

Humanity 1351

Chapter 1351 Turning Point

The Nine-Headed Hydra was lifelike, like a living creature, with two sharp fangs in the snake's mouth resembling two sharp swords, appearing invincible. But when they bit into the giant wolf, they were obstructed by its surface protection, unable to pierce through its body.

In this way, our offensive threat to the giant wolf was not significant enough.

Lu Ye understood that it wasn't the array talisman's fault on our side, but rather the cultivators' lack of strength, making it difficult to unleash the full power of the array talisman. If the lineup were of the same standard, our performance would not be so poor.

He exerted his spirit force, fiercely pushing forward, only then did he feel the fangs of the snake head he was on piercing the giant wolf's protection, slowly penetrating inward.

But even this damage was obviously not enough.

The two giant creatures stalemated and struggled, neither retreating. The Eastern side dared not retreat, lest the giant wolf used its horn to unleash that fierce assault again, while the Western side had a certain advantage and no need to retreat.

The brief stalemate made everyone in the East aware of the unfavorable situation, as their respective spirit forces were rapidly draining towards the snake head where Zhang Chao was located, which was bitten by the wolf's mouth, consuming the most. In contrast, the other two snake heads, held by the wolf claws, needed less attention.

This stalemate was extremely detrimental to the East, because once the snake head where Zhang Chao was located couldn't hold on and was bitten off by the giant wolf, even if our array talisman wasn't broken, its power would be reduced, making the situation worse.

At that moment, the thick snake tail suddenly swept across from the air, slamming hard into the giant wolf's body. At the point of impact, light burst wildly, as if a protective array were being attacked, causing the giant wolf to stumble. The cultivators in the Southern Region were violently shaken within.

The snake tail that struck the giant wolf wound around it, clearly aiming to restrain the giant wolf.

If the East succeeded, it would be challenging for the South to escape.

The Southern side reacted quickly, immediately letting go of the three restrained snake heads once they realized the Eastern intention. The massive figure leaped forward, avoiding the snake tail's entanglement while the sharp claws plowed two deep cracks into the two snake heads they had grabbed.

Spirit light flickered at the cracks, swiftly mending with the Eastern nine's spirit force supply.

The giant wolf couldn't run far because the Nine-Headed Hydra, free from its bonds, turned around to chase. Hai Tang clearly didn't want to widen the distance, lest the other side used those long-range attack methods again.

Seeing it couldn't escape, the giant wolf simply turned around to engage in a fierce battle with the Nine-Headed Hydra.

Both sides bit and pounced, shattering meteors around, the grand battle making Ye Chaoqun, who was recovering in the distance, captivated.

Not to mention outsiders like Lu Ye experiencing such a scene for the first time, even the Dwarf Race was experiencing it for the first time.

The array talisman wasn't something casually deployed. Everyone here was activating the array talisman for the first time. Their only advantage over Lu Ye was a deeper understanding of the array talisman, but in terms of hands-on experience, they were essentially on the same starting line.

In this primal mutual slaughter, the eighteen individuals from both sides continuously acquainted themselves with the array talisman's might. With this familiarity, the initially somewhat stiff silhouettes of the Nine-Headed Hydra and the giant wolf gradually became agile.

Initially, the two giant creatures might have resembled marionettes with slightly rigid movements now and then, but at that moment, both creatures truly came to life. Every collision and battle seemed extremely perilous and earth-shattering.

At the snake head where Lu Ye was, he had already retrieved a large number of spirit jades, madly refining and devouring them, while a few more demonic pills from star beasts were tucked into his belly.

This kind of combat placed a heavy burden on the cultivators' spirit force, as every wound on the two giant beasts required spirit force consumption to repair.

In the realm of spirit force recovery, he certainly had a unique advantage.

But the situation remained less optimistic. After all, the Southern Region's overall strength was stronger, and their array talisman's power was greater. During mutual slaughter, the giant wolf could easily inflict damage on the Nine-Headed Hydra, while the Nine-Headed Hydra struggled to defend effectively.

Hai Tang had long realized this and had been attempting to bind the giant wolf, yet without success.

If this continued, the East would inevitably be defeated, as in terms of consumption, the East was at a disadvantage. Even if Lu Ye frantically refined spirit jade for replenishment, it couldn't compensate.

Once the Eastern array talisman was broken, facing such a fierce and terrifying giant wolf, they would only face slaughter, leaving no chance to preserve their side's Spirit Orb in the camp.

Everyone in the East saw this, anxious but powerless.

Lu Ye was also contemplating a strategy to break the deadlock, but over and over, no good method seemed apparent. In this kind of battle, individual advantages hardly affected the situation. The South deploying array talismans forced the East to respond similarly, truly negating the space for him to leverage his abilities.

At the initial confrontation, the giant wolf paid special attention to him, frequently biting at the snake head he controlled. But after realizing even the Lu Ye-controlled snake head posed limited threat, it no

longer cared. The giant wolf opened its mouth wide, biting whichever snake head was convenient, as there were so many choices, and biting any of them was the same.

In yet another clash, Lu Ye controlled his snake head to bite at the area near the giant wolf's neck. The opponent was currently attacking another snake head and ignored his attempt at biting...

His gaze swept over the two sinister fangs on the snake head he was in, causing Lu Ye to have an idea...

Spirit force surged, and the Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes were applied to the two fangs.

A single bite!

After a brief pause, the previously solid protection broke directly, and the two-zhang-long fangs stabbed fiercely into the giant wolf's neck, as easily as stabbing into tofu.

With another fierce tear, a large chunk was missing from the giant wolf's neck, with spirit light surging inside.

It's actually feasible!

Lu Ye's eyes lit up; he saw a turning point in the battle.

All along, he had been enhancing his Boulder Mountain Saber with the Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes, never considering enhancing anything else, until he accidentally glimpsed those two fangs...

If our attack isn't enough to break through their defense, then strengthen the attack. Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes are meant for this.

He realized that his flash of inspiration had found a way to break the stalemate. The cooperation of array talismans and spirit runes could yield unexpectedly miraculous effects.

While his attempt was successful, the people of the Southern Region were taken aback, because since the confrontation began, the giant wolf had never sustained such severe injuries, making them mistakenly believe that victory was assured for them and that the Eastern Region was bound to fail.

But with a large chunk missing from the giant wolf's neck, the spirit force of the nine from the Southern Region began to deplete drastically, leaving them in shock.

Their only advantage now was that the giant wolf's defense was strong enough, with their ability to wield the array talismans being greater than that of the Eastern Region. Without this advantage, how could they win against the Eastern Region?

Duan Xiuchen reacted quickly. Realizing the problem, he immediately focused again on covering Lu Ye's position, choosing not to attack the Nine-Headed Hydra in the subsequent engagements, rather than allowing Lu Ye another bite.

Being targeted like this made it difficult for Lu Ye to succeed, even if Hai Tang was fully cooperating with him, constantly creating opportunities for him to attack.

Between the bodies of the two giant beasts, Lu Ye caught sight of Duan Xiuchen's gaze fixed on him with an obvious determination to pin him down, making Lu Ye feel quite helpless.

Since he couldn't achieve success himself, he could only let others do it!

In other words, enhance the Divine Sharp Edge on another head's fangs!

In other circumstances, it would be hard for Lu Ye to achieve this. Constructing spirit runes requires the infusion of spirit force, and without direct contact, it's naturally impossible to construct spirit runes.

However, under the coverage of the array talismans, the nine acted as one, and Lu Ye's spirit force could flow to any part of the Nine-Headed Hydra, thus providing the opportunity to enhance the spirit runes on other fangs.

In the next engagement, Duan Xiuchen, just like before, focused his defense on Lu Ye but paid little attention to the attacks from other heads. Yet, in the next moment, his face changed dramatically.

Because among the other eight heads, one suddenly broke through their defense with ease, tearing off a part of the giant wolf's body, resulting in a massive loss of their spirit force!

He concentrated and noted the position of this head.

He thought that by continuing to target it, he could avoid the previous disadvantage, yet, in the following period, a collapse-inducing scene unfolded.

In every engagement, there would be a head from the Nine-Headed Hydra that could break through their defense, sometimes this one, sometimes another, and sometimes even two or three at the same time...

There was no pattern at all!

Duan Xiuchen racked his brains but couldn't comprehend why the Eastern Region's offensive suddenly became so fierce.

Logically, given the significant overall skill gap between them, the suppression from the array talisman's power alone should have left the Eastern Region helpless. The previous engagements proved this point, yet somehow the situation had suddenly turned around!

It all started when the head where Lu Ye was suddenly exerted force.

If this had nothing to do with Lu Ye, Duan Xiuchen wouldn't believe it under any circumstances.

It truly was unguardable; he thought that by contending with array talismans, he could erase all of Lu Ye's peculiarities and advantages, but he underestimated the situation.

Even the power of the array talisman, this human race ally that the Eastern Region called upon, actually had the ability to interfere!

The advantage of the Southern Region had vanished without a trace. Realizing this, Duan Xiuchen knew that to win, they would have to fight hard!

No need to deliberately target anyone because targeting was useless.

The Southern Region fully unleashed their strength, steering the giant wolf manifested by the array talismans to continuously collide and engage with the Nine-Headed Hydra.

The battle between the two giant beasts became particularly brutal at this moment, with new injuries constantly appearing on both bodies. Initially, the spirit force of the cultivators could still mend them, but as the injuries multiplied, the cultivators' spirit force couldn't keep up with the repairs.

From a distance, both giant beasts appeared scarred and battered, yet they fought on without rest.

It's a matter of who won't hold out first!

Chapter 1352 Died Without Knowing How

The infusion of the Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes compensated for the lack of our attack, bringing new changes to the battle situation.

The collision between the two gigantic creatures was extremely fierce, hard to determine the winner, clearly a situation of equals, each covered with old and new wounds, with large chunks of their bodies missing.

Lu Ye was immensely grateful that he retracted his doppelganger in time; otherwise, even he wouldn't have been able to withstand such high-intensity combat.

Since the joint attack by the South and West troops began, his spirit force consumption had been in an extremely terrifying state, much more severe than others, especially during the time he used the Blood Technique to guard their camp, all that was consumed was his strength.

Therefore, even though he had a unique advantage in spirit force recovery, he couldn't avoid the constant draining of his spirit force.

Now, continuously infusing the Divine Sharp Edge in each clash was equally consuming, knowing that each fang was a full two zhang long, constructing the spirit runes required more spirit force compared to the usual infusions with the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Had he not retracted his doppelganger before, gaining replenishment, he might not have been able to continue.

The current state of the two factions' cultivators had their pros and cons; the Southern Region had always held the advantage of overall higher strength and deeper foundation, whereas the East, despite having weaker overall strength, had relatively full reserves of spirit force due to Lu Ye's assistance before the battle broke out, almost facing the enemy in their prime.

It's different for the South; their spirit force recovery speed is ultimately limited, and during the numerous previous clashes, the Southern cultivators had experiences of revival in varying numbers, those with poor luck had already died several times, each experiencing different degrees of spirit force drop.

This is one of the reasons why the East can now contend with the South on equal grounds.

The infusion of the Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes only enhanced the attack power of the East's array talisman; without sufficient reserves of spirit force, the eastern cultivators could also hardly hold on for long.

The intense battle raged on.

Until a certain moment, Hai Tang, who had been continuously trying, finally found an opportunity. The enormous body of the Nine-Headed Hydra clung tightly around the giant wolf's body, leaving it no room to maneuver.

The giant wolf struggled, its massive mouth and claws continually damaging the Nine-Headed Hydra, yet it couldn't escape, while the nine snake heads launched ferocious attacks, suppressing the giant wolf.

Such a scene clearly showed that the East was poised to achieve the final victory.

This invigorated everyone on the East side, motivating them further.

However, how could the South let the East have their way?

Realizing that they couldn't shake off the shackles of the East, the South stopped making futile efforts, and the unicorn on the giant wolf's forehead began to glow, with arcs of lightning flickering.

The Eastern cultivators, seeing this, how could they not know what the South was planning?

During the initial exchanges of array talismans, their side had suffered this move's loss before.

This was a fierce attack that the manifestation of their array talisman, the Nine-Headed Hydra, simply couldn't withstand due to inadequate defense!

In such a situation, the East had no choice but to keep forcing to restrain the giant wolf's movements while the nine snake heads' attacks became increasingly fierce.

Yet, in the end, the suppression was insufficient. After a full five breaths of gathering momentum, a beam like thunder magma fiercely shot out, hitting the connection between the snake head and body.

Silently, a massive hole appeared.

The spirit force of the nine from the East rushed to that spot, attempting to heal the wound.

However, the South's onslaught had not ended; before the beam of thunder magma disappeared, the giant wolf's head swayed slightly from left to right.

Like cutting through tofu, the Nine-Headed Hydra's body was severed into two...

The array talisman shattered, and nine figures flew out from the snake heads, each with chaotic expressions.

In the contest of array talismans, if one side's array talisman broke first, they would undoubtedly be at a great disadvantage, as the massive creatures manifested by the array talisman couldn't be countered by cultivators at this level.

None of the Eastern cultivators expected that in such a showdown, their side was ultimately a step behind, unsure of what to do for a moment.

Only Lu Ye, while flipping through the air, had already drawn the Boulder Mountain Saber, stabbing straight towards the grievously injured giant wolf from afar.

Like falling stars, starlights blossomed, each point of starlight was a manifestation of saber light.

Perceiving Lu Ye's response, the Eastern cultivators hurriedly gathered their wits, simultaneously deploying their techniques, and the power of one Spirit Talisman after another was unleashed, transforming into unending attacks, bombarding the giant wolf.

After unleashing that beam of thunder magma, the giant wolf's body had become extremely transparent, even the faces of the Southern cultivators within it had turned pale.

To this point, when many of the Eastern attacks descended, the giant wolf suddenly shattered, and the nine from the South ended up with the same fate as the East...

The previously panicked Eastern cultivators, seeing this, suddenly brightened their eyes, immediately realizing that the South too was at the end of their strength!

The beam of thunder magma, though powerful in attack, was also very consuming, and the remaining strength of the Southern cultivators was undoubtedly insufficient to sustain the array talisman's operation, so it crumbled with a single round of attack from their side!

The confrontation of the array talismans concluded with a draw!

Duan Xiuchen gritted his teeth and roared: "Kill!"

I thought I could use array talismans to capture the East, but who knew the opponent would be so tough and tenacious. Now that the array talisman is gone, everyone must rely on their own methods.

Almost at the same time Duan Xiuchen ordered the attack, another voice came from not far away: "Brother Duan, I'll help you!"

The people of the East looked towards that direction upon hearing the voice, their faces turned grim. Over there, a streak of light was in the lead, followed by eight streaks of light, charging aggressively towards them.

It was indeed the nine from the West!

Originally, except for Ye Chaoqun, all these guys resurrected back to the camp, but when the Southeastern factions clashed with array talismans, the resurrected eight had already rushed over, just in time for the final showdown.

After seeing the array talismans of the Southeastern factions shattered, Ye Chaoqun led his troops to charge over.

However, as soon as he spoke, his face changed. In front, a figure had already swiftly passed through the Southern camp, meeting him head-on with fierce aggression.

It was Lu Ye!

Ye Chaoqun was speechless to death, unsure of what madness Lu Ye was up to, for he should have been competing with the South, yet now he was charging towards the West.

If it were a normal time, Ye Chaoqun naturally wouldn't shy away from a fight. He even wished he could have a real confrontation with Lu Ye to test his true skills.

But earlier, he single-handedly activated the great teleporation talisman to bring the nine from the South, almost exhausting himself completely. During the Southeastern factions' clash with array talismans, he took a brief moment to recover, yet didn't restore much.

Now his spirit force was only at thirty percent of its usual state, unable to exert much strength. Facing the fiercely aggressive Lu Ye, he dared not confront him head-on.

So he made a decisive move, turned around, and fled, intending to first regroup with his own people.

A force pursued from behind; under the Mental Consciousness sweep, Ye Chaoqun realized it was weapon control, which he paid little attention to and merely dodged slightly, easily avoiding it.

A slight confusion lingered in his mind; why would someone at the Constellation level still use weapon control?

Yet, in the next moment, a bright saber light flashed in the corner of his vision!

He didn't even have time to slap a Golden Body Talisman on himself before being slashed on the spot, resurrecting back at his camp, looking bewildered.

Dying without knowing how he died!

Ye Chaoqun had always been watching the battle nearby, so Lu Ye knew, and he also knew that the eight from the West were rushing over. Hence, before Ye Chaoqun called out, he had already noticed the West's movements.

They must not let the South and West troops unite!

Especially the two at the Constellation Late Stage; if they were allowed to join forces, it would be a huge trouble for his side.

Therefore, Lu Ye directly targeted Ye Chaoqun, and didn't kill Duan Xiuchen precisely because he chose the easier target.

Relatively speaking, Ye Chaoqun was in a worse state, making him easier to kill.

In such combat, how to quickly choose an appropriate opponent is also key to victory!

The eight from the West watched Ye Chaoqun being killed with a single stroke, shocked and furious.

The Constellation Late Stage was their leader, their figurehead. No matter how fierce the battles among the three factions had been, there had been no precedent for a Constellation Late Stage dying in battle.

Duan Xiuchen's death did not count; that was self-sacrifice.

Now, in front of the three factions, their figurehead from the West, Ye Chaoqun, was slaughtered like a chick, leaving the people from the West furious!

Especially one of the Constellation Mid-Stage cultivators shouted, "Kill him, avenge Senior Brother Ye!"

No need for them to find him, Lu Ye, after slaying Ye Chaoqun, had already fiercely charged towards the people from the West. During his advance, he swung his long saber, sending massive streaks of saber light slicing through the Void.

Along with the saber light, he brazenly weathered the wild attacks from the people from the West, crashing into the crowd.

Then, a giant lotus unfolded slowly, its brilliance dazzling, erupting like a big sun, enveloping a vast area.

Within its majestic might, several forces were extinguished almost simultaneously.

When the light dissipated, the surviving cultivators from the West looked towards the field with lingering fear; Lu Ye's figure was nowhere to be seen, along with four of their own, including two Constellation Mid-Stage cultivators!

Everyone was speechless, heart seized by shock. Even after experiencing all sorts of previous battles, they knew Lu Ye from the East was an extremely enigmatic fellow, his strength not merely measurable by his level, but only after encountering him did they understand his frightfulness!

Of the nine from the West, Ye Chaoqun was the first to be slain, followed by four more instantly dying in battle, leaving only four remaining, one at the mid-stage, three at the early stage!

Truly a devastating loss.

On the East Camp platform, Lu Ye's figure appeared.

The resurrection process had no discomfort, and it was so rapid that he felt nothing at all, which left him somewhat disappointed. He hoped to experience the various mysteries of resurrection here, but now it seemed he was overthinking; the Black Abyss was a highly unique place, and he was merely a projection here, not his true self.

Chapter 1353 Despicable! Shameless!

This was Lu Ye's first time dying and resurrecting within the Black Abyss.

In fact, if it weren't for the pursuit of killing the enemy quickly and efficiently, it wouldn't have been necessary, but time was tight, and there was no extra effort to let him slowly hunt the Western Region's manpower. Completely abandoning self-protection and channeling all his power into his attacks, he couldn't withstand the Western Region's counterattacks.

After all, there were eight Constellations, not really eight little chicks, especially with three of them being in the Constellation Mid-Stage.

In one encounter, he slew four of them.

Speaking of which, the fact that he could resurrect was thanks to Su Yuqing. According to Su Yuqing's previous plan, Lu Ye was supposed to enter Black Abyss in a cunning way that wouldn't allow for resurrection. If he died in battle, he would truly be dead.

But things didn't develop according to her plan. Some minor unexpected events allowed Lu Ye to gain the same resurrection ability as the Dwarf Race.

A figure suddenly appeared beside him, and Lu Ye turned to see Han Molong.

This guy was killed too!

Not surprising, when he abandoned the original battlefield to charge towards the Western Region, he already knew that the remaining members wouldn't have a good ending.

After all, with the strength of Hai Tang's eight facing nine from the Southern Region, it was a bit too much of a stretch.

Once resurrected, Han Molong hurried to rejoin the battlefield, but was stopped by Lu Ye with a slap on the shoulder.

"Wait!" Lu Ye instructed.

Han Molong nodded, swallowed an elixir pill, and waited quietly, understanding Lu Ye's intention. Charging alone was useless because during his return to the battlefield, more of their people would be killed. That would result in them being picked off continuously, so it was better to wait here until everyone had died once, then regroup their strength.

People were continually resurrecting and returning, and after a while, nine from the East Camp gathered on the platform, showing that there was indeed a significant gap in strength.

Not far away, nine from the Southern Region and the remaining four from the Western Region gathered, glaring over here.

Lu Ye and Duan Xiuchen's eyes met, seeing the other's unwillingness, he blandly asked, "Still not giving up?"

Time was running out. Even if the Southern Region managed to seize the Spirit Orb, they probably wouldn't have a chance to transport it back to the camp. The people from the East wouldn't just stand by; they would constantly interfere during transportation.

When the time limit was up, whichever camp was closest to the Spirit Orb would claim it, so in Lu Ye's view, the Southern and Western Regions had no more reason to struggle.

Furthermore, the position favored the East: after resurrection, they could immediately rejoin the battle. In contrast, once the opponents died, they couldn't come back.

At this moment, the result of the Martial Arts Meet was already determined, and no one could change it.

Seeing this, Duan Xiuchen sighed and grinned at Lu Ye: "I find this hard to accept, what to do about it?"

If Lu Ye were a Dwarf, Duan Xiuchen wouldn't think much about it—the rise of the East would be a boon for the Dwarf Race.

But the problem was that Lu Ye was a human!

Though the East could invite such game-changers this time, what about next time? And the time after?

As a Constellation Late Stage from the Dwarf Race, being suppressed by an Early Stage human naturally felt unjust.

Lu Ye nodded, "Then we can only fight it out!"

Duan Xiuchen said, "So, the next battle isn't about the Spirit Orb; it's just a straightforward fight!" No matter what, he wanted to kill Lu Ye once head-on to show that the Dwarf Race wasn't inferior!

As he finished talking, his expression turned serious, his body swayed, and he charged straight at the East Camp, shouting, "Kill!"

Twelve figures followed close behind!

With such attitude, the people from the East had no choice but to engage.

Duan Xiuchen's only target was Lu Ye; he didn't consider others important. Given the current formation of the South and West troops, he didn't need to worry about others either. As long as he kept Lu Ye in his sights, the rest weren't threatening.

Lu Ye sensed his intentions and dashed out to meet him.

Duan Xiuchen's eyes burned with battle intent, his killing intent fierce.

It seemed a fierce clash was imminent.

However, just as they were about to collide, Lu Ye suddenly veered off, slipping by the side.

Duan Xiuchen was caught off guard, too late to intercept him. By the time he turned back, Lu Ye was already before a bewildered Constellation Early Stage.

Blade raised, life extinguished!

"Damn it!" Duan Xiuchen couldn't help but curse, turning to pursue.

But a moment too late is too late; Lu Ye was already like a tiger among sheep, indulging in slaughter.

"Golden Body Talisman, Golden Body Talisman!" Duan Xiuchen roared angrily. He had noticed there was something unusual about Lu Ye's long sword. This unremarkable black blade had unimaginable sharpness, beyond what the protective spirit force of a Constellation Early Stage cultivator could withstand.

Only the Golden Body Talisman could block it.

With his reminder, everyone quickly summoned the Golden Body Talisman to protect themselves.

Immediately, Duan Xiuchen witnessed an unbelievable scene. A cultivator at Constellation Early Stage, who had been approached by Lu Ye, had his protection pierced by a single slash, and was killed with two strikes, despite being guarded by a Golden Body Talisman!

The talismans of the Dwarf Race are quite fascinating items. Unlike talismans refined by other races, the Dwarf Race's talismans can be nurtured, leveraging one's own blood Qi or spirit force to maintain them over time. The longer they are nurtured, the greater their power, up to the limit of the Spirit Talisman.

The talismans made by other races generally lack this characteristic, which is why throughout the stellar space, the Dwarf Race's talismans are highly sought after.

However, in general, the talismans of the Dwarf Race don't easily flow outside, and others rarely have a chance to obtain them.

Previously, Lu Ye had killed a cultivator at Constellation Early Stage who was protected by a Golden Body Talisman. He slashed three times because that Golden Body Talisman had been nurtured for thirty years.

This time is different. The opponent's Golden Body Talisman isn't as powerful as the previous one, so naturally, its defense is weaker.

Mostly because of the excessive number of combats, the powerful talismans of the Dwarf Race have mostly been used up, leaving only some lower-level Spirit Talismans.

This greatly facilitated Lu Ye's slaughter.

During this brief delay, Duan Xiuchen finally caught up with Lu Ye, swinging his fists to envelop him within his aggressive momentum, shouting, "You despicable!"

Just moments ago, he thought Lu Ye intended to fight him head-on, but unexpectedly, this fellow feigned and targeted his subordinates instead. This was utterly shameless.

Given Lu Ye's speed in slaughtering, if he doesn't restrain him, it won't be long before he himself becomes isolated.

Realizing this, Duan Xiuchen naturally held nothing back, exerting himself fully!

Although his spirit force consumption was also significant, it hadn't reached the limit affecting his own strength, so his power wouldn't decline within a short time.

Yet, after engaging, he was terrified to discover that Lu Ye's strength was unexpectedly formidable, feeling himself gradually disadvantaged!

Until now, he had never engaged directly with Lu Ye, presuming that this fellow, no matter how capable, would at best possess the strength of Constellation Late Stage, but now it was evident that this was not the case.

After a brief clash, Duan Xiuchen was forced back by a single slash, as Lu Ye had no intention of entangling with him and turned to attack another cultivator at Constellation Mid-Stage.

Duan Xiuchen pursued fiercely, shouting, "Stop killing my people!"

Yet, just as these words left his mouth, the Constellation Mid-Stage was already bloodstained Void, reborn and retreated!

Not only those killed by Lu Ye were reborn, but also the troops from the East Camp.

The greatest advantage of the East Camp manifested thoroughly at this moment. After being slain, they could immediately rejoin the battlefield, hence from a glance, the East Camp's reinforcements seemed unending.

In that Bizarre Fog space, the three factions of Sun Blaze had not communicated for a long time.

Since the East Camp captured the fourth Spirit Orb, the Sun Blaze from the South and West troops seemed to have been rendered mute, lacking their previous cheerfulness.

Chen Xuanhai and others remained silent, primarily because none expected Lu Ye to be so competent, not only capturing the third Spirit Orb but the fourth one as well.

Upon seeing the joint attack from the South and West troops, they thought the East Camp couldn't preserve its achievements, yet the South and West troops were successfully isolated.

Afterward, the Western Region's forces nearly perished entirely. Ye Chaoqun leveraged the large teleportation talisman to summon nine members from the Southern Region. The talisman array contest between East and South troops unraveled before their eyes.

The situation within the Black Abyss was unpredictable, even those experienced Sun Blaze experts marveled at the spectacle.

Until this moment...

It became clear that the factions were in fierce combat, continually seeing the Eastern Camp's lights extinguish and reappear, then extinguish again, intermittently mixed with dimming lights representing the other two troop's cultivators.

Though not on-site, one could imagine the battlefield's intensity.

A group of spectators watched with hearts pounding uneasily, were these youngsters truly igniting with genuine fury? How did things escalate to such brutality? If so, it wouldn't bode well for internal unity among the Dwarf Race.

Throughout history, Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet had never seen a conflict so vicious.

Gradually, the situation became clear, as the lights representing the South and West troops' cultivators had dwindled down to just one.

Judging from the brightness of that yellow light, it should be the Constellation Late Stage from the Southern Region!

At this moment, with Lu Ye's unbridled hunting and the East Camp's swift reinforcement capabilities, they had brutally reduced the enemy to just Duan Xiuchen standing alone.

By this point, he still wore a face of deep anger, looking at Lu Ye with a complex expression, occasionally bursting out words like "despicable" and "shameless."

On the opposite side, Lu Ye stood alone in front, Hai Tang and eight others behind, each with a pallid complexion.

Such intense battle, such rebirth, had nearly drained their strength. It could be said that at this moment, those standing behind Lu Ye were as frail as if made of paper.

Yet, each was visibly excited, for with the situation now, they truly secured first place!

A first they hadn't dared imagine before the Martial Arts Meet!

Chapter 1354 All Thanks to Fellow Daoist Su's Efforts!

On the battlefield beside the East Camp, Duan Xiuchen looked up at the sky, his expression helpless.

The tide has turned!

How did things slowly develop to this point?

Before the Martial Arts Meet, both the South and West troops only regarded each other as opponents, and neither paid any attention to the East, especially after confirming the East's frail lineup, both sides of cultivators thought that this time the East was just here for a bit of fun again.

But it was this seemingly frail East that couldn't withstand a blow that, surprisingly, left the combined forces of the South and West unable to contend, leaving them completely frustrated.

Ultimately, it was simply underestimating the enemy too much.

If the two troops had allied from the beginning and fully suppressed the East, then the East would have had no chance of achieving such results.

Of course, the enemy was also too cunning, initially showing no sign of their strength, only to unleash various methods mid-battle, leaving others overwhelmed.

Now, he was left alone here, while eight of the nine from the East, although appearing to be spent forces, still held a tremendous advantage in geography, plus there was Lu Ye, who seemed even stronger than himself...

Duan Xiuchen knew he was powerless to turn the tide.

Yet, he was somewhat unwilling!

Lu Ye stepped forward, signaling with his saber: "Come!"

Duan Xiuchen's gaze lowered, meeting Lu Ye's eyes, understanding his intent; this was to have one final battle with him!

Refocusing his mind, his expression turned solemn, and his entire spirit force surged rapidly, his battle intent soaring to the heavens in an instant!

"Kill!"

A chilly word slipped from his lips, and although he was alone, he was as fierce as a thousand troops, his figure turned into a streak of light, charging toward Lu Ye.

At the same time, Lu Ye also advanced with his saber, while the eight behind him remained motionless, just watching quietly.

The two figures rapidly approached each other, their spirit light dazzlingly bright in an instant, colliding in a flash.

In a momentary stasis, their spirit forces entangled, and a meteorite passing nearby was directly reduced to dust.

Hai Tang and the others strained their ocular power, focusing intently. Through the veiling spirit light, they clearly saw Duan Xiuchen's fist blocking Lu Ye's saber strike.

The full-force explosion of a Constellation Late Stage cultivator not only imbued his fist with violent destruction but also solid spirit force protection.

The Boulder Mountain Saber couldn't cut through immediately!

The two were at a standstill, both fiercely channeling spirit force, bodies leaning forward, eyes locked, almost forming a face-to-face clash, just for that final struggle!

Three breaths later, the standoff broke.

Hai Tang and the others clearly saw Lu Ye's saber pressure forward slightly; although Duan Xiuchen's body did not retreat, the spirit force protection on his fist was shattered.

This undoubtedly meant that in such a direct confrontation, Duan Xiuchen had fallen behind.

It wasn't because Lu Ye had a weapon while Duan Xiuchen did not. Even if Duan Xiuchen were only at the True Lake or Divine Sea stage, his choice of combat style was his forte; he lacked a weapon, but his fists were the perfect weapon for him. Forcing him to use some other weapon would likely hinder his ability.

Duan Xiuchen's expression remained calm, even though he indeed fell behind, without a hint of change in his demeanor.

The saber continued to press down, thoroughly breaking the spirit force protection, cutting into Duan Xiuchen's flesh, blood splattering. With the opponent's spirit force no longer a barrier, the downward speed suddenly increased, and as the astonishing saber light flashed, it already sliced through half of Duan Xiuchen's arm along with half his body!

At that moment, Duan Xiuchen's other fist surged forward, hitting Lu Ye's face.

Lightly and without strength, like a breeze brushing past, Lu Ye's form didn't even sway.

After channeling all his power into that fierce punch, he had no energy left...

Before fading away, Duan Xiuchen, always calm, grinned at Lu Ye, as if taking satisfaction from landing that last punch.

Behind Lu Ye, Hai Tang and others watched quietly, neither cheering nor leaping in joy, each with complex expressions.

Lu Ye leading the East to win this Martial Arts Meet and seize first place was a cause for celebration, but as a member of the human race, facing a Dwarf Race Constellation Late Stage directly with only a Constellation Early Stage level, it couldn't truly bring joy.

Of course, such a confrontation couldn't truly reflect a cultivator's essence.

Because everyone saw that in this final collision, both Lu Ye and Duan Xiuchen had abandoned self-protection, channeling all their strength into that fierce strike, meaning inevitably one would fall in battle.

Real combat wouldn't be so straightforward, both sides would exhaust all manner of techniques, slowly seizing advantage and converting it into a winning or killing blow!

But this fact still couldn't erase that a Constellation Late Stage Dwarf Race was defeated in such a direct clash by a Constellation Early Stage human race.

This left the people from the East with mixed feelings.

Is it that the Dwarf Race is too weak, or is Lu Ye too strong?

If it's the latter, it doesn't matter. Since ancient times, the human race has been full of remarkable talents, always having some new stars of the era, radiating brilliance so dazzling that other races cannot directly look upon them.

But if it's the former... then all of them need to reflect a bit.

In the Bizarre Fog space, when the red dot representing Duan Xiuchen extinguished, the three Sun Blaze troops, including even the East, sighed slightly.

This was not what they hoped to see. Hai Tang and others could think of some things, so how could these Sun Blaze not think of it?

After a moment of silence, the eldest Sun Blaze from the West spoke: "It seems necessary to let the youngsters go out more and hone themselves. Let's find an opportunity for everyone to sit down and discuss this together and come up with a plan."

In fact, this wasn't the first time the Sun Blaze realized the issues with the Dwarf Race. However, the situation was a bit special; because they moved with the floating Mount Fangcun, they couldn't stray too far from their main base, leading to insufficient experience, unlike cultivators from other domains, who could roam around, and return home if they missed it.

But even after realizing it, it was hard to make improvements, and the Sun Blaze couldn't decide to take action on this issue.

This Martial Arts Meet exposed many problems, especially the last duel between Lu Ye and Duan Xiuchen, making the Sun Blaze realize that if things went on like this, the vast stellar space would probably no longer have a place for the Dwarf Race.

A Constellation Late Stage was killed by a Constellation Early Stage... truly humiliating.

"Agreed!" Second Zhu from the South nodded in agreement.

The East naturally had no objections either.

"Then it's settled." The Sun Blaze from the West flickered and disappeared, and the other Sun Blazes from the South and West had no intention of staying and left one after another.

Chen Xuanhai and others were the last to leave, reappearing by the Black Abyss. Chen Xuanhai and Woo Qimo exchanged a glance and suddenly saluted Su Yuqing.

Su Yuqing was bewildered: "What are the two of you doing?"

Chen Xuanhai said, "In any case, we must thank Fellow Daoist Su for bringing strong reinforcements for our troop, which allowed us to win first place in the Martial Arts Meet. Ahem... The contributions of Fellow Daoist will not be forgotten by our troop!"

Woo Qimo also nodded vigorously: "Yes, yes, our troop's victory this time is all thanks to Fellow Daoist Su. Brother Chen and I will remember this in our hearts!"

It would be best if you just forgot!

Su Yuqing glared at them angrily, turned her head, and didn't bother speaking to them further.

As the fog in the Black Abyss churned, figures emerged, precisely the nine participants from the East, with Hai Tang at the forefront and Lu Ye and others following closely behind.

Seeing Chen Xuanhai and the three still waiting there, Hai Tang quickly stepped forward with a respectful salute: "The disciples have not shamed the mission!"

Chen Xuanhai showed a slight smile: "You've all done very well, better than we expected." As he spoke, he glanced at Lu Ye, his eyes full of appreciation.

Having watched the entire Martial Arts Meet, he naturally knew who the major contributor was this time, but there was no need for further comment at this moment.

Initially, from his standpoint, Lu Ye was just a junior, but because of Su Yuqing, he couldn't consider him merely as a junior now. However, he had to admit that Su Yuqing's eye for people was indeed sharp, something he acknowledged he fell short in.

"You all have worked hard this time at the Martial Arts Meet; go and rest up. Although we won first place, do not let this make you arrogant or complacent!"

Everyone acknowledged, there was no room for arrogance or complacency. If it weren't for Lu Ye's various strategies, they would not have even secured second place, let alone first.

It could be said that ninety percent of the credit for winning first in the Martial Arts Meet belonged to Lu Ye, with the remaining ten percent being their hard work.

As the group dispersed, Su Yuqing led Lu Ye and Hai Tang toward Immortal Spirit Peak, flying in silence.

Upon reaching the skies above the valley, Su Yuqing released her spirit force's embrace, allowing Lu Ye to descend directly.

Upon detecting movement, Nian Yuexian, who had been waiting here, came out to investigate. Seeing it was Lu Ye, she couldn't help but look him over, confirming that he wasn't missing any limbs before asking, "How did it go?"

"Not too bad," Lu Ye responded casually.

"So when can we leave here?"

Lu Ye was momentarily stunned, "I forgot to ask."

The main reason being that during the flight back, Su Yuqing's expression seemed off, icy even; it didn't seem appropriate for him to speak up rashly.

Nian Yuexian glared at him: "Could it be you've found a Dao companion here, lingering and not wanting to leave? If so, stay here yourself; I'll leave alone."

"What nonsense, Senior Sister? The matter with Hai Tang being my Dao companion was just a pretense to fool others; otherwise, there was no way to explain how I could enter the Black Abyss."

Nian Yuexian snorted lightly: "Who knows? Besides, Hai Tang mentioned before that only those carrying the aura of the Dwarf Race can enter the Black Abyss. If your Dao companion status with Hai Tang is just a ruse, how did you enter the Black Abyss then?"

Her words struck Lu Ye in a sensitive spot. He replied without changing expression, "That Senior Su has a secret technique, allowing me to enter in a somewhat opportunistic manner. The specifics of the mystery I do not know, I merely followed instructions."

Nian Yuexian was skeptical.

Afraid she would ask something he couldn't answer, Lu Ye quickly said, "I'll rest now. If nothing is said in a couple of days, I'll ask Senior Sister Hai Tang to inquire."

Chapter 1355 Sending Them Away

Several days later, Lu Ye pinched the audio talisman, investigating Hai Tang's reply.

Since returning from the Martial Arts Meet, he had been waiting for Su Yuqing to fulfill the agreement, but she hadn't reached out to him, nor had Hai Tang sent any message.

Helpless, he had to inquire proactively.

Without Su Yuqing's audio talisman marking, he sent a message to Hai Tang.

The result gave him a rather speechless answer...

Su Yuqing is not in the main domain now!

As it has been through the ages, after the Martial Arts Meet, the three divisions of Sun Blaze begin to work on dividing the background of Mount Fangcun, which is a justified thing to do.

Although Mount Fangcun is divided into three parts, due to some mysterious connections, not only can they interact with each other, but also control the flow of each other's backgrounds.

The Eastern Region hardly won first place, so naturally, they must go to reap their rewards, which is determined by the results of the Martial Arts Meet. In the next fifty years, the East will receive forty percent of the background, the South thirty percent, and the West will have a pitiful twenty percent...

Fifty years cannot determine the future development of a domain, but it is ultimately a good start. If the East can win second or first place in the next Martial Arts Meet, the days ahead are bound to get better and better.

Lu Ye suddenly realized why the recent days felt like subtle changes in the home world's ambiance, which seemed to be due to the increase of background within the domain.

Upon asking how long such division would take, Hai Tang's reply was that it would basically be within a month!

Having no choice, he could only continue to wait.

Lu Ye did not think Su Yuqing was deliberately doing this since, according to their previous agreement, he needed her to help transport himself and Nian Yuexian to the place where Nian Yuexian fell in the main domain, to prevent them from getting lost after leaving Mount Fangcun.

By his calculations, it had been almost eight months since Nian Yuexian fell at Mount Fangcun. In such a long time, who knows how far the main Mount Fangcun had drifted. Even if they managed to leave this domain now, they would surely be clueless about the outside stellar space.

Since they needed someone to help with transportation, the person must handle urgent matters first, and dividing Mount Fangcun's background is an unshiftable responsibility for the Sun Blaze of the main domain.

Just about to end the communication with Hai Tang, Lu Ye suddenly thought of something else: "Senior Sister Hai Tang, does your Dwarf Race's talisman refinement involve spirit runes?"

In the Black Abyss, he had seen too many of the Dwarf Race use spirit talismans. The most memorable was undoubtedly the Golden Body Talisman, which was used in almost every combat, providing excellent defense.

The spirit talisman refinement in the Nine Provinces requires the use of spirit runes. Although Lu Ye had never refined one himself, he had some understanding of this common knowledge.

The basic principle is to construct spirit runes within the talisman, then seal it using a special technique. When needed, it can be activated to release the sealing, and thus the power of the spirit runes is activated, transformed into the talisman's power.

It seems the Dwarf Race's spirit talismans should be similar.

"Exactly!" Hai Tang's reply came, seemingly misunderstanding Lu Ye's intention, "Junior Brother, are you interested in learning the art of talisman refinement? I can teach you."

Lu Ye was taken aback: "Isn't that inappropriate? This is, after all, your Dwarf Race's technique. If your master finds out..."

"Before leaving, my master told me that Junior Brother is the biggest contributor to this Martial Arts Meet, so any request can be fulfilled. Moreover, officially speaking, we are still Dao companions, so you're considered half a member of the Dwarf Race. Learning these isn't a problem, though since Junior Brother doesn't have the Dwarf Race's bloodline, the power of the talismans you refine might be somewhat weaker."

Listening to the first half of her words, Lu Ye genuinely became interested in the Talisman Refinement Path. After all, he needed to wait for Su Yuqing's return. He couldn't just wait idly, so learning more things wouldn't hurt—but after hearing the second half, he dispelled the thought.

The Dwarf Race's talismans are more powerful than those refined by other races primarily due to their bloodline reasons. They have unique techniques that others cannot imitate.

In this case, even if he wished to learn the Talisman Refinement Path, it didn't necessarily have to be with the Dwarf Race.

"Senior Sister, could you organize the spirit runes used in your talisman refinement for me? I'd like to observe them."

He was more interested in the spirit runes used by the Dwarf Race than the spirit talismans themselves. If he could deduce and comprehend from them, it would be significantly rewarding.

"No problem!" Hai Tang agreed readily.

A moment later, Hai Tang arrived at the valley, handing over a thick tome to Lu Ye: "This contains all the spirit runes used in our Dwarf Race's talisman refinement. Junior Brother, observe at your leisure."

Lu Ye took it, feeling its weight, and could see that this thick tome was not made of simple paper, nor any beast hide, but rather a peculiar kind of jade cut into very thin pages.

And it was evidently something from many years ago.

"This must be quite precious, right?" Lu Ye asked.

Hai Tang smiled slightly: "It is a heritage item of my Immortal Spirit Peak."

Lu Ye understood: "I will take good care of it."

Hai Tang did not linger. The Martial Arts Meet had greatly benefited her, and if it weren't for Lu Ye seeking her, she would still be in closed cultivation.

After Hai Tang left, Lu Ye opened the thick tome before him and calmly investigated.

The reason he was interested in the spirit runes of the Dwarf Race was naturally because he had personally verified the power of the Golden Body Talisman.

With the Talent Tree's second metamorphosis, he had deduced the Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes based on Sharpness, which could basically meet his current combat needs.

But what about when his cultivation deepens in the future? He couldn't guarantee that these would suffice, so he needed to gather the strengths of the hundred schools, improving his information reserves on the Path of Spirit Runes. If one day, the Divine Sharp Edge couldn't satisfy his combat needs, he could always deduce and improve it.

Moreover, though he currently had Divine Sharp Edge for offense, he still lacked in defense.

The power of the Defense Spirit Runes was already inadequate for use. Lu Ye had always wanted an opportunity to deduce a new defensive spirit rune so that his situation in fierce and dangerous combats could become safer.

Having both offense and defense allows one to advance or retreat.

Within the Nine Provinces, in the Sacred Land of the spirit runes masters, he gained considerably, and it was precisely this event combined with previous accumulations that led to the birth of the Divine Sharp Edge.

Since then, Lu Ye realized that for a spirit runes master, an adequately vast reserve of information is fundamental to continually advancing one's knowledge.

Now that an opportunity has arisen, he certainly wouldn't miss it.

Perhaps in the future, he would have the chance to acquire the spirit rune reserves of other races, but for now, the Dwarf Race's collection here was enough for him to digest for a long time.

Lu Ye immersed himself in those ancient tomes, absorbing the mysteries within, completely forgetting the passage of time.

The heritage items of the Immortal Spirit Peak are ancient, not only containing various aspects of spirit runes but also numerous methods of crafting these runes using spirit runes as a foundation.

It could be said that during his observation of these items, Lu Ye learned not only about spirit runes but also how the Dwarf Race crafted Spirit Talismans.

Of course, this understanding was superficial and far from the actual crafting process.

Just like an Alchemist acquiring an elixir pill formula, it doesn't mean they can immediately craft the corresponding elixir pill. It requires thousands of attempts, continuously honing one's skills, and any slight mistake could lead to the ruin of a batch of elixir pills.

Talisman refinement and Alchemy are similar, with no room for error, and talisman refinement is perhaps even more stringent.

During this period, Nian Yuexian visited Lu Ye once; after learning about Su Yuqing's situation from him, she also knew urging him was useless and could only wait patiently.

Fortunately for her, she had the spirit jade Lu Ye had given her earlier, so it didn't delay her cultivation.

A month went by in the blink of an eye!

On this day, as Lu Ye was contemplating the mysteries of an unseen spirit rune from the heavy tomes, the audio talisman suddenly stirred.

Upon investigation, he confirmed it was a message from Hai Tang.

Su Yuqing has returned!

Judging by the timing, it was more or less in line with Hai Tang's prediction.

Lu Ye was overjoyed and quickly asked her to pass the message that he wished to meet Su Yuqing to discuss their departure.

Hai Tang readily agreed.

In just a moment, a powerful presence suddenly descended into the valley, and Lu Ye quickly stepped out to see Su Yuqing, dressed in white like snow, with a cold expression.

He couldn't help but wonder if it was an illusion, but Lu Ye found that Su Yuqing's recent interactions felt entirely different from before. When he first met this woman, she seemed dignified yet composed; now, all that remained was cold indifference.

Lu Ye reckoned it was probably related to the previous incident...

He stepped forward and cupped his fists, saying: "Greetings, previous... Peak Master!"

Su Yuqing didn't even look at him, merely said coldly: "Hai Tang said you are eager to leave?"

"It's not that urgent."

Previously, he was eager to depart, but now, having obtained the heritage tomes of the Immortal Spirit Peak, he was engrossed in pondering them and could continue his stay for a while longer. Leaving now would forgo further contemplation.

Su Yuqing seemed not to have heard, her words icy: "Since you're in such a rush to leave, I shall send you off as previously agreed!"

It was time to chase him off!

Lu Ye understood that in the presence of a Sun Blaze, he had no room for negotiation and promptly nodded: "Please wait a moment, Peak Master, I'll summon Senior Sister."

He turned and went to Nian Yuexian's retreat, called her out, and upon learning that they would be leaving immediately, Nian Yuexian sighed in relief.

Although staying here had been fine, ultimately, they couldn't remain in the Dwarf Race domain indefinitely.

Su Yuqing waved her delicate hand, and an item was thrown out, expanding against the wind, transforming into a two-story spirit ark nearly ten meters high in an instant.

Its design wasn't much different from the spirit arks Lu Ye had seen in the Nine Provinces, but he clearly understood it was not the same and surely of higher quality.

It seemed that Su Yuqing intended to use this to carry them through stellar space.

Su Yuqing's figure flickered, landing on the spirit ark's second floor, and then she disappeared into the cabin.

Seeing this, Lu Ye quickly beckoned Nian Yuexian to board the ark, only staying on the first floor's deck.

The spirit ark trembled slightly, then turned into a streak of light heading towards the domain's edge.

Lu Ye took out the audio talisman, sent a message to Hai Tang to say goodbye, and moments later, he received a reply from Hai Tang. He looked down to see a familiar figure waving at him from the peak of the Immortal Spirit Peak.

Chapter 1356 Don't Speak!

When Lu Ye followed Hai Tang into Mount Fangcun, he distinctly felt as if he had collided into an undetectable film, but now, inside the spirit ark, there was no special feeling as they left Mount Fangcun.

In an instant, they exited the domain of Mount Fangcun and entered the deep stellar space. Looking back, they saw the inconspicuous small mountain drifting away in the opposite direction, growing ever more distant.

"This should be the starboat, right?" On the deck, Nian Yuexian asked softly.

Lu Ye nodded, "It certainly is."

The two of them had stayed a long time in Xiyuan Pavilion on Mount Fangcun, having read all the literature below the fourth level, so now they were not completely ignorant of common knowledge regarding stellar space.

They naturally knew that the flying artifacts used by cultivators from Constellation on their travels through stellar space are called starboats, though there are other types of flying artifacts, starboats are the most common.

Technically speaking, a starboat is essentially a spirit ark, but its major difference from a spirit ark is a specially forged Sharpness collision angle at the front of the spirit ark.

This piece is used to break through small obstacles, such as the meteorites commonly seen scattered throughout stellar space.

Due to the lack of resistance while flying through stellar space, theoretically, the speed can continually increase; Lu Ye personally tested this upon stepping into stellar space from the Nine Provinces.

But this remains theoretical; in practice, cultivators keep their flight speed within a reasonable range, which is the maximum limit for their sensory response to ensure they don't suddenly crash into anything. Therefore, the stronger a cultivator's Mental Consciousness, the quicker their reaction, and hence, the faster they can control their flight speed.

Flying with the aid of a starboat allows faster speeds, far beyond the limits of a cultivator's reaction time, making the collision angle on the starboat's front very necessary.

Thus, small obstacles can be broken through directly without hindrance.

If one encounters a large obstacle that cannot be broken through, the starboat is equipped with an alarm array inside to sense farther positions, promptly alerting the cultivator piloting the starboat, allowing them to take evasive action to ensure both their own safety and that of the starboat.

So, the main difference between standard spirit ark and a starboat is the presence of a collision angle. If there is a collision angle, it is mostly used for traveling in stellar space as a starboat.

Of course, the materials are different; most materials from within a domain cannot be used in stellar space because the omnipresent stellar space energy is corrosive by nature, easily damaging materials of insufficient quality.

Lu Ye estimated that even if the breadth of expertise and resources of the Nine Provinces were fully leveraged, suitable starboats might not be manufacturable, but as the Nine Provinces' background

continues to grow, and the quality of heavenly materials and earthly treasures improves, this situation should slowly improve.

In summary, starboats are incredibly valuable flying artifacts, indispensable aids for cultivators exploring stellar space.

Although Lu Ye and Nian Yuexian had known of starboats from the information in Xiyuan Pavilion, this was their first time seeing one, and judging by Su Yuqing's starboat size, it was clearly extraordinary, naturally sparking their curiosity.

Standing on the deck and feeling it, this starboat's speed was indeed astonishing, which they could never reach flying alone.

Occasionally, some drifting meteorites were struck and pulverized, yet the starboat itself remained stable without feeling a tremor. Lu Ye even saw a meteorite as big as two houses split in half upon impact, secretly marveling.

If he were to crash into such a meteorite without controlling his speed, the outcome wouldn't be favorable, so it's clear this starboat's strength far surpasses his physical constitution.

After all, it belongs to the Sun Blaze Realm, truly extraordinary.

Once the novelty wore off, it lost its freshness.

The main point is that this starboat isn't their own, so watching from a distance was enough; they wouldn't act like country bumpkins having never seen the world.

The duo returned to their cabins, each finding a room.

Nian Yuexian meditated in cultivation, while Lu Ye continued cultivating while also perusing a thick compendium.

Time flew by.

About half a month later, the starboat that had been flying smoothly suddenly experienced a mild tremor, prompting Lu Ye, who was immersed in study, to slowly awaken and step out of his room to the deck.

Nian Yuexian also emerged, and they exchanged glances, surveying the surroundings, noticing that this region of stellar space seemed somewhat familiar.

After further looking around, they unexpectedly saw the familiar Sun and Taibai Star.

"Are we here already?" Nian Yuexian said, astonished.

This place was where she originally fell into Mount Fangcun.

Remember that she had been lost from Mount Fangcun for over eight months now, and Mount Fangcun has been in constant motion. Regardless of how slow its speed, during this time it must have flown quite a distance.

Yet Su Yuqing managed to bring them back within half a month, and it surely wasn't at her maximum speed.

From here to the Nine Provinces, with the speed both currently have, it should take less than six months!

Su Yuqing hadn't shown herself, perhaps thinking it unnecessary. She was merely fulfilling the prior promise made with Lu Ye.

"We should thank and bid goodbye to Senior Su," Nian Yuexian remarked.

Lu Ye nodded, "Indeed."

They were about to head to the second floor, but suddenly, Nian Yuexian paused.

Lu Ye was puzzled and turned to look at her.

Nian Yuexian said, "Senior Su wants you to go alone."

Lu Ye was indifferent: "I'll be right back."

He flickered and leaped to the second floor, standing in front of the cabin door, just about to raise his hand to knock when the door opened on its own.

Lu Ye straightened his expression, stepped inside, and the door closed behind him. He looked up to see a woman sitting cross-legged on a soft couch, her expression indifferent.

Her figure was the size of an average person, not the petite appearance of the Dwarf Race. Lu Ye knew that this was a secret technique of the Dwarf Race; they could transform into the size of average people, though it would consume spirit force. Usually, when they acted outside, the Dwarf Race used this appearance to look indistinguishable from the human race, making it easier to hide their identities.

This was the first time since that day that the two were alone together. But facing a cultivator of the Sun Blaze Realm, Lu Ye dared not be disrespectful. He approached honestly: "Peak Master!"

Su Yuqing didn't even lift an eyelid, her voice faint, cold as water, without any fluctuation: "You placed first in the Martial Arts Meet. Everyone else has rewards. After discussing with your two Master Uncles, even though you're not of the Dwarf Race, you were the greatest contributor this time, so you shouldn't be treated differently because of your identity. The contents here are a reward; consider it a gift from my Eastern side."

Saying this, she flicked her fingers, and a storage ring flew towards Lu Ye.

Lu Ye reached out to catch it, not in a hurry to inspect it.

Just as he was about to express his thanks, Su Yuqing flicked out another storage ring: "And this one is for you too."

Though Lu Ye didn't understand why there were two rewards, he still accepted both.

Su Yuqing said no more. After waiting a moment, confirming she had no other instructions, Lu Ye finally spoke: "Thank you, Peak Master, for escorting us all the way. My Senior Sister and I have reached our destination. Farewell!"

Su Yuqing kept her eyes down, with no reaction.

Seeing this, Lu Ye slightly clasped his fists and was about to turn and leave.

"Aren't you forgetting something?" Su Yuqing's voice suddenly rang out.

Lu Ye was momentarily stunned but quickly reacted, hastily taking out the heavy tome: "I truly forgot about this!"

Though time was short and he hadn't fully comprehended it, Lu Ye had browsed through most of it, so returning it wasn't much of a problem.

This tome was ultimately a heritage item of the Immortal Spirit Peak. It might not have much practical value to the Immortal Spirit Peak, but it certainly held significant symbolic importance.

Su Yuqing's request to reclaim it was only natural.

She showed no intention of taking it, so Lu Ye could only place it in front of her.

"Take care, Peak Master!" Lu Ye finished speaking, turned around to leave. As he reached the doorway, a gust of wind brushed past his ear, crashing into the door with a loud thud, flipping open the jade pages, and the heavy tome just landed at Lu Ye's feet.

"If you like it, take it and leave!" a cold voice came from behind.

Lu Ye looked down at the tome by his feet, bent over to pick it up, and carefully stowed it.

Turning around, he strode towards Su Yuqing as if about to face a formidable enemy, his entire aura suddenly becoming fiercely aggressive.

Su Yuqing, who had kept her gaze lowered, finally raised her head, looking at Lu Ye in astonishment, her expression showing a hint of panic: "What are you doing?"

"Don't speak!"

On the deck, Nian Yuexian looked at the deep stellar space, her brows furrowing.

Lu Ye had been summoned by Su Yuqing for an entire day and still hadn't come out. She didn't know what was happening inside. Several times she wanted to charge in but held back, considering the vast difference in strength between them.

Perhaps that Senior Su was instructing Lu Ye on something important?

Two more days passed like this. Nian Yuexian finally couldn't stand it, and just as she decided to investigate, the second-floor door suddenly opened, and Lu Ye's figure emerged, calling to her: "Senior Sister, let's go home!"

Nian Yuexian inexplicably sensed a cheerful tone in Lu Ye's words, not knowing what good thing had happened.

She gave a slight bow towards the second floor before catching up with Lu Ye.

In the stellar space, Lu Ye and Nian Yuexian walked side by side, flying towards the Nine Provinces.

Lu Ye's expression remained solemn, his gaze deep.

Nian Yuexian occasionally turned her head to glance at him.

At first, Lu Ye didn't mind, but gradually, he noticed Nian Yuexian's expression turning peculiar and odd, prompting him to ask: "Senior Sister, is there something on my face?"

Nian Yuexian let out a cold laugh: "Not on your face, but on your neck!"

Lu Ye was taken aback and quickly rummaged through his storage space, finally finding a mirror-like artifact. He opened it and looked at himself.

He immediately saw a conspicuous mark on his neck!

Oh no...!

Even though Lu Ye was quite experienced, he couldn't help but blush deeply at this moment.

Chapter 1357 The Dwarf Race's Xie Li

This was intentional!

Thinking about it, even as a Constellation Early Stage cultivator, brimming with the Essence of Blood and Flesh, any damage to the skin and flesh would quickly recover. There's no reason for such a mark to persist.

Yet, that's exactly the case!

This was clearly a method left by Su Yuqing. With her Sun Blaze cultivation, she certainly had the ability to do this without Lu Ye noticing.

The key is that Lu Ye simply cannot dispel this mark! And he has no idea how long it will last...

To say this wasn't intentional by Su Yuqing, Lu Ye wouldn't believe it even if you killed him.

No wonder Nian Yuexian looked at him with such a subtle gaze.

A single man and woman together for three days, and now with such a mark on his neck, anyone who's not blind could guess what happened during those three days.

But why? Why did Su Yuqing do this?

Lu Ye really couldn't figure it out.

While he was trying various methods to remove the mark, Nian Yuexian was on the side, occasionally sneering.

"Who would've thought? That seemingly pure and pristine Senior Su had such interests. What's that saying among mortals...?"

"Oh yes, an old cow eating young grass, do it before you grow old! Junior brother, any thoughts?"

"Don't be embarrassed, love between men and women is normal. Only three days, and you two were so intense. If I had known, I would have left earlier, so as not to disturb your graceful enjoyment."

"When did it start? I didn't notice a thing."

"Does Hai Tang know? You are nominally her Dao companion. She probably doesn't know, right? If she knew her master and her nominal Dao companion..."

For the first time, Lu Ye discovered, Nian Yuexian showed signs of being such a chatterbox, and with a wry face, he saluted her: "Dear senior sister, please spare me. This is just an accident."

There was an inexplicable feeling of being caught red-handed doing something wrong by a parent.

Nian Yuexian snorted coldly: "Whether it was an accident or not, you better be careful the next time you see that Senior Su."

Lu Ye was confused: "What do you mean?"

Nian Yuexian said: "Wild beasts have innate behaviors to proclaim territorial sovereignty, and some girls have it too. She knew you'd be traveling with me but still left this mark. Isn't that proclaiming sovereignty? If you have any flirtation in the future, better not let her know, or you'll be in for a beating!"

Lu Ye said guiltily: "I don't have any flirtations."

Nian Yuexian smirked: "You know best."

With a push of spirit force, she left Lu Ye behind.

Lu Ye, helpless, followed along.

Initially, Nian Yuexian was curious about what method Su Yuqing used to send Lu Ye into the Black Abyss to participate in the Dwarf Race's Martial Arts Meet. She planned to clear it up on the way back, but now there was no need to ask.

Things were clear as day!

With such secret relations, how could Lu Ye not enter Black Abyss?

The road ahead was long. Nian Yuexian no longer mocked Lu Ye. She also knew that in such relationships, Lu Ye couldn't be the proactive one. The cultivation gap was too large, only the one with

higher cultivation could take the initiative, otherwise, Lu Ye would certainly have died countless times if he tried.

Lu Ye also stopped worrying about the mark on his neck. He couldn't remove it with his abilities. Fortunately, he found it wouldn't last long, so he let it fade naturally.

He retrieved and examined the two storage rings Su Yuqing gave him last.

One of the rings contained nearly a hundred talismans!

This matched Lu Ye's expectations. Talisman-making was the Dwarf Race's specialty. If they were to offer something as a reward, the talismans were the best choice.

These items were highly sought after among the stellar space by all races, but since the Dwarf Race rarely interacted with the outside world, their talismans in circulation were scarce and very expensive.

Over a hundred talismans held immense value, especially considering these were being offered as rewards, and the Dwarf Race wouldn't be stingy in their dealings.

The hundred or so talismans were divided into several types, largely similar to the types of spirit runes, categorized into attack, defense, and support, followed by various subcategories.

Each talisman came with a jade slip, detailing the talisman's type and effect.

Very considerate, so even someone like Lu Ye, who didn't know much about talismans, could understand when and how to activate these talismans by reading the contents of the jade slip.

Especially the two red Jade Talismans that particularly caught Lu Ye's attention!

Talisman-making by the Dwarf Race also had different qualities, and it was evident from the color. Regular Jade Talismans were white, the lowest quality, which basically met the needs of Constellation cultivators in battles.

The next level up were purple Jade Talismans, crafted by Moon Jade Realm cultivators, theoretically capable of unleashing the power of Moon Jade Realm cultivators when activated.

Of course, this is only theoretical; actual effects will inevitably differ due to the cultivator's level and the time spent nurturing the talisman.

During the Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet, there were Dwarf Races that used purple jade talismans, which showed considerable power, but there was still a significant difference compared to a personal strike from a Moon Jade Realm. This was due to the insufficient cultivation level of the one activating it.

Above that, there are the red jade talismans that only Sun Blazes can forge. Like the purple jade talismans, theoretically, they can unleash the power of a Sun Blaze cultivator's strike, but the actual effect depends on the situation.

Among the hundred talismans, there were two red jade talismans, ten purple ones, and the rest were all white.

For other cultivators, even a white jade talisman is extremely precious, but for someone like Lu Ye, who is proficient in the Path of Spirit Runes, the value of a white jade talisman is not significant.

Essentially, the power displayed after activating a spirit talisman is also the power of spirit runes. Since Lu Ye can construct spirit runes himself, he naturally doesn't need to activate spirit talismans.

These white jade talismans can be taken back and left at the Nine Provinces Governor's Palace for others to use.

For Lu Ye, the purple and red ones are useful, especially the two red jade talismans; Lu Ye could feel that one of them had Su Yuqing's aura.

In other words, this was definitely a talisman crafted by Su Yuqing.

No wonder there are two... It seems the reward from the Mount Fangcun side was supposed to be just one red jade talisman. Su Yuqing made an executive decision and added another one.

It's not that she's stingy for not giving more, it's just that even for her, crafting this is extremely difficult, and if one red jade talisman can't help Lu Ye turn a crisis into safety, giving more wouldn't make any sense.

This was something Su Yuqing had prepared long before she left Mount Fangcun with Lu Ye and Nian Yuexian, showing that her heart was not as cold as she appeared before.

Not in a hurry to deal with these spirit talismans, Lu Ye took out the second storage ring for a check.

Upon seeing its contents, Lu Ye halted.

Nian Yuexian noticed and hurriedly stopped, turning her head to look: "What's wrong?"

"There's something good!" Lu Ye smiled with joy, and directly took out the item from the storage ring, placing it on his palm.

It was a starboat!

However, compared to Su Yuqing's two-layered starboat, it was rather humble. This starboat's design resembled the sort of ferryboats commonly seen in the mundane world, with no two layers, just one, with the front and rear decks exposed and a canopy in the middle.

The number of cultivators this kind of starboat can accommodate is evidently not too many.

But no matter how humble, it's still a starboat! A plain appearance doesn't mean it truly is a cheap product!

This is something currently unattainable to forge in Nine Provinces.

When Lu Ye was previously aboard Su Yuqing's starboat, he was dreaming of when he could own one himself, so he wouldn't have to rush so much while traveling in the stellar space. Little did he know this dream would come true so soon.

Instantly saving decades of effort!

Nian Yuexian clicked her tongue and said, "Junior brother, your ability to live off others is top-notch..."

Lu Ye's great mood was suddenly ruined, and with a bitter face, he said, "Senior sister, let's not bring up the past!"

Nian Yuexian gave him a sidelong glance and urged, "Hurry up and test it out."

Lu Ye immediately infused spirit force into the starboat, and the boat on his palm suddenly swelled, transforming into a ferryboat about two zhangs long.

Compared to Su Yuqing's starboat, it was much smaller, but it had better overall fluidity, and the whole starboat's surface was glowing with a layer of silver light.

Lu Ye leaped onto it, looking around with the demeanor of a country bumpkin experiencing the world for the first time, touching everything, unwilling to part with it.

Nian Yuexian landed on the other side and saw two large characters at the stern: "Junior brother, this starboat even has a name."

"What's the name?" Lu Ye flashed over, lowered his head, and indeed saw the two characters.

Silver Fish!

This indeed matched the starboat's characteristics; when this boat sets sail, it should be like a silver fish swimming in the water.

Lu Ye flashed into the canopy, found the array hub controlling the starboat, and quickly got the hang of it after a brief familiarization.

A moment later, just as Lu Ye imagined, the silver Silver Fish transformed into light, moving like a fish swimming in the vast stellar space, heading toward Nine Provinces.

Gradually increasing speed, it soon exceeded the flight speed of his and Nian Yuexian's.

However, Lu Ye quickly discovered a problem, which was that this kind of flight greatly consumed his own spirit force, far more than flying himself.

The reason is simple: flying himself only requires controlling his body, and after reaching a certain speed, a cultivator needs to use very little spirit force to maintain it. But right now, he's piloting a starboat.

Fortunately, the array hub had a recess for placing spirit jade, which, once attached, greatly reduced the consumption of one's spirit force.

This follows the same principle as the spirit arks in Nine Provinces, allowing anyone to quickly get the hang of it.

Another point is that the speed of this boat needs to be gradually increased and cannot reach its maximum speed all at once. Therefore, if being pursued by a strong adversary, it's not suitable to use, lest delays close the distance and cause more harm than good.

Chapter 1358 Never to Meet Again

Originally, Lu Ye and Nian Yuexian thought it would take nearly five to six months to return to the Nine Provinces, as Nian Yuexian had fallen near the limits of Heaven's Augury's coverage in Mount Fangcun.

But now, if they fly back at this speed, it will probably only take half a month.

In comparison, Lu Ye suddenly realized that when Su Yuqing sent the two back earlier, he hadn't used his full strength, otherwise, it would have been even faster.

With such a starboat, the time spent traveling through stellar space will be greatly reduced in the future.

Unfortunately, this requires high materials and crafting skills, which the current level of the Nine Provinces cannot achieve. Otherwise, if everyone had one, exploring the surrounding stellar space would become extremely convenient.

Battlefield marking received a message; Lu Ye didn't need to investigate to know who was looking for him.

Diving into his mind, indeed, it was Number Nine.

He had disappeared for over eight months, and Number Nine was still very worried, especially with Nian Yuexian's precedent. Luckily, both Lu Ye and Nian Yuexian have safely returned now.

After a brief conversation with Number Nine, knowing that everything in the Nine Provinces was stable and unchanged, he ended the communication.

Lu Ye then had Nian Yuexian pilot the starboat while he began nurturing two spirit talismans of the Dwarf Race.

There are two ways to nurture the spirit talismans of the Dwarf Race: external and internal.

External nurturing is akin to nurturing some treasures, keeping them close to the body and slowly nourishing them with spirit force to take them out to confront enemies when needed. Generally, not too valuable and frequently used spirit talismans are nurtured this way.

Lu Ye chose internal nurturing because he wanted to nurture those two red jade talismans.

He drew his Boulder Mountain Saber, applied the Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes, and rolled up his sleeve, making a cut on his arm, then immersed the red jade talismans into the wound. After absorbing his blood, the red jade talismans immediately transformed into a red glow imprinted into his flesh.

There was no foreign sensation, but Lu Ye could clearly feel the presence of the two jade talismans.

This nurturing method is better than the previous one and can more effectively unleash the power of the jade talismans.

The not-too-large wound slowly showed signs of healing under the squirming of Lu Ye's flesh.

The Constellation Realm cultivation mainly improves the essence of the cultivator's physique. At the early stage, one tempers the essence of blood and flesh. Lu Ye has not yet reached the Transformation Realm at this level, otherwise, he could heal his wounds instantly with a thought.

Compared to the Divine Sea Realm, the recovery speed of blood and flesh injuries is already incomparable.

In just half the time of a burning incense stick, the wound completely healed, leaving no trace.

The rest doesn't need much worry from Lu Ye. The two red jade talismans will slowly be nurtured within his body and can be invoked whenever needed.

The longer the nurturing time and the higher his cultivation, the greater the power he can wield.

He replaced Nian Yuexian who was piloting the starboat and took out two purple jade talismans, giving them to her, instructing her on the nurturing method, and having her follow suit.

The journey ahead was smooth.

Lu Ye piloted the starboat while taking out the hefty tome to study and observe.

Half a month passed by in a flash, and when a familiar celestial body appeared in sight, both Lu Ye and Nian Yuexian knew they had reached home!

Without pause, the starboat glided into the Nine Provinces like a silver fish.

At the same time, a woman, transformed into the form of the Dwarf Race, observed from afar in a region of stellar space ten thousand miles away.

She had followed along all the way without Lu Ye or Nian Yuexian noticing, given their significant cultivation gap; her intentional concealment made it impossible for two early-stage Constellation cultivators to detect her.

This act was not out of malice but simply to see what the Nine Heavens World was like and where exactly this domain was located!

If not for her apprehension about the "powerful figure" behind Lu Ye, she would have quietly infiltrated the Nine Provinces to investigate more thoroughly.

However, because there is a "powerful figure" behind Lu Ye that even she couldn't rival, she had to stop here to avoid any misinterpretations.

She saw the Nine Provinces, and the Blood Refinement World alongside it, which in size was not inferior to the Nine Provinces. With her eyesight, she immediately recognized the nature of this world and marveled silently. That "powerful figure" was indeed extraordinary, having drawn such a domain, and it seemed the Nine Heavens World was consuming the foundation of this realm to fuel its growth.

Such a skill is indeed remarkable.

After another long glance, the woman turned and left.

In stellar space, encounters among people are like fish passing each other in the sea; a brief encounter doesn't mean a long stay.

In this life, they might never meet again!

Bingzhou's Mount Ao, Lu Ye and Nian Yuexian returned together.

Nian Yuexian had nowhere to go in the Nine Provinces. She was originally the Mountain Pass Chief of the Cangyan Mountain Pass in the Bingzhou guard, stationed there for years. Now that the mountain pass has become obsolete, she, being without a sect, naturally could only return to Mount Ao with Lu Ye.

She had a very good relationship with Shui Yuan, having known each other well from early on.

Compared to the last time they returned to the Righteous Blood Sect, the sect headquarters undoubtedly became much livelier, with many more people coming and going.

Shui Yuan remained at the sect headquarters, but Lu Ye observed her state, and she seemed not far from the Constellation stage.

The only awkward situation at present is that the Righteous Blood Sect doesn't have many outstandingly strong individuals, especially lacking in the Divine Sea Realm. If Shui Yuan were to leave, there would be no one to guard the sect headquarters.

Not sensing the presence of Yiyi and Amber, it seemed they were still on Unparalleled Continent earning battle merit.

Nian Yuexian went to spend time with Shui Yuan, but before leaving, she gave Lu Ye a meaningful look, leaving him a bit anxious, wondering if she would tell Shui Yuan about his embarrassing moments.

Lu Ye didn't plan to stay long at Mount Ao; what one should worry about depends on their stage. If he were still in the Divine Sea Realm, naturally, he would focus on the sect headquarters, like other sect cultivators do, which is understandable.

However, now that he was in the Constellation Realm, his concern shouldn't be limited to just the Righteous Blood Sect; he needed to care for the entire Nine Provinces.

All Constellation practitioners should think this way; only then can a domain flourish continually.

He initially planned to stay at the sect headquarters for two or three days before setting out to guard at the Governor's Hall, wanting to take a period for reflection. He wouldn't be leaving the Nine Provinces in the short term, so he would sit at the Governor's Hall, replacing others in collecting spirit jade.

He hadn't expected to be volunteered by Shui Yuan.

Although he returned silently, some sect disciples still noticed him. In today's Righteous Blood Sect, he is a living legend, in terms of admiration and fame, far surpassing the former senior brother.

After all, the era of the former senior brother was decades ago, and his rise has been in recent years.

In the eyes of the current Righteous Blood Sect disciples, he truly is the title-bearing senior brother.

Word spread quickly, and soon the entire Righteous Blood Sect became aware of the legend's return. In no time, outside of Emerald Bamboo Peak, disciples would intentionally or unintentionally pass by, wanting to glimpse him.

Seeing this, Shui Yuan didn't want to dampen the disciples' enthusiasm; sometimes appropriate encouragement can inspire people to cultivate diligently, so she decided to arrange a dharma assembly for Lu Ye.

As for the theme of the assembly... there was no set theme, and Shui Yuan told Lu Ye to say whatever came to his mind.

A mission assigned by Second Senior Sister was naturally not one Lu Ye dared to defy.

And so, a transformative dharma assembly for the future of the Righteous Blood Sect was born.

On the day of the assembly, Righteous Peak was packed. The residence at the Spirit Stream battlefield within the Righteous Blood Sect was left empty as every Spirit Stream Realm cultivator returned, and the same went for the Cloud River Realm. Even a few True Lake Realm cultivators, who were earning battle merit on Unparalleled Continent, also made their way back.

Looking at this thriving scene before him, Lu Ye was filled with satisfaction.

He recalled the first time he entered the sect's residence in the Spirit Stream battlefield; it housed only a group of independent cultivators, and he had to think of ways to recruit people to maintain the sect's continuity. Swiftly, over these years, the sect had taken on a fresh appearance.

Seeing the ardent eyes of respect below, Lu Ye smiled, adopting an innocent expression: "I don't quite know where to start, nor what to speak on. How about this, if you have any questions, feel free to ask, and I'll answer them one by one."

Silence fell over the crowd for a moment, until suddenly a Spirit Stream Realm disciple called out, "Senior Brother, can you tell us how the name 'Three Calamities of Spirit Stream' came about?"

Though Lu Ye had left the Spirit Stream battlefield long ago, his many tales were still circulating, like 'Lu Ye the Sect Destroyer,' and 'Three Calamities of Spirit Stream,' which were widely known.

"Heh..." Lu Ye glanced over, memorizing the disciple who asked the question. Since it was asked, he naturally couldn't avoid answering, so he began to narrate.

Listening, the group below was filled with excitement and exhilaration.

The assembly lasted for nearly two days, addressing a wide range of questions. Aside from some initial frivolous questions, the majority pertained to cultivation and combat, which caught most disciples' attention.

Not to mention cultivation, Lu Ye excelled in combat, answering with ease, bringing great insights to the young junior brothers and sisters.

If Shui Yuan hadn't eventually forcefully concluded the assembly, it would have likely continued even longer.

Spirit Stream Realm cultivators returned to the Spirit Stream battlefield, Cloud River Realm went to the Cloud River battlefield, and True Lake Realm set off to Unparalleled Continent, continuing their hunt against the Corpse Race.

Lu Ye arrived at Tianzhou, where the Reincarnation Tree's doppelganger was located.

In front of the Governor's Hall, Lu Ye bid farewell to his senior brother Feng Wujiang.

Initially, it was Jian Guhong who was guarding the Governor's Hall; he was the first Nine Provinces Governor. However, such a task naturally couldn't be shouldered by one person, so soon after Lu Ye left the Nine Provinces, his senior brother advanced to the Constellation stage, taking over Jian Guhong's position to continue the guard.

Anyway, his senior brother wasn't in a hurry to step into the stellar space because he had already decided to stay in the Nine Provinces for a while longer, to spend time with his sister-in-law, Qiu Min, and also to wait for her to advance to the Constellation stage.

Reckoning, that was about a year ago.

Meanwhile, his sister-in-law Qiu Min successfully advanced to the Constellation stage three months ago, now having the qualification to fly alongside her senior brother.

Chapter 1359 Trouble on Unparalleled Continent

"Junior Brother, I'll leave this to you," said Feng Wujiang, with Qiu Min nestled beside him like a young maiden, her affection apparent. The two stood together, a handsome man and a beautiful woman; from their appearance, you could never tell Qiu Min was already pregnant with a daughter.

Lu Ye shielded his eyes with one hand and waved the other lightly, "Quickly leave, quickly leave, with you both looking like this, it makes me feel so lonely!"

Qiu Min covered her mouth and laughed gently, "If Junior Brother Yiye feels lonely, perhaps you should find someone to keep you company."

After Senior Brother and Sister left, Lu Ye returned to the main hall for a brief inspection.

Currently, the most crucial aspect in the Governor's Hall is the star map of the stellar space around the Nine Provinces. This is the fruit of many Nine Provinces Constellations' continuous exploration. However, because the explored areas are not comprehensive, there's still room for improvement. It's believed that it won't be long before the near space around the Nine Provinces will be fully explored.

Aside from the star map, there were the spirit jade pieces Lu Ye previously gave to Jian Guhong.

When he handed them to Jian Guhong, there were fifteen thousand spirit jade pieces, left in the Governor's Hall for the Governors to use in their cultivation, to ensure their cultivation progress wasn't delayed.

Now it seems not much has been used. After all, for cultivators newly entering the Constellation Realm, the consumption of spirit jade isn't significant. Lu Ye once estimated that a typical person would only need about twenty pieces of spirit jade per month to satisfy their cultivation needs.

Fifteen thousand pieces could last for decades.

Furthermore, since Lu Ye took charge of the Governor's Hall, there are now two additional secret chambers here.

In one chamber, there are numerous inscription rubbings of jade slips he brought from the Xiyuan Pavilion of the Dwarf Race, documenting their years of stellar exploration, which holds substantial significance for the current Nine Provinces.

In another chamber, you can find the audio talismans Lu Ye previously crafted.

The coverage area of the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury is ultimately limited, and in stellar space, cultivators use audio talismans to communicate with each other. The Nine Provinces naturally should integrate with the outside world in this respect.

Therefore, whenever anyone in the Nine Provinces advances to the Constellation Realm, or if any who have already advanced return to the Nine Provinces, they must report immediately to the Governor's Hall.

Firstly, to receive their own audio talisman and imprint their mark on other audio talismans to facilitate communication between themselves and others.

Secondly, to peruse the vast amount of information in the jade slips to gain more understanding of the common knowledge about the stellar space, so as not to be completely lost once they enter it.

The message has been sent out. Over time, as it spreads, these regulations should gradually come into effect.

Days spent in the Governor's Hall are lonely and tedious, and apart from occasionally receiving messages from other Constellations, filling in more of the star map, Lu Ye has little else to do.

Every day, besides cultivating, he studies the hefty tomes he brought from the Dwarf Race.

It's worth noting that after nearly two years of exploration by the Nine Provinces Constellations, they remarkably and coincidentally discovered the location of the Unparalleled Continent!

Before it was found, the exact location of the Unparalleled Continent was utterly unknown to the Nine Provinces, only surmised not to be too far away.

Because, thanks to Yueh Xin's arrangements from years past, the Nine Provinces could absorb the essence of the Unparalleled Continent, allowing smooth interaction between the two realms. The distance naturally couldn't be too far. If it truly were too distant, even Yueh Xin with his Sun Blaze might not be able to connect the two domains.

It was Lu Ye's old acquaintance, the third generation Sect Leader of the Righteousness Sect, Mong Jie, who found the Unparalleled Continent!

He was among the first batch of cultivators from the Nine Provinces to advance to the Constellation Realm. Perhaps feeling responsible for exploring stellar space, he ventured much further while others only explored near the Nine Provinces.

This matches his nature as a physique cultivator — straightforward, brave, and fearless, always charging ahead in battle, shielding his companions behind him.

Even when Yueh Xin descended upon the Nine Provinces, no one could reach him.

Until one day, he suddenly discovered a domain that seemed to show signs of life. Upon descending for a closer look, he fortuitously encountered Nine Provinces cultivators.

Thus, he confirmed it as the Unparalleled Continent.

Mong Jie himself did not return to the Nine Provinces, as the journey back was too far, and time didn't permit. But once he was in the Unparalleled Continent, connecting with the Nine Provinces was simple.

He merely had to find a few Nine Provinces cultivators and have them relay the news back.

If not for the fact that Yueh Xin's Formation didn't support the teleportation of Constellation Realms, he could directly teleport back to the Nine Provinces using that Formation.

So, the star map on the Governor's Hall's side now looks generally circular, but there's a prominent protrusion at one position, as if a long horn has grown out of the circle.

The tip of that horn is where the Unparalleled Continent is located.

Lu Ye estimated that, according to the speed of a Constellation Early Stage cultivator, flying from the Nine Provinces to the Unparalleled Continent would take at least over a year.

This aligns with the time Mong Jie spent during his exploration — he wasn't in a continuous state of flight and would stop midway to search for spirit jade.

Mong Jie finding the Unparalleled Continent was purely a stroke of luck. After all, beyond the Nine Provinces, the direction is spherical, and even a slight deviation in the year-long journey between realms could lead to missing it.

He didn't explore further but remained in the stellar space near the Unparalleled Continent, searching for spirit jade.

The Nine Provinces currently have many Constellations, and competition is fierce, whereas over on the Unparalleled Continent, he is alone, free to search as he pleases.

Rushed by, a month passed, and Lu Ye finally finished perusing the weighty tomes. Numerous strange and wonderful ideas surged in his mind, making him eager to start deducing new spirit runes.

There were many spirit runes needing deduction. Essentially, many of the spirit runes he acquired before reaching the Divine Sea Realm had become quite inadequate. This was evident merely from the Sharpness and Warding.

However, deducing a new spirit rune is not a simple task, so he could only prioritize one of them.

Lu Ye chose Warding!

Sharpness and Warding were both among the first spirit runes he obtained, and they played a significant role in combat. Now that Sharpness has been replaced by the Divine Sharp Edge, and with no substitute for Warding, naturally, enhancement in this area was a priority.

Using Warding as the foundation, leveraging the deduction ability of the Talent Tree's second metamorphosis, and combining his mastery of the Path of Spirit Runes, Lu Ye believed that given enough time, he should be able to derive a decent spirit rune.

During this time, occasionally, newly promoted Constellations would come to the Governor's Hall to report, collect audio talismans, and dive into the secret chamber filled with numerous jade slips for study, staying for many days without coming out.

There were also Constellations returning from stellar space who came here.

In the past, the Governor's Hall was very quiet, with hardly anyone visiting, but ever since Lu Ye took charge here, it gradually became lively.

While it wasn't bustling, it was much better than before.

Lu Ye condensed his own doppelganger specifically to entertain these people, while simultaneously filling in the gaps in the star map based on information returned from outside.

His true self was immersed in deducing the new spirit rune.

His own spirit jade was also continuously consumed in this state.

Generally, in the Constellation Early Stage, only twenty pieces of spirit jade were needed per month, but Lu Ye's situation was different. In the first month, he required about one hundred and twenty pieces of spirit jade. Now, with the enhancement of his strength, roughly one hundred and fifty pieces, not a significant increase, after all, his Cultivation Realm hadn't really broken through substantially.

This was still within the effective cultivation efficiency he controlled; if he were to indulge fully, no amount of spirit jade would be enough to squander, and of course, doing so would cause massive waste.

Half a year swiftly passed.

On this day, Lu Ye was studying his new spirit rune.

After such a long time, a clue had emerged in the deduction of the new spirit rune based on Warding. However, the protective power hadn't yet met Lu Ye's expectations, so he had been attempting improvements in the details, to see if he could make this new spirit rune more perfect.

A message suddenly came through the battlefield marking.

This was very usual, as the Constellations exploring outside contacted him from time to time, delivering positions and conditions of discovered stars for him to fill in the star map, and Number Nine would occasionally chat with him out of boredom.

But what was unusual was that the messages didn't stop at one but came in three consecutively, and then more messages followed quickly.

Even audio talismans were sent to communicate with him.

Lu Ye's expression instantly turned solemn, realizing that something major might have occurred; otherwise, there would be no reason for so many to contact him in such a short space of time.

He quickly immersed his mind to investigate, his expression turning grave.

Something has happened on the Unparalleled Continent!

Just two hours ago, the Nine Provinces cultivators honing themselves on the Unparalleled Continent noticed violent fighting sounds from beyond the sky, sounds of such magnitude that no one in the Divine Sea Realm could match.

Undoubtedly, the Constellations were taking action.

Currently, outside the Unparalleled Continent, only Mong Jie from the Nine Provinces Constellation remains, so no one knows who he is confronting. The Divine Sea that seeks to earn battle merit on the Unparalleled Continent is not of high caliber, and naturally, they lack the power to investigate.

After observing for a while, realizing the commotion was growing louder, and even mixed with the furious roars and outcries of Mong Jie, those in the Divine Sea immediately sensed trouble and quickly instructed people to return to the Nine Provinces via the teleportation array to relay the information.

As the message was relayed through various layers, many reachable Constellations quickly became aware of this situation, subsequently contacting the current Nine Provinces Governor Lu Ye, leading to the situation where both his battlefield marking and audio talisman received messages.

Lu Ye swiftly investigated all the information but remained unclear about the situation.

Currently, on the Unparalleled Continent, it's only known that Mong Jie is battling some enemy, but nobody knows whom precisely.

Before, faced with such circumstances, Nine Provinces were utterly incapable of providing support, mainly due to the distance being too great. However, now there was a possibility of reinforcement.

With a brief moment of contemplation, Lu Ye quickly sent communication in all directions, ordering people to convey messages to the Unparalleled Continent, instructing all Nine Provinces cultivators to lie low while hiding and concealing the location of the passage leading to the Nine Provinces.

He didn't choose to recall them because currently, Nine Provinces cultivators were scattered throughout the Unparalleled Continent, and there simply wasn't enough time to gather everyone.

If the enemy breaches Mong Jie's defensive line, hastily recalling the Nine Provinces cultivators would only lead the enemy to trace back to find that teleportation passage.

This passage is Yueh Xin's handiwork, and currently, no one in Nine Provinces can repair or rebuild it. Once destroyed, Nine Provinces would lose the connection with the Unparalleled Continent.

Therefore, hiding and concealing are exceedingly necessary.

Chapter 1360 Reinforcements

Of course, there is also another possibility.

The enemy Mong Jie is fighting against might not be some intelligent lifeform, but a star beast. If that's the case, then there's no need to be too nervous.

Because star beasts generally don't descend upon domains; they usually roam freely in stellar space.

But given all the possibilities, one must be cautious. Lu Ye here can only prepare for the worst and respond in the most appropriate manner.

The orders were communicated. Lu Ye stood up and walked out from his place of seclusion.

Two people hurriedly approached him; they were the two Nine Provinces Constellation cultivators who returned from stellar space a few days ago to review the information in the many jade slips.

It was clear they had also received the news.

After exchanging a glance, Lu Ye nodded, indicating he already knew the situation. He said aloud, "Please wait a moment, you two."

The Mental Consciousness surged as he sent a message: "Number Nine, how many Constellations are currently within the domain?"

Number Nine's voice sounded by his ear: "Only Nian Yuexian."

In the past six months, Lu Ye had been cultivating at the Governor's Hall, while Nian Yuexian stayed at the Righteous Blood Sect. Since she had enough spirit jade, she hadn't rushed back into stellar space.

As for the other Constellations, they came and went in haste. Even if they returned to Nine Provinces, they didn't stay for long.

For them, stellar space is the main stage unless they gather enough spirit jade and return for seclusion and cultivation.

"Grant Nian Yuexian the Heaven's Augury Pillar transmission permission." While giving the command, Lu Ye also sent a message to Nian Yuexian, asking her to use the Heaven's Augury Pillar to teleport to the Governor's Hall.

He inquired Number Nine again: "If I fly straight from Nine Provinces to the Unparalleled Continent, how many Constellations can respond in time along the way?"

Number Nine can sense the precise locations of those Constellations, as long as they're within sensing range.

Thus, asking Number Nine was the most convenient and quickest option.

A moment later, Number Nine provided an answer.

Lu Ye understood and, based on Number Nine's answer, contacted each of them, asking them to rush to the designated locations and wait silently.

It's uncertain what happened on the Unparalleled Continent. If Mong Jie is indeed just fighting a star beast, then it's not a big problem. Even if he were losing, as a physique cultivator, Mong Jie isn't someone who would die so easily.

The fear lies in him encountering some intelligent lifeform. If so, then Nine Provinces must urgently support.

All of Lu Ye's current arrangements are preparation for support, striving to bring the most people to the Unparalleled Continent in the shortest time!

Nian Yuexian's figure suddenly emerged from the Heaven's Augury Pillar nearby.

"Let's go!" Lu Ye called out and was the first to dash out of the great hall, with three figures following closely behind.

The Silver Fish starboat was summoned, transforming into a two-zhang-long ferry form. Lu Ye swiftly entered the canopy and took control of the array hub.

Nian Yuexian, familiar with the setup, and the other two Constellations followed in.

In the next instant, the Silver Fish trembled slightly and soared into the sky.

Currently, there are about a thousand Nine Provinces Constellations. However, because they're scattered, not many can be picked up along the way. As support is the priority and time is pressing, Lu Ye can't afford to make detours to pick them up.

Moreover, the capacity of the Silver Fish is limited, and it can't carry many people.

While controlling the Silver Fish in flight, Lu Ye also managed many incoming messages. Many Constellations had received the news concerning the situation on the Unparalleled Continent and wanted to inquire further. Presently, the acting Governor Lu Ye was the best person to consult, but Lu Ye himself had yet to fully understand the situation and couldn't provide accurate or effective responses.

Several Constellations expressed their intent to set off for the Unparalleled Continent immediately, only to be dissuaded by Lu Ye. After all, the journey was long, and without a starboat, the time required was too lengthy. Rushing there that way wouldn't be timely enough for support.

Even though he persuaded them, the effect was unclear. Judging from the messages sent by various Constellations, they truly wanted to contribute, and some might have verbally agreed but were likely already on their way to the Unparalleled Continent.

This wasn't something Lu Ye could effectively discourage. They were all Constellations with their own way of doing things. Lu Ye could only offer suggestions but wouldn't interfere in their actions.

After two hours, a sword light suddenly shone up ahead, swiftly followed by the sound of a soul-stirring sword cry.

It wasn't an attack but a signal.

Lu Ye directed the Silver Fish to glide over to the sword light, and Jian Guhong shadowed onto the deck.

He was preparing to return to Nine Provinces. Having heard that the Governor's Hall had acquired some new items, he wanted to check them out. He happened to encounter the current situation and was picked up by Lu Ye.

They continued forward, occasionally picking up a person or two along the way.

A day later, Jian Guhong suddenly sighed and said to Lu Ye, "We need to prepare for the worst."

Lu Ye nodded.

They both understood that what Mong Jie encountered over there was most likely not a star beast. If it were a star beast, there should have been new developments from the Unparalleled Continent by now. The ongoing silence meant the crisis wasn't yet resolved.

Of course, it's also possible that Mong Jie perished in the battle and couldn't relay messages.

However, the news earlier conveyed that Mong Jie roared in anger during the great battle, which was most likely a warning to the Nine Provinces cultivators on the Unparalleled Continent.

A few days later, the Silver Fish picked up the last two people.

It was Feng Wujiang and his wife Qiu Min.

At this point, the Silver Fish was already at full capacity, with Lu Ye there were a total of nine people, and no more cultivators could be accommodated.

On the starboat, everyone was using spirit jade to cultivate. Although it was impossible to significantly increase their strength in such a short time, any improvement was better than none.

After picking up the senior brother and sister-in-law, Lu Ye took out the remaining purple and white Jade Talismans and distributed them. Under his guidance, everyone nourished these Spirit Talismans within themselves, ready to use them in battle at any time.

Lu Ye kept his mind constantly tense, constantly discerning the surrounding stars, ensuring that he wouldn't go off course.

In astral space, even a slight deviation was unacceptable. Fortunately, he had served as the governor of the Governor's Hall for half a year, becoming very familiar with the star map around the Nine Provinces, able to quickly correct any minor navigational errors during the flight.

His heart was actually quite anxious and uneasy.

Because most of his few family and friends were on the Unparalleled Continent, and he had no way of knowing what was happening there, nor was he aware of their safety, which was undoubtedly a torment.

But he showed nothing on the surface, because he understood that the more critical the situation, the calmer one must remain.

Incompetent frenzy would only ruin things.

The Silver Fish swept through the stellar space, getting closer and closer to the Unparalleled Continent.

About a month later, just as they reached the stellar space surrounding the Unparalleled Continent, Lu Ye suddenly felt something and turned his head to look in a direction.

At the same time, everyone on the starboat opened their eyes.

"There's the sound of a fight!" Feng Wujiang spoke.

"It's Mong Jie's aura!" Jian Guhong followed up.

Having been with Mong Jie for decades, he was more than familiar with his aura.

Mong Jie wasn't dead yet! This was undoubtedly good news, bringing a sigh of relief to those who had waited in torment for a month. This meant one thing: the enemy Mong Jie encountered wasn't strong enough to cause despair, so it's highly likely they were also of the Constellation level; otherwise, Mong Jie would not still be alive after all this time.

As Jian Guhong finished speaking, Lu Ye halted the starboat. Without needing any further instructions, the group silently disembarked and used the Concealment Technique to hide their auras and spirit forces.

It must be said, in comparison, the Nine Provinces cultivators' expertise in combat far surpassed that of the Dwarf Race. Because of their different upbringing environments, the Dwarf Race might possess better domains and more favorable cultivation conditions, but they lacked the numerous trials of the growth process.

The Nine Provinces cultivators were different; each of them had survived through storms and battles countless times, and those who had lived to ascend to the Constellation were all seasoned combat veterans.

At this moment, a simple exchange of glances was enough for them to devise a combat strategy.

The nine of them dispersed quietly like nine fish diving into the sea.

Lu Ye, moving like a specter, slowly approached the battlefield, and after a moment, finally saw the situation clearly.

Indeed, it was Mong Jie, but his condition was dire. His upper garment was already in tatters, and his pants were stained with blood, with hideous wounds crisscrossing his body, some healing, some newly acquired.

For a Constellation Realm, as long as there was timely recovery, superficial wounds didn't really count as injuries, but Mong Jie still appeared battered, indicating his dire state.

This was thanks to his physique cultivation; otherwise, the situation would have been far worse.

He was fighting against two people, both of mid-stage Constellation cultivation, one a magic cultivator and the other a combat cultivator. The magic cultivator attacked from a distance, while the combat cultivator engaged directly, coordinating well.

Mong Jie was mostly on the receiving end, with little strength to fight back.

He attempted multiple times to escape the encirclement but was tangled up by the combat cultivator, unable to break free.

Lu Ye didn't know how long Mong Jie had been holding on, but it clearly couldn't have been a month. In such a disadvantaged situation, Mong Jie couldn't possibly have held on for that long.

He was just thankful that he had decisively led the rescue team upon receiving the message; otherwise, if they had been even half a day late, Mong Jie would have been dead here.

From the opposing side, a flash of sword light suddenly burst forth, aiming at the magic cultivator's vital spot while the latter was casting spells to attack Mong Jie.

The magic cultivator was shocked. He and his companion had been chasing Mong Jie for a month, yet the enemy's thick skin meant that minor injuries didn't matter, repeatedly letting him escape, and this guy even kept provoking them from time to time.

They finally seized the opportunity, about to kill him, but unexpectedly got ambushed themselves.

One month...and there was no sign of anyone else. Where did this attacker come from?

Realizing the danger, the magic cultivator immediately summoned a spirit treasure, transforming it into a protective shield, but at the next moment, he sensed multiple killing intents locking onto him from all directions.

He was thrown into a panic!

As Jian Guhong acted, the people who had come from the Nine Provinces also made their move simultaneously.

Lu Ye transformed into a streak of light, directly charging toward the combat cultivator who was grappling with Mong Jie.