

## Humanity 1381

### Chapter 1381 All Phenomena Galaxy

The vast starry sky, boundless and limitless. To accurately pinpoint their location, cultivators have been dividing this endless cosmos into star systems since ancient times.

Stellar space as a whole consists of star systems, much like Bingzhou is part of the Nine Provinces.

The criteria for dividing star systems are unclear to Lu Ye, but he knows the star system where the Nine Provinces are located is called the Jade Conch Galaxy.

This information he learned while browsing those jade slips in Xiyuan Pavilion of the Dwarf Race long ago, and further confirmed during his investigation of Sun Ying's psyche.

The naming of a star system generally derives from the most powerful domain within that system, named after the strongest domain.

Within the Jade Conch Galaxy that houses the Nine Provinces, there is a Jade Conch World, the most powerful domain of this star system, far superior to the Qingli Dao World.

If ever the Nine Provinces could surpass and dominate the Jade Conch World, becoming the leader of the star system, they would have the right to rename the star system after themselves.

Similarly, regarding the Grotto Void Galaxy mentioned by the pale-faced man, there is likely a domain such as Grotto Void World.

Of course, not all star systems are named according to this standard; there are always exceptions.

A case in point is the All Phenomena Galaxy!

The Grotto Void Galaxy mentioned by the pale-faced man left no impression on Lu Ye; although the records in Xiyuan Pavilion are vast and diverse, there are always omissions. He is certain he never saw records of the Grotto Void Galaxy there.

But he has seen records about the All Phenomena Galaxy!

Because this star system is very famous, a gathering place for cultivators from various places, one could say this place is the central hub of a hundred to a thousand star systems nearby!

The biggest reason for its prominence is the Insect Paths!

The Insect Paths are everywhere in stellar space. Other star systems might have them, but definitely not in such large numbers. But the All Phenomena Galaxy is different, with hundreds to thousands of Insect Paths, most of which are safe for travel, connecting this star system to various others.

This creates a situation where cultivators from other star systems can easily travel back and forth to All Phenomena.

No one knows why this place is so special, but since ancient times, the star system has been this way—just a marvel of nature.

When Lu Ye read about the All Phenomena Galaxy in Xiyuan Pavilion records, he imagined that if he ever had the chance one day, he must come here to experience it himself.

He never expected the opportunity to come so abruptly, catching him unprepared, suddenly arriving here.

Ironically, he previously thought he was still in the Jade Conch Galaxy, pondering how to find his way back to Unparalleled or Nine Provinces...

Having already ventured into another star system, how could he possibly find his way home?

The pale-faced man came from the Grotto Void Galaxy, and his two companions hailed from other star systems, with different origins. However, they journeyed together due to similar personalities, lurking nearby, committing robbery.

Preoccupied with aligning the surrounding star phenomena and his memories, Lu Ye neglected his guard, which led to them ambushing him.

The three teamed up, choosing their targets with careful consideration—avoiding large groups and those too powerful. Someone like Lu Ye, alone and with moderate cultivation, was undoubtedly their best choice.

Before this, they succeeded several times already. Little did they know, their robbery attempt would end in disaster, turning their luck sour.

"Fellow Daoist, anything else you want to ask?" The pale-faced man noticed Lu Ye's uncertain expression, feeling uneasy.

Lu Ye glanced up at him, "Any friends nearby?"

The pale-faced man feigned calmness, "None!"

"Then why are you stalling?" Lu Ye asked as the Boulder Mountain Saber slashed out. The pale-faced man roared, frantically channeling spirit force to activate his protective spirit treasure, but ultimately was a step too late. Lu Ye's sudden attack caught him off guard.

Indeed, he was stalling for time, already sent messages. Their team was not just three, but comprised three groups, with the other two teams nearby. He didn't need to stall long, just for one incense stick's time, for his companions to arrive upon receiving the news.

Unexpectedly, Lu Ye saw through his facade.

In truth, Lu Ye didn't pinpoint any telltale signs, just found the man's behavior unusual. At the brink of death, cooperating so readily was odd; a normal person would fight desperately or beg for mercy, this guy answered every question without pleading, clearly abnormal.

Being in the Constellation Realm, he was unlike those inexperienced Cloud River-True Lake cultivators.

Moreover, since they'd attacked him, he naturally showed no mercy.

Blood spurted, the pale-faced man followed his companions into demise.

Lu Ye collected his storage ring, gazing at his Boulder Mountain Saber; the blade was cracked all over. He furrowed his brows slightly.

It's really a case of misfortune never coming alone, bad luck always finds the unfortunate. Accidentally entering this All Phenomena Star System was one thing, but even the Boulder Mountain Saber was becoming overburdened.

It was due to the power of that red talisman. Activating the power of the red talisman put too much pressure on the Boulder Mountain Saber. At the time, he felt there was something wrong with his saber, but he had no time to investigate. Just now, he had killed two more people with it, and the problem had worsened.

His figure flickered and disappeared from the original spot, and when he reappeared, he had arrived at the place where the combat cultivator had fallen.

After killing an enemy, one must collect the spoils of war, a task he would not forget. Therefore, he had intentionally left one of his weapon controls here for easy return and collection.

Similarly, there was also a weapon control beside the fallen magic cultivator.

No sooner had Lu Ye tidied up and left the place than two groups of people arrived at the location where the white-robed man had died, coming from different directions. However, they were ultimately a step too late, and even now, they didn't know where to start investigating.

Moreover, this group consisted of people from different star systems and even different races. Gathered here due to profit, there wasn't much camaraderie between them, so who would insist on avenging the dead?

In the stellar space, Lu Ye traveled alone, holding three star maps in his hand.

The star maps were of the All Phenomena Star System. Each of the three people he had killed had one. Upon comparison, it was evident these three star maps were generally the same, with only minor differences in certain details.

This was normal, as star maps were unlike maps within domains; the positions of various celestial bodies in stellar space often changed, or Great Cultivators in conflict might destroy celestial bodies, or new ones might emerge. Thus, depending on when one obtained the star map, the small details could vary.

But each was usable. With these star maps, Lu Ye could go anywhere in the All Phenomena Star System without worrying about getting lost.

After careful investigation, he determined that his current position was roughly on the outskirts of the All Phenomena Star System. He did not hastily travel elsewhere but retraced his path, comparing the star maps attentively and noting his location.

A few more days passed, and Lu Ye finally returned to where the Insect Path was located.

The reason for returning here was to record the exact location of the Insect Path. Currently, this Insect Path was his only hope of returning to the Jade Conch Galaxy.

But the Insect Path wasn't stable yet, making passage impossible.

From a distance, Lu Ye saw a figure standing in front of the Insect Path, seemingly lost in thought.

Lu Ye's mood lifted, and his previous gloom suddenly dissipated a lot.

If there was anything that could cheer one up during a mishap, it was encountering another unfortunate person, as though the burden on his mind was shared.

The person also noticed Lu Ye approaching. He turned to look, and their eyes met, each seeing the helplessness in the other's eyes.

"Fellow Taibai!" Tang Jun nodded slightly.

Lu Ye flew forward, feeling less wary of this old man. They were both at the mercy of the same fate, so why make things difficult for one another?

"Old Tang, since you're here, have you realized the seriousness of the situation?" Lu Ye asked.

"It seems you've noticed too." Tang Jun sighed, "I never thought in my lifetime I'd have the chance to come to such a star system. I've long heard of the All Phenomena Star System's fame but hadn't had the opportunity to see it. Now, at an old age, I've made a long trip!"

He knew this was the All Phenomena Star System, not because he shared the same experience as Lu Ye, but because he was in the Moon Jade Realm. On normal occasions, no one dared provoke him. A few casual inquiries with other star system cultivators clarified his situation.

Lu Ye decisively said, "Blame me, blame me."

Tang Jun shook his head, "It's time and fate, no one's fault!"

Lu Ye asked, "Old Tang, did you come here hoping to return via the Insect Path?"

"I wish to return, indeed," Tang Jun said, "At my age, I just want to return to my roots and no longer desire to wander. But the Insect Path is unstable now, and rushing in would be imprudent. Our previous passage through the Insect Path was luck; trying it again might not lead to the other end of the path. Who knows where we might end up? If we end up somewhere desolate, it would just make things worse."

Lu Ye nodded, "That's what I think too."

Previously, using the Void Beast Core's power to break through the spatial barrier to arrive here was just a coincidence, one that couldn't be controlled. As Tang Jun said, winding up in a desolate place would be disastrous.

Better to stay here; at least the Insect Path to the Jade Conch Galaxy is here. With luck, perhaps in a few or a dozen years, the Insect Path will stabilize. Then they could return safely to the Jade Conch.

Comparatively, Tang Jun no doubt felt a more urgent desire to return to Jade Conch.

Being older, he lacked the youthful drive and resilience of Lu Ye and only wished to spend his remaining years peacefully. In such a foreign setting, his adaptability was not as strong as Lu Ye's.

"It's not necessarily necessary to wait for the Insect Path to stabilize," Tang Jun said again.

Lu Ye asked, "What do you propose?"

Tang Jun said, "The All Phenomena Star System contains numerous Insect Paths connecting various places. Among them, there must be star systems relatively close to our Jade Conch. Perhaps the cultivators there have heard of Jade Conch. We just need to gather this information, find the Insect Path leading to that star system, and we can use it to return to Jade Conch."

Chapter 1382 Stellar Space Marvel

This method is a bit troublesome, but it's better than waiting for the Insect Path to stabilize here.

As for the Insect Path before us, whether it can stabilize is uncertain. Even if it can, who knows how many years it will take? It could be a few years or a decade, or it might take hundreds to thousands of years — there's no way to make an accurate judgment.

"I heard there's an All Phenomena Ocean here, a place where cultivators from all directions gather!" Tang Jun spoke, "We need to find someone to inquire about the location of that All Phenomena Ocean, and we'll head there first."

If you're going to gather information, naturally, it's more convenient to go where there are more people.

Lu Ye casually tossed him a star map.

Tang Jun took it, examined it briefly, then turned his head to look at Lu Ye with a speechless expression.

They had only been in this All Phenomena Galaxy for a few days, and even someone of the Moon Jade rank like him didn't have the star map of this galaxy, yet Lu Ye did.

This was quite intriguing.

And judging by Lu Ye's demeanor, it seemed he probably had more than one star map in his possession.

How long has it been? Has this kid already started his killing spree?

Calming his mind, he carefully examined the star map, then turned to look in a certain direction, "It should be over here, let's go."

Saying this, he flew out first, with Lu Ye following closely behind, holding back for a while before saying, "Old Tang, are we really going to just fly over there like this?"

Tang Jun turned to look at him, "Are you going to carry me on your back? I'm getting old, my legs aren't good. You young folks have energy, it's only right to exert a bit more effort."

Lu Ye suppressed the urge to draw his sword, "Don't you have anything to speed up the journey, like a starboat or something?"

Tang Jun replied in a bad mood, "My storage ring was taken by you, where would I get a starboat?"

Lu Ye said nothing, just stared fixedly at him.

The old guy without a starboat, Lu Ye couldn't believe it, even Zhao Tianmu, who was in the Constellation Late Stage, had a starboat.

Flying on for a while longer, perhaps Tang Jun also felt that flying all the way there was really wasting too much time, and he pretended to suddenly realize, "If you hadn't mentioned it, I would have truly forgotten. Getting old really affects memory!"

With those words, he threw out a starboat, which looked somewhat like a Silver Fish, but wasn't as large. It could only accommodate three to five people at most.

Tang Jun boarded first, followed closely by Lu Ye.

Checking to the left and right...

The Silver Fish was currently with Nian Yuexian, and he didn't have another starboat. In the future, it wouldn't be convenient to act in the All Phenomena Galaxy without a companion to keep up the pace.

"Old Tang..."

"Don't even think about it! This is the only one I have!"

"A big Moon Jade like you, and you care about such small things?"

Tang Jun laughed in exasperation. When opposing Lu Ye, he felt this kid was ruthless, but after sharing the same fate, he realized his shamelessness. The clinking of his calculations could be heard across the Jade Conch Galaxy.

"Either way, don't think about it. I can't give it to you," Tang Jun said firmly.

Lu Ye pursed his lips and sat down cross-legged, and Tang Jun faintly heard him muttering something about stinginess.

As they continued on their way, the empty space around them gradually became lively, and they kept encountering cultivators passing through nearby. Some cultivators traveled through the air, while others quickly sped by in spirit arks, mostly in groups, with very few alone.

The diverse designs of those spirit arks dazzled Lu Ye's eyes.

The further they went, the more bustling the starry space became.

Moreover, everyone they saw was above the Constellation Realm, with occasional traces of Moon Jade Realm auras passing by. This part of the galaxy truly had Constellations walking everywhere and Moon Jades as numerous as dogs. The gathering of cultivators was a spectacular sight, opening the eyes of Lu Ye and Tang Jun, two country bumpkins from remote areas.

And this was only the periphery of the All Phenomena Ocean. Who knows what kind of grand scene it would be inside the fabled All Phenomena Ocean?

With more people, trouble becomes more likely, especially since the cultivators traveling here come from hundreds to thousands of different star systems. Everyone lives on the edge, fighting and competing is inevitable.

Throughout their journey, they encountered at least a dozen battles, which Tang Jun perceived from afar, steering his starboat clear.

This is also common knowledge when traveling through the starry space: if you encounter a dispute, don't approach rashly, or you might easily provoke hostility from both sides. If everyone gangs up against you, that's not a pretty scene.

After nearly a month's flight, they saw a marvelous scene in the starry sky from afar!

In the distant starry sky, a vast area was shrouded in a blue expanse, as if a vast ocean was suspended in the starry sky, an awe-inspiring sight.

The Wanxiang Sea has arrived!

Although called a sea, the Wanxiang Sea is not a real ocean existing in the stellar space.

The jade slip from the Dwarf Race records that among the three major stellar phenomena of the All Phenomena Galaxy, the foremost is this Wanxiang Sea, which is the reason the All Phenomena Galaxy became renowned throughout the stellar region.

In the vast and boundless stellar space, there are countless marvelous phenomena, each displaying unique characteristics. The Wanxiang Sea is just one of them.

From a great distance, the scale of this Wanxiang Sea seems not too large, but as one gets closer, its grandeur becomes increasingly palpable.

This marvel covers an unknowable expanse of billions of miles, occupying roughly one-tenth of the All Phenomena Galaxy, which speaks to its enormous size.

However, compared to other stellar phenomena, the scale of the Wanxiang Sea is actually not too large. Records in the Dwarf Race's jade slip show that some stellar phenomena can cover an entire galaxy or even several, and even if a Constellation Realm practitioner entered, it would take years to pass through, even when piloting a starboat like the Silver Fish.

On the starboat, an old man and a young man stood side by side, silently feeling the oppressive presence of that vast ocean.

"Young friend Taibai!" Tang Jun suddenly spoke, "After some thought, we should split actions. This way, we can discreetly watch each other's backs, and even if one side encounters trouble, we won't be without help. What do you think?"

Lu Ye pondered for a moment, "I think what you said makes sense!"

Suddenly arriving at this unfamiliar place, full of powerful beings, it's indeed not suitable to move together. Separating is more efficient, and as Tang Jun said, if one side runs into trouble, the other can assist secretly.

Gathering together makes it easy to be caught in one sweep.

"Let's exchange audio talisman markings for easy contact in case of need." Tang Jun handed his audio talisman to Lu Ye.

Lu Ye followed suit, and shortly after, he retrieved his audio talisman and leapt off the starboat.

"If there's any news, I'll inform you at the first instance. I'll go ahead." Tang Jun's starboat moved away, leaving only his distant words.

Lu Ye watched his starboat disappear from sight, then leisurely headed towards the Wanxiang Sea.

Tang Jun opting for split action must have his own considerations; the reasons he stated are likely just part of it. The largest reason is probably fear of being dragged down by him.

Based on the star map Lu Ye gave him, Tang Jun must have sensed something. To an old fellow already half-buried in the ground, pursuing peace, staying with someone like Lu Ye, who frequently engages in fights, naturally feels uncomfortable.

Lu Ye didn't point this out, as splitting actions indeed is more effective.

Moreover, though they hail from the same star system and now share a common fate here, their relationship isn't yet strong enough for joint action.

As he flew, Lu Ye touched his right wrist.

He actually had a way to leave the All Phenomena Galaxy, which is activating the mark bestowed by the Reincarnation Tree, allowing direct entry into its domain.

Then he could inquire about the position of the Nine Provinces, hopefully finding the direction home. Regarding entities most knowledgeable about this stellar region, the Reincarnation Tree is unmatched, with its doppelgangers spread throughout the stellar domains, intimately familiar with every star system.

However, how far the Reincarnation Tree is from the Nine Provinces, and how many star systems the journey would traverse, Lu Ye didn't know. Knowing the route home wouldn't be worthwhile if it took hundreds or thousands of years.

Lu Ye kept this method as a backup. Comparatively, Tang Jun's proposal is quicker—investigating star systems neighboring the Jade Conch Galaxy, then using their Insect Paths to proceed, would expeditedly return home.

After flying for several days, he gradually approached the Wanxiang Sea.

The vast Wanxiang Sea, being a three-dimensional entity, technically allowed entry from any direction.

But in reality, things weren't so simple.

The seawater of the Wanxiang Sea appears like seawater but is actually an aggregation of stellar space energy.

If it were only that, this place would indeed be a paradise for practitioners of the upper three realms, who need to absorb and refine stellar space energy, with spirit jade and spirit crystals being condensations of that energy.

However, the seawater of the Wanxiang Sea contains not only stellar space energy beneficial to practitioners but also operates under unique rules as an ancient stellar phenomenon.

Simply put, the seawater here has a significantly stronger corrosive quality than typical stellar space energy, enough to resist even practitioners of the upper three realms.

Thus, recklessly delving into the seawater could render even top-level practitioners unable to endure for long. Accumulating too many impurities would certainly affect one's foundation, severely damaging vital energy or even causing a drop in cultivation level in severe cases.

This leads to no practitioner daring to easily venture into the vast Wanxiang Sea, despite its coveted stellar energy.

Practitioners typically enter from above the Wanxiang Sea.

Lu Ye flew in from the edge of the Wanxiang Sea, observing the island-dotted sea surface from afar.

These islands, coexistent with the Wanxiang Sea since its inception, withstand endless years of corrosive seawater, indestructible. Even a Sun Blaze expert couldn't easily destroy them.

Practitioners from the four galaxies use these islands as a foothold, maintaining prosperity through countless generations, preserving this place's prosperity and flourishing.

Chapter 1383 All Phenomena Ocean

How many islands are there in the All Phenomena Ocean? Just from the scene before him, one can glimpse it, there must be tens of thousands of islands floating on this vast ocean.

Some islands, rather than being islands, are more like reefs suspended above the sea, spanning only a few meters in diameter; if not carefully explored, one might easily overlook them.

Most are such small islands, too small to be marked on a star map.

There are also many islands that are marked on star maps, each with its own name. These named islands are gatherings of cultivators and resources that various factions compete for.

Among these islands, Lu Ye recognized some familiar names.

For example, Yellow Dragon Island, Five Colors Island, Ten Thousand Demons Island, Winged Heaven Island, and so on...

The names of these islands correspond to those top domains! Only those top domains are qualified to exclusively own an island in this gathering place of heroes.

There are also some islands named after star systems, such as Grotto Void Island, Daqian Island, Tiger Leap Island... The owners of these islands don't have the foundation of top domains to exclusively own an island, but cultivators from different domains within the same star system can unite to occupy an island.

Moreover, there are some names with unclear origins, making it impossible to trace the owner's background.

By merely looking at the various island names on the star map, Lu Ye could feel the undercurrents surging here. Indeed, it was so. Shortly after entering the All Phenomena Ocean, he saw from afar a large group of cultivators besieging an island. The island's protective array was enveloped and shimmering under multicolored lights, and who knows how much longer it could hold.

This was undoubtedly a conflict between two groups of cultivators for island ownership, mostly involving Constellations, with a few Moon Jades among them, but only three to five individuals.

The presence of Sun Blaze Realm cultivators can't be seen in such confrontations, as only a few Sun Blaze Realm individuals from the home galaxy are stationed here in the All Phenomena Ocean. Outsiders are not allowed to linger here, nor are they allowed to participate in conflicts. The main reason is that once a Sun Blaze makes a move, the commotion becomes too big and hard to manage, and the strong from various star systems are willing to adhere to this rule.

This is the method for the Sun Blaze of the home galaxy to control the All Phenomena Ocean. Not to mention Sun Blaze Realm, even Moon Jades from various star systems have a quota limit when entering the All Phenomena Ocean — it's not as if any number of Moon Jades from the family can just come here.

This information Lu Ye had already explored in the jade slip from the Dwarf Race.

Normally, Constellations can come here without any restrictions and won't be subjected to checks. They can come and go as they please. However, if a Moon Jade intends to come, they must first report to the Sun Blaze of the home galaxy and clarify their background to be allowed to stay.

So Lu Ye estimated that Tang Jun should currently be undergoing checks by the Sun Blaze of the All Phenomena Galaxy. As for whether he'd leak his presence during the checks... there was no need to worry. Sun Blaze in All Phenomena only oversees the place and generally won't interfere in matters.

Cultivators at their level were too lazy to meddle in the petty squabbles of lower cultivators.

Referring to the star map in his hand, Lu Ye chose his destination for this journey.

The very center of the All Phenomena Ocean, the largest island—All Phenomena Island! This is the foundation for local cultivators from the All Phenomena Galaxy here. Since it's the largest, it's naturally also the most bustling place.

He needed to gather information, as well as handle some other matters, so naturally, he'd choose such a place and also wanted to get familiar with the area through All Phenomena Island.

A multitude of cultivators came and went, with a variety of races, some looking like undeveloped members of the Demon Race, some not even resembling a human form, and some even without a precise shape...

Lu Ye, having seen major scenes, still found it quite remarkable.

Sailing over the sea, bypassing island after island, slowly approaching All Phenomena Island, considering the speed, Lu Ye estimated it would take him about half a month to reach All Phenomena Island, which was quite helpless.

While he was focused on his journey, a single flash suddenly flew over from an oblique angle. Being in a constant state of alert, Lu Ye immediately paused and looked on coldly.

The single flash came to an abrupt stop in front, the light dispersed, and a small spirit ark appeared in Lu Ye's view. This spirit ark was even more petite than Tang Jun's, likely accommodating only three people.

On the ark, a young man with a slightly dark complexion, looking extremely healthy, smiled slightly at Lu Ye, cupped his fist, and saluted: "Greetings, Fellow Daoist!"

"What's the matter?" Lu Ye placed his hand on the handle of the Boulder Mountain Saber, expression serious.

The young man opposite didn't look much older and appeared similar in age to him. What was rare was that he already had cultivation at the Constellation Early Stage.

A person like this must have a decent background, and his aptitude should also be good, but for some reason, he stopped Lu Ye.

"Seeing Fellow Daoist hurriedly traveling, are you heading for All Phenomena Island?" The young man continued smiling, revealing a set of gleaming white teeth, easily giving an impression of being harmless.

However, Lu Ye didn't let down his guard, promptly shaking his head: "No."

Under normal circumstances, there's nothing good about people who suddenly come up to strike a conversation. Being new to the area, he certainly didn't want many entanglements.

The young man did not retreat; he seemed to have encountered similar situations before. He skillfully spoke: "Fellow Daoist, there's no need to be wary. I'm a ferryman under the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, specializing in transporting people like you." As he spoke, he pointed to the side of his starboat.

Lu Ye looked intently and indeed saw the large words "All Phenomena" in that location!

The young man pointed in another direction: "Fellow Daoist, look here. Our ferrymen do this job. We mainly facilitate travel between the islands for Fellow Daoists without starboats, saving time."

Lu Ye turned his head and saw a starboat identical to the young man's passing by. On its side were the same two words "All Phenomena," with cultivators aboard.

He had noticed the existence of such starboats before, and not just one or two, but several. He had thought such small starboats were popular here; now it seemed they were specifically used for ferrying.

Indeed, the All Phenomena Merchants Guild is thorough in their considerations. Cultivators who own starboats are ultimately a minority, as these things are expensive. Most Constellation Realm cultivators cannot afford them. Even those who can may hesitate to buy one, as cultivation in the Constellation Realm also requires spending spirit jades.

However, Lu Ye realized this service certainly wasn't free. It probably required some fee.

"How much does it cost?" Lu Ye asked.

The young man smiled and replied: "It depends on where Fellow Daoist is headed. We ferrymen charge based on the distance."

"To All Phenomena Island!"

"Ten spirit jades!"

Lu Ye raised his eyebrows; this price was not expensive. With a Single Flash, he landed on the starboat and handed over ten spirit jades to the young man.

The young man accepted them, his mood brightened: "Fellow Daoist, please stand firm!"

Saying this, he turned the boat towards All Phenomena Island.

Halfway there, Lu Ye asked: "How did you know I wanted to go to All Phenomena Island?"

The young man replied with a smile: "I observed Fellow Daoist and determined it's likely your first time here at All Phenomena Ocean... If one knows anything about this place, Fellow Daoist would have actively sought us ferrymen. Since you didn't, it's either due to financial difficulty or lack of knowledge. Observing Fellow Daoist's extraordinary demeanor, you're not someone petty over a few spirit jades, so it must be your first time here. Typically, newcomers choose to visit All Phenomena Island first. We ferrymen have seen so many people that it's easy to pick up some clues."

While explaining, he subtly praised Lu Ye's character. Indeed, those in business know how to speak well and observe carefully.

"Would Fellow Daoist be willing to leave an audio talisman marking?" the young man continued, "Next time, when you need to go somewhere, you can summon me easily. I generally work in All Phenomena Ocean. Even if I am unavailable temporarily, I can call a nearby brother to reach your designated location."

Such convenience made it unreasonable for Lu Ye to refuse, so he immediately exchanged audio talisman markings with the young man.

The young man also introduced himself, and Lu Ye learned his name was Fang Wanli.

"If I want to go to places outside All Phenomena Ocean, will you ferrymen take me?" Lu Ye asked.

Fang Wanli laughed and said: "As long as it's within All Phenomena Galaxy, there's no place the ferryman can't reach! In addition, throughout the journey, the All Phenomena Merchants Guild ensures the safety of passengers, and no accidents will occur."

He spoke with confidence, highlighting the substantial strength of the All Phenomena Merchants Guild.

"If it's convenient, could you tell me about the All Phenomena Merchants Guild?" Lu Ye said while taking out several spirit jades and handing them over.

Fang Wanli accepted them joyfully, thanked him, then began explaining.

With his explanation, Lu Ye understood the foundation of the All Phenomena Merchants Guild. It can be said to be the largest and most powerful force in the All Phenomena Galaxy. Though named with "All Phenomena," it's not limited to just the All Phenomena Galaxy.

It's formed with the local forces of All Phenomena Galaxy as the main body, with participation from elites in various major domains, creating a massive structure.

The involvement of external forces isn't deep. For example, the renowned Yellow Dragon World has strong Sun Blaze experts registered with the guild. They cannot interfere with the guild's normal operations, but if any major incident arises, the guild has the right to ask these Sun Blaze experts to assist.

Correspondingly, the guild sends spirit jades annually as a tribute. Though it might not be much, nobody refuses freebies like these.

On the surface, the entire All Phenomena Merchants Guild only has a few Sun Blaze experts overseeing All Phenomena Ocean, managing various operations. But in reality, it has behind-the-scenes support from elite domains, or mutual checks and balances.

The internal situation is quite complex and hard to explain concisely.

This involvement with elite domains is what has allowed the All Phenomena Merchants Guild to dominate All Phenomena Ocean for countless ages, becoming the strongest force here. It binds top domains to it in a subtle yet firm manner. Without a doubt, it's a clever strategy.

Chapter 1384 The Path to Wealth

"There's something else that you need to know, Fellow Daoist," Fang Wanli said with interest, partly due to those few pieces of spirit jade, and he was willing to tell Lu Ye a bit more.

"What is it?"

"Ordinary outer-world cultivators need to pay a fee to enter All Phenomena Island if they don't have a Passage Order. Of course, the fee isn't much, only five pieces. Fellow Daoist, you can surely afford it."

"Five pieces aren't a trivial amount," Lu Ye said flatly. Even though he had just spent ten pieces of spirit jade on the ferryboat without feeling it was too much, that was because he had a decent background. For a typical Constellation new to the stellar space, even one piece of spirit jade is precious, and they would be reluctant to use it for traveling, preferring to fly slowly to All Phenomena Island on their own.

"The main reason is the number of cultivators coming and going to the All Phenomena Ocean is just too large. If we didn't impose some restrictions, the All Phenomena Island would be overcrowded. Charging five pieces of spirit jade as an entrance fee significantly reduces the number of people entering All Phenomena Island."

The reasoning does indeed make sense. People are drawn to bustling places, Constellations are no exception, and if there were no restrictions, most cultivators would gather on All Phenomena Island. With the entrance fee imposed, many who don't necessarily have to go wouldn't bother.

"Additionally, some Spirit Islands open to outsiders also charge varying amounts of spirit jade. Before you go, Fellow Daoist, you should investigate thoroughly. However, most Spirit Islands are not open to outsiders; they are private places of different factions. You must be careful about that, Fellow Daoist. Don't enter rashly and be mistaken for an intruder."

"How to distinguish?" Lu Ye asked humbly for advice.

"You could buy a star map from the commerce guild. These Spirit Islands are marked on it, but the fonts are in different colors. If it's red, it's private and not open to outsiders. If it's white, it's open."

Only then did Lu Ye realize that the color of the fonts on the star map had such significance. Previously, when he examined the star map, he noticed that the names of those Spirit Islands were in either white or red, but he didn't grasp the subtlety.

With so many cultivators traveling, Lu Ye also discovered something interesting: "Your ferryboat flies lower than the cultivators' flights?"

Fang Wanli nodded quickly: "You're observant, Fellow Daoist, indeed so. Although there's no explicit rule, everyone has been willing to comply over the years. Mainly, it's because ferryboats move too fast. If mixed with the crowd, collisions happen easily. As you can see, there are many cultivators in the air over the All Phenomena Ocean. If that happens, it damages property and harms people."

"Ferryboats don't collide with each other? Or with other cultivators' starboats?"

"Both ferryboats and starboats have sensing arrays, which can sense each other, so they can avoid collisions in advance."

Lu Ye understood. It's similar to how starboats navigate through stellar space, using arrays to sense obstacles ahead.

On closer inspection, Lu Ye noticed another thing. Starboats piloted by cultivators generally do not fly directly over any Spirit Island; they tend to go around them to avoid misunderstandings. However, the ferryboats of the All Phenomena Merchants Guild are indifferent to this, flying directly over both big and small islands.

Spirit Islands in the All Phenomena Ocean vary in size, and from the air, they resemble chess pieces scattered over the sea.

This reminded Lu Ye of the Chess Sea, where he and Hua Ci had first cooperated joyfully, vanquishing countless foes. That battle made him realize that his healing cultivator was not simple at all.

In no time, a huge Spirit Island appeared in view. Along the way, Lu Ye had seen many large Spirit Islands, but none could compare to the one before him.

In terms of sheer size, this Spirit Island was undoubtedly the Overlord of the entire All Phenomena Ocean!

This must be All Phenomena Island!

The island's buildings were extremely well-organized. At the center stood a sprawling palace complex, with a massive towering structure at its very center. Streets radiated neatly from this tower as though it were the source point.

Fang Wanli piloted the ferryboat to the edge of the Spirit Island, where it seemed like a pier, and stopped there. Smiling, he said to Lu Ye, "Fellow Daoist, we've arrived. Once you've paid the fee to enter All Phenomena Island, you're free to fly about. However, disputes are not allowed on All Phenomena Island. Please remember that."

Lu Ye nodded slightly and stepped out to the pier.

No strong cultivators were guarding the pier, only an old white-haired elder lounging on a Taishi Chair with eyes closed, seemingly enjoying himself.

Nearby, a small table had spirit jades on its left side, shimmering and dazzling, while black Tokens were placed on the right side.

Several people were in front of Lu Ye, just arriving and preparing to enter All Phenomena Island; they appeared to be a group.

A middle-aged man among them looked at the elder and said, "Veteran Bai, may I help myself?"

From his words, it was clear that he wasn't visiting All Phenomena Island for the first time and thus was well-acquainted with the process.

The elder on the Taishi Chair didn't even lift his eyelids, just waved his hand slightly, as if indifferent.

The middle-aged man then took out twenty pieces of spirit jade, placed them on the table, took four Tokens, distributed them among his companions, bowed to Veteran Bai, and led his companions into All Phenomena Island, soaring into the sky, disappearing in no time.

Seeing this, Lu Ye imitated him, taking out five pieces of spirit jade to exchange for a Token.

Just as he was about to proceed inside, Veteran Bai suddenly opened his eyes a sliver and glanced at him, saying flatly, "The Token must be worn on you, not stored in a storage ring or any other storage space. Once you leave the island, it's voided. Upon departure, you can leave from any location, but entry must be through the pier!"

It was clear that this visitor saw it was Lu Ye's first time here and explained the rules to him. Lu Ye had already clarified these things while chatting with Fang Wanli, so he naturally understood.

With a slight bow, he expressed his thanks for the advice and stepped onto All Phenomena Island.

He didn't rush to leave but turned to look back.

Behind him, people were arriving one after the other, each taking a token. Veteran Bai continued to sit with his eyes closed, resting, without asking or being asked. No one dared to skimp on the five spirit jade passage fee.

Lu Ye eyed the scene eagerly; five spirit jade might not seem like much on its own. A Constellation could find a suitable spot in the stellar space and easily locate five spirit jade.

But one person entering costs five spirit jade, so what about ten people, a hundred, or ten thousand?

This small port is practically a place where spirit jade flows!

Judging by the frequency of cultivators coming and going, this single ferry port could bring tens of thousands of spirit jade or even more to All Phenomena Island every day, and there must be more than one such port! Perhaps there are a dozen or even twenty.

Yet, no matter how attractive it appeared, this was their way of making money.

Lu Ye suddenly had the idea that if he could seize a Spirit Island here and find ways to attract cultivators, turning his Spirit Island into a bustling place, and then charge a passage fee, wouldn't he be able to generate wealth while seated?

But this idea dissipated from his mind quickly. Not to mention the difficulty of capturing a Spirit Island, even if he did manage to seize one, he might not be able to keep it. And even if he could keep it, what would attract cultivators to it?

All those top domains having their own Spirit Islands here must have considered this idea.

A moment later, Lu Ye headed into the island.

Soon after, he found himself standing in an extremely broad street, observing the marketplace shops lining both sides, and suddenly felt as though he had returned to the Nine Provinces.

The cities within the Cloud River battlefield were just as bustling.

However, in terms of scale, Heaven's Augury City couldn't compare to this place. The value of goods sold in the shops within the Cloud River battlefield was no match for those here.

The forces behind these shops included domains from countless Star Systems. Any cultivator could find items from the entire stellar region here; lacking in supply was only a concern if one lacked sufficient spirit jade.

Being new, Lu Ye wanted to broaden his horizons and therefore leisurely entered a shop named Wonder Pill Workshop.

This was clearly a place selling elixir pills.

The Nine Provinces, because of limitations in its world foundation, was currently unable to produce elixir pills that could aid Constellations in their cultivation. This situation would gradually improve—once the Nine Provinces began to nurture higher-quality spirit flowers and rare herbs, it would naturally qualify to manufacture corresponding elixir pills. Of course, the Pill Masters of Nine Provinces first needed to solve their elixir pill formula issues.

The interior of Wonder Pill Workshop was exceedingly spacious and impressively tidy and neat. As Lu Ye entered, a young and beautiful woman was in charge of reception.

What surprised him was that this woman only had cultivation within the Divine Sea!

He assumed that the cultivators frequenting this place would invariably be above Constellations since the survival environment in All Phenomena Ocean was not suitable for those below Constellations.

This place was just like stellar space, where stellar space energy was everywhere. The Divine Sea Realm was insufficient to withstand such energy physically.

Yet here she was with a Divine Sea cultivation!

After sensing slightly, Lu Ye realized belatedly that no stellar space energy existed here.

He understood in his heart that All Phenomena Island was surely shielded by an extremely intricate big array, which, through its isolation, prevented stellar space energy from invading All Phenomena Island, allowing beings below Constellations to survive here.

It made sense too. A woman was merely tasked with ushering guests and assisting with the sale of goods from her store. To arrange for a Constellation to perform such duties would be an overuse of talents.

Using True Lake for this seemed too lacking in significance; the Divine Sea was just right.

One had to admit, the force behind this shop had considered everything thoroughly, neither wasting human and financial resources nor making guests feel slighted or uncomfortable.

The woman's attitude was very enthusiastic, introducing various elixir pills and miracle cures to Lu Ye...

After about one incense stick's time, Lu Ye walked out of Wonder Pill Workshop, with the woman courteously seeing him off. Although Lu Ye didn't buy a single elixir pill, such welcoming and parting was their norm; they wouldn't easily underestimate any guest.

Chapter 1385 The Deal

Walking past various shops, Lu Ye only observed and indeed broadened his horizons significantly.

Although the Nine Provinces had ascended to a large domain a few years ago, aligning with the stellar space, it was only at the beginning, and many things required a gradual familiarization.

Take the various prices in the stellar space, for instance... the Nine Provinces cultivators were completely unaware of this, and these things weren't recorded in the Dwarf Race's Xiyuan Pavilion.

Lu Ye needed to understand the pricing standards here first before buying or selling anything to avoid unknowingly getting a bad deal.

After wandering for nearly a whole day, Lu Ye had a rough understanding of the price trends here.

He also came across some things that piqued his interest, like in a store specifically selling starboats, he took a liking to a single-person, compact starboat. The price was the cheapest among all the starboats, yet even the cheapest cost twenty thousand spirit jade, while other larger starboats easily cost tens of thousands more.

It was entirely unaffordable for him.

He once thought of himself as quite wealthy since his cultivation was smooth and he had enough spirit jade to sustain his cultivation for a long time, but upon arriving at the All Phenomena Ocean, he realized he was genuinely poor.

For cultivators, spirit jade was a commodity that was never enough.

A day later, Lu Ye stood in front of the tallest tower at the center of All Phenomena Island, the emblem of Wanhai Island and the headquarters of the All Phenomena Merchants Guild!

Having had various experiences mingling in the Spirit Stream battlefield and the Cloud River battlefield, Lu Ye naturally knew that if he truly wanted to buy something, this was the essential place to visit.

Things sold here might be pricier than outside but came with quality assurance. Of course, he wasn't here to buy anything this time.

He calmly entered. The interior of the All Phenomena Merchants Guild was sumptuously decorated, and its spaciousness easily invoked awe in visitors toward this colossal entity.

This is also a common tactic used by businesses, allowing visitors to immediately perceive the strong foundation, making subsequent transactions go more smoothly.

Someone received him without much inquiry, merely leading Lu Ye to an elegant room, serving tea, and withdrawing afterward.

As he was here, Lu Ye settled down, savoring the fragrant tea, waiting quietly. After all, he had experienced this kind of scenario many times in the Nine Provinces, although the venue and cultivation level were different, the format was the same.

Sure enough, after a short moment, a smiling attendee from the guild came to inquire about Lu Ye's trading intentions.

Lu Ye silently took out the Boulder Mountain Saber and placed it in front of the attendant, who introduced himself as Cao Xiang.

Cao Xiang smiled slightly, offered apologies, then held the Boulder Mountain Saber with both hands and gently unsheathed it for inspection. At a glance, he already had an assessment and replied warmly, "Fellow Daoist wishes to repair this saber?"

Years of interacting with outsiders had honed his exceptional ability to discern people, naturally unveiling Lu Ye's background as a combat cultivator.

A combat cultivator presenting his spirit treasure was certainly not for sale, coupled with the apparent cracks on the Boulder Mountain Saber, he immediately discerned Lu Ye's intentions.

"What's the price?" Lu Ye inquired.

Cao Xiang didn't answer immediately but felt the Boulder Mountain Saber silently for a moment before speaking, "This saber's texture is resilient. Although I can't discern what ore was added during refinement, it seems to have undergone a re-forging once, where some relatively precious materials were incorporated. Repairing this saber isn't complicated; the guild has outstanding Artifact Refiners who can completely mend these cracks. Let's set the price at two thousand spirit jade."

Though Lu Ye knew the asking price wouldn't be cheap, he was still quietly taken aback.

Nonetheless, he had to concede that Cao Xiang's insight was quite sharp; during the last re-forging of the Boulder Mountain Saber, indeed, some valuable materials were added, all of which were spoils Lu Ye obtained from the Taichu Realm.

Maintaining a calm demeanor, he replied indifferently, "A spirit treasure, when purchased, only costs about ten thousand; an average one only requires two to three thousand spirit jade, even a better one is merely around five thousand. I just need repairs, is the two thousand asked by Fellow Daoist a bit much?"

With the information gathered from the previous day, Lu Ye had somewhat grasped the pricing of spirit treasures. Indeed, as he said, an ordinary spirit treasure can be had for only two to three thousand spirit jade, which is a price that Constellation Realm cultivators can afford.

Cao Xiang smiled slightly, "Fellow Daoist mentioned repair. For a combat cultivator, a fitting spirit treasure is critically important; being handy is the primary concern, irrespective of quality. With two thousand spirit jade, Fellow Daoist might buy another spirit treasure, but how much prowess could it unleash when wielded?"

These were indeed true words, evidently this was seen through, hence the courage to set such a high asking price.

Lightly tapping the table, Lu Ye said, "My saber doesn't have any restriction; it's merely a straightforward repair, shouldn't be difficult."

Cao Xiang was slightly stunned, "No restriction?"

"Feel free to check it out!" Lu Ye motioned with his hand.

Cao Xiang genuinely didn't know. Although he had sensed the Boulder Mountain Saber earlier, he hadn't explored thoroughly in the presence of Lu Ye, its owner.

Upon hearing Lu Ye's remark, he promptly began a careful investigation, subsequently realizing that the long saber indeed lacked any restrictions, merely maintaining resilience.

Despite working in the All Phenomena Merchants Guild for so many years, this was the first time Cao Xiang encountered such a situation. He couldn't help but find it odd; a long saber without restrictions... what's the purpose?

Refraining from probing further, respect for individual privacy prevailed, as there are countless cultivators, each with peculiar preferences or characteristics beyond his casual investigation.

"Without restrictions, the repair is much simpler. Thus... I'll decide to lower the price by two hundred spirit jade for Fellow Daoist, totaling one thousand eight!"

"One thousand!" Lu Ye looked at him calmly.

Cao Xiang chuckled, "Fellow Daoist, at this All Phenomena Merchants Guild, all transactions follow certain rules; it's not like outside where you can just bargain randomly."

Lu Ye said leisurely, "This is my first time at the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, and I will likely have more dealings in the future. If convenient, we could exchange audio talisman markings, so I can reach out to you directly for any future transactions."

Cao Xiang quickly took out an audio talisman and handed it to Lu Ye, smiling happily, "Thank you very much, Fellow Daoist, for your kindness."

Lu Ye also took out his own audio talisman.

After exchanging, Cao Xiang gritted his teeth, "Fifteen hundred then, Fellow Daoist. This is the lowest price I can decide on; if it's any lower, then the deal can't be done."

Lu Ye knew that what he said was probably not the truth, but since it was business, he naturally had to give the other side some profit. The price might not be able to be pressed down further.

He nodded, "Agreed!"

"Fellow Daoist, you're straightforward!" Cao Xiang showed a grateful expression. Whether real or not, he maintained a good demeanor.

Afterward, he took out a specific measuring tool, recorded the weight and length of the Boulder Mountain Saber in front of Lu Ye, and then detailed all its characteristics with his Mental Consciousness before handing it to Lu Ye, "This counts as the receipt, and you can come to the guild to pick up the saber in ten days by presenting this jade slip."

Lu Ye nodded, carefully stored the jade slip, and handed over fifteen hundred spirit jade to him.

It's undeniable, the All Phenomena Merchants Guild operates very systematically and can win customers' trust.

Cao Xiang noticed that Lu Ye might have other things to trade and tentatively asked, "Is there anything else you would like to inquire about, Fellow Daoist?"

"Does your guild do intelligence trading?"

Cao Xiang smiled and nodded, "Of course we do. What kind of information is the Fellow Daoist looking to investigate?"

Lu Ye nodded, "I want to know the specific location of a star system."

Cao Xiang said, "If you want to find out the star system's location, it requires a thousand spirit jade."

Lu Ye's eyelids twitched, with thousands of spirit jade needed at every turn, he didn't know how long his current spirit jade would last.

"Can you guarantee an answer?" Lu Ye cautiously asked. Otherwise, if he paid but didn't get a satisfactory answer, it would be too much of a loss.

"Basically, within this stellar region, my All Phenomena Merchants Guild has a grasp of the star systems' locations. However, exceptions can't be ruled out due to the vastness of stellar space. Some remote locations may not have any dealings with us. If that's the case, only a three hundred spirit jade deposit will be taken, and after the investigation is complete, you can pay the remaining balance."

It made sense.

Lu Ye mentioned the words "Jade Conch," and Cao Xiang even specifically asked how to write these two words, clearly fearing any homophones.

"Please wait a moment, Fellow Daoist." Cao Xiang said as he left, probably to check on the intelligence related to this.

One incense stick's time later, Cao Xiang returned, looking a bit embarrassed, "Fellow Daoist, here's the situation. I asked my colleague responsible for this type of intelligence to help look into it, and we didn't find any records about the Jade Conch star system. If you are not in a hurry, the guild can find someone to investigate further, and we should achieve some results."

"I'm not in a rush!" Lu Ye calmly took out three hundred spirit jade as a deposit.

Ultimately, Tang Jun would also inquire about the Jade Conch star system through the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, but Lu Ye wouldn't save spirit jade over this matter. Such things can't entirely rely on others. After all, Lu Ye hadn't placed full trust in Tang Jun yet. In case the old guy found the location of Jade Conch and left him alone, there wouldn't be much he could do about it, so he'd rather spend a thousand spirit jade than pin his hopes on others.

Rising to leave, he suddenly seemed to remember something, "Can your guild provide a list of your prices for various fire attribute materials?"

Cao Xiang was taken aback for a moment, then nodded, "No problem."

A moment later, Lu Ye left the All Phenomena Merchants Guild holding a jade slip.

This expenditure has reduced his assets by nearly ten percent!

Moreover, Lu Ye had a hunch that the remaining spirit jade probably wouldn't last either, because the things he was about to buy would cost a lot!

The Talent Tree's fuel reserves were running a bit low!

He hadn't replenished the Talent Tree's fuel for a long time, and ever since advancing to the Constellation Realm, each cultivation consumed the Talent Tree's fuel, and the consumption rate was much faster than before the Constellation Realm.

This was also normal. Before reaching the Constellation Realm, his cultivation mainly relied on Theft of Heaven's Augury and refining elixir pills, but after the Constellation Realm, he needed to refine the power within spirit jade. If he merely refined, the consumption of the Talent Tree wasn't massive, as a lot of impurities were already eliminated during the absorption and refinement process of the spirit jade.

But many times, to recover himself faster, he opted to consume spirit jade and star beasts' demonic pills...

This method heavily consumed the Talent Tree's fuel.

Chapter 1386 Flea Market

Lu Ye had almost forgotten when he last replenished the Talent Tree's fuel. Since no new spirit runes had been born from it, he hadn't paid much attention to it.

However, it was foreseeable that as his cultivation increased, the consumption of the Talent Tree's fuel would also rise. This was because, under the same time conditions, he would be able to refine more cultivation resources.

To ensure his future cultivation, replenishing the Talent Tree's fuel had become an urgent matter!

Repairing the Boulder Mountain Saber and gathering intelligence on the Jade Conch were things that had to be done at the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, but replenishing the Talent Tree's fuel wasn't absolutely necessary there.

He didn't have many spirit jades in hand, so he was naturally as thrifty as possible.

He walked out of the guild, soared into the sky, and flew straight in one direction.

An hour later, he arrived at a deserted area near the edge of All Phenomena Island.

This place had no intersecting streets, as if it were a plot of land independently developed.

Transactions on All Phenomena Island were naturally dominated by the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, where the crowds were endless and the place was always bustling. The next in line were the shops lining the various streets of the island. The powers behind these shops came from different domains, and many goods inside them were specialties from those domains.

But evidently, All Phenomena Island had also considered that if there were independent cultivators who wished to sell items, there were always some who were unwilling to sell to the All Phenomena Merchants Guild and preferred to do business on their own, so a special area was developed here for those cultivators without shops to set up stalls and do business.

Flea market!

Lu Ye had wandered here unintentionally yesterday, so returning now felt rather familiar.

Without much investigation, he walked directly to a stall, picked up an irregular crystal about the size of a fist. The crystal was fire-red, like a fire crystal. When Lu Ye slightly activated the power of the Talent Tree, he could clearly sense the surging firepower contained within.

The quality of this object far surpassed that of the Earth's Core Fire from the Nine Provinces.

Lu Ye had come to this stall once yesterday, showed interest in this item, and had asked the stall owner about its name, learning that it was called a Dragon Breath Crystal. However, he simply inquired and didn't reveal any intention to purchase it, mainly because he wasn't sure of the price.

Today, having prepared himself, he now had a good idea about its price.

"Fellow Daoist, if you like it, just take it. It's not expensive, only priced at eight hundred spirit jades per piece!"

Lu Ye casually asked, "How is this thing formed?"

The stall owner replied, "As it's called Dragon Breath Crystal, it's naturally related to the Dragon Race. To be honest, Fellow Daoist, in my domain, a thousand years ago, a fire-type giant dragon came and settled in a quiet place. While it slept, its dragon breath fused with some nearby minerals, and over a thousand years, these Dragon Breath Crystals slowly formed."

Lu Ye nodded slightly. The stall owner's explanation matched what was recorded in the jade slip that Cao Xiang had given him, so it seemed he wasn't lying.

The jade slip Cao Xiang gave him not only recorded the prices of various fire-type treasures but also their origins and possible sources, making it quite detailed.

But it also informed Lu Ye that once Dragon Breath Crystals appeared, it wouldn't be just one piece, but a large batch!

In other words, this stall owner definitely had a large stock of Dragon Breath Crystals.

In front of him, Lu Ye took out the jade slip given by Cao Xiang: "Within the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, Dragon Breath Crystals only cost eight hundred. How can you also sell them for eight hundred?"

Normally, items sold at the flea market should be a bit cheaper than at the All Phenomena Merchants Guild to be competitive. Otherwise, if the prices are the same, why would anyone come to the flea market?

The stall owner looked at Lu Ye, then glanced at the jade slip in his hand, chuckling, "So, Fellow Daoist came prepared. In that case, I'll give you a ten-spirit-jade discount."

He didn't turn red. This is how business is done; there's no room for sentimentality. If someone doesn't know, you sell it for more, and if they know, you sell it for less.

Lu Ye didn't even blink, ruthlessly bargaining: "Five hundred!"

The stall owner was dumbstruck, "Fellow Daoist, you can't bargain like that."

"I need a lot!" Lu Ye looked at him calmly.

The stall owner replied, "No matter how many you need, I can't sell them for five hundred. This isn't my personal item. It's a product of my domain, and the spirit jades from the sale have to be taken back and shared with many people. I really can't give this price. If you want to buy for five hundred, you should check elsewhere."

"Five hundred fifty!"

"Fellow Daoist, I advise you to be kind. With your attitude, once you leave the All Phenomena Ocean, you'll get cut."

"Six hundred! If you're selling, I'll take it. If not, I'll leave!"

The stall owner gestured, indicating that Lu Ye could do as he pleased.

Of course, Lu Ye wouldn't actually leave. Bargaining required thickness of skin. If it succeeded, great; if not, no loss.

"Give me your lowest price!" Lu Ye looked at the stall owner. The reason he fancied this Dragon Breath Crystal was primarily because it was available in large quantities. If he went to buy other fire-type treasures, he might need to buy many kinds and then haggle for each one, which might end up being disadvantageous.

The vendor grimaced for a moment, then noticed that Lu Ye genuinely wanted to buy, so after a brief contemplation, he said, "To be honest, Fellow Daoist, the lowest price set by my elders before I left my domain was seven hundred and fifty per piece. Seeing your sincerity, I'll make the decision to sell it to you for seven hundred and sixty. Any lower, and it simply won't work!"

"If seven hundred and fifty is your lowest price, why are you asking me for more?"

The vendor was speechless: "I'm here setting up a stall to sell things; you've got to let me earn a bit of hard-earned money, right? It's not easy for anyone out here, Fellow Daoist; we need to understand and support each other! I've been setting up my stall here for a long time. With this time, I might as well search for spirit jade in my home world. Whatever I find would be mine."

"Fine... alright!" Lu Ye reluctantly agreed, realizing he couldn't haggle anymore and acknowledging that the vendor had a point; he indeed needed to let him make a bit of profit.

The Dragon Breath Crystal was forty pieces of spirit jade cheaper than at the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, which wasn't insignificant.

After counting the spirit jade in his possession, he left five hundred or so pieces for cultivation, and gave the rest to the vendor, eventually getting twenty-four Dragon Breath Crystals.

The bulk of the spirit jade he possessed still came from the Spirit Jade Vein in the Taichu Realm. Although he had consumed some while exploring stellar space outside the Nine Provinces, he also managed to find some along the way. Overall, he didn't incur a loss and even had a small surplus.

Later, at Mount Fangcun, he gave Nian Yuexian fifteen hundred pieces of spirit jade, leaving him with just over thirteen thousand.

Recently, he first obtained some spirit jade from Tang Jun's storage ring and then killed three bandits, gaining a small amount. The trio were quite poor...

The energy contained in the twenty-four Dragon Breath Crystals, who knows how long it'll last!

Lu Ye suddenly realized that his comfortable days hadn't lasted long before he was worrying about cultivation resources again.

Back in the Nine Provinces, when his cultivation wasn't high, he constantly thought about how to earn merit, and later about earning battle merit. Now, he doesn't need any merit or battle merit; what he needs right now is spirit jade, and a lot of it...

The vendor, having sold the Dragon Breath Crystals, was in high spirits and said, "Fellow Daoist, next time you need goods, just come to me!" Clearly, he still had quite a bit in stock.

"How long have you been setting up your stall here?" Lu Ye asked casually.

The vendor looked wistful: "Almost three years! Ah, better not talk about it. But soon someone will take over for me, the stall won't change, so Fellow Daoist can come directly."

In a place like this, finding a suitable stall location isn't easy, so many vendors take turns with companions from their home domain to maintain the stall, following the principle of people changing but not the stall, which also makes it easier for old customers to find.

If the Nine Provinces could freely travel to the All Phenomena Star System, and if there were any special products to sell, they might adopt this model too. After all, the Nine Provinces' foundation doesn't allow for occupying a shop here.

Bidding farewell to this vendor, Lu Ye also felt wistful.

When he came here, he had some wealth, but in just a few deals, it was almost gone.

All Phenomena Island was bustling, yet Lu Ye didn't know where he should go for a moment.

In ten days, he needed to retrieve his Boulder Mountain Saber from the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, so what should he do during this time? There were accommodations on the island, but staying in such a place clearly required quite a bit of spirit jade, and Lu Ye didn't want to waste money like that.

Idly waiting wasn't realistic either. After contemplating, he shot up into the sky and flew off the island.

There were some things he wanted to verify and try.

A moment later, as he left All Phenomena Island, Lu Ye noticed a crisp sound from the Passage Order hanging from his waist. Looking down, he saw that the pitch-black token had cracked, clearly rendered useless.

This meant that ten days later, he would have to spend five pieces of spirit jade to enter All Phenomena Island again.

As he flew and searched, he couldn't stray too far from All Phenomena Island, but staying too close wasn't convenient either, as the closer to All Phenomena Island, the busier it got with cultivators coming and going.

A day later, Lu Ye finally found a suitable spot and descended.

Moments later, he landed on a reef island about ten zhang in diameter.

Acting alone like this wasn't safe. All Phenomena Island and many large Spirit Islands prohibit private fights, but no one would care about you on the All Phenomena Ocean. In other words, if someone disliked Lu Ye and bullied him now, no one would stand up for him.

Lu Ye remembered encountering an encirclement of a Spirit Island on his way here.

But some things have to be done despite the risk; when it comes to cultivators' actions, there's no such thing as absolute safety.

To be safe, Lu Ye still set up some arrays on this reef island for protection, so that in case of an attack, he at least had some reaction time.

Only then did he sit cross-legged, quietly sensing the surrounding environment.

The water of the All Phenomena Ocean is condensed from extremely dense stellar space energy. Although it condenses without dissipating, it somewhat affects the surrounding cultivation environment, especially the spirit islands on the sea surface.

Under his perception, Lu Ye could detect that the place he was in contained more stellar space energy than in a normal stellar space.

This stellar space energy is to the Constellation what nature's spiritual energy is to cultivators below the Constellation level.

Chapter 1387 There Are Fish in the Sea

In any part of the stellar space, cultivators can cultivate because stellar space energy is omnipresent, yet the efficiency is extremely low.

Just like the Nine Provinces cultivators, who can cultivate anywhere within the Nine Provinces, though very few actually do so. Even Spirit Stream Realm cultivators know to head to the Spirit Stream battlefield...

The cultivation environment of this reef island is better than ordinary stellar space. If a cultivator doesn't have high demands for a cultivation environment, they can totally cultivate here. Naturally, the efficiency is somewhat lacking compared to using spirit jade or consuming elixir pills, but it has the advantage of being a cost-free deal.

But basically, no one does this because it's too unsafe. There's always someone flying back and forth overhead, so who can cultivate in peace? Especially since normal cultivators need to keep their minds focused during cultivation, making it easy to get ambushed.

Of course, if one is within a Spirit Island occupied by a major force, then there's no need to worry about this issue.

The ferryman, Fang Wanli, said that in some Spirit Islands, the stellar space energy is very rich and can completely satisfy the cultivation needs of Constellation cultivators. If someone can occupy such a Spirit Island, just the cultivation resources alone can save a lot.

And in the All Phenomena Ocean, there are quite a few of these Spirit Islands.

This is one of the reasons all forces are keen to contest the ownership of Spirit Islands. To them, Spirit Islands are not only places they can settle in, but also a kind of cultivation resource in themselves!

There's another more important reason, and that is Spirit Jade Veins within the Spirit Island, which is what makes the forces from the four galaxies envious.

Currently, of the Spirit Islands occupied by various forces, 70% have Spirit Jade Veins of varying sizes inside, and only the remaining 30% are barren islands.

In the stellar space, there are countless domains of various sizes, but only the top domains can nurture Spirit Jade Veins. But how many top domains are there throughout the entire stellar region?

Most are large domains without Spirit Jade Veins inside, but as long as one has enough power, one can seize a vein here.

What especially makes people envious is that each Spirit Jade Vein here is renewable. In other words, as long as one controls the mining speed and frequency, it will never be exhausted. This is because the root cause of the Spirit Jade Veins lies in the All Phenomena Ocean, and unless one day the All Phenomena Ocean disappears, these Spirit Jade Veins will persist. During the mining process by cultivators, the veins will continually absorb the energy from seawater and condense into new spirit jade.

These things are still quite distant from Lu Ye. He came here merely to confirm two things.

The first is naturally the speed of cultivation.

Having just advanced to the Constellation Mid-Stage, the speed at which he consumes spirit jade is bound to be faster than before, so he wonders how much he will need per month.

Nearly three years ago, when he first advanced to Constellation, he experimented and concluded that he only needed to consume 120 pieces of spirit jade per month to meet his cultivation needs.

Later, as his strength gradually grew, this consumption also increased, but only by a small margin. Before advancing, Lu Ye estimated that less than 200 pieces of spirit jade per month would be sufficient.

Now, he needs to figure out his consumption after the advancement.

He took out two pieces of spirit jade and held them in his palms, using the power of the Talent Tree to refine them at the maximum speed his body could accept. This allowed him to achieve the highest cultivation efficiency and avoid wasting any spirit jade.

Three days later, Lu Ye concluded.

The current monthly demand for spirit jade is about 400 pieces!

The consumption has doubled! And this is just the state right after advancing. As his strength increases and the refinement depth of his bone marrow essence grows, it will definitely become more and more.

Feeling bitter inside...

He only has just over 500 spirit jade left in his hands; isn't that barely enough for a month's cultivation? How is he supposed to carry on?

After slightly calming himself, he took out the 24 Dragon Breath Crystals he had purchased at a high cost and used the power of the Talent Tree to absorb them, replenishing the fuel reserve of the Talent Tree.

Feeling the increase in the Talent Tree's fuel reserve, his mood improved slightly.

Indeed, a Dragon Breath Crystal worth 760 pieces of spirit jade lives up to its value. The intensity of the fire-type energy stored within is at least a hundred times greater than the Earth's Core Fire he initially encountered, making it incomparable.

In this way, in the short term, he does not need to worry about the fuel for the Talent Tree.

He sat cross-legged on the reef island for a long time, originally intending to wait until there was no one around to verify the second matter, but no suitable opportunity arose no matter how long he waited.

There's always someone flying back and forth overhead.

He decided not to wait any longer.

He stood up and walked to the edge of the island, gazing into the deep sea before him.

Meanwhile, in the mid-air not far away, two figures flew side by side. One was an elderly man with white hair, and the other was a fresh and beautiful young girl. The girl was only at the Constellation Early Stage, and her spirit force fluctuations seemed a bit unstable, clearly having just advanced to the Constellation level not long ago.

Everything seemed novel to her as a newcomer.

The elderly man flew forward with her, constantly saying something to her, and the young girl's little head kept nodding.

Suddenly, upon seeing Lu Ye, she pointed: "Master, look, someone's about to jump into the sea. Could it be that something's bothering him?"

The elder raised his hand and slapped her arm down, admonishing, "Do not point recklessly, and do not speak nonsense. This All Phenomena Ocean is formed from an extremely rich concentration of stellar space energy. Although we Constellation cultivators have begun to absorb stellar space energy for our own use, to strengthen ourselves, too much of anything can be harmful. Even for a Sun Blaze, this seawater is a highly toxic substance. Hardly anyone is willing to delve into it lightly. This is common knowledge in the All Phenomena Ocean. Who would jump into the sea unless they've lost their minds? You must remember this in the future..."

"Plop..." A light sound came from below.

The young girl said, "He's lost his mind!"

The elder's eyelid twitched as he quickly paused in mid-air, utterly puzzled at how someone could be so foolish in this world.

"Master, should we save him?" The girl looked worried.

The elder hesitated, then shook his head, "No need. This person is probably new to the All Phenomena Ocean and wants to test the mystery of this seawater. We shouldn't meddle; just watch."

As they waited quietly, there was no sign of the person who had jumped into the sea.

After a while, the elder sighed, "Let's go."

The girl asked, "Aren't we waiting anymore?"

"No need. It's been so long and he hasn't surfaced. Even immortals find it hard to save anyone in this situation. He's likely already dead down there." If the person had come up sooner, there might have been a chance to live. At worst, his foundation might have been damaged and his cultivation declined, but given enough time, he is certainly doomed.

Half a tea's worth... Even a Sun Blaze might not last half a tea's worth, let alone a young Constellation cultivator.

The girl followed behind the elder, looking back every few steps with a face full of regret, her little brain unable to understand why, despite reaching the Constellation stage, someone would be so unwilling to see sense.

Beneath the All Phenomena Ocean, Lu Ye's body continued to sink.

He observed as a dense gray mist ignited in large patches within the Talent Tree, violently consuming the just-replenished fuel reserves.

This undoubtedly indicated that too many impurities or harmful elements were flooding into his body. The key was that he didn't actively absorb the surrounding seawater's energy.

He didn't initiate it, yet the terrifying energy contained in the surrounding seawater drilled into him like leeches smelling blood.

He finally understood why no one dared to venture into the All Phenomena Ocean lightly.

In this place, whether you want it or not, the energy from the seawater will flood into your body, and it is far more efficient than any cultivation method.

This easily causes the energy within a cultivator to become full, then bloated, ultimately leading to an inevitable explosion and death.

Along with the inflowing seawater energy were vast amounts of impurities...

These impurities are harmful to cultivators, and while there might be an opportunity to dispel them later, it would undoubtedly require a great cost. If they cannot be dispelled, one's foundation would be damaged.

Activating spirit force to protect oneself cannot fully isolate these impurities, and even with the powers of a treasured artifact, it's challenging to counteract them. Thus, even if someone ventures into the All Phenomena Ocean, they certainly cannot stay for long.

With the Talent Tree as his backup, Lu Ye wasn't worried about his safety, but the key issue was that such a situation severely consumed the fuel of the Talent Tree.

This situation was somewhat reminiscent of when he delved deep into the Blood River in the Blood Refinement World to cultivate, yet incomparable in the way this All Phenomena Ocean is perilously much more dangerous.

Perhaps once he no longer has to worry about the fuel for the Talent Tree in the future, he could come here to cultivate, because the efficiency is tremendously high. But for now, that is not possible. Expending the Talent Tree's fuel here would affect his future cultivation.

His body stopped sinking further, as continuing would take him out through the bottom of the All Phenomena Ocean eventually, but that would require much more time than his current fuel reserves could support.

Looking up, there was only a faint light above, while below was deep darkness.

Just as Lu Ye was about to swim up, he suddenly sensed something quickly brushing past him.

He was startled and reached for his waist.

His hand grasped nothing but air, reminding him that the Boulder Mountain Saber was still with the All Phenomena Merchants Guild.

His Mental Consciousness extended, but it could only reach three inches away from his body due to the seawater's strong suppression of it.

Without a saber in hand and with his Mental Consciousness constrained, Lu Ye had no idea what had just swum past him. Without hesitation, he activated his spirit force and darted upwards while staying vigilant in all directions.

As soon as he started moving, Lu Ye felt an unusual current beside him, and with the faint light, he saw a small object swiftly dart by.

Without the slightest hesitation, he punched in that direction, feeling the sensation of something bursting apart under his strike. He grabbed onto whatever he could and continued upwards.

Moments later, he returned to the previous reef island, fixatedly staring at what he had brought back from the sea, dumbfounded.

In the All Phenomena Ocean... there are actually fish!

Chapter 1388 Getting Something for Nothing

The All Phenomena Ocean is extremely dangerous, even cultivators cannot stay in the seawater for long, he had thought that there must be no life inside, but who knew there were living creatures within.

The thing brought back from under the sea had a body about a foot long, completely snow-white, flat in shape, half a finger wide, with half-transparent things that looked like wings on either side below the head, the head was gone, it should have been smashed by Lu Ye's punch just now.

But just from looking at the remaining large half of its body, this was clearly a fish!

There were actually fish in this dangerous All Phenomena Ocean... Lu Ye looked and clicked his tongue in amazement.

However, anything that could survive in the All Phenomena Ocean must not be an ordinary fish, Lu Ye had strong suspicions that this thing in his hand counted as a type of star beast, because only certain star beasts can survive in such harsh environments.

As he was examining it, suddenly a rough voice came to his ear: "Little Fellow Daoist, you are really lucky!"

Lu Ye followed the voice and looked up, only to see a figure rapidly approaching from not far to the side, the spirit force fluctuations on the person showed their Moon Jade cultivation level.

In the blink of an eye, the person speaking stood a short distance in front of Lu Ye, revealing their form.

It was a burly middle-aged man with a face full of stubble, tall and strong, with a bold face, and a pair of extremely lively big eyes staring at the dead fish in Lu Ye's hand, seemingly very interested in it.

Lu Ye couldn't help but be cautious.

The burly man obviously noticed this as well, and smiled slightly: "Little Fellow Daoist, no need to be nervous, though the All Phenomena Ocean has no law, there are still unwritten rules; under ordinary circumstances, those of higher cultivation won't easily make a move against those of lower cultivation."

"Not nervous." Lu Ye's words contradicted his heart.

"Did you catch this White Spirit?"

Lu Ye nodded.

"How did you catch it barehanded?" The burly man looked curious.

Lu Ye couldn't really explain the truth, so he made up something on the spot and gestured carelessly: "I was watching the sea, it came out to watch me, I got startled, and gave it a punch!"

The burly man was taken aback by Lu Ye's vivid gestures, and couldn't help but be amazed: "All these years in the All Phenomena Ocean, I've never seen anyone catch a White Spirit like this, Little Fellow Daoist, you are truly lucky."

Seeing that he genuinely seemed to have no malice, Lu Ye asked humbly: "Is this called White Spirit?"

The burly man nodded: "White Spirit Salmon, it counts as a type of star beast only found in the All Phenomena Ocean, naturally fragrant, with delicate flesh, can be cooked or made into elixirs. If cooked, it can purify spirit force, enhance the physical body, if made into elixirs, it can greatly increase the efficacy of elixirs, and several great elixirs use parts of the White Spirit's body as the main ingredient, especially the swim bladder and fish eyes are the most precious!"

Lu Ye truly didn't know this thing was so useful, he just thought it was an ordinary star beast earlier and almost threw it away.

He also vaguely realized one thing: "If I take this thing out to sell, won't it be worth quite a bit?"

The man explained that this thing could be cooked or made into elixirs, which was extremely beneficial to cultivators and also the main ingredient for several great elixirs, so the price shouldn't be cheap.

"Very valuable!" The burly man nodded solemnly, "A single White Spirit, depending on appearance and size, ranges from several thousand to tens of thousands of spirit jade!"

Lu Ye was startled, he realized that this White Spirit was valuable, but didn't expect it to be this valuable! Knowing that a spirit treasure is only a few thousand spirit jade, isn't this saying a single White Spirit equals a spirit treasure?

Calming his mind: "This one in my hand then?"

The burly man said: "The one in your hand, if it were intact, could sell for four to five thousand spirit jade without a problem, but unfortunately, the fish head is lost, so the price needs to be discounted, since the fish eyes and brain are extremely valuable medicinals." Suddenly changing the topic: "Little Fellow Daoist, are you willing to part with this White Spirit?"

"How much can Fellow Daoist offer?" Lu Ye asked.

"Two thousand six hundred jade!" The burly man directly offered a price, clearly with some consideration.

Two thousand six, not a low price, mainly this was something obtained for free, Lu Ye was pleasantly surprised, earlier he was worrying about spirit jade, didn't expect to get a windfall like this.

"Sold!" Lu Ye decisively said.

The burly man was slightly startled, then laughed and said: "It seems you are new here, aren't you afraid I might give a random low price and rip you off?"

Lu Ye said: "Fellow Daoist explained so much to me, having seen that I'm new here, if you really wanted to rip me off, you could've just offered a few hundred spirit jade, why bother with such a high price?"

The burly man laughed heartily: "Little Fellow Daoist, you are straightforward! I won't lie to you, today I need to host a guest and lack a main dish, so I was planning to go to the Angling Island to see if I could acquire a White Spirit, but the anglers there were unlucky and none had any fish, so I left disappointed, only to see that you had a White Spirit halfway back, it's my luck and yours, White Spirits are something I often buy, if you took this one to sell, it'd fetch a top price of two thousand five hundred jade!"

It was precisely because he urgently needed to buy a White Spirit for the banquet that the burly man was willing to offer Lu Ye one hundred extra jade.

Lu Ye understood in his heart: "I must thank you, Fellow Daoist!"

He felt a sense of emotion, this vast All Phenomena Ocean, with so many cultivating people; some toil and risk their lives for spirit jade, while others can spend thousands of spirit jade on a fish without batting an eye.

Truly, the stink of meat and wine at the rich man's gate, while there are frozen bones lying on the road.

The burly man descended, exchanged two thousand six hundred jade with Lu Ye, and the deal was settled.

"Fellow Daoist, you mentioned Angling Island earlier. What kind of place is that?" Lu Ye asked curiously.

The burly man said, "It's a place where anglers gather. Because the White Spirit Salmon is extremely rare and precious, there's a group of people on this side of the All Phenomena Ocean who specialize in fishing for White Spirit Salmon for a living. Angling Island is their gathering place."

The burly man seemed to have seen through Lu Ye's intentions, kindly advising him: "If Little Fellow Daoist finds it interesting, you can go observe a bit. It's an unoccupied island and allows free passage, but I must advise you lightly, don't easily get involved. Among those anglers, there's a saying that's quite true."

"What saying?"

The burly man gave him a deep look: "Fishing ruins three generations, playing fish ruins a lifetime! Some people enter this field by chance, yet end up losing both money and themselves."

What kind of saying is that? Lu Ye was somewhat puzzled.

But the burly man seemed to have seen many people like Lu Ye and knew some things must be personally experienced to understand, others' advice is futile. He laughed and said: "But if you have another harvest next time, you could directly come to Dali Island to find me. I purchase White Spirit Salmon in large quantities for a long time! Just say you're looking for Qih Pingyang when you get to Dali Island, and I'll give you the best price!"

Lu Ye remembered his name and the direction he pointed to Dali Island.

Qih Pingyang left, and according to him, once the White Spirit Salmon leaves the sea, it must be processed as soon as possible; otherwise, whether for cooking or making elixirs, its effectiveness would greatly diminish.

Watching Qih Pingyang's figure disappear, Lu Ye took out his star map to inspect, and indeed found a place named Angling Island on it.

Having nothing else to do, he took off and flew towards it, ready to check things out.

His biggest problem at the moment was the lack of spirit jade. Cultivation requires spirit jade, and while the fuel reserves for his Talent Tree were temporarily adequate, since there are channels for replenishment here, the more reserves, the better, to prevent being unable to find any means to replenish when needed later.

So no matter how much spirit jade he has, it's never enough.

Originally, he was contemplating where to find money, but capturing a White Spirit Salmon by chance gave him a direction.

The capture of the White Spirit Salmon earlier was due to luck, but he can't rely on having such good luck every time. And even if he had that luck, continually presenting White Spirit Salmon is hard to explain; if noticed by those with intentions, he might potentially expose his secret for lingering long in the All Phenomena Ocean.

This could very likely happen; if White Spirit Salmon wasn't so valuable, it wouldn't matter. But since a single White Spirit Salmon is worth thousands to tens of thousands of spirit jade, who wouldn't be tempted?

In a place like the All Phenomena Ocean, no amount of caution is too much.

He now only has a vague idea in his mind, not a concrete plan on how to proceed; no matter what, first, he needs to visit Angling Island to see the situation.

After flying for half a day, he slowly approached Angling Island.

Reaching this point, scattered anglers standing on the reefs wielding their fishing gear could already be seen, fishing patiently.

Judging by their motionless stance, it seemed they weren't having much success.

The closer he got, the more anglers there appeared to be.

The All Phenomena Ocean is a place full of opportunities and chances, gathering potent cultivators from numerous Star Systems; every day, a large amount of goods is transported and consumed here. Naturally, the daily consumption of spirit jade in such a place is enormous. Some people are so poor they can't guarantee cultivation resources, while others are rich enough to treat White Spirit Salmon worth thousands of spirit jade as appetizers.

It's safe to say every cultivator new to this place has dreamt of sudden wealth for a night!

And angling happens to satisfy these cultivators' simple and honest pursuit, because compared to other ways to get rich, angling is relatively low-barrier yet highly rewarding.

Of course, it's also risky!

Otherwise, Qiu Pingyang wouldn't have said things like "fishing ruins three generations, playing fish ruins a lifetime" to Lu Ye.

Yet cultivators often take interest in matters with high risk and rewards, especially those who are young and inexperienced. They tend to think of themselves as particularly talented, that nothing is arduous for them, and they will undoubtedly succeed, only to get beaten by reality and eventually have to accept their fate quietly.

But throughout history, such people are numerous beyond count, with one generation following another; when some exit, more join. Since the existence of the All Phenomena Ocean, the group of anglers has never disappeared. Especially in recent years, it's shown an escalating trend of growth.

Because the price of the White Spirit Salmon has been continuously soaring, attracting even more people to join the ranks of anglers.

Chapter 1389 What Do You Think My Name Is?

Angling Island is not small, at least larger than most Spirit Islands Lu Ye has seen, but in fact, it is a deserted island, unclaimed by any power.

The main reason is naturally that there are no Spirit Jade Veins on this island, so it holds no value to occupy.

In the All Phenomena Ocean, there are many deserted islands like Angling Island, some of which have become bases for certain powers or groups, not allowing others to enter freely, otherwise, it would be considered provocation.

However, the angler organization has always been extremely loose from ancient times to the present, so entry and exit are not forbidden here.

When Lu Ye arrived, he saw a lot of people gathered around, those quietly standing on the island's edge with fishing gear in hand, eyes fixed on a certain spot on the sea, undoubtedly the anglers currently fishing.

There were also some not fishing, but wandering and observing around. Lu Ye estimated these people should be like himself, interested in the matter and came to observe.

The positions where the anglers stood were very dispersed, each person being at least a hundred zhang away from others. The cultivators observing nearby also never got close to them, maintaining a distance of a hundred zhang while watching.

It was clear that everyone here, whether anglers or onlookers, were quietly abiding by an unwritten rule.

Lu Ye looked around, then casually chose an angler, hovering a hundred zhang to his side, ensuring the other party's peripheral vision could see him.

It's not good to stand behind them, as doing so easily incites hostility. In the same way, if someone kept staring at Lu Ye from behind, he wouldn't be pleased.

Although he didn't really understand the rules here, he at least understood basic social etiquette.

The angler was a young man, handsome and poised, truly a good-looking person. He stood by the shore, holding fishing gear in one hand and a small wine gourd in the other, occasionally taking a sip, looking very leisurely and carefree.

Lu Ye had his reasons for choosing this angler to observe.

Though young, he had interacted with many people and could generally judge whether a stranger was easy to get along with at first sight.

The young man's appearance was very calm, seemingly easy to get along with, at least ensuring that Lu Ye wouldn't be chased away while observing!

Another reason, the way this person drank from the wine gourd reminded Lu Ye of his Fourth Senior Brother Li Baxian, who was also so charming. To such a person, Lu Ye had a natural sense of closeness.

Sure enough, the other party sensed his presence nearby, just glanced over, nodded slightly in acknowledgment, and had no intention of driving him away.

He fished quietly, while Lu Ye observed quietly.

Time passed.

Lu Ye discovered a problem, which is that White Spirits are really hard to catch!

On the entire Angling Island, there were at least several hundred people fishing like the young man, but in more than half a day of watching, no one caught anything.

No wonder Qiu Pingyang said he came to Angling Island but couldn't buy any fish. Seeing this situation, the difficulty of catching a White Spirit is undoubtedly very high.

This is probably one of the reasons why White Spirits are so expensive.

This creature lives in the All Phenomena Ocean, ordinary cultivators don't dare to venture deep to capture them, only relying on this kind of fishing method, with very low success rates, leading to the scarcity value phenomenon.

Another half-day passed, yet the entire Angling Island still had no harvest.

At a hundred zhang from Lu Ye, the young man suddenly tilted his wine gourd, then turned to Lu Ye and asked, "Fellow Daoist, do you have any wine?"

Lu Ye was taken aback for a moment, then nodded, "Yes!"

Saying this, he flashed to the young man's side and took out some jars of wine from his storage ring.

He usually didn't drink alcohol himself, unless having a small gathering with friends, so generally, he wouldn't buy wine to keep in stock. The wine in his storage ring was all spoils of war from killing others, of various origins and quality.

Lu Ye took out more than a dozen jars consecutively, prompting the young man to quickly say, "That's enough! Fellow Daoist is too generous. How much do these cost?"

Lu Ye waved his hand, "Consider it a gift!"

Just some alcohol, nothing of significant value.

The young man smiled and didn't refuse, "Then thank you for the kindness, Fellow Daoist!"

Saying this, he handed the fishing gear to Lu Ye, "Help me watch this for a moment!"

Lu Ye instinctively took the fishing rod, standing there woodenly, then watched as the young man poured the wine into his wine gourd jar by jar.

"Fellow Daoist, you've been observing here for some time, have you noticed anything remarkable?" the young man asked while busying himself.

Lu Ye thought about it and said, "It seems like Fellow Daoist isn't seriously fishing..."

The reason for saying this is mainly because this young man was different from the other anglers. In Lu Ye's observations, the other anglers all looked as if facing a great enemy, tightly focused as if ready to reel in a catch at any moment, not even diverting their gaze.

But the young man's fishing posture was much lazier, sipping small sips of wine, glancing here and there... especially when a female cultivator passed nearby, his gaze was inevitably drawn away!

The other anglers were all quiet, yet he didn't mind at all. At this moment, he was engrossed in conversation with Lu Ye, unafraid of scaring away the fish.

Hearing what Lu Ye said, the young man couldn't help but burst into laughter, shaking his head and saying leisurely, "When there are fish, we fish; when there are none, we entertain ourselves. Free and at ease, without the worries of those before us, nor the troubles of those today. Only in this way can one truly attain the great way of angling!"

Lu Ye's eye twitched; it was just fishing, no need to bring in grand philosophies.

However, he began to find the young man's carefree nature increasingly appealing.

Turning the conversation, the young man said, "By the look of you, Fellow Daoist, it seems you're interested in angling? Since I've drunk your wine, if you have any questions, feel free to ask!"

He was certainly someone who understood the ways of the world, taking Lu Ye's fine wine for free and intentionally offering some guidance in return.

Lu Ye naturally didn't hold back and started asking him about the nuances of angling.

It was then that he realized that fishing here was not as simple as he had imagined.

First of all, the tackle was quite particular, specially crafted for use here. You couldn't just come with any fishing rod; the fishing line, in particular, was made of the extremely pure origin magnetic ore. This allowed it to soak in seawater for extended periods. Otherwise, using ordinary spiritual objects, the line would quickly corrode and wouldn't last long.

However, the main problem with fishing lines made from origin magnetic ore was the lack of toughness, making them prone to snapping.

This means that when hooking a fish, you can't be too forceful when lifting the rod. If you are, the line snaps and the fish escapes. Bringing the fish in requires skill; you must slowly tire the fish out, bringing it to the surface before using a tool to scoop it up, thus securing the catch.

The bait is also specially made, an elixir pill specifically for fishing. It's not like you can just hang an earthworm on the hook as in the mortal world.

Furthermore, while angling, one must stay completely focused, sensing the fishing line's movements through the rod. White Spirit consumes the bait in the blink of an eye; there's no point in lifting the rod too early, and if too late, the bait's gone and the fish escapes.

This explained why Lu Ye saw the anglers focused as though facing a great enemy; they were all concentrating on sensing the line's movements.

One could say that fishing here is an incredibly arduous task, requiring undivided attention, no less intense than the state of cultivation.

As the young man explained, Lu Ye felt and realized it was indeed as he said; his own Mental Consciousness, through the extension of the rod, could clearly detect the small movements of the line.

The young man explained in detail, and Lu Ye found it very beneficial. He was indeed lucky to meet someone willing to share such insight; otherwise, figuring it out on his own would have wasted a lot of time.

"Fishing is indeed interesting and can lead to sudden wealth, but Fellow Daoist must be cautious, as this field is not to be entered lightly." The young man offered kindly advice as he took the rod from Lu Ye's hands.

Lu Ye nodded, "I understand; fishing can impoverish three generations, playing with fish can ruin a lifetime!"

The young man laughed, "So, Fellow Daoist has heard of this saying, that's good. It's no exaggeration but a reality that happens every year. Some come seeking sudden wealth and end up not only delaying their cultivation but also wasting all their investments. If you're ready for this possibility and still decide to join, you can tell me, and perhaps I can offer a little help."

"What do you mean?" Lu Ye was puzzled.

The young man said, "Some have already left this field but still have their tackle. I can help you purchase them at a bargain, saving you from buying new ones."

Lu Ye's eyes lit up, "That would be much appreciated, Fellow Daoist."

The young man asked, "You really want to buy?"

"Naturally!" Lu Ye nodded earnestly.

"I'll make contact; you can also inquire about the specific price. While I can't guarantee anything, I can help you procure it at about seventy percent of the usual price." Saying this, he took out an audio talisman to communicate, evidently to contact the sellers of the fishing gear.

Lu Ye certainly didn't fully trust him, not avoiding anything, and began contacting Fang Wanli to check the market prices right in front of him. After a moment, he had a clear idea.

Fang Wanli also advised him against lightly joining the ranks of anglers, purely out of goodwill.

After a while, the young man said, "A set of fishing gear, including a rod, three lines, a dip net, three thousand spirit jade. Is that acceptable?"

Lu Ye calculated a bit; this price was indeed not expensive. Based on the market information he got from Fang Wanli, such a set would cost around four thousand spirit jade.

He immediately nodded, "It's acceptable!"

The young man said, "Then I'll have them sent over; they're nearby!" and sent another message.

"How should I address you, Fellow Daoist?" Lu Ye asked.

The man had been so helpful and affable that Lu Ye naturally wanted to know his name. After all, they might end up as companions in the same field, battling side by side here in the future.

The young man smiled serenely, "In the mortal world, those who wield sabers and swords are saber users and swordsmen!"

He lifted the rod in his hand, "On Angling Island, those who hold rods are anglers!"

He then patted a gourd hanging on the other side of his waist, "What do you think I should be called?"

Lu Ye looked at the gourd, then at him and hesitated, "Gourd... bearer?"

Chapter 1390 Heavy Losses

Sure, here's the translation:

The young man's name was certainly not Piao Ke, but was called Piao Ke!

Lu Ye wondered what his parents were thinking to give him such a name, or perhaps he found it amusing and changed it later; it's not something Lu Ye needed to verify.

By reporting his own name, he truly got to know Piao Ke.

Of course, he used the name Li Taibai as a pseudonym. Given the complex and diverse origins of people in the All Phenomena Star System, he dared not use the name Lu Ye from the Nine Heavens World. If someone later asked about his background, he would surely report it as from the Unparalleled Continent.

In Tang Jun's knowledge, he was Li Taibai of the Unparalleled Continent.

After a moment's wait, a stream of light flashed by from the side and directly landed not far away, revealing a petite figure.

The newcomer was a woman with wheat-colored skin and a neat physique, but her face was obscured by a veil. That veil was evidently a remarkable spirit treasure, capable of blocking Mental Consciousness's prying.

She wore little, with her calves and even parts of her arms exposed. What caught Lu Ye's attention was the strange and complex patterns spread across the bare skin.

Specter Race!

Lu Ye immediately recognized the woman's heritage; the strange complex patterns weren't artificial rune tattoos but the manifestation of Specter Race bloodline.

"Are you buying?" the Specter Race woman directly looked at Lu Ye and asked.

Lu Ye immediately understood; this was the person Piao Ke had contacted earlier to sell fishing gear. He hadn't expected her to be from the Specter Race, and a woman, too!

Because, while there were many people fishing here, women were still a rare sight; among hundreds of people, there were fewer than twenty.

Oddly enough, Piao Ke's glance at this woman was surprisingly direct. Any female cultivator passing by earlier would undoubtedly be trailed by his gaze, especially if they had a good figure; he focused particularly intently on them.

"It's me." Lu Ye nodded.

"Is the price settled? I won't lower it!" the Specter Race woman turned to Piao Ke.

Piao Ke smiled slightly: "Rest assured about my work; just as you said, three thousand spirit jade."

The Specter Race woman sighed deeply and directly reached her hand toward Lu Ye: "Pay up!"

Lu Ye wasn't going to indulge her and said flatly: "Show me the goods first!"

The Specter Race woman tilted her head and tossed him a storage ring: "Everything's inside; check for yourself."

Lu Ye did a quick inspection, confirmed the goods were correct, and then handed over the prepared storage ring to her.

The Specter Race woman completed her check, sighed deeply again, and swore: "Damn, finally sold it; this thing was really a headache for me!" She said, glaring at Piao Ke: "My mind must've been messed up earlier to be cheated by your sweet talk!"

Piao Ke looked speechless: "I advised you not to be impulsive. You insisted on joining because you saw the fast money in this; blaming me now is simply unreasonable!"

"Anyway, it's your fault! If you hadn't caught a White Spirit back then, I wouldn't have stepped into this trap!" As she spoke, she turned to Lu Ye, eyes curved, and patted his shoulder: "From now on, you are my specter heartfelt friend. If you want to ambush someone, send me a message and take a twenty percent discount!"

And just like that, they became heartfelt friends?

However, what Lu Ye noted was something else: "Fellow Daoist, what's your name?"

"Specter! Why? Heard of my name?"

"No, no! It's the first time hearing it, I found it quite novel."

Lu Ye hadn't heard of Specter, but he did know Youping...

Both being Specters and all female, Lu Ye guessed they might be related somehow; even though the stellar space was vast, it wasn't very big.

"Got an audio talisman? Bring it over." Specter was very familiar as she extended her hand to Lu Ye.

Lu Ye didn't really want to give it to her, but couldn't refuse, so he took out his own audio talisman. Specter took it, quickly left her mark, and tossed it back to Lu Ye: "Remember, twenty percent off!"

With that said, she swayed away, quite carefree.

After Specter departed, Lu Ye began taking out the fishing gear, and with Piao Ke's guidance, attached a set of fishing lines to the rod, tied the hook properly.

Piao Ke also gifted him two bait pills, and Lu Ye thanked him, hung the bait pill on the hook, preparing to try his hand.

Glancing around, ready to find a suitable location, Piao Ke said: "If you don't mind, stay here. It'd be convenient to ask me if you have any questions."

Lu Ye thanked him, positioned himself ten meters away, and cast his line and bait.

Though it was his first time handling it, the process was a bit clumsy, yet he had observed for a while before and understood the procedure, knowing he should focus on sensing the movement of the fishing line now.

Despite no one on Angling Island catching anything that day, the fish took bait quite frequently. Occasionally, someone would lift their rod and reel in, even if they had to let the fish go due to various reasons.

Lu Ye's bait had been in the water for just under thirty minutes when he felt movement on the fishing line. Imitating others, he gently lifted the rod, distinctly feeling the line tighten a bit, and saw an elixir pill nicked at the edge by fish bites as it emerged from the water.

"You need to rehook. Although the White Spirit has no spiritual intelligence, its sense of danger is still very keen. If the hook is exposed, it will never bite the bait." Piao Ke carefully explained beside him.

Lu Ye followed suit and cast the bait again.

Several hours later, Lu Ye reeled in one last time, staring at the empty hook with a helpless expression.

Just by watching, he realized that fishing here was extremely difficult, but actually doing it revealed that it was not just generally difficult.

Over these few hours, he had two experiences of catching a fish, but the first time, he pulled the rod too hard and the fishing line snapped, letting the fish escape.

The second time, taking lessons from the past, the line didn't break, but during the duel of wits and courage with the White Spirit, it still got off the hook.

After several hours, he had consumed two bait pills, a set of fishing lines, and also lost a hook... which was a significant loss.

"Don't rush. Keep trying and you'll succeed eventually." Piao Ke's comforting voice rang beside him as Lu Ye stored all his fishing gear into his storage ring. Surprised, Piao Ke said, "Giving up already?"

Lu Ye shook his head, "I'm out of bait. Need to go back and buy some. Where should I go for that?" He couldn't always rely on others. Though Lu Ye didn't know how much spirit jade a single crafted bait pill cost, he imagined it wasn't cheap. Piao Ke managed to give him two pills out of kindness, and naturally, it's inappropriate to keep using others' resources.

They were strangers, but the previous help he had received had already been a significant assistance.

Moreover, time-wise, Lu Ye should make a trip to the All Phenomena Merchants Guild to retrieve his Boulder Mountain Saber.

"There's plenty for sale at the All Phenomena Merchants Guild."

Lu Ye nodded, bid farewell to Piao Ke, and swiftly dashed out of Angling Island.

He sped along the way, and two days later, Lu Ye returned to All Phenomena Island and effortlessly found his way to the All Phenomena Merchants Guild.

Before coming, he had already sent a message to Cao Xiang. Upon arriving, Lu Ye went straight to the previous elegant room.

Cao Xiang was waiting; seeing Lu Ye arrive, he greeted him first, pointing at the items on the table, "Fellow Daoist Li, the saber is here, please inspect it!"

Lu Ye picked up the Boulder Mountain Saber, unsheathed it, infused spirit force, and felt it carefully. After a moment, he nodded slightly, "It's good."

The cracks on the long saber were all gone, and the blade had no hidden damage. The artifact refiners at the All Phenomena Merchants Guild indeed had commendable skills.

"If the inspection is finished, please return the jade slip that was taken last time."

Lu Ye had forgotten about this, quickly took out the jade slip and handed it over.

Cao Xiang examined it, confirmed the jade slip was correct, and pointed to a jade box on the table, "Here are the bait pills you need, twenty in a box."

"What's the price?" Lu Ye asked.

"Each bait pill is priced at one hundred jade!"

Even though Lu Ye had prepared himself mentally, he couldn't help but be secretly surprised. No wonder there's such talk circulating among anglers, fishing consumes much more spirit jade than one would imagine!

Just looking at his previous few hours of fishing, he consumed two hundred jade...

If one were to fish for a whole day, assuming a consumption rate of one bait pill every hour, it's four pills a day, worth four hundred jade!

This hasn't even counted the wear and tear on fishing lines and hooks, and is only the expense of a single day.

If there's fruitful yield during this time, one can profit considerably. But if there's a long period without harvest, it's hard for anyone to persist. That specter looked like it was about to fish into bankruptcy. Probably because it had bought lots of fishing lines and bait pills.

Twenty bait pills require an input of two thousand spirit jade, roughly equivalent to the price of a spirit treasure.

Previously, he unintentionally caught a White Spirit which only sold for two thousand six hundred jade; investing twenty bait pills might not necessarily yield a catch.

If the expenditure on fishing gear is considered, it's a total of five thousand spirit jade!

Lu Ye now had only a little over a hundred jade left, naturally unable to pay, and had no choice but to produce an unused spirit treasure.

He had about five to six unused spirit treasures on hand, originally set aside for emergencies, to be consumed by the sword gourd when needed. Now, they could only be used for urgent needs.

With slight hesitation, Lu Ye simply took out all the useless spirit treasures and laid them on the table, "Estimate the price."

The spoils of war could be won anew in the future. When the time comes, there's no hurry to let the sword gourd consume them. Right now, he really needed more spirit jade.

Cao Xiang, being the person responsible for transactions with guests at the guild, naturally had seen major deals. The pricing of a few spirit treasures was swiftly calculated.

Six spirit treasures, varying in quality, totaled only thirteen thousand jade or so.

This price was doubtlessly much lower than what Lu Ye had anticipated.

Cao Xiang noticed his concern and explained with a smile, "Fellow Daoist Li, the value of spirit treasures ultimately depends on whether there is demand for them. Our guild assumes the risk that they might not sell when purchasing spirit treasures, potentially losing money. Therefore, the guild has stringent requirements for the purchasing price, generally offering only sixty percent of the value. If Fellow Daoist Li finds this unsuitable, you could sell them to external shops or the flea market, where prices might be slightly higher, but not significantly so."