

Humanity 1401

Chapter 1401 Not a Good Person, But One of Us

In the cave, Lu Ye and Ma Bin sat facing each other, conversing. Most of the time it was Lu Ye talking while Ma Bin listened intently. As the conversation grew lively, Ma Bin took out wine and drank heartily, his expression full of delight.

A few days passed by quickly.

Ma Bin finished the last jug of wine, wiped his mouth, and said, "Alright then, since Nine Provinces are still somewhat peaceful, an old concern of mine has been eased. It's getting late, I should be on my way."

Saying so, he rose to his full height.

Even when seated, Lu Ye felt that he was mighty in stature, but standing up, he appeared even more imposing.

Lu Ye didn't know where Ma Bin was headed or what he intended to do, but couldn't help asking, "Is there any way I can assist you, elder?"

Ma Bin chuckled, "The task I have is not something you can handle, nor do you need to be involved."

Looking at the young and vibrant face in front of him, Ma Bin's expression grew solemn as he advised, "Remember, from now on, you do not know me, and I do not know you. Our meeting here never happened."

Both were smart enough that such matters need not be spelt out. Had he not been eager to understand the current state of Nine Provinces, Ma Bin wouldn't have asked Zhu Yuan to find a way to bring Lu Ye here. For people like him, even such an extremely secretive meeting carried risks.

Now that his wish was fulfilled, Ma Bin naturally wanted to avoid any association between Nine Provinces and himself.

A span of millennia is a clear divide between two eras; matters of the pre-Nine Provinces era should be handled by those from that era, without involving the later Nine Provinces.

Even if Nine Provinces faces an overwhelming enemy or enslavement, it's still better than being implicated with him.

Before this, he even subjected Lu Ye to a test through the application of pressure.

If Lu Ye had buckled at that moment and actually begged for mercy, then after inquiring about Nine Provinces' current situation, Ma Bin would have killed him to silence him.

Due to the uniqueness of Nine Provinces, people who value their lives too much cannot be allowed to roam freely, lest they unwittingly exposed Nine Provinces and bring disaster.

But Lu Ye's resolve certainly pleased him; in such a precarious situation, Lu Ye not only refused to kneel and beg for mercy, instead opting to fight desperately, which was exactly to Ma Bin's liking.

As he saw it, Nine Provinces cultivators ought to live by the creed: better to die standing than to live kneeling.

As Ma Bin walked out of the cave, Lu Ye caught sight of Zhu Yuan standing there, unharmed and with his severed arm reattached.

Given Zhu Yuan's cultivation at the Constellation Late Stage, reattaching a limb was normal, but coming back to life was not. Apparently, Zhu Yuan's supposed death was merely a deception, cleverly executed by Ma Bin to fool him.

With hands clasped behind his back, Ma Bin turned his head for one last look at Lu Ye, patted his shoulder, and earnestly said, "Live well!"

As he spoke, his body lunged forward, merging directly into Zhu Yuan's form, vanishing like a wisp of smoke!

Such magical technique left even Lu Ye in awe, finally understanding how Ma Bin had managed to create chaos in the All Phenomena Ocean yet still lay low here peacefully.

With such exquisite Black Rank Secret Technique, it would indeed be a miracle for Sun Blaze of the All Phenomena Galaxy to locate him.

Zhu Yuan summoned his starboat and ascended into the sky, with Lu Ye watching him go.

This brief journey significantly impacted him, gladdening him to realize that powerful beings from the pre-Nine Provinces era still remained.

Ma Bin's advice was deeply ingrained in his mind, clearly understanding that getting involved was unwise. Ma Bin roamed freely, having slain a Sun Blaze in the All Phenomena Ocean without a care in the world, precisely because he had no ties. If Nine Provinces were entangled with him, they'd become his weak point and constraint, which would be greatly disadvantageous for Nine Provinces.

In their several days of conversation, Ma Bin left an impression of being bold and straightforward, unrestrained by trivialities. Yet, through his conduct, Lu Ye realized he was not inherently good, having a vicious and ruthless nature.

Not a good person, but ultimately one of their own!

Returning to the cave, he found two withered corpses, those of the unfortunate Fan Yunhua and Jia Yu. They had been dragged into the cave by Ma Bin's hands, losing all vitality in an instant, even their flesh and blood turning dry, looking just like zombies from the Corpse Race.

Ma Bin ignored these two bodies, but Lu Ye couldn't leave them be.

After searching, he found a few storage rings on them, skillfully disposing of the bodies.

In no rush to leave, since the All Phenomena Ocean was in a fishing off-season, heading back wouldn't serve much purpose. Therefore, he decided to unlock the restriction locks on these storage rings here first to see if there was anything valuable.

Both these individuals were at the Constellation Late Stage, their assets shouldn't be shabby, right? Though Lu Ye was aware such expectations shouldn't be too high; cultivators who seek work on Zhaolai Island aren't exactly affluent.

Lu Ye thought of Tang Jun again, having left earlier after explaining the details and requesting travel expenses, now suddenly returning. Will the old fellow think he swindled him?

Like the storage sack, storage rings also have restriction locks, but for Lu Ye, well-versed in the Path of Spirit Runes, unlocking them wasn't hard. He had long since become proficient in this skill.

Checking one ring after another, he garnered some gains. As he expected, whether it was Fan Yunhua or Jia Yu, while they had some assets, they weren't very wealthy; together, the spirit jade from both amounted to fewer than two thousand pieces. Besides that were the necessary elixir pills for cultivation, some miscellaneous materials, and a few spirit treasures.

If those spirit treasures were sold at the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, they could roughly fetch over ten thousand spirit jades.

Though reluctant to return to the All Phenomena Ocean, it was still necessary. Despite the All Phenomena Galaxy's vastness, beyond the All Phenomena Ocean, he truly didn't know where else to go.

Just as he was preparing to leave, a fluctuation of spirit force suddenly came from outside, as if someone had descended from the sky.

Lu Ye hurriedly restrained his aura.

It wasn't that he intended to hide anything, he was just habitually cautious.

But the newcomer apparently discovered this cave too, accompanied by a light laugh, a figure abruptly barged in!

In an instant, their eyes met. Lu Ye scrutinized the newcomer coldly and was slightly surprised upon seeing his appearance, because he looked very young!

Although cultivators have various ways to maintain their looks, and the higher their cultivation, the slower they age, whether someone is genuinely young or not, experienced people can still tell a few clues.

Some may look young, but the weariness in their eyes cannot be hidden.

Some are truly young...

The one before him was the latter. Lu Ye even wondered if this guy was even twenty years old. He was dressed well, not luxurious but clearly from a notable background at a glance.

No doubt his aptitude was high, otherwise, it would be impossible to have Constellation Early Stage cultivation at this age.

In the Nine Provinces, people of this age would mostly still be struggling on the Cloud River battlefield. By comparison, even if he had an extraordinary background and no lack of cultivation resources, his cultivation at this age was undoubtedly extremely outstanding and exceptional.

The young man was initially stunned, then extremely annoyed: "How could I run into someone here? What bad luck!"

Speaking those words, he turned to leave but after walking two steps, suddenly seemed to remember something, turned around, and his youthful face made a fierce expression: "I warn you, you didn't see me, and I didn't see you, understand?"

Lu Ye gazed at him quietly.

Similar words, he'd heard twice today...

"Did you hear me? Nod if you did, or I'll be impolite!" The young man spoke, pinching his fingertips, a ray of red light blossomed from his fingertips.

It was a red talisman!

With his Constellation Early Stage cultivation, activating such a red talisman would only be able to unleash the power of a Constellation Late Stage at most, far from reaching Moon Jade, but a red talisman is still a red talisman. It further confirmed to Lu Ye that this young man came from an extraordinary background, as not just anyone would have such a treasure on them.

Glancing at the red talisman, Lu Ye nodded slightly.

Only then did the young man reveal a satisfied expression: "You've got it!"

With those words, he slipped away.

After he left, Lu Ye also tidied up his things, stood up, summoned his starboat, and left.

He had to consider how to explain this to Tang Jun, and also whether to visit the All Phenomena Merchants Guild again to see Cao Xiang. The information was inaccurate, but the spirit jades were paid. Shouldn't the All Phenomena Merchants Guild continue to investigate the Jade Conch Galaxy's information for him?

But upon careful consideration, he decided against it, because if he went to see Cao Xiang, Cao Xiang would undoubtedly ask for details he couldn't clarify.

For now, he could only leave it at that and wait for a while to see.

Following the star map's guidance, Lu Ye approached the All Phenomena Ocean.

But he soon discovered something strange; the number of cultivators coming and going on the way significantly increased, and from their posture, they seemed to be searching for something.

Initially, Lu Ye didn't pay much attention; whatever they were searching for had nothing to do with him in the end.

Until a starship blocked his starboat!

The travel artifacts used by cultivators to navigate the stellar space come in two types: starboats like the Silver Fish and the one Lu Ye now had, both fall into this category.

The other type is starships!

The Ghost Ship Lu Ye had been on before was a starship.

The biggest difference between starboats and starships lies in their offensive capabilities. The former is purely for travel, with decent defense but no active attack capabilities. They rely on the cultivators onboard to take action if needed.

However, a starship has offensive capabilities because it is equipped with assault magic arrays and attack artifacts as its Array Eye. Just from the exterior, a starship appears much more formidable.

Of course, the price is vastly different as well; starships cost at least ten times more than starboats.

In other words, the cheapest starship would require at least two hundred thousand spirit jades!

Like the Ghost Ship, if it were intact, it would cost at least a million spirit jades. Such things are not something ordinary cultivators can afford, only domains and sects with sufficient foundation can provide them.

Chapter 1402 Do You Have No Shame?

The scene when Number Nine showed Lu Ye the shocking image of the Nine Provinces being besieged by various powerful figures was vividly etched in his mind—it had been a dazzling constellation of starships gathered near the Nine Provinces.

Even though Lu Ye hadn't been in the All Phenomena Galaxy for long, he had already witnessed several starships gliding through the stellar space.

If it was just a simple interception by a starboat, Lu Ye could ignore it. After all, both were starboats—even though his was the cheapest and most basic, the other party had no capability to forcibly intercept him.

But being intercepted by a starship was a different matter. Insisting on resisting could mean that a single attack could destroy his starboat.

Stopping his starboat, Lu Ye immediately sensed a spread of mental consciousness. Three figures emerged from the starboat opposite him. Two flanked its sides to block possible escape routes, and the other headed straight towards his starboat.

Lu Ye wasn't flustered because, in the All Phenomena Galaxy, starships, these strategic killing weapons, generally belonged to the major powers of the home galaxy. They wouldn't trouble outsiders like him, lest they ruin their reputation. The most likely scenario was a routine inspection.

Indeed, after the Constellation Late Stage cultivator landed on his starboat, he clasped his fist in a courteous gesture towards Lu Ye: "Fellow Daoist, my apologies for the disturbance!"

The tone was rather polite.

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

The man seemed a bit embarrassed: "The young master of the Wanxia Sect from the Cheling World has run away from home again. We've been ordered to assist in the search, so we need to inspect Fellow Daoist's starboat for any stowaways."

Lu Ye waved a hand: "My starboat is only this big, you guys can check it yourselves."

The starboat he purchased was only worth thirty thousand spirit jade, capable of holding two or three people at most. It was transparent and unlikely to conceal anything.

The Constellation Late Stage cultivator nodded: "Apologies for the disturbance, and please understand. Also, I must inform Fellow Daoist that if you can provide any valuable clues, the Wanxia Sect is offering a reward of twenty thousand spirit jade. If you can bring back the young master, the reward is one hundred thousand spirit jade!"

It's really feast or famine. People run away from home, and this Wanxia Sect offers such a generous bounty, which clearly indicates their wealth; it's evidently a sect that doesn't lack spirit jade.

When you think about it, the local forces of the All Phenomena Galaxy live off the mountains and the sea, with such a vast All Phenomena Ocean here, receiving visitors from all directions, surely never short of funds.

"This is the young master's image message along with some physical characteristic data." As he spoke, the Constellation Late Stage cultivator handed Lu Ye a jade slip.

Lu Ye took it and, after a brief examination, nodded slightly: "I understand."

He suddenly realized that those hurried cultivators he met on the way back had likely received this message and were searching for the young master of the Wanxia Sect.

For any Constellation, the bounty from the Wanxia Sect was extremely attractive. Just providing valuable clues was worth twenty thousand spirit jade, and bringing the young master back meant a reward of one hundred thousand spirit jade.

Compared to looking for jobs on Zhaolai Island, this was undoubtedly more appealing.

"Excuse me!" The Constellation Late Stage cultivator apologized once more, intending to leave.

Lu Ye pondered slightly and called out to him: "Fellow Daoist, please wait!"

The man turned his head: "Is there anything else?"

Lu Ye said: "Since the young master ran away from home, he probably won't willingly return with someone, right? If we really find him, won't we have to confront him in combat, subdue him by force? And if he gets injured..."

The Constellation Late Stage cultivator smiled slightly: "Please rest assured about this. Senior Jiu Yan has spoken. As long as he isn't killed or left with untreatable injuries, any amount of discipline is fine. Oh, Senior Jiu Yan is the young master's mother and a Sun Blaze level expert, so Fellow Daoist need not feel any psychological burden." He paused, then continued, "However, if you truly engage the young master, be cautious, as he carries many treasures, including a red talisman given by Senior Jiu Yan. If the red talisman is activated and kills you, it'd be a pointless death!"

Lu Ye nodded slightly: "Different fates for different people. Having a Sun Blaze expert as a mother certainly allows one to act with impunity."

The Constellation Late Stage cultivator smiled without saying more, flashed away, and soon left with his companions, piloting the starship away.

Lu Ye stood in place pondering for a moment, then turned back along the path he had come.

The image message recorded in the jade slip of the young master, though different from the person he had seen on the desolate planet earlier, shared some similar features.

Especially the cultivation level; the jade slip recorded that the young master was at the Constellation Early Stage, and the young man he saw was also at the Constellation Early Stage.

Initially, he just suspected that the other might be the runaway individual, not daring to confirm it. But when the Constellation Late Stage cultivator mentioned the red talisman, Lu Ye was almost certain that the person he saw was indeed the young master of the Wanxia Sect.

As for appearance, treasure items that can alter one's appearance are quite common. When Lu Ye was active in the Nine Provinces, he even purchased some face masks.

The young master, with such a powerful backer like the Sun Blaze, what treasures couldn't he acquire?

He didn't expect that the seemingly ordinary young man he encountered was actually worth a walking one hundred thousand spirit jade! With the assurance from the young master's mother that as long as he isn't killed or left with untreatable injuries, there's no hesitation necessary.

Moreover, Lu Ye noticed that the person previously mentioned that the young master of the Wanxia Sect had run away from home... again.

This suggests that he had done this more than once.

Likely, he had previously been roughed up and brought back on other occasions.

A day later, Lu Ye returned to that desolate planet.

At a glance, he saw traces of cultivators entering and exiting from the desolate planet, evidently all searching for signs of the young master, but judging by their appearances, they had obviously found nothing.

Did he run away?

Lu Ye frowned slightly.

Since they ran away from home, it's clear they don't want to be found again. Earlier, they accidentally encountered me and feared their movements would be exposed, so leaving quickly was a normal choice.

But at that time, Lu Ye didn't know about this at all, so he wouldn't have thought to capture him on the spot.

It was a missed windfall.

But since he was already here, Lu Ye still decided to search a bit.

He skimmed low across the surface of the desolate planet, spreading out his Mental Consciousness, carefully searching, but found nothing.

That Wanxia Sect young master named Chu Shen might have truly escaped.

The desolate planet wasn't big, and with Lu Ye's current Constellation Mid-Stage cultivation, exploring the entire place would at most take four hours.

He had thought there was no hope.

Who knew that when passing by a certain area, he would notice something amiss at a glance.

This was the place where he had previously chatted with Ma Bin. There was originally a cave, but when passing by now, Lu Ye found that the cave was gone.

Such a big cave couldn't have disappeared without any reason. Even if someone destroyed it, there should be some trace left behind.

But in fact, no traces were left here.

Lu Ye hovered where the cave used to be, understanding in his heart that an Array had probably been set up here for concealment.

Moreover, the method of array setup was quite clever; otherwise, it's unreasonable for the previously investigating Constellation cultivator to have no awareness.

This meant that Chu Shen was hiding here.

A smart guy, unfortunately, outsmarted himself. He assumed Lu Ye wouldn't return after leaving, but didn't know that when Lu Ye saw him, he didn't know about the reward the Wanxia Sect had offered.

Looking down, Insight Spirit Runes constructed in his eyes, Lu Ye carefully observed and quickly saw the flaw.

Lu Ye spoke softly: "Are you coming out, or should I drag you out?"

No response.

Lu Ye didn't waste words, directly drawing out his Boulder Mountain Saber, swooping down fiercely, slashing down with a single strike!

Though there was nothing visible in front of him, when the long blade fell, it suddenly rippled out a layer of protection, a protective light screen blocking Lu Ye's strike.

An exasperated voice sounded: "You agreed so well before, and now you've come back again. Don't you have any decency?"

Clearly, they had seen Lu Ye's face.

Lu Ye ignored him, just focused on cutting through. For him, breaking this Formation wasn't difficult. The array setup was quite skillful but still inferior to him. Under the scrutiny of Insight Spirit Runes, the nodes of the big array were fully visible.

With three slashes, accompanied by an exclamation, the array collapsed.

The other party apparently never expected their carefully set Formation to be so easily broken.

The original cave was revealed, and Lu Ye landed directly at the entrance.

The exasperated voice grew more agitated, yet slightly menacing with a guilty conscience: "I warn you, don't come in, or else I won't be polite!"

Saying so, a mystic light suddenly shot out from the cave. Lu Ye, caught off guard, was hit directly, his body stiffening all of a sudden, as if an unknown restraint had bound him.

"Hahaha!" Laughter sounded as the voice's owner gradually came into view, the young man they met before, holding a treasure mirror from which the mystic light emitted.

This treasure clearly had the power to delay a person's movements. He first used words to fool Lu Ye into lowering his guard, then suddenly struck, successfully. From this alone, he was a crafty fellow.

Not surprising; someone truly dull wouldn't run away from home.

He walked up to Lu Ye, gloating: "Why come back for trouble after leaving? Just for a measly reward? Tell me, should I kill you? After all, you've found me, and if I let you go, you'll surely go to my mother to claim the reward."

"Do you want to kill me?" Lu Ye looked at him calmly.

Chu Shen showed a troubled expression: "We have no feud, I don't really want to kill you, but releasing you is not right either. How about this, become my subordinate, and follow my orders from now on!"

Saying this, he took out a long needle-like treasure, aiming it at Lu Ye's forehead: "Endure it, it'll hurt a bit, but it will be over soon."

It's unclear what this long needle was, but from his words, it seemed this thing could make Lu Ye obey.

Just when the long needle was about to stab into Lu Ye's forehead, Lu Ye suddenly raised his hand and seized Chu Shen's wrist.

Chu Shen's expression turned to surprise: "How did you..."

It didn't make sense; hit by his treasure mirror's mystic light, a Constellation Mid-Stage, at least ten breaths would be needed to regain mobility, so how could he recover so quickly?

Chapter 1403 100,000 Bounty

Chu Shen, such a figure, hailing from Wanxia Sect of Cheling World, with his birth mother being a Sun Blaze Realm expert, naturally never lacked cultivation resources from a young age, and possessed numerous Mysterious treasures.

The treasure mirror is called the Body-stiffening Mirror. As the name implies, the mystic light it emits can immobilize a person, and the speed of light activation is extremely swift. Unless one is prepared, it's impossible to avoid.

Even Lu Ye suffered a hidden loss earlier, but luckily, once the mystic light entered his body, it was instantly burned away by the Talent Tree, allowing him to regain freedom.

At this moment, he abruptly made a move to grab Chu Shen's wrist, shocking him greatly.

However, this guy's reaction was extremely swift. The look of astonishment on his face hadn't faded, and as soon as he spoke, the long needle in his other hand twitched slightly, striking like lightning towards Lu Ye's brow.

Lu Ye tilted his head while kneeing forward.

Chu Shen grunted, slightly doubling over, and the mis-struck long needle suddenly turned, aimed at Lu Ye's temple.

Judging by this reaction speed and adaptability, this guy far exceeds the average Constellation. He clearly possesses extremely rich combat experience, which took Lu Ye by surprise.

For someone of his background, reaching Constellation cultivation level at a young age usually only means empty cultivation prowess, lacking in other aspects. Yet he indeed has some skills.

Moreover, from the feedback of the brief clash between their spirit forces, his spirit force seems extremely pure.

In other words, this guy probably has the strength to battle across levels, and along with his array of Mysterious treasures, even a Constellation Mid-Stage might not fare well if careless.

But he ended up meeting Lu Ye, who was also well-versed in combat and particularly skilled in close-quarters combat.

The long needle aimed at Lu Ye's temple, and this time Lu Ye didn't dodge. Just as Chu Shen thought he had succeeded, his vision suddenly spun around. When he regained composure, he was face-down on the ground, having eaten dirt. His lower back was pinned, and one arm was twisted and held. When he attempted to resist, the wrist holding the long needle was grasped by Lu Ye and twisted fiercely...

Chu Shen spat out sand and couldn't help but curse, genuinely puzzled about whom he had encountered this time. Even if their cultivation was a level higher, he shouldn't have been subdued so effortlessly.

He quickly cried out in pain, "It hurts! Let go!"

Having caught him, Lu Ye certainly wouldn't let go. One large hand clamped onto him, while the other rummaged through his storage ring.

He recalled specifically keeping a net-type spirit treasure for capturing people. When he first arrived in this All Phenomena Star System, someone had ambushed him using this net spirit treasure.

In a moment, he found it and took out the net spirit treasure. With a quick movement forward, he enveloped Chu Shen tightly. As spirit force activated, the net tightened, and Lu Ye lifted him up like a fish caught in a net.

Chu Shen was trapped inside, unable to move his limbs, his spirit force unable to flow smoothly. His face turned green with anger, and he shouted, "A man can be killed but not humiliated! Let me go!"

Lu Ye summoned the starboat, threw Chu Shen inside, then leaped in himself, navigated the starboat skyward, and took out the star map to compare the route to Cheling World.

On the starboat, Chu Shen initially shouted for Lu Ye to release him. Seeing that Lu Ye remained unmoved, he began hurling threats, boasting about what he would do once he returned to Cheling World. Lu Ye paid no attention.

As they got closer to Cheling World, Chu Shen noticeably panicked, his tone softening, "Fellow Daoist, we have no feud. Why make things so unpleasant? You've captured me for the bounty, right? Let me pay you, and then you can release me, as if you've never seen me!"

Lu Ye, quietly consuming an elixir pill for cultivation, finally turned to look at him, saying nothing.

Seeing some hope, Chu Shen hastily continued, "Wasn't the bounty my mother posted ten thousand spirit jades? I'll give you fifteen thousand!"

The speed of the starboat suddenly decreased dramatically!

Chu Shen beamed, "A mere fifteen thousand spirit jades is nothing! Knowing my identity, you should know I have the means to provide that amount."

Switching tactics, he said, "However, I currently don't have that many spirit jades. I have only a few thousand. I can leave a treasure with you as collateral and redeem it later!"

Lu Ye immediately lost interest, turned his head back, and the starboat's speed increased again.

To be honest, when Chu Shen mentioned fifteen thousand spirit jades, Lu Ye was somewhat tempted, but after thinking it over carefully, he found it inappropriate.

Capturing Chu Shen to return to Cheling World and earn the bounty was sanctioned by the Sun Blaze Realm, and it was his rightful reward.

But if he privately made a deal with Chu Shen, capturing him yet releasing him, it wouldn't matter if it didn't get out. But if word reached Cheling World, he might offend the one called Jiu Yan, the Sun Blaze.

Not to mention, Chu Shen wanted to pawn something to him. Chu Shen's treasures were surely gifts from his mother. Who dares handle the Sun Blaze Realm's items?

So after brief consideration, Lu Ye decided it was safer to earn the bounty honestly. The Sun Blaze had already spoken, and the matter was well known, so they couldn't possibly go back on their word.

Chu Shen continued his tempting offers, eventually raising the price to twenty thousand spirit jades...

Until another starship intercepted Lu Ye's starboat. The leading cultivator, upon discovering that Chu Shen had been captured by Lu Ye, enthusiastically offered to personally escort him to Cheling World, at which point Chu Shen finally fell silent!

If my situation here isn't discovered by the cultivators of the home galaxy, there's still room for discussion with Lu Ye. But now that the home galaxy's cultivators have found out, there's no possibility of negotiating anymore.

I stay sullenly within the net, glaring angrily at Lu Ye.

Cheling World is merely considered a large domain within the All Phenomena Galaxy. Generally speaking, producing a powerful figure at the Sun Blaze level in such a domain is extremely difficult. Yet, in reality, Cheling World boasts more than one Sun Blaze expert.

The reason lies in the existence of the All Phenomena Ocean. This stellar marvel brings immense benefits to all domains within the All Phenomena Galaxy. While other cultivators need to search for resources far and wide to cultivate, the native cultivators of the All Phenomena Galaxy hardly face this issue.

With abundant resources, cultivation becomes easier, and the probability of producing powerful figures naturally increases.

The cultivators escorting Lu Ye to Cheling World aren't from this domain, yet they are acquainted with those from Cheling World. Before arriving at Cheling World, the messages had already been sent over.

Thus, as soon as Lu Ye arrived in the near vicinity of Cheling World, he saw a figure standing in wait from afar.

Judging by the spirit force fluctuations from the other side, it was clearly a Moon Jade, and a female one at that, with a notable figure.

The starboat stopped not far ahead of that Moon Jade, and Lu Ye came down holding the net that entrapped Chu Shen, then released its bindings.

Chu Shen didn't flee; mainly because, by now, escape was impossible. He drooped his head and stepped forward, bowing to the Moon Jade: "Aunt Yue."

The Moon Jade, whom he called Aunt Yue, looked Chu Shen up and down, patting the dust off him with a doting gaze: "You didn't suffer, did you? I warned you that the outside world is dangerous, yet you don't listen."

Chu Shen wore a bitter expression: "I'm Constellation now!"

Aunt Yue glared at him: "So what if you're Constellation? You're only twenty years old! Honestly, cultivate a bit longer. Wait till your realm stabilizes before setting out!"

Chu Shen looked embarrassed.

Lu Ye found it fascinating; perhaps this is the trouble of being from a major power. Nine Provinces cultivators will never experience this; being Constellation and still treated by elders like a child.

Once Aunt Yue finished admonishing Chu Shen, she looked at Lu Ye, her tone gentle: "Are you the one who captured Shen'er and brought him back?"

Although she had seen it with her own eyes, some things still needed confirmation.

"Yes." Lu Ye nodded.

"Here are a hundred thousand spirit jades as agreed upon in bounty; make sure to verify for yourself." With that, she flicked a storage ring towards Lu Ye.

Lu Ye received it, swept it with his Mental Consciousness, confirming accuracy.

Seeing this, Aunt Yue turned with Chu Shen and entered Cheling World, their figures disappearing without a trace.

Lu Ye felt slightly disappointed, as he had hoped to take advantage of escorting Chu Shen to explore Cheling World. But he hadn't expected the guardian to meet them outside the domain, eliminating any opportunity to enter.

He didn't insist.

The starship that escorted him here hadn't left, so Lu Ye, not being a rigid person, naturally knew what to do at this moment. He took out an empty storage ring, placed ten thousand spirit jades inside, and handed it to the leading Constellation: "Thanks for escorting me here, just a small token for some wine and food."

It wasn't out of intentional flattery; mainly because their escort indeed saved him a lot of trouble.

As he was escorting a figurative hundred thousand spirit jades back to Cheling World, they encountered many incoming and outgoing foreign cultivators searching for Chu Shen. His starboat wasn't large, making it easy for them to spot Chu Shen.

Without the escort of the starship, Lu Ye reckoned someone would surely attempt to snatch him. Alone, and not particularly powerful, abducting Chu Shen meant obtaining a hundred thousand spirit jades, who wouldn't be tempted?

Robbery and looting are common occurrences, not to mention snatching bounty targets.

If cornered alone, he might not have the energy to deal with Chu Shen. Once news spread, it would be unclear whose pocket the hundred thousand spirit jades would land in.

Setting aside ten percent of the bounty, as a gesture of thanks.

The Constellation glanced at Lu Ye deeply, didn't decline but simply laughed: "Fellow Daoist's generosity, then our brothers won't refuse. In the future, if you need any assistance in the All Phenomena Galaxy, feel free to call upon us."

With that, they exchanged audio talisman markings with Lu Ye, effectively acquainting themselves.

The group soon departed, tasked with patrolling the home galaxy's vicinity, they couldn't linger.

After they left, Lu Ye leisurely maneuvered the starboat, heading for the All Phenomena Ocean.

With a fresh batch of spirit jades, Lu Ye didn't plan on purchasing Dragon Breath Crystals or other fire-type treasures. Having learned from the fishing off-season's drawback, he thought it prudent to retain some spirit jades for emergent needs.

Chapter 1404 The Opening of the Constellation Palace

Angling Island of the All Phenomena Ocean, a tranquil sanctuary.

Lu Ye sat cross-legged, looking at the array disc in his hand, a contemplative expression on his face.

Since the day he sent Chu Shen back to the Cheling World and returned to the All Phenomena Ocean, two months had passed. During these two months, he had mostly remained on Angling Island.

Mainly because there was nowhere else to go; there were inns on All Phenomena Island, but they required spending Spirit Stones, and the prices weren't low.

Though Lu Ye had quite a few Spirit Stones reserved for emergencies, he was unwilling to spend them on such meaningless things.

During the fishing off-season, there weren't many people on Angling Island, and it had many concealed places, making it suitable for a cultivator like him, with nowhere to go, to stay. He randomly found a spot, set up a Formation, and it became his temporary abode.

In the past two months, aside from cultivation, Lu Ye had been continuously deducing the As-Close-As-Siblings Spirit Runes, which he hadn't completed before.

It wasn't until today that it could be considered perfected.

He had no shortage of materials to craft the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc. With prior experience, he could easily craft a piece.

Upon slightly stimulating it and investigating carefully, he found there were still some deficiencies. However, with his current proficiency in the Path of Spirit Runes, further intricate deduction wasn't feasible. He could only wait for his skill in the Path of Spirit Runes to improve in the future.

Compared to the array disc he crafted back in the Nine Provinces, the one in his hand seemed identical, but its range was undoubtedly larger and more expansive, fitting perfectly with the demands of Constellation Realm combat.

By his estimation, such an array disc should allow five or six people to fight side by side.

Five or six Constellations, connecting their auras and forming an array, could unleash remarkable strength.

It is foreseeable that if this item is released, it will inevitably cause a frenzy among the major powers!

In fact, as early as the fishing off-season, Lu Ye had considered finding a stable way to make a fortune; otherwise, relying solely on taking jobs on Zhaolai Island would hardly meet his cultivation needs. But in

this unfamiliar place without any background or backing, how difficult it was to find a way to build wealth?

Unless one had a unique skill.

He had some skills, but he was most proficient in, besides combat, the Path of Spirit Runes.

It can be said that this small As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc holds the hope for his future continuous cultivation and will undoubtedly allow him to amass considerable wealth.

With the item crafted, Lu Ye could predict its popularity, but at this moment, he dared not easily take it out.

The core issue is still the lack of strong backing and protection.

The saying goes that a common man is innocent, but harboring a treasure makes him guilty. If this array disc is leaked, Lu Ye himself will naturally become sought after, but more likely would be targeted by a major force and taken by force.

If such a situation should arise, Lu Ye's future freedom wouldn't be guaranteed; he might fear being perpetually monitored and confined, forced to laboriously craft this array disc.

According to the information he had previously gathered, besides array talismans, there are no other treasures in the current cultivation world capable of casually forming an array. However, crafting array talismans is extremely difficult, not to mention their exorbitant price. Lu Ye had once sensed the power of an array talisman in the Black Abyss of the Dwarf Race; compared to the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc, array talismans are undoubtedly more rigid, as they are symbol-based and, once activated, can only evolve one kind of array, unlike array discs which are human-oriented, capable of endless transformations as one's will dictates.

By comparison, the materials for crafting array discs are simple and less time-consuming, making their advantages obvious.

Of course, this is from Lu Ye's perspective. It may not be as easy for others to craft them, not to mention that the newly deduced As-Close-As-Siblings Spirit Runes are more complex than before. Without the Talent Tree, Lu Ye wouldn't find constructing them so effortless.

For now, the matter of the array disc can only be put aside, waiting for a suitable opportunity to sell it in the future.

After storing the newly crafted array disc, he continued with his cultivation.

The matter concerning the Jade Conch Galaxy needs to be reconsidered, but for now, except for the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, Lu Ye couldn't think of another way. He even thought about whether to go to the Reincarnation Tree area to inquire from the Reincarnation Tree.

But eventually, he did not follow through, primarily because he couldn't determine how much time it would take to travel from the Reincarnation Tree's location to the Jade Conch Galaxy.

A few years or a dozen years would be manageable, but if it took hundreds or thousands of years, that would indeed be cause for regret.

After some days, Lu Ye was cultivating when he suddenly sensed a mysterious power fluctuation radiating from a direction. Initially, he didn't care much, as disputes were common over the All Phenomena Ocean; people often started fights over the slightest disagreement, and the aftermath of battles spread in all directions.

While cultivating here, he often felt the movements of people fighting, so he was naturally accustomed to it.

But gradually, he noticed something amiss because that power fluctuation didn't seem like the usual commotion of people fighting, and its source was extremely elusive, as if very close, yet also very distant.

Lu Ye opened his eyes to perceive it, but he couldn't discern anything substantial.

Moments later, that mysterious power fluctuation became increasingly distinct. Then, an ear-shattering voice, full of boundless killing intent, abruptly echoed in his mind.

"Sharpen the blade and polish the sword, who can rival, sheath the blade to the sky, dare not to oppose."

Lu Ye suddenly turned his head, looking in a direction, the direction from which the sound came. Even during cultivation, the killing intent and battle spirit in his heart were involuntarily stirred by that strange sound, itching to find someone to fight.

Secretly alarmed, Lu Ye was unsure who had made this sound, but just by the sound, from an unknown distance, it had aroused his killing intent. Such a feat was beyond imagination.

While he was puzzled, the sky above the All Phenomena Ocean became bustling, with numerous Constellations, either alone or in groups, turning into streaks of streaming light, rushing toward the source of the sound, as if something good was happening over there.

Those with a starboat drove starboats, calling friends, while those without directly summoned ferryboats to get there too.

Leaving Lu Ye utterly confused...

But immediately after, he suddenly remembered something, hastily taking out his audio talisman, just as he was about to send a message, the audio talisman vibrated.

Upon investigation, he found that it was a message from Piao Ke.

This was indeed a telepathic connection, as he was just about to message Piao Ke to inquire, because what he realized was related to something Piao Ke had previously mentioned to him.

"The Constellation Palace has opened, do you want to go join the fun?" Piao Ke's tone was evidently a bit excited and expectant.

"Let's go!" Lu Ye replied concisely. Then the two arranged a meeting place, right on Angling Island.

Lu Ye waited quietly.

In the All Phenomena Galaxy, there are three cosmic marvels, the foremost being the All Phenomena Ocean. This is the source of prosperity for the entire All Phenomena Galaxy. It can be said that without the All Phenomena Ocean, there would be no lively All Phenomena Galaxy, and no scene of visitors from all directions.

But besides the All Phenomena Ocean, there are two other marvels in this star system.

The Constellation Palace is one of them!

Some people say it is a stellar space supreme treasure that hasn't fully evolved because from the surface, its form does look like a treasure, but it cannot be collected by anyone. From ancient times to the present, it has always been entrenched in a certain stellar space in the All Phenomena Galaxy, more like a cosmic marvel.

Throughout the ages, this Constellation Palace indeed possesses some characteristics of a stellar space supreme treasure, which is why there are rumors it is an incomplete stellar space supreme treasure.

Cosmic marvels and supreme treasures were mostly conceived when the heavens and the earth first opened. They exist as long as this stellar space has existed. Even today, many cosmic marvels and supreme treasures are still being conceived. When they will be born and whether they will be born, no one knows.

If something unforeseen happened during the conception process of the Constellation Palace, causing it to not fully evolve, it is possible.

The reason it's called the Constellation Palace is mainly that only Constellation Realm cultivators can enter this place. It can be said that every opening of the Constellation Palace is a feast for Constellation cultivators.

Lu Ye doesn't know much about the Constellation Palace, only bits he heard casually from Piao Ke while fishing together.

He has to inquire more from Piao Ke later.

After a while, a large gourd flew in from afar. Judging by its shape, it was indeed the same gourd that Piao Ke usually hung on his waist. It was also a starboat, albeit with a slightly unique design.

Lu Ye leapt onto it and found that besides Piao Ke, there was another person.

Someone he had seen before, a specter from the Specter Race.

"Isn't this my buddy who hit the jackpot?" the specter quipped casually upon seeing Lu Ye. Lu Ye had helped her out of a tight spot by buying her fishing gear back then.

But this woman was also broke, mainly because her fishing hobby led her to bankruptcy, which is why she still didn't have a starboat and had to hitch a ride with Piao Ke.

Lu Ye seriously doubted this woman was quite ugly; otherwise, with such a captivating figure, Piao Ke would have been tempted.

He nodded at the specter as a greeting, and took the opportunity to inquire about the Constellation Palace while Piao Ke maneuvered the large gourd on their journey.

With his explanation, Lu Ye learned more about the Constellation Palace.

Generally speaking, cosmic marvels hide many dangers. Any cosmic marvel, even if Sun Blaze doesn't rashly venture into it, can be dangerous.

Take the All Phenomena Ocean, for example. Usually, countless cultivators move about on it without danger, but the All Phenomena Ocean itself is the most perilous place, and no one dares to venture deep into it recklessly.

The Constellation Palace is different. Normally, it stands there, motionless, with its doors tightly shut, without any risk. This is considered the dormant period of the Constellation Palace.

But every few years, the Constellation Palace opens. When its doors open, it enters an active period.

At this time, cultivators can enter the Constellation Palace, acting under its various rules to gain some substantial benefits.

Whether it's a cosmic marvel or a stellar space supreme treasure, each has its own unique rules or principles. It is precisely these rules and principles that establish the legend and fame of the marvels and supreme treasures.

Chapter 1405 - Leaving a Name and Imprinting

The sound that Lu Ye heard earlier wasn't a real sound, but rather a resonance triggered by the mysterious forces when the Constellation Palace opened.

In other words, the sound Lu Ye heard took a certain form, but it might sound different to others, and even star beasts with limited spiritual intelligence could hear a sound unique to themselves.

When this grand, majestic sound echoed and the unique power fluctuations surged, it was the most apparent sign that the Constellation Palace was opening.

This was why the All Phenomena Ocean and even the entire All Phenomena Galaxy witnessed the grand spectacle of numerous constellations rushing to gather.

The Big Dipper Starboat flew quickly and steadily, and the three nestled inside. Though their view was obstructed, it provided a unique sense of tranquility.

Piao Ke explained while the specter occasionally added comments, allowing Lu Ye to gradually learn more about the rules of the Constellation Palace.

A few days later, the Big Dipper Starboat slowly came to a halt, and in Lu Ye's Mental Consciousness, he clearly sensed countless constellations converging in this place.

He immediately understood they had reached their destination.

The three of them swiftly exited from inside the dipper, and Lu Ye lifted his gaze to witness an incredibly stunning scene.

Amid the stellar space, a massive palace stood! This was the renowned Constellation Palace.

Named a palace, it indeed resembled a grand hall from the exterior, albeit excessively gigantic!

Each side measuring tens of thousands of miles in length and width, and thousands of miles in height, with Heaven-Reaching Divine Pillars standing outside the palace, exuding an immense and majestic aura.

Such a palace could never exist within any domain—not because it couldn't be crafted, but because there was no need to make one.

Yet, it has silently existed in this stellar space for untold millennia.

Of course, its enormity is only relative to the typical palaces known to people; as a marvel in the stellar space, its scale is actually small.

Just compare it to the All Phenomena Ocean; if it were placed there, it would merely be the size of a Spirit Island.

However, the marvel and mystery of stellar space phenomena can't be judged solely by size. The fame of the Constellation Palace might not rival the All Phenomena Ocean, but it is not far behind, especially cherished by Constellation cultivators, for its own significant reasons.

The palace isn't solid; instead, it possesses a somewhat ethereal quality, as if it were not an entity, but a projection here.

Lu Ye finally understood why rumors claimed this thing to be an incompletely evolved stellar space supreme treasure; from the exterior alone, there are indeed traces of such a treasure.

What's more mysterious—no matter from which direction you approach the Constellation Palace, what you see directly is the wide-open door in the middle!

Usually, this door is closed. It only opens when the Constellation Palace enters its active period, and no matter where cultivators come from, they face the position of the door.

At this moment, outside the Constellation Palace, the crowd surged.

Lu Ye had never seen so many constellations gathered together; although the All Phenomena Ocean also had constellations in abundance, due to its gigantic scale, they were all scattered.

Unlike here, constellations from all directions rushed in, and this was only a small fraction; some impatient ones had already charged into the Constellation Palace, while others were still observing, and many more were on their way.

It can be said that the appearance of the Constellation Palace stirred not only the constellations in the All Phenomena Galaxy but likely those in any associated Star System connected by the Insect Path.

The wide-open door resembled a beast's mouth, swallowing the figures that rushed inside, disappearing without a trace.

"Let's go!" The specter was rather impatient. Seeing Lu Ye and Piao Ke still gazing foolishly, she couldn't help urging, "What's there to see outside? You'll find the excitement inside!"

Saying so, she grabbed each of them and lunged toward the door.

The entire Constellation Palace was enveloped in a hazy starry light, making it appear ethereal, with an aura of aloofness.

The mysterious nature of this hazy starry light wasn't apparent from the outside, but as the three entered its range, the specter noticeably paused and furrowed her brows—this reaction was mirrored by Piao Ke and all cultivators around them rushing in.

It was as if they were suddenly suppressed by something...

Lu Ye found it odd; although he could sense this suppressive power, it seemed to have little effect on him, causing him some confusion.

Putting aside actual strength, in terms of cultivation, Piao Ke and the specter were both at the Constellation Late Stage, one tier higher than him, so it made no sense for them to be clearly suppressed while he felt like a gentle breeze.

Before he could ponder further, his vision went black, enveloping him in endless darkness.

The specter's hand clutching his arm disappeared, leaving him alone in the vast void.

He remained calm, as Piao Ke had previously warned him about this—every cultivator entering the Constellation Palace for the first time must undergo this process.

There's a term for it called 'Name Engraving'.

In simple terms, Lu Ye needed to leave his name here to facilitate future exploration and ranking.

A point of light ignited in front, illuminating an area of a hundred feet squared. The light flickered slightly like a candle flame.

Following Piao Ke's earlier instructions, Lu Ye raised his hand to touch the light, and in an instant, he gained many insights, understanding the various rules of leaving a name imprint.

It was basically the same as Piao Ke had introduced. It seems that even a cultivator who knew nothing about the Constellation Palace before arriving here could quickly learn what to do.

What he needed to do now was simple: leave his name and aura in this light. In this way, the Constellation Palace would be able to record it.

A true name wasn't necessary, and he could even give himself a name at will.

Lu Ye definitely wouldn't use his own name. Since leaving the Jade Conch Galaxy, he had been using the alias Li Taibai.

Using Li Taibai didn't seem too appropriate either... He felt that in the levels of rivalry in the Constellation Realm, he was not inferior to others. So if he were to use this name and then make a name for himself, it would inevitably draw the attention of many, especially those from major powers, and that would surely bring some trouble.

The Constellation Palace is the place for contention in the Constellation Realm, and also where many Constellations gain fame. In the vastness of the All Phenomena Galaxy, with so many Constellation cultivators, those who can make a name for themselves and stand out all need a channel. Those Constellations without a background or support long to soar in such occasions and, in turn, catch the eye of major forces to be recruited.

Similarly, the major forces are also eager to select promising talents in this grand event.

Now alone, Lu Ye wasn't eager to make a name for himself. He was more interested in silently making a fortune.

So he had to use a false name.

Choosing a name was also an art; it should either match one's personality or suit one's abilities.

Thinking about himself, Lu Ye had always been low-key and modest, never showing off, and he was a simple-minded combat cultivator who enjoyed wielding a blade and hacking. With that, the direction was clear.

With a thought, the light immediately recorded it.

Fa Wuzun!

The next moment, the light suddenly expanded, enveloping him whole. Lu Ye faintly felt a connection with something, realizing that what he was connected to should be the Constellation Palace.

This marked a successful name imprint.

The light gradually faded, and as his vision blurred and cleared again, Lu Ye found himself in a grand hall.

The hall was vast and filled with numerous people, all of them Constellations who had entered from outside.

This was undoubtedly the interior of the Constellation Palace. From the outside, the entire Constellation Palace appeared ethereal and intangible. When it wasn't open, cultivators could casually pass through it without obstruction or risk. But once it became active and open, many mysteries unfolded.

This grand hall was just one of them.

Before his eyes, roughly two thousand people were gathered here, and compared to the impressive sight outside the Constellation Palace, this number was hardly remarkable.

The ones gathered here were certainly not all the cultivators who entered the Constellation Palace. Such grand halls were numerous within the Constellation Palace, and this was just one of them.

Raising his eyes, Lu Ye immediately spotted a black stone tablet standing at the center of the hall. Atop the tablet, there were three large characters inscribed: Cumulated Points Ranking!

For now, the tablet surface was blank, but after a while, some names would appear on it, showcasing those elite individuals who performed well in the Constellation Palace contention.

The major powers also use this Cumulated Points Ranking to select talent.

At this moment, a cultivator flew to the front of the stone tablet, observed it for a while, and then suddenly punched out.

The punch was powerful, causing the entire hall to hum and vibrate, yet the Cumulated Points Ranking remained unmoving without even a crack appearing.

Unconvinced, the cultivator probably realized the tablet's material was extraordinary and wanted to break a piece off to sell outside. Continuously channeling power, punches rained like a storm, but after a while achieved nothing. Frustrated, he suddenly revealed his true form, which was a ferocious beast that Lu Ye couldn't recognize. It opened its fanged maw and began gnawing at the black tablet...

Lu Ye silently turned away, continuing to observe his surroundings.

In addition to the conspicuous Cumulated Points Ranking black tablet in the center, the hall's edges were lined with portals leading to unknown destinations, spaced at regular intervals.

Some impatient cultivators were already darting into these portals, disappearing to unknown places.

Looking up again, a large and distinct number fifty-six came into view on the dome above.

This fifty-six was undoubtedly a number, indicating that this was Hall Number Fifty-Six. Before Lu Ye arrived, fifty-five halls were already filled to capacity.

Assuming each hall could comfortably accommodate two thousand people moving freely, within these few days, several hundred thousand Constellation cultivators had already entered!

And this was just the beginning. Undoubtedly, more Constellations would arrive upon hearing the news.

While not daring to say too much, for such a grand event, having a million Constellations participate was the bare minimum. Just thinking about it was an incredibly daunting thing.

Chapter 1406 - First Battle, First Victory

Looking around, he didn't see any sign of Piao Ke and the specter. Those two were probably sent to other halls, and there's no need to look for them. In this Constellation Palace, there are few occasions that require active cooperation; most of the time, cultivators operate solo.

From Piao Ke and the specter, he became familiar with the various rules of the Constellation Palace, but familiarity is one thing; personal experience is another.

Lu Ye walked straight to a gateway, ready to explore deeper.

Before leaving, he thought for a moment, put away his Boulder Mountain Saber, and changed into a looser outfit. Speaking of which, these clothes weren't originally his. His own clothes were more form-fitting, suitable for combat cultivators close combat. This piece was spoils from defeating an enemy—unsure which unfortunate soul it belonged to.

Wearing it added a touch of elegance and approachability.

Stepping forward, he walked into the portal, simultaneously activating the Thousand Faces Spirit Runes to change his appearance. Since he adopted an alias, naturally his looks also needed alteration, to avoid being recognized by those who knew him. Otherwise, if everyone subsequently learned Fa Wuzun was Li Taibai, his disguise would lose its purpose.

It was like passing through a thin membrane; his mind was inexplicably filled with new information. Lu Ye probed briefly and found that the information detailed what he needed to do next, the type of arena he entered, and even his opponent's name!

The information was quite comprehensive.

The source of the information was needless to say; it obviously came from the Constellation Palace.

When Lu Ye's vision was restored to clarity, he found himself standing on a floating land.

This should be a starry sky, with stars twinkling all around and a big sun shining brightly in the distance, its light piercing.

The floating land was sizable, enough for a Constellation cultivator to maneuver.

Lu Ye appeared at the edge of the floating land and immediately saw a person standing at the opposite edge, about 30 miles away—a Constellation named Qin Jiang.

This was his opponent for this round, and it was the simplest and most direct arena match!

In the Constellation Palace, cultivators face various scenarios; arena matches are just one among many. Generally speaking, when cultivators first enter the Constellation Palace, before they are fully familiar, they undergo several arena matches before encountering other scenarios.

Of course, cultivators have no choice about what scenario they will encounter. Everything is dictated by the rules of the Constellation Palace.

Qin Jiang appeared to be a young person of similar age to Lu Ye, with a cultivation also at mid-stage. This follows the potential rule of the Constellation Palace, attempting to arrange opponents of similar cultivation to ensure a fair contest.

However, if someone has cultivation but lacks strength, the Constellation Palace may adjust their opponent accordingly, and vice versa.

In short, the rules of the Constellation Palace are mysterious and complex. Over many years, the Constellation Palace has been activated numerous times, and generations of cultivators have tried to study its mysteries to find some patterns to capitalize on, but they've never found any significantly valuable clues.

About 30 miles away, Qin Jiang stood firm, glanced distantly at Lu Ye, and paid him little mind, focusing instead on familiarizing himself with his surroundings while testing the vicinity.

Lu Ye was doing the same, as participating for the first time required understanding many things.

In this regard, the two opponents seemed to have telepathic understanding.

Soon, Lu Ye discovered he was unharmed and verified that it was truly his real self here. He also explored the scope of this arena match.

The position of the floating land defined the boundary. When he tried to fly off the floating land, he couldn't; an imperceptible barrier enveloped the area, preventing escape.

Whether this was a real position in the starry sky or an internal space of the Constellation Palace, Lu Ye couldn't determine. The latter seemed more likely.

On the other side, Qin Jiang had already activated his spirit force and moved this way.

From his attire and style, it was clear he wasn't a magic cultivator. As for which sect he belonged to, Lu Ye couldn't ascertain, but regardless, except for magic cultivators, others needed to narrow the distance between.

Without hesitation, he cast a spell.

Surprisingly, it was the Fire Dragon Technique, unused for quite some time.

When the light shone, Qin Jiang still had a look of disdain...

The arrangement of a hundred-mile-long arena by the Constellation Palace was deliberate, because such a distance was beyond the reach of mid-stage Constellation attacks.

Typically, only those who reached the Late Stage of the Constellation's cultivation would have methods to strike across such distances, barely causing some damage.

Thus, a hundred-mile arena was plenty for two mid-stage Constellation cultivators to maneuver.

Qin Jiang naturally assumed the opponent, Fa Wuzun, was merely showing off, but such gestures only wasted one's spirit force without any practical effect.

However, when the blazing fire dragon with unquenchable momentum charged forward, Qin Jiang was taken aback. Hastily stabilizing himself, he shouted in anger, blood Qi surging, and threw a punch forward.

This guy didn't look burly, but it was evident he followed the path of a physique cultivator.

He didn't choose to evade because evasion was pointless. Cultivators in the Cloud River Realm could already control spirit force beyond their bodies, let alone in the Constellation Realm. Even if he dodged the fire dragon initially, Lu Ye could continue to control it to pursue.

The flames exploded, the fire dragon dissipated, and Qin Jiang only felt an enveloping searing heat, causing his form to sway involuntarily.

His face was full of shock, because at this moment he was more than seventy miles away from the opponent!

Such an attack range is simply not something a Constellation Mid-Stage cultivator can possess. Especially since the opponent's magic and spells, even at such distances, didn't significantly lose power. In other words, Fa Wuzun's attack range is far more than seventy miles! Possibly a hundred miles, or even further.

Seeing the leopard through a narrow tube, Qin Jiang immediately realized he had encountered a formidable opponent in this first battle.

Just as he was about to adjust his form for another attack, another fire dragon came into view, shaking its head and tail, followed by a second and a third...

After the three fire dragons, there were many other chaotic spells mixed in, looking colorful like a fireworks display.

What the heck...

Qin Jiang couldn't help but curse, but after all, he had cultivated to the Constellation Mid-Stage, so he wouldn't easily admit defeat. With a furious roar, he summoned his protective spirit treasure to shield himself, his face full of humiliation.

For a physique cultivator, being forced to use a protective spirit treasure right from the start is undoubtedly a disgraceful thing.

Facing the myriad spells, the pressure increased as he advanced, becoming unbearable at fifty miles away.

With another round of magic and spells from Lu Ye, his figure was enveloped in a sky full of lights.

Once the light dissipated, Qin Jiang had vanished.

He wasn't dead; Lu Ye could sense it. He had simply chosen to actively surrender and leave.

The competition within the Constellation Palace allows for active surrender. As long as one calls out when things look bad, they will leave after one breath, ensuring they mostly remain unharmed.

Of course, sometimes it's too late to call out, and then dying is simply dying for nothing!

Victorious in the first match, Lu Ye waited quietly.

A ball of spirit light suddenly formed out of thin air, enveloping his entire person.

This is the reward for the victor. The spirit light contains extremely pure stellar space energy, easily refined, and absorbed by Constellation cultivators without any harm.

This reward is why countless Constellations are passionate about participating in this grand event.

Even with low cultivation, as long as one wins a match here, there are benefits. Without this, how could so many Constellations eagerly come here, knowing each opening of the Constellation Palace results in the demise of many Constellations, including geniuses from top-tier domains.

This reward is one of the main reasons Lu Ye participates, the other being that he has been isolating himself for too long.

Since coming to the All Phenomena Ocean and advancing to the Constellation Mid-Stage, he had hardly engaged in any combat.

Cultivation requires more than merely enhancing one's cultivation; especially for someone like Lu Ye, who since starting the path of cultivation has been fighting—against people, the Insect Race, and the Blood Race. In essence, his cultivation has been built on combat.

Suddenly, with no opportunities for combat, Lu Ye found himself somewhat unaccustomed.

Especially since All Phenomena Ocean attracts visitors from all around, from various major races. It's an excellent place to experience the tactics of different races. But he couldn't just randomly challenge a passerby, as that would unnecessarily offend others.

The sudden opening of the Constellation Palace was undoubtedly a rare opportunity. Participating in this grand event allowed him to openly engage in combat with different Constellations, experiencing their strength and tactics.

Lu Ye believed that after this competition in the Constellation Palace, even if his cultivation didn't increase, his knowledge and experience would be greatly enhanced.

Feeling the pure energy enveloping him, Lu Ye activated the power of the Talent Tree, quickly absorbing it completely.

Not bad, equivalent to absorbing ten pieces of spirit jade.

He has a huge advantage in this respect. Normal Constellations, even if victorious, would likely need two to four hours to refine and absorb this energy, whereas he completed it within dozens of breaths.

The remaining time is sufficient for him to engage in more battles and gain more benefits.

Moreover, each victory grants a point, for which the Cumulated Points Ranking exists. Cultivators are ranked based on their acquired points. Before the Constellation Palace closes, all cultivators named on the Cumulated Points Ranking receive additional rewards.

This means that with the Talent Tree, Lu Ye will have an advantage in both absorbing and refining the victorious mystic light and gaining points. His speed and frequency are unmatched by others.

As the mystic light on his body disappeared, Lu Ye returned to the hall.

However, upon looking up, this time he appeared not in hall number fifty-six, but sixty-three.

There was no difference, just a different location. Without stopping, Lu Ye turned and headed towards the adjacent portal.

Chapter 1407 - Powerful Sword Cultivator

Combat, defeat the enemy, refine mystic light, and repeat...

In the following days, Lu Ye continued this routine, fighting at least twenty rounds a day.

Each victory yielded a mystic light reward, which when refined, was equivalent to absorbing ten pieces of spirit jade.

In other words, each day in this Constellation Palace, he was refining at least 200 pieces of spirit jade, the result of half a month of his usual cultivation.

He could clearly feel his cultivation steadily improving, most notably through the increased refinement progress of his bone marrow essence.

For someone like him, the opening of the Constellation Palace was undoubtedly a golden opportunity to rapidly advance in cultivation; even if others were less efficient, they could still manage four or five matches.

No matter which race's Constellation, the daily consumption of spirit jade couldn't exceed forty or fifty pieces.

And this was the reward for defeating an opponent in the Constellation Mid-Stage; Lu Ye heard from Piao Ke that defeating someone in the Constellation Late Stage would yield even more substantial rewards.

Unfortunately, he hadn't encountered such an opponent these days because the opponents arranged for him by the Constellation Palace were uniformly in the Constellation Mid-Stage, not even a single Early Stage opponent, let alone Late Stage.

With his current strength, these opponents of the same cultivation level were kept at a fifty-mile distance, feeling stifled in defeat. Only one well-grounded Constellation Mid-Stage opponent, with the help of a powerful protective spirit treasure, managed to advance to forty miles but ultimately failed.

After several days, Lu Ye finally encountered an opponent in the Constellation Late Stage.

This was likely due to the Constellation Palace's rule adjustments, as Lu Ye's previous victories were too swift and decisive, leading the rules to recognize him as having Late Stage strength, thus arranging suitable opponents.

It was an expected situation, but it couldn't stop Lu Ye's impressive momentum.

Back in the Constellation Early Stage, Lu Ye could already contend with a Dwarf Race's Late Stage; although their Constellation's strength and foundation were slightly inferior compared to other races due to personal reasons, a Late Stage was still a Late Stage, and their cultivation was genuine.

Now, Lu Ye's cultivation had improved significantly compared to then, making it easy to handle typical Constellation Late Stage opponents.

The only difference was that the Late Stage opponents he encountered could advance a bit further, but generally, they couldn't get closer than ten miles.

Some attempted to exchange spells from dozens of miles away, but they, too, were effortlessly defeated.

In the orthodox art of spellcraft, Lu Ye was naturally not as proficient as genuine magic cultivators, who had dedicated many years to the path. Lu Ye's execution of spells was primarily reliant on the spirit runes of the Talent Tree and his experiences from reflecting on the Origin of the Soaring Dragon World.

Therefore, he couldn't activate any profoundly complex spells, only the simplest ones, but he compensated with high casting frequency and long attack range, enhanced by his purer spirit force, granting his spells more destructive power.

Several capable magic cultivators were defeated in this bewildered manner.

Through numerous battles, Lu Ye gained many benefits and broadened his horizons. In the Divine Sea contest of the Reincarnation Tree, Lu Ye had witnessed the unique skills of many races, but actual combat encounters were relatively few.

This time was different; fighting multiple rounds daily against a myriad of stellar space races, with everyone doing whatever it took to win, made it impossible not to open one's eyes.

As another combat began, the venue was a ruin, with broken walls and devastation, resembling the aftermath of a powerful sect's downfall.

Upon appearing, Lu Ye quickly identified his opponent, a Constellation Late Stage named Whei Yijian.

The moment their Mental Consciousness touched, Whei Yijian merged with sword light and rushed towards Lu Ye, straightforward and decisive, embodying the direct style of a sword cultivator.

Lu Ye, as usual, stood calmly in place, facing the oncoming attack, and began with a Fire Dragon Technique.

From dozens of miles away, Whei Yijian's sword light wavered gently, effortlessly evading the attack, closing the distance further.

The missed Fire Dragon Technique looped back under Lu Ye's control, while new fire dragons emerged, twisting and turning.

Whei Yijian's speed was undoubtedly swift, being a sword cultivator; he deftly avoided the oncoming fire dragons. In no time, several fire dragons trailed behind, resembling his own summoned techniques, charging at Lu Ye with immense force, formidable and intimidating.

Lu Ye instantly discerned the man's strategy; the opponent clearly aimed to conserve spirit force, planning to resolve the battle by defeating him directly, as once the cultivator was defeated, the fire dragons, lacking control, would be powerless.

As a sword cultivator boasting considerable Power of Killing, this approach clearly demonstrated his strong confidence.

Previously, Lu Ye had deterred others because they had to fend off his spells; if they only dodged without countering, Lu Ye couldn't force them otherwise.

In the blink of an eye, they were only thirty miles apart, with the opponent poised to strike within two breaths.

Faced with a sword cultivator closing in to this extent, a true magic cultivator would have essentially lost, as this distance marked the range where the opponent could fully exploit their techniques.

The sword light on Whei Yijian suddenly intensified, accompanied by a resonant sword cry, and sword light filled the sky.

At this moment, in front of Lu Ye, a flurry of magic spells suddenly formed—Fire Dragon, Fire Phoenix, Golden Arc, Fiery Flames, Water Sword, Leaf Dance, and so on...

Whei Yijian, who was making a Thunderbolt strike, was stunned.

He was at the Constellation Late Stage, with hundreds of years of lifespan, and had countless battles with others. He had seen all kinds of magic cultivators, but someone who could cast spells so quickly was indeed a first.

Even if these magic spells were the most basic and simple ones, the strange thing was that they encompassed all sorts of element signs.

At the moment the spells formed, they overwhelmingly surged towards Whei Yijian.

He frowned, hesitated for a moment, and made a decision.

Only attack, no defense!

The sword light in the sky transformed into a long river, sloping towards Lu Ye's position, with such magnificent power that it made the entire combat space tremble.

Lu Ye's figure was immediately submerged by the sword light.

Also engulfed was Whei Yijian, as well as the numerous spells Lu Ye had just cast, while several Fire Dragons chasing behind them created a pincer attack.

The sword light faded away, and the brilliance of the spells dispersed.

Lu Ye emerged unscathed, and the glow of Sacred Guard Spirit Runes on his body slowly dissipated. It must be said that the sword cultivator's Power of Killing was truly strong. That overwhelming sword light descended, and even with the protection of the newly devised Sacred Guard, Lu Ye was still scraped multiple layers.

If it were anyone else, they could only rely on protective spirit treasures to resist, unable to dodge.

A sharp killing intent locked onto him, and when he looked up, a slightly disheveled Whei Yijian was already charging with a sword stream.

Lu Ye remained unharmed, but Whei Yijian was not doing well. Compared to the infamous Power of Killing echoing through stellar space, sword cultivators' defenses were never impressive, especially since he had just chosen an all-attack, no-defense response.

A cold voice sounded, "I wondered how I met a mid-stage one, turns out you really have such capabilities."

Upon discovering that Lu Ye's cultivation was only at the Constellation Mid-Stage, Whei Yijian had already become vigilant. In a place like the Constellation Palace, if you encounter a cultivator with a lower cultivation than your own, it's best not to celebrate too early, because they might not be assigned there due to weak strength, but because they are strong enough!

Whei Yijian had heard of such things but never thought he would experience it himself.

In just a simple exchange, he had already confirmed the opponent's strength. But sword cultivators do not fear; in fact, the stronger the opponent, the more it ignites their fighting spirit.

His voice continued, "But you chose such a grand name, I'm afraid you can't bear it!"

Fa Wuzun, Fa Wuzun, implying lawless, only I am supreme—clearly, that's the meaning, so Whei Yijian felt this guy was an arrogant and rampant person.

Such a person, though undoubtedly strong, was ultimately just that.

Fa Wuzun was still casting spells to attack, but under the fierce breakthrough of the sword stream, those few spells barely created any waves. In an instant, the sword stream charged towards Lu Ye, seemingly about to envelop him.

However, an astonishing scene unfolded for Whei Yijian.

Almost at the moment when the sword stream was upon him, Fa Wuzun suddenly held a pitch-black long saber, then charged headlong into the sword stream!

The bright saber light burst forth like a big sun, with an aggressively violent aura sweeping all around, even destabilizing Whei Yijian's breath. The sword stream, condensed with boundless Sword Qi, instantly began to melt from the intrusion point like snow under the scorching sun.

Compared to his composed and elegant spell-casting moments ago, now this Fa Wuzun was like a mad dog let out of its cage...

Whei Yijian immediately realized something. This Fa Wuzun may look like a magic cultivator, and acts like one, but in truth, he's a combat cultivator.

To think he would encounter such a person! Whei Yijian was quite speechless.

He had heard that some people would hide their true faction, disguising as another one. But such disguises were mostly superficial, easily exposed once action started, because a cultivator's focus is limited, unable to excel in two factions.

Yet, he hadn't noticed any anomalies until Fa Wuzun voluntarily exposed it.

The fact that his magic cultivator disguise warranted serious treatment from Whei Yijian meant that now, when showing his true ability, the pressure was immediately felt.

As the sword stream collapsed, two figures became visible, saber light and Sword Qi rampaged, bodies dodging and weaving, locked in an intense battle.

This time, Whei Yijian's eyes were opened to both situations he had heard about before, and Lu Ye felt the same.

He had heard Piao Ke say that some in the Constellation Realm clearly have the potential to advance to Moon Jade but always delay it, waiting for the Constellation Palace to open, because if they can leave a name on the Cumulated Points Ranking in the Constellation Palace, they stand to gain considerable benefits.

Chapter 1408 - Cumulated Points Ranking

Especially those Constellations from top domains, they are not stingy about waiting a few more years for a better future and greater benefits.

Of course, there are also many Constellations who cannot advance to Moon Jade and want to use the Constellation Palace's final rewards to break through their own bottlenecks.

But no matter what, both types of people have reached their limits in the Constellation realm, they are the strongest in this realm, especially the former, whose strength is far beyond that of ordinary Constellation Late Stage cultivators.

In a cultivator's life, there are many hurdles, the first being the opening of spiritual orifices. Only when their orifices are opened to a certain number do they qualify to advance to Cloud River, and have the capital to aspire to higher realms; otherwise, they cannot go far just by advancing to Cloud River.

There aren't any significant bottlenecks up to the Cloud River and True Lake realms. When cultivation is sufficient and the stage is reached, the realm naturally advances.

But then comes the major hurdle of True Lake advancement to Divine Sea, due to the birth of the Divine Sea.

Not every True Lake can give birth to a Divine Sea. Those incapable of birthing a Divine Sea and nurturing the psyche spirit body naturally can only remain stagnant.

Afterward, the bottleneck of Divine Sea advancement to Constellation is not difficult; the difficulty lies in competing with others for this opportunity. Each large domain can only birth a limited number of Constellations within a given time, dictated by the strength of the domain's foundation.

Take the Nine Provinces, for instance. The foundation is gradually strengthening, making cultivation increasingly easy for cultivators. In the future, the number of Divine Seas won't be few, but the spots for advancing to Constellation are limited, leading to fierce competition among Divine Seas.

However, advancing from Constellation to Moon Jade is a major hurdle due to the transformation of spirit force, which is related to the foundational cultivation the cultivators have laid previously.

Take Qingli Dao World, where Tang Jun originates, for example. In over three thousand years, they've had many Constellations, but until now, they've only birthed three Moon Jades. One, Qin Yuandai, was even slain by Lu Ye's activation of the red talisman, and now Tang Jun is adrift in the All Phenomena Ocean, leaving only Wu Zhuo in Qingli Dao World.

Qingli Dao World's situation is rather special, but regardless, it is not easy for Constellations to advance to Moon Jade.

Lu Ye didn't know which type Whei Yijian was, but he estimated that the other was likely the type who could advance to Moon Jade but hadn't yet.

Faced with such a strong opponent, relying solely on his magic and spells to win was impossible, so Lu Ye decisively resorted to his true abilities.

In comparison, Whei Yijian's strength surpassed Zhao Tianmu's by more than a notch.

The battle was intense, with Whei Yijian's various mystic techniques and strong offensive moves causing significant trouble for Lu Ye. It wasn't until half an hour later that Whei Yijian voluntarily conceded and left.

The reason being, entangled in close combat by Lu Ye, he was forced to maintain a high-intensity burst, and over time, he found it hard to sustain, especially when he felt that even with enough spirit force, he still wasn't a match for this Fa Wuzun.

Because during the fierce battle, he had gradually fallen into a disadvantage.

Without saying much, he only gave his opponent a deep look, as if trying to remember his appearance.

When Whei Yijian's figure faded, a mass of mystic light descended from the sky.

Activating the Talent Tree to refine, as expected, the benefits were no different from those of fighting other Constellation Late Stage cultivators, equivalent to refining twenty pieces of spirit jade.

Defeating a mid-stage was equivalent to refining ten pieces, while defeating a late stage was twenty, but it required much more time and effort, so it's hard to say which circumstances yield more benefits.

Returning to the hall, Lu Ye casually found a spot to rest slightly.

Meditating to heal, or doing anything else here, there was no need to worry about being ambushed, because once inside this grand hall, everyone was under the protection of the Constellation Palace.

Days passed, and the hall remained lively; some even set up stalls selling healing pills and recuperation pills, with prices naturally higher than usual, but buying them in the All Phenomena Ocean requires a journey, wasting a lot of time.

Hence, if a cultivator needed anything, they would choose to purchase here.

It's said that Hall Number Eighty-Eight was the liveliest because many set up stalls there, even the All Phenomena Merchants Guild had a booth there, and anything needed could be bought over by making arrangements.

That particular hall had seemingly become a dedicated trading hall for cultivators, with people constantly going back and forth to buy and sell.

After a brief rest, Lu Ye continued on his journey.

Though the Constellation Palace was open for quite some time, the opportunity was rare and he naturally had to cherish it.

For the next few days, Lu Ye continued traveling between various Combat Battlefields and the Constellation Palace, reaping great rewards every day, having experienced countless battles without a single defeat.

Most of the cultivators he encountered were Constellation Late Stage, mostly ordinary ones. Only a few, like Whei Yijian, forced Lu Ye to resort to his true abilities to win.

One fight could even be described as a narrow victory!

The opponent in that battle was as strong as Whei Yijian, but this person possessed a spirit treasure with a strange and unpredictable power. In that battle, Lu Ye was almost critically injured.

This experience served as a reminder for him: in terms of sheer strength, he might not lose to any Constellation, but cultivator combat relies not just on one's own power but also on unpredictable external forces. Spirit treasures, especially with their various bizarre powers, can catch one off guard.

After all, anyone who has cultivated to the Constellation Realm can be expected to have a few suitable spirit treasures in hand. Those from top forces, in particular, have extraordinarily powerful spirit treasures.

However, after many battles, Lu Ye noticed one thing: even with the same cultivation, there was a significant difference in strength between cultivators.

Some people, despite having impressive cultivation, lack combat experience, making them easily defeated.

Half a month after the Constellation Palace opened, when Lu Ye returned from another battle, he suddenly discovered that a group of people had gathered around the Cumulated Points Ranking to watch.

Looking up, Lu Ye came to a realization.

The Cumulated Points Ranking had changed.

All along, this thing was just a blank black monument, but everyone knew it would eventually record some names; it was just a matter of time.

Today, it finally revealed itself.

A voice came, "What's the situation with these people? How can their cumulated points be so high? I don't even have a fraction of their points."

Someone said, "These individuals come from extraordinary backgrounds, their cultivation in the Constellation Realm has reached the Transformation Realm, so they don't need to refine mystic light. They only need to engage in combat, naturally saving time."

This reasoning was logical and compelling, leaving no doubt, because the time cultivators spend inside the Constellation Palace can be divided into three categories.

One is naturally the time spent in combat, another is the time spent refining mystic light, and the third is the time for recovery and healing.

In comparison, refining mystic light takes a fair amount of time, easily passing several Shichen.

For someone like Whei Yijian, who can casually advance to Moon Jade in the Constellation, they don't particularly need to refine mystic light. At most, they just casually refine some after a big battle to restore their consumed spirit force, thus saving a lot of time which allows them to engage in more battles and have the opportunity to earn more points.

On that Cumulated Points Ranking, the top ten cumulated points already exceed three hundred, with the highest one nearing the four hundred mark. In other words, in this half-month, however many cumulated points he has, he has won that many battles.

Below the top ten, up to the top twenty, are all around three hundred, with little difference, but beyond the top hundred, there are some fluctuations in cumulated points.

Lu Ye raised his eyes to find his own name on the Cumulated Points Ranking and quickly found Fa Wuzun.

Tied for fifteenth place with two other people!

Within expectations.

He didn't assume having the Talent Tree would guarantee him the first place; as that person just said, many don't need to refine mystic light, even if he refines it faster, it still costs some time, which others save up bit by bit, allowing them to participate in more combats and undoubtedly earn more cumulated points.

He never underestimated others.

This Cumulated Points Ranking not only records the names of cultivators and their cumulated points but also the victory ratios.

For now, the top hundred cultivators' victory ratios are mostly ten percent, with only Whei Yijian and a few other names familiar to Lu Ye at ninety-nine percent, which stands out quite a bit.

Without surprise, their victory ratios were all lowered by Lu Ye.

While observing, the names on the Cumulated Points Ranking flickered and fluctuated constantly; some rose, some fell, and some completely dropped off the list.

At least a million, possibly more, Constellations participated in this grand event, yet only a thousand names were recorded on the Cumulated Points Ranking.

So cultivators outside the top thousand cannot leave their names on the Cumulated Points Ranking.

Currently ranked fifteenth, Lu Ye watched for a moment, and he had already dropped to seventeenth.

He wasn't anxious. It was just the beginning, and the Constellation Palace would remain open for a while longer. The real competition for ranking only came towards the end.

According to the rules of the Constellation Palace, before the final phase arrives, he doesn't even need to maintain a high rank; just keeping his name on the Cumulated Points Ranking will suffice.

So the number of battles fought now doesn't majorly affect the final ranking, although winning each battle yields benefits, naturally, the more battles, the better.

After a brief adjustment, Lu Ye turned and stepped into a nearby portal.

As usual, a telepathic message appeared in his mind.

After a quick check, Lu Ye was slightly taken aback.

After half a month of battling others in duels, he finally encountered something different this time.

When his vision restored, Lu Ye found himself on a desolate planet. The environment wasn't harsh, just lifeless and desolate to the eye.

With no one around, he extended his Mental Consciousness to investigate and found no valuable information.

Suddenly, a lively voice popped into his mind, "Where is everyone? How about we gather at some spot?"

Chapter 1409 - An Inauspicious Beginning

The contest within the Constellation Palace isn't just about fighting in the arena; there are many peculiar and strange scenarios, and Lu Ye has long been aware of this.

Cultivators enter the place of contention through a portal, but what form they'll encounter and what scenario they'll enter are uncontrollable, all governed by the rules of the Constellation Palace.

For the past half month, Lu Ye has always encountered arena battles, and the opponents he faced have all been lone individuals.

But this time, it's clearly different.

This time, it's a contest between multiple people.

As the jumping voice echoed in his mind, Lu Ye could clearly sense the presence of four other people. This perception wasn't through the sensing of mental consciousness, nor through the observation of the naked eye, but it was the temporary ability granted to him by the Constellation Palace.

As long as he remains in this scenario, he can easily perceive the approximate positions of those four and also connect with them easily.

These four people are considered his temporary companions.

In other words, in this contest, the five of them form a group, needing to temporarily join forces, advancing and retreating together. This is a test for anyone.

It's difficult for cultivators to cooperate with strangers because the human heart is unpredictable, and there's no trust among them, but in such a place and such a scenario, the five have no choice but to act together.

Because they have enemies, and the enemies are also in groups of five; as for how many such groups there are... Lu Ye doesn't know, as this information wasn't specified when he came in through the portal, given by the Constellation Palace.

So on this desolate planet, besides Lu Ye's group of five, there are at least five others, perhaps ten, fifteen, or even twenty...

Being here, the most urgent thing for everyone now is obviously to quickly find a place to gather, as only by gathering can they keep each other warm.

Following the jumping voice, a gentle, watery female voice sounded: "Then should we find a spot to gather? One person stays put, while the other four converge, how about it?"

In the absence of a map and the inability to provide precise location information, this method is indeed the most practical and best solution. It's undoubtedly an experienced suggestion; if expected, this woman should have gone through such a contest before.

Another voice, full of vigor, spoke: "Alright! So... who should we converge towards?"

Lu Ye remained silent, still spreading his mental consciousness without a sound, probing around.

The last slightly elderly voice spoke: "I'm old, my legs and feet aren't agile, why don't you all demonstrate some reverence for the old and love for the young and converge toward me, being cautious along the way to keep our presence hidden."

The jumping voice replied: "Let's listen to the elder then."

The others had no objections, and Lu Ye immediately moved towards the location of the owner of the elderly voice.

However, before converging, he had to judge the exact location of the elderly voice because, although he could sense the approximate position of his four temporary companions, he was completely unaware of who corresponded to each position.

But in the case where one person remains still and the other four move, it's much simpler to judge.

Soon, within Lu Ye's senses, including himself, the other three temporary companions were all gathering towards one location, which was undoubtedly the location of the elderly voice's owner.

Moments later, while Lu Ye was still hurrying on the road, a sudden exclamation came into his mind, it was that vigorous voice: "Hey everyone, I've been ambushed, I'm slightly injured and can't escape, who can come to help?"

"How many enemies are there?" The gentle female voice sounded.

"Two people, one at the late stage, one at mid-stage! Ouch, this late-stage one is really formidable, I can't hold on..."

Before finishing the sentence, the person vanished from Lu Ye's senses.

It was clear he wasn't killed, but rather chose to give up and leave the place.

Lu Ye continued moving forward, his expression calm; they hadn't even gathered before their side lost one person, undoubtedly an unfortunate start, but not a big problem.

This wasn't the end; following the person's departure, the elderly voice sounded again, with a feeling of slight resignation: "Everyone, I also need to leave. Recently, I subdued a natal beast pet, but for some reason, it suddenly revolted, and I need to deal with it."

After saying this, within Lu Ye's senses, the elder immediately disappeared as well.

He immediately halted his movement, previously planning to converge toward the elder's position, but now since he left, there was naturally no need to advance.

The five joining forces, just at the beginning, one got beaten out, and the other left due to his natal beast pet, reducing the team to only three...

Lu Ye didn't expect his first experience of such a scenario would turn out so unlucky, the companions arranged by the Constellation Palace were truly not reliable.

The jumping voice was clearly at a loss: "So... what should we do now?"

The woman sighed gently, sadness evident in the sigh that could be felt as poignant even across a great distance.

Without receiving a response, the jumping voice spoke again: "No matter what you decide, I'm sticking it through; I can't just give up without fighting first, that would be too disgraceful."

"What's your cultivation level?" the woman asked weakly.

"Early Stage!"

"Oh, then I'm a bit stronger than you; I'm Mid-Stage!" The woman's voice remained gentle, and she stated it plainly without a hint of pride. Anyone who heard her voice could easily imagine a tender, soft figure.

"Never mind the Early or Mid-Stage; what's the plan now? Wait, there's another Fellow Daoist here who's been silent all along. Surely he can't be mute, right? Fellow Daoist, do you have any good suggestions?"

Lu Ye pondered for a moment and used audio transmission, "Find a concealed location and stay put, we'll come to you."

"Why should I stay put? Are you underestimating me? Afraid I'll be exposed? Let me tell you, although my cultivation isn't high, I have treasures on me, and in the realm of Concealment, you might not measure up to me."

"Then Fellow Daoist, please stay put!" Lu Ye couldn't be bothered to argue and immediately changed his mind.

"Well... okay!" The woman was obedient and promptly found a hidden spot to hide.

Lu Ye advanced smoothly, and about one hour later, he finally arrived at the woman's location.

It was a desolate hollow, with traces of Formation concealment. When Lu Ye arrived, the woman obviously sensed it and opened a gap in the Formation. Lu Ye swiftly slipped in.

At a glance, he saw two figures.

One was an acquaintance, the young master of Wanxia Sect from Cheling World, Chu Shen.

No wonder his voice sounded familiar earlier...

Obviously, he had been let out for this opportunity; it makes sense. With such a significant chance presented by Constellation Palace, how could Chu Shen, a native cultivator of All Phenomena Galaxy, miss it? No matter how reluctant that Jiu Yan might have been, he understood that flowers in a greenhouse wouldn't grow strong, and Constellation Palace was undoubtedly a place to rapidly broaden one's horizons and accumulate combat experience. If he missed this chance, it would be hard to encounter another.

Earlier, he mentioned he had protective treasures, which Lu Ye believed, as he almost fell for this young man's trick previously.

Chu Shen, being closer, naturally arrived earlier than Lu Ye.

Beside Chu Shen stood a seemingly weak woman, extremely beautiful, but somehow she gave off an air of pity, as if she had encountered something sad...

Lu Ye even saw a look of self-blame in her eyes, not knowing what exactly she was feeling guilty about.

Lu Ye looked at her a few more times; not because she was beautiful, but because of the symmetrical lines on her smooth cheeks. These lines were clearly natural, which didn't detract from her delicate appearance but instead added a mysterious charm.

Upon sensing her aura, Lu Ye immediately understood—the woman was of Demon Race descent, not human!

The specifics of her true form were unknown, but it's not easy to inquire about, especially with female demons assuming human forms; revealing their true form secrets could easily target them.

Within the concealed big array, upon confirming Lu Ye's cultivation was only Constellation Mid-Stage, Chu Shen couldn't help but sigh, "Not reliable, not reliable."

The lineup of five had already lost two members; if Lu Ye were Constellation Late Stage, they might manage a bit of a fight, but finding Lu Ye to be merely Mid-Stage, matching the woman's cultivation.

Now, two Mid-Stage and one Early Stage gathered... What could they accomplish? Even if he had numerous treasures, combat between cultivators ultimately relies on strength as the foundation. He indeed had red talisman-like treasures, but such combat battles can't just toss around red talismans.

However, despite his youth, Chu Shen had one advantage—resilience, he quickly adjusted his mood without feeling the least shame, opened his mouth grandly, "Since we're to fight side by side, we should get familiar, let's share our names for easier calling."

"Oh... okay." The woman clasped her little hands before her belly, her thumbs swirling, nodding briskly.

Chu Shen coughed lightly, cupped his fists, "Greetings to my Senior Brothers and Sisters. I am called Overwhelming Confidence!"

Lu Ye's expression remained unchanged...

Mainly because, over the past half-moon, he had encountered countless peculiar names, nothing seemed odd now.

He wasn't the only one using pseudonyms for the Constellation Palace fight; those yearning to make names and be recruited by major powers certainly operated under their real names for attention, but many couldn't reveal their names or deliberately concealed them. Star Palace's rule allowed free naming, naturally leading to a proliferation of peculiar names.

Overwhelming Confidence was decent; Lu Ye even came across someone named Combat Cultivators Eat Feces to Grow, whom he pummelled miserably in battle.

Lu Ye turned his gaze towards the delicate woman beside him.

The woman's voice was faint as a mosquito buzz, "I'm Invincible Lucky Star."

Blushing deeply...

Lu Ye nodded slightly, "Fa Wuzun!"

The three with pseudonyms looked at each other, the atmosphere briefly silent.

Chapter 1410 - Enemy Attack

Suddenly, Chu Shen seemed to remember something and looked at Lu Ye in astonishment: "Are you Fa Wuzun? The one on the Cumulated Points Ranking?"

He had undoubtedly seen the Cumulated Points Ranking before coming in.

Upon hearing this, Lucky Star couldn't help but glance at Lu Ye.

But soon, Chu Shen shook his head: "I must have made a mistake. The one with the same name on the Cumulated Points Ranking is ranked quite high."

The reason for this judgment was that Lu Ye's cultivation displayed was only at the Constellation Mid-Stage.

Nowadays, all the contenders on the Cumulated Points Ranking are in the Late Stage. Even if there are mid-stage ones, they are few, and as for early stage ones, there are none.

Having the same name is not uncommon. Take the name he chose, "Dominance Leaking," for instance. With so many Constellations, there must be others with the same name.

Not to mention, even having the same real name is not rare, ultimately because the number of cultivators participating in the competition in the Constellation Palace is overwhelmingly high.

In Chu Shen's view, someone at the mid-stage absolutely couldn't have the opportunity to be on the Cumulated Points Ranking, let alone being ranked so high.

"We should discuss what to do next." Chu Shen said, "You two, on my way here, I sensed some activity indicating a competition, so we're definitely facing more than one team this time, at least two or even more. Right now, our team has only three people left. Not to mention winning in the end, we must hold out for a while, at least eliminate some opponents to gain more benefits."

In such competitions, the number of opponents eliminated and the duration of holding out directly affect the final cumulated points and mystic light rewards.

Moreover, there is another rule in such competitions: if you hide for too long without engaging in battle, the Constellation Palace will mark your location, leaving you with nowhere to hide.

This is also to prevent those skilled in Concealment from using their advantage to avoid battles and simply stall for time—such a victory would be undeserved.

"So the first question for the three of us is, who will take the lead? A team ultimately needs a central figure." Chu Shen continued. This was a necessary proposal. If there was a Constellation Late Stage here, naturally, they would lead, and others would have no objections. But with two mid-stage and one early stage, deciding who leads becomes problematic.

Lucky Star quickly waved her hand: "I'll just follow you guys."

This woman also seemed to lack decisiveness.

Chu Shen looked at Lu Ye and self-recommended: "Fellow Daoist, is it alright if I lead? Don't judge based on my cultivation being one level lower than yours; I have many treasures. When it comes to power, an average Constellation Mid-Stage might not be able to defeat me."

This statement was somewhat modest. Lu Ye had experienced his methods and knew general Constellation Mid-Stage cultivators wouldn't be his match. Without mentioning anything else, just the mystic light of that mirror was highly formidable.

"Of course, Fellow Daoist, if you have any suggestions, feel free to speak. Let's discuss quickly."

Chu Shen's attitude was sincere. Lu Ye was about to respond when he suddenly felt something amiss and hurriedly shouted, "Enemy attack!"

As soon as he spoke, there were violent spirit force fluctuations, causing the ground to shake. Immediately, a fierce aura descended from the sky.

The formation here was set by Lucky Star; although it offered some protection, its main function was Concealment.

Somehow, they were unlucky enough to be discovered and immediately attacked.

In the instant the Formation collapsed, two auras were sensed by Lu Ye, one clearly mid-stage and the other late stage.

These two were undoubtedly together and were likely on their way to join their allies, passing by this place and sensing something unusual, launching a ruthless attack.

Because at this point, everyone was searching for teammates to regroup, they determined this was a gathering point, with some cultivators from a team not yet assembled. With their means, a sudden surprise attack might yield results.

In fact, they guessed correctly. If it were just two ordinary mid-stage and one early stage gathered here, facing them would likely be disastrous.

But which of the three gathered here was simple?

Indeed, Chu Shen's cultivation was low, but his wealth was substantial. Lu Ye's cultivation wasn't high, but his combat prowess was formidable. As for the Invincible Lucky Star of an unknown true form, who knew if this Constellation was simple?

Lu Ye had already leapt forward, while Chu Shen had summoned a protective spirit treasure, enveloping both himself and Lucky Star, waiting to assess the situation before making a move.

Faced with a sudden attack, his response was undoubtedly wise. Without knowing how many enemies there were or their cultivation levels, it also showcased his quick reflexes.

However, just as he was probing the enemy's situation, in his perception, violent spirit force fluctuations erupted again. In the next instant, his field of vision reflected a multitude of colorful magic and spells.

It was Lu Ye, who had sprung into action, making his move.

The two Constellations who launched the surprise attack hadn't anticipated that the enemy would be so bold. Earlier, upon detecting the varying cultivation levels of Lu Ye's group, they had been elated, thinking they had found an easy target.

They hadn't imagined that Lu Ye, a mid-stage cultivator, would not only show no signs of fleeing but would actually counterattack.

Moreover, upon seeing the scale and number of the magic and spells, they were both greatly shocked, as being able to launch so many spells in such a brief moment wasn't something a mid-stage cultivator could do.

Additionally, they could distinctly perceive that the power of each spell was significantly impressive.

The two decided swiftly and split left and right.

Magic spells thundered down from the sky, and two figures scurried out in disarray, their auras tumultuous, clearly having suffered a setback.

As Chu Shen activated his protective spirit treasure and saw this scene, his eyes lit up. Upon the sudden attack, he thought doom was certain, but with Lu Ye's counterattack, he clearly sensed Fa Wuzun's formidable foundation, and as he awoke to reality, he realized this battle... wasn't unwinnable.

He raised his hand and summoned his Body-stiffening Mirror, urging spirit force into it.

Meanwhile, the Lucky Star next to him shed her previously delicate demeanor. Her spirit force surged, her fingernails wildly lengthened, and in an instant, each nail on both hands extended half a foot, glittering with a cold, menacing light. At first glance, it seemed as if she had two pairs of lethal claws.

Her figure flickered, and she dashed out like a predatory ferocious beast.

Yet, knowing her limits, she did not seek out the late-stage opponent but instead chased after the mid-stage one.

The two figures tangled together in an instant, leaving Chu Shen, who was activating the treasure mirror's power, dumbfounded. From their first encounter, this Lucky Star gave off a fragile impression, as if she could be blown over by the wind, but only when she truly made her move did he realize her combat style was brutally lethal, a reckless abandon to trade life for life without the intent to dodge the enemy's attacks.

Her opponent was a combat cultivator, both engaging in close-quarter combat with fervent intensity. Claws collided with the opponent's spirit treasure, sparking fire everywhere.

What left Chu Shen even more stupefied was at the back; because Lu Ye, who had launched numerous spells to catch the enemy off guard, continued an unending barrage of spells. The late-stage opponent was left only to defend, hardly able to counterattack.

In a short moment, the treasure mirror in Chu Shen's hand had already been activated, but he was momentarily unsure whom to attack.

Initially, he planned to attack the late-stage opponent since their cultivation was higher; once this one was dealt with, the remaining mid-stage wouldn't be a worry for the three of them combined.

Yet, upon observing, that late-stage opponent was in dire straits, seemingly not needing his assist at all...

Instead, over at Lucky Star's side, although her reckless technique gave her a temporary edge, it might not last. Such a combat style easily placed her in grave danger!

His mind turned, and Chu Shen made a decision.

The treasure mirror's mystic light shot out, instantly enveloping the mid-stage opponent.

Entangled by the Lucky Star, he was always cautious of movements on Chu Shen's side. For battle-hardened cultivators, such unknown-power treasures were the hardest to guard against.

Only as the light blossomed did he roughly perceive the treasure's effectiveness.

Instinctively, he wanted to dodge, but he couldn't break free. Hastily twisting his body, the light only covered half of his form.

Even so, the mid-stage opponent's body suddenly stiffened; the Body-stiffening Mirror's effect, as its name implies, is to immobilize one's form. The essence of the light is an invisible field that, once entered a body, stiffens one's movements.

Lu Ye could burn and refine with the Talent Tree, thus unafraid of this mystic light, unlike others.

Even being partially covered rendered his movements disjointed.

Seizing the opportunity, the Lucky Star's claws flashed ominously, influenced perhaps by a secret technique she invoked. Her first strike shattered his protective spirit force, and the second pierced through his chest.

The mid-stage cultivator's face contorted with difficulty, his expression pained. Though unwilling, he couldn't help but blurt out, "I concede! Spare me!"

Failing to concede would mean death.

According to the Constellation Palace's dueling rules, once someone actively admits defeat, they will leave after one breath.

A single breath isn't long but sufficient for a Constellation Realm cultivator to take a life.

In other words, if Lucky Star intended, she could easily have killed him.

But unquestionably, she wasn't someone with a penchant for slaughter. Upon hearing the opponent's surrender, her deadly claws halted, pulled back from the opponent's chest in a cascade of hot blood, and she gracefully retreated.

A breath later, the mid-stage's figure vanished abruptly.

His injuries weren't light but not fatal—a Constellation Mid-Stage could recover in a day or two.

With the mid-stage problem resolved, Chu Shen quickly looked over to the late-stage's location, ready to pour spirit force into the Body-stiffening Mirror to assist Lu Ye.

But to his shock, Lu Ye showed no signs of continuing the attack.

The spell lights over there gradually dissipated, and that late-stage opponent's figure had long vanished without a trace!

The attacking late-stage was taken down single-handedly by Fa Wuzun! And in such a remarkably short time...

He knew that combined with the Lucky Star, utilizing the Body-stiffening Mirror's power was merely what led to results so quickly, and their foe was only a mid-stage.

In comparison, Fa Wuzun's strength was simply terrifyingly immense.