after nearly twenty cycles, without showing the slightest fatigue. But without doubt, this was his skill.

Feeling both envious and relieved.

This way, Lu Ye wouldn't be like her, forever trapped on the ship until becoming nourishment for the Ghost Ship.

The battlefield was silent; in stellar space, without deploying Mental Consciousness, sound couldn't transmit at all.

Lu Ye turned to look at his crew members. Generally speaking, after experiencing such a strenuous battle and hard-won victory, some celebratory actions should be expected.

But the crew weren't living beings, so at this moment, they all stood stiffly in their original places.

As Lu Ye's gaze swept over, almost all of the crew, except Hai Tang, turned their eyes towards the direction of the Long Dragon battleship, synchronously and rigidly!

Lu Ye realized instantly.

The test of the Ghost Ship was passed. Now it was time to reap his rewards.

He already sensed the aura of treasures from within the Long Dragon battleship, something absent earlier.

Immediately, he sheathed his saber and flashed toward the battleship, with numerous crew members silently and spectrally following him.

Following the aura of treasures, Lu Ye quickly arrived before a large door at the lowest tier of the ship's cabin. It was certain that this door hadn't existed before, or even if it had, under the Ghost Ship's mysterious constraints, he wouldn't have been able to see it.

The door was hefty; its material was unknown. The aura emanating from the treasures Lu Ye sensed earlier was precisely coming from the permeating aura of this door.

A door so precious — what splendid things might be sealed inside?

Lu Ye didn't rashly push the door open but rather turned around, looking silently at Qin Zong and the others who had quietly trailed behind him. Tilting his head, he unceremoniously ordered: "Open the door!"

Since the test ended, Qin Zong and others had been expressionless. Upon hearing Lu Ye's order, a sinister look flashed across each of their faces as if they were ready to attack.

Lu Ye understood then, these guys had hoped he would fail the test. But things hadn't gone their way, leaving them rather dissatisfied.

However, due to the Ghost Ship's various restrictions, even unwilling, it was futile.

Qin Zong and Xiao Jianming stepped to the sides, each pushing a side of the door. With forceful exertion, the door slowly opened.

No gleam of jewels appeared; rather, a cloud of mist loomed into view, twisting, and soon a sinister laugh echoed in Lu Ye's ear: "Quite a capable kid. Since you've passed the Ghost Ship's test, you may choose one item from this ship to take away. Shine your eyes and discern wisely!"

As the words fell, the mist vanished, revealing the true nature of the treasure vault to Lu Ye.

Lu Ye didn't rush into viewing the treasure vault but his Mental Consciousness swiftly probed the traces of that mist; however, shortly after, he found no clues.

He didn't know what the mist was, yet from the tone of the speaker, it seemed to be the custodian of the treasure vault.

After a brief contemplation, Lu Ye stepped forward and looked around, slightly stunned because the layout of the treasure vault seemed very similar to the Hall of Battle Merits.

Stone platforms stood row upon row, each exhibiting a treasure. What quality they held, he couldn't ascertain. A rough glance indicated at least a thousand treasures placed here.

"Wow, so many things." A voice entered Lu Ye's ears, and when he turned around, he smiled: "Senior Sister Hai Tang."

Hai Tang winked at him: "Came in with you to broaden my horizons."

She could only come in, but she couldn't take anything away from here.

Lu Ye looked outside the treasure vault again and saw Qin Zong and others standing there like wooden stakes, their faces gloomy as they stared at him and Hai Tang, as if looking at intruders in their home, extremely angry yet helpless.

It seemed these crew members had no way to enter.

Lu Ye didn't bother to explore further, transmitting: "Perfect timing, since Senior Sister Hai Tang is here, please help me to judge. To be honest, I just entered the stellar space and my knowledge is limited. I'm not sure which items are valuable and which are not."

"Sure." Hai Tang readily agreed and first suggested: "Those attacking treasures, Junior Brother, you shouldn't look at them. Although they are extremely valuable and even Sun Blaze Realm cultivators might be envious when they see them, we, who are at the Constellation stage, cannot unleash their full power even if we take them. It's not very meaningful."

This suggestion was very considerate and pragmatic. Every cultivator knows to use treasures suitable for their cultivation level. It's not about grabbing powerful treasures with low cultivation and asserting

dominance everywhere. If you can't activate the powers of the treasures, it's like a three-year-old wielding a giant hammer, useless even if you have it.

Lu Ye nodded: "That's what I was thinking."

With this premise, the list of items worth considering immediately halved.

The two of them immediately split up and began their search.

Lu Ye's gaze swept over the obviously attacking treasures, investigating only the other treasures. But soon he found a problem: each stone platform was enveloped in mysterious restrictions, so he couldn't take the treasures stored within out for examination, relying only on his eyesight.

How keen could his eyesight possibly be? Everything seemed precious to him, making it difficult to make a choice.

Just then, Hai Tang's voice called out: "Junior Brother Lu, come here!"

Lu Ye flashed over, and Hai Tang pointed at the stone platform before them: "How about this treasure garment? It seems like you don't have a protective garment. Combat is often fraught with hazard. This treasure garment, being placed here, must be of high quality. Even if you can't use its full power due to your cultivation, its material alone is enough to let you avoid many risks in a fight."

Lu Ye nodded: "That's good, let's keep it as an option!"

Having received affirmation, Hai Tang was pleased and continued to enthusiastically help him in selection.

Lu Ye returned to his position and resumed investigating.

From time to time, Hai Tang would call out to him, clearly having found suitable treasures for him. Lu Ye himself also discovered a few good items, though he couldn't discern their specific functions, he had some guesses.

There's no denying, the treasures on the Ghost Ship were indeed numerous and precious, spanning various types. Any cultivator with a need, regardless of their cultivation level, could find what they wanted here.

Not to mention those Sun Blaze Realm experts.

For a Constellation like Lu Ye, taking a decent quality piece of treasure from here, even if unusable personally, could be exchanged for desired cultivation resources, potentially saving decades or centuries of effort.

Of course, the risk was significant. Lu Ye had means to rapidly replenish spirit force, or else he would have long exhausted it in the recurring cycles.

Thus, in the stellar space, even though the Ghost Ship was well-known, and many who saw it knew there were opportunities hidden within, almost no one dared to trespass here.

Fong Rumo's choice to guide Lu Ye here for opportunities might have been indifferent to Lu Ye's life and death.

A strong figure like him wouldn't care for the life and death of an unknown Constellation Early Stage junior.

At any rate, Lu Ye ultimately relied on the technique sealed in the Boulder Mountain Saber to secure the final victory.

There's no need to blame others, nor to be grateful, just let it be.

Investigating the thousands of treasures was quite cumbersome.

After more than four hours, Lu Ye and Hai Tang finally selected nine treasures, but which to choose specifically... Lu Ye wanted them all!

This posed a bit of a problem, and by now, Hai Tang no longer offered opinions, leaving Lu Ye to make his own decisions.

Though indecisive, a choice had to be made eventually. Lu Ye finally stood firm before a stone platform, not in front of the previously seen treasure garment but in front of an inconspicuous bead.

However, Lu Ye could sense that this bead was extraordinary, definitely far more valuable than most treasures in the treasure vault, because even with the restriction isolating it, there was still a faint aura emanating.

Seeing he had made a decision, Hai Tang smiled slightly and stepped outside.

Lu Ye raised his hand towards the stone platform, but just as he was about to touch the restriction, he seemed to remember something and looked up at Hai Tang's departing figure.

Thinking briefly, Lu Ye raised his head, his Mental Consciousness stirring: "Come out!"