

Humanity 1371

Chapter 1371 The Path Has Been Paved

About thirty miles away, Qin Yuandai stared at Lu Ye's figure and transmitted to Zhao Tianmu: "How strong is this child?"

"Comparable to Constellation Late Stage!"

"Can he be killed?"

Zhao Tianmu hesitated: "I'm afraid... it's a bit difficult." He had fought directly with Lu Ye, so he naturally knew some of Lu Ye's details.

"He's injured!" Qin Yuandai said leisurely.

Zhao Tianmu was stunned, then said: "Then maybe it's worth a try!"

"No matter what method you use, kill him for me! As for the previous matters, I will let them go!" Qin Yuandai's chilling voice rang out.

Zhao Tianmu quickly accepted the order!

"Follow my command to act!" Qin Yuandai instructed again.

Originally, Thang Yifeng's proposal made her feel quite good, walking in the stellar space, who doesn't have a few enemies? If enemies can be turned into friends, it would be a delightful story.

Sun Ying was already dead! Although she valued this descendant greatly, she wasn't senile enough to start a dispute between the two domains over the death of one descendant, especially when the opposing domain was not weak, and if a real fight broke out, it would surely lead to more deaths.

And she previously didn't even know who had killed Sun Ying, so it was difficult to pursue.

But now the killer jumped out himself, even speaking arrogantly and deliberately provoking; how could she endure this?

If this energy was suppressed, it would certainly damage her authority, and in the future, wouldn't the cultivators of the Unparalleled Continent trample on the heads of those from the Qingli Dao World?

She had already made a decision, looked at Thang Yifeng, and spoke slowly: "Fellow Daoist, I am very interested in your proposal. Cultivator duels inevitably lead to casualties, and vengeance indeed lacks the character of esteemed individuals, nor is it the style of our cultivators."

Thang Yifeng laughed heartily: "It's rare to see a Fellow Daoist so enlightened and generous; it's indeed a blessing to both domains!"

But Qin Yuandai's tone shifted: "However, Fellow Daoist, not to mention those True Lake and Divine Sea from your domain who are deceased, it's indeed a fact that my Qingli Dao World lost three Constellations, especially since one had a bloodline connection to me, and I valued her immensely. When her soul lamp extinguished, my heart was like a knife, and I was deeply pained!"

Thang Yifeng lowered his eyelids and consoled: "Fellow Daoist, please accept my condolences. In life, there are always such unexpected events."

"Indeed!" Qin Yuandai nodded in agreement: "Unexpected events come when you least expect them. Fellow Daoist, if you wish to reconcile with my Qingli Dao World, I'm overjoyed, but your disciple seems to bear a deep grudge?"

Thang Yifeng said: "The child has been spoiled. Fellow Daoist, please don't take him seriously! He spoke recklessly, and I have already punished him!"

Qin Yuandai shook her head: "It's not just your disciple, on my side there's actually an issue too."

Thang Yifeng was surprised: "Oh? What issue does Fellow Daoist Qin face, feel free to say, and we'll address it together."

Qin Yuandai turned her head to Zhao Tianmu and sighed: "This disciple of mine has been blaming himself ever since he returned, regretting his inability to protect his junior brothers and sisters, clamoring for revenge for their deaths. I'm getting old and didn't want to travel far, yet he dragged me here."

Thang Yifeng chuckled: "Looks like both of us have a difficult disciple!"

Qin Yuandai said: "Yes, the disciple is ignorant, and it is us, the elders, who have failed in our discipline. This rebellious disciple just told me that if we simply shake hands and make peace, he might never find peace. I have few direct disciples, and it's truly a dilemma, I really don't know what to do for a while."

Thang Yifeng showed an understanding expression: "Fellow Daoist, this disciple wishes for revenge for his deceased junior brothers and sisters, which is understandable! It's hard to obstruct him too much. How about this: since they're both so troublesome, why not let them have a bout? It's said that they don't know each other until they fight. After this round, no matter what happens in the process, neither of us will interfere, and regardless of the outcome, it shouldn't affect the peace between our two domains. What do you think?"

A smile appeared on Qin Yuandai's aged face: "Fellow Daoist, this proposal isn't bad, but my disciple has the strength of Constellation Late Stage, while your disciple..."

Just returning belatedly from about six miles away to his own camp, Lu Ye jumped out immediately: "Gonna kill a Constellation Late Stage!" He casually wiped away the blood from the corner of his mouth.

Zhao Tianmu's figure also flashed and he landed in front of Qin Yuandai, defiant: "Then let's see if you have that ability!"

"Even a defeated stray dares to bark?" Lu Ye didn't even look at him directly.

Zhao Tianmu's nose almost bent with anger, but he couldn't refute anything, just fumed in silence.

Thang Yifeng chuckled: "Fellow Daoist Qin, the two young ones are having quite an exciting interchange, shall we proceed as we previously discussed?"

"Very well!" Qin Yuandai nodded slightly, secretly transmitting her order taking advantage of Zhao Tianmu's cover: "Kill him!"

At the same time, Thang Yifeng was also advising Lu Ye: "Be sure to be careful, if you're not absolutely sure, never take risks!"

Lu Ye kept silent; before the result came out, how could he be absolutely sure? But the current situation was in the plan, and it was already the best scenario.

The opponent had Moon Jade, and it was mid-stage, while on their side there were only four fakes. If it came to a real fight, their side would definitely face a bleak outcome.

What he could rely on were the two red jade talismans that Su Yuqing had bestowed upon him. During the past few months while waiting for the enemy's approach, other than cultivating, he had focused on studying the power of these two red jade talismans. However, the nature of talismans is such that one cannot discern their mysteries just by observing them; only by activating them can one perceive their true effects.

Therefore, when Thang Yifeng told him not to take risks unless he was completely confident, it wasn't feasible. Since he had decided to confront the enemy in the near-space of the Unparalleled Continent and pinned his hopes on the red talismans, it was already the biggest gamble.

With only an Early Stage Constellation cultivation, it wasn't easy to activate a single red talisman. It required time to gather momentum because he needed to inject adequate spirit force into the talisman, a process that couldn't be accomplished in just one or two breaths.

Lu Ye estimated that the fastest he could activate the talisman would be in ten breaths!

This meant he couldn't activate the talisman directly against a Moon Jade. They're not inanimate; they wouldn't just stand there while he unleashed his techniques. Once they sensed danger, they would surely intervene.

So, some concealment was necessary!

Provoking the opponent's rage and inciting such a combat was the planned cover, the reason behind his many arrogant and reckless displays.

The path was now laid out, and whether he could follow the original plan smoothly depended on Lu Ye's own adaptability.

Slaying a Moon Jade! Even the thought was exhilarating!

Gathering his spirit force, he launched himself forward.

As his figure flickered, Zhao Tianmu also sprang into action.

Though they were currently thirty miles apart, and Zhao Tianmu's Late Stage Constellation means theoretically could reach that distance, in actual combat, techniques executed over such a distance would lose much of their potency before arriving.

Hence, he naturally had to close the distance a bit to ensure that his techniques' power remained sufficiently strong.

Having previously faced Lu Ye, he knew the other was a combat cultivator. In the vast and open stellar space, magic cultivators possessed an absolute geographical advantage over combat cultivators.

Moreover, having seen Lu Ye injured firsthand, he was quite confident of victory in this fight. As for killing Lu Ye, that would test his deeper skills.

After advancing about 30 miles forward, Zhao Tianmu halted his motion! With a flick of his hand, three spirit treasures floated beside him: an oil lamp, a ruler, and a tiny bell, each exuding the aura of top-grade spirit treasures, while spirit force surged silently, and he formed seals with his hands.

His gaze fixed about 40 miles ahead, where Lu Ye was gripping his sword, dashing forward with fierce and savage intent.

In the next instant, spirit force surged around Zhao Tianmu, and as his Dharma Seals shifted, a deluge of magic and spells surged towards Lu Ye.

The forty-mile distance vanished in the blink of an eye, as if overwhelmed by a storm, submerging Lu Ye's silhouette.

At Zhao Tianmu's level of cultivation, all sorts of magic and spells came easily to hand. Unless some included massive secret techniques requiring varying lengths of momentum, there would be no delay.

Amidst the torrent of spells, Lu Ye drew his sword and chopped through, advancing with determination through countless attacks, continuously closing the distance without the slightest pause in movement or speed.

The people from the Nine Provinces watched indifferently, while the Constellations and even Qin Yuandai from the Qingli Dao World showed shock.

Zhao Tianmu, after all, was a Late Stage Constellation; even the simplest spells executed by him would usually have substantial power. In such an intense wave of offensive onslaught, an Early Stage Constellation could typically not withstand it, let alone protect themselves.

Yet, defying expectations, someone could move against the current, unimpeded.

This alone demonstrated his powerful foundation; no wonder Zhao Tianmu had previously been beaten by him and fled back in disgrace.

The forty-mile distance rapidly closed by ten miles to become thirty miles.

At just that moment, the ruler floating beside Zhao Tianmu suddenly quivered, transforming into a myriad of ruler shadows that mixed within the tide of spells, lunging at Lu Ye chaotically.

Lu Ye's speed and body were halted, significantly slowed down as he felt the mounting pressure.

This was a combat cultivator's predicament; when a magic cultivator kept a sufficient distance, they could freely unleash their techniques while closing in.

Among the three top-grade spirit treasures beside Zhao Tianmu, the tiny bell was obviously for protection. The other two were for attack; having used the ruler, the oil lamp had not yet shown its power, indicating its time wasn't ripe yet.

The ruler shadows filled the sky, shifting constantly, sometimes converging into one, other times dispersing into tens of thousands.

Lu Ye's attack became even more ferocious, forcibly withstanding Zhao Tianmu's multitude of techniques to determinedly close the distance.

It took a full thirty breaths for Lu Ye to close another ten miles, now only twenty miles away from the opponent.

If analysis held true, the opponent should be about to unleash the power of that oil lamp.

Just as he was thinking this, suddenly a speck of lamp light flashed before him, resembling the light from an oil lamp but magnified countless times.

When this light blossomed, a scorching sensation swept in from all directions, and Lu Ye found himself wrapped in a mass of raging flames!

Chapter 1372 Red Talisman

The flames surged violently, scorching to the extreme, even the Void became twisted by it, followed by the flames becoming frenzied and exploding with a bang!

The immense explosive power caused Lu Ye's figure to stagger, looking utterly disheveled.

And when the flames disappeared, a myriad of blade shadows mixed with numerous spells came crashing down.

Zhao Tianmu's combat experience was exceedingly rich, and his control over the battle rhythm was exquisite. This set of continuous tactics unfolded, even Lu Ye suffered a silent loss, mainly not expecting the opponent's oil lamp spirit treasure to be so bizarrely powerful, able to be launched from afar, leaving no trace.

This set of tactics must be something Zhao Tianmu has been employing for a long time, always proving effective. As long as he could unleash this set of tactics, he could thoroughly grasp the battle rhythm, slowly establishing his victory.

Lu Ye thought to himself that indeed, one should never underestimate anyone. Previously, when he was chasing Zhao Tianmu, he almost had the guy with no chance to fight back. But once given a chance to distance, allowing time and space for the opponent to maneuver, the true foundation of a Constellation Late Stage magic cultivator became apparent.

Qin Yuandai observed this scene from afar, nodding silently. Although both parties had not been crossing swords for long, she could tell that this Unparalleled cultivator named Li Taibai could never possibly be Zhao Tianmu's match.

Those four Unparalleled Constellations clearly showed some concern, but the two sides had already agreed that in this battle, regardless of the process, no one would interfere, so they could only watch with concern.

The combat between the two Constellations intensified, Zhao Tianmu employed the power of two spirit treasures simultaneously, spells continuously cast, while Lu Ye was also roaring repeatedly, desperately closing the distance between them.

However, in such a battle, the closer the distance, the greater the pressure a combat cultivator endures, as the closer to a magic cultivator, the stronger the power of the spells they wield.

This led to the most direct result.

The closer Lu Ye advanced, the heavier his figure became. Initially, closing from forty miles to thirty miles was almost a blink of an eye.

From thirty miles to twenty miles took ten breaths.

But now, thirty breaths have already passed, yet the distance between them remained at fifteen miles. Under Zhao Tianmu's powerful and dense offensive, Lu Ye's advance was almost as slow as a crawling turtle!

The more Zhao Tianmu fought, the more confident he became. Previously, he had suffered losses under Lu Ye, harboring some psychological shadow about this enemy. But now it seemed, the opponent was just so-so, perhaps he had overestimated him.

This might have somewhat to do with the opponent being injured!

If the situation continued to be deadlocked like this, winning was no problem, but killing the opponent wasn't as easy.

He needed to employ some other tactics, his mind turned, and Zhao Tianmu looked at Lu Ye's position, taunting: "Do you dare to boast with such little skills? I thought you were more powerful."

In his previous observations, this Li Taibai was evidently of a hot-tempered and volatile nature, acting recklessly, which matched with his earlier action of chopping off Sun Ying's junior sister's arm over a disagreement; who would normally do that?

Thus, he didn't need to do much, just a few verbal provocations, and the opponent was bound to be furiously inept.

Sure enough, as his words fell, Lu Ye's roar grew louder, a layer of blood mist enveloped him more intensely.

With the emergence of the blood mist, his demeanor became visibly more furious, the figure that had been unable to advance a single inch, surprisingly began to move forward again, and his momentum was rising every step!

Zhao Tianmu was overjoyed, looking at the suddenly appearing blood-colored mist, knowing that Li Taibai must have used a secret technique to boost his strength temporarily, or he wouldn't exhibit such performance.

However, such secret techniques usually come with huge aftereffects, all he needs to do is delay, wait for the effect of the secret technique to pass, and his strength will plummet, then it will be the perfect time to kill him!

For this reason, he even deliberately slowed his offensive, allowing Lu Ye's figure to break through nearer ten miles!

Thirty miles behind him, Qin Yuandai observed closely, vaguely feeling that Li Taibai's momentum was somewhat abnormal, too violent, and the color of the blood mist swirling around him seemed unnaturally thick.

Though she noticed this scene, she did not think much of it, only assuming that it was an explosive tactic under his control with immense power.

Throughout the stellar space, such tactics were common, and the Qingli Dao World also had such techniques, usually avoided unless absolutely necessary. Comparatively, his methods were stronger.

But the next moment, a shocking scene unfolded. Initially, Zhao Tianmu had fully occupied the initiative, but with Li Taibai's sudden burst, he showed signs of being unable to sustain.

Zhao Tianmu was dumbfounded too. He had purposely let Lu Ye enter within the ten-mile range, not expecting the opponent's momentum to surge like a rainbow, and once in the ten-mile range, seemed unstoppable, continuously pushing towards him.

Understanding the combat essence between a magic cultivator and a combat cultivator, Zhao Tianmu absolutely dared not let Lu Ye get close, naturally hurriedly retreating backward, deploying tactics to obstruct while fleeing.

The wick of the oil lamp spirit treasure hanging by his side flickered incessantly, every flicker being a burst of power, striking Lu Ye's side, leaving him disheveled and battered, like a Spectral Bewitchment.

In an instant, twenty to thirty miles swept by.

Zhao Tianmu knew he couldn't retreat any further, retreating again would lead him to Qin Yuandai's side, what would that look like?

Just having steadied his figure, ready to deploy tactics, his heart suddenly leaped, inexplicably feeling a massive disaster looming, chilling him to the bone.

Raising his eyes, he saw Lu Ye bathed in a crimson hue, gripping the saber hilt tightly, raising it high, both arms trembling violently.

It seemed he wasn't gripping his most familiar saber but a writhing, struggling giant dragon!

The already unreasonably violent momentum climbed anew at that instant, so fierce, so sharp that even Zhao Tianmu, a Constellation Late Stage, felt a sense of insignificance.

Ten miles behind him, Qin Yuandai also felt a tremendous crisis at this moment, as a terrifying aura locked onto her.

The situation changed too fast. Once that aura targeted her, she knew there was no escape, no matter what.

She finally realized what was strange about that Li Taibai she had observed earlier!

Red Talisman!

Li Taibai actually had a red talisman refined by a Sun Blaze Realm expert!

The intense red light on his body earlier was a sign of activating the red talisman, but it was concealed by his own blood aura, making it difficult for her to identify. The various commotions of activating the red talisman were also disrupted by the intense aftermath of the battle.

Mainly, she hadn't expected that in such a place, such an Early Constellation stage individual could possess a red talisman refined by a Sun Blaze Realm expert.

So that's how it is!

No wonder the opponent suggested letting the two Constellation stages fight first; it was a premeditated plan to use this battle to activate a red talisman, and the real target on the Unparalleled Continent was actually her!

So from the very beginning, the opponent never intended to make peace, nor did they think about befriending Qingli Dao World. Everything was just a guise.

Seeing through the truth, Qin Yuandai sneered, her expression composed and calm.

Indeed, the red talisman was precious, as it was something only a Sun Blaze Realm expert could refine, and it also required expertise in talisman-making. Out of a hundred Sun Blaze Realm experts, not even one might be able to refine a red talisman.

Theoretically speaking, the ultimate power of a red talisman could match that of a personal strike from Sun Blaze.

But that's just theoretical.

In reality, the power of a spirit talisman ultimately depends on the strength or weakness of the cultivator activating it.

If a Moon Jade were to activate a red talisman at this moment, she might not be able to withstand it, but now, the one activating this red talisman was merely an Early Constellation stage, no matter how desperately they pushed, how powerful could the activated force be?

Since she couldn't evade it, she decided not to!

As countless thoughts raced through Qin Yuandai's mind, the Boulder Mountain Saber in Lu Ye's hand was already enveloped in red light, the blade emitting straining cracking sounds.

He could feel that the Boulder Mountain Saber, which had accompanied him for many years and was reforged just two years ago, was already showing signs of damage. In other words, with the quality of the Boulder Mountain Saber, it somewhat couldn't withstand the power of this red talisman!

The red talisman obtained from Su Yuqing consisted of only two, and of differing types. One was an offensive red talisman, which, once activated, could unleash a spell of great power.

At this moment, Lu Ye was activating the other one, a red talisman more suited for a combat cultivator like himself to use.

It must have been specially prepared for him by Su Yuqing!

All the schemes and various responses before this were to erupt at this very moment.

He was now less than twenty miles from Qin Yuandai!

The moment his own aura locked onto her, his trembling long knife thus swung down.

Cut!

As the blade fell, Lu Ye felt his whole Essence Qi was drained, a familiar sensation he had experienced before when he had used the Dragon Throne for too long.

He mustered his energy, quickly stuffing a handful of prepared spirit jade into his mouth, his eyes fixed ahead without a flicker.

Victory or defeat, it depended on this moment.

The red light swept through the void like a crescent moon.

In the peripheral vision, Zhao Tianmu, who bore the brunt, didn't even have the chance to activate that tiny bell spirit treasure. As the red light passed, his whole body exploded into nothingness.

Then, Lu Ye witnessed a scene that confused him.

He thought after executing this strike, Qin Yuandai would either attempt to escape or employ protective measures. Yet this old woman neither fled nor activated any protection, instead extending her hand towards the oncoming red light.

Lu Ye, nearly exhausted, dizzy and dazed, momentarily believed he was hallucinating.

What is this old woman... trying to do?

Qin Yuandai didn't intend to do anything. In her judgment, the red talisman activated by an Early Constellation stage like Lu Ye contained energy, but it posed no lethal threat to her, hence her puzzling behavior for Lu Ye.

But the instant that withered hand reached out, she sensed something amiss.

The power of this red talisman was far beyond what she had imagined!

Chapter 1373 The Second Moon Jade

Like a flash, Qin Yuandai retracted her withered old hand with a piercing scream, thrusting the cane in her hand.

A spectral domain quickly spread out.

This cane, surprisingly, was another Million Souls Banner, and compared to Sun Ying's, its quality was much higher. The spectral domain unfolded, capable of attacking and defending, making it her unbeatable magic treasure for combat.

However, it was ultimately a step too late.

The spectral domain had just begun to spread, not yet forming a defensive line, when a crescent-like red light attacked, slicing through the undeveloped spectral domain, and struck Qin Yuandai's scrawny body.

The hastily activated protective force couldn't resist in the slightest, and with the eruption of violent power, the red light enveloped a large area.

The aftermath swept across, and twenty miles away, Lu Ye's figure wavered, like a fallen leaf in the wind, blown far away.

Even Tang Yifeng and the others, rushing over at full speed as Lu Ye took action, struggled to maintain their balance, hastily channeling their power to resist, swaying back and forth.

Within the area covered by the red light, life was continuously extinguished, more than one dead, evidently the Constellations Qin Yuandai brought were affected.

Pushed by the red talisman's outbreak's aftershock, Lu Ye was blown about 30 miles away before he barely stabilized himself, immediately turning his gaze towards Qin Yuandai.

He was only concerned about one thing now: is the Moon Jade of the Qingli Dao World dead?

At a glance, his face lit up with joy, followed by surprise!

The joy was that Qin Yuandai was already dead, her body split in two, blood splattering in the stellar space. Not only did she die, but seven or eight Constellations she brought also perished, with the rest nearly all injured, scattered in all directions, looking pathetic.

The power of the red talisman's explosion was beyond Lu Ye's imagination. Had he known, he wouldn't have desperately closed the distance; using it from farther away, Qin Yuandai probably couldn't withstand it either.

But after all, it was his first time activating the red talisman without experience, so naturally, caution was prioritized.

The surprise was in the distance behind the surviving cultivators of the Qingli Dao World, a glaring light was rapidly approaching, and judging by the spirit force fluctuations from the person, it was surprisingly a Moon Jade Mid-Stage!

This time, two Moon Jades from the Qingli Dao World actually came!

When Lu Ye first saw Qin Yuandai leading a group of Constellations, he assumed she was alone, and in his original assumption, the other side would most likely send only one Moon Jade.

But they unexpectedly sent two! Moreover, the second one had been concealed in the starboat at the back, only revealing now!

Lu Ye felt bitter; this truly was man proposes, Heaven disposes. Who would've thought, dealing with a group of Constellation Early Stage, they would deploy two Moon Jades.

It should be known, the entire Qingli Dao World has only three Moon Jades, meaning they left one to defend their home, and the other two came over.

The Nine Provinces Constellation, what virtue or capability do they have to deserve such treatment...

He naturally didn't know, this second Moon Jade following along was merely a coincidence and accident, not to avenge the Constellations from Qingdai Mountain, but with other intentions, thus remaining concealed and planning to appear at Qin Yuandai's side to play a critical role.

But as he waited, Qin Yuandai died! Along with many of the Constellations she brought!

How could he hesitate, immediately flying over.

Feeling the aura of the second Moon Jade, Tang Yifeng and others were dumbfounded. Originally in their plan, if Lu Ye succeeded in one strike, they would rush to settle the surviving Constellations of the Qingli Dao World.

But in this situation, where is the chance?

Especially since the aftermath of the red talisman's explosion had rendered their Pseudo-Might Spirit Runes ineffective, revealing their true cultivation, unable to intimidate the new Constellations.

Soon, the elderly man with an aged appearance arrived at the site of the red talisman's explosion. Though he was at a distance earlier, he had been observing the situation here quietly.

Aware that Qin Yuandai handled things somewhat carelessly; otherwise, she wouldn't have suffered such misfortune.

That red talisman wasn't an ordinary red talisman, very likely from the hands of the Dwarf Race; otherwise, it couldn't possess such formidable power.

If it truly were an ordinary red talisman, with Qin Yuandai's strength, self-preservation wouldn't have been an issue. But if it were the Dwarf Race's red talisman, nurtured over who knows how long, anyone would be cautious.

Gazing at the two halves of Qin Yuandai's corpse, the old man sighed heavily, eyes filled with sorrow.

Originally, after these three millennia, only one old friend was left by his side, and now, this sole old friend also died, and perished at the hands of a Constellation Early Stage at that.

"Collect the remains!" the old man instructed calmly.

Immediately, the surviving Constellations from Qingdai Mountain, reluctantly, with faces full of grief, stepped forward to collect Qin Yuandai's corpse.

Only then did the old man look up, turning to gaze at Tang Yifeng and the others, seeing a group of Constellation Early Stage, numerous in quantity, but none catching his attention.

Then he turned to look in Lu Ye's direction.

Lu Ye was puffing his cheeks, evidently eating something, and upon feeling the old man's gaze, he hurriedly swallowed it whole.

Without a moment's hesitation, he turned and ran!

"Vermin!" the elder shouted in a deep voice.

Has he realized the severity of the situation and abandoned his companions? How could his old friend die at the hands of such a petty person!

For a Constellation Early Stage to attempt an escape in front of a strong cultivator like him was simply a fool's dream. Even if he let Lu Ye escape for a while, he was confident of catching up with ease.

As he was contemplating whether to deal with those Constellation Early Stage individuals before pursuing this person, a loud voice echoed from the depths of stellar space: "Tang Jun, if you dare kill one of my Unparalleled members, I will slaughter your Qingli Dao World!"

Tang Jun quickly turned his head, staring in the direction Lu Ye was fleeing. In the next instant, his figure flickered, and he shot off in pursuit, saying lightly, "If you wish to die, I shall grant your wish!"

For someone at the Moon Jade Mid-Stage to be threatened by a Constellation Early Stage, how could he tolerate it? Moreover, that kid had one red talisman, so he might have a second; better to deal with him first.

Especially since the opponent had just activated a red talisman, he was most likely in a state of exhaustion now.

As for those Unparalleled Constellations... Qin Yuandai's group wasn't completely wiped out, with more than a dozen left, including both Late Stage and Mid-Stage Constellation cultivators. Though fewer in number, their cultivation was higher, and they should be able to handle it.

The speed of a Moon Jade Mid-Stage was exceptionally fast. Even though Lu Ye sensed the danger and fled immediately, he distinctly felt the opponent's aura locking onto him from behind, and the distance was closing rapidly.

Seeing things weren't going well, Lu Ye immediately detonated a drop of Essence Blood within his body, activating the Blood Escape Technique.

At this moment, he couldn't care about extreme speeds or not; if he were caught, it would surely be a dead end, so enhancing his speed was naturally the priority.

Under the boost of the Blood Escape Technique, he soon broke through his top speed, silently praying that he would not encounter any obstacles ahead. Already in a bad state, if he crashed into something, he'd be done for.

Luck was on his side; flying this way, he didn't collide with anything.

Though there were plenty of drifting meteors in stellar space, they were quite scattered. Normally, it wasn't easy to hit one unless stumbling into an asteroid belt.

Lu Ye led Tang Jun away, leaving Thang Yifeng and the others with heavy hearts, yet they understood his intention.

With the opponent's Moon Jade Mid-Stage cultivation, their side in Nine Provinces couldn't resist it. Even if Lu Ye stayed to fight together, they'd inevitably be picked off one by one.

That's why he decisively fled.

The escape wasn't the goal; it was merely a strategy to lure away the enemy's strongest combat force!

Lu Ye's side was proceeding smoothly, but whether he could escape the pursuit of a Moon Jade Mid-Stage was unknown.

Thang Yifeng and the others couldn't do much more than kill the enemies in front, ideally capturing a few to guard against any unforeseen events!

The ripple effects of the red talisman's explosion exposed the true cultivation of four fake Moon Jades. Coupled with the tragic deaths of Qin Yuandai and her allies, the surviving Qingli Dao World cultivators were furious. Not long after Tang Jun departed, they proactively launched an attack on the Nine Provinces Constellations.

In a brawl, the Nine Provinces cultivators had vast experience and immediately used their numbers to construct defenses against the enemy's assault.

The scene near the Unparalleled Continent was a chaotic frenzy!

Though superior in number, they were ultimately inferior in cultivation. Especially since the enemy had two Late Stage Constellation cultivators whose powerful techniques made it difficult for the Nine Provinces folks to hold them off.

But they could only persist.

The situation became quite tense.

Meanwhile, a starboat was rushing urgently toward the Unparalleled Continent. It was the Silver Fish, carrying the third batch of Constellations brought over from Nine Provinces by Nian Yuexian.

They arrived a bit late, missing the earlier battles.

Inside the starboat, Nian Yuexian was both steering the starboat and pulling out an audio talisman, attempting to contact Lu Ye. There was no response; at that moment, Lu Ye was being chased by Tang Jun and had no time to reply.

She then attempted to contact Jian Guhong and received a response moments later, learning roughly about the situation over at the Unparalleled Continent and what had transpired.

A brief consultation with Jian Guhong was followed by finalizing a strategy to break the enemy.

The fact that the audio talisman could transmit messages meant they weren't too far apart. With Silver Fish's speed, they'd reach the battlefield in no more than half a day!

By then, their batch of Constellations could catch the Qingli Dao World by surprise!

By themselves, they couldn't achieve this, but Nian Yuexian had been nurturing two purple talismans that Lu Ye had previously given her!

Not only did Nian Yuexian have them, but so did Jian Guhong and Feng Wujiang, along with the first group of cultivators who followed Lu Ye to the Unparalleled Continent; each had one, distributed by Lu Ye for emergencies.

Though the purple talisman's power was inferior to the red talisman, it was more than sufficient for dealing with Constellations.

They were waiting for the right moment, an opportunity to deliver a comprehensive blow to the invading enemies!

Nian Yuexian's arrival was perfectly timed.

Shortly after, the Silver Fish reached its predetermined location, with nine Nine Provinces members emerging from the vessel. After a few simple instructions, Nian Yuexian activated a secret technique to conceal herself, suppressing her aura as she stealthily moved towards the battlefield, simultaneously informing Jian Guhong to prepare on their end.

Chapter 1374 The Pursuit and the Unexpected Event

The frontline formed by the people of the Nine Provinces at the edge of the Unparalleled Continent was tenaciously resisting the fierce assault of the Qingli Dao World's Constellations. In the short term, they were safe, but any prolonged confrontation would undoubtedly lead to mistakes.

Fortunately, during the aftershock of the red talisman earlier, these cultivators from the Qingli Dao World had sustained some injuries, otherwise, the situation of the Nine Provinces would have been even worse.

A small meteorite flew from the depths of stellar space, skimming past the battlefield.

At this moment, all the Constellations of the Qingli Dao World were concentrating on executing their tactics, who would pay attention to such a common meteorite?

However, as the meteorite passed, a strand of killing intent suddenly burst forth, and they realized something was amiss. As they turned to look, a purple glow filled their eyes.

Nian Yuexian, who had arrived on the battlefield relying on the meteorite, made her move.

Simultaneously, Jian Guhong was also shrouded in a purple glow, his gaze and Mental Consciousness locked onto a Constellation Late Stage enemy. The power of the purple talisman unfolded, transforming into an attack like a silken thread, striking towards that person.

A power far surpassing the Constellation erupted both in front and behind, leaving the Qingli Dao World group bewildered and unsure of how to respond. The two Constellation Late Stage members who were specifically targeted by Nian Yuexian and Jian Guhong felt an instinctive threat and hurriedly activated their protective means.

However, the protective spirit treasures they activated couldn't withstand the power of the purple talisman. As the spirit treasures shattered, the two fell in succession.

The sudden death of the last two Constellation Late Stage individuals shocked the remaining people from the Qingli Dao World. Aware that this group of enemies wasn't particularly powerful yet possessing purple talismans, they no longer dared to fight.

But before they could flee, the Constellations of the Nine Provinces charged in from the front and rear.

For the Nine Provinces, those two Constellation Late Stage individuals were the biggest obstacles. Now that those obstacles were removed, the remaining enemies were no longer a threat. With the advantage of numbers alone, the Nine Provinces could completely suppress the enemy, and not only could they decimate them, capturing a few alive was also feasible.

As the dust settled on that side of the battlefield, Lu Ye was making a perilous escape.

He was continually accelerating, far beyond what he could normally control, but his pursuer Tang Jun could also increase speed, and even more efficiently than him.

This led to the constant narrowing of the distance between them, and it was fortunate that he had the foresight to flee in advance when the situation seemed dire, otherwise there would have been no space to run.

If it were merely a matter of escaping, Lu Ye might still have a chance to completely shake him off. Though his speed wasn't as good as the other's, Lu Ye had his own unique escape techniques.

Yet Lu Ye couldn't completely shake him off!

Because once he shakes off Tang Jun, allowing him to lose his target, Tang Jun would certainly return to the Unparalleled Continent, putting the Nine Provinces Constellations remaining there in danger.

Therefore, not only could Lu Ye not be caught in this chase, but also had to find a way to prolong it, like fishing... except he was fishing a shark, who he couldn't let escape, nor be eaten by it. The difficulty was extraordinarily high!

He wasn't worried about the sect master and others there; with the purple talismans he distributed earlier, as long as they operated well, the remaining Constellations of the Qingli Dao World would not be a match for them, so the sect master and others were bound to resolve those guys.

He only needed to concern himself with his own situation.

"Surrender obediently, and I will spare your life!"

Tang Jun's voice came from behind. In the initial pursuit, he hadn't said this; he had claimed he would tear Lu Ye to pieces.

The change in his attitude was due to witnessing Lu Ye's miraculous means.

Originally, he thought killing a Constellation Early Stage would take little effort, but who knew that the person was as slippery as an eel, incredibly hard to capture.

The distance between them had reduced to about 30 miles, well within Tang Jun's range of methods. He had previously managed to reduce the distance to this extent several times, but whenever he was about to act, puzzling scenarios would occur.

Just like now, as Tang Jun's spirit force surged, the figure in front of his view suddenly disappeared!

Immediately, Tang Jun spread out his Mental Consciousness and quickly found Lu Ye's trace in stellar space thousands of miles away, promptly turning to pursue.

He had no idea how this young man named Li Taibai achieved such feats, for even he couldn't accomplish it. This involved using some profound powers, the kind only reachable in the Sun Blaze Realm.

Of course, using a transposition talisman could explain it, since the opponent had red talismans, they likely also had other Spirit Talismans.

Yet after several observations, Tang Jun found no signs of the opponent using talismans, only seeing a trace of spirit runes flicker and disappear beneath the opponent's feet at the instant they vanished.

Moreover, while a transposition talisman could save a life, no one would be extravagant enough to use it so frequently. Furthermore, the direction of a transposition talisman's teleportation is random, with significant errors in distance. However, observing the opponent's method, every time it was exactly a few thousand miles, and the direction was always slightly left or right, never suddenly moving behind.

This couldn't be explained by using a transposition talisman.

Thus, Tang Jun deduced that this Li Taibai must have mastered a technique that allows swift translocation within a range of a few thousand miles!

For a Constellation Early Stage to move thousands of miles, what if he mastered this technique himself? It could result in easily covering tens of thousands of miles!

It was due to this consideration that Tang Jun's attitude shifted a bit.

Dead men don't come back to life. His old friend's longevity was already short, and even if he survived this conflict, he wouldn't have many years left. But if he could actually make this young man willingly divulge the whole secret, then his old friend wouldn't have died in vain.

The original intention to hunt down Lu Ye was just a momentary rage, but now he increasingly wanted to capture Lu Ye alive. Of course, if the other party was willing to cooperate, all the better.

As for whether he could catch up to the opponent... Tang Jun was confident! As long as the opponent couldn't shake him off, escape was impossible. To say nothing of other factors, just the issue of spirit force endurance would be unsolvable for the opponent, especially after using the red talisman. Tang Jun was certain that this Li Taibai wouldn't be able to hold out much longer.

Thousands of miles away, the moment Lu Ye revealed his figure, he detected a trace of Mental Consciousness extending from afar, clearly indicating that Tang Jun had discovered his position.

He raised his hand and cast a weapon control towards the front left, while he flew towards the front right.

Having tried it before, if he so wished, he could teleport tens of thousands of miles, but he was afraid of really shaking off Tang Jun, so he always controlled the teleportation distance to a degree that Tang Jun could notice immediately.

With a gap of thousands of miles, while Tang Jun could immediately locate his position, it was difficult to detect the existence of the tiny weapon control, so Lu Ye inferred that Tang Jun would surely be unclear about what his method was.

Of course, even if he figured it out, there was no effective way to counter it; he would still have to keep pursuing him.

Lu Ye had to rack his brains to keep this old guy on the hook.

As for Tang Jun's consideration that Lu Ye couldn't hold out much longer due to lack of spirit force... that didn't exist!

It was only in the brief period after using the red talisman that Lu Ye felt the sensation of being drained, but as he swallowed a handful of spirit jade along the way, the faster he ran, the more energized he became, with his spirit force becoming more abundant!

Tang Jun's hope of chasing Lu Ye until his spirit force was exhausted was clearly a miscalculation.

Another audio transmission from Tang Jun reached his ear, but once again it was those threats, which Lu Ye regarded as nothing but fart.

Amidst such a chase and escape, three days passed in a flash.

Tang Jun's original calm demeanor was long gone, replaced by frustration and anger.

He just could not comprehend how a Constellation Early Stage, after activating the red talisman, could still have such vigor to run around.

He initially arrived at the battlefield and, upon seeing Lu Ye, clearly noticed that this lad had been already spent and exhausted. How could he be growing more spirited the longer he ran?

Logically speaking, a Constellation Early Stage couldn't possibly have such a vast reserve of spirit force, even consuming a large number of elixir pills in a short time couldn't replenish it.

While he was deep in thought, Lu Ye was already planning his complete escape.

The three-day period had ended. Likely, the battle on the Unparalleled Continent had concluded, and if any Nine Provinces Constellation had any sense, they wouldn't venture out to track him down, as it would be meaningless.

So Lu Ye surmised they likely had already withdrawn from the Unparalleled Continent and were heading towards the Nine Provinces.

There was naturally no need to delay any longer on his side.

As long as he managed to shake off the opponent, after some rest and full recovery, with the red talisman in hand, he wouldn't fear the Qingli Dao World.

If this time he could kill a Moon Jade, next time he could naturally do it again.

Qingli Dao World only had three Moon Jades in total, one already dead, leaving just two. Under the deterrence of the red talisman, they couldn't possibly clash with the Nine Provinces to the bitter end.

With his thoughts set, Lu Ye connected his mind to the weapon control he had sent out, which was roughly ten thousand miles away.

And a mere thirty miles behind him was Tang Jun's figure.

Perfect timing!

As spirit force surged, Void Spirit Runes formed underfoot, and just as Lu Ye was about to flash away, a very ominous feeling suddenly arose in his heart.

Simultaneously, the surrounding space started to violently tremble and distort.

The space's shake caused the Void Spirit Runes he constructed to shatter, preventing a successful teleportation!

Before Lu Ye could rebuild a new Void Spirit Runes, a sudden change occurred.

The surrounding space, like a mirror smashed on the ground, became shattered and began collapsing ferociously towards a certain point behind him.

This turn of events greatly shocked Lu Ye, who instinctively thought it was Tang Jun's doing, but he quickly realized it had nothing to do with Tang Jun, as there was no sign that he had taken any action.

Hurriedly attempting to construct a second void, yet under the violent shaking of space, it couldn't form at all.

Meanwhile, an immensely powerful devouring force emanated from the collapsing space. Lu Ye immediately felt as if an invisible giant hand had grabbed him, the force from behind was so powerful he couldn't resist, and he was sucked in all at once.

At the moment of disappearing, the only thing Lu Ye could do was quickly channel spirit force to protect himself!

Chapter 1375 Insect Path

About thirty miles behind Lu Ye, Tang Jun, who was pursuing like a mad dog, witnessed this change unfold before his eyes, and in an instant, cold sweat broke out all over him.

With his Moon Jade cultivation and over three thousand years of lifespan, his knowledge and experience were naturally not something Lu Ye could compare to.

So he immediately saw the problem.

This space has collapsed!

This was clearly a sudden, accidental event. Tang Jun had only heard from others about such occurrences a long time ago and never thought he would actually encounter one day.

Because the probability of this happening is incredibly low.

Seeing that the situation was unfavorable, he quickly halted his steps and turned to move away from this area.

However, the speed of the space collapse was extremely fast, and the coverage was also vast. Even though he was about thirty miles away from Lu Ye and reacted quickly, he still couldn't escape.

Almost at the instant he turned, the space in the area he was in also broke apart. Tang Jun felt an instant illusion of stepping into emptiness, and he then experienced the same helpless feeling Lu Ye felt moments ago.

No matter how much his cultivation surpassed Lu Ye's, under that terrifying devouring force, he still had no room for resistance. His body was uncontrollably pulled into the collapsing space, following in Lu Ye's footsteps.

The two figures disappeared, and the collapse and fragmentation of space became more intense, rapidly extending in all directions until after a long time, it gradually calmed down. In this stellar space, however, a huge circular portal appeared, inside murky and chaotic, leading to an unknown destination.

In the chaotic and unordered place, Lu Ye mobilized spirit force to protect himself, but the effect was weak. Mysterious power surged from all sides, incomprehensible to him. Under the constant erosion of that mysterious power, his protective spirit force was repeatedly broken, quickly leaving him bloody all over, even stripping a layer of his skin.

He slowly realized exactly what had happened.

In terms of knowledge and experience, he indeed couldn't compare to Tang Jun, but he had at least flipped through a large number of jade slips in Xiyuan Pavilion of the Dwarf Race. By aligning his current situation with what he had read in any jade slip before, he naturally understood.

He had unwittingly triggered the birth of an Insect Path!

The stellar space is full of perils. These dangers not only come from the diverse star beasts and powerful beings of various races but also include some extremely concealed, undetectable natural perilous lands.

There is a type of natural perilous place, which, on the surface, shows no signs at all but is actually a place terrifying to cultivators.

That is the place of vulnerable space.

Under normal circumstances, every space is extremely solid, regardless of how time passes, there won't be many changes.

But the stellar space is vast, and there are always special locations where the space is very fragile, some naturally, and some due to other special reasons, such as... the gestation of an Insect Path.

The Insect Path has no direct relation to the Insect Race. The term Insect Path is merely a term. Strictly speaking, an Insect Path is a void passage, each end connecting two locations in the vast stellar space. Entering from one end of the Insect Path, one can traverse spatial barriers and easily reach the other end, saving a lot of traveling time.

In stellar space, there are still many such Insect Paths. Many powerful beings use stable Insect Paths to rapidly travel between two specific locations.

Insect Paths don't exist forever. Some are slowly disappearing, while others are being nurtured and born.

The space at both ends of an emerging Insect Path is undoubtedly vulnerable and, over time, will become increasingly fragile until one day it collapses completely, forming the entrances of the Insect Path.

Lu Ye never expected to be so unlucky as to encounter such a thing; there were too many coincidences involved.

He coincidentally arrived at this location while being pursued by Tang Jun.

This position coincidentally happened to be the entrance of a gestating Insect Path.

He coincidentally constructed Void Spirit Runes here...

Under normal circumstances, even in a place of vulnerable space, a cultivator merely passing by wouldn't cause any changes unless they happened to encounter the exact moment of the Insect Path's birth, a probability that is nearly impossible.

But Lu Ye happened to construct Void Spirit Runes.

This spirit rune involved some spatial mysteries. The instant the spirit rune was successfully constructed, it undoubtedly triggered some changes in this space, leading to the premature appearance of the Insect Path entrance. So only did the fragile space fracture, and the space collapsed.

The appearance of this Insect Path was provoked by him. Without him, it might have appeared decades or even hundreds of years later.

Realizing this, Lu Ye immediately realized that he was in big trouble!

When an Insect Path is first born, it is extremely unstable, completely unable to allow smooth passage. In fact, not every Insect Path permits traversing. Some Insect Paths, even after many years, remain chaotic inside—even a Sun Blaze entering would lose itself, becoming lost within.

Most Insect Paths undergo a period of evolution before gradually becoming conduits for cultivators to pass through conveniently.

In any case, the Insect Path he is in is definitely a deadly place.

It was his first time experiencing such a thing and for a moment he didn't know how to react. He carefully recalled the information he had seen in the jade slip from the Dwarf Race, and quickly calmed his mind, allowing the mysterious power around him to envelop him, not daring to resist.

Because the information recorded in the jade slip mentioned that if one were to encounter this kind of situation, going with the flow was the best choice. If luck favored them, they might be carried out of the Insect Path by the mysterious power. Any resistance would only worsen the situation.

Lu Ye's current feeling was like being plunged into the deep sea, with violent currents surging below. At one moment he was swept toward one direction by a current, and then another moment, carried away in another direction by a different stream...

After several rounds of this, he completely lost his sense of direction.

Experiencing it firsthand, he finally felt the dangers within this newly formed Insect Path. A cultivator falling in such a place could easily lose their sense of direction. Without a sense of direction, even if one has the ability to break through, they wouldn't find the right spot.

He couldn't discern what exactly the mysterious power enveloping him was. The direct sensation was akin to being scraped by blades over every inch of skin.

His protective spirit force continually shattered and was repeatedly stimulated, with little effect. His skin had already been scraped off several layers, every spot radiating intense pain.

Thinking about how to escape was now a question he had to consider. Counting on those bizarre currents to carry him out of here seemed unlikely; if he doesn't make an effort, it ultimately leads to a dead end.

But what should he do?

While Lu Ye was pondering, suddenly, a familiar roar echoed not far away.

It was Tang Jun's voice!

This guy had somehow fallen in here.

Judging by the sound, he was obviously urging power to fight against the surrounding environment, but it's unclear how effective it was.

Lu Ye's mood instantly soared!

If he were trapped here alone and Tang Jun escaped, the Nine Provinces would be at risk. Tang Jun would definitely seek out traces of the Nine Provinces cultivators. The Unparalleled Continent is only a little over a year away from Nine Provinces, and with Tang Jun's capabilities, he might find Nine Provinces.

Without him to anchor the situation, and with Nine Provinces cultivators lacking the red talisman, how can they contend against a Moon Jade?

Now that Tang Jun is caught in this Insect Path, whether he can leave alive is uncertain. How could he then trouble Nine Provinces?

At least someone is accompanying him! This is truly shared fate.

Tang Jun's voice only appeared briefly and then vanished, both swept away by the fierce currents, unable to control their figures. Earlier they were possibly close but by now, Tang Jun had certainly gone far.

Lu Ye was too lazy to think much about Tang Jun's situation; he needed to think about himself.

He had only been trapped for a moment and was already feeling overwhelmed. After all, he was just at the Constellation Early Stage; he hadn't refined the Essence of Blood and Flesh to its utmost extent. Though his skin injuries usually recovered quickly, they hadn't yet reached the point where his flesh could regenerate. These things can only be done once he refines his Essence of Blood and Flesh to perfection and advances to the Constellation Mid-Stage.

Now his body was drenched in blood, not a spot intact. At this rate, he feared he would truly perish.

With resignation, Lu Ye could only shove a handful of spirit jade into his mouth, then summon the Dragon Throne.

With the crimson cover armor adorning him, Lu Ye clearly felt his foundation continuously being consumed. Luckily, his cultivation was higher now, allowing him to persevere for longer.

But eventually, his spirit force would run out.

He needs to find a way to escape before his power is exhausted.

He strained to recall all kinds of detailed intelligence he had seen before on the jade slip from Xiyuan Pavilion, hoping to find an appropriate solution, but came out empty-handed.

The omnipresent currents still swept around, though for now, with the Dragon Throne's protection, Lu Ye himself remained unharmed. However, the Dragon Throne issued continuous creaking sounds indicative of strain, suggesting that even this cover armor couldn't last indefinitely.

After contemplating for a moment, Lu Ye had an idea and put away the Dragon Throne.

He activated the power of the Talent Tree, and instantly, countless subtle roots that were difficult to detect spread over his body.

His thought was simple; the Talent Tree could absorb power, whether from Spirit Stone or spirit jade, and could even devour the spirit force within a cultivator's body. So this peculiar force around him... could it also be absorbed?

If so, leveraging the Talent Tree might fend off the wash of that peculiar power.

After some attempts, Lu Ye realized his assumption was correct. The Talent Tree could indeed absorb the power of the strange currents. However, the absorption rate wasn't fast enough, so during the process, he still suffered damage from the wash, yet comparatively, it was slightly less severe than before...

If the Talent Tree's absorbing power were strong enough, it would undoubtedly mitigate the current crisis, but unfortunately it wasn't yet up to par.

Yet soon, Lu Ye felt a strange sensation; as the Talent Tree absorbed, some wondrous insights emerged within him. These insights were indescribable and inexplicable yet strangely deepened his understanding of the Void Spirit Runes.

It was truly a bizarre occurrence.

Chapter 1376 An Unexpected Delight

The Void Spirit Runes have undergone a lengthy process of evolution.

Lu Ye initially learned the Void Spirit Runes from the tomes of his master. After the second metamorphosis of the Talent Tree, he evolved this rune, making some modifications in the details until it gradually took shape.

Thus, the Void Spirit Runes he now employs bear a significant resemblance to those recorded in his master's tomes, yet they are not entirely the same.

Lu Ye has always felt that this rune has considerable potential, but with his current attainment on the Path of Spirit Runes, he is unable to further improve it, so he can only wait for future opportunities.

Unexpectedly, he suddenly had some peculiar ideas at this moment, and the more he activated the Talent Tree to devour the surrounding surging force, the clearer these thoughts became...

Lu Ye suddenly realized that the enigmatic force washing over him must be related to space. Thus, when he activated the Talent Tree to devour them, it gave rise to new ideas about the Void Spirit Runes, because both have the same origin!

If this situation could be sustained, Lu Ye believed he would inevitably be able to evolve a more exquisite Void Spirit Rune!

But considering the current situation, this is not the time to evolve new runes. He originally only intended to resolve his own crisis, and the present discovery was merely an unexpected gain.

The birth of the Insect Path was prematurely triggered by his activation of the Void Spirit Runes, and the mysterious force within the Insect Path inexplicably connects with the Void Spirit Runes...

Lu Ye faintly felt he might have discovered a way to resolve his own crisis.

Thinking so, he immediately activated the Void Spirit Runes.

The moment the rune formed, it collapsed, as the engulfing dark currents constantly battered him, preventing the rune from being sustained.

However, with the disappearance of the rune, Lu Ye keenly noticed that the dark currents enveloping him had slightly eased, not as violently turbulent.

Indeed, the Void Spirit Runes are beneficial to the current situation. Although not enough to resolve it completely, they definitely reduce the harm he suffers!

In this way, he can endure for a longer time.

Lu Ye hurriedly continued to construct the Void Spirit Runes again and again...

After more than a dozen runes disappeared, the dark currents enveloping him completely vanished, as if that peculiar, mysterious force had been dispelled by the Void Spirit Runes.

However, before Lu Ye could rejoice, another new dark current came sweeping in, engulfing him, and the sensation of being sliced by a thousand blades appeared once more.

Enduring the heart-wrenching pain, Lu Ye reconstructed the Void once more.

Through his earlier experience, he realized that he could not allow the engulfing dark currents to disappear entirely, for once they vanished, new currents would emerge.

He must strike a balance, managing to prevent the dark currents from vanishing while minimizing the harm they inflict on him.

This required numerous attempts.

During this time, he occasionally heard Tang Jun's fierce shouts, the voice going from vibrant and full of vigor at first, to gradually irate and angry, finally turning weak...

By the time Lu Ye had ample experience to deal with the dark currents around him, he could no longer hear Tang Jun's voice.

He didn't know if the other was dead, but in a place like this, if one couldn't find a way out and didn't have means to protect themselves, blindly struggling would leave little hope for survival.

Now things seemed better; among the three Moon Jades of the Qingli Dao World, one had been killed by him, another was trapped here, leaving only the last one.

Before a new Moon Jade is born in the Qingli Dao World, that person must stay there for long, and surely wouldn't have the chance to make trouble for the Nine Provinces.

Moreover, since Qingli Dao World dispatched two Moon Jades and nearly 20 Constellations only for them all to meet with total destruction, they would surely believe they had offended someone they shouldn't have.

Now, over in the Qingli Dao World, they must be in panic, preoccupied with their own survival, having no mind to trouble others.

With this thought, Lu Ye felt reassured; even if he were truly stuck here with no hope of escape, the Nine Provinces would remain trouble-free for the immediate future.

By the time the Nine Provinces give rise to Moon Jades, they will have stronger means for self-protection.

Suddenly, the current engulfing him was replaced by another, stronger one. Lu Ye hurriedly reconstructed the Void and repeated what he had done before...

The Talent Tree continued devouring the surrounding mysterious force, but in this scenario, Lu Ye had no mind to evolve.

Currently, he was safe from harm but trapped without an escape, genuinely frustrating.

He checked the various spirit runes he had mastered and discovered to his dismay that besides the Void, nothing else could aid the current situation.

Next, he inspected his storage ring and storage space, hoping to find something useful.

Originally, he held no great expectations because he knew well what he possessed.

But upon checking, he discovered to his surprise a delightfully unexpected find.

He pulled out from the storage space a length of something entirely white, resembling a lotus root.

The core of the Void Beast!

This thing was a trophy he obtained in the Insect Race Tree World. According to Lü Yingying of the Fairy Race, the Void Beast is an exceedingly rare exotic beast in the stellar space. By nature, it possesses a peculiar spatial ability, able to traverse the void and reach any place. After death, a core is left behind, which is incredibly precious.

The Insect Race somehow acquired this core and placed it in the heart of their Tree World, using its power to establish a connection with other Tree Worlds, plundering rare races like the Fairy Race.

After Lu Ye obtained this item, he placed it in his storage space and forgot about it after returning from the Reincarnation Tree. If it weren't for being forced this time to brainstorm feasible methods and casually checking through his items, he wouldn't have remembered it.

This thing... might be useful!

If the Insect Race could use this to connect with other Tree Worlds, it indicates that this item still retains the Void Beast's ability to traverse the void. Now trapped in the Insect Path, perhaps using this, he could escape its shackles and leave here?

Anyway, this is a glimmer of hope.

Lu Ye quickly started to study the core in his hand.

Initially, when he got the item, he only briefly examined it without closely inspecting it. Now upon examination, he was surprised to find that the core's interior was densely covered with complex and wondrous patterns, and Lu Ye even found traces of the Void Spirit Runes in the crisscrossed lines!

In comparison, the patterns inside the core were far more complex than the Void Spirit Runes. Besides traces of the Void Spirit Runes, there were more complex patterns.

This is truly nature's handiwork. The Void Beast is a star beast with hazy spiritual intelligence, naturally not understanding the Path of Spirit Runes, but it's innately able to harness some spirit rune power. The ability to traverse the void it relied on must also be due to the complex patterns contained in its core.

The Insect Race placed it in the Tree World, and even the Divine Sea Realm Insect Race members could harness the core's power. Lu Ye, now at the Constellation stage, should have no reason not to activate it.

Upon slight experimentation, he quickly understood how to harness it.

It was nothing more than channeling spirit force into it to activate the core's intricate pattern power and break the spatial barrier.

Lu Ye secretly exhilarated, attempted to infuse his spirit force into the core slowly yet steadily, and could clearly feel the core's patterns being activated. Soon, a beam of light emanated from the core's front end, striking directly ahead.

An undercurrent flowing there violently collapsed, then space seemed to start melting, spreading from the light's impact point to the surroundings, as if a piece of paper burned from its center by a spark.

Lu Ye's gaze was fixed on it, vaguely aware that it was the sign of the spatial barrier dissolving. Once the barrier fully disappeared, he could escape from here, heading to the space beyond the barrier.

As for where the opposite space might be... Lu Ye didn't know, but no matter how perilous it might be, it was better than being trapped in this chaotic Insect Path.

Yet when he secretly thrilled and anticipated, the dissolving spatial barrier began abruptly restoring, returning to its original state in the blink of an eye, filled with undercurrents again.

Lu Ye frowned.

He tried again, refusing to give up, this time increasing his spirit force infusion.

Shortly, as the core's power activated, the spatial barrier started dissolving again.

But the same scenario appeared as before; the barrier began restoring before it was completely broken.

Lu Ye grew indignant, attempting for a third time, now without reservation, nearly infusing all his spirit force into it.

Still to no avail!

He ate spirit jade to restore his strength while contemplating.

From the three attempts earlier, one thing became clear: the Void Beast's core was helpful for the current predicament and capable of making him escape here.

The premise is that its power must completely break the spatial barrier.

The problem lies with his strength! The core's power activated by him was not enough to accomplish this, so greater power was needed.

Realizing this, Lu Ye understood the root of the problem.

Now in the Constellation Early Stage, he was close to reaching the Constellation Mid-Stage, yet even if he did elevate his cultivation to the Mid-Stage here, it might not meet the requirement.

Early and Mid-Stage are ultimately still just Constellation, with no change in the nature of spirit force, only in its reserve.

Therefore, to utilize the core to escape, it is best done by Moon Jade Realm to activate the core's power! Because the Moon Jade Realm's power is another nature, much stronger than spirit force, thus certainly meeting the requirement!

With his thoughts turning, Lu Ye cursed inwardly, swiftly channeling spirit force to loudly shout, "Tang Jun, are you dead?"

Before, he would have preferred Tang Jun dead, but now he felt nervous. He hadn't expected a situation where he needed Tang Jun's power. Indeed, the world is unpredictable, and fate is elusive. If Tang Jun were really dead, there would truly be no hope of escaping here.

Not worrying too much, he began moving quickly, searching everywhere for Tang Jun's trace, continually shouting to expect a response.

Yet there was no response, and Lu Ye suspected that Tang Jun might truly be dead since he hadn't heard his activity for a long time.

Just then, he suddenly sensed a faint wave of spirit force coming from a direction.

Apart from him, only Tang Jun could be here! Lu Ye quickly headed in the direction of that spirit wave, finally reaching the place, and upon a steady gaze, wasn't it Tang Jun sitting amid the surging undercurrent?

Chapter 1377 I Have Connections Above

Under Lu Ye's observation, he found that the old guy's situation was much more miserable than his own.

Although his strength was more profound, in such an environment, he had no means to cope. When he first fell into this place, he recklessly charged forward, hoping to break free from the Insect Path's constraints, yet the deeper he went, the more trapped he became. By the time he realized things were not well, it was too late to stop.

At this moment, Tang Jun's hair was disheveled, and he was covered in bloodstains. However, he appeared to have no external injuries. After all, being at the Moon Jade stage, any flesh wounds could be easily healed with some exertion of strength.

But his condition was clearly quite dire, his aura as weak as a flickering candle in the wind, ready to be snuffed out at any moment.

He was in a spot shrouded by a curtain of light, with a small bell hovering beside him. The rotating bell was obviously a defensive artifact, and the light curtain was emitted from this bell.

However, when Lu Ye arrived, the light from the curtain had already dimmed to an extreme degree, just like his aura, wobbling and unstable.

Tang Jun was obviously at the end of his strength. Once the bell's defense was broken, complete annihilation awaited him. The reason he was still barely alive was the shelter provided by this bell's protection.

Alive is good! Lu Ye steadied his mind.

Almost at the same time Lu Ye discovered him, Tang Jun sensed something, lifted his eyes to look in Lu Ye's direction, and stared deeply at him with a calm expression: "Young friend, you truly have great means, this time I have been outdone, but it seems you can't escape either?"

Lu Ye raised an eyebrow: "You think that was my plan?"

"Isn't it?"

Lu Ye shook his head: "Pure coincidence!"

Tang Jun neither agreed nor disagreed and, after a pause, said, "Whether it's by chance or not, the result is the same. Now neither of us can escape, I won't have a good end, and you can't survive alone! What a pity..."

"What's the pity?"

Tang Jun chuckled slightly: "It's a pity that you, young friend, with such a promising future, now have to accompany an old wreck like me in eternal rest here. By this account, I haven't lost at all, hahaha!"

His attitude somewhat surprised Lu Ye. He had thought that when he found the other party, he would be furiously attacked, but who knew the person seemed to have accepted reality.

Perhaps it's due to his open-mindedness, or maybe it's related to his current circumstance. Tang Jun's situation clearly couldn't last much longer, and presumably, he didn't have energy left for further struggle.

"Whether you lose or not, let's set that aside for now. I'm here to make a deal with you," Lu Ye opened the conversation.

Tang Jun looked confused: "At this point, what deal do you wish to make with an old man?" People are about to die, what deal is there to make?

Lu Ye got straight to the point: "Do you want to live or die?"

Tang Jun frowned: "Are you threatening me?"

Lu Ye also realized that his words might have been a bit ambiguous, raised a hand, and said: "Don't misunderstand, I am merely asking a simple question. If you are determined to die, there's no point in the deal, but if you want to live, then we have something to discuss."

Tang Jun smiled: "Though old, if I could live a few more years, who would choose death? It's just that..." At this point, he suddenly seemed to perceive something, looked carefully, and at length said in surprise: "Do you have a means to mitigate the erosion of spatial turbulence?"

Not until this moment did he seem to realize something.

Having fallen here as a Moon Jade stage cultivator and brought to near death, it didn't make sense for Lu Ye as a Constellation Early Stage to still be alive. He should have perished long ago.

However, observing Lu Ye's condition, although he appeared rather haggard, in reality, his state was unbelievably better than his own.

How could this be?

Upon closer inspection, the spatial turbulence encircling Lu Ye wasn't too strong, and with his Constellation Early Stage cultivation, he seemed able to barely withstand it.

Tang Jun was greatly surprised!

"Spatial turbulence?" Lu Ye showed a look of confusion.

Tang Jun calmed himself and spoke: "It is the mystical power that fills this place, a manifestation of Space Power; an elder mentioned this to me, but I don't know the depths of it."

Lu Ye understood, he had previously felt that the mystical power here stemmed from the concept of space, which was also the root of the Void Spirit Runes, allowing them to function here.

Looking at it now, that was indeed the case.

"What kind of technique is this, young friend?" Tang Jun's eyes lit up as if he had seen a lifeline while drowning.

Honestly, he had resigned himself to his fate earlier because he had exhausted all his means, with no result, making things even more dire. Eventually, he could only resort to his defensive artifact, sitting there waiting for death.

But if Lu Ye had a way to weaken the chaotic space currents, then perhaps he could take a shot at it?

The fact that the other party came to find him at this moment and asked if he wanted to live or die might imply wanting something done...

Having lived for over three thousand years, Tang Jun was experienced and immediately sensed something.

Lu Ye didn't answer his question; he simply nodded and said, "It looks like you want to live."

Tang Jun said, "Would the young friend lend me a hand? But what's the request?" No wonder this kid talked about a deal right away.

"No rush, no rush!" Lu Ye sat down at a short distance in front of him calmly, making Tang Jun twitch.

This kid might not be in a hurry, but he was, yet he couldn't show it.

"Before we get to the main topic, there's something I need you to understand." As Lu Ye spoke, he raised his hand slightly, and a red talisman appeared in his palm, the second red talisman he had nurtured within himself.

Upon seeing it, Tang Jun's eyes slightly narrowed. As he suspected, Li Taibai indeed possessed more than one red talisman. This confirmed that his earlier decision to hunt him down immediately was not wrong. Otherwise, letting this kid recover his strength, having the red talisman in hand, even he would have to be wary.

"Old Tang, you are well-versed and experienced. Can you guess the origin of this red talisman?"

"Old Tang..." Tang Jun's eyes twitched. In all his long years, this was the first time someone had called him that, but he didn't bother arguing with Lu Ye and simply said, "The red talisman can only be forged by a Sun Blaze expert. However, even if a red talisman is activated by a Constellation Early Stage cultivator like young friend, it shouldn't have the power to kill a Moon Jade Mid-Stage in one blow, even if the Moon Jade was caught off guard. In this world, only red talismans crafted by the Dwarf Race can reach such capability if nurtured in a cultivator's body. Hence, I boldly guess this red talisman is from the Dwarf Race?"

Lu Ye gave him a thumbs up, "Indeed, the older, the wiser!"

"Young friend showed this red talisman to the old man. Are you trying to tell me you have a way to deal with the old man?"

"No!" Lu Ye shook his head, "I merely want to tell you that I have backing! My Unparalleled Continent is a subordinate world of the eastern Mount Fangcun. Your Qingli Dao World attacked without cause, picking a fight first. When I killed them, they deserved it! To be honest, those Constellations Qin Yuandai brought should all be dead by now. We Unparalleled cultivators don't just have red talismans; Mount Fangcun has bestowed many purple talismans as well. Old Tang, do you think those Constellations could withstand the power of a purple talisman?"

Tang Jun was skeptical, "Why did the young friend not mention this before?"

The disbelief stemmed from the fact that the Dwarf Race seldom interacted with other races, let alone taking any domain as a subordinate world. It's unheard of.

However, the presence of two red talismans from the Dwarf Race made it possible that the presence of more purple talismans meant the Constellations Qin Yuandai brought were doomed.

Based on his observations before and after, the Unparalleled Continent indeed just recently ascended to a large domain. By right, cultivators from such domains are just beginning to step into stellar space, not to mention forming connections with the Dwarf Race unless the Dwarf Race experts themselves offered them gifts like red and purple talismans.

"Would saying it make any difference?" Lu Ye snorted coldly, "In the cultivation world, it always comes down to whose fist is bigger, whose voice is louder! Rather than speaking plainly and letting you guess and wonder, might as well be straightforward with actions! Initially, I thought your Qingli Dao World had only three Moon Jades, and killing one would deter the other two from attacking. Who knew you, this old bag of bones, were still in hiding!"

Tang Jun was somewhat speechless, "I just happened upon the scene and came along to take a look." He paused and continued, "So, you had four people disguising as Moon Jade Early Stage, also using the power of the Dwarf Race's Spirit Talismans?"

He had been observing those fake Moon Jades, and when the red talisman's power exploded, revealing their true cultivation, he was stunned, unable to comprehend the mysterious means.

Lu Ye nodded immediately, "Naturally, the Spirit Talismans of the Dwarf Race are infinitely mysterious. Disguising as a Moon Jade is nothing. If not for worrying about alarming you, I could even make a Sun Blaze from my Unparalleled to deceive you!"

Since the misunderstanding existed, Lu Ye had no intention of clarifying the truth.

Tang Jun remained silent for a long time before asking, "Young friend, how long has your Unparalleled been in its large domain status?"

"Three, maybe four years, why?"

"Then, young friend, do you know what this place is called?"

"Insect Path!" After replying, Lu Ye realized Tang Jun's intention and said, "No need to test anymore. I have visited the eastern Mount Fangcun and stayed at their Xiyuan Pavilion for a few months, reading through tens of thousands of jade slips with all sorts of stellar space intelligence. So don't mistake us Unparalleled cultivators for novices stumbling blindly through stellar space. We know what we should know."

Tang Jun was not quick to believe, mentioning offhand several common pieces of knowledge regarding stellar space that cultivators from a recently raised large domain would have no opportunity to learn, to which Lu Ye responded fluently.

Only then did Tang Jun sigh, "Your Unparalleled has such fortune!"

Thinking back to when their Qingli Dao World ascended over three thousand years ago, the first batch of Constellations knew nothing of stellar space, requiring years of exploration to gradually integrate into it.

Comparatively, this Unparalleled Continent was too lucky; in just a few years since its promotion to a large domain, it had already established a connection with the Dwarf Race.

Chapter 1378 Mutual Benefit

With a top-tier domain like Mount Fangcun to shelter it, the future of the Unparalleled Continent is surely promising!

It's no wonder someone at the Constellation Early Stage already possesses Late Stage strength. Such a person is not something a newly ascended domain can nurture. It is evident that Li Taibai received significant support from the Dwarf Race during his growth, which is why he has such profound foundation.

"I roughly understand your intentions, young friend," Tang Jun nodded slightly. "Rest assured, if we two can escape from here, Qingli Dao World will no longer offend Unparalleled, and the previous matters will be written off, just as you said earlier. It was they who provoked first. You killing them was just their deserved punishment."

The reason Lu Ye spoke at length with him and even unhesitatingly used the Dwarf Race as leverage was to get this assurance from Tang Jun. However, the ease with which the other party agreed left him somewhat incredulous.

Tang Jun, being so astute, knew what Lu Ye was thinking just by looking at his expression, and said, "After the battle at Qingdai Mountain, almost the entire force from top to bottom of Qingli Dao World's three top sects was wiped out, with only a few remaining Constellations surviving who remain at their posts. They know nothing about your Unparalleled, so even if they wish to seek revenge, they are powerless. As for my side... You have the red talisman and close ties with the Dwarf Race. As one of the two surviving Moon Jades of this domain, I am unwilling to bring disaster to this domain, and I certainly will not stand up for Qingdai Mountain! If I can return alive, I will definitely restrain the remnants of Qingdai Mountain. Some things should be left in the past, and some people are just gone. In the stellar space, there are many grievances that cannot be resolved, and many times when a smile alleviates enmity. I hope our two domains can be the latter!"

Lu Ye said, "It better be as you say."

Tang Jun said, "So, can we talk about that transaction now? Young friend should be able to see that I can't hold on much longer. If we delay further, you won't even have a transaction partner."

"I believe I have a way to take you out of here!"

Tang Jun's expression was as calm as an ancient well: "What do I need to give up? Or what treasure of mine does young friend fancy?"

"I have a secret technique that acts on the psyche, so I need you, Old Tang, to cooperate, open up your psyche defense, and not resist."

Tang Jun narrowed his eyes slightly: "May I ask what effect it would have after the technique is performed?"

"There is no harm. It's just that you'll probably obey my commands?" Lu Ye replied airily.

In truth, Lu Ye was not confident whether the Soul Taming Divine Runes could control a Moon Jade Mid-Stage. The cultivation gap between them was considerable, but if he were to perform it on Tang Jun, he would need his full cooperation, as even the slightest resistance during the process would result in failure.

This matter cannot allow for any lies. If any peculiarity is sensed by Tang Jun during execution, he will surely resist, so it must be his willing choice.

Tang Jun chuckled, "If that's the case, then there will be no transaction!" Although he didn't understand the subtlety of Soul Taming, just from Lu Ye's explanation he knew what kind of secret technique it was. Having lived over three thousand years as a Moon Jade, how could he suffer such indignity?

Lu Ye spoke earnestly, "Better to live ignominiously than to die nobly!"

Tang Jun shook his head, "I don't have many years left anyway. If I don't die here today, I will die elsewhere in a few years!"

His refusal was resolute, and Lu Ye wasn't too disappointed as he had anticipated this outcome. If the situation were reversed, he wouldn't agree to such a request casually either.

After a brief moment of contemplation, Tang Jun said, "Young friend, for you to come to me at this time to discuss a transaction, am I to understand that you cannot accomplish it alone? Are you hoping to

borrow my strength? If so, I request you be more honest. Some things benefit both sides when united, and harm when divided. Although young friend is not very old, this principle should be clear to you."

He cut to the heart of the matter with one sentence, leaving Lu Ye somewhat helpless. These old guys who've lived many years are indeed astute, making it impossible to keep things hidden.

"Give me your storage ring," Lu Ye said, settling on a lesser alternative. It wasn't about wanting his storage ring in particular, but feeling like he would be at a loss if he just took Tang Jun out without anything to show for it.

Asking for a storage ring was a way to compensate. After all, a Moon Jade's ring is bound to have something good in it.

Tang Jun gave him a deep look and, without saying much, took off his storage ring and flicked it towards Lu Ye.

Lu Ye caught it, didn't even look at it, and slipped it into his sleeve before standing up and saying, "How much strength do you have left?"

Tang Jun smiled bitterly, "Ten percent!"

With just ten percent strength left, he was indeed on the verge of running out of fuel.

"Recover first!" Lu Ye said, walking to Tang Jun's side and starting to construct Void Spirit Runes to weaken the space turbulence around him.

Tang Jun focused intently, becoming more and more astonished at what he saw. Though he had guessed Lu Ye had a means to weaken space turbulence erosion, he didn't know what those means were until now!

An incredibly complex and profound spirit rune was constructed with a wave of a hand, and not just once.

With his eye and experience, he naturally recognized them as Void Spirit Runes. Although there were slight differences from the Void Spirit Runes he knew, they were essentially the same.

This Li Taibai was actually a spirit runes master, and his mastery in the Path of Spirit Runes was undoubtedly exceptional; otherwise, he could not construct such complex runes so easily and skillfully.

So this was how he weakened the space turbulence, Tang Jun suddenly realized.

But even knowing that, he couldn't imitate it. Not to mention his own lack of depth in the Path of Spirit Runes, even if he did have some knowledge, he couldn't wield it as freely as the other.

It could be said that the skill in spirit runes displayed by Lu Ye had already surpassed his understanding; without witnessing it firsthand, it was hard to believe anyone could construct the Void so effortlessly.

The Void Spirit Runes subtly incorporate the marvel of space, and using them here to weaken the space turbulence is particularly fitting.

"Hurry up and recover, what are you looking at?" Lu Ye urged.

"My storage ring is with you, give me some spirit jade and elixir pills!" Tang Jun looked at him somewhat innocently.

Lu Ye was speechless and quickly took out some spirit jade to hand over, then rummaged through his storage ring to find a suitable bottle of elixir pills.

Only then did Tang Jun close his eyes and begin to recover himself.

Lu Ye, having nothing to do on his side, examined Tang Jun's storage ring and found to his surprise that this old fellow was really quite poor. Besides some spirit jade and elixir pills, there were just some miscellaneous materials and a few decent spirit treasures. Other than that, not even a single spirit crystal was in sight.

The amount of spirit jade wasn't much either, only about a thousand pieces...

Lu Ye knew this surely wasn't all of Tang Jun's worth. Just like himself, there were actually two storage places, one being the storage ring, and the other the storage space on the back of his hand. The storage ring typically contained things for regular use, whereas the truly valuable items were stored in the storage space.

Tang Jun probably also had his own storage space. Not to mention, he ought to have some treasures suitable for Moon Jade, for spirit treasures were outdated for Moon Jade, only Constellation players would use spirit treasures. As for the ones Moon Jade used, they were higher quality.

But even if Lu Ye took a treasure belonging to Moon Jade, he couldn't activate it, because such treasures required the unique, higher-quality power exclusive to Moon Jade.

Having already taken one storage ring from the other, it didn't seem appropriate to ask for more. After all, this was collaboration. Tang Jun expected Lu Ye to lead him out, while Lu Ye needed to borrow Tang Jun's strength.

Time passed, and with Lu Ye's assistance, Tang Jun's power gradually recovered, but at the same time, he still needed to wield his power to fend off some erosion from the space turbulence.

This caused Tang Jun's recovery to be much slower than Lu Ye anticipated.

It took a full month for Tang Jun to finally recover completely. He slowly opened his eyes, looking refreshed: "Young friend, this old man is fine now, what should be done?"

Lu Ye had also been waiting for this day; he had long planned what to do next.

"In a moment, I will need to borrow your strength, do not resist!"

Tang Jun couldn't help but be wary: "You don't intend to do anything in my Divine Sea, do you?"

"No!" Lu Ye said as such, stepping forward and directly coming to Tang Jun's back, then struck down with a palm.

Tang Jun's figure didn't move, seemingly unguarded against Lu Ye, because he knew, if Lu Ye really wanted to kill him, he would have acted a month ago. He wouldn't even have needed to act; just sitting and watching would have guaranteed his death.

Now that he had spent so much effort helping him recover, he certainly would not kill him with a single palm!

The palm lightly pressed on Tang Jun's back, and under the surge of spirit force, a spirit rune spread rapidly.

On the back of Lu Ye's hand, along with Tang Jun's back, a wing-shaped imprint appeared.

Twin Flying Phoenixes!

Honestly, using such a spirit rune on an old fellow like Tang Jun made Lu Ye feel a bit awkward, but to borrow Tang Jun's strength, he had no choice but to do so!

He had also considered using As-Close-As-Siblings; fundamentally speaking, the nature of these two spirit runes was similar.

However, the borrowing effect of As-Close-As-Siblings was not as complete as Twin Flying Phoenixes; As-Close-As-Siblings was more suitable for multi-person cooperation.

The moment the spirit rune formed, Lu Ye immediately felt the surging power hidden in Tang Jun's seemingly aged body. Indeed, as some records he saw in Xiyuan Pavilion had stated, the power within those in the Moon Jade Realm was a different thing from spirit force, being a notch higher in quality!

Using such power to activate the core of the Void Beast should break the space barrier, right?

Lu Ye could sense Tang Jun's foundation, and Tang Jun, in turn, could certainly sense Lu Ye's foundation, marveling internally. This Li Taibai appeared to be merely at the Constellation Early Stage, but in actuality, he truly had the foundation of the Late Stage; even the spirit force in the bodies of those in his own domain's Constellation Late Stage might not be as dense and rich as his.

It was truly perplexing, how was this cultivation even possible? Perhaps this was the sort of talent only a top-tier domain could nurture?

Chapter 1379 Constellation Mid-Stage

As Tang Jun was filled with emotions, Lu Ye's other hand had already produced an item.

It was the Void Beast Core!

Tang Jun turned his head to take a closer look, yet was unable to recognize the mystery of this object at first. Although he had considerable knowledge and experience, Void Beasts were exceptionally rare, and he had never encountered one, let alone a Void Beast Core.

He vaguely guessed that this object might be key to their escape!

The next moment, he felt the power within his body being mobilized, flowing into Lu Ye through the palm pressed against his back.

Lu Ye's expression began to change!

Although he had guessed earlier that borrowing the power of a Moon Jade would place enormous pressure on himself, he didn't realize how simplistic his thoughts were until he actually attempted it.

The Twin Flying Phoenixes spirit rune, he had only used it once before with Nian Yuexian. At that time, the two were being chased by Wan Zhanggang at Gushan City Pass of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, and Nian Yuexian, being critically injured, was unable to continue fighting. Lu Ye borrowed her strength to entangle with Wan Zhanggang until Yiyi and Amber activated the Pseudo-Might Spirit Runes he had previously left behind to rescue and repel Wan Zhanggang.

At that time, he was a True Lake, and Nian Yuexian was a Divine Sea.

Although there was a vast difference in cultivation between the two, the power within them was spirit force of the same nature. Yet, even so, Lu Ye sustained considerable injuries after that battle, resulting in him falling unconscious.

Because using a power not belonging to oneself inevitably leads to damage.

Spirit force of the same nature was already like this, let alone the superior quality power of the Moon Jade Realm?

In an instant, Lu Ye had an illusion of his body potentially exploding and perishing at any moment; this feeling was... eerily familiar!

It was just like when the orb Su Yuqing handed him at Immortal Spirit Peak of Mount Fangcun burst within his body. The power of Sun Blaze and Moon Jade was of the same nature.

He forcefully calmed his mind, quickly guiding Tang Jun's power into the Void Beast Core.

During this process, he could clearly feel Tang Jun's power causing damage to his flesh and blood, even shaking his inner organs.

This pain was thousands of times more intense than the spatial turbulence stripping away his flesh.

Lu Ye knew he had to do something, or he wouldn't last. Remembering his previous experience on Immortal Spirit Peak, Lu Ye gritted his teeth, activating the power of the Talent Tree to begin refining that superior power, which finally made him feel somewhat better.

Tang Jun stood solemnly, without any resistance, allowing Lu Ye to mobilize his own power. He roughly understood Lu Ye's intention, evidently to use his power to stimulate that lotus-like treasure.

His only concern now was whether the young man behind him could withstand it. If he could endure, there was a glimmer of hope; if not, all would be lost!

Although Lu Ye didn't say a word, his large hand pressed against Tang Jun's back was trembling violently, clearly enduring great pain.

Such tenacity and determination were worthy of Tang Jun's admiration as well.

Behind Tang Jun, Lu Ye gritted his teeth, persisting despite the blood flowing from his seven orifices, indicating internal injuries. The Void Beast Core also began to tremble, almost slipping out of his control, but he continued to forcefully suppress it, preventing the Void Beast Core's power from being unleashed.

Because this opportunity was a one-time thing; it wasn't that the Void Beast Core couldn't support multiple attempts, but if this attempt failed, no amount of subsequent tries would succeed.

Surely, they couldn't have Tang Jun strive for cultivation to reach the Moon Jade Late Stage next? At this level of cultivation, further advancement was no simple matter.

For the duration of half a cup of tea, until Lu Ye could no longer hold on and Tang Jun's aura turned feeble, Lu Ye suddenly let out a low shout, as a light burst forth from the forefront of the Void Beast Core, striking at the Void ahead.

Just like before, as the light appeared, the space ahead began to dissolve, rapidly expanding outwards.

Lu Ye stared unblinkingly, ready to move at any moment, while Tang Jun knew this was the decisive moment, his heart filled with trepidation.

Under their tense watch, the space melted more swiftly, making the surrounding spatial turbulence violently intense, seemingly triggered by the eruption of the Void Beast Core's power, causing a series of reactions in this place.

At this moment, Lu Ye was severely injured, and Tang Jun was exhausted; if the raging spatial turbulence around them swept over, even with Void Spirit Runes, Lu Ye might not be able to ensure both of their safety.

During this tense and anxious waiting, an odd phenomenon suddenly appeared at the melting space, as if a barrier was broken, revealing a splendid stellar space where there had been chaotic nothingness.

Upon seeing this stellar space, Lu Ye and Tang Jun almost simultaneously sprang into action, rushing forward like ravenous wolves, darting out one after the other.

Their vision brightened, beholding a vast starry sky, no longer the harsh environment they had been trapped in.

They were free!

Realizing this, Lu Ye immediately darted to one side, while Tang Jun darted to the other, and the two figures, who had just been cooperating, promptly parted ways.

Cooperation is cooperation, but necessary vigilance must remain; both of them understood this clearly.

Flying straight for dozens of miles, Lu Ye finally stopped his movement and turned back to look.

Over there, Tang Jun also stopped, with almost a hundred miles between them, they exchanged a glance.

Looking back again, the place where they had escaped from now had only a massive circular passage, chaotic and murky inside; the opening created by the Void Beast Core had long vanished.

It was the first time Lu Ye had seen the Insect Path with his own eyes; he was amazed, though he knew this formation was recent and not stable for passage. Maybe it could be in the future, or maybe not. He had no idea where the Insect Path led, but perhaps he could explore it when his cultivation was higher. At the moment, he was far from interested; getting trapped again would surely mean no escape.

"Young friend Taibai!" Tang Jun's voice came from a hundred miles away.

Lu Ye turned to look and saw the old man saluting him from afar: "Thank you so much for this time. Rest assured, the words I spoke to you earlier came from the heart. The grievances between our two realms end here, and people from Qingli Dao World will no longer offend your world!"

Lu Ye nodded lightly: "Hopefully that's true!"

He had already slain the cultivators from Qingli Dao World who committed evil on the Unparalleled Continent, including Qin Yuandai, the Moon Jade. If things could cease here, it would be best; the Nine Provinces currently had no capacity to antagonize other large domains. With just one red talisman and the distributed purple talismans on hand, they could only protect themselves for a short time.

Tang Jun likely believed what he mentioned earlier about Unparalleled being a subordinate world of the eastern Mount Fangcun, so from his perspective, it would be extremely unwise for Qingli Dao World to continue its enmity with Unparalleled.

Without mentioning anything else, just the one red talisman in Lu Ye's hand was equivalent to one Moon Jade for them, and there might be more where that came from.

Having been trapped in the Insect Path together, the two of them experienced shared adversity. With both of them taking charge, the conflict between the two realms concluded.

"Until we meet again!" Tang Jun saluted once more and turned to fly away; the old man was clearly in a power-depleted state, needing a place to recover.

Watching his figure disappear, Lu Ye turned around and spat out a mouthful of blood water, grimacing in pain.

Tang Jun was merely exhausted, whereas Lu Ye himself was heavily wounded and needed to find a place to heal quickly.

He decided inwardly not to easily use Twin Flying Phoenixes to borrow power from others in the future. The borrowed power was too strong, and it was not always a good thing.

Half a day later, Lu Ye landed on a desolate planet.

In stellar space, such desolate planets were abundant, typically harsh environments where life could not be born.

Besides desolate planets, there were dead stars, which were similar yet somewhat different. A dead star might once have been a vibrant domain, but due to various reasons, its vitality was extinguished, all life extinct, thus termed as a dead star.

The biggest distinction between the two is that many dead stars have traces of civilization. Even without civilization, there are marks left by living beings.

On desolate planets, there is nothing.

The desolate planet Lu Ye landed on had howling winds, ocean waves that soared hundreds of feet high, and a gloomy sky.

Such an environment would undoubtedly be very harsh for ordinary people, but for Lu Ye, it was stable enough. Here, he could heal without worrying about being struck by meteorites, which were common in the stellar space.

He took out a spirit jade and placed it in his mouth, then retrieved a bottle of recovery elixir pills from Tang Jun's storage ring, refining and healing simultaneously.

This time, his injuries were internal rather than on the surface. The power that passed through his body from Tang Jun caused great damage, and recovery was not simple.

A full half month later, as his injuries fully healed, Lu Ye suddenly felt something strange. This feeling brought with it a vibrant surge through his flesh, as if it had come to life, more vigorous than ever.

This vitality and vigor weren't limited to his flesh; under his perception, Lu Ye sensed his bones also imbued with this newfound vitality.

He paused slightly, then suddenly understood.

He had broken through!

He was no longer in the Constellation Early Stage; he had reached the Constellation Mid-Stage!

The cultivation in the Constellation Realm mainly involves the refining of one's essence, starting with the Essence of Blood and Flesh in the early stage, the Essence of Bone Marrow in the mid-stage, and culminating with the Essence of Inner Organs in the late stage.

The goals are very clear throughout the cultivation process of each Constellation, evolving from the shallow into the deep, making breakthroughs and advancements a natural, unfussy process without abnormal phenomena. They happen as the timing naturally aligns.

Calculating time, he had been in the Constellation Stage for less than three years. Achieving mid-stage in such a brief period owed great credit to the Talent Tree; without it, his cultivation efficiency could not possibly have been as remarkable.

The experiences at Immortal Spirit Peak also served as an aid; he had refined part of Su Yuqing's power back then, which was minor to Su Yuqing, yet substantial for Lu Ye.

Refining Tang Jun's power in the Insect Path must have been the final step needed; the same rationale applies here. The power Tang Jun lost might have been little, but it was just enough to propel Lu Ye from the early to the mid-stage.

Chapter 1380 The Situation Is Not Looking Good

The promotion within the Constellation Realm is a subtle, imperceptible enhancement, akin to the gradual accumulation of sand into a tower through prolonged cultivation by the cultivator. Thus, ascending a minor sub-realm doesn't bring about any earth-shaking transformation. Take Lu Ye at this moment, for instance; he can feel that his strength is significantly more formidable compared to the

early stage, but there's no sense of transcendence or baptism that came with crossing a major realm before.

Ultimately, this is merely an advancement within the same realm.

If there's any difference, it's perhaps that Lu Ye no longer needs to worry about flesh wounds. Previously, he had a robust physique and abundant blood Qi, allowing him to recover faster than others from flesh injuries. But now, any flesh wound can heal with a mere thought, as he's refined the Essence of Blood and Flesh to the utmost. Naturally, such healing also consumes his strength.

Having escaped confinement and promoted to the Constellation Mid-Stage, Lu Ye was in high spirits. Without lingering on this desolate planet, he once again charged into the stellar space.

He needs to hurry back to Unparalleled for a look. Although he believes that after the battle, the Constellations of the Nine Provinces would likely choose to withdraw from the Unparalleled Continent rather than irrationally tracking him and Tang Jun, it's something that needs confirmation.

Moreover, he seemed to have reached an understanding with Tang Jun; henceforth, the Constellations of Qingli Dao World will no longer invade the Unparalleled Continent. The True Lake and Divine Sea cultivators who had previously retreated from the Nine Provinces can return to Unparalleled for training.

For them, it's the only current method for rapidly gaining battle merit.

Finding the way back posed a challenge for Lu Ye. If he had the star map of this stellar space in hand, he could naturally follow it, but lacking such a map, he could only rely on past memories.

Fortunately, Lu Ye has always had a decent sense of direction.

After about half a day, he returned to the spot where the Insect Path was previously located, where he had parted ways with Tang Jun.

Recalling the scene when the Insect Path appeared, Lu Ye quickly determined a direction. If not mistaken, following this direction should lead him to the Unparalleled Continent, and finding it would simplify his return to the Nine Provinces.

As he proceeded, Lu Ye gradually furrowed his brow.

He felt that he might have erred in his direction.

During Tang Jun's pursuit earlier, although he had no time or mind to observe the surrounding star imagery, he retained some impression.

Yet, after flying for several days, the star imagery surrounding him bore no familiarity, as though he had ventured into an exceedingly unfamiliar stellar space.

Lu Ye immediately realized he was in a bit of trouble.

Being lost in stellar space, finding his way back is no simple task.

While striving to discern the surrounding star imagery, comparing it with memories, a sudden killing intent blossomed. In the next moment, a meteorite passing by exploded violently, and a lithe figure shot out from within, a glinting cold light aimed directly at his face.

Lu Ye hadn't anticipated encountering an ambush in such a place, subconsciously suspecting Tang Jun of treachery. However, he quickly realized the attacker possessed only Constellation Mid-Stage cultivation.

Caught unawares, his body instinctively wanted to retreat, but before he could act, a fierce aura surged forth from behind—evidently a magic and spell of notable power from the feedback of his senses.

An attack from both front and rear!

Moreover, there was a third person who activated the power of a spirit treasure from the side—a vast net spreading wide, encompassing the sky.

This was clearly a premeditated assault; otherwise, such flawless coordination among the three would be impossible.

The first attacker, a combat cultivator, seized the moment to draw his attention. Meanwhile, the magic cultivator cast spells from behind, placing Lu Ye in a dilemma, and the third person deployed the net spirit treasure. Any hesitation or delay could result in Lu Ye being ensnared, leaving his fate out of his own hands!

The seamless cooperation among the three suggested this wasn't their first time executing such maneuvers.

Faced with this situation, Lu Ye had only one choice.

Almost at the instant he sensed the spell attack behind him, the Boulder Mountain Saber was unsheathed. His form swept forward, charging directly at the oncoming combat cultivator.

That combat cultivator wielded a lance that shimmered cold, and seeing Lu Ye approaching, couldn't help but internally praise his quick reaction. They had ensnared numerous individuals with such tactics, most of whom fell helplessly into disarray, captured by the trio's collaboration. Encountering someone reacting so decisively was rare indeed.

However, choosing him as the breakthrough point was a mistake, for among the three, he was the strongest, just a step away from reaching the Constellation Late Stage. The other two, the magic cultivator was Constellation Mid-Stage, and the third person was merely an Early Stage.

The lance quivered, transforming into a panel of lethal cold light, paving a path ahead.

The next moment, the combat cultivator's face changed drastically. As the cold light dissipated, a shadow brazenly broke through his defense, attacking swiftly, followed by a flurry of saber lights like falling snowflakes.

The combat cultivator barely managed to fend off the initial few slashes before his stance utterly collapsed, unable to withstand the speed and force of the opponent's saber.

In sheer panic, he wondered how there could be such disparity when both were Constellation Mid-Stage?

Two breaths later, Lu Ye brushed past this combat cultivator, as the spell struck, erupting in a vast brightness, engulfing the battlefield.

Immediately following, the net spirit treasure descended, ensnaring an expanse of void.

Amidst the gradually settling chaotic spirit force fluctuations, as the brilliance subsided, the magic cultivator glanced around involuntarily twitching his eyelids. Within the net spirit treasure, only his companion's figure remained—the combat cultivator, the one they had ambushed, was nowhere to be seen.

What shocked him even more was that his combat cultivator companion was already decapitated!

Kicked against a hard board, the magic cultivator was someone who acted decisively. Realizing that he had provoked someone he shouldn't have, he immediately turned to escape.

However, at that moment, a seemingly ordinary weapon control suddenly swept past him without much power. As he turned to look, a cold and indifferent young face suddenly caught his eye.

Who else could it be but the combat cultivator they ambushed?

This person's appearance was extremely spectral, the magic cultivator couldn't even understand how he manifested.

Frightened, he quickly attempted to activate his spirit force to perform a technique, but how could Lu Ye give him that chance? The saber rose and fell, cleaving downwards.

A magic cultivator caught so close by a combat cultivator could never end well, especially since Lu Ye had just advanced to the Constellation Mid-Stage, substantially stronger than before.

One strike shattered his protective spirit force, and another severed his head. Only then did Lu Ye look up toward the direction of the last remaining person.

This guy was clever. Seeing his two companions die one after another, he didn't even bother with his own spirit treasure and desperately activated his spirit force to flee afar. By the time Lu Ye's gaze landed on him, he had already escaped a few hundred miles and was getting faster.

Lu Ye was enveloped by a blood glow, activating the Blood Escape Technique, transforming into a blood streak to pursue.

Thinking back just over a month ago, he was the one being relentlessly chased by Tang Jun. Now, a month later, he was the one chasing others.

But this person's luck clearly wasn't good. Not long after fleeing, he crashed headfirst into a meteorite. As the meteorite shattered, he was left dazed and blood-covered, unable to escape anymore.

This is the danger of flying faster than one's limit in stellar space.

Lu Ye arrived without making any threatening gestures, only watching him silently.

This person knew there was no way to escape and stopped making useless efforts, showing only a bitter expression.

Up close, the man's face looked wicked, not like a good person at all. His complexion was extremely pale, not from the impact with the meteorite, but inherently so, giving off an appearance of excessive indulgence.

After a moment, Lu Ye slowly spoke, "I ask, you answer, understand?"

"Understood!" The pale-faced man nodded continuously. His two mid-stage companions were like little chicks before this person, having almost no ability to resist before being killed. He understood well what

manner of person he had provoked, secretly guessing that this man was likely from a top domain—which would explain his formidable strength!

Faced with such a presence, the pale-faced man felt a natural fear. Coupled with the current disadvantageous situation, he wouldn't dare resist.

"Are you from the Qingli Dao World?" Lu Ye asked.

The only ones who would ambush him could possibly be people from the Qingli Dao World. Had Tang Jun not communicated the previous agreement correctly, or did the other side never intend to reconcile with the Nine Provinces? Lu Ye had to clarify this.

However, what surprised Lu Ye was that the other party shook his head: "No!"

Not from the Qingli Dao World?

Lu Ye frowned: "Which domain are you from?"

"Ancient Icy World!"

Never heard of it, but it's normal to have many domains under the same star system. Before interacting with the Qingli Dao World, Nine Provinces didn't even know of its existence. The star system the Nine Provinces were in surely had more than just the Qingli Dao World.

"Where is the Ancient Icy World?" Lu Ye asked again.

"The Ancient Icy World... is in the Grotto Void Galaxy."

Lu Ye was stunned for a moment, suddenly a foreboding feeling arose in his heart, could it be...?

"Is this the Grotto Void Galaxy?" Otherwise, how could he encounter people from the Ancient Icy World?

Clearly the direction in his memory wasn't wrong, but why were the constellations along the way so unfamiliar! This wasn't a matter of him losing direction, but of arriving in an unfamiliar star system!

Insect Path!

He had used the core of the Void Beast to escape, thinking he had returned to the place where he had been trapped before. Now it seems he had reached the other end of the Insect Path!

Despite Lu Ye's firm disposition, his body couldn't help but sway slightly; this trouble... was too massive!

"This isn't the Grotto Void Galaxy..." the pale-faced man looked at Lu Ye with a strange expression, unable to understand why Lu Ye, being here, wasn't clear about where he was.

"Then where is this?" Lu Ye asked, harboring a sliver of hope and anxiety.

"This is the All Phenomena Galaxy."

Hope was completely extinguished!