

Humanity 1361

Chapter 1361 That's It?

Mong Jie was obviously taken aback by this sudden turn of events. In his understanding, even if reinforcements came from the Nine Provinces after receiving the message, they couldn't have arrived so quickly.

He knew that his situation today was grim, and he had been looking for an opportunity to take down the combat cultivator with him. Unfortunately, the difference in cultivation realms left him powerless.

He thought he would meet his end here but didn't expect this sudden change.

The suddenly erupting auras astonished the enemy greatly, and even Mong Jie was caught off guard.

But immediately, he showed a look of joy because he sensed several familiar auras!

He turned from defense to offense, entangling the combat cultivator who was about to retreat.

Being on the disadvantaged side, his action was undoubtedly very risky, because if the combat cultivator did not retreat, he would have to face a direct confrontation, which would surely end poorly for him.

However, his grasp of the battlefield situation was extremely precise because he was sure the combat cultivator would retreat; this was the most instinctive reaction to such a sudden occurrence.

Moreover, even if the combat cultivator didn't retreat, the offensive would slow down, with most of the force left for defense, thus he would be safe from danger.

Mong Jie made the right choice, and the combat cultivator couldn't break free, making him somewhat angry and ashamed, realizing that if he didn't kill Mong Jie, he couldn't break out of the battle circle.

Fueling his spirit force, the spear in his hand gleamed, thrusting out suddenly like a snake's tongue, aiming straight at Mong Jie's eye socket.

Mong Jie didn't even blink. Facing such an attack, he didn't intend to dodge. Instead, he reached for the opponent's spear, showing a posture of sacrificing an eye to restrain the enemy.

The combat cultivator cursed the enemy's madness. In fact, he had witnessed many such insane scenes with his companion over the past month.

Because of Mong Jie's occasional show of madness, these mid-stage Constellation cultivators were apprehensive of the consequences, entangled for a month without success.

He couldn't figure out which domain this fearless cultivator emerged from.

Are there scared cultivators in the Nine Provinces? Yes, but their numbers are certainly not significant. In the Spirit Stream battlefield and Cloud River battlefield, the relentless confrontation between the two camps, round after round of eliminations—those who survive may not be elites, but at least they've faced life and death.

Without any unforeseen circumstances, Mong Jie would lose his eye, and his life might be endangered, but the enemy's spear would also be restrained.

For a combat cultivator, the spirit treasure used for close combat is half his life; once the spear is restrained, it's like a tiger's fangs being pulled.

At this dangerous moment, a figure suddenly emerged from the side, kicking Mong Jie on the shoulder and sending him flying.

It was Feng Wujiang who intervened at the crucial moment.

The sudden change caught Mong Jie off guard, even though he sensed familiar auras and realized that reinforcements from Nine Provinces had arrived; he wasn't sure of the particulars, but with nine coming from Nine Provinces, how could Feng Wujiang stand by as his old subordinate lost an eye?

This kick was anything but courteous, mainly because there was no room to hold back, so they had to hit hard against a robust combat cultivator.

Mong Jie was directly kicked away, the combat cultivator's spear stabbing into thin air, and before he could retrieve it, he saw through where Mong Jie had just been standing—a young man with downcast eyes and a cold expression, approaching with his hand on his knife.

Constellation Early Stage cultivation!

The combat cultivator relied on the momentum to shake the spear out, forming a cloud of spear shadows to envelop the newcomer.

Mid-stage against early-stage, he felt no pressure at all, and intended to kill him with one thrust!

However, with the crescent moon blade light rising, the combat cultivator's face changed dramatically. The clash between the long knife and the spear immediately made him feel the other's violent and unparalleled offensive, the aggressive aura disturbing his spirit.

He hastily stabilized himself, roared furiously, and fiercely engaged in combat.

The more he fought, the more shocked he became, because this combat cultivator who appeared Constellation Early Stage gave him an overwhelming sense of invincibility; every slash was tremendously powerful, with incredibly fast and tricky angles.

He found himself struggling to cope for a moment.

If not for the fact that the other's spirit force fluctuation was indeed at the Constellation Early Stage, he would almost suspect the opponent was a late-stage in disguise.

No match!

Not only was he no match, but his life was in constant danger!

The combat cultivator was terrified, unable to comprehend why, despite the small cultivation level difference, the power gap was so vast.

At this moment, accompanied by a short scream, a living aura was annihilated.

The combat cultivator's face changed dramatically, sensing that his companion's aura had disappeared, realizing immediately that his magic cultivator companion had fallen in battle!

For the Nine Provinces cultivators rich in combat experience, there's a consensus when brawling with enemies: kill the one with long reach first!

Not only because they can perform long-range attacks, but also because they are relatively fragile and easier to kill.

It's the same here.

The nine from Nine Provinces came stealthily; besides Lu Ye and Feng Wujiang, who supported Mong Jie, the remaining seven went to greet the mid-stage Constellation magic cultivator.

Moreover, among these seven, there are also two sword cultivators renowned for their killing prowess!

As Jian Guhong's sword light shone, the seven unleashed all their attacks in a moment.

The magic cultivator died unjustly!

Faced with the sudden surprise attack, his response was actually swift; he first fortified himself with a protective spirit treasure and then triggered his protective spirit force.

However, such defenses were utterly incapable of withstanding the coordinated assault from Jian Guhong and the seven from all directions and angles.

The protective spirit treasure was shattered, the protective spirit force collapsed, and the magic cultivator, with no remaining Protective Power, died instantly.

This was the first confrontation between Nine Provinces Constellation and the external Constellation, so no one dared to hold back, giving it their all, resulting in the death of an enemy whose cultivation realm was a level above them after one round of combined assault.

Each was left utterly bewildered...

Is this it?

Switching places, if they were at the Constellation Mid-Stage, even encountering the same surprise attack, they shouldn't perish so easily.

Momentarily stunned, they hurried to rush over to support Lu Ye, but as they looked up, they witnessed a scene that stirred their hearts.

On the battlefield over there, Lu Ye's long blade flashed brilliantly, suppressing the enemy to the point where they barely had the power to retaliate.

Even Feng Wujiang, who had kicked Mong Jie flying, stood aside watching, with no intention of intervening, seemingly a bit dumbfounded.

Seven attacking to kill one isn't something to boast about, but single-handedly overpowering an enemy with a weaker cultivation level is quite astounding.

The combat didn't last too long. Ten breaths later, as Lu Ye's blade descended, blood splattered, and a head flew off, eyes wide open, shrieking a little of dying disgruntledly.

Mong Jie, holding his arm, gritting his teeth, flew back, the kick from Feng Wujiang was definitely painful.

Also witnessing the scene of the enemy's head shooting away.

He had tangled with this enemy for a month and was deeply familiar with their strength. One-on-one, he stood no chance, but at this moment that formidable enemy was slain by Lu Ye single-handedly, and as quickly and cleanly as slicing through bunched threads.

The group of Constellation were all silent, feeling suddenly as if they had aged...

Yet gratified that Nine Provinces had a successor.

Even back at the Divine Sea, these Constellation had witnessed Lu Ye's extraordinary skills, but now that all had ascended to Constellation, standing on the same starting line, they thought any strength disparity shouldn't be too great.

Yet now it seems, the remarkable remain remarkable, at Divine Sea, so in Constellation.

Lu Ye sheathed his blade and turned to Mong Jie: "Only two?"

Mong Jie shook his head: "Four! There are still two inside!"

Upon hearing this, everyone's expressions sank, as it was not the situation they wished to see.

If there were only two, that would mean the crisis was resolved this time, but with four on the opposing side, and two more within the domain, the situation was grim.

In the Unparalleled Continent, many Nine Provinces cultivators remained, facing the Constellation, these Nine Provinces cultivators were simply overpowered, even struggling to even hide.

"Explain carefully!" Feng Wujiang demanded.

Through Mong Jie's explanation, everyone thoroughly understood the current situation.

A month ago, Mong Jie encountered two foreign Constellation in the nearby stellar space, precisely the two that just died. Sensing their malicious intent, Mong Jie tried to flee, but they pursued relentlessly, forcing a confrontation while also bellowing warnings to the Nine Provinces cultivators inside the Unparalleled Continent.

That was when the Nine Provinces cultivators detected the situation and sent a message back to Nine Provinces.

Outnumbered and with a cultivation gap, Mong Jie was naturally no match, but he dared not flee too far, because if he left, the Nine Provinces cultivators would be without protection.

So he lay low nearby, intermittently showing himself to provoke the two, but after a few days two more Constellation appeared, including one at Constellation Late Stage!

This left Mong Jie even more overwhelmed; he didn't even engage the enemy but fled right away, the newly arrived Constellation Late Stage didn't pursue but led another Constellation into the Unparalleled Continent.

Presumably thinking that facing a Constellation Early Stage, his two mid-stage companions were sufficient.

This stalemate lasted a month, with Mong Jie having little to do other than tugging at the enemy back and forth until today...

During this period, he was constantly injured, and today due to a lapse, he couldn't shake off the enemy in time and found himself in peril; had Lu Ye and the others arrived later, they would have been collecting his corpse.

"So, you are uncertain of the situation inside the Unparalleled Continent?" Feng Wujiang asked.

Mong Jie shook his head: "Ever since those two entered the Unparalleled Continent that day, they haven't appeared again."

All along he was entangled with two enemies, unable to enter the Unparalleled Continent to investigate, truly unsure of its current situation.

Chapter 1362 - 1360: Million Souls Banner

The origins of the enemy are unknown, their purpose is unknown, the situation on the Unparalleled Continent is unknown, and things are quite dire.

Lu Ye secretly frowned. If he had known earlier, he wouldn't have killed that combat cultivator so quickly. It would have been better to capture him alive and extract some information.

However, he didn't have the ability to foresee the future. Before killing the enemy, how could he have known that it would come to this kind of situation?

"This place is not very close to the Unparalleled Continent, so the disturbance from our previous battle probably wasn't transmitted over," Feng Wujiang said, "So even if there are still two Constellation Realm cultivators inside, it's highly likely they haven't detected our arrival."

They might not even have noticed their companions' deaths since the two Constellation Realm cultivators killed earlier didn't have the chance or signs to transmit messages.

"Sneak in and find them, take them down one by one!" someone suggested.

Everyone nodded. In the current situation, this was indeed the most reliable method. Although there were ten of them, they couldn't openly challenge them, as that would only alert the enemy, especially since there was a Constellation Late Stage on the other side.

He had faced a Constellation Late Stage of the Dwarf Race before and knew that cultivators at this level were powerful, not something the Nine Provinces Constellation could contend with, even with a significant numerical advantage. If a fight were to break out, they might not gain much benefit.

The Dwarf Race, due to their growth environment and reliance on talismans, was generally weaker, something Lu Ye had noticed before.

It's the same reason as those niche sects in Nine Provinces—cultivators who overly rely on external forces will somewhat hinder their own cultivation advancement.

After the Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet this time, the Sun Blaze of the Dwarf Race also realized this issue. Or rather, they had long realized it but lacked the courage to change. This time, Lu Ye, a human race member, gave them a good lesson, finally prompting them to resolve to change the status quo.

Lu Ye could defeat a Constellation Late Stage of the Dwarf Race in a frontal confrontation, but he might not necessarily defeat the Constellation Late Stage of other races.

Especially since the opponent was also a human race!

The plan decided, the group immediately sprang into action. Moments later, outside the Unparalleled Continent, ten figures silently infiltrated the domain.

When cultivation reached the Constellation Realm, regardless of the sect, one would more or less master some concealment techniques, though varying in levels.

Among the ten, Nian Yuexian and another ghost cultivator had undoubtedly perfected their concealment. In this field, ghost cultivators possessed unparalleled advantages.

Next was Lu Ye.

The Concealment and Breath-concealing Spirit Runes were effective when used below the Divine Sea Realm, but not sufficient against the Mental Consciousness of the Constellation Realm. These two spirit runes were among the ones Lu Ye planned to reevaluate and improve, but he hadn't gotten to them due to limited energy.

As for the others... they barely managed concealment; how effective it was, was uncertain.

The group of ten split into five teams, two per group, dispersing in all directions.

Lu Ye was paired with Nian Yuexian. The first task was simple: locate the trace of those two outsider Constellation Realm cultivators and act accordingly.

Searching for two individuals within a vast domain wasn't easy, especially since both parties were in a concealed state, making it difficult to create noise.

However, Lu Ye's luck was extraordinarily good, or perhaps the other party had no intention of hiding...

A mass of ghastly black mist roiled atop a mountain peak, emitting ghostly wails and howls that made the skin crawl, accompanied by screams as if someone was suffering utter torment.

Hearing these sounds and seeing the scale of the black mist, both Lu Ye and Nian Yuexian felt their hearts sink with a faint hunch.

As they got closer, the certainty of their assumption grew.

Within the roiling black mist, a large banner fluttered in the wind. Beneath it, a lithe figure sat, the black mist swirling, making the figure appear and vanish like a real specter.

"The Million Souls Banner!" Nian Yuexian whispered through audio transmission to Lu Ye.

Lu Ye's face turned solemn, and he nodded slightly.

Having studied a vast number of jade slips at Xiyuan Pavilion of the Dwarf Race, both had gained some basic understanding of many things in the stellar space.

Information about the Million Souls Banner was among the records on a jade slip in Xiyuan Pavilion.

The reason it was documented was mainly because the artifact was too notorious, and the requirements for its crafting were not high, while its power was considerable, favored by some wicked cultivators.

The Million Souls Banner is a treasure, and one that can continuously upgrade its quality.

Its crafting requires extracting the psyche spirit body of living beings, imprisoning them within the banner. The stronger and more numerous the imprisoned psyche spirit bodies, the more powerful the Million Souls Banner becomes.

In battle, when the banner is raised, it transforms into a spectral domain. The banner wielder moves unhindered within it, invisible, while those trapped suffer endless psyche torment, with no way to escape.

The jade slip in Xiyuan Pavilion recorded an instance where a powerful expert, upon raising a banner, exterminated all living beings within a large domain.

Because crafting this banner is extremely ruthless and inhumane, it's openly considered a forbidden object.

Yet human nature is complex; the more forbidden something is, the more people pursue it. Throughout history, countless have crafted such wicked treasures, and countless beings have fallen prey to them, their psyche spirit bodies confined within banners, suffering in misery, wishing for death.

Lu Ye hadn't expected to witness the Million Souls Banner in this place, and from the current scene, it was evident the person was enhancing the banner's quality.

He finally understood the purpose of the two outsider Constellation Realm cultivators entering the Unparalleled Continent.

For the holder of the Million Souls Banner, cultivators from the Nine Provinces within the Unparalleled Continent are excellent materials to upgrade this evil banner.

It's unknown how many Nine Provinces cultivators have fallen victim.

Upon receiving the news, he immediately ordered the Nine Provinces cultivators here to conceal and lay low, but for cultivators up to the Divine Sea Realm, how effective could their concealment be against a Constellation? Unless hidden deeply enough, the Constellation's Mental Consciousness could still easily find them.

He suppressed the anxiety in his heart and immersed his mind to inspect his battlefield markings.

The battlefield marking of his Third Senior Brother, Xiao Xinghe, was still imprinted, indicating he was still alive.

The same for the Fourth Senior Brother...

Lin Yinxiu, Feng Yuechan, and Yiyi are also still there.

Hua Ci... is also there!

He breathed a slight sigh of relief.

Nonetheless, he could feel that some imprints were indeed missing from his battlefield markings, which meant those missing people had already died.

It's unknown whether they died in the Nine Provinces or here, at present it's impossible to trace.

In silent observation, neither Lu Ye nor Nian Yuexian made a move. Although they found the trail of an enemy Constellation, the whereabouts of another remain unknown for the moment.

They still need Senior Brother to investigate thoroughly.

Yet, they had only just waited for a moment, when suddenly fierce sounds of battle rose from a certain direction, clearly the aftermath of a fight between Constellation level cultivators.

Exposed!

All the Nine Provinces here are at the Constellation Early Stage, and weren't particularly skilled in concealment, so exposure is normal if there is a cultivation gap.

Lu Ye immediately determined that the one on their side is a Constellation Early Stage!

He couldn't judge the opponent's cultivation level previously, the black mist of the Million Souls Banner roiled, the spirit force fluctuations were extremely chaotic, too much interference.

But now that others are exposed, it means the other Constellation's perception is strong, likely at Late Stage cultivation.

Which means the one on their side is definitely Early Stage.

Almost at the same time as the distant sounds of battle arose, the silhouette within the Million Souls Banner noticed something amiss, but before she could understand what was happening, two sharp auras abruptly appeared nearby, locking onto her.

She quickly looked over, through the black mist, she caught sight at once of the forms of Lu Ye and Nian Yuexian leaping up.

Nian Yuexian's body merged with the sword light, bursting with speed even faster than Lu Ye's by a bit, plunging headlong into the black mist of the Million Souls Banner, her longsword blooming with countless rays of light, like a waterfall cascading down to envelop the opponent.

The woman screamed, hastily driving the power of the Million Souls Banner.

Instantly, the wailing sounds of ghosts and wolves grew even louder.

Lu Ye followed closely behind Nian Yuexian into the banner region, immediately perceiving the sinister power of this banner.

The psyche was noticeably impacted, the force of the impact wasn't great but extremely frequent, coupled with the wailing sounds, those with weak minds would easily lose their composure.

However, the two who barged into the banner region at this moment, one is a sword cultivator renowned for slaughter, the other a combat cultivator with battle-hardened experience, this kind of trick had little effect on them.

Within the banner region, countless imprisoned psyche spirit bodies surged like ants towards them, once bitten, they would suffer pain on the psyche.

Lu Ye's long saber danced, and with each ghastly scream, the psyche spirit bodies lunging at him shattered one by one, dissolving into nothingness.

The Soul Severing Saber is a treasure specifically designed for severing psyches, how could these psyche spirit bodies imprisoned within the banner withstand its strikes?

Charging forward with unstoppable momentum, he brazenly arrived at the front of the banner holder under her terrified gaze.

The fury in his heart made him wish to cleave this woman in two with a single strike, yet ultimately he refrained, stabbing straight, piercing through past her heart!

Upon closer inspection, he found the woman incredibly beautiful, her demeanor full of a delicate and pitiful grace that would make anyone exclaim how endearing she seemed.

But the acts she committed were of a heart like a venomous snake or scorpion!

Lu Ye was faster to act, subduing the woman with a single strike, as Nian Yuexian also came charging, her longsword set diagonally across the woman's slender white neck, the sharp blade cut through her skin, blood flowed, and in the pitch-black spectral domain, this speck of red seemed especially jarring.

With one on the left and one on the right, both filled with a lethal aura, the woman trapped in the middle was trembling, expression filled with fear.

She never thought, that merely being here to enhance the quality of the Million Souls Banner, would lead to such a calamity!

"I'll only say it once, do as I say!" Lu Ye addressed the woman, his expression calm, "Nod if you understand!"

The woman obediently nodded, she could sense the near-boiling rage beneath the man's calm exterior before her, and the more composed a person is like this, the more frightening they are.

Chapter 1363 A Bunch of Lunatics

"Retrieve the Million Souls Banner!" Lu Ye ordered.

The woman dared not disobey, channeling her spirit force into the large banner in front of her, cooperating seamlessly, not daring to play any tricks.

There was no choice; in such a situation, any movement on her part might lead to her untimely demise.

Once the banner region disappeared and all the soul bodies were collected back into the banner, Lu Ye quietly extended a hand towards her.

The woman obediently handed over the Million Souls Banner to Lu Ye.

Lu Ye stored the banner and gave Nian Yuexian a meaningful glance.

Nian Yuexian immediately summoned an Immortal Binding Rope, tying the woman up tightly and securely.

Only then did Lu Ye withdraw the Boulder Mountain Saber from her body.

Blood spurted out as the woman let out a soft moan, her voice exceptionally alluring, while tears welled up in her clear, large eyes, clearly in pain.

Along with her moan, there was a crisp smack sound.

The pitiable woman's head tilted to the side, and a palm print appeared on her snow-white cheek. Nian Yuexian shook her hand and said indifferently, "Behave yourself!"

The woman lowered her head, her tear-filled eyes full of resentment.

The distant combat continued, just as Lu Ye expected; their side's Constellation was exposed because they were facing a Constellation Late Stage.

However, as the battle erupted, the Constellations from the Nine Provinces quickly converged from all directions, causing the battlefield to begin moving on a large scale.

By the time Lu Ye and Nian Yuexian arrived with the captive woman, the battle had subsided, and the nine Constellations from both sides were in a standoff.

The standoff was due to the fact that the opposing Constellation Late Stage was shamelessly holding many hostages.

Initially, he was searching for Nine Provinces cultivators across the Unparalleled Continent, capturing them to feed the woman's Million Souls Banner.

This time he had ten-odd captives, among them Divine Sea and True Lake cultivators. Midway, he sensed the presence of Nine Provinces Constellations and launched an attack.

Two Constellation Early Stage had not been taken seriously by him, but as the battle commenced, he sensed more Constellation auras rushing from all sides.

Immediately realizing something was amiss, though his strength was formidable, the number of enemies was overwhelming.

He promptly returned to the side of the previously captured Nine Provinces cultivators to reevaluate the situation. These captured cultivators had been restrained by him, unable to escape, even the Divine Sea ones.

In his view, the attacking Constellations and the captured cultivators were from the same domain. Holding hostages gave him the upper hand as it would restrain the enemies.

Indeed, as he predicted, following his actions, the eight Constellations from the Nine Provinces paused, forming pairs and surrounding him.

He began transmitting messages to his companions, but to his shock, none responded.

Just as he was doubting if his companions encountered mishaps, Lu Ye and Nian Yuexian arrived with the battered woman.

Seeing the woman's plight, the Constellation Late Stage's expression darkened slightly, realizing that the other two companions were likely in dire straits.

Because the physique cultivator they were pursuing earlier was now present.

Scanning the Nine Provinces members, the Constellation Late Stage spoke faintly, "Who's in charge?"

Ten Constellation Early Stages; such a formation was rarely seen. Generally, a domain's Constellations wouldn't only consist of early stages; there should be some mid and late stages.

Unless it was a newly elevated large domain, leading to this peculiar scenario, or there were stronger ones hiding.

Given the situation, he doubted the necessity for enemies to hide, boldly guessing that their domain was newly elevated, having recently connected with the stellar space, hence the all-Early Stage formation.

Upon reaching this conclusion, he was reassured.

For a newly elevated large domain, the cultivators within wouldn't be too knowledgeable and would have limited strength, so despite appearing at a disadvantage, he was confident of resolving it.

At worst, he had the skills to escape alone; just a group of Constellation Early Stages was not something he feared.

First, he needed to identify who was in charge.

Among the silence, Lu Ye spoke calmly, "How do you address yourself?"

The Constellation Late Stage's gaze had been lingering on Jian Guhong and Mong Jie, since from his experience, those two appeared to be the oldest among them and it was common for the older to be in charge under such circumstances.

Unexpectedly, the one who spoke looked the youngest.

He scrutinized Lu Ye, not detecting anything special, and arrogantly stated, "Zhao Tianmu!"

Lu Ye nodded slightly, "Li Taibai!" Having suffered at the hands of the Dwarf Race, Lu Ye was reluctant to reveal even his real name to cultivators from other domains, wary they might connect him with Lu Yiye of the Nine Heavens World.

The Nine Provinces members' expressions remained unchanged.

"Fellow Daoist Li!"

Lu Ye raised a hand to stop him: "Our paths differ, you do not deserve to be called Fellow Daoist!"

Zhao Tianmu's eyes slightly darkened, but he didn't argue further and said indifferently, "If that's the case, then I won't insist. Given the current situation, what do you plan to do?"

Lu Ye glanced at the dozen or so Nine Provinces cultivators next to Zhao Tianmu, then turned to look at the frail woman beside him, and said, "You have hostages, and I have one too. So you release yours, I'll release mine—it's quite fair!"

Zhao Tianmu said, "Very well, that's what I thought too. But you have only one person in your hand, while I have over ten. There's quite a difference in numbers..."

"The one I have is a Constellation, while yours are Divine Sea-True Lake. There's a difference in cultivation as well. So we both release our people, neither side will be at a disadvantage."

Zhao Tianmu shook his head: "With you all eyeing me like predators, can I understand that if I release them, you'll all swarm upon me?"

"You're at the Late Stage, and we're all at the Early Stage. Even if we swarm upon you, what could we possibly do?"

Zhao Tianmu chuckled, "That's reasonable. If I want to leave, you can't stop me. But although the words make sense, actions must be handled differently."

"Then what do you suggest? You can speak out, let's all discuss it."

Zhao Tianmu's expression became serious, clearly with a plan in mind, he spoke up: "I'll release half of them first in exchange for my junior sister. Once the two of us have left this domain, I'll release the other half."

Lu Ye slowly shook his head, "No, no! If so, who could guarantee you won't harm the other half before leaving?"

Zhao Tianmu said, "I am at the Constellation Late Stage, what's the fun in killing these Divine Sea-True Lakes? Moreover... it seems you have no choice!"

Saying this, he raised his hand and grabbed a Divine Sea in front of him, clutching this person's neck, Zhao Tianmu smiled and said, "I have so many people in my hands that killing a few doesn't seem to matter much. Either you agree to my plan, or I'll kill a few until you agree!"

Lu Ye quietly looked at him, saying nothing.

Zhao Tianmu's grip tightened, the Divine Sea he held began to show signs of distress.

Seeing Lu Ye hesitating, Zhao Tianmu seemed somewhat pleased and urged, "You'd better make a decision quickly, I can't guarantee I won't slip—killing a Divine Sea is as easy as crushing an ant!"

Lu Ye's gaze shifted, looking at the Divine Sea being restrained, "Which sect do you belong to?"

The Divine Sea struggled to speak, "Dingzhou, Chaotian Sect!"

"Any last words?"

The Divine Sea smiled grimly despite the struggle, "Let them bury me with you!"

Lu Ye nodded, without moving, he grasped his saber backward and slashed out. As the saber's light flashed, it was already sheathed!

Zhao Tianmu's smile froze instantly, gazing incredulously at Lu Ye, then slowly shifting his gaze to the frail woman beside Lu Ye.

The woman apparently didn't realize what had happened until she felt pain in her arm, only then did she look down belatedly.

Blood oozed inexplicably from her upper arm, quickly staining her clothing red. The pain suddenly intensified, and next, her entire arm along with the torn clothing fell to the ground.

Blood spurted!

"Ah!" After a brief moment of shock, the woman let out a piercing, shrill scream, filled with pain and terror.

"Shut up!" Nian Yuexian, standing on her other side, coldly scolded.

The woman's scream abruptly stopped, tears streamed down her face, her whole body shaking violently, whether from pain or fear remained uncertain.

Lu Ye's calm voice rang out, "So many arms and legs, breaking a few doesn't seem to matter! If you're going to make a decision, you'd better do it quickly. I can't guarantee I won't slip—next slash might be her head!"

Zhao Tianmu's face twitched violently, looking at Lu Ye as if he were looking at a madman!

He was merely posturing; without ensuring his junior sister's safety, he couldn't actually kill to avoid provoking these unknown domain Constellations, causing an uncontrollable situation. A Constellation's life isn't comparable to a group of Divine Sea-True Lakes.

But while he had his concerns, the opponent had none at all.

One slash, one arm severed, clean and tidy.

Even before slashing, he asked if there were any last words, clearly prepared for the possibility of killing in anger.

Moreover, the Divine Sea actually answered seriously, without any plea for mercy or help.

And looking at the other Constellations, ever since this young man spoke, no one uttered a word. Throughout the whole process, they merely watched coldly without intervening. Even at this moment, there was no change in their expressions, only their presence firmly locked onto him.

The many Divine Sea-True Lakes he had captured were the same; even when he said he'd kill a few moments ago, he felt little fear from them.

This isn't just a madman, this is a group of madmen!

A group of madmen who don't care about life and death at all!

Zhao Tianmu's heart shook, unable to comprehend which domain they had provoked this time to produce such resilient cultivators.

Such a domain, if it grows strong, would surely be terrifying!

Chapter 1364 The Pursuit

"You can take your time to consider, but my patience is limited!"

As Zhao Tianmu's mind fluctuated, Lu Ye's calm voice rang out again. Zhao Tianmu looked up to see Lu Ye's right hand resting on the saber's hilt, thumb gently stroking it, ready to draw the saber at any moment.

Next to Lu Ye, the woman's body trembled uncontrollably, her severed arm dripping blood, leaving a crimson pool on the ground.

Zhao Tianmu immediately understood that his previous thoughts were too naive.

He deduced that these Constellations came from a newly ascended large domain, so they couldn't have much knowledge. With so many hostages in hand, he could easily cope, but he hadn't expected the other party's ruthlessness and decisiveness to be beyond imagination.

If it were a Moon Jade who had honed her essence to the extreme, the severed arm injury could be regenerated at a cost. However, for a Constellation Early Stage, such an injury is irreparable, and even if she ascends to Moon Jade later, she can't compensate for it because the severed arm was missing before her Moon Jade ascension.

His junior sister's arm has been severed, her future cultivation will inevitably suffer greatly, and if another arm is severed, her prospects will be bleak.

Observing the ruthlessness of this young man named Li Taibai, Zhao Tianmu knew he would certainly do such a thing; on his side, even if he killed these True Lake-Divine Seas, what good would it do?

"I agree to your proposal!" Zhao Tianmu wasn't one to ramble. Upon grasping the key point, he immediately consented and then said, "But I have a request."

Lu Ye nodded, "We can talk!"

Zhao Tianmu pointed to the severed arm on the ground, "I want to take this!"

Constellation Realm cultivators lack the ability to regenerate a severed arm, but if the arm is intact, it can be reattached.

Lu Ye glanced down and then turned, signaling to Nian Yuexian.

Nian Yuexian kicked the severed arm towards Zhao Tianmu, who caught it with one hand.

"Let them go!" Lu Ye spoke.

With a sullen face, Zhao Tianmu released the Divine Sea cultivator from Chaotian Sect that he held and slowly retreated, eventually moving back behind the crowd.

The numerous True Lake-Divine Seas from Nine Provinces, previously seized by him, then stepped towards where Lu Ye was, and Lu Ye raised his hand, pushing the woman bound by the Immortal Binding Rope.

The exchange of hostages went smoothly, as both Lu Ye and Zhao Tianmu knew that neither would act rashly during this process.

Nine Provinces had concerns; over a dozen True Lake-Divine Seas were under restriction, their spirit force sealed. Even if they took action, the fallout from the battle alone would be enough to doom these True Lake-Divine Seas.

Zhao Tianmu likewise wouldn't act; he hoped more than anyone for a smooth exchange of hostages.

With mutual understanding, everything proceeded safely and smoothly.

Shortly, the woman with the severed arm returned to Zhao Tianmu, who grasped her intact arm and urgently channeled spirit force, soaring skyward.

Simultaneously, he threw down a prepared orb from his hand.

Violent spirit force surged out.

Almost as the orb appeared, many of the Nine Provinces Constellations took action.

Their tacit understanding was not limited to safely exchanging hostages. Everyone knew that after the exchange, neither party would easily let matters rest. The Nine Provinces Constellations were ready for battle, and Zhao Tianmu was no less prepared.

Were he alone, there wouldn't be much to fear, as he said before; he truly didn't regard the Constellations Early Stages.

But now he had a companion bound by the Immortal Binding Rope. Without freeing the companion, he dared not engage the Nine Provinces Constellations directly.

Throwing the orb spirit treasure was merely to restrain; within a short time, he could safely leave with his companion. Once the binding was released, this vast domain would be at his disposal.

First, he would kill these Constellations, then slaughter all beings in this domain, to vent his anger.

The orb spirit treasure is a type of exotic treasure, usable only once, storing inside it fine, needle-like sharp tools. Once unleashed, each hits with the full force of a Constellation Early Stage, its power remarkably formidable.

The instant the orb exotic treasure exploded, hundreds of rays shot out in all directions.

Those from Nine Provinces, under pressure, could only employ techniques to resist.

Lu Ye and Nian Yuexian vigorously channeled spirit force, missing no attacks, for behind them were the rescued True Lake-Divine Seas, unable to withstand such assaults.

As the chaotic spirit force fluctuations settled, the orb exotic treasure's power depleted, leaving the Nine Provinces unscathed, and figures soared into the sky in pursuit of Zhao Tianmu.

Lu Ye took the lead, charging ahead, his resolute gaze reflecting the enemy's image.

He must not let Zhao Tianmu escape this place, or the consequences would be dire!

Yet the disparity in cultivation levels between them also meant differences in flight speed.

The flight speed of Constellation Late Stage is ultimately much faster than the Early Stage.

Since Zhao Tianmu flew into the sky with the one-armed woman, only three breaths had passed before he rushed into the stellar space.

Once he entered the stellar space, it was even harder to pursue him, because Zhao Tianmu's speed in stellar space was surely beyond what someone at the Constellation Early Stage could match. Even Lu Ye might not keep up with him.

Perhaps thinking she was out of danger, the one-armed woman glanced back and saw the persistent figure of Lu Ye behind them.

Her seemingly gentle face twisted with extreme malice, her spirit force surged as she shrieked, "Dare to cut off my arm, I will slaughter your entire family!"

Lu Ye paid her no mind. At this moment, he was exceeding his maximum speed in stellar space, and in such a state, if there were any sudden obstacles ahead, he would certainly be unable to avoid them.

However, needing to chase a formidable foe, he couldn't worry too much. Moreover, Zhao Tianmu was clearing the way ahead, so if there were any obstacles, Zhao Tianmu would hit them first, making the possibility of him colliding with any barriers unlikely.

Just as he thought this, a flash of light assaulted him suddenly from the front; Zhao Tianmu had cast a spell.

Lu Ye thought to himself that this was bad. He considered that someone was clearing the path ahead, so he wouldn't crash into any obstacles, but he forgot that the opponent could attack.

With their cultivation levels different, and the opponent's attack swift as a dragon, at such speed, Lu Ye had no time to change direction and could only swing fiercely forward with his saber in desperation.

When the light exploded, Lu Ye's body was momentarily halted, and his speed greatly reduced; even his right arm holding the saber tingled slightly.

This delay only increased the distance between him and Zhao Tianmu. In the next instant, Feng Wujiang and others swept past him, but their speed was still inferior to Lu Ye's; they couldn't hope to catch up with Zhao Tianmu, who was at the Constellation Late Stage.

Continuing like this, Zhao Tianmu would undoubtedly escape far away with the one-armed woman, release her from the Immortal Binding Rope, and then come back to cause trouble once more.

This couldn't go on!

Originally, the backup plan he had left on that one-armed woman was meant for an even more surprising attack, but without utilizing it now, he could only watch the enemies escape.

The urgent task was to first hinder the enemy's escape.

Gripping the Boulder Mountain Saber, he locked his gaze on Zhao Tianmu's retreating figure, spirit force surging around him as a mysterious spirit rune quickly formed at his feet.

The Void!

In the next moment, he vanished from his spot.

When he reappeared, he was already behind the one-armed woman!

The one-armed woman was still cursing and yelling, her eyes filled with so much malice and ruthlessness that it almost overflowed. Suddenly, she saw Lu Ye's figure and was so shocked her eyes widened as if she thought she was seeing things.

It wasn't until the sudden surge of spirit force and the sharp, overpowering blade light swept toward her that she realized this young man, who cut off her arm and whom she swore to annihilate his whole family, had indeed caught up to her.

But... how did he do it? She clearly remembered his form being obstructed and had long been left far behind.

She wasn't the only one who couldn't understand—Zhao Tianmu couldn't either. As someone at the Constellation Late Stage, being pursued by a group from the Early Stage was undoubtedly infuriating.

But his priority was ensuring his junior sister's safety, so he could only choose to escape first. Like Lu Ye thought, he planned to shake off the pursuers behind, untie his junior sister's Immortal Binding Rope, and then return to deal with the Nine Provinces Constellation.

The sudden violent attack made his face change, and he quickly surged his spirit force to protect himself.

Having Lu Ye's saber strike down, Zhao Tianmu's face changed once more as he shockingly discovered that the opponent's attack was incredibly sharp, nearly breaking through his hastily summoned protective spirit force!

As cold sweat sprang up on him, two top-tier spirit treasures were immediately conjured—a great bell transformed into a protective force, and an arrow shot forth, aiming directly at Lu Ye's face. At the same time, he summoned spirit force and cast a spell toward Lu Ye with a wave of his hand.

Lu Ye instantly discerned that Zhao Tianmu was a magic cultivator.

For him, this was undoubtedly good news. As a combat cultivator, in such close combat against a magic cultivator, he could certainly gain some advantage.

However, the power of the opponent's spirit treasures could not be underestimated; the defense created by the great bell was extremely robust, making it difficult for the Boulder Mountain Saber, even enhanced with Divine Sharp Edge, to break through. The arrow spirit treasure was exceptionally agile, shuttling back and forth, coupled with Zhao Tianmu's sporadically cast spells that Lu Ye, for a moment, could do nothing about him.

The opponent undoubtedly also had rich combat experience and remained calm amidst changes.

This was Lu Ye's second time fighting a Constellation Late Stage one-on-one, but this battle was incomparable to the one in Black Abyss.

In Black Abyss, his final confrontation with Duan Xiuchen had no fancy tricks—it was just brute force deciding the outcome swiftly, allowing him to quickly resolve the opponent.

However, a true duel wouldn't be like that; instead, it was as it was before him now, the ultimate test of each cultivator's foundation and adaptability.

Lu Ye struggled to make progress here, nearly being hit by Zhao Tianmu's attack several times.

Also, Zhao Tianmu grew more and more alarmed as the battle continued.

Since his contact with the Nine Provinces Constellation, he had looked down on this group, thinking that based on his own strength, he could easily crush them one-on-one.

However, after exchanging blows with Lu Ye, he discovered that this Li Taibai, though only possessing a Constellation Early Stage cultivation, undoubtedly had the strength of a Constellation Late Stage. One-on-one, he had no confidence he could defeat the opponent.

Chapter 1365 Calling Reinforcements

Finally, it was clear why the seemingly youngest of them, Li Taibai, could become the leader of the group of Constellations; he indeed possessed such strength.

Especially his eerie ability to suddenly catch up; to this day, Zhao Tianmu did not know how he did it.

He harbored some doubts; people with such abilities were generally nurtured by top domains, which contradicted his previous deduction.

Clearing the distractions from his mind, Zhao Tianmu clearly sensed that in the moment Li Taibai and he were entangled, the group of Constellation Early Stage cultivators was rapidly approaching, and would reach the battlefield in no time.

He repeatedly tried to shake off Lu Ye's entanglement and escape with the one-armed woman, but would Lu Ye ever give him such a chance?

Lu Ye relied on the backup he had left earlier, finally managing to hold onto him, intending to delay until reinforcements arrived and then launch a collective assault.

Only in this way could Zhao Tianmu be completely kept here, even if it meant paying a price.

Only ten more breaths, and his plan would be accomplished!

Yet, at this moment, Zhao Tianmu suddenly spoke: "Junior Sister Sun, I will definitely come back to save you!"

The one-armed woman surnamed Sun's expression changed from astonishment to terror, evidently realizing what her senior brother intended, and quickly shouted, "No!"

As the words fell, she was suddenly pushed towards Lu Ye by Zhao Tianmu.

Under her terrified gaze, Lu Ye's blade slashed down. She had been bound by the Immortal Binding Rope and never got the chance to break free—how could she defend herself now? Initially thinking she would escape to safety under her senior brother's lead, who'd have thought he'd use her as a scapegoat to live?

The blade light was chilling; Junior Sister Sun closed her eyes.

The fierce killing intent halted above her head, followed by someone grabbing her hair and forcefully tossing her aside.

Lu Ye had not expected Zhao Tianmu to be so despicable and shameless; knowing he couldn't escape, he threw the Junior Sister he had painstakingly rescued.

The slash could have killed the one-armed woman, but in the moment just before success, he changed his mind, sparing her life.

Looking up, without the burden, Zhao Tianmu enacted some wonderful method, transforming into a stream of light and speeding away faster than before, covering hundreds to thousands of miles in the blink of an eye.

Lu Ye dared not hesitate; he quickly activated the Blood Escape Technique, causing a drop of Essence Blood in his body to explode, turning into blood light and chasing after him.

The backup he had left behind was hidden on the one-armed woman, and now that she was abandoned, it could no longer be used.

With his own speed, he couldn't catch up to Zhao Tianmu; only the Blood Race's Blood Escape Technique offered a slim hope.

The fleeing Zhao Tianmu, obviously aware, cursed Li Taibai for going too far. If not for the prior encounter, he'd stop and teach him a lesson. But knowing Li Taibai could rival the Constellation Late Stage, how dare he linger?

Seeing himself unable to shake off Lu Ye, he made a bold decision, retrieving a starboat, and leaping onto it, immediately channeling spirit force into it.

Seeing this from afar, Lu Ye was anxious, urging the Blood Escape Technique even harder, hoping to intercept before the starboat's speed kicked in.

However, Zhao Tianmu had clearly made calculations, knowing that at Lu Ye's current speed, he couldn't be stopped.

The starboat's speed increased under his propulsion, gradually disappearing from sight.

In the stellar space, Lu Ye halted, the blood light around him faded, and he looked somber.

In the end, Zhao Tianmu still got away!

Though he could also activate a starboat to continue the chase, it was largely meaningless; intercepting an enemy in stellar space without letting them flee on a starboat was almost hopeless.

After waiting at the spot for a long time, Feng Wujiang and others finally arrived.

Seeing Lu Ye's figure at a glance, they knew the enemy had fled, and each felt heavy-hearted.

The one-armed woman surnamed Sun was now held in Nian Yuexian's grip, her face pale and trembling. Sensing Lu Ye's gaze, she quickly lowered her head.

Just moments ago, she was still venomously clamoring to kill Lu Ye's whole family, yet in the blink of an eye, she fell into his hands again.

Lu Ye's ruthless and merciless nature terrified her; she had no idea what fate awaited her.

"Prepare to meet the enemy," Feng Wujiang said.

Zhao Tianmu had escaped; if he wanted to save his Junior Sister, he would surely not return alone, so the next time Zhao Tianmu came, it'd definitely be with many reinforcements.

Moreover, having suffered such a loss this time, they'd surely try to regain their ground.

Currently, with the enemy's domain unknown and strength uncertain, all Nine Provinces could do was limited; the worst-case scenario would be Zhao Tianmu leading a group of powerful fighters, leaving Nine Provinces unable to resist.

"Should we give up the Unparalleled Continent?" someone proposed.

Zhao Tianmu knew the location of the Unparalleled Continent. If he brought strong fighters, Nine Provinces might not withstand them. Abandoning the Unparalleled Continent could avoid a direct confrontation with unknown formidable opponents.

"It's a method, but not foolproof," Jian Guhong shook his head, "the Unparalleled Continent is only a little over a year's journey from Nine Provinces, just a month by starboat. Their domain shouldn't be weak; abandoning the Unparalleled Continent, they'd certainly search around, and if they found Nine Provinces..."

The situation would only worsen, so if there were truly to be a battle with the unknown domain, the Unparalleled Continent would be the best battlefield. Abandoning it might instead court disaster.

"Yiye, what do you say?" Jian Guhong looked up at Lu Ye.

In terms of knowledge and experience with stellar space, no one could compare with Lu Ye, so even though everyone was older than him, they naturally regarded him as their backbone.

Earlier when Zhao Tianmu asked who was in charge, the silence of the crowd was their best response.

Lu Ye looked at everyone, decisively saying, "Call for reinforcements! If the enemy doesn't come, let them be; but if they really come, we'll kill them with no chance of return!"

Currently, there are only ten Constellation Early Stage cultivators here, a number still too few, requiring more manpower!

There are now quite a few Nine Provinces Constellations, and bringing some over here could strengthen our defensive forces.

From another perspective, even if the enemy doesn't come, the Unparalleled Continent, as an important training ground for the Nine Provinces cultivators, needs more Constellations to be stationed here.

Last time Mong Jie, being alone, almost got hunted down by foreign Constellations. If there had been enough Constellations back then, the enemy wouldn't have been able to penetrate deep into the Unparalleled Continent. In the stellar space, we could intercept them.

"Senior Sister Nian, I need your help." Lu Ye turned to Nian Yuexian, handing the Silver Fish to her.

Nian Yuexian nodded and immediately set off with the Silver Fish towards the Nine Provinces.

"We also need more intelligence!" Lu Ye watched Nian Yuexian leave, then turned to fix his gaze on the one-armed woman.

The woman shrank back, trying to make herself inconspicuous.

But Lu Ye grabbed her, casually taking back a weapon control device he left behind earlier from her.

"Let's discuss this after we return!"

Two hours later, at the Jiuwu Grand Hall.

This grand hall was built by the Nine Provinces cultivators, and deep underground lies the passage connecting the Nine Provinces. It's called Jiuwu Grand Hall mainly due to the homophony of Nine Provinces and Unparalleled in their domains.

Above Liyuan in Bingzhou of the Nine Provinces, there is another grander Jiuwu Grand Hall.

This place is considered a transit station between the two domains.

On ordinary days, this place is bustling with Nine Provinces cultivators coming and going, but at this moment, there are only a few people inside, as everyone else has been cleared out.

Outside the hall, it's crowded with True Lake and Divine Sea cultivators from the Nine Provinces. Earlier, strong enemies descended, ransacking and slaughtering Nine Provinces cultivators, causing many to suffer. Now, with our Constellations arriving, they repelled the enemies and even captured one alive, who is being questioned inside.

These True Lake and Divine Sea cultivators from the Nine Provinces are eager to know where these enemies came from and what they intend to do.

More Nine Provinces cultivators, upon receiving the news, came out from their hiding places and headed here, resulting in an increasing gathering of people.

Inside the hall, Lu Ye sat upright, with the Sun-named woman quietly kneeling before him. To her left and right, Nine Provinces Constellations stood silently, causing her pressure to feel like a mountain, her body trembling occasionally.

Especially as Lu Ye leaned slightly forward, speaking in a calm voice continuously, the pressure he exerted was the greatest.

Lu Ye was inquiring about the situation of the domain she belonged to.

This was also the reason he spared her life in the first place!

Through the questions and answers, Lu Ye gradually grasped the situation of the domain where she came from.

The woman was named Sun Ying, originating from a large domain called Qingli Dao World.

Although it is also a large domain like the Nine Provinces, its foundation is much more robust. The Qingli Dao World has no Sun Blaze cultivators, which is good news.

Because if they had Sun Blaze Realm experts, once they attacked, Nine Provinces here would be unable to resist.

The bad news is that they have Moon Jade!

And they have three Moon Jades!

Below the Moon Jade, the number of Constellations is not much more than the Nine Provinces, maybe even slightly fewer, only around five to six hundred people, but the quality of their Constellations is high, not only at the Early Stage but also many mid-stage and Late Stage ones...

The reason why the number of Qingli Dao World's Constellations is fewer than that of the Nine Provinces is mainly because their size isn't large, and their population base isn't as vast as the Nine Provinces.

Such a large domain isn't particularly strong when looking at the stellar space, but it's also not weak, making it something the current Nine Provinces cannot compare to.

The worse news is that the sect Sun Ying came from has a Moon Jade Realm!

The cultivation world structure of Qingli Dao World is similar to that of the Nine Provinces, with numerous sects. The three Moon Jades belong to the three top sects, and Sun Ying's sect has one of them. Moreover, this woman has some bloodline relation with that Moon Jade, being one of its descendants.

If not for such a connection, there would be no need to worry much. In stellar space, it's common for cultivators to fight and kill upon encounter. If killed, it's due to lacking strength and luck. Avenge if you have the ability; if not, endure the disgrace until you have the ability to avenge.

But with Sun Ying having such a relation, Nine Provinces here must consider whether that Moon Jade will come personally to rescue Sun Ying and avenge the disciples who died under her wing, which is very likely to happen.

A single Moon Jade is something the current strength of Nine Provinces can't contend with.

Chapter 1366 This Is Just Bullying

"Well then, in your opinion, will your elder from Moon Jade personally come to rescue you?" In the grand hall, Lu Ye's voice echoed as he fixed his gaze unblinking on Sun Ying, who was kneeling on the ground not far away.

Sun Ying dared not lift her head, exerting every effort to appear fragile and helpless. Hearing his words, she immediately replied, "She will. The ancestor will definitely come to save me. She values me greatly and often says that I can inherit her legacy in the future!"

She was undoubtedly a smart woman. Saying that no one would come to rescue her would surely spell imminent doom, so regardless of the true situation, she would bring up the Moon Jade Realm behind her to intimidate Lu Ye and the others. This response was undoubtedly her best choice.

"If I were to let you go back now, would anyone from the Qingli Dao World still come to invade this remote corner of mine?" Lu Ye asked again.

Sun Ying promptly raised her head, revealing a face stained with tears that accentuate her beauty, her expression sincere: "If you can let me go, I will be eternally grateful. I will persuade the ancestor not to disturb you here!"

Lu Ye stared at her: "But I severed your arm, and you said you wanted to kill my whole family."

Sun Ying displayed an uneasy expression, hesitated for a moment, and timidly said, "It was my ignorance, and my words were offensive on occasion. Those were careless words, Fellow Daoist, please don't take it seriously! As for the severed arm... it is in Zhao Tianmu's hands; once I return, it can be reattached. Zhao Tianmu, that person, abandoned me to save himself. Once I return, I will have the ancestor take his life as a punishment for his reckless behavior in this world!"

"Very well!" Lu Ye seemed quite satisfied, instructing, "Lift your head and look at me!"

Sun Ying obediently complied.

The instant their gazes met, a fierce and overwhelming divine soul power surged. Sun Ying's expression changed as she exclaimed, "You..."

As soon as she spoke, she fell silent.

Lu Ye was also motionless.

Feng Wujiang and the others, seeing this, understood at once that Sun Ying had been forcibly dragged by Lu Ye into a soul struggle state.

Though this woman appeared very submissive and cooperative, answering every question and seeming to hold nothing back, who could tell which of her words were true and which were false?

Such questioning could only glean some basic information and could not ascertain its truthfulness.

The only way to acquire accurate information and intelligence was to probe the psyche!

Setting aside everything else, the question Lu Ye asked — whether people from the Qingli Dao World would still come if she were released — was clearly not something to be trusted based on Sun Ying's response.

The woman's malice was evident to everyone. Having suffered such a loss here, if she indeed had Moon Jade's support, how could she easily let it go?

If she were freed to return, Zhao Tianmu's fate would be anticipated by everyone, but it was also very likely that she would lead her Moon Jade back to avenge the disgrace.

The questioning process was also a means of letting Sun Ying lower her guard gradually. Otherwise, even with Lu Ye's abilities, it wouldn't have been possible to so easily drag her into a soul struggle state, unless he relied on some specific exotic treasure like what Liew Yuemei used against him.

Such exotic treasures do exist within the Nine Provinces, but they aren't very effective against people at the Constellation stage.

In the grand hall, everyone waited silently, only the constant clash of psyche forces between Lu Ye and Sun Ying echoing.

On an unseen battlefield, Lu Ye wielded the Soul Severing Saber, launching a frantic assault on Sun Ying's psyche defenses.

Within her psyche lay a soul treasure of exceptional quality, providing protection. Lu Ye could not discern the exact form of this soul treasure, but at the moment, it transformed into a protective layer, isolating Sun Ying's Divine Sea and preventing Lu Ye's psyche spirit body from penetrating easily.

He could only forcefully attack!

Sun Ying, deeply unnerved by Lu Ye's sudden change of demeanor, felt the overwhelming power of his psyche. Her psyche spirit body could only retract into her Divine Sea, relying on the protection of the soul treasure, continuously pleading for mercy and earnestly assuring him that she spoke nothing but the truth.

Lu Ye would not be swayed by her noise. Standing on opposing sides, reconciliation was impossible, not to mention the deeds of this woman on the Unparalleled Continent; Lu Ye could not allow her to leave alive.

Since Zhao Tianmu brought Sun Ying to the Unparalleled Continent, countless concealed Nine Provinces cultivators have been found, captured, and subsequently brought before Sun Ying, to be harvested to enhance the Million Souls Banner's quality.

In less than half a month, no fewer than a thousand Nine Provinces cultivators perished at this woman's hands; her hands were stained with their blood.

Lu Ye feared for Li Baxian and others being found, particularly for Hua Ci's safety... he couldn't bear to imagine such a scenario.

The Soul Severing Saber is specifically designed to deal with psyches, but as Lu Ye's cultivation advanced, its power gradually waned because his enemies grew stronger.

Though it still served its purpose, it wasn't as effective as during the True Lake and Divine Sea periods.

Especially noting the high tier of Sun Ying's soul treasure, Lu Ye found that the Soul Severing Saber's potency could not easily overcome the treasure's protection.

Sun Ying continued begging, "Please, stop. I'm telling the truth. I can swear an oath. You must believe me. As long as you let me leave alive, I'll do whatever you ask."

Perhaps she initially harbored other intentions, but after Lu Ye displayed his ferocious determination, she was left with only one desire: to survive.

Seeing Lu Ye pause his assault, Sun Ying rejoiced, thinking he had had a change of heart. She was about to speak when, in the next instant, she witnessed a scene that filled her with terror.

As Lu Ye's Divine Soul Power surged like a tide, a battered battleship emerged behind him. At first glance, the ship seemed shrouded in spectral energy, evoking an extreme sense of discomfort. Sun Ying had no idea what this ship was, but the moment it appeared, even her psyche began to tremble.

Lu Ye swiftly landed on the deck, and with a surge of spirit force, the dilapidated battleship was rejuvenated.

Soon after, figures began to appear on the battleship—none other than Qin Zong, Xiao Jianming, Zhou Xing, Xu Qingwei, and others he had encountered on the Ghost Ship!

Back on the Ghost Ship, Lu Ye had made an unconventional choice at the last moment, and as a result, received a gift from the Ghost Ship. Since then, a battered battleship had drifted within his Divine Sea, unremarkable on ordinary days, yet when activated, it appeared as if the Ghost Ship had returned.

This was certainly not the real Ghost Ship. Strictly speaking, it was merely an imprint of the Ghost Ship, carrying some of its features.

Even now, the figures of Qin Zong and others were manifestations imbued by Lu Ye's Divine Soul Power.

They lacked spiritual intelligence and could only act under Lu Ye's command.

The crew took their positions, the Array hummed, and the battleship surged with energy, sending a massive beam of light thundering forth.

This attack was far more powerful than any strike Lu Ye had ever made with the Soul Severing Saber; the massive beam crashed against Sun Ying's soul treasure's protective barrier, sending huge ripples cascading outward.

One strike followed by another!

The scene was grand, akin to the eruption of an interstellar battle.

However, it was an assault from one side and a passive defense from the other.

Sun Ying stared in dumbfounded shock...

In a battle of souls, victory or defeat was determined by the strength of each psyche. It was normal to use soul treasures, but was there any soul treasure like this in existence? Sun Ying felt Li Taibai was bullying her; seeing that he couldn't break through her soul treasure's barrier, he actually summoned a battleship to deal with her.

She felt so wronged she wanted to cry, thinking that she was merely at the Constellation Early Stage. How could she be worthy of such treatment?

Yet in that moment, she couldn't even find the time to cry. With just one strike, her psyche was shaken and unstable. After two strikes, she was left dizzy and dazed.

While she had a soul treasure of excellent quality to protect her psyche, even the mightiest soul treasure depended on the psyche for support. Her soul treasure was a gift from her own Moon Jade, and she couldn't fully wield its power. Even Lu Ye himself could forcibly break through given enough time, let alone with the aid of the Ghost Ship.

Under such immense impact, how could she possibly have a good outcome?

Seeing that the protection was on the verge of collapse after two strikes, Lu Ye quickly withdrew the Ghost Ship. With further attacks, he wouldn't be able to control the strength, and if he unintentionally obliterated Sun Ying's psyche spirit body, he would lose any chance of extracting useful information.

He switched back to wielding his saber, and this time everything went smoothly; Sun Ying hadn't recovered yet when her soul treasure's protection was completely breached.

Lu Ye charged in, and with a few slashes, he dimmed Sun Ying's psyche spirit body to an extreme, eliciting continuous screams.

Lu Ye finally refocused, gritting his teeth, and constructed a divine rune on her psyche spirit body!

A touch of telepathy!

Others might have secret techniques specifically designed to delve into the depths of the psyche to uncover secrets, but Lu Ye hadn't cultivated any such technique. What he had was just this single touch of telepathy, a divine rune that wounded a thousand foes while hurting a thousand of his own.

Once this divine rune was formed, both sides' psyche secrets would be laid bare. Of course, if Lu Ye's psyche far exceeded that of the opponent, he could suppress their probing.

But if the difference wasn't substantial, Lu Ye had no recourse. The gap in psyche strength between him and Sun Ying was present, but not enough to completely suppress her.

In other words, while Lu Ye was probing her psyche secrets, Sun Ying also had some opportunity to probe his own secrets.

Since acquiring this divine rune, Lu Ye had only ever activated it once!

That was during a trial activation in the Blood Refinement World.

It felt awful! Throughout the process, countless jumbled information flooded uncontrollably into his mind. The ordeal was far worse than when he explored the Talent Tree's leaves.

So, since then, Lu Ye hadn't activated this divine rune again.

But now, aiming to accurately gauge intelligence on the Qingli Dao World, he had no choice.

In truth, Lu Ye had considered using Soul Taming. If he turned Sun Ying into a soul slave, he might gather accurate information.

However, the requirements for Soul Taming were higher. Sun Ying was a mentally sound and spiritually intelligent Constellation, unlike the previously mind-dull Dao Thirteen.

He had successfully enacted Soul Taming on Dao Thirteen because Dao Thirteen was a simpleton, but dealing with Sun Ying would be impossible. Forcing it might even lead to backlash on himself.

Chapter 1367 Preparing for Battle

At the moment the divine runes were successfully constructed, numerous chaotic and conflicting pieces of information and images flooded uncontrollably into Lu Ye's mind.

These information and images were all from Sun Ying's various experiences.

Extracting useful intelligence from such disordered information was a test for Lu Ye, especially since Sun Ying did not cooperate obediently and instead continued to resist.

At the same time, Lu Ye had to suppress Sun Ying's psyche, trying to let her glimpse as few of his secrets as possible...

This resulted in the information Lu Ye could glean being fragmented.

This time, using a bit of telepathy felt much more painful than last time. The previous target was merely a Blood Race cultivator from the Cloud River Realm, with limited information in their mind, but this time he was dealing with a Constellation, the difference between Cloud River and this was like comparing fireflies to the brilliance of the moon.

In the grand hall, as everyone looked on, Lu Ye's entire complexion became exceedingly pale, his body could not stop trembling, large beads of sweat dripping from his cheeks, soaking his clothes quickly, as if enduring great pain.

Sun Ying, on the other side, was even worse off, sitting there motionless, the light in her eyes gradually becoming dull, saliva dripping from the corners of her mouth without her noticing, as if gradually becoming foolish.

The scene looked like a soul contest, with both sides seriously injured, causing those present to be suspicious and uncertain.

However, given the current situation, even if they wanted to step in to assist Lu Ye, they didn't know where to begin and could only wait quietly.

After a long while, a muffled groan came from Lu Ye, who slowly closed his eyes and took a few deep breaths.

Sun Ying still showed no signs of movement, already completely in a foolish state, anyone could see that this was a manifestation of psyche damage, and it wasn't just a minor one either.

A moment later, Lu Ye opened his eyes and informed the Nine Provinces people of the intelligence he had gathered.

Most of what Sun Ying said was true!

Qingli Dao World does indeed have several hundred Constellations, three Moon Jades, and one of those Moon Jades is actually her ancestor, moreover, Sun Ying is highly regarded by them.

Because of this, Sun Ying was able to search for materials to enhance the quality of the Million Souls Banner, under the protection of several senior brothers.

This kind of action would easily attract the siege of some righteous cultivators, so they picked extremely remote locations, making it harder to be exposed.

Before discovering the Unparalleled Continent, there was another domain that had suffered, and the Divine Sea and True Lake cultivators of that domain were slaughtered, causing the entire cultivation world system to nearly collapse.

Had there not been powerful figures backing her, there was no way that Sun Ying, a cultivator who had just advanced to the Constellation not long ago, would have enjoyed such privileges.

This time they found the Unparalleled Continent purely by coincidence, thinking this trip would be without major disruptions; little did they know they would hit a snag.

Resulting in only Zhao Tianmu escaping among the four traveling together.

As for Sun Ying's earlier claim that she would report to her family's Moon Jade after returning, promising not to disturb the Unparalleled Continent, it was naturally a lie, a deception; with her mentality, having suffered such a loss, how could she not seek revenge?

Especially since Lu Ye and his companions' cultivation is only at the Constellation Early Stage. If the Moon Jade were to come, they would be defenseless.

After Lu Ye finished relaying the intelligence he had gathered, Feng Wujiang suddenly brightened up: "So, there's a great chance the Moon Jade from Qingli Dao World won't come here!"

Jian Guhong was puzzled: "How do you say that?"

Feng Wujiang replied, "Think about it, since Sun Ying is supported by that Moon Jade, the task for Zhao Tianmu and others was to assist Sun Ying in enhancing the Million Souls Banner and to protect her. Now

that Sun Ying has fallen, Zhao Tianmu escaped, failing to protect her, he might not have the courage to return to Qingli Dao World to report, he might just disappear."

Jian Guhong nodded at this: "Makes sense, if he returned, he would definitely face questioning. If he fled, he'd remain safe; with the stellar space being so vast, that Moon Jade from Qingli Dao World might not even have the capability to capture him back."

Feng Wujiang chuckled and said, "Especially since Zhao Tianmu, in order to escape, even actively pushed Sun Ying toward Junior Brother. If it was merely a failure to protect, it would be one thing, but to commit such an act at a critical moment, how could he have the courage to return to Qingli Dao World?"

"Whether he wants to or not, he must return!" Lu Ye suddenly spoke up.

Feng Wujiang was stunned, looking at him in confusion: "Why?"

Lu Ye explained, "In historic and vast domains like Qingli Dao World, there exists something called a soul lamp, made by extracting a strand of Psyche Force from a cultivator using a special method. Every cultivator has their own soul lamp; no matter how far the distance, the soul lamp can reflect the current state of the cultivator. As long as the lamp is on, the person is alive, when the person dies, the lamp extinguishes. Besides, the soul lamp also has the effect of tracking. After we killed their two Constellation Mid-Stage cultivators, Sun Ying's sect over there would definitely know they encountered danger, and if Zhao Tianmu and Sun Ying don't return for an extended period, they could use the soul lamp to track their whereabouts."

So, whether Zhao Tianmu is willing or not, he must return to Qingli Dao World, because as long as he has left a soul lamp, he simply cannot escape.

The soul lamp, while a form of protection for disciples, is also a form of control, widely used across the various domains of the stellar space.

In the grand hall, as Lu Ye recounted, everyone who still held onto a glimmer of hope immediately understood that once Zhao Tianmu returned to Qingli Dao World and reported what happened here, Sun Ying's Moon Jade ancestor would definitely come personally, and an inevitable battle would ensue.

Even Feng Wujiang realized he had been overly optimistic, and said gravely, "Based on the intelligence Junior Brother obtained, how many Moon Jades do you think will come?"

Lu Ye gently rubbed his temples and slowly spoke, "The Qingli Dao World has only three Moon Jade; it's impossible for them to go all out, so at least one will be left behind to guard. At most, two might be sent. Considering the strength we've shown earlier, I estimate only one Moon Jade will come."

Against a group of Constellation Early Stage, there's no need for too many of them to come.

This is both good and bad news. A Moon Jade is still a Moon Jade, not something that today's Nine Provinces can contend with. Whether it's one or two, it doesn't seem to make much difference.

"I'll deal with the Moon Jade, the other Constellations will be up to all of you," he continued.

Of course, with Lu Ye's own strength, he wasn't a match for a Moon Jade. He had to thank Su Yuqing for giving him a grand gift at their parting. But as for how powerful the red jade talisman truly was, and whether it could allow him to face a Moon Jade, Lu Ye wasn't sure, as he'd never used such a thing before.

But now there was no other choice, so he could only hope that the two red jade talismans would live up to their reputation.

This is why Lu Ye didn't like relying on external forces; there were too many uncontrollable factors. Besides, an external force is still an external force, not your own power. Many external forces are consumable and can't be reused.

But in cultivation, it's impossible to never rely on external forces. Even Lu Ye himself had often leveraged the Dragon Throne to manipulate the world.

"What about the timing? How long until the enemy arrives?"

"At most half a year, but maybe even shorter!" Lu Ye provided an answer.

From the various pieces of information obtained from Sun Ying, Lu Ye knew roughly where the Qingli Dao World was located. It wasn't close to the Unparalleled Continent. Were it otherwise, people would have discovered the Unparalleled Continent long ago. But assuming Zhao Tianmu returns by starboat, it wouldn't take more than a few months, and accounting for the time of enemy attacks, half a year seems about right.

Within this half-year, Nian Yuexian could only make three round trips to send twenty-four Nine Provinces Constellations over. Counting the nine people already here and Nian Yuexian herself, they could only gather thirty-four Constellations.

This should be enough. The enemy, even with a Moon Jade, wouldn't likely bring too many Constellations either.

So, there's some chance for this battle, provided Lu Ye can handle the enemy's Moon Jade.

"Everyone, please issue the order to all Nine Provinces cultivators currently on the Unparalleled Continent to retreat within three months. Besides Constellations, no one else should remain!" Lu Ye spoke again.

The crowd nodded, naturally understanding Lu Ye's intention behind this arrangement.

If they could defeat the enemy, they could preserve the Unparalleled Continent as an important place for trials. But if they lost, then this world would no longer be a safe place. Nine Provinces cultivators remaining would only find themselves at the mercy of others.

Evacuating in advance was the safest strategy.

"I'll take a rest first!" Lu Ye stood up and walked towards the side hall. Probing Sun Ying's Divine Sea moments ago had left him mentally exhausted, and he needed to organize the scattered information in his mind.

"How should we handle this woman?" Jian Guhong asked, looking at Sun Ying, who was kneeling there like a fool.

Lu Ye didn't speak, just lightly waved his hand in a downwards motion.

Jian Guhong understood immediately. As Sword Qi was released, Sun Ying's body limply fell to the ground, without a trace of blood seen.

Having established a grudge, killing one more made no difference. Being weaker, the Nine Provinces wouldn't naively spare Sun Ying's life hoping for peace with the other side.

As news spread, many previously hiding Nine Provinces cultivators emerged from their hideouts. Some immediately began their journey back to the Nine Provinces without any hesitation, while others cherished this last moment, hunting Corpse Race members for battle merit.

The atmosphere was lively and bustling.

Days later, in a side hall of the Jiuwu Grand Hall, Lu Ye suddenly sensed something, rose, and dashed outside.

Just as he stood steady, a petite figure and a snow-white figure leaped from both sides towards him.

Lu Ye embraced the petite figure, allowing the snow-white one to jump onto his shoulder and lick his face with a big tongue, leaving his cheek wet.

The body in his arms trembled slightly.

"Why are you crying?" Lu Ye gently stroked Yiyi's soft hair.

Yiyi buried her head into Lu Ye's chest and shook her head vigorously, without speaking.

In front of the grand hall, people came and went. Many Nine Provinces cultivators were already preparing to return to the Nine Provinces. Witnessing this scene, they acted as if they hadn't seen anything, calmly walking by.

After a while, Lu Ye took Yiyi's shoulders and placed her before him, looking her up and down, he smiled and said, "Still the same as always."

Yiyi pouted, "I'm a Spiritual Body; I won't ever grow up!"

"It's good that my Yiyi never grows up!" Lu Ye chuckled and ruffled her little head.

Chapter 1368 Child

"Don't you like big ones?" Yiyi looked at him with puffed cheeks.

Lu Ye's expression turned serious: "It's all just baseless rumors!"

On his shoulder, Amber let out a couple of grunts, as if it had something to say.

"You keep quiet!"

Amber obediently lay down.

After some idle chatter, Yiyi suddenly showed a worried expression: "This time... is it dangerous?"

The previous events couldn't be kept secret, so the Nine Provinces cultivators who were training on the Unparalleled Continent were also aware of the general situation. They knew that within the next six months, a group of strong enemies would attack. Asking them to return to Nine Provinces was a means of protection.

"Not dangerous at all!" Lu Ye pinched Yiyi's cheeks, the feel as good as ever, and said with full confidence, "If they dare to come, I'll make sure they don't leave alive!"

Yiyi clearly didn't believe him. After years of being together, how could she not know Lu Ye's character? She pursed her lips and said, "Make sure to protect yourself."

Lu Ye nodded repeatedly: "I know, with my one body and three lives, I definitely cherish my life!"

As they spoke, he suddenly remembered something and took out an item from the storage ring to hand to Yiyi.

Yiyi accepted it, puzzled: "What is this?"

"Million Souls Banner." Lu Ye explained the various mysteries of this banner, and upon hearing it, Yiyi immediately showed an expression of disgust and hatred. Not to mention she was a Spiritual Body herself; any normal cultivator would have no fondness for such an evil object.

"What am I supposed to do with this?" Yiyi asked.

"Take it back to the Nine Provinces, find a deserted place, and call out Number Nine. This is from Lu Ye. Just leave it there without worrying about it," Lu Ye instructed.

The soul bodies sealed within the Million Souls Banner had already lost their corporal forms, making them difficult for Lu Ye to handle. Destroying it would lead to the extinction of those souls, and carrying it around was of no use. He initially planned to entrust it to Number Nine back in Nine Provinces, where Tianyuan City's secret realm, filled with soul bodies, might accommodate them. Now that Yiyi was returning, he thought she might as well deliver it.

Yiyi seemed thoughtful and obediently nodded.

An hour later, Yiyi reluctantly bid farewell to Lu Ye and, with Amber in tow, walked into the Jiuwu Grand Hall.

Li Baxian and the others weren't in a hurry to return; they were still out hunting down the Corpse Race, clearly planning to leave this world at the very last moment of the time limit, so Lu Ye didn't see them.

This was also the choice of many Nine Provinces cultivators. After all, no one knew if they'd have another chance to come to the Unparalleled Continent in the future, so they naturally wanted to make the most of it.

Just as he was about to leave, his gaze shifted, looking towards a spot in the crowd bustling towards the Jiuwu Grand Hall.

In the bustling crowd, a gentle woman stood quietly, looking at him from afar, with a faint smile lingering on her lips.

As their eyes met, Lu Ye also smiled.

But in the next moment, his expression turned to one of shock, his gaze moving down from the woman's pretty face to what she was holding in her arms.

Breathing suddenly quickened, and his body instinctively moved. In a flash, he stood in front of the woman.

Lu Ye's gaze was fixed on the swaddling cloth in her arms, where a fair-skinned baby was peacefully sleeping with eyes closed, looking so tenderly delicate that it seemed as if water could drip from it. Not knowing what it dreamed of, its little mouth kept twitching, revealing a smile.

Lu Ye suddenly felt a bit parched, looking up at Hua Ci, then down at the baby, doing so a few times before finally taking a deep breath to steady his mind.

"Boy or girl?" Even when facing life and death, his voice was now trembling.

"A girl," Hua Ci replied with a slight smile.

Lu Ye nodded stupefiedly, repeatedly saying, "A girl is good, a girl is good..."

After repeating it several times, he held his breath and drew a little closer to the swaddling cloth for a closer look. He could clearly see the fine white fluff on the child's face, the small nose, the faint eyebrows, the softly moving little lips...

"Looks like you," Lu Ye said, watching the child, his voice so soft and gentle for fear of being even slightly too loud.

"Does she?" Hua Ci chuckled softly, shaking her head: "Not much like me."

Lu Ye grinned: "Then she must look like me!" Suddenly his face turned serious: "No, no, a girl should look like you, pretty and lovely."

Hua Ci's eyes curved with joy, clearly in a great mood, the first time Lu Ye had complimented her so. She held the swaddling cloth forward a bit: "Want to hold her?"

Lu Ye extended a trembling hand, but just as he was about to touch the swaddling cloth, he drew it back, hurriedly storing the Boulder Mountain Saber hanging from his waist into the storage ring, and then vanished.

Hua Ci was mystified.

Several breaths later, Lu Ye flew back, now dressed in clean clothes. He rubbed his hands together, reaching towards Hua Ci.

The moment he held the child, Lu Ye felt as if he held the entire world, a deeply complex, indescribable emotion welling up from inside.

His big hands spread open, supporting the tiny swaddling cloth from above and below, not daring to use even an ounce of force, savoring the vitality of the little life in his arms, a smile blooming on his face like a flower.

"She smells so good," Lu Ye said softly.

Hua Ci said, "All babies smell like this, it's the scent of milk."

Lu Ye suddenly realized, vaguely feeling like something was amiss but couldn't pinpoint what.

Perhaps due to being held by someone new, the baby who had been peacefully sleeping suddenly twitched its little mouth and started crying.

Lu Ye was instantly on high alert, not knowing what to do, looked to Hua Ci for help: "What's wrong? Did I hurt her?"

Hua Ci looked down at the baby, equally puzzled: "I don't know, why is she crying?"

Lu Ye was dumbfounded, thinking, I asked you, and you're asking me back, so who should I ask?

He was a bit flustered and guessed, "Is she hungry?"

Hua Ci nodded, "She must be hungry."

"Then quickly feed her," Lu Ye hurriedly passed the child to Hua Ci, feeling a pang of reluctance, as if handing over his most precious treasure, as if his heart had been cut with a knife.

Hua Ci took the child and turned to hand her to a nearby woman. The woman skillfully cradled the child, bowed apologetically to Lu Ye, and flew off, evidently to find a quiet place to nurse the child.

Lu Ye watched the woman's departing figure, then looked at Hua Ci, a bit dumbfounded, "This... why did you..."

"What's wrong?" Hua Ci blinked her innocent big eyes.

"The child!" Lu Ye said.

"It's her child; she went to feed her!"

Lu Ye's body shook, and he froze in place, as if his psyche had been pulled out by the Million Souls Banner, his head slowly drooping down.

A bolt from the blue!

No wonder he had felt a strange sensation just now!

Only now did he finally realize!

The child... was too young!

He had been at the Constellation Early Stage for almost two years now, in other words, the last time he saw Hua Ci was two years ago. A woman's pregnancy lasts ten months; if that really were his child, the child wouldn't be that small, more than a year old at least.

But the child in the swaddle was at most about three months old.

However, at that moment, how could he think about so much? All his attention was drawn the instant he saw the child.

No wonder Hua Ci said the child didn't look like her!

How could she look like her?

"What's wrong?" Hua Ci looked at Lu Ye in confusion and suddenly realized, "You didn't think that child..."

Lu Ye suddenly looked up, glaring at her angrily.

Hua Ci covered her mouth, "You really thought that child..."

"Heh..." Lu Ye forced out a stiff smile and grabbed Hua Ci's arm, soaring into the sky.

A moment later, in Hua Ci's former cultivation place, in that heavy coffin, Lu Ye slammed down hard with his hand, "Why did you hold her if she's not your child?"

"I thought she was cute, just wanted to hold her casually..."

"You malicious woman, you came just to tease me!"

"I didn't!"

"Still so stubborn!"

This time, Lu Ye was truly angry, and he gave Hua Ci a fierce scolding. It could be said he spared no mercy, reprimanding her until she was thoroughly convinced, only then did he let her go.

Leading Hua Ci back to the Jiuwu Grand Hall, as they were about to part, Hua Ci spoke, "You need to think of a nice name, for a girl."

"What do you mean?" Lu Ye glanced at her sideways.

Hua Ci raised her hand, touching her small belly, and said leisurely, "You'll need it next time we meet."

"Stop it!" Lu Ye would no longer believe this woman.

"You never know?" Hua Ci smiled without saying anything else, her figure slowly disappearing down the passageway leading underground.

Watching her leave, Lu Ye couldn't help but feel a sense of something missing.

Though it had been a misunderstanding, after all, he really needed to think of some nice names just in case they were needed in the future.

After pondering for a while, Lu Ye left the grand hall and flew into the air.

In an instant, he was out of the Unparalleled Continent, arriving at the near-empty space.

Out of the Nine Provinces' nine constellations, apart from him, all others were scattered nearby. Although, according to the information Lu Ye had obtained, if the enemy were to come, it would take about half a year, but precautions still needed to be in place.

After greeting the others, he found a position, pulled over a Meteorite, and sat cross-legged on it, silently waiting.

Time passed, and less than two months later, Nian Yuexian returned, bringing with her the eight constellations of the Nine Provinces.

She didn't stop, continuing on to the direction of the Nine Provinces.

Logically, this would be the best time to have someone else take over her duties since relying on just one person for such transportation was too arduous. However, the others had no experience piloting a starboat, and since Nian Yuexian had already made a round trip between the two realms and was familiar with the route, it was most appropriate for her to continue transporting the constellations.

After another two months, the second batch of constellations arrived at the Unparalleled Continent.

Meanwhile, in the depths of stellar space, a starboat more luxurious than the Silver Fish was rapidly heading towards the Unparalleled Continent.

This starboat was even larger than Su Yuqing's, capable of carrying at least a hundred cultivators.

However, at that moment, there were not so many cultivators on the starboat, a total of about twenty people, half in the Constellation Early Stage, with the remaining seven in the mid-stage, and three in the Late Stage.

This starboat had set out from the Qingli Dao World, hurrying towards the Unparalleled Continent.

Chapter 1369 Arrival of a Formidable Enemy

The starboat is not only carrying the 20 Constellations, but also two Moon Jades.

In the cabin, these two Moon Jades from the Qingli Dao World sat across from each other with a coffee table between them. One was an elderly woman, the other an elderly man. Judging from appearance, both seemed aged, with white and gray hair and sagging skin, the elderly woman appearing even older.

Cultivators, upon reaching the Moon Jade level, can easily have thousands of years of lifespan, and each cultivator has their own way of preserving their youth, especially female cultivators, who are particularly concerned about their appearance. So, cultivators active in stellar space, regardless of their actual age, tend to look young.

Unless they are truly very old.

The elderly woman and man were undoubtedly representatives among them.

While sitting quietly, the elderly woman glanced at the person across from her and said in dissatisfaction, "This matter concerns our sect's internal affairs this time, why did you follow me here?"

Although the Qingli Dao World has three Moon Jades, they come from three different sects. When major domain events occur, the three Moon Jades naturally support each other. However, the current matter is not related to the whole domain but rather concerns the elderly woman's sect alone. With the information available, she could handle it alone, yet she didn't understand why the elderly man insisted on following her.

The elderly woman was in a bad mood, which the elderly man could easily perceive.

Though the Qingli Dao World has several hundred Constellations, when distributed among individual sects, each sect doesn't have many. The elderly woman's sect, for instance, had only about thirty, and now three were dead, including one she greatly valued as her descendant... A good mood was impossible.

The elderly man smiled slightly and poured a cup of tea for the woman, speaking slowly, "We've known each other for many years. Has it been three thousand years?"

Upon hearing him talk about the past, the elderly woman's expression relaxed somewhat, "Even if not, it's close."

The elderly man said, "Time flies. In the blink of an eye, we're already buried up to our necks."

The elderly woman snorted coldly, "So what? They're just Early Stage Constellations. Do you think I'll fail?"

The elderly man shook his head, "It's not about fearing failure, but... of those who ascended to Constellations with us, now only the two of us remain. Our limits are approaching, and once we're gone, only Wu will be left to support our domain. The future... where will it lead?"

Although the Qingli Dao World has strong foundations, it developed slowly from a small domain.

Nearly three thousand years ago, the Qingli Dao World ascended to a large domain, and the elderly woman and man were fortunate to be among the first from Qingli Dao World to ascend to the Constellation level.

Back then, many ascended with them to Constellations, but almost three thousand years later, those familiar faces have vanished. Half died due to lifespan limits, the other half perished in the stellar space, leaving only the two of them to ascend to Moon Jade.

After them, although the Qingli Dao World birthed many Constellations, few had the opportunity to ascend to Moon Jade!

It was nearly three thousand years before, over a thousand years earlier, a descendant of the Wu family ascended, allowing the Qingli Dao World to have three Moon Jades to hold its ground.

"How does the future of the Dao World relate to you following me here?" the elderly woman asked.

The elderly man replied, "Do you remember that elder who passed through our domain three years ago?"

Of course, she remembered—it was a powerful figure of the Sun Blaze Realm, a level they yearned for but couldn't reach.

"Over the years, I've considered the issues of our domain. Though our domain is already a large domain, there's nothing unusual about the birth of Constellations, yet it's difficult to break through at the Moon Jade level. After so many years, only three have been born. I suspected the domain lacked something, but lacked evidence, until three years ago when I asked that powerful figure and got the answer."

The elderly woman eagerly asked, "What did he say?"

"Just as I suspected, the domain indeed lacks something fundamental. As for what specifically is missing, the powerful figure didn't say, and I didn't dare ask. That's also the reason Constellations born here find it difficult to ascend to the Moon Jade level. Back then, you and I succeeded by seizing the opportunity as the domain advanced to a large domain, but others didn't have such luck."

"So, Constellations born here basically have no hope of ascending to Moon Jade?" The elderly woman looked surprised.

"Exactly," the elderly man nodded, "that powerful figure said there are domains like this in the stellar space, though few in number. As it happened, our Qingli Dao World is one such domain—how unfortunate!"

"But Wu..."

"Did you forget how Wu ascended to Constellation?"

The elderly woman finally remembered, "Ah, Wu participated in the Reincarnation Tree's Divine Sea battle, gaining the opportunity to ascend to Constellation at the Taichu Realm!"

As a large domain, the Qingli Dao World also has a doppelganger of the Reincarnation Tree, qualifying for the Divine Sea battles. However, over the years, the Divine Sea of Qingli Dao World has participated repeatedly, usually resulting in many deaths and few returns, leading the Divine Sea within the domain to be unenthusiastic about participating, often remaining absent.

Only recently, after the Wu family cultivator ascended to Moon Jade, did he bring disciples to the Reincarnation Tree every time.

The elderly woman suddenly understood, "Does Wu know about this and therefore brings people to participate in that event every time?"

The elderly man said, "Before ascending to Moon Jade, he might not have known, but after ascending, he likely realized it! By bringing disciples, he hopes another Moon Jade will emerge from within them one day!"

The elderly woman snorted slightly, "Young people can be quite smart!" She thought more about the elderly man's intention, "Are you planning to seize that domain?"

The elderly man nodded, "The Qingli Dao World isn't suitable for people to ascend to Constellation. Since that's the case, why not find another place for them to ascend? There aren't many large domains in our star system. When a new large domain appears, it's naturally an opportunity to grasp!"

The old woman finally understood why they insisted on following.

Both had experienced the early development periods of the Qingli Dao World, so when they heard Zhao Tianmu mention encountering a group of Constellation Early Stages, they were certain it was a newly promoted large domain.

Because the scene was almost the same as the Qingli Dao World over three thousand years ago, at that time, Qingli Dao World also had a group of Constellation Early Stages.

"Old, old, yet still can't find peace, destined for a life of toil," the old man sighed.

The old woman said, "If it can pave a good path for future generations, then my few sect members and disciples would have died for a worthy cause!"

The journey quickly approached the Unparalleled Continent.

After some days, the starboat slightly trembled and came to a stop, and Zhao Tianmu, who had escaped from Lu Ye's hands, walked in with his head lowered, trembling, "Two ancestors, we've arrived."

The old woman looked up at him and snorted coldly, making Zhao Tianmu lower his head even more.

The old woman got up and walked outside, while the old man remained motionless; the old woman turned her head to look at him.

The old man chuckled, "I won't show my face yet. To capture a domain, there must be someone to play the hard role and someone to play the soft role, making coordination easier."

The two were old acquaintances for thousands of years, so how could the old woman not know the old man's plan? She nodded slightly, agreeing to his proposal.

Of course, the main reason was that she believed her own power would be irresistible to the other side.

Flashing out of the cabin, standing on the deck, she gazed intently, and at a glance saw a domain ahead, and in the nearby space of that domain, there were over twenty figures standing.

The old woman sneered, "Overestimating themselves!"

It seemed that the other side also knew that after killing people, their side would not let it go, so they gathered a bunch of people here waiting.

But they were just a group of Constellation Early Stages, how could she put them in her eyes?

She raised her hand and grabbed in front of her, a cane materialized out of thin air, and she just leaned on it, stepping from the deck into the stellar space, followed closely by twenty Constellations, moving forward step by step.

Initially, there was no anomaly, but as she approached, the momentum of the Moon Jade Realm began to unfold slowly, and an invisible coercion swept out.

Nearing the space of the Unparalleled Continent, a total of twenty-five figures stood.

The enemy's arrival time was anticipated, Nian Yuexian was only able to make two round trips to the Nine Provinces, bringing sixteen people over.

At this moment, she was probably in the process of the third transport, but apparently, it was already too late.

The enemy came openly, so the cultivators from the Nine Provinces could easily see the other side's starboat, and with the alarm sounded, twenty-five people gathered quickly.

Standing at the forefront were four figures.

Thang Yifeng, Pang Zhen, Lady Moon, Wuchang! The reason these four stood at the front was due to arrangement following the discussions from the Nine Provinces side.

As they watched the starboat come to a halt, with a group of figures led by the old woman heading their way, the expressions of the Nine Provinces Constellations grew grave.

Although knowing well in advance that the other side wouldn't let it go easily, and a Moon Jade would surely come personally, at this moment, they couldn't help but be nervous.

Among the Nine Provinces Constellations standing here, apart from those who first came with Lu Ye, others had not interacted with constellations from other domains, let alone a Moon Jade.

Behind Thang Yifeng and the other three, Lu Ye utilized his Ocular Power to look ahead, spotting the old woman's figure, and recognizing her identity at a glance, secretly transmitted his voice all around: "Qin Yuandai, Moon Jade Mid-Stage cultivation!"

Wuchang transmitted back, "Could such a person slap me to death? Yiye kid, is your spirit rune reliable or not?"

"Reliable or not, we can only drum up some false bravado with it!"

As the two spoke, Qin Yuandai, who was striding over unhurriedly, had already begun to exert the pressure of Moon Jade. Although they were still far apart, everyone immediately felt the pressure for the first time.

At the forefront, the four of them bore the brunt. Almost simultaneously as the old woman Qin Yuandai exerted her pressure, Thang Yifeng and the other three also unleashed their aura!

In an instant, the pressure was like a mountain, imposing like a prison.

Qin Yuandai, coming unhurriedly, couldn't help but pause in her steps, her somewhat cloudy eyes revealing a look of astonishment.

Because from the aura the opposite side unleashed, it was actually four Moon Jade Early Stages!

Chapter 1370 Arrogant and Domineering Li Taibai

The intelligence is incorrect! The other side's domain is not a newly upgraded large domain. How could it be newly upgraded if it has Moon Jade-level domains?

The elderly woman Qin Yuandai couldn't help but reveal a puzzled expression.

Among the few large domains in this star system, she had interactions with all of them. After all, everyone ventures into stellar space, and it's inevitable to have some connections. But what is the situation with this domain? Being in the same star system and yet never heard of it before.

In the stellar space, there are countless domains. If it's just a small domain, it isn't easy to be discovered because, from stellar space, a small domain is just a celestial body, and looking at the stellar space, such celestial bodies are countless. Even if a cultivator passes by nearby, they might not delve deeply.

But if a domain is elevated to a large domain, then Constellation-level cultivators will start exploring the stellar space, naturally having encounters with Constellation-level cultivators from other domains.

It can be said that after Nine Provinces upgraded to a large domain, it's only a matter of time before they intersect with other domain cultivators unless there are no other large domains in this star system.

Suppressing the confusion in her heart, Qin Yuandai discovered another particularly strange thing. Although the other side has a sizable number of Moon Jade cultivators, four in total, they are all at the Moon Jade Early Stage.

Thang Yifeng and others are certainly not at the Moon Jade Early Stage; they are merely at the Constellation Early Stage.

The reason they could manifest Moon Jade's might at this moment is entirely due to the Pseudo-Might Spirit Runes that Lu Ye had constructed on them in advance.

These spirit runes have no other purpose but posturing, and Lu Ye seldom uses them, having only used them once before, and that was for Yiyi and Amber.

The Pseudo-Might Spirit Runes have their limits. Take Thang Yifeng and others, for example; with a foundation of Constellation Early Stage, they can only disguise themselves as Moon Jade Early Stage at most, not simulate Sun Blaze might.

That's why, in Qin Yuandai's view, there appears to be a peculiar lineup of four Moon Jade Early Stage cultivators.

The choice of Thang Yifeng and the others was naturally because they had never faced Zhao Tianmu before. Others wouldn't know their details, and having too few people wouldn't work, while too many would be suspicious. Four people, no more, no less, just right to make a Moon Jade Mid-Stage cultivator wary.

Lu Ye originally planned to activate the Pseudo-Might Spirit Runes himself, but considering some possible future actions, he refrained.

As expected, when Thang Yifeng and the others simultaneously activated the might of Moon Jade, there was an obvious moment of confusion on Qin Yuandai's part.

But soon, she returned to normal, leading the Constellation-level cultivators behind her to approach slowly. She, too, had seen some storms and wouldn't be deterred by the current situation.

Moreover, she had another Moon Jade-level cultivator behind her! At this point, she couldn't help but be thankful that the old man followed, otherwise, it would have been difficult to accomplish anything with her strength alone.

Her original plan was simple. In the face of absolute power, just act directly; she thought a group of Constellation Early Stage cultivators wouldn't be able to resist.

But since the other side has Moon Jade, she had to think more carefully.

That's just the force the other side has openly shown. Who knows if they have something hidden?

When acting in stellar space, any oversight or carelessness is unacceptable.

Stopping about 30 miles away from the Nine Provinces group, Qin Yuandai stopped. This distance is already on the alert line for Moon Jade-level cultivators, and going further wouldn't be safe.

She was still deliberating on how to question them when a Moon Jade Early Stage cultivator on the opposite side took a step forward, clasped his hands from afar, and shouted: "When friends come from

afar, our Unparalleled Continent is honored. I dare ask Fellow Daoist where you come from and how you are addressed?"

The speaker was Thang Yifeng, taking on the calm demeanor of a Moon Jade-level cultivator. Although he had been informed of the old woman's name through Lu Ye's audio transmission, he feigned ignorance and constantly activated the Pseudo-Might Spirit Runes to maintain Moon Jade-level prestige, secretly laboring.

The other party's demeanor made Qin Yuandai even more unsure of the depth of this Unparalleled Continent. With a light tap of her cane forward, she reported her name: "Qingli Dao World, Qin Yuandai!"

Thang Yifeng pondered briefly and then showed a look of realization: "Ah, so it's Fellow Daoist Qin from Qingdai Mountain. I've long heard of your illustrious name!"

Qingdai Mountain was the sect founded by Qin Yuandai long ago and had been passed down for thousands of years.

Lu Ye had probed Sun Ying's psyche; such information was naturally known.

Thang Yifeng directly revealing Qin Yuandai's origin undoubtedly caused the other party some surprise: "This Fellow Daoist has heard of this old woman?"

Thang Yifeng faintly smiled: "Naturally, I've heard of you. I've always wanted to visit Qingli Dao World to meet Fellow Daoists Qin, Tang, and Wu, but regrettably, I've never had the time. Nonetheless, please forgive me for having you make the journey yourself!"

He spoke as if it were true, making Qin Yuandai even more uncertain. Interactions between domains are most wary of situations where others know your background while you know nothing about your opponents.

Because the more others know, the more it suggests that there are powerful figures holding the fort on their side.

Of course, it could also be the intelligence leaked by her offspring, because according to Zhao Tianmu, when he escaped from here, her offspring Sun Ying was still alive.

With a change in her mind, Qin Yuandai said lightly: "It seems your domain intends to establish relations with my Qingli Dao World?"

Thang Yifeng appeared as elegant as ever and replied with a smile: "Under the same starry sky, our two domains are not far apart, we should engage more often!"

Qin Yuandai snorted coldly, her cane struck forward into the Void: "But it seems your domain's hospitality is lacking! Why were several disciples of the sect headquarters killed upon arrival?"

She felt somewhat annoyed, the situation was completely different from what she had anticipated. She thought that her personal visit would easily control this domain, but unexpectedly, four Moon Jade cultivators suddenly appeared, knowing Qingli Dao World inside out. This made her cautious, and she dared not act rashly before understanding the true situation of the opponent's domain.

Her words had just fallen when a rebellious voice rang out: "They came here to kill my Unparalleled cultivators, what's wrong with me killing them? Since ancient times, debts must be repaid, killing demands revenge, it's perfectly justified!"

Behind Thang Yifeng and others, a group of Constellation cultivators appeared solemn-faced, feeling amused. The Lu Ye they remembered was very steady in action; they had never seen him act so outrageously before, especially the rebellious voice sounded quite fresh.

Qin Yuandai instantly locked her gaze on the clamoring Lu Ye, a murderous intent flashing in her eyes, she said sternly: "Is he the Li Taibai you're talking about? The one who did the killing?"

"He is Li Taibai! How the disciples Chen and Wang died is unclear, I did not witness it, but this person is very powerful, if he killed them, it is possible, and in the end, Sun Ying ended up at his hands." Behind Qin Yuandai, Zhao Tianmu rushed forward to report softly.

"Incompetent fool!" Qin Yuandai reprimanded, a Constellation Late Stage, defeated by an Early Stage, truly unheard of.

Zhao Tianmu backed down, full of grievances.

From across, as Lu Ye's shouting voice rose, Thang Yifeng turned and scolded: "Shut up! When adults are talking, where is the place for a child to intervene!"

Lu Ye hugged his Boulder Mountain Saber in his arms, nostrils flared skyward: "I speak the truth, they killed countless of us, and I have killed only three. That's considered few! I say, stop wasting words, kill them now, wipe them out completely, avenge our fallen comrades!"

"You rebellious disciple! Shut up!" Thang Yifeng's fury was overwhelming, Lu Ye shrank his neck slightly, but was full of defiance.

Turning his head, Thang Yifeng looked at Qin Yuandai and chuckled: "My disciple is young and impulsive, speaks carelessly, I ask Fellow Daoist not to take offense."

Qin Yuandai said lightly: "Youthful impulse is good, who hasn't been young?"

Thang Yifeng nodded in agreement, his tone shifted: "But Fellow Daoist Qin, speaking of this matter, it was indeed initiated by your domain's Constellation cultivators. One of my Unparalleled Constellations first encountered pursuit near this close space by two of your domain's Constellations, and within our domain, numerous True Lake-Divine Sea fell victim to your domain's Constellations' methods. Really addressing these issues, the fault lies with your domain."

These words made Qin Yuandai unable to rebut, as she had already understood the cause and process of the affair from Zhao Tianmu and knew it indeed was as Thang Yifeng described.

Now hearing the other side speak in this way, the situation became somewhat awkward!

One cannot come in a fury, then retreat humbly; otherwise how will she preserve her dignity in the future?

After a brief consideration, she asked: "Then according to Fellow Daoist's view, how should this matter be resolved?"

Thang Yifeng replied: "Both sides have suffered losses, but as the saying goes, when will revenge end, one more enemy is not as good as one more friend. With us under the same starry sky, future encounters are inevitable, if too much conflict arises, it benefits no one. My idea is, let this matter end here, with us reconciling swords into silk, how about it?"

Once his words fell, before Qin Yuandai could speak, Lu Ye shouted again: "No way, no way! They came with four, only three died! Unless the one who escaped also gets chopped to death, otherwise things will end in mutual destruction, and no one will have peace!"

Thang Yifeng was visibly angry: "This is not a place for you to speak, stand down!"

Lu Ye puffed up his cheeks, glaring viciously at Zhao Tianmu standing behind Qin Yuandai, with a look as if wanting to devour him, but due to Thang Yifeng's reprimand, he clearly dared not speak bit recklessly.

Qin Yuandai hesitated; today's situation was already unlikely to force one's will. Rarely the opposite side intended to turn swords into silk, her side might as well go along.

Just as Thang Yifeng said, under the same starry sky, future interactions are inevitable. If thoroughly hostile, it benefits neither side.

While pondering, the annoying young man suddenly yelled again: "Old witch! So that woman named Sun Ying said she's your offspring? She extracted the psyche of my Unparalleled cultivators, so I extracted hers too, tormenting her fiercely, she died horribly!" While speaking, Lu Ye revealed a ferocious smile, looking like a true fiend.

Qin Yuandai's eyes narrowed, murderous intent surged.

Thang Yifeng's fury erupted, with a backhanded palm striking Lu Ye's chest: "Rebellious disciple, do you see me, your master, in your eyes?"

Lu Ye spurted blood, his figure retreating explosively over about 30 miles, only then barely stabilizing, his breath faltering.