

Humanity 1331

Chapter 1331 - I Really Want to Kill You!

At this moment, Lu Ye felt extremely uncomfortable, as if his whole body was about to explode. This was not an illusion, but something that could happen at any moment. In this state, he was destined not to last long and could only hope that Su Yuqing would quickly think of a way to resolve his crisis.

If he were to die here like this, it would be too unjust. Indeed, dangers are everywhere, and one can never let their guard down.

In front of Lu Ye, Su Yuqing's expression kept changing, showing killing intent at times, helpless at others.

She knew she had to make a choice: abandon three-tenths of her cultivation and let Lu Ye perish, or help him through this calamity and at the same time retrieve her own cultivation...

The speed of thoughts in the Sun Blaze Realm was astonishingly fast. In just three breaths, she had already weighed the various gains and losses.

Staring at Lu Ye with an expression of grief and rage, she gritted her teeth and said, "I really want to kill you!"

As she said this, she raised a palm and pressed it against Lu Ye's chest. This palm seemed to be struck in anger, yet it was exceedingly gentle. With one palm pressed down, Lu Ye's clothes shattered!

Fortunately, he never had the habit of wearing any treasure garments, only some ordinary clothing. Otherwise, the treasure garment would certainly be ruined at this moment.

The next moment, he heard a rustling sound in his ear, and then his whole body was laid flat.

A moment later, accompanied by a muffled grunt, the energy that filled his body and nearly caused him to explode, under the guidance of a mysterious power, was discharged slowly and steadily.

Two days later...

Lu Ye sat alone.

The sealed space was filled with an indescribable atmosphere.

He frowned deeply, puzzled.

He really couldn't understand how things had developed like this.

Previously, he was tormented by the sudden burst of immense energy within his body, hoping desperately that Su Yuqing would find a way to resolve his crisis. But he never expected that Su Yuqing would resolve it in that manner.

For two whole days, he truly walked away from the gates of hell, his heart filled with dread.

Initially, he didn't quite understand why Su Yuqing had to do that, but gradually, he began to realize. Because under Su Yuqing's guidance, the energy within his body discharged easily; that energy was clearly of the same nature as the power within Su Yuqing.

In other words, the energy sealed in the orb was originally part of Su Yuqing's power, a portion of her cultivation. Hence, she could retrieve it through such a unique method.

The orb, as he had previously speculated, was the condensation of Su Yuqing's cultivation secret technique. By refining the orb with this method, he could possess a trace of Su Yuqing's aura, thus entering the Black Abyss to participate in the Martial Arts Meet.

As a result, he refined it too intensely... so intensely that he actually broke the orb's shell, leading to unexpected occurrences.

Su Yuqing perceived it and came to investigate. Helplessly, she used that method, saving him while retrieving her cultivation.

The exact circumstances aren't entirely clear to Lu Ye, but he guesses it's pretty much what happened.

Otherwise, how would he explain these past two days?

Well, now...

Su Yuqing had always wanted him to choose Hai Tang as a Dao companion, which he didn't agree to, lest he disappoint her. As a result, while there was no blossoming of disciples, the master has taken the first steps instead.

Yet the news that he and Hai Tang had formed a Dao companionship has already spread.

What kind of situation is this?

Lu Ye was extremely troubled.

He remembered clearly how, just when Su Yuqing left, she looked at him with both hatred and annoyance in her eyes...

Strictly speaking, this was just a beautiful accident, of course, from his perspective; from Su Yuqing's standpoint, it might not be viewed the same.

Lu Ye, at that time, though unable to move or speak, clearly felt Su Yuqing's killing intent and heard her saying that she wanted to kill him.

So to be safe, to prevent this woman from becoming enraged and really attacking him later, a day ago when Su Yuqing regained all her cultivation and was about to leave, Lu Ye, driven by evil thoughts, forcibly kept her here.

Until today...

For two days, there was no verbal communication between them. Mainly because they weren't very familiar with each other, and didn't know what to communicate.

As things stand, annoyance is useless, and under the circumstances, his cultivation was inferior. If Su Yuqing still wanted to kill him, Lu Ye was undoubtedly unable to resist; at most, he could only fight her once.

In his cultivation thus far, Lu Ye generally doesn't regret past events because it's useless; people always move forward, and what is past is past.

An audio talisman transmitted some activity, and Lu Ye composed himself to investigate. He found that Hai Tang had sent a message saying the time had come, instructing him to exit seclusion and gather with her to meet their master.

From Hai Tang's words, it seemed she already knew about his participation in the Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet, but apparently wasn't aware he had been in seclusion at Immortal Spirit Peak.

She was probably instructed by Su Yuqing to relay the message.

Lu Ye sent a response before stepping out of the secret room and heading straight toward the grand hall.

Hai Tang was waiting there, and seeing Lu Ye arrive so quickly, she was a bit surprised, but didn't think much of it, happily welcoming him: "Junior Brother Lu, you've agreed?"

Lu Ye smiled slightly: "Su... the senior's gracious invitations were hard to refuse, after several requests, it would be unbecoming not to accept."

Previously calling Su Yuqing 'senior' was natural due to her cultivation level, but now each time he uttered 'senior,' images would involuntarily flash in Lu Ye's mind, creating a feeling of discontent.

Regaining focus, he changed the subject: "But Senior Sister Hai Tang, the rumors from Immortal Spirit Peak to the outside are..."

Hai Tang appeared indifferent: "I know, they're merely saying that you and I have become Dao companions, Master already told me. This is to mislead others. To this domain, you are still considered a foreigner. Without spreading such news, there's really no way to explain why you can enter the Black Abyss."

Lu Ye asked casually: "Then did your Master tell you why I can enter the Black Abyss?"

Hai Tang replied: "Master said she has a secret technique that can assist you greatly. However, I don't know the specifics, but Master is extraordinarily skilled. She said she could accomplish it, so she must be able to." She glanced around, then whispered: "Master mentioned this is a secret, not to be spoken to anyone, not even the two Sun Blaze Masters of this domain."

"I won't say a word." Lu Ye nodded repeatedly.

Such matters shouldn't be spoken of.

However, he also understood that Su Yuqing's original arrangements were entirely different from subsequent developments. What Hai Tang currently knew was merely Su Yuqing's initial plans.

As they were talking, someone walked out from the hall. Wearing a snow-white palace garment, spotless and a bit loose, it concealed her grandeur, and her previously unruly hair was tidied up. Lu Ye looked up, seeing Su Yuqing's expression as usual, showing no sign of oddity.

For a moment, he felt bewildered, finding it hard to associate the woman before him with the figure in the secret chamber.

"Master!" Hai Tang quickly bowed.

Lu Ye regained focus and followed suit, squeezing out two words: "Senior!"

Su Yuqing didn't lift her eyelid, saying blandly: "Since the outside rumors say you and Hai Tang have become Dao companions, let's not be too formal with titles. I am Hai Tang's Master, also the Immortal Spirit Peak Master; you now barely count as part of Immortal Spirit Peak. So you may call me Peak Master like the others."

Lu Ye followed her lead, obediently calling her Peak Master, understanding that it wasn't just him who found the title of 'senior' somewhat awkward; Su Yuqing felt the same.

After all, she's a woman, no matter how high she cultivates to the Sun Blaze Realm, some matters can't be transcended.

"Let's go, the Black Abyss is about to open, if we're any later, we'll miss the Shichen." Su Yuqing said, waving her jade-like hand, enveloping Lu Ye and Hai Tang with powerful yet gentle energy, lifting them upwards.

The position of the Black Abyss was at the exact center of the domain, rumored to be the split point with the other two branches of Mount Fangcun, making it extremely special and a hub for communication between the three branches of Mount Fangcun.

Usually, this place doesn't manifest, and only quietly plays its role; it surfaces only once every fifty years for a brief period of half a month.

Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet occurs during this half month. After that, the Black Abyss will vanish again, and then the distribution of foundational resources will depend on the outcome of Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet, which all three Sun Blaze must adhere to.

Lu Ye was recalling various rules of the Martial Arts Meet he'd previously studied when he heard Su Yuqing suddenly calling: "Yiye!"

"Yes!" Lu Ye immediately focused.

"Do you have confidence in this Martial Arts Meet?"

Such a question, before the Martial Arts Meet even started, Lu Ye didn't know who he would be facing, how could he promise anything? If all his opponents were at the Constellation Late Stage, then there would be nothing he could do.

Couldn't you have asked this in the secret chamber! Doing so now caused Lu Ye to grumble internally, but he could only say: "I will give my all!"

Su Yuqing said: "As a man, you should have some responsibility. You must set a goal before acting. Without a goal, where's the direction for effort? What is your goal?"

She spoke while shooting Lu Ye a meaningful glance.

That look was laden with implications. Lu Ye's eye twitched a bit, knowing this woman still bore a grudge over earlier events. Unless he answers her question well, it will be hard to pass this hurdle. After a brief ponder, he asked: "What are the expectations of this domain's three peak masters and the other two Sun Blaze for this Martial Arts Meet?"

Su Yuqing replied: "No special expectations, just hoping not to embarrass ourselves."

The requirement is truly low, Lu Ye suddenly felt bolstered: "When the three compete, let's aim for second place!"

Didn't dare claim the first place due to the enemy's scant intelligence; Lu Ye never underestimated others, especially since this Martial Arts Meet isn't just about pure combat prowess, personal strength isn't sufficient, it also involves some degree of teamwork.

Su Yuqing nodded with satisfaction: "If you can achieve second place, your two Master Uncles will undoubtedly be very pleased."

Chapter 1332 - Su Yuqing Is Really Going All Out

As the topic shifted, Su Yuqing said, "If you can truly secure second place, all the promises I made to you will be fulfilled."

Lu Ye frowned, discerning the implied meaning: "And if I don't obtain second place?"

Su Yuqing leisurely replied, "Then you and your senior sister will remain in this division for a century!"

This was not part of the original agreement! Initially, Lu Ye only needed to participate in the Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet, without any additional conditions, yet now Su Yuqing said this, evidently harboring resentment.

This seemed a bit like mixing personal grievances with public matters.

Hai Tang vaguely felt something was amiss and wanted to plead for Lu Ye, but just as she opened her mouth, Su Yuqing scolded her, "Shut up!"

Hai Tang quickly held her tongue, puzzled, unsure if it was a mere illusion. She felt that today's master seemed strange, especially his attitude towards Junior Brother Lu, which seemed different from before, even in his way of addressing him...

They continued in silence, and half a cup of tea later, the Black Abyss was in sight.

From a high vantage point, the so-called Black Abyss was a bottomless chasm, not very long, roughly a thousand miles, but inside, eerie mists swirled, invisible to the naked eye. Even Mental Consciousness probing it would be greatly hindered, making it impossible to discern the interior's detailed situation.

Beside the Black Abyss, more than a dozen figures stood. The two at the front had an immortal aura, one with the presence of a stalwart tree, evidently the two other Sun Blaze Realm beings of this domain, Chen Xuanhai and Woo Qimo.

This was the first time Lu Ye saw these two, and he couldn't help but take an extra look, immediately recognizing the stern-faced elder as Chen Xuanhai, and the young man as Woo Qimo.

"Fellow Daoist Su, you finally arrived. Any later and you would have missed it," Woo Qimo spoke, his tone carrying a hint of reproach.

According to the prior arrangement, Su Yuqing was supposed to bring Lu Ye and Hai Tang earlier. After all, in this Martial Arts Meet, these two were the main force, and there were things to convey to them and to familiarize them with other Constellation stage participants to facilitate future cooperation.

Yet, it was unclear why Su Yuqing was moving so slowly.

After speaking, Woo Qimo suddenly paused, seriously studying Su Yuqing and Lu Ye, his brows furrowing.

Not only did Woo Qimo notice something amiss, but Chen Xuanhai did as well.

Although many things are deeply hidden and unknown to outsiders, Sun Blaze Realm experts, having been acquainted for so many years, could still deduce some startling things from faint traces.

Especially certain matters, which had just recently occurred.

The two Sun Blaze beings were momentarily unable to believe their eyes.

Su Yuqing's expression became unnatural, leading Lu Ye and Hai Tang to descend, immediately stating, "Time is pressing. You all must now enter the Black Abyss. This Martial Arts Meet concerns the foundation of our domain for the next fifty years—it is exceedingly important. You must do your utmost. No matter how difficult the situation, never give up lightly!"

"Yes!" The Constellations participating in the Martial Arts Meet responded in unison.

Following Hai Tang's lead, they descended into the Black Abyss. This time, Hai Tang, being the highest in cultivation with Constellation Mid-stage level, naturally took charge, while the others were all at the Constellation Early Stage.

Beside the Black Abyss, the Constellations disappeared from view, the breeze gently brushing by, leaving the three Sun Blazes in eerie silence.

Though Woo Qimo's cultivation was high, his nature was vivacious and he couldn't hold back his words, hesitating briefly before speaking, "That Lu Yiye's cultivation... seems to have improved quite a bit."

The pearl Su Yuqing gave to Lu Ye had exploded within him. Although Su Yuqing retrieved over ninety percent through a certain intimate method, some of it was still refined and absorbed into Lu Ye's Talent Tree.

If it were merely spirit force, Lu Ye's improvement wouldn't be as noticeable. However, for someone like Su Yuqing in the Sun Blaze Realm, her internal power was beyond simple spirit force—it was a higher-level essence. Thus, even just refining for a day's work brought great gains for Lu Ye.

His progress didn't reach the Constellation Mid-stage, but he took a significant step forward within the Constellation Early Stage.

Lu Ye's change in cultivation might not be felt by other Constellations, not even by Moon Jade, but it couldn't hide from those in the Sun Blaze Realm.

Such a notable change in cultivation was abnormal and wasn't something achieved by merely consuming treasure pills and wonder drugs. According to what Woo Qimo knew, achieving this had only one method, which was also a method Su Yuqing could use.

That was joint cultivation! Through a certain joint cultivation secret technique, one could, in a short time, bring great enhancement to the lower-cultivated party.

However, at the cost of some from the higher-cultivated party.

Su Yuqing's deliberately indifferent face couldn't help but show a hint of blush, remaining silent.

Seeing her reaction, Woo Qimo became increasingly convinced of his suspicion, inwardly shocked and quietly marveling at the extent of sacrifices Su Yuqing made for this Martial Arts Meet. How highly did she regard that Lu Yiye?

And Su Yuqing's own change in aura was undoubtedly the best proof. Although her drop wasn't significant, it was noticeable and couldn't be hidden from Woo Qimo and Chen Xuanhai, which was why they were surprised when they first saw her.

Some confusion, but more admiration.

For the future of our home world, Su Yuqing really went all out.

In this light, the news from Immortal Spirit Peak that Lu Yiye and Hai Tang became Dao companions was also a ruse.

Yet, he did not know, this arrangement was Su Yuqing's initial decision, and indeed a ruse. She originally intended to use another clever way to send Lu Ye into the Black Abyss, but some unexpected events occurred due to a series of mistakes.

"Let's go in as well." In an rather awkward atmosphere, Chen Xuanhai spoke up. Standing around here wasn't the solution, especially since this kind of thing wasn't something they could casually inquire about. No matter how close they were, private matters were private matters.

After the Constellation from our domain entered the Black Abyss, some changes happened as well. Amidst the mysterious fog, a connection channel to the other two Mount Fangcun regions opened in Mingming.

As Chen Xuanhai and his two companions shook their figures and rushed into the mysterious fog, they immediately appeared inside a vast space.

The space wasn't large, with mysterious fog churning all around, leaving only a central area unaffected by the fog.

The three lifted their eyes, and immediately saw several figures standing in the other two positions.

To their surprise, it was the Sun Blaze cultivators from the other two regions. However, what they saw weren't the real bodies, but a type of mysterious projection, so they only saw outlines, not the true appearances.

But after knowing each other for so many years, even just from the outlines, Chen Xuanhai and his companions could clearly identify their identities.

As they saw the three appear, a voice laughed heartily from the upper left position, "The Eastern Region has finally arrived. Chen Xuanhai, I thought your side was forfeiting this time. Never thought you'd still come."

From the lower right position, another laugh followed, "The East places last every time, what difference does forfeiting make?"

Chen Xuanhai snorted coldly without saying anything. Mainly because there was no way to refute them, as this was the truth. It was shameful that the juniors of their home world were so unambitious, and every Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet, they were always mocked by the Sun Blaze cultivators of the other two regions, making them furious.

Over the years, a few jibes at the East had become customary. Still, people wouldn't continue the mockery if there was no response, as it became meaningless. They were all of the Dwarf Race, and a little face-losing in such internal competition was acceptable, but going too far might breed resentment, which was undesirable – they still managed to keep it moderate.

The upper left position belonged to the Southern Region, where two Sun Blaze were present. It wasn't that they only had two, but that there was no need to bring many. After all, this was a competition among the juniors, and the Sun Blaze couldn't participate. Being here was just to observe the situation's development.

The lower right position belonged to the Western Region, same as the Eastern Region, with three Sun Blaze arriving.

As the Eastern side stayed silent, the South and West teased each other back and forth, each boasting of their juniors' prowess, claiming victory was assured, and asserting their Constellation talents were peerless.

This too was an old story. Chen Xuanhai and his companions remained silent, only listening to these two Sun Blaze boast.

For Sun Blaze like them, it wasn't easy to meet ordinarily—this fifty-year opportunity had to be cherished. Actually, it was also an alternate opportunity for reminiscing.

But because the Eastern side had remained weak, there was always a lack of participation.

While the two sides were still noisily arguing, from the central spherical position, ripples suddenly propagated. Finally, Chen Xuanhai, who hadn't spoken, opened his mouth: "Stop squabbling, it's starting!"

Sure enough, the Sun Blaze from the South and West fell silent, waiting with a leisurely demeanor.

The ripples spread, soon becoming continuous, until suddenly disappearing at a certain moment. Immediately after, inside the spherical region, small light dots appeared one after another.

They correspond to the positions of the three regions' Sun Blaze.

This spherical region suddenly projected the interior of the Black Abyss! With this projection, the Sun Blaze observing here could spy on the competition status of the juniors inside the Black Abyss.

Each position contained nine small light dots, corresponding to the cultivators participating in the Martial Arts Meet, each with different colors: red for the Eastern Region, yellow for the Southern Region, and blue for the Western Region.

Moreover, the depth of the light dots' color varied, allowing experienced Sun Blaze to infer the cultivation level of the participating cultivators through the color depth.

All three regions' Sun Blaze awaited this moment, as only now could they know the kind of lineup the others had for the Martial Arts Meet.

In the past, the South and West regions always had formidable lineups, often including Constellation Mid-Stage, and occasionally featuring Constellation Late Stage cultivators.

When the Eastern Sun Blaze raised their eyes, their expressions collectively changed.

The lineups of the other two regions were unexpectedly strong this time.

The Southern region had one Constellation Late Stage and two Constellation Mid-Stage...

The Western region had one Constellation Late Stage and three Constellation Mid-Stage!

Such lineups were rare even in previous Martial Arts Meets, generally indicating that the Dwarf Race of that region was aiming for the top spot!

Chapter 1333 - Black Abyss

Chen Xuanhai and his two companions felt their hearts sink to the bottom, realizing that in this Martial Arts Meet, their faction might end up at the bottom once again.

Originally, they had brought Lu Ye as an external aid and verified his strength, making them hopeful of securing second place with some effort. However, now it seemed they had underestimated the foundation of the other two factions.

They sighed deeply, feeling a sense of powerlessness.

The Sun Blaze Realm cultivators from the South and West troops were currently observing each other's camps, as for the East... no one paid attention.

Upon seeing how formidable the opposing camps were, the Sun Blaze Realm cultivators from both factions were taken aback. The Southern faction took the lead in confronting: "A Late Stage and three Mid-Stages, since when did you Westerners hide so many hands? Could it be that you've violated the rules by bringing in Late Stage external aid?"

The Western side certainly wouldn't admit it, and someone immediately jumped out to curse: "Second Zhu, you're talking nonsense. Bringing in Constellation Late Stage as external aid is against the consensus of the three factions. How could our Western faction break this rule? Besides, if it's external aid, it will be found out later. But you in the South, having such a strong foundation this time is truly surprising; last Martial Arts Meet, you only had two Constellation Mid-Stages. How come this time you suddenly have a Late Stage? I now have reason to suspect that the Late Stage one isn't from the Dwarf Race!"

"Nonsense, why is it that only you can have a Late Stage, and not us in the South? Look, did the East say anything at all? It's just you talking too much!"

Chen Xuanhai's face darkened: "If you want to argue, then argue, why drag the East into it? Do you really think I, Chen, don't dare to come over and beat you up?"

Already in a bad mood, he was even more upset at this moment, feeling the urge to fight.

Although the East had been in decline for many years, Chen Xuanhai's personal strength was well recognized, and the Sun Blaze Realm cultivators from the other factions present dared not provoke him easily, so they continued to bicker among themselves, accusing each other fervently.

Until a certain moment, when an additional light orb suddenly appeared in the projection within the Black Abyss, the argument finally ceased.

Second Zhu from the South laughed out loud: "Heaven helps me!"

It was because the location of this light orb appeared was extremely advantageous for the Southern faction under the rules! In the next instant, under the observation of the Sun Blaze Realm cultivators, twenty-seven light points, divided into three directions, rushed towards the newly appeared light orb's position rapidly, but it was very evident that the nine from the South were closest to this light orb position, which undoubtedly meant they would be the first to make contact with it.

Just moments earlier, the nine Constellations from the East appeared in a certain part of the Black Abyss.

From the outside, the Black Abyss was a bottomless chasm, with swirling eerie mist within, yet inside it was a vast area.

It resembled a part of stellar space, as this area wasn't empty but filled with many large and small meteorites flying by.

Throughout the interior of the Black Abyss, countless such meteorites moved in various directions, differing in speed and size.

Only three massive meteorites stood unmoving, like nails fixed in this stellar space.

The place where Lu Ye and others appeared was one of those meteorites.

Calling it a meteorite, it might as well be a platform, as its surface was smooth and even, as if cut by a sword or blade.

Lu Ye, having familiarized himself with the various rules of the Martial Arts Meet before, naturally knew that this place was the camp of their faction's cultivators. What their faction's cultivators needed to do was compete with the other two Dwarf Race factions for something called Spirit Orbs, which would appear randomly near the center of the Black Abyss.

There would be a total of nine appearances, meaning nine Spirit Orbs. The cultivators not only had to compete for the ownership of these Spirit Orbs but also needed to bring them back to their own camp. At the end of the Martial Arts Meet, the number of Spirit Orbs in each camp would determine how much foundation they would divide among themselves.

Based on past Martial Arts Meets, generally, the South and West would compete for three to four portions of the foundation, while the East could only obtain two portions of the foundation.

Comparing two portions to four portions, that was a twofold difference; in the short term, the domain's development wouldn't be significantly affected, but over time, the impact would be substantial.

This contention wasn't just about simple combat, as defeating someone wasn't enough; because even if you killed someone, the cultivator would reappear at their own camp's location.

Mount Fangcun's three factions shared nine portions of the foundation. Lu Ye previously wondered where the remaining one portion went, and finally, with Hai Tang's explanation, he understood that one portion of the foundation was used to maintain the connection between the three factions of Mount Fangcun and couldn't be divided.

This was also the ingenious nature of Mount Fangcun; it was after all a stellar space supreme treasure and naturally possessed various incredible abilities.

Appearing at the camp, the nine Constellations began to familiarize themselves; although they already had enough understanding of everything here, they had yet to experience it physically.

Lu Ye quickly noticed that he didn't seem to have truly entered here in the flesh but rather in a mystical projection, which was likely the fundamental reason cultivators had Undying Bodies here; otherwise, no matter how mysterious the Black Abyss, it couldn't make people rise from the dead.

It bore some resemblance to the experience on the Ghost Ship, where in those cycles, Lu Ye went through many deaths, but those deaths never truly occurred.

The physical body showed no signs of unusualness, nor did the Boulder Mountain Saber, the storage sack, the storage ring, or even the storage space.

Even the Talent Tree had no abnormalities, and Lu Ye could genuinely sense its existence.

The grade of this projection is undoubtedly very high, because when Lu Ye turned his head and looked, everyone else seemed perfectly normal, as if real people were standing right in front of him.

Among the crowd, he noticed the plump man who had blocked his way and attempted to rob him last time on the mid-slope of Immortal Spirit Peak. Sensing Lu Ye's gaze, the plump man smiled slightly: "Misty Peak's Han Molong greets Fellow Daoist Lu!"

People from Misty Peak, who are disciples of Woo Qimo.

Lu Ye had an understanding, certain that the initial probing was carried out under the instructions of the Sun Blaze Realm, otherwise, there was no reason for someone from Misty Peak to run to Immortal Spirit Peak.

He smiled faintly and returned the salute.

Originally, according to plan, Su Yuqing was supposed to bring Lu Ye and Hai Tang to join these people early on. The other Constellations comprised mostly Dwarf Race from the same faction, familiar with each other, but Lu Ye was the only outsider, only barely acquainted with Hai Tang and Han Molong, and didn't recognize anyone else.

In such unfamiliar circumstances, coordination was naturally difficult.

But due to the prior unexpected incident, Su Yuqing's schedule was delayed. When she arrived at Black Abyss, she found it hard to retain composure under the unusual attention from Chen Xuanhai and Woo Qimo. She promptly hurried Lu Ye and others into Black Abyss.

This resulted in a lack of time to become familiar with each other.

Now it was too late to get acquainted, because as everyone had just familiarized themselves with their bodies and circumstances, strange spirit force fluctuations were emitted from within the depths of Black Abyss.

Hai Tang, who was leading the team, immediately became serious: "The Spirit Orb has appeared!"

The timing of the Spirit Orb appearing was completely irregular, sometimes fast, sometimes slow, so all Dwarf Race troops needed to react the instant the Spirit Orb appeared, or if one step is slow, every step thereafter will be slow!

Upon detecting the Spirit Orb, Hai Tang immediately flew forward first, followed closely by the other eight, forming a V-shape formation, which counted as a simple enemy-engagement formation for the group unable to form a tactical array.

Hai Tang's cultivation being the highest, flew at the forefront, providing faster reaction ability to oncoming meteors, undoubtedly maximizing the team's speed.

While flying, she didn't forget to transmit audio to Lu Ye: "Junior Brother Lu, our Dwarf Race is a race proficient in talisman-making, so in combat, we often rely on the power of the Spirit Talisman, differing from the cultivators you encounter outside, you have to be extra careful."

"Understood." Lu Ye nodded.

Actually, Lu Ye had learned about these matters from Hai Tang before, knowing some characteristics of the Dwarf Race. Take Han Molong's battle with him for instance, at that time, he only felt that Han Molong had high prowess in the way of magic and spells, effortlessly using various techniques. But actually, Han Molong relied on the power of Spirit Talismans, otherwise, he couldn't display so many element-sign spells.

Even when Han Molong displayed his physique cultivation foundation at the end, it was also the power of Spirit Talismans, not that he truly was a physique cultivator.

There are Spirit Talismans in Nine Provinces, and when Lu Ye's cultivation was not high, he repeatedly used these things, but Nine Provinces' talisman-making level was not high, and outstanding Talisman Makers were very rare. As cultivators' cultivation improved, they seldom used Spirit Talismans.

Yet the Dwarf Race has developed talisman-making to the utmost, each of them is a natural Talisman Maker, while focusing on their cultivation, they also enhance their talisman-making prowess.

This makes it challenging to categorize Dwarf Race cultivators into normal factions since they can exhibit countless bizarre abilities by harnessing the power of Spirit Talismans.

Lu Ye knew these, but because he thought he didn't need to participate in the Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet, coupled with his lack of interest in this path, he naturally didn't pay much attention.

Yet now, he couldn't ignore it even if he wanted to.

"Oh no, the position of this Spirit Orb is closer to others," Han Molong stated from Lu Ye's right side.

The timing of the Spirit Orb's appearance was irregular, but its position had a certain pattern, mostly within a large area at the center of Black Abyss, occasionally appearing closer to certain factions of the Dwarf Race.

When the Martial Arts Meet first begins, this undoubtedly grants a certain Dwarf Race faction an innate advantage.

After flying for a long time, ahead came sounds of combat, clearly from the clash between the other two Dwarf Race factions.

Hai Tang was leading such a conflict for the first time and was momentarily unsure of what to do. Plus, before departure, Su Yuqing instructed her, although she was visibly the leader of this Martial Arts Meet, she was also admonished to seek Lu Ye's opinion when undecided.

Su Yuqing knew her disciple's shortcomings, because of Mount Fangcun's specialties, the Dwarf Race seldom roams the stellar space like cultivators from other domains. They mostly move with Mount Fangcun, rarely straying far lest they lose their way back.

It's not just Hai Tang; it's the common state for all Dwarf Race members. This situation typically persists until they ascend to Moon Jade when their cultivation reaches Moon Jade. The Dwarf Race can utilize a special secret technique linking themselves closely with their domain, ensuring they won't get lost, granting them the eligibility to venture the stellar space solo.

Thus, in handling spontaneous incidents, Su Yuqing believes her disciple is inferior to Lu Ye.

Chapter 1334 - Scramble for the Prize

"Junior Brother Lu, what should we do now?" Hai Tang had a straightforward and obedient nature, always following her master's orders.

"Let's go over there and check the situation first," Lu Ye replied.

Many things can't be fully understood just by looking at the information recorded on the jade slip; you have to see it with your own eyes.

Hai Tang led her team forward, and shortly after, they indeed saw a heated battlefield ahead.

Before coming face to face, no one knew what the formations of the other two troops were like. Now that they had arrived, everyone's Mental Consciousness scanned the area, and their expressions became solemn.

Someone exclaimed, "This is bad!"

It was because each of the other two troops had a Constellation Late Stage member, and each had at least two Constellation Mid-Stage members. From the current positioning, the Western Region was slightly superior because they had three Mid-Stage members.

In comparison, our side only had Hai Tang as a solitary Mid-Stage member, while the rest were all Constellation Early Stage, making us look incredibly shabby.

Instantly, everyone felt bitterness in their hearts, and their morale weakened.

Hai Tang noticed this and immediately shouted, "The overall situation is not yet decided; do not be discouraged. Even though on the surface our strength is inferior, we must show the spirit of the East and not let the other two look down on us!"

Only then did the others settle their spirits, realizing Hai Tang was right.

Lu Ye was observing the battlefield over there, or more accurately, observing that Spirit Orb. What he saw was a glowing ball around a hundred feet in diameter. It seemed like a condensation of energy, but Lu Ye couldn't determine its true nature.

At this moment, eighteen Constellations from the Southern and Western factions were fighting fiercely near the Spirit Orb, with multicolored lights blooming continuously.

But Lu Ye immediately noticed that these two forces were not fully committed, and everyone was holding back. Although it looked fervent on the surface, that was only an appearance.

Moreover, amidst the battles, some were occasionally using techniques to alter the Spirit Orb's movement direction and speed. The Dwarf Race from the Southern Region had the advantage, as they had moved the Spirit Orb a considerable distance before the Western forces arrived, positioning it closest to the Southern Region Camp.

But now, faced with interference from the Western forces, moving the Spirit Orb further was impossible unless they took down a group from the West.

If only two groups were in opposition, the Southern Region would undoubtedly make that choice. They couldn't remain in a standoff forever. In such confrontations, the side closest to its camp occupies the advantage since they can return more quickly even if they fall in battle.

However, everyone knew the East had not yet arrived, so they wouldn't exhaust themselves fighting, allowing a third party to reap the benefits.

Thus, the standoff between the Southern and Western factions continued, with both parties tacitly aware. By this time, the East arrived near the battlefield, and while they were probing the East, the Southern and Western factions were also observing the East.

The result was that the East had one Mid-Stage and eight Early Stage...

Everyone retracted their Mental Consciousness.

Hai Tang's words to boost morale had just fallen when the team barely regained some spirit, only to experience being underestimated again.

They weren't completely ignored, as someone from the West shouted, "Hey East, why are you standing there idly? Come help!"

It wasn't because the West had a good relationship with the East. Rather, in a three-way clash like this, alliances and betrayals were commonplace, with positions shifting according to the evolving situation.

Currently, with the South holding the positional advantage, the West naturally called the East to join in.

Hai Tang, undoubtedly familiar with the procedures of the Martial Arts Meet, had put significant effort into preparing for this event. So upon hearing the Western clan's call, she did not hesitate and immediately charged forward, simultaneously audio transmitting to her team, "Don't stray too far from me, and make sure to stick together."

On a battlefield like this, while it may seem that their lives aren't in immediate danger, anyone isolated would inevitably become a target, leading to lethal outcomes.

Under the current circumstances, moving as one unit was the only feasible strategy.

Under Hai Tang's lead, the nine Constellations from the East burst into one side of the battlefield. Instantly, the pressure on the South increased significantly, the most noticeable change being the altered flight direction of the Spirit Orb.

Previously, amidst the Southern and Western conflict, the Spirit Orb had occasionally drifted east or west, but overall, it hadn't moved too far due to the well-matched strengths of both sides.

Now that the East had muddled the waters, the situation became highly unfavorable for the Southern Region. The Spirit Orb, under the combined forces of the Eastern and Western Constellations, flew toward the center of the Black Abyss, in other words, moving further away from the Southern Region Camp.

This infuriated the Southern Constellations, who yelled incessantly, promising to give the Easterners a hard time later.

Amid the struggle, the cultivators didn't forget to swallow elixir pills or take out spirit jade to replenish themselves.

This was a half-month-long protracted battle, where maintaining one's spirit force reserves was crucial. The confrontation had just begun, the situation was stable, and they naturally couldn't squander their spirit force.

Without unforeseen events, this type of conflict wouldn't come to any conclusion since no side could annihilate the other and still retain full battle capacity while a third party coveted from the sideline.

Historically, many Black Abyss Martial Arts Meets had started with such a standoff.

But in a three-way competition, it's impossible not to have unforeseen events.

Under the combined efforts of the East and West cultivators, the Spirit Orb finally returned to the center of Black Abyss, rendering all previous efforts of the Southern Region futile, making those nine enraged.

But at this moment, the original sincere cooperation, akin to being of one mind between the East and West, began to quietly compete.

Each wanted to guide the Spirit Orb towards their respective camps to gain an advantage.

The tacit alliance shattered dramatically at this moment.

Lu Ye could sense that the Constellation Late Stage cultivator from the West was communicating with Hai Tang via audio transmission, although the content of the conversation was inaudible, it was obvious they were persuading Hai Tang to lead the Eastern camp to not resist too strongly.

Hai Tang didn't respond, only kept shaking her head, indicating her stance.

She wasn't foolish; the Eastern side already had the weakest strength, how could they let the other two camps succeed at such a time? Delaying time was the most beneficial for the weakest East.

This turned into a chaotic three-way battle, even more lively than before.

The nine from the East always maintained a position resembling an arrow formation, seeking no accomplishment but rather no loss.

As time passed, nearly half a day later, a peculiar fluctuation of powers suddenly appeared from another direction.

The second Spirit Orb appeared!

And the location of this Spirit Orb was surprisingly closer to the East Camp.

Almost the instant the Spirit Orb appeared, the nine from the East immediately shifted direction, abandoning the previous battlefield and charging straight for the location of the Spirit Orb.

Hai Tang herself naturally wouldn't have such decisiveness; rather, during previous engagements with the other two camps, she had discussed the plan with Lu Ye.

This approach was actually risky because either of the other two camps, whichever pursued, would lead to a confrontation with the East, whereas the camp not pursuing would profit from the situation.

This scenario was highly likely to occur since everyone believed the East was the weakest, so whichever camp pursued was confident in defeating the East, potentially resulting in the South and West each taking a Spirit Orb while the East gained nothing.

But at this very moment, the East could only make such a choice because if they didn't retreat, either of the other two camps would certainly retreat, putting the East in the same situation, facing a single opponent.

One was a possibility, the other was an inevitability.

They could only gamble!

The moment they flew away, Lu Ye and Hai Tang switched positions, allowing him to lead the flight.

This too was pre-discussed because at that moment, the amount of time they could gain directly translated into the advantage they could seize.

The arrow formation's speed suddenly increased, astonishing the Eastern Constellation cultivators, finding Lu Ye's leading speed surprisingly faster than Hai Tang's.

No one among them knew much about Lu Ye; they only knew this time their camp had invited an external aid, who happened to be Hai Tang's Dao companion.

They originally didn't care much, considering he was only at the Early Stage with cultivation comparable to theirs, but only now realized that despite similar cultivation, their foundation might differ.

The speed of flight in the stellar space largely reflects a cultivator's strength because everyone keeps their speed within their own controllable range, never exceeding, otherwise there wouldn't be time to react if faced with danger.

Lu Ye leading at a speed surpassing Hai Tang was undeniably indicative that the strength of this external aid wasn't as simple as it appeared.

This side quickly withdrew from the battlefield, momentarily puzzling the South and West troops, who hadn't anticipated the East's swift reaction, causing them to miss the opportunity, where neither could freely retreat.

Someone from the Southern Region shouted, "West, another Spirit Orb has appeared! Don't cling to this one so tightly!"

The Western Dwarf Race responded, "What a coincidence, I was thinking the same thing; hurry and go for the other one!"

"This one was originally ours, why should we go for the other?"

"Spirit Orbs in Black Abyss occur naturally, never affiliated, where is it yours?"

"The East is so weak, why don't you deal with them instead of picking a fight with us? What kind of reasoning is that?"

"Weak or not, the East is still my fellow Dwarf Race, they deserve a basic share at least."

Arguing ceaselessly, at the core, both camps viewed each other as the biggest competitor, dismissing the East entirely, which was the fundamental reason for the East troops retreating unpursued, allowing them the advantage.

As for the basic share argument, it indeed existed because every result of the Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet typically resulted in two, three, or four divisions claiming orbs; rarely would any one division leave empty-handed, usually achieving at least two.

This was after all an internal struggle among the Dwarf Race; no division sought to completely eliminate fellow race members.

Chapter 1335 - An Auspicious Beginning

The essence of the Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet is actually the competition for Spirit Orbs. Whichever side grabs more of them will be able to gain more potential power after the meet.

Due to the unique nature of the Black Abyss, all the cultivators here are participating in the meet for the first time. Even though they have the experience of their predecessors, some things cannot be grasped without firsthand involvement.

Currently, the Eastern group of nine has taken the initiative, seizing a Spirit Orb while the other two groups are entangled, allowing them to gain the upper hand, each person brimming with energy.

As per the predetermined plan, Lu Ye and the other eight dashed to the edge of the Spirit Orb, channeling their spirit force into it, pushing it towards the direction of their camp.

Han Molong, however, was leading the way, flying ahead of the Spirit Orb.

He wasn't guiding the way, but clearing obstacles.

Inside the Black Abyss, there are many meteors of various sizes flying by, and the Spirit Orb has a characteristic; once it's hit, it moves in the opposite direction of the force applied. Therefore, during the process of pushing the Spirit Orb toward the camp, one must ensure that no meteors are in front to avoid delays.

Especially in the early stage of just seizing the Spirit Orb, time is precious. The closer to the camp, the greater the advantage the side can occupy.

Han Molong's method of using an unknown secret technique or a spirit talisman made his already fat body even rounder, looking inflated. Whenever he spotted a meteor that could potentially collide with the Spirit Orb, he ignored it and rammed into it head-on.

His body seemed highly elastic, with each collision altering the meteor's trajectory, clearing the path.

With him breaking the path upfront, the remaining eight had an easier time. During the early phase when no enemies were pursuing, they only needed to channel their spirit force into the Spirit Orb to control its flight speed.

Lu Ye was also exerting himself, simultaneously getting a grasp of the subtleties involved.

The Spirit Orb not only has the specific characteristic of moving in the opposite direction when force is applied, but also accelerates as it absorbs more spirit force. The more force absorbed, the faster it goes, and vice versa, while if no spirit force is infused or no force is applied, it won't move.

This means that Lu Ye and the others must continuously maintain the input of their spirit force to send the Spirit Orb back to the camp, and to achieve a controllable speed, they must give their all, which greatly consumes the cultivator's spirit force.

Therefore, during previous skirmishes, members of all three groups saved their strength and were constantly mindful of recovering themselves, fully aware that in the Black Abyss, the process of transporting Spirit Orbs was the biggest test of spirit force.

Initially, the Eastern group was quite tense, unable to ensure if others would pursue them. Being the weakest side, there was inevitably apprehension.

But as time passed and they got closer to their camp, everyone's anxiety slowly eased, feeling both joyous and bittersweet.

Joyful because the Eastern group had a promising start, grabbing the first Spirit Orb, so even if coming last overall this time, they wouldn't lose too badly.

It was bittersweet because the other two factions truly didn't consider the Eastern group a threat. Obviously, they felt letting the Eastern group have one Spirit Orb wasn't an issue, seeing each other as the true adversaries; otherwise, there's no reason no one pursued.

From a high vantage point, Lu Ye and the others seemed like eight ants carrying a giant fruit, with one ant scouting ahead...

The Constellation members were busy here. On the Sun Blaze Realm level, members from the South and West troops successively congratulated Chen Xuanhai and others. Chen Xuanhai snorted coldly, understanding that both sides must have instructed their juniors to focus on each other before leaving, easing their effort against the East.

Otherwise, there would be no reason for the Eastern group to successfully seize the first Spirit Orb so smoothly.

Though understanding the circumstances, they felt powerless to influence the Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet, and all three Eastern Sun Blaze figures knew this would inevitably place the East at the bottom again.

It's not that they weren't trying hard enough, but the opposition's lineup was too strong.

In the Black Abyss, the Eastern group had barely covered half the distance transporting the Spirit Orb when they felt a mystical force ripple from a certain direction.

The third Spirit Orb appeared.

Even without knowing the situation over there, the appearance of the third Spirit Orb marked the likely end of the Southern and Western troops' entanglement, as both factions could claim a Spirit Orb each, mitigating further conflict.

The Eastern group continued their arduous transport of the Spirit Orb, and finally, after a long while, returned to the smooth platform where they first appeared, and with that, the transportation was complete.

Though Spirit Orbs could still be contested, historically, there hasn't been an instance where an already delivered Spirit Orb was snatched back.

Because fighting enemies at one's own camp is advantageous, with the possibility of almost immediately resurrecting and returning to the battlefield. Even the weakest East would not likely have its Spirit Orb taken back.

No time for celebration, once the Spirit Orb was secured, Hai Tang and the others immediately began setting up an array.

The Dwarf Race is an exceptionally unique race known for extraordinary talent in talisman-making, with nearly every member gifted in this area, unmatched by any other race.

With the help of myriad Spirit Talismans, they can accomplish a wide range of tactical setups.

For instance, setting up an array barrier here!

Though it's nearly impossible for the Spirit Orb stationed at the main camp to be snatched away again, necessary precautions must still be taken. Our overall strength is not as good as others, and we don't have many hands. We can't afford to spare some people just to guard the Spirit Orb.

We can only rely on Spirit Talismans to set up an array.

Here, aside from Lu Ye, everyone else is from the local Dwarf Race, all familiar with each other, and have prepared well for this moment.

Thus, in no time, a barrier array was set up, isolating the inside from outside.

This kind of array isn't very sturdy; after all, no matter how prepared we are, the setup was rushed. If someone gathers enough manpower for a strong attack, it can still be breached.

But it's already sufficient; if someone truly makes a strong attack here, our forces can quickly provide support.

While they were busy here, Lu Ye did not involve himself, mainly because he couldn't help. He watched while sensing the movement trajectories of the other two Spirit Orbs.

It can be confirmed that the two Spirit Orbs have now been taken by the South and West troops, each moving rapidly towards their own camps, and should be settled in no time.

The first wave of contention ends here for now.

Next, it's time to wait for the second wave.

If at this moment a fourth Spirit Orb suddenly appears, it would greatly benefit the East.

Because the East can immediately rush to contest it, whereas the other two troops are still on the way transporting Spirit Orbs and can't react immediately.

However, according to the pattern of previous Martial Arts Meets, after the first wave, the second wave doesn't start so quickly, which gives everyone some time to recover.

In fact, the real battles often start only after the second wave. The contention of the first two waves is generally more peaceful, which is a customary understanding.

Lu Ye took out an item and said, "Fellow Daoists, we haven't had time to get to know each other before. My background, I suppose everyone knows more or less. But no matter what, since participating in the Martial Arts Meet and having promised others something, we must give it our all. I have an array disc here, which might have some miraculous effects. Take advantage of this opportunity to quickly get acquainted with it."

What he took out was naturally the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc.

This item played a huge role during the Nine Provinces' fight against the Insect Plague and the expedition to the Blood Refinement World, especially greatly enhancing True Lake and Cloud River Realm cultivators.

But Lu Ye had long discovered some drawbacks of this item, as the area the array disc affects is limited, its effect on Divine Sea Realm is far less compared to True Lake and Cloud River.

The reason is because the higher a cultivator's cultivation, the larger their range of movement in combat, and if the array disc's effective range isn't sufficient, it naturally can't be fully effective.

Upon reaching the Constellation stage, the movement range in combat becomes even larger, often casually sidestepping beyond the range the array disc can affect.

It's impossible for Constellations to be tied together in joint efforts as that would only increase the dangers. Therefore, even in a joint effort situation, it doesn't mean staying inseparable.

This aspect was vividly demonstrated on the Ghost Ship.

In that final battle, even with the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Discs distributed by Lu Ye, Qin Zong and others struggled to form a decent array, mostly remaining in a loosely collaborative state.

It is foreseeable that as cultivation levels rise, the effectiveness of the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc will become increasingly limited, unless Lu Ye finds a way to improve the spirit runes and the array disc.

For now, this item can still have some effect, although it can only work with a few people; it can't make nine people act as one.

If Lu Ye hadn't promised Su Yuqing to achieve second place, he could simply coast through this journey. If he can exert effort, he will; if not, that's unavoidable too.

But since he has already promised, he has to put some thought into it, otherwise, if Su Yuqing really tries to keep him and Nian Yuexian around for a hundred years, he wouldn't be able to resist.

In such a situation, any form of assistance is indispensable.

Everyone, upon hearing, looked toward Hai Tang.

Hai Tang displayed the demeanor of a leader, "Junior Brother Lu's words are my words!"

No one had any objections; as Lu Ye activated the power of the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc, everyone immediately sensed the wondrousness of the item, and their spirits were greatly uplifted!

However, after Lu Ye clearly explained the virtues and drawbacks of the item, the eight from the East understood that although it is indeed useful, it's not as useful as they initially thought.

Han Molong commented, "This array disc is somewhat similar to our Dwarf Race's array talismans, but comparatively, the array disc is more flexible."

Hai Tang also nodded, "The array disc is supplementary; in practice, humans are central, but array talismans are different—they center around talismans, requiring cultivators to cooperate with the subtleties of array talismans."

Chapter 1336 - The Spirit Orb Belongs to the East

One is centered on humans, the other on symbols. The distinction is obvious. However, array symbols have their unique advantages; once activated, cultivators only need to assume their positions to maximize power, and the range and cohesion are much better than array disks.

All three departments of martial arts have prepared array symbols, but these are usually reserved for the ultimate showdown. It's not yet time to use them.

The Eastern faction has its preparations. The only Nine-Melody Chain Array symbol is in Hai Tang's storage ring, but they can't use it lightly because if they do, the opponents will respond with their array symbols, leading to a quicker defeat.

In any case, it is considered a trump card for the Eastern faction.

Now, Lu Ye has taken out the array disk, letting everyone experience the As-Close-As-Siblings mystique, undoubtedly providing more strategic choices for the Eastern faction.

Hai Tang said: "Junior Brother Lu, if we utilize this array disk, can we divide into three teams? This way, we can maintain our combat power and be more flexible."

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

It's impractical to form an array with all nine using the array disk. The array disk's range isn't that extensive, and any slight mistake during combat would break the array. However, a trio could barely manage if they work together in harmony, led by one with the other two supporting.

"Then let's divide into three squads!" Hai Tang decided, glanced around, and pointed to two people in the group: "Senior Sister Huang Li and Junior Brother Xu Xinghe, follow Junior Brother Lu. Junior Brother Wan Jun and Junior Brother Zhang Chao, follow Junior Brother Han Molong. The remaining two follow me."

These tactical plans should ideally have been discussed before gathering, but due to certain reasons, the Eastern faction only had the opportunity for communication once they entered Black Abyss, resulting in a hurried situation.

Thankfully, it's not too late now.

Lu Ye handed out two more array disks to Hai Tang and Han Molong, allowing everyone to familiarize themselves briefly on the platform in the camp, then formed three small teams in a triangular formation, heading deeper into Black Abyss.

The second wave of competition hasn't started yet. It's a calm period, but one can clearly sense that the Constellations from the South and West are not content with the status quo; instead, they are tacitly engaged in intense combat at the center of Black Abyss. The ferocity of these battles surpasses even the previous scramble for Spirit Orbs.

Clearly, they aim to cripple the opponent's teams, ensuring that when new Spirit Orbs appear, they'll seize the advantage.

With the three factions clashing, the South and West see no threat from the Eastern faction — even if their teams were crippled, they believe they could easily handle the Eastern faction.

The Eastern faction is well aware, frustrated, and helpless.

Such fierce battles inevitably result in casualties; within half a day, each side already lost three or four people.

Of course, dying in Black Abyss doesn't mean true death; they simply reappear on their faction's camp platform and return to the battlefield.

This unique rule allows the Dwarf Race to engage in the fray without worries, giving them free rein to fight hard. The nine Eastern cultivators divide into three squads, roaming outside the intense battles, expanding their search range to ensure a squad's quick arrival wherever new Spirit Orbs appear.

With leisure, Lu Ye, accompanied by Huang Li and Xu Xinghe, goes to watch the battle.

Huang Li, despite having reached the Constellation stage, is naturally timid. Seeing the ferocious and brutal fight nearby, with their team so close to the battlefield, can't help but say: "Senior Brother Lu, shouldn't we stay farther away to avoid misunderstandings?"

"No worries," Lu Ye waved his hand. "These two sides are fighting so fiercely they won't notice us. Let's just watch."

As they spoke, a surge of intense spirit force rapidly approached, followed by a menacing voice: "Whoever blocks my way dies!"

Lu Ye turned to see a figure charging toward them, glowing golden, smashing obstructing meteors aside in a frenzy.

Lu Ye quickly moved aside with his teammates, allowing the cultivator to pass without a glance as he rushed to join the battle.

This person was clearly killed once and returned, filled with rage from the experience.

"Alas!" Xu Xinghe sighed softly, "The weak are bullied by the strong!"

If our faction had a Constellation Late Stage participant, we wouldn't be underestimated like this. The other two factions have Late Stage participants and even two or three Mid-Stage ones, while we only have one Mid-Stage, leaving our morale weakened.

While observing, all three sensed something, turned towards a direction, and the next moment, Lu Ye was swiftly heading there.

The new Spirit Orb has appeared!

Meanwhile, Hai Tang and Han Molong's squads hurriedly advanced in that direction.

The battling South and West remnant troops stopped their hands simultaneously, bodies swaying, even the resurrected cultivators were flying towards the Spirit Orb.

In an instant, twenty-seven people from Black Abyss aimed directly at one spot.

In the first wave of contention, South and West let East secure a Spirit Orb first, but now that the second wave was beginning, they didn't intend to let it happen again. Ultimately, such contests are decided by strength, and they couldn't keep letting them go forever.

Sensing the numerous presences chasing from behind, Huang Li and Xu Xinghe were filled with helplessness. At this rate, once twenty-seven people gather at one spot, East will inevitably retreat.

Unexpectedly, Lu Ye suddenly shouted loudly, brimming with momentum: "This Spirit Orb belongs to the East, whoever dares to snatch it, the East will be irreconcilable with them!"

Both Huang Li and Xu Xinghe were stunned, looking at Lu Ye in surprise.

Throughout the Martial Arts Meet, the East has always been declining, each time being meek. When did they dare utter such arrogant words?

Where did he get the confidence to say such things? Wasn't he afraid of inciting everyone's anger?

This Dao companion of Senior Sister Hai Tang, who seemed gentle and refined, how could he be so reckless?

While the two were shocked and uncertain, Lu Ye switched his words: "But if any faction helps the East obtain this Spirit Orb, the East will reciprocate with kindness, assisting them with all our might on the next Spirit Orb!"

Three breaths later, the numerous presences chasing from behind suddenly became chaotic, and the two factions restarted their confrontation.

A vigorous voice came, "Fellow Daoist from the East, remember your words, this time the South will help!"

Someone else angrily shouted, "South faction, have you lost your minds? Can't you see through this simple trick? The East clearly wants us to clash while they benefit as the third party, can't you see?"

The vigorous voice echoed again, "Stop talking rubbish! When killing our people earlier, you didn't hold back. Just let them benefit as the third party, so what?"

The argument ensued as a chaotic battle formed.

Lu Ye's squad of three had already swiftly moved away.

Huang Li evidently hadn't recovered, unable to comprehend how just a few words from Lu Ye made the two factions clash again.

Xu Xinghe, however, seemed thoughtful, both surprised and admiring, "Senior Brother Lu's tactics are impressive, splitting the two factions with words, letting our East seize the advantage."

Lu Ye shook his head, "It's not about my tactics, it's because the two factions were always wary of each other. I just added fuel to the fire!"

Huang Li asked, "But Senior Brother Lu, how did you know for sure that someone would be willing to help us?"

Lu Ye replied, "They wouldn't genuinely want to help us but fear the other side helping us. With this anxious mindset, it's likely the relatively weaker side would be unable to hold back and accept my proposal. Of course, even if no one agrees, so what? There's no loss in trying. Who can't boast a bit?"

Huang Li suddenly understood, "So the South agreed. Indeed, during the previous battle, the South appeared slightly weaker."

Xu Xinghe asked, "But Junior Brother Lu, aren't you afraid that the two factions might join forces to deal with us first? With their combined strength, we wouldn't stand a chance."

"And if they do? Even if they slaughter all of us, they'd need to confront each other afterward. Unable to determine a victor immediately, when we regroup and return, it would become a three-way battle again." Lu Ye paused, feeling the need to adjust their perspective: "It's true the East is weak, but in this environment, weakness might not be a disadvantage. It might actually be our advantage because the two factions fear we might side with the other. As long as we exploit this fact, we don't need to fear them, rather, they should be needing us."

Huang Li and Xu Xinghe were both hearing such a perspective for the first time, feeling enlightened.

If it were a Constellation from another domain, there was no need for Lu Ye to elaborate. Cultivation at this level usually comes with extensive knowledge and experience. But the situation on Mount Fangcun and that domain differs from all others; even Constellations can't easily wander the stellar space, their thoughts inevitably simpler.

While speaking, Lu Ye had already led the two to the location of the Spirit Orb. Senior Sister Hai Tang's squad had reached there first. It was the closest location to them, and the three arrived quickly, currently urging their spirit force to slowly transport the Spirit Orb towards the camp.

Judging from the expressions of the three, they were evidently a bit tense, fearing that powerful members from the South and West might suddenly appear to snatch it.

Once Lu Ye arrived and Huang Li excitedly recounted the recent events, Hai Tang's squad members all breathed a sigh of relief, looking at Lu Ye with admiration and gratitude.

A moment later, Han Molong's squad assembled, bringing East to nine people, transporting the Spirit Orb as per the previous plan.

Without any obstruction, the East successfully delivered the second Spirit Orb to the camp for placement.

Chapter 1337 - Mission Accomplished Ahead of Schedule?

The development of the Martial Arts Meet's situation has always been closely monitored by the Sun Blaze of the three factions. Through the change in positions of those light points, the Sun Blaze can easily deduce the specific situation inside the Black Abyss.

Seeing the East faction smoothly securing the second Spirit Orb, Chen Xuanhai and the others were greatly amazed.

In previous Martial Arts Meets, the process of the East faction fighting for Spirit Orbs has never been so smooth. Usually, the East would take advantage of the other two factions being distracted during their transport of Spirit Orbs to snatch them. Many times, they would only gather two orbs after the last orb appeared, because by then, the other two factions would have already obtained three and four orbs and had no spare power to seize more. In such a situation, the last orb inevitably belonged to the East.

But this time, the development of the situation is inexplicable. The first orb was understandable as it was given up by the Southern and Western factions, but what's the situation with this second orb?

Clearly, the cultivators of the Southern and Western factions were closing in on the Spirit Orb's position, but somehow they started fighting midway, allowing the East faction to pick up the second one without risk.

This situation left not only Chen Xuanhai and others bewildered, but also the Sun Blaze from the Southern and Western factions completely baffled, not knowing what their little ones were up to.

Before the Martial Arts Meet, they did advise not to suppress the East too harshly. The East had already suffered enough, and although the three factions are divided, they are ultimately one family and must work together against external enemies. But not suppressing doesn't mean being so lenient.

Although they could deduce the situation in the Black Abyss, they were unclear about the specifics of what happened inside and were powerless to intervene.

In silence, Chen Xuanhai grumbled, "If you have something to say, spit it out quickly. Don't hold it in and harm yourself!"

A Sun Blaze from the Western Region laughed and said, "Brother Chen, regardless of what happened, congratulations to Brother Chen, for the East faction has completed their task ahead of time. The Constellation of this generation in the East is... quite impressive!"

The implication being that the East should be content with securing two Spirit Orbs and need not intervene any further.

Huang Li from the Southern Region understood tacitly and chuckled lowly.

Chen Xuanhai snorted coldly, a bit regretful for speaking up. The incompetence of the younger generation left them seniors unable to retort against being mocked, causing a stuffy feeling in the chest.

Not only did the Sun Blaze think the East faction completed their task early, even within the Black Abyss, the Constellations involved from the East faction thought so too.

When the second Spirit Orb was safely placed, everyone showed joyful expressions, with some even bursting into laughter.

Even Hai Tang let out a long sigh of relief.

Now with two orbs in hand, they wouldn't lose too embarrassingly even if they didn't gain more later.

Lu Ye seeing this wanted to stir them up a bit, to not be so easily satisfied, after all, he still had the task of seizing the second. But if everyone was satisfied, what would he do? He couldn't fight alone.

But before he could speak, Hai Tang spoke first: "With such a perfect start, we should press on and seize more. If we can get three Spirit Orbs, we can wash away our past shame and uplift the majesty of the East. What do you all think?"

Hai Tang's words boosted the morale of the already delighted crowd, as the number of Spirit Orbs determined the strength of the domain's foundation for the next fifty years. They were carrying this sacred mission with an opportunity to achieve what their predecessors failed to accomplish, which would earn admiration from future generations if achieved.

Thus they all said, "We will follow Sister's arrangements!"

Hai Tang turned to Lu Ye: "Didn't Junior Brother Lu agree to assist the Southern faction? Now that the two factions are fighting over the Spirit Orbs, it's time to fulfill that promise."

Just as the East was transporting the Spirit Orb, the fifth orb had already appeared, and the Southern and Western factions were surely contending for it.

If the East rushed over at this time to assist the Southern faction, the Western faction would definitely lose!

Lu Ye nodded: "Since it's a promise, naturally it should be kept, to avoid people saying the East doesn't keep its word." He shifted his tone: "But I suggest we don't go to where they are fighting, nor directly participate in their confrontation."

Hai Tang asked: "Then what should we do?"

Lu Ye turned his head towards a direction: "We'll go over there!"

Everyone followed his gaze, temporarily stunned on the spot, and then looked at Lu Ye again, their faces full of shock, never expecting him to propose such a plan.

If such a thing were done, it would truly be an irreconcilable dispute with the Western faction!

After all, that direction is where the Western Region's camp is located!

This was a plan to raid the camp.

Such things had happened in history, but usually couldn't succeed because once the cultivators on the other side realized the movement of Spirit Orbs, they would immediately understand what was happening. With a swift retreat, they could easily reclaim the Spirit Orbs.

Seeing the expressions on their faces, Lu Ye knew what they were thinking and shook his head: "Not raiding the camp, raiding people!"

If they actually raided the camp, the Western faction would inevitably react immediately, likely abandoning the struggle with the Southern faction and retreating to defend, thus fulfilling the previous agreement with the Southern faction. But Lu Ye wanted to achieve more than just keeping the agreement with the Southern faction.

He wanted more to delay time!

Let the Southern and Western factions fight longer, this way it will facilitate the next plan! If these two factions no longer fight, his schemes cannot be implemented.

Hai Tang understood: "Junior Brother Lu means to intercept those Western cultivators who are reborn and rushing to the battlefield after dying?"

"Exactly!"

Hai Tang nodded: "This is good too, not directly interfering in the fight between the two factions, so we don't completely offend them."

Lu Ye knew that Hai Tang's thinking was still too simple. She thought this would not completely offend them, but in reality, as soon as the Eastern faction starts intercepting people, it would have the same effect as raiding the camp, and the Western faction will definitely harbor resentment towards the Eastern faction, likely leading to various oppressions.

But there was no need to explain these considerations to Hai Tang.

Ultimately, they had to offend one side, and previously the Southern faction agreed to Lu Ye's condition, so the only option left was to offend the Western faction.

The plan agreed upon, the group immediately headed in that direction.

As they reached the center between the Western Region Camp and the Spirit Orb that was being contested, Lu Ye and the nine others immediately dispersed, hiding on the nearby meteorites, concealing their forms and containing their aura.

It wasn't long before a stream of light hurriedly approached from the direction of the Western Region Camp, clearly a Western cultivator reborn and rushing to the battlefield.

Judging by the other party's spirit force fluctuations, he was only at Constellation Early Stage. This was expected, as in such a war, those with lower cultivation inevitably suffer more and are in greater danger.

This person only concerned himself with hurrying on the road, never imagining that in such a place, there would be a group of ill-intentioned individuals ambushing him.

As he entered the ambush circle, Han Molong was the first to jump out and block him, only then did he realize something was wrong, but it was already too late to run, as Han Molong's squad of three easily entangled him.

No intention to kill him, mainly because Lu Ye had instructed Han Molong beforehand to just engage him.

In such a situation, the person was infuriated, yelling loudly, spewing venomous words continuously, vowing to make the Eastern faction pay dearly later, yet unable to shake Han Molong and the others' determination.

Once decided, they wouldn't hesitate.

As the fight raged on, another stream of light approached from the direction of the Western Region Camp, and Lu Ye sensed the person had a Constellation Mid-Stage cultivation from a distance.

Clearly, the fight between the two factions was terribly brutal, with even Constellation Mid-Stage cultivators dying in battle.

A squad of nine, with one Constellation Mid-Stage cultivator, can play a significant role. He naturally rushed back to the battlefield, but from afar, he saw Han Molong and others surrounding his comrade, immediately halting with a serious expression.

The Eastern cultivators appearing at this location were undoubtedly intriguing, and he didn't approach hastily to rescue, mainly because he hadn't spotted other members of the Eastern faction.

However, just then, three figures suddenly emerged from the side, surprisingly Hai Tang's squad.

The person was startled, instantly understanding the Eastern faction's intention, and was about to escape from the side when Lu Ye led Huang Li and Xu Xinghe leisurely to confront him.

Without much hesitation, he charged straight at Lu Ye's squad.

The situation was clear: surrounded by two squads, one with a mid-stage expert and one without, he naturally chose the one without a mid-stage expert, making it easier to break through.

Simultaneously shouting: "Eastern faction, are you colluding with the Southern faction, conspiring together?"

Lu Ye ignored him, rushing forward towards this person.

As their spirit forces collided, Lu Ye's long blade unsheathed from his waist, and for an instant, a chilling intent flashed in the Void.

The Constellation Mid-Stage cultivator exclaimed and staggered backward, a deep wound was visible on his waist, flesh turning and blood gushing.

Before he could steady himself, Hai Tang's squad had already arrived, bringing him within their attack range.

Like Han Molong's squad, Hai Tang's squad only aimed to entangle, not kill. Even with the assistance of two tribal members, it was not easy to bind him, as in terms of expertise at the Constellation Mid-Stage, the other had many more years of experience than Hai Tang and was much more formidable.

But after being wounded by Lu Ye's slash, it was impossible for him to escape.

Adding that Lu Ye's gaze intentionally or unintentionally fixated on him, making him cautious.

Behind Lu Ye, Huang Li and Xu Xinghe were shocked, as they previously had no idea about Lu Ye's strength, only assuming that since their cultivations were similar, their power must be comparable. It wasn't until that slash that they realized Lu Ye's strength was by no means something they could compare with.

A Constellation Mid-Stage cultivator was actually wounded by his slash, even with their leverage and aid, their own foundation wasn't strong enough to achieve this level.

The external aid invited by the headquarters this time seemed remarkably extraordinary!

Chapter 1337 - Mission Accomplished Ahead of Schedule?

The development of the Martial Arts Meet's situation has always been closely monitored by the Sun Blaze of the three factions. Through the change in positions of those light points, the Sun Blaze can easily deduce the specific situation inside the Black Abyss.

Seeing the East faction smoothly securing the second Spirit Orb, Chen Xuanhai and the others were greatly amazed.

In previous Martial Arts Meets, the process of the East faction fighting for Spirit Orbs has never been so smooth. Usually, the East would take advantage of the other two factions being distracted during their transport of Spirit Orbs to snatch them. Many times, they would only gather two orbs after the last orb appeared, because by then, the other two factions would have already obtained three and four orbs and had no spare power to seize more. In such a situation, the last orb inevitably belonged to the East.

But this time, the development of the situation is inexplicable. The first orb was understandable as it was given up by the Southern and Western factions, but what's the situation with this second orb?

Clearly, the cultivators of the Southern and Western factions were closing in on the Spirit Orb's position, but somehow they started fighting midway, allowing the East faction to pick up the second one without risk.

This situation left not only Chen Xuanhai and others bewildered, but also the Sun Blaze from the Southern and Western factions completely baffled, not knowing what their little ones were up to.

Before the Martial Arts Meet, they did advise not to suppress the East too harshly. The East had already suffered enough, and although the three factions are divided, they are ultimately one family and must work together against external enemies. But not suppressing doesn't mean being so lenient.

Although they could deduce the situation in the Black Abyss, they were unclear about the specifics of what happened inside and were powerless to intervene.

In silence, Chen Xuanhai grumbled, "If you have something to say, spit it out quickly. Don't hold it in and harm yourself!"

A Sun Blaze from the Western Region laughed and said, "Brother Chen, regardless of what happened, congratulations to Brother Chen, for the East faction has completed their task ahead of time. The Constellation of this generation in the East is... quite impressive!"

The implication being that the East should be content with securing two Spirit Orbs and need not intervene any further.

Huang Li from the Southern Region understood tacitly and chuckled lowly.

Chen Xuanhai snorted coldly, a bit regretful for speaking up. The incompetence of the younger generation left them seniors unable to retort against being mocked, causing a stuffy feeling in the chest.

Not only did the Sun Blaze think the East faction completed their task early, even within the Black Abyss, the Constellations involved from the East faction thought so too.

When the second Spirit Orb was safely placed, everyone showed joyful expressions, with some even bursting into laughter.

Even Hai Tang let out a long sigh of relief.

Now with two orbs in hand, they wouldn't lose too embarrassingly even if they didn't gain more later.

Lu Ye seeing this wanted to stir them up a bit, to not be so easily satisfied, after all, he still had the task of seizing the second. But if everyone was satisfied, what would he do? He couldn't fight alone.

But before he could speak, Hai Tang spoke first: "With such a perfect start, we should press on and seize more. If we can get three Spirit Orbs, we can wash away our past shame and uplift the majesty of the East. What do you all think?"

Hai Tang's words boosted the morale of the already delighted crowd, as the number of Spirit Orbs determined the strength of the domain's foundation for the next fifty years. They were carrying this sacred mission with an opportunity to achieve what their predecessors failed to accomplish, which would earn admiration from future generations if achieved.

Thus they all said, "We will follow Sister's arrangements!"

Hai Tang turned to Lu Ye: "Didn't Junior Brother Lu agree to assist the Southern faction? Now that the two factions are fighting over the Spirit Orbs, it's time to fulfill that promise."

Just as the East was transporting the Spirit Orb, the fifth orb had already appeared, and the Southern and Western factions were surely contending for it.

If the East rushed over at this time to assist the Southern faction, the Western faction would definitely lose!

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Chapter 1339 - Kill

Swiftly moving forward, the six Western Region cultivators finally saw the Spirit Orb in the distance, also noticing the nine Eastern Region cultivators transporting the Spirit Orb like a group of ants.

With a six-against-nine ratio, the Western Region was not a match for the Southern Region, but they were confident in dealing with the Eastern Region.

So from afar, the leading Constellation Late Stage cultivator shouted, "Easterners, put down the Spirit Orb!"

When the Western Region forces pursued them, the Eastern Region cultivators naturally sensed it, their expressions tense and filled with deep resentment; it was exactly what they feared the most. As they transported the Spirit Orb, they were constantly worried about being pursued by the Western Region, hence they dared not delay for even a moment, only thinking about quickly delivering the Spirit Orb back to camp to claim credit. But in the end, they were still caught up with.

At this time, a distance still remained between them, but the speed of transporting the Spirit Orb was ultimately slower than others flying through the Void, so it would not be long before they were caught.

Seeing the gap between the two sides narrowing, Hai Tang transmitted to Lu Ye, "Junior Brother Lu, could you perhaps use the Blood Path Secret Technique to trap them?"

In the current situation, if Lu Ye could use the Blood Path Secret Technique to trap the approaching enemies, they would have a chance to safely deliver the Spirit Orb.

"Impossible!" Lu Ye shook his head. The Blood River Technique also had its limits; he could trap one Constellation Mid-Stage and two Early Stage cultivators, but it was impossible to trap all six opponents immediately, especially when among them there was also one Late Stage and two Mid-Stage cultivators.

If he really tried, he would at most trap them for ten brief moments at most, which would be a pointless waste of his strength and not worth the trouble.

"Then what should we do?"

Lu Ye replied calmly, "Kill!"

Hai Tang understood; at this point, the only option was to fight the Western Region. It wasn't possible to just hand over the Spirit Orb—it would be too cowardly.

Moreover, due to the unique nature of the Black Abyss, even if they were killed in battle, they wouldn't truly die, so even though the overall strength of the Eastern Region was weaker, they still had the courage to fight to the death.

"Then let's fight!" Hai Tang's expression became resolute, quickly planning the battle strategy: "Junior Brother Lu, I'll take people to hold off the Constellation Late Stage, and the two Constellation Mid-Stagers will be left to you and Junior Brother Han. The remaining three Early Stage... both of your squads should do your best to entangle them!"

"No problem!" Lu Ye nodded.

Hai Tang conveyed the arrangement through audio transmission to everyone, and the Eastern Region immediately prepared to engage.

It was clear that Hai Tang's arrangement was merely making the best of their situation without having high expectations, but even knowing that there probably wouldn't be a good outcome, at this point, they had no choice but to fight.

The distance between both sides continued to close until suddenly, at a moment's notice, Hai Tang abruptly turned around, calling out, "Attack!"

Leading her squad of two, she charged toward the Constellation Late Stage cultivator at the forefront of the enemy's formation.

At the same time, Lu Ye and Han Molong's squads also turned together, flanking them from both sides.

The Constellation Late Stage cultivator in the Western Region laughed loudly upon seeing this, "Well come!"

They feared the Eastern Region wouldn't take the bait and instead would evade to harass them. If that were the case, even if they seized the Spirit Orb, the harassment would slow them down considerably. Meanwhile, the Southern Region also transported a Spirit Orb, likely to be settled soon, and by then, fighters from the Southern Region would definitely come this way as well.

If they were intercepted by the Southern Region on their way to transport the Spirit Orb, the trouble would be substantial.

Therefore, although the Western Region appeared aggressive and determined to obtain the Spirit Orb, there remained some concern.

Seeing that the Eastern Region had not abandoned the Spirit Orb but instead came directly to them, it suited their purpose perfectly.

This Constellation Late Stage cultivator was the strongest, charging even faster than anyone else. With a sweep of his Mental Consciousness, he assessed the situation of Hai Tang's squad and came forward without concern, fully confident about taking on three opponents by himself.

In an instant, a fierce battle erupted, with Hai Tang's squad engaging that Late Stage cultivator.

Lu Ye and Han Molong's squads skillfully bypassed this battlefield from the sides, meeting up with the two approaching Constellation Mid-Stagers.

These two Mid-Stagers demonstrated the same arrogance as the Late Stager, indifferent upon realizing the enemy consisted of merely three Early Stage cultivators.

In no time, as spirit force was unleashed, two more battle zones erupted.

Immediately following was the withering of life energy!

The death of a Constellation cultivator stirred considerable disturbance, where such vigorous energy suddenly vanishing naturally drew attention.

The combatants on both sides paused momentarily, as no one expected someone to die this quickly after the battle commenced!

Almost everyone assumed an Eastern Region Constellation cultivator must have fallen, given the disparity in power. However, when countless gazes turned to where the energy had dissipated, they were all taken aback!

At that location, a spray of Blood Rain burst forth, resembling a blooming blood rose, and from this blood rose, three figures emerged, bathed in the Blood Rain and charging boldly. The leading figure was none other than Lu Ye, wielding his saber, the dark blade exuding a restrained brilliance, followed closely by Huang Li and Xiao Xinghe.

One of the Western Region's Constellation Mid-Stagers had perished!

The Constellation Late Stage cultivator fighting against the Hai Tang squad was taken aback, blurting out, "How can this be?"

He was well aware of the strength of his own mid-stage Constellation, even facing another mid-stage cultivator couldn't be killed in a single move.

But now, the enemy merely sent three early-stage and managed to do it... The scene before his eyes utterly defied his understanding; how did they achieve this? He had been focused on suppressing the Hai Tang squad and hadn't noticed what was happening there, moreover, the change occurred too swiftly.

His moment of distraction greatly reduced the pressure on the Hai Tang squad.

Though they had only exchanged blows for a few breaths, the Hai Tang squad had already sensed the power gap between them. Even with their As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc, they definitely weren't a match for their opponent.

Ultimately, Hai Tang's strength was insufficient. Although she was mid-stage, she had only advanced to it a few years ago, thus the strength she could exert was limited. Given ten more years, her performance wouldn't have been so poor.

Meanwhile, both Han Molong's squad and their opponent were left stunned as well.

But Han Molong reacted quickly, casting a glance over at Lu Ye before urging his spirit force and launching a fierce attack.

Among the nine in the Eastern group, he was the only one who had tangibly experienced Lu Ye's strength. Remembering himself as an early-stage peak, soon stepping into mid-stage Constellation, he had been overwhelmed by Lu Ye at the mid-mountain of Immortal Spirit Peak, and Lu Ye clearly hadn't gone all out then.

Thus, Han Molong always knew Lu Ye possessed at least mid-stage Constellation strength. He understood the mid-stage Constellation Lu Ye opposed would have a bad end, yet he didn't expect the opponent to die so quickly.

The unfolding situation was extremely favorable for their side, simplifying his task; he only needed to restrain his enemy, leaving no need to consider the rest.

Under such considerations and actions, he remarkably managed to push back the mid-stage opponent step by step. These Western cultivators weren't weak; if undisturbed, Han Molong's squad might not be a match. Their poor performance was partly due to the shock of their comrade's death and partly from fear, fearing Han Molong might also suddenly unleash a decisive strike.

The precedent of their comrade made him wary.

All these events transpired in the blink of an eye. After Lu Ye killed the mid-stage Constellation, he turned into a stream of light heading towards the three early-stage Western cultivators at the rear.

"This is bad!" Huang Li and Xu Xinghe's faces changed, hurrying to catch up. Yet they too had been shaken, causing them to lag a half beat, failing to keep up with Lu Ye and losing the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc's effect.

When intercepting the Western cultivators earlier, Lu Ye's slash had injured a mid-stage Constellation, dazzling them. They thought that was Lu Ye's full strength, but it turned out to be just a small test.

This external aid invited by the division team evidently possessed the capability to transcend levels and kill the enemy, and instantly at that!

The two couldn't imagine the spectacle if Lu Ye unleashed his full strength.

However, now wasn't the time to ponder, and during pursuit, they watched as Lu Ye closed in on an early-stage Western cultivator, fearlessly enduring the opponent's attacks, killing to the front, and with crisscrossing saber lights flashing, another life breath withered.

When had the remaining two early-stage Constellations ever witnessed such straightforward killing methods? Seeing Lu Ye swoop over, they immediately fled left and right, filled with dread.

Lu Ye fixed his gaze on one pursuit; meanwhile, the other was jointly restrained by Huang Li and Xu Xinghe, who had hurriedly caught up, leaving the scene in disarray.

The early-stage Constellation pursued by Lu Ye knew full well he was no match, taking out a purple talisman while fleeing, infusing it with spirit force and slapping it onto himself.

Instantly, a golden dazzling light emerged from his body.

Lu Ye recognized it at once as a Golden Body Talisman, but one different from the ones he encountered in Nine Provinces, its power undoubtedly greater, crafted by a Constellation from the Dwarf Race.

Indeed, when Lu Ye caught up, despite wielding the Boulder Mountain Saber enhanced with Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes, he had to strike three times with full force to break the opponent's Golden Body Talisman and kill him on the spot.

Before his death, that early-stage Constellation's eyes overflowed with disbelief.

It was known that his Golden Body Talisman had been nurtured for a full thirty years. Normally, breaking it required lengthy wear and intense attacks, yet now it was shattered by merely three slashes!

He momentarily doubted whether he was overly tense, mistakenly using the wrong talisman.

If it were a regular Golden Body Talisman, would one slash have shattered it? Such a fierce strike!

After dealing with his opponent, Lu Ye swiftly reunited with Huang Li and Xu Xinghe, and three of them joined forces. How could the last early-stage Constellation survive?

Returning to Han Molong's squad's battlefield, teamed up, after intense fighting, the mid-stage Constellation tangled by Han Molong's squad followed suit, meeting his comrade's end.

As of this moment, only one Constellation Late Stage from the six Western assailants remained! Since the battle broke out until now, only fifty breaths had elapsed.

This person was quite decisive. Seeing the unfavorable turn, he broke away from the battle immediately. Despite Hai Tang's full effort to entangle him, she wasn't able to keep him.

The Eastern group regrouped, but the original nine-member formation was down to eight.

Though five from the West died in battle, the East hadn't gone unscathed; one from the Hai Tang squad was killed by that Constellation Late Stage.

Chapter 1340 - Three Spheres in Hand

The Hai Tang squad lost more than one person in battle, with both Hai Tang and the remaining member severely injured.

If not for the rapid shift in the situation, had the Western late-stage been given a bit more time, he could have annihilated the entire Hai Tang squad, demonstrating his formidable strength.

But now, alone, even with late-stage cultivation, he couldn't fight against eight, especially since among them there was someone he couldn't see through.

To this moment, he still couldn't figure out how Lu Ye managed to slay his mid-stage companion with a single strike. His companion being caught off guard was likely part of the reason, but the enemy's powerful foundation was probably the main factor.

Watching as the eight from the East regrouped and hurriedly transported the Spirit Orb towards the camp, the late-stage let out a sigh; he couldn't stop them!

He could still cause disturbances and slow down the Eastern transportation of the Spirit Orb, but alone, how much impact could he really make?

Moreover, acting recklessly could put himself at risk. If a late-stage like him died here, it would be a great disgrace.

Before the Martial Arts Meet, both he and the entire West saw the South as the true enemy, not even considering the East. But now, it seemed like the quiet dog bites the hardest; unexpectedly, such a mysterious figure had emerged from the East. He felt the need to reassess the threat posed by the East.

With his insight, he naturally saw that Lu Ye didn't originate from the Dwarf Race, for in the combat, Lu Ye didn't use the traces of Spirit Talismans, and his combat style was purely of the combat cultivator school.

This was undoubtedly an external aid that the East brought in. His Constellation Early Stage cultivation was within the rules, without fault.

From afar, he shouted, "What might I call you, Fellow Daoist?"

Lu Ye, knowing the question was aimed at him, didn't turn his head, "Lu Ye!"

The Western late-stage nodded slightly, revealing his own name, "Ye Chaoqun!"

Having said that, he decisively turned around and left; staying here by himself was pointless, and it would take a long time for the fallen Western companions to catch up. He could now only hope for the Southern side, hoping they would come to hinder the East.

But for now, this hope seemed bleak, as the South had just finalized the placement of the Spirit Orb, and even with full speed, there wasn't enough time.

In the Bizarre Fog space, the three Sun Blaze factions all remained silent as this scene had continued for quite some time.

The scene they had just witnessed was truly astonishing.

In their view, six from the West had chased the East transporting the Spirit Orb. They anticipated the East would be completely wiped out, and the Spirit Orb seized, yet the situation unfolded completely against expectations.

In a mere fifty breaths, only one late-stage from the West survived, with the remaining five all killed, including two mid-stagers. On the other hand, the seemingly fragile East only lost one early-stage member.

Such a casualty ratio practically indicated a resounding victory for the East.

Not to mention, the Sun Blaze members of the South and West were taken aback, even the three from the East found it hard to believe.

The root of it all lay with one Constellation Early Stage from the East. In the Martial Arts Meet space's manifestation, wherever this person's light moved, death followed!

Especially the moment he struck down a mid-stager from the West upon first contact, it was beyond incredible.

After a long while, a Sun Blaze from the West solemnly said, "Brother Chen, when did the East develop such an outstanding talent?"

With a glimpse like a leopard, although the Sun Blaze Realm members don't know the exact intricacies of the Black Abyss' internal combat, they could tell that special Constellation Early Stage had the ability to defeat enemies across levels!

Cross-leveling killing is common when cultivators have lower cultivation. The lower the cultivation, the easier it is, but higher cultivation levels make it harder because each stage requires a huge accumulation of time.

A Constellation Realm still capable of cross-leveling killing events has never occurred in the history of the Dwarf Race.

The emergence of such talent in the East left the Western Sun Blaze both amazed and envious.

The Second Zhu of the South didn't hold back his praise, "What's more commendable is this child not only possesses extraordinary power but is also exceptionally wise!"

A Sun Blaze from the West felt uncomfortable and scoffed, "You, Second Zhu, can discern such matters from across a space?"

Second Zhu chuckled, "Then why did only six from the West pursue the East?"

That Sun Blaze replied, "Naturally, three were trapped!"

"And who trapped them?" Second Zhu pressed on.

That Sun Blaze pondered slightly and suddenly realized.

Second Zhu continued, "This lad must have planned all along to seize that sixth Spirit Orb. That's why he deployed means earlier to entrap three of the Western members. Consequently, the remaining six had to entangle with the Southern troops transporting the Spirit Orb, unable to quickly decide the victor, achieving a delay. Once the sixth Spirit Orb appeared, the East could seize the initiative. My Southern forces couldn't multitask, and your Western kids' arrogance led to only six pursuing. With this, the East could counterattack effectively, determining the course! Your Western little ones, indeed, fell into his scheme from the start."

That Western Sun Blaze was furious, "I can't figure this out myself? I don't need you to explain!"

Second Zhu didn't mind and looked at Chen Xuanhai: "Anyway, congratulations are in order, Brother Chen."

Chen Xuanhai responded sulkily, transmitting to Su Yuqing, "Fellow Daoist Su, why didn't you tell me earlier about this Lu kid's skills? You had me worried sick."

How was Su Yuqing supposed to know whether Lu Ye was capable or not? Originally, upon seeing the lineup of the South and West troops, she thought the East would once again end up at the bottom. Who knew such changes would occur?

But if things were indeed as Second Zhu explained, then Lu Ye really put his heart into this Martial Arts Meet. It looked like he was trapping the three from the Western Region, but in reality, he was preparing for the next round of Spirit Orb contention. Since the Southern Region was transporting Spirit Orbs, when new Spirit Orbs appeared, the East would only face the West as opponents! Preemptively eliminating three of their combatants was preparation for the fight ahead. This foresight was something local cultivators simply did not possess.

Understanding this, she realized it must have been the request she mentioned earlier that pressured him. Yet, she felt a bit frustrated too. Why is this kid so unwilling to stay on Mount Fangcun? Why fight so hard!

At this moment, the Eastern Region had already captured three Spirit Orbs. As long as nothing unexpected happened, they would secure at least a second-place ranking. Looking at the trend of the last battle, the Eastern Region did not seem to lack the qualifications to contend for first place.

If they truly could take first place, the East would really wash away its past shame. Not only did Su Yuqing indulge in such dreams, but Chen Xuanhai and Woo Qimo also let their minds wander, finally understanding why Su Yuqing had so much faith in Lu Ye, even to the point of using such measures. Now it seemed, Su Yuqing's efforts were worth it, bringing in a formidable general for their main camp.

At the East Camp, the third Spirit Orb was placed down.

A group of people cheered and rejoiced, full of excitement.

Never had they imagined that in such circumstances, the East could secure three Spirit Orbs. This undoubtedly meant that the East had basically secured a second-place ranking.

Initially, everyone just hoped not to lose too badly. Not only did they achieve this, but they also surpassed expectations.

Everyone knew who deserved the most credit and looked at Lu Ye with grateful expressions.

It was only after the battle just now that everyone realized the strength of this external aid brought by the department.

Everyone couldn't help but be amazed at the Sun Blaze Master Uncles' foresight!

Hai Tang returned to life.

She was heavily injured in the last battle, so after returning to the camp, she simply chose to self-destruct and resurrect. In doing so, all her previous injuries would vanish, though the consumed spirit force would not return. Moreover, resurrection itself consumed a large amount of spirit force.

Therefore, in Black Abyss, unless killed or if injuries affected their performance, cultivators would not choose resurrection lightly to avoid running out of spirit force and affecting future battles.

Accompanying her resurrection was her team member.

"Junior Brother Lu, do you think we should hold on to our current achievements or push forward?"

Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet generally had two processes: attack and defense. The earlier contest for Spirit Orbs was the attack phase. When the number of acquired Spirit Orbs neared the set target, defense became necessary.

In this way, leveraging the unique order of Black Abyss' rules, one wouldn't easily lose the achievements they fought for, unless the other two troops teamed up to attack.

Previously, when Hai Tang sought Lu Ye's opinion, she did so stealthily through audio transmission, mainly considering the reaction of her fellow race. After all, no matter what, Lu Ye was not a member of the Dwarf Race, even though his current apparent identity was as Hai Tang's Dao companion.

As the apparent leader, if Hai Tang lacked decisive judgment, it would affect morale and fighting spirit.

But now, there's no need to be sneaky anymore. Through the last battle, everyone on the Eastern side had personally witnessed Lu Ye's skills. Naturally, they knew that whatever decision Hai Tang made or strategy set, it would inevitably revolve around Lu Ye as the core.

Lu Ye said, "Senior Sister Hai Tang can decide, I'll follow the arrangement."

In his heart, he leaned towards solidifying their camp, so he could safely complete Su Yuqing's task. However, this was ultimately an internal dispute among the Dwarf Race, and as an outsider, he couldn't easily make decisive suggestions.

Hai Tang also understood this and fell into deep thought.

Lu Ye turned his head to look around, meeting several pairs of fervent eyes, he smiled and said, "No matter what we do next, restoring spirit force is the most important thing."

The words woke everyone as if from a dream. They had been so caught up in the excitement of having three orbs in hand that they completely forgot. Upon hearing this, they quickly sat down cross-legged, taking out elixir pills and spirit jades to recover.

Huang Li and Xu Xinghe both walked up together and bowed.

Lu Ye was puzzled, "What's this for?"

Huang Li replied seriously, "Rest assured, Senior Brother Lu, if there's another battle, we two will make no more mistakes!"

Only then did Lu Ye realize they were apologizing for earlier.

At that moment, the situation was truly due to the two being too shocked, their minds were affected, causing a delayed reaction and they failed to keep up with Lu Ye's pace.

In combat, such mistakes could be fatal.

Lu Ye patted both of them on the shoulders, "Let's strive together!"