

Humanity 1421

Chapter 1421 - Specter

The sudden emergence of the unknown treasure aroused the attention of cultivators from all directions. As soon as those few points of purple light appeared, the hidden cultivators sprung into action like sharks smelling blood, and rushed towards their chosen targets.

In just a short moment, the area around the purple light spots became bustling with activity, like salt sprinkled into a hot pan, sizzling and lively.

The disturbance of spirit runes and the intertwining bursts of colorful lights made it seem as if someone had ignited brilliant fireworks in these areas.

But beneath this beautiful and colorful exterior lurks great danger and peril.

Yet the cultivators pressed on without hesitation, you could even say they delighted in it.

Lu Ye waited for a while until the nearby battlefield became sufficiently chaotic before he brandished his blood-colored long saber and led Little Dumb and Little Crooked into the fray.

Following Lu Ye's previous instructions, Little Dumb held the array disc high above his head and infused it with spirit force to maintain its power.

The three of them quickly formed the simplest Three Talents Array and boldly charged into the chaotic battlefield.

First to bear the brunt were two Constellation Late Stage cultivators!

These two were clearly in a joint state, and it wasn't clear whether they knew each other beforehand or formed a temporary alliance upon arriving here. Regardless, they were undoubtedly seasoned and did not rashly approach the location of the treasure, only skirting around the edges.

Because they knew that approaching the treasure rashly before the situation was clear would only lead to strong attacks from all sides, and even if their cultivation was not weak, they might not withstand it. So, to snatch the treasure, they first needed to find a way to eliminate their opponents.

Only when the situation began to clarify would it be the best time to snatch the treasure.

Sensing the presence of Lu Ye and his team from afar, the pair silently agreed to attack from both sides. Lu Ye took a quick look and immediately changed his direction to face the one on the left.

The distance closed rapidly, and in an instant, they collided. The blood-colored long saber slashed through the air, surging with crimson light like a red tide, enveloping the incoming enemy.

Intense spirit force fluctuations erupted, and as the saber light flickered, the face of the Constellation Late Stage cultivator changed dramatically. Their initial offensive instantly became defensive, and they quickly retreated. Yet, the blood-colored long saber clung to them like a maggot in their bones, slashing at them so fiercely that they began to doubt reality, momentarily wondering if they had misjudged.

On closer inspection, he realized that the person wielding the saber was indeed only mid-stage.

If he were alone, the situation would already be dire, but he still had a companion.

In the brief exchange, his companion also closed in.

Lu Ye didn't get a chance to achieve a complete victory. A massive saber light cut out, forcing the Constellation Late Stage cultivator in front of him to retreat, while he turned his saber to meet the second one.

This second Constellation Late Stage cultivator was slightly stronger than the previous one, but not by much. Initially puzzled at seeing his companion faltering, he couldn't understand why his temporary ally was performing so poorly, until he faced the blood-colored saber and finally grasped the subtlety within.

What they assumed was an easy target turned out to be a tough nut to crack.

The strength was comparable, and his experience turned out to be no better than his companion's. He immediately understood that relying on himself alone could never overcome this trio of seemingly less powerful individuals, unless his companion came to help him, only then might there be a chance.

But just as the thought crossed his mind, his expression changed drastically. For facing Lu Ye, he clearly saw a ghostly figure appear behind his companion, striking with lightning speed!

His companion, who was at the Late Stage, hadn't sensed it at all.

Blood bloomed as his companion's chest was pierced, with a small hand clutching a still-beating heart extending through the opening, the scene both shocking and horrifying.

The moment of shock made his situation worsen. Previously aware of something amiss, he had a slim chance to escape from Lu Ye, but now, it was already too late.

Realizing that he might be in life-threatening danger if he didn't leave quickly, the Constellation Late Stage cultivator no longer hesitated and retreated from the battlefield while fending off Lu Ye's relentless attacks.

The main concern was that while entangled, the suddenly appeared ghost cultivator might strike him fatally!

Being forced to exit the battlefield like this also counted as Lu Ye's accomplishment. When the Melee Battle Meet ended, it would similarly increase his cumulated points.

Little Dumb and Little Crooked, although they didn't make a move in this battle, contributed nonetheless and would naturally gain from the spoils.

After eliminating this Constellation Late Stage cultivator, Lu Ye immediately turned his head to look to one side.

At a glance, he saw a familiar figure gathering their spoils.

Specter!

Lu Ye didn't really know that this woman was also in the Melee Battle Meet, but it wasn't surprising that she signed up for such a struggle. She was from the Specter Race, an innate ghost cultivator with exceedingly superior strength, most suitable for showcasing prowess on such a chaotic battlefield.

In front of her, the Constellation Late Stage cultivator that Lu Ye had previously forced to retreat already had their life force extinguished, a gaping hole in their chest, with blood gushing out.

This is outright head-hunting!

Stealing battle spoils too!

Lu Ye wielded a long saber and led Little Dumb and Little Crooked toward the specter. This woman only glanced at him, her eyes slightly curved as if smiling at him, and then suddenly vanished without a trace.

When Lu Ye arrived at the spot, even though he expanded his Mental Consciousness, he couldn't detect the slightest trace and had no idea where she hid.

Standing there silently for a moment, Lu Ye took out the audio talisman to investigate.

Through the markings of the audio talisman, it could be deduced that the specter was indeed in the Melee Battle Meet, but Piao Ke was not there, possibly because he didn't register, or wasn't selected.

But even if Piao Ke were there, Lu Ye wouldn't join forces with him. Fa Wuzun's undertaking is significant and not suitable for involving acquaintances.

As for the specter... Lu Ye confirmed she didn't recognize him; it was merely a coincidence earlier. Perhaps her initial target was their trio, but as the Constellation Late Stage participant faltered in the confrontation, she conveniently switched to a different target for her ambush.

Now that she's hidden, there's no need to continue searching.

He stowed the audio talisman and continued to advance with lethal intent.

The Melee Battle Meet had been ongoing for two days now, and in this time, most cultivators found their temporary allies, whether pairing up or forming groups of three or five.

However, being in the Constellation Realm, even if joining forces, it's impossible to have too many people, as a large group leads to chaos. Human nature is complex, and the foundation of collaboration requires a degree of trust, which becomes non-existent with too many people.

There are also those who fight solo, either due to personal style or strong capabilities. Take the specter, for example, a Late Stage ghost cultivator perfectly suited for acting alone, moving stealthily, accountable to no one, picking up advantages when available, and hiding when not. Quite carefree and unrestrained.

Other squads act with considerable caution. Even if they're interested in emerging treasures, they wouldn't blindly approach. But Lu Ye and his crew ignore such considerations, leading his two allies, bulldozing their way swiftly toward the location radiant with purple light.

Midway, they faced constant clashes, some intercepting them, others being targeted by them. At one point, they even intervened in a hard-fought battle between two groups, causing great distress.

In charging through the field, there was only one principle: anyone blocking the way ahead is an enemy!

While Lu Ye's side appeared invincible, Little Dumb and Little Crooked were drenched in cold sweat. They only felt Fa Wuzun's power before, but now realized his madness.

In such chaotic combat, even though Fa Wuzun bore the brunt of the pressure, facing relentless saber lights, sword shadows, and waves of magic and spells, the two still felt their hearts pounding.

If Fa Wuzun could maintain such unstoppable momentum, the two would be without life-threatening worries. But if Fa Wuzun's offensive were hindered, they would undeniably face immense peril, potentially unable to protect themselves even with their array intact!

Yet there was little they could do now, besides defending themselves and praying for Fa Wuzun's strength.

The battlefield where Lu Ye was stationed was intensely lively, and the other treasure-laden battlefields were equally bustling.

Simultaneously, countless eyes were fixed on these battlefields, watching eagerly.

In the number nine hundred and thirty-five hall, beside the Cumulated Points Ranking, Chu Shen, who had been eliminated, immersed his mind within, observing intently.

The Melee Battle Meet is the most unique form in the Constellation Palace contest because, in other formats, non-participating cultivators cannot see the confrontation scenes; only the Melee Battle Meet allows it.

Like Chu Shen now, by immersing his consciousness in the Cumulated Points Ranking, he could enter the Melee Battle Meet battlefield with a unique perspective. He could see some things and feel some things, but he couldn't interfere in any way.

Since being eliminated, he's maintained this state, his unique perspective always lingering by Lu Ye's side, as if becoming invisible, watching Lu Ye from on high.

He clearly saw Lu Ye avenged him, subduing an Early Stage Constellation woman from the opposing side, witnessed Lu Ye leading her to slaughter in all directions, and then saw Lu Ye parting ways with her, stealthily following her to a dead star, even capturing Little Crooked.

Up to this point...

Chu Shen was quite despondent.

Because, initially, in the triumph behind Lu Ye was him as well, but he was unfortunately eliminated too early, allowing two women from out of nowhere to reap the benefits.

While in a gloomy mood, he suddenly heard someone nearby speaking: "Senior brother, look at this battlefield; this trio is impressive. Though one mid-stage and two early-stage, they are almost overpowering those in the Late Stage to the point they can't fight back!"

"Where?" The senior brother's interest was instantly piqued.

The junior brother quickly informed him of the battlefield's location and the trio's features.

A moment later, the senior brother found Lu Ye's squad's position. Watching them, he couldn't help but exclaim: "What's with these three? How can they be so formidable?"

When he heard his junior brother earlier, he thought it was a bit of an exaggeration. However formidable a mid-stage and two early-stage could be, after witnessing it firsthand, he truly understood what it meant to cut through like slicing vegetables!

Chapter 1422 - Sword Cultivator Sisters

The conversation between the senior and junior brothers piqued the interest of the surrounding cultivators.

Even those in the Constellation Realm are fond of lively spectacles, especially the cultivators gathered by the Cumulated Points Ranking; they all came with the mindset of watching, and who wouldn't want to take an extra glance at such an event?

Quickly, under the guidance of the two brothers, the eyes of a large crowd focused on the battlefield where Lu Ye was located.

Listening to the praises and exclamations around him, Chu Shen's already troubled mood worsened!

Such a big opportunity to shine and make a name for himself, yet it was ruined by him, leaving him truly at a loss for words.

His mood wasn't great, but he couldn't help saying, "That's my big brother, Fa Wuzun!"

"Fa Wuzun?" Someone chimed in, "The one on the Cumulated Points Ranking?"

Chu Shen wore a smug expression, "Exactly!"

"He's ranked so high, yet he only has mid-stage cultivation? Fellow Daoist, are you mistaken?"

"Believe it or not!" Chu Shen didn't bother to explain further.

But someone else spoke up, "That indeed is Fa Wuzun. I, Liu, once had the privilege of battling him, and honestly, I was no match!"

The crowd turned to see a Constellation Late Stage cultivator speaking, and the reason they knew his cultivation level was naturally because he intentionally revealed it.

With the person involved speaking out, no one had any further doubts. However, everyone was still amazed, because as far as they knew, anyone who could make it to the Cumulated Points Ranking was mostly in the Constellation Late Stage, and not just any late-stage. Only today did they realize that not only are there late-stage cultivators, but there's also a mid-stage one on the board.

Truly eye-opening.

The cultivator named Liu continued, "Although I wasn't Fa Wuzun's match back then, he didn't seem this formidable either."

Someone laughed, "Maybe he went easy on you when he was beating you!"

Cultivator Liu didn't mind, just shook his head, "It's not just that. The bigger reason might be that these three have formed a formation!"

This statement got agreement from many observing cultivators, because under public scrutiny, it was clear that Fa Wuzun and his two female companions had formed a simple Three Talents Array.

However, even the simplest Three Talents Array requires people who are familiar with each other to form it. In this Melee Battle Meet, meeting two familiar people isn't easy, so it can only be said that Fa Wuzun is lucky, and those two women with Early Stage cultivation are even luckier.

Chu Shen had been listening casually, but at this moment he suddenly felt uneasy.

He knew the secret of the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc, having experienced it personally, but others didn't know this and merely thought that Fa Wuzun was familiar with the two women and that's how they could form a formation.

If someone discerning were to notice this and the secret were to leak out, wouldn't the mystery of the array disc become public knowledge? At that point, all major forces would focus their attention on the array disc, and if someone offered a high price to Fa Wuzun to buy it...

Chu Shen's expression turned grim, but he quickly thought that the big boss had already promised to give the array disc to him and probably wouldn't go back on his word! After all, those who made it to the Cumulated Points Ranking are people of their word, if they promised something they wouldn't break it!

Reassuring himself, once the Melee Battle Meet ended, that precious array disc would be his! Then he could use it to negotiate terms with his mother, asking her to leave him alone, so he could enjoy his free life—how wonderful!

Imagining the scenario, Chu Shen couldn't help but laugh out loud.

But the words from someone beside him instantly made his mood uneasy.

"Why does this woman have an array disc on her head?"

Chu Shen's expression immediately turned ferocious, wishing he could rush into the battlefield and give that seemingly dumb woman a good beating to make her put the array disc away!

This secret of the array disc absolutely must not be exposed.

At this time, not only were the cultivators in this grand hall focused on Lu Ye's trio, but countless eyes from various grand halls were also drawn.

Perhaps some hadn't noticed before, but as their gaze swept the battlefield, Lu Ye's trio's striking performance naturally caught everyone's attention.

Some with keen eyesight noticed the extraordinary nature of the array disc, but without personal experience, they couldn't grasp its exact wonders.

Within the battlefield of the Melee Battle Meet, Lu Ye had already led Little Dumb and Little Crooked to a spot not far from the treasure. Before getting closer, they couldn't tell what this treasure was, but now, as the distance closed, it was clear it was a purple talisman!

No wonder it was wrapped in rich purple aura when it appeared, and several emerged at once.

This is undoubtedly something that can be sold. Of course, if it's an ordinary purple talisman, even though it's valuable, its worth is limited. For the Constellation Realm, it's a fairly decent find, able to fetch some spirit jade.

But if it's a purple talisman of the Dwarf Race, then its value is tremendous!

Lu Ye wasn't sure whether this purple talisman was an ordinary one or a Dwarf Race one, but it stands to reason that something appearing in the battlefield of the Melee Battle Meet wouldn't be too shabby, so it's very likely the latter.

But as his squad approached, attacks came rushing at them from all directions.

Apparently, his attempt to collect the treasure had aroused hostility from cultivators in all directions, which was why the purple talisman had remained untouched until now.

No one can approach it!

Even a squad like Lu Ye's, when facing such an onslaught, can only temporarily withdraw.

The momentum was relentless, continuing to charge forward and still invincible.

The only thing that annoyed Lu Ye was that the specter lingered nearby. This woman's figure was elusive and ghostly; Lu Ye could occasionally catch a glimpse of her, but thinking of their acquaintance, it didn't seem right to truly strike at her, so he let her be.

This woman, however, was utterly ignorant of boundaries, having already claimed numerous heads. Without exception, all those she targeted died with their hearts gouged out, her actions exceedingly ruthless.

Lu Ye planned to find an opportunity to teach her a lesson, to make her understand that his head wasn't so easily taken.

The squad quickly fought their way to the other side of the battlefield.

At this moment, two groups were fiercely clashing here. Lu Ye hadn't thought much of it at first, but upon looking over, his eyes lit up.

Because one of the groups surprisingly had two Constellation Early Stage members, and they were both women!

Not only were these two Constellation Early Stage cultivators as beautiful as flowers, but they also looked exactly alike. Even more remarkably, they were sword cultivators!

These were undoubtedly twin sisters. They seemed to have cultivated a type of combined strike technique, each unleashing Sword Qi, converging into a river; one sword stream enveloped all sides for protection, while the other, under the sisters' command, engaged in fierce combat with their enemies.

The situation was dire. Although they had a late-stage companion helping, their opponents were more numerous, and their cultivation overall was stronger.

Lu Ye watched the sisters with bright eyes, but when his vision shifted to their late-stage companion, his face turned disdainful.

This late-stage cultivator was a rugged male physique cultivator; they had to find a way to get rid of him.

Without intervention, Lu Ye feared the sisters would be eliminated first. Both were early-stage sword cultivators, and though they had the sword stream for protection, they were on the verge of collapse under the enemy's strong assault.

With a fleeting thought, he transmitted a message: "Do you see that physique cultivator over there? Eliminate him, and your issue with snatching my kills will be settled!"

Little Dumb and Little Crooked looked bewildered, both sensing he was transmitting a message, but having no idea to whom.

There was no response. Lu Ye wasn't surprised, but he was sure the specter woman was nearby, just hiding very well.

"Two thousand spirit jade!" Lu Ye took out an empty storage ring, placed two thousand spirit jade inside, and flicked it casually.

The storage ring hadn't flown far when a small hand appeared out of nowhere, grabbing it, as Lu Ye heard the specter's voice by his ear: "Take a person's money, help them resolve their troubles. I accept the transaction!"

A moment later, the specter-like figure appeared behind the physique cultivator who was withstanding the enemies' fierce assault. As always, she struck like lightning, aiming for the heart at his back.

The physique cultivator's face changed drastically, blood Qi surged wildly, and his entire body quivered.

The specter's attacks had never failed before, which was not only a testament to her own power but also her timing. Moreover, those she ambushed were always wholly focused on defending against Lu Ye's fierce attack, leaving them unguarded against threats from behind.

This time, however, was different as she was dealing with a physique cultivator after all.

With the physique cultivator's flesh writhing, the hand she thrust into his body couldn't move another inch as if caught. Capitalizing on this, he suddenly dashed forward, allowing the specter to withdraw her hand, drawing a spurt of hot blood as she vanished.

The physique cultivator's situation became increasingly precarious. Though he had fiercely escaped the specter's assassination, what followed was an even more violent onslaught from the enemy.

With a helpless sigh, he resignedly exited the scene.

His figure disappeared, leaving numerous attacks striking empty space.

The sword cultivator sisters' expressions grew solemn. With a physique cultivator companion previously sharing the burden, they could barely hold on, but following his exit, they found it even harder to continue.

The sisters were decisive; realizing their dire situation, they immediately merged their protective sword stream with the other, preparing for one final desperate attempt!

Just then, a swift aura struck from the side, causing the sisters to grow vigilant and instinctively ease their attack.

Soon after, they saw three figures boldly slash into the already chaotic battlefield.

The seemingly overwhelming adversaries that they struggled against felt somewhat vulnerable before these three; after just one encounter, the enemy had lost one member, and it was their strongest Constellation Late Stage opponent!

The three who had burst into the scene whirled by, passing the sisters. Remaining on high alert, the sisters were taken aback to discover an inexplicable force enveloping them, allowing them to seamlessly connect their aura with that of the trio!

Without any discussion or a single conversational exchange, the sisters exchanged glances, leaping forward almost instinctively to join the formation.

The aura of Lu Ye, who led the assault, grew all the more formidable!

Chapter 1423 - Black Tortoise Array

When the three of them formed an array, Lu Ye's squad's offensive was already extremely sharp. Now, with five forming an array, they became even more formidable.

On the other hand, the targeted enemies, after losing a member in the Late Stage of Constellation, appeared somewhat vulnerable. The specter's occasional appearances posed a tremendous threat, causing them to be increasingly cautious.

In just a brief exchange, this moderately formidable team was completely defeated, with members either injured or dead, retreating in disarray.

Lu Ye halted his swift movements and commanded, "Recover!"

Having fought their way here, both he and Little Dumb and Little Crooked had consumed a great deal of energy. Although they could assist each other with the array disc, the consumed power was still expended.

This entire battlefield was filled with extremely pure stellar space energy, providing significant aid to the cultivators' recovery.

Upon receiving the order, Little Dumb and Little Crooked quickly calmed their minds, utilized the Black rank skill, inhaling and exhaling the surrounding stellar space energy, while each popped an elixir pill into their mouths.

Lu Ye turned his head to look at the sword cultivator sisters.

The two sisters saluted graciously, the one on the left spoke, "Thank you, Fellow Daoist, for your help. Cai Yue greets Fellow Daoist."

The one on the right followed with, "Cai Xing greets Fellow Daoist."

Previously, their sole companion was eliminated by the specter. If Lu Ye's squad hadn't intervened, they would have certainly met the same fate. Thanks to Lu Ye's squad's intervention, who kindly accepted them into their array, they were able to survive and even had the chance to exact revenge.

They could sense that these three in front truly intended to help them. Otherwise, it would not have been just the original enemies assaulting them; these three had the capability to take them out just as easily.

This was why the sisters joined the opposing array without hesitation.

Lu Ye nodded slightly, "I am Fa Wuzun."

The sisters were both inwardly startled; they had naturally heard of Fa Wuzun's renowned name but had only admired it on the Cumulated Points Ranking. They hadn't expected to meet him in person today.

Lu Ye then introduced them to Little Dumb and Little Crooked.

Little Dumb, who had been meditating with eyes closed, opened her eyes, wanting to clarify but decided against it after some thought...

During this mutual introduction, a huge uproar was already unfolding within the Constellation Palace.

Initially, many spectating cultivators thought Lu Ye's squad's impressive performance indicated that they knew each other beforehand; otherwise, they couldn't have formed an array. The audience only

marveled at Fa Wuzun's individual strength and the trio's good fortune since having three well-acquainted people meet on such a battlefield is rare.

Yet, even in such cases, it wouldn't work without a sufficiently strong leader to guide the array.

However, as the previous scene unfolded where Lu Ye's squad casually accepted the sword cultivator sisters, the observing cultivators immediately noticed something extraordinary.

If Fa Wuzun's three-member squad indeed knew each other previously, they certainly didn't know these two sword cultivators, as evidenced by their current interactions.

They were getting to know each other!

How could people who don't know each other form an array together? And seemingly do so smoothly and naturally, without any delay?

Soon, the sharp-minded focused their attention on the array disc held by Little Dumb! During the combat, this girl had been holding the array disc over her head the whole time, which appeared a bit silly. People were puzzled why she did it.

Only now did they realize this array disc might be the key to forming the array!

If so, then this array disc must have the ability to allow strangers to easily form an array.

This array disc... is a treasure!

For a while, many cultivators began transmitting messages outside. Jiu Yan from Cheling World had never seen the array disc but sensed its immense potential just from Chu Shen's description. How could the currently observing cultivators not detect it?

Especially among these cultivators, there were many shrewd people from prominent commerce affiliations, specializing in trading and dealing.

They were well-versed in various treasures, experienced, and all realized one thing at this moment: if they could understand the secret of this array disc and produce it in large quantities, the improvement it could bring to cultivators' combat power would be terrifying.

Inside Hall No. 935, Chu Shen's expression was extremely grave.

The situation was dire, extremely dire!

He couldn't understand why Fa Wuzun would display the array disc in this manner. From his experience with Fa Wuzun, he definitely knew the array disc could exert its power without being so blatantly shown, yet the girl forcefully recruited by Fa Wuzun was doing just that — as instructed by Fa Wuzun.

What was the purpose of this?

Could it be that the bigshot wasn't willing to fulfill the previous agreement? Trying to leverage this opportunity to make the array disc famous under public scrutiny, then monopolize it? But how would this benefit him?

Unable to figure it out for the moment, Chu Shen's initial plan was to wait for Fa Wuzun to hand over the array disc, then negotiate with his old mother using it — a plan likely to succeed. But the current development made him feel uneasy.

Though he couldn't pinpoint exactly what the issue was, being young and inexperienced, he had no idea of Lu Ye's intricate plans.

He could only wait and watch.

As the observations continued, Fa Wuzun's side was almost finished resting and was now forming an array.

Three people could form the simplest Three Talents Array, but with five people, the Three Talents Array was no longer suitable, suggesting the need to switch to another type of array.

The five of them formed the Black Tortoise Array, which is quite prevalent in the stellar space!

At this moment, the five each took their positions, and with the activation of their spirit force, their energy connected. In an instant, a lifelike giant turtle appeared out of thin air!

The giant turtle was purely condensed from spirit force. It couldn't be said to be exactly the same as the real Black Tortoise, but it was somewhat similar.

Lu Ye took the turtle's head position, while the four women occupied the limbs. To ensure the formation's attack power, Cai Yue and Cai Xing, the sisters, took the front limbs, while Little Dumb and Little Crooked took the rear limbs.

They were just missing a tail.

Theoretically, the formation would be best with six people, as the sixth person could occupy the tail position, further strengthening the formation.

But at this moment, finding another person wasn't so simple. The specter was wandering nearby, but whether Lu Ye could trust her was a question and her personality probably wasn't suited for joint efforts.

Her favorite thing was to follow the strong and pick up leftovers... no risk, yet a lot to gain.

Lu Ye chose the Black Tortoise Array after careful consideration.

Among the five-person squad, he had the highest cultivation, and the other four were all at Constellation Early Stage. Even if his strong personal power could guarantee the formation's offensive capability, the defense was somewhat lacking.

If during combat he didn't pay enough attention, his side could suffer casualties. While charging forward before, he constantly kept an eye on Little Dumb and Little Crooked to avoid dangers they couldn't handle and helped them out several times.

If Chu Shen were here, it would be fine. This guy has plenty of defensive means, which could make up for that shortcoming.

Unfortunately, Chu Shen was eliminated early.

According to Lu Ye's observation, Little Dumb is likely a magic cultivator, Little Crooked a ghost cultivator, and the Star Moon Sisters are sword cultivators, none known for their defense.

Thus, they had to choose a formation that could provide the team with defensive capabilities to alleviate some concerns during the charge.

With everything ready, Lu Ye wielded his long sword and led his four temporary comrades into the fight.

In an instant, a giant turtle rampaged across the stellar space battle zone!

Wherever a fight was fierce, they headed there, truly invincible!

When three of them previously formed an array, they could be considered unstoppable, but each time they encountered an enemy, Lu Ye had to divide his attention to care for Little Dumb and Little Crooked.

Now, he didn't need to worry about that; he focused solely on his long sword, with no need to worry about defense.

In attack, the Star Moon Sisters often aided him. Just as they reached the enemy, two sword streams swept ahead with movements of the turtle's front limbs.

While the enemies were in disarray, the turtle charged, and Lu Ye only needed to swing his sword wildly!

He once again felt the exhilarating freedom he had experienced teaming up with Chu Shen, realizing how crucial it is to choose the right partners for collaboration.

Exclamations echoed from all the Constellation Palaces, as the turtle looked like an ancient ferocious beast just freed from captivity, devouring cultivators wherever it went!

After several dashes back and forth, few enemies remained, and seeing the ferociousness of the turtle, none dared hesitate any longer, all turning and fleeing.

Lu Ye led the Black Tortoise Array straight towards the purple talisman.

Earlier, when he first passed this location, he had tried to approach it, only to be met with attacks from all sides and was forced to retreat.

Now, no one intercepted him.

However, there was an additional figure already attempting to retrieve the purple talisman.

Who else but the elusive specter?

Yet, treasures appearing in the site of the Melee Battle Meet couldn't be easily taken. Each one, upon appearing, was shrouded in an invisible restriction. Without breaking it, one couldn't hope to claim the treasure.

The specter was currently breaking the restriction!

Seeing Lu Ye approaching with fierce momentum, the specter panicked and sent an audio transmission: "I just helped you!"

"I paid with spirit jade!" Lu Ye raised his blood-colored long sword without slowing.

The specter was anxious: "Let me take it, I beg you!"

"Wishful thinking!"

"Otherwise, I'll tell you about those two new companions; you are the one who had me eliminate their physique cultivator comrade."

This was a purple talisman, likely from the Dwarf Race, and to the perpetually impoverished specter, it represented spirit jade.

What she got in return was a blood-colored saber light, cutting through the Void.

Fuming, the specter vanished at the last moment before the saber light struck, leaving only a parting message in Lu Ye's ear: "You ungrateful bastard, you'd better grow two eyes in the back of your head!"

She loathed those who competed with her for treasures!

Chapter 1424 - The Array Disc's Rise to Fame

The specter vanished, and Lu Ye led his four-member squad to the purple talisman, reaching out to grab it. However, when he was about ten inches away, he encountered an invisible barrier.

This was the restriction of the treasure!

He smoothly turned his claw into a palm, placing it on the restriction, and channeled his spirit force into it.

When someone interferes, breaking this restriction isn't easy, but without interference, it was quick. In just the time of twenty breaths, the restriction dissolved, and Lu Ye raised his hand to grab the purple talisman.

Carefully examining it, he confirmed without a doubt that this purple talisman indeed came from the Dwarf Race.

Looking up at his four companions, Cai Yue smiled slightly: "Fellow Daoist, feel free to keep it. We sisters have no objection."

If it weren't for Lu Ye rescuing them earlier, they would have been eliminated long ago. Now, being able to form an alliance with Lu Ye and run rampant is already a gain. The sisters indeed don't have many thoughts about this purple talisman, even though they know it's very valuable!

Little Dumb and Little Crooked also hurriedly expressed that they had no objections.

The same principle applies; they all know that following Lu Ye would bring gains in terms of achievements. Without Lu Ye, with their Early Stage cultivation, they would be nothing. They would likely have been eliminated early on. Calculating it this way, they have already gained a lot and wouldn't dare to ask for more.

"All the spoils, once we leave this place, I will have them appraised and contact you for profit sharing!" Lu Ye spoke.

How others express themselves is their own business, but for Lu Ye, since they are acting together, the gains should naturally be shared together.

He is not one to habitually take everything for himself, and compared to his overall plan, the gains from this trip to the Melee Battle Meet are just fragments.

"Let's go!" Lu Ye called, leading the array forward.

He needed to rush to the next battlefield. Opportunities are rare, so the more he could showcase the power of the array disc, the better.

Earlier, more than one purple talisman appeared. Because of Lu Ye's squad's strong performance, victory was already determined for this battlefield, but other spots were still fiercely contested.

The distance wasn't close, but Lu Ye estimated it was enough for him to reach the second nearest battlefield.

And indeed it was, when he arrived with his squad of four, the purple talisman was still present on this battlefield. However, the fighting wasn't as intense as before.

After all, the weaker squads had already been eliminated or had retreated, leaving only the strong ones.

Currently, three squads of similar strength were still competing here, each hampering the others. If any party attempted to collect the purple talisman, the other two would attack in unison, leading to a rather awkward situation.

In such cases, reaching a conclusion would be difficult. The best solution would be for two squads to secretly ally and take out the third, but without sufficient trust, this approach was challenging to realize.

When Lu Ye's five-member squad entered this battlefield, the three squads immediately took notice.

Each squad used their Mental Consciousness to sweep over and found that the newcomers were comprised of one mid-stage and four Early Stage cultivators. They were greatly surprised because there weren't many Early Stage participants in the Melee Battle Meet. After two or three days of elimination, a significant portion had already left, and the remaining ones either relied on powerful experts or formed partnerships with familiar people.

Hence, at most, a squad would have one Constellation Early Stage member, and any more would be a burden.

Seeing four Early Stage members traveling together was naturally intriguing.

The cultivators from the three squads didn't take the newcomers seriously. The nearest squad even turned around to confront them, clearly intending to tackle Lu Ye's squad first to claim some spoils.

While the three squads didn't know the depth of Lu Ye's squad, the cultivators watching from the Constellation Palace were well aware. This seemingly weak squad was the winner on the previous battlefield. Seeing the squad approaching Lu Ye's team unwittingly, they knew they were in trouble.

They couldn't help feeling indignant. Fa Wuzun, that cunning guy, maintained the squad's formation, but there was no sign of them forming the array. They were lazily advancing, looking more like they were offering heads rather than fighting for things.

As the distance between them closed, the expected scenario, as foreseen by the watching cultivators, unfolded.

The female cultivator responsible for the array disc suddenly raised it high over her head, and in an instant, the five people's auras linked, and as spirit force surged, a spirit force giant turtle appeared out of thin air.

This sudden change stunned the approaching cultivators.

The leader immediately shouted, "Be careful!"

They initially thought it was just five clueless fools, who would have expected them to form an array in the blink of an eye!

By the time they were alert, it was already too late. With the appearance of the spirit force giant turtle, the sound of swords echoing, and amidst dazzling sword light, two streams of swords swept from the sides, encircling the incoming foes.

The cultivation of the Star Moon Sisters was lacking, so the killing power of the sword streams wasn't very strong. However, with the help of the array, it was ultimately more powerful than their individual abilities, barely reaching the level of a mid-stage cultivator's attack.

This was almost on par with the level they displayed when executing their joint strike technique.

Such an offensive naturally couldn't pose a significant threat to the oncoming enemy, but it was sufficient to harass them.

Taking advantage of their distraction battling the sword stream, the giant turtle swiftly charged forward, instantly pouncing in front of the leading Constellation Late Stage player.

In an instant, the Late Stage player's face turned ashen because, mysteriously, he felt an immense threat descending upon him, as if a giant Black Tortoise beast had truly opened its ferocious mouth at him!

Blade light burst forth, a massive force swept through, a sharp aura approached his body; even though he was a Late Stage physique cultivator, within two breaths, his protective spirit force was shattered, his blood Qi roiled, he roared in fury, yet was still hard-pressed to withstand the violent killing power.

The giant turtle's assault was unrelenting, the ferocious beast crushed over the bleeding remains of the physique cultivator, its enormous form enveloping the cultivators behind him.

After a fleeting moment of chaos, the expressions of the remaining two squads' cultivators turned aghast, for the squad, which was on par with them, was as fragile as paper against an As-Close-As-Siblings Array composed of one mid-stage and four Early Stages.

To know this was the Black Tortoise Array, renowned for its protective capabilities, though it possessed notable killing power, it was not its primary focus.

Who are these guys...?

The Black Tortoise Array led by Lu Ye, after dealing with the first squad, immediately advanced toward the second squad. The cultivators of this squad hadn't initially taken them seriously, but having witnessed the tragedy, how could they not recognize the prowess of the Black Tortoise Array?

Not daring to linger, the leading cultivator gave a low shout and immediately fled into the distance.

Lu Ye glanced over but did not pursue, instead charging toward the third team.

The third squad made the same choice as the second one...

In an instant, the originally stalemated situation was broken by Lu Ye's squad's arrival, leaving the vast battlefield with only Lu Ye's squad remaining.

Just like before, they approached the purple talisman and put it away.

"Recover!" Lu Ye commanded.

He himself didn't need much recovery, but the four Early Stage temporary allies around him did, and he estimated that quite a few people might be watching his squad right now, so even if just for show, he had to pretend to recover.

Furthermore, for cultivators at their level, the pure energy that descended with the purple talisman on this battlefield was also an invaluable resource that could help cultivators rapidly grow in strength.

Some cultivators came to this battlefield not to compete for treasures but to refine this pure energy.

While he was recovering, in the Constellation Palace, news about the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc began to spread far and wide, with many knowing that a highly unusual squad had appeared on the Melee Battle Meet battlefield. The squad consisted of one mid-stage leading four Early Stages, yet wherever they went, they faced no rivals, and the root of it all seemed to lie in an array disc.

The disc possessed extremely enigmatic power, allowing one to easily form an array formation, so even though the squad's overall strength wasn't high, with the array's assistance, they could weakly defeat the strong.

Countless eyes searched for Lu Ye's squad, and when found, they all brightened.

The criteria Lu Ye set when choosing his teammates undoubtedly played a role right now; apart from him leading, all four were stunning beauties, even the silly-looking Little Dumb appeared impeccable in appearance and figure.

This gave an overly strong visual appeal.

Moreover, human nature tends to resonate with the weak, so the cultivators watching Lu Ye's squad eagerly anticipated the numerous performances of these four women in the upcoming events.

After all, they were not competitors; if others met misfortune, they watched for entertainment, how delightful!

Most people were watching for fun, but the many cultivators from each major faction focused on the array disc itself, already planning on how to contact Fa Wuzun after this Melee Battle Meet to discuss purchasing the array disc.

Some were so impatient they started probing people who knew Fa Wuzun, hoping to quickly establish contact with him.

Chu Shen was plagued with troubles because he had previously mentioned that Fa Wuzun was like an elder brother to him, which many overheard, leading many to find his side.

To him, the array disc already bore the surname Chu! With so many people coveting a treasure belonging to the Chu family, did they not have him in their eyes at all?

Indeed, not many people minded him—being the young master from Cheling World, a child of a Sun Blaze powerhouse, sounded impressive when said out loud, but Chu Shen hadn't made a name for himself. Perhaps cultivators from this home galaxy knew him, but most people were unaware of his existence.

Only when Chu Shen revealed his identity, mentioning Jiu Yan's name, did the chattering crowd quiet down.

Yet it also made cultivators from various major factions feel an increasing sense of crisis; Jiu Yan was the Sun Blaze of this home galaxy and had deep ties with the All Phenomena Merchants Guild. If Jiu Yan intervened, wouldn't that mean the All Phenomena Merchants Guild also had their eye on this array disc?

For the factions determined to obtain this mystical array disc, it was not good news, and it would undoubtedly add a strong new competitor!

Chapter 1425 - Unstoppable Momentum

In the stellar space battle zone of the Melee Battle Meet, Lu Ye's squad moved with agility and power, truly unstoppable, making those watching cultivators wildly excited.

Almost every cultivator who dared to underestimate this team paid a very heavy price.

This was truly because Lu Ye and the others' cultivation levels were too deceptive, especially the early-stage cultivation of Little Dumb and the other three, which to the cultivators participating in the Melee Battle Meet, seemed like delectable treats that everyone wanted a bite of.

So often, it was others who provoked them, only to hit a brick wall and be eliminated.

Along the way, they also encountered some formidable individuals, including a powerhouse ranked in the top thirty of the Cumulated Points Ranking. This person, confident in their strength, acted alone without forming alliances, and when they met Lu Ye's squad, they attacked openly rather than launching a sneak attack like some others did.

As a result, they were severely taught a lesson by Lu Ye leading four beautiful women, ending up severely injured and forced to withdraw from the area.

It was precisely this battle that made the watching cultivators even more aware of the awesomeness of Lu Ye's squad.

Although this team previously had no opponents, the late-stage cultivators they encountered were not the top tier, leaving the observers aware of Lu Ye's squad's strength, but without a concrete understanding of how strong.

Until after this battle!

A top thirty ranked strongman on the Cumulated Points Ranking undoubtedly represented the highest standard of the Constellation Realm, yet even such a powerhouse was no match. Of course, this was due to Fa Wuzun's personal strength as the foundation, but the main credit went to the array's function.

It further enlightened people on the mysteries of that array disc.

Soon after, in a place shrouded in pure energy, the four women, including Little Dumb, quietly cultivated while Lu Ye kept watch in all directions.

In the past few days, many rare and strange treasures appeared on this battlefield, and Lu Ye's squad frequently participated in the competitions, pursuing treasures while also seeking victories, and achieved considerable results.

On such a battlefield, although treasures were taken by others, the pure energy that arrived alongside the treasures often remained.

Cultivators couldn't stay there indefinitely to refine these energies before leaving, as it would consume a lot of time and also pose the risk of being targeted.

This led to the current battlefield space being fairly suitable for cultivation and recovery wherever treasures had appeared.

After days of competition, most of the cultivators participating in the Melee Battle Meet had been eliminated, making it increasingly unlikely to find people as easily as before; often one would search for a long time without encountering even a Spectral Shadow.

The surviving cultivators mostly took care to hide their movements.

So Lu Ye didn't bother searching for people everywhere but waited patiently.

After all, every now and then, treasures would descend somewhere on the battlefield, and those hidden cultivators would inevitably jump out to compete, which was the best opportunity to eliminate opponents and increase their haul.

Waiting idly was naturally not cost-effective, so every time Lu Ye would lead Little Dumb and the others to a place where stellar space energy gathered to let them cultivate and recover.

In this way, while keeping them in optimal condition, he also concealed the traces of him activating the Talent Tree's power to devour the surroundings.

While waiting, suddenly a hint of energy rushed from afar, and when Lu Ye turned to look, he saw a light beam!

The light beam clearly burst with rich blood Qi, and from the newcomer's imposing manner, it was evidently a physique cultivator.

Their approach was hostile, charging straight at this side.

Lu Ye wasn't too concerned, mainly because he had experienced similar situations many times recently; there were always some people who, seeing their squad's overall cultivation level as low, wished to bully them, but the results were often disappointing.

As the distance continued to close, the physique cultivator's momentum grew stronger, with a ferocious stance of wanting to overwhelm them instantly.

This disturbance alarmed the four women who were peacefully cultivating and recovering, causing them to open their eyes in unison.

In an instant, the physique cultivator drew within thirty miles.

In the past, any of the four women, though not panicking, would have at least been on alert.

However, having experienced many times, the four women were already indifferent, each calmly watching the physique cultivator, ready to form an array at Lu Ye's command and give the opponent a hard time.

This scene undoubtedly puzzled the physique cultivator. In such a tense situation, the five opponents either had to fight or escape; standing quietly in place was somewhat incomprehensible, and gave him a slight sense of unease.

But once the arrow is shot, there's no turning back, and he could only continue to boost his momentum.

The distance narrowed a bit more.

At this moment, Lu Ye, who had been staring at the approaching physique cultivator, suddenly turned around. A blood-red long knife in his hand spun, and gripping it in reverse, he stabbed straight toward Little Crooked's position!

Little Crooked's face suddenly changed, in that instant she even felt her soul leaving her body, not understanding why Lu Ye would attack her.

The points of light bloomed in her vision like falling stars, and the fierce killing intent and violent attack made Little Crooked lose focus, instinctively widening her eyes in shock.

The expected pain did not come. The blood-red long knife brushed past her cheek, cutting a few strands of her hair, while at the same moment, there was the sound of spirit force colliding behind her!

Someone's behind!

Little Crooked immediately reacted. She was, after all, a Constellation. Even if she was suddenly startled, she quickly understood what had happened.

Fa Wuzun's strike wasn't aimed at her, but at the enemy behind her!

To approach her so silently and invisibly, it had to be a Ghost Cultivator, and surely much stronger than her. Otherwise, she wouldn't be completely unaware, even though she's also a Ghost Cultivator.

She immediately thought of the female Specter Race who had been following the squad for the past few days, always picking up leftovers!

If it was her, then it makes sense that Little Crooked couldn't detect it. As fellow Ghost Cultivators, the Specter Race's expertise was leagues above hers.

Yet, in Little Crooked's perception, the ghost cultivator behind wasn't the Specter Race because of a different presence, undoubtedly indicating a strange Ghost Cultivator was attacking her.

It's highly likely they were teamed with the approaching physique cultivator, making a big ruckus to divert attention, while the Ghost Cultivator sneaked close by, waiting to strike. This was the most common and practical tactic used by cultivators.

Cold sweat broke out, drenching her clothes. If not for Fa Wuzun's quick response, she might have already suffered a fatal blow!

Almost as soon as Lu Ye struck, Little Dumb raised the array disc high, swiftly pouring spirit force into it to activate its power.

They had fought side by side for several days, and were now incredibly familiar with each other. As Little Dumb activated the array disc's power, everyone's energies connected smoothly.

In a blink, the array was formed!

The image of a Black Tortoise instantly appeared, shaking its head and wagging its tail, fierce in shape and imposing in power!

Then followed a storm of flashing blades and shadows.

The Ghost Cultivator, who had failed to ambush Little Crooked, hadn't yet understood what had happened before he was enveloped by insanely violent and sharp attacks, dying instantly!

Ghost Cultivators as a faction are weak at defense, and as he concentrated all his strength on the attack, neglecting his defense, how could he survive such a counterattack?

Lu Ye promptly snatched his spirit treasure and storage ring, then turned his attention to the physique cultivator approaching within ten miles!

He was grateful to the specter for constantly appearing near the squad, trying to pick up leftovers. As a result, even while resting, he never let his guard down.

Afraid this specter might suddenly attack his precious team members, despite never showing such intentions, some things couldn't be left unguarded.

Otherwise, just now, he might not have been able to save Little Crooked in time because maintaining the Black Tortoise formation placed Little Crooked somewhat far from him. If he hadn't been alert in advance, there wouldn't have been time to stop the Ghost Cultivator when he really struck.

The incoming physique cultivator wore a stunned expression.

Having collaborated with his Ghost Cultivator companion several times with smooth sailing and considerable gains, even Constellation Late Stage cultivators fell victim to them.

Never expected that when dealing with a squad of one mid-stage and four early-stage, his Ghost Cultivator companion would fail!

Not only did he fail, but he also lost his life.

Watching the spirit force gathered into the Black Tortoise charging towards him, the physique cultivator dared not face it head-on, though his Ghost Cultivator's demise partly resulted from carelessness, it also underscored the enemy's strength.

Especially when the five opponents formed an array the physique cultivator never encountered before.

If those five hadn't formed an array, he would stand a chance, being of higher cultivation with odds even in a one-versus-five. But with them forming an array, what's there to fight?

While cursing the ghost cultivator's incompetence, he turned tail and fled.

Nonetheless, with such proximity, even his higher cultivation couldn't escape. As Lu Ye exploded a drop of Essence Blood, the Blood Escape Technique unfolded, and the surface of the spirit force tortoise was suddenly tinged with blood, its speed sharply increased.

In no time, the physique cultivator bit his teeth and stopped, confronted to fight.

No alternative, he couldn't run away!

Furious inside, the higher cultivation side being chased by the lower cultivation one was undeniably embarrassing, so he decided to try all his means against the foe, after all his skin was thick and tough. As long as the opponent's strength wasn't excessive, he was basically not in life-threatening danger.

This attempt however led to shattered confidence.

The leading mid-stage cultivator swung down a few strikes, shaking his protective spirit force to the brink of breaking.

Without personal experience, it was hard to accept a mid-stage having such ferocious and incisive destructive power.

He couldn't fathom how a group of five, forming a Black Tortoise Array known for defense, could wield attacks so strong.

Amazed, he spurred his blood Qi, the spot enveloped in crimson, which carried uncanny power to slow the enemies' movements, aiming to delay their strike speed and maneuver space for a counterattack.

The effect was present but still couldn't change fate. As Lu Ye's long knife cleaved down, the Star Moon Sisters' sword stream erupted, shattering the physique cultivator's defense, leaving his entire being torn apart and scattered.

Chapter 1426 - Dead-Substitute Puppet and Battlefield Map

The battle subsided, yet not a drop of blood was shed.

Lu Ye raised his hand to retrieve a piece of what appeared to be a physique cultivator's corpse, but upon closer inspection, it was nothing but a piece of wood.

Moreover, at the very moment the enemy perished, Lu Ye distinctly sensed a mystical force ripple from a certain direction, as if the physique cultivator had exchanged places with something else at that instant.

A dead-substitute puppet!

Lu Ye immediately understood what this thing was.

He had seen records about dead-substitute puppets in the Xiyuan Pavilion of the Dwarf Race. These could be considered the most powerful life-saving artifacts because they could die once on behalf of the cultivator who refined them.

However, making such an item is extremely complex and requires exceptionally rare materials, so even across the entire stellar space, there aren't many of them. Even if some exist, they are treasured by their owners and rarely seen by ordinary people. Only the most outstanding juniors of some major powers are equipped with them to prevent unforeseen events.

The Dwarf Race has a type of Spirit Talisman known as the dead-substitute talisman, which functions similarly to the dead-substitute puppet, but it is a red talisman that only Sun Blaze experts can refine.

In comparison, the dead-substitute puppet is undoubtedly more effective, because a cultivator can place this puppet in a safe location ahead of time, and when they are about to die, they can swap places with the puppet, letting it take the calamity in their place.

The dead-substitute talisman doesn't work like that; it needs to be refined into the body.

Simply put, a cultivator with a dead-substitute talisman might escape a disaster with this red talisman, but they will still appear nearby, and if they can't escape swiftly, they will still be hard-pressed to escape death.

Now that the physique cultivator disappeared without a trace, with only the remnants of a dead-substitute puppet left, it clearly indicated that he had exchanged places with the puppet.

Lu Ye glanced into the distance, feeling a twinge of regret.

If he had known that the physique cultivator possessed such a divine object as a dead-substitute puppet, they could have sat down and had a proper discussion. If the other side was willing to use the puppet to bargain for their life, it could have been negotiable.

But now it's too late, as the puppet is destroyed, there's nothing left to discuss.

This type of treasure is definitely not something that the physique cultivator would normally have access to. Lu Ye figured it was likely a treasure seized from this battlefield earlier.

Truly a priceless item, if it were to be sold, those major powers would vie for it eagerly. After all, whose family doesn't have a few outstanding juniors? Buying this artifact would mean gaining an extra life, an added layer of security.

Casually tossing aside the puppet's remnants, Lu Ye led Little Dumb and others toward the distance while the Blood Escape Technique's power was still active.

Perhaps due to overconfidence, the physique cultivator hadn't placed the puppet too far away before taking action, thus when he swapped places with the puppet, Lu Ye was able to catch a trace.

In an instant, a scarlet rainbow streaked through the Void.

Simultaneously, in that direction, two figures were fleeing rapidly, one of them being the physique cultivator, albeit in a wretched state; the puppet, while it could substitute his death, couldn't substitute his injuries, and the wounds he sustained were still affecting him, leaving his aura somewhat weak.

Beside him was a young man with only mid-stage cultivation.

Counting the Ghost Cultivator that Lu Ye killed earlier, this was a squad of three, one mid-stage, two late-stage.

The mid-stage youth's task was to scout for potential targets while holding onto the physique cultivator's dead-substitute puppet. Once a target was found, the physique cultivator and the Ghost Cultivator would team up to strike. This had been their strategy for some time, working quite pleasantly.

As it turned out, the physique cultivator appeared beside the young man, his face filled with terror, giving him quite a fright.

"Who did you encounter? Where's Old Hei?" the young man asked anxiously while fleeing, already having a bad feeling but unwilling to believe it.

The physique cultivator replied unhappily, "We tangled with someone we shouldn't have! Old Hei is already dead!"

The young man was taken aback. Though the Ghost Cultivator faction lacked strong defenses, they were actually difficult to kill because they would often flee far away if a strike missed, making them elusive and hard to track.

Moreover, Old Hei was a late-stage Ghost Cultivator. This mission was supposedly just dealing with a mid-stage and four early-stage opponents; it should have been an easy task. How did it come to this?

Not only is Old Hei dead, but the physique cultivator's dead-substitute puppet is gone too, meaning he had also died once.

How powerful could those people have been?

Just then, the young man's heart suddenly tightened, sensing an overpowering aura locking onto him. Looking back, he saw a red glow rapidly approaching from afar, relentlessly pursuing.

The physique cultivator also sensed it, feeling indignant, "Persistent like a ghost! They want to kill us all!"

"What do we do?" the young man asked, terrified by the deaths of his companions and feeling he wasn't a match for the pursuer, leaving him flustered.

The physique cultivator's expression fluctuated for a while before he eventually sighed unwillingly, "Accept our fate!"

"You..." the young man looked at him, surprised.

"There's no escape. I was just caught up before; I'm leaving now, you're on your own!" he said decisively, withdrawing from this battlefield. Being temporary companions, there was no deep emotional bond. They could help each other in favorable conditions, but when faced with adversity, it was each for himself.

The figure of the physique cultivator disappeared, and the youth heaved a heavy sigh, following suit.

Lu Ye, who had been chasing from afar, also paused. He was just pursuing that physique cultivator, as the expense of the dead-substitute puppet made him feel quite pained. He intended to come over and teach this physique cultivator a lesson, but he didn't expect that the other party had a hidden companion, revealing their whereabouts.

However, upon careful thought, this was to be expected. The dead-substitute puppet placed outside by the physique cultivator needed someone to guard and protect it, so leaving a companion unseen was the normal choice.

Now that the two of them have both withdrawn, Lu Ye felt a suffocating frustration in his heart with no outlet for release.

"What's that?" Cai Yue's sharp eyes spotted something left where the youth vanished.

Lu Ye looked up, squinting, and indeed saw something unusual over there. Feeling a stir in his heart, he hurried towards it.

Upon reaching the place, he found a jade disc. Lu Ye picked it up, examined it carefully, and found it to be only palm-sized, seemingly without anything special. He tried to pour spirit force into it, but there was no response at all...

"What use does it have?" Cai Xing asked curiously, while the other three looked at him eagerly.

Lu Ye shook his head: "I don't know for the time being, but this should be a treasure unique to the battlefield."

The reason for this assumption is that this item was left after the youth disappeared, so it must be something that cannot be taken out, in other words, it can only be used on this battlefield.

Lu Ye tried to store it in his storage ring, only to find he couldn't, as an invisible force was obstructing him, further confirming his hypothesis.

Indeed, this was a treasure that could only be used on this battlefield.

From this point of view, that squad of three had quite good luck, having a dead-substitute puppet and such an unclear jade disc, but unfortunately ran into a squad they couldn't defeat, beaten bloody.

Lu Ye studied it for a while, but couldn't figure it out, so he handed the jade disc to others for inspection, still without any clue.

This was quite frustrating. The treasures appearing in the Melee Battle Meet were bizarre and varied. Of those they acquired before, except for the two purple talismans which had some value, the others weren't much useful. Now this trophy, its use was even more unclear.

"You take it!" Lu Ye tossed it to Little Crooked. Since it's a treasure, it can't just be discarded; maybe it might be useful sometime.

Little Dumb had to handle the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc, and the Star Moon Sisters sometimes had to assist him in attacks, so Little Crooked was the most idle. The unknown treasure given to her was undoubtedly the best choice.

Little Crooked caught it.

The five maintained their Black Tortoise Array formation, with the array disc's power not activated, each driving their spirit force forward, seeming aimless.

After a while, Little Crooked suddenly exclaimed with joy: "This thing reacted!"

Lu Ye immediately halted and turned to look at her.

Little Crooked fiddled with it a bit, showing an understanding expression: "This jade disc is a battlefield map, capable of displaying the detailed situation of the entire battlefield!"

Saying this, she tossed the jade disc to Lu Ye.

Lu Ye took and checked it, finding it indeed as Little Crooked said. It showed no reaction before, but now, under perception, one could clearly sense the mysteries within the jade disc.

This was a battlefield map, not only recording the terrain and landforms in detail, but Lu Ye could even perceive many bright and dim light points moving within it under his sensing.

Frequently using the ten-part map and the star map, Lu Ye was very familiar with this kind of thing.

Immediately he understood that those light points represented the cultivators in the Melee Battle Meet, and the brightness of the light points represented the level of their cultivation.

Just like now, at the center of the map, five light points gathered motionless, one slightly brighter than the others, whose brightness was almost identical.

This represented their group, Lu Ye's cultivation was a bit higher, hence his light point was brighter.

It explained why their squad was quietly refining stellar space energy and still ran into trouble before. Lu Ye thought it was just a coincidence, since they weren't hiding their trail, seeing them would be normal for any cultivator passing by nearby. But now it seemed it wasn't. Others came specifically for them.

Relying precisely on the function of this jade disc.

Five pushovers represented so clearly on this jade disc, who wouldn't pick them?

"How to activate it?" Lu Ye asked. This item was a good find. With this jade disc in hand, he could know the whereabouts of all cultivators on the battlefield at a glance, no longer fearing not finding anyone.

Yet, first, he needed to figure out how to activate its power.

"I just randomly infused spirit force, and it activated," Little Crooked explained.

Lu Ye was a bit bewildered. He had done the exact same thing earlier, so why didn't it work? He had a vague idea, but to confirm it, he'd need to wait a bit longer.

Chapter 1427 - Starship

After a moment, Lu Ye finally verified his own speculation.

The power of the jade disc can be activated at will, but it has a time limit. In other words, it can only be maintained for a certain period, and once the time is up, it takes a while before it can be activated again.

This is also why he couldn't activate the power of the jade disc when he first got it. The time hadn't come yet. After giving it to Little Crooked, she kept trying and naturally was able to easily activate the jade disc's power.

The item indeed is a good one. Especially on a battlefield like this, with the jade disc guiding the map, the squad can easily find anyone they want to find.

Little Crooked continues to be in charge of the jade disc. Lu Ye led the squad of four flying in one direction.

During the investigation, he noticed that many cultivators were gathering in that direction. If his assumption was correct, there must be a treasure emerging there.

The Melee Battle Meet battlefield is vast, and not all emerging treasures can be detected by the squad. Some are too far away to be detected at all.

Not to mention others, just the dead-substitute puppet and this jade disc are treasures that emerged on this battlefield, but the squad of five knew nothing about them.

It can be foreseen that many people should have already acquired treasures, so when encountering enemies later, they must be cautious. No one knows the strange powers those treasures might have.

All the way forward, after flying for over half an hour, they finally reached the place.

From a distance, a point of light was seen there. It was clearly the emerging treasure, but it was unknown what exactly it was. Centered around the point of light, in the vast space nearby, cultivators could be seen everywhere, engaged in fierce battles.

In such an environment, even if a cultivator just wanted to refine the pure energy descended with the treasure here, it wouldn't work because no one would let others sit on the mountain watching tigers fight. As long as you enter this battlefield, everyone is an opponent.

This kind of bustle was exactly what Lu Ye longed for. Until now, his plan had been going very smoothly. He recruited four temporary companions, each with exceptional looks and appealing aesthetics, and the livelier it got, the better he could showcase the array disc's power.

As usual, he led the four women to charge into the battleground from the edge.

Nothing could stop them!

Most cultivators, upon seeing this special squad, had two reactions. First, they were pleased because Lu Ye's squad's overall cultivation level was very low, easily giving the impression that they could be crushed effortlessly. But immediately they were shocked, for the spirit force Black Tortoise figure was clearly visible. As long as one wasn't blind, they could see that these few had formed a Black Tortoise Array.

In such a battlefield environment, Lu Ye's squad was unique in being able to form an array. It made everyone realize that this squad must have some backing to survive until now and dare to boldly charge into this battlefield.

But there are always those who don't believe it and want to test the squad's mettle, ultimately resulting in a swift end.

The Black Tortoise figure formed by spirit force was like a real ferocious beast roaming the seas, stirring up a storm of blood rain wherever it went.

Soon, Lu Ye noticed the presence of another team.

That team was composed of a typical group of three, but the strength of these three was formidable. Like their own squad, they killed wherever they went, with no opponents capable of standing against them.

This was the first time Lu Ye encountered such a powerful team since the Melee Battle Meet began.

This team also noticed Lu Ye and the others. A look exchange between them established a mutual understanding, avoiding each other's areas.

Both parties knew it wasn't the time to compete against each other. It was more crucial to first eliminate any unrelated individuals before they could face off against each other.

This was likely an understanding among the strong, and a sorrow for the cultivators coming to this battlefield to contend for treasures.

After an intense battle, Lu Ye's team encountered some trouble. Although with the Black Tortoise Array and Lu Ye's outstanding abilities, they basically maintained a stride-blocking-killing pace, some impressive individuals still managed to cause some trouble for the squad.

For cultivators who had cultivated to the Constellation stage, who wouldn't have a few tricks?

This time, the enemies they encountered were not exceedingly powerful, but the kind of people Lu Ye was most wary of—those not particularly strong, yet having bizarre treasures in hand.

He had encountered quite a few of such people during duels before, though he ultimately won, it was often a pyrrhic victory.

The treasure was something like a chain, constantly shifting between reality and illusion, making it difficult to target. Every time the chain, controlled by its owner, lashed out, it appeared unpredictably mysterious; if Lu Ye blocked it, it would become intangible, making it impossible to block. If he didn't block, a heavy blow awaited the squad, with the thing having the effect of disturbing the psyche.

Fortunately, the squad was in a Black Tortoise Array, with excellent defense. Though they were hit a few times, with Lu Ye's timely adjustment of the array, supplemented by the Sacred Guard Spirit Runes, they managed to avoid causing any loss in squad members.

The opponent wasn't battling alone; they had companions aiding them, making it truly difficult.

Eventually, the squad braved the chain's fierce assault and got close to the owner, resolving the crisis by taking them down.

Though treasures are remarkable, in cultivator combat, one's foundation is equally vital. Without a strong enough foundation, merely having treasures won't suffice to show strength.

After dealing with the opponent here, Lu Ye immediately looked over at Little Crooked. The place she was in got hit by a strike from that chain, and although there was array protection, she still felt a bit dizzy.

"How is it?" Lu Ye asked with concern.

Little Crooked shook her head, "It's not a big deal, just need a moment to recover!"

There's no good solution for psyche shock, you can only wait for the Divine Sea to settle down.

Just as Lu Ye was about to speak again, he suddenly felt a warning, his gaze crossing over Little Crooked to look into the distant background behind her.

A point of light suddenly blossomed far away, accompanied by a violent and intense spirit force fluctuation.

Lu Ye's pupils instantly shrank to the size of pinpoints, almost instinctively urging his spirit force, triggering the array, and leading the four-member squad to dodge to the side.

At the same time he made a move, that point of light explosively expanded, transforming into a massive light beam, blasting from a distance of thousands of miles away.

Along its path, it destroyed all in its way like decaying wood.

Lu Ye saw clearly how some cultivators were caught off guard and enveloped by the light beam, their entire beings vanishing into nothingness without even a scream, and it wasn't just one person who suffered such a fate.

Although they dodged in time, the array, which was always in the form of a massive tortoise, was grazed by the light beam on the abdomen, as if a piece had been gouged out, causing a direct collapse.

Five figures were flung out.

Lu Ye's heart was chilled, knowing that in that instant, if they hadn't dodged in time, the lives of the five-member squad would likely have ended here.

Such an aggressive strike, almost comparable to Moon Jade making a move! He couldn't help but wonder what on earth that thing was.

Urging his spirit force, he managed to capture the figures of the four women flung out, stabilizing their shocked forms and re-gathering the array, Lu Ye finally had the time to look in the direction the attack originated from.

At this moment, the chaos on the battlefield had subsided, and with that aggressive strike's arrival, almost everyone was investigating the situation.

What met their eyes left each of them in stunned silence.

For they saw a starship.

A starship, sinister and daunting, resembling a shark, was gliding slowly from the depths of stellar space. The slowness was just an illusion, as in reality, it moved swiftly, bringing with it an indescribable sense of oppression and horror.

Everyone felt a bitter taste in their hearts, with some even cursing outright, "Why does this thing appear again? It's unfair!"

The reason they said 'again' was not because they had encountered it before, but because there had been a precedent of a starship appearing in the Melee Battle Meet's venue before.

No matter how wealthy the cultivators from outside were, capable of bringing a starship in, it couldn't be used, because if it could, the Melee Battle Meet's battlefield would inevitably turn into a war between starships.

Those cultivators from major factions, unlike rootless beings like Lu Ye, had the opportunity to borrow starships from their elders.

Take Chu Shen for instance, if he wanted, he could completely bring in a starship, it wouldn't be a big deal for him.

However, the Melee Battle Meet had its own rules, even if a cultivator brought a starship from outside, it couldn't be used here.

The only starships usable here are those that the Melee Battle Meet's battlefield has itself.

The treasures that emerge are bizarre and varied, including starships!

It's obvious that a group with extraordinary luck seized a starship, then rode it to sweep across the lands, and before this, surely many others met misfortune.

Saying it's unfair, it indeed feels unfair, because a starship's lethality is so immense, no ordinary cultivator's flesh and blood can stand against it, not even physique cultivators. With such a starship at hand, the cultivators piloting it have already secured victory.

But it's a treasure they seized through ability, a thing that can only be used within the Melee Battle Meet's battlefield.

Moreover, unleashing a starship's power costs a hefty price, even if ordinary cultivators seize one, they might not have the means to use it.

Just like that fierce strike earlier, it cost at least two to three thousand spirit jade, amounting to the price of an ordinary spirit treasure.

So, whether fair or unfair, depends on how you view this issue.

Besides, is there any fairness to speak of in the cultivation world? Chu Shen has Sun Blaze as a backer, which ninety percent of cultivators don't have, is that fair?

Now is not the time to haggle over these things, as the starship approached, more light began to bloom, and having witnessed the terrifying power of this starship, no cultivator still vying for treasures had the courage to stay, fearing they might get hit by the starship, meeting an unknown death.

Chapter 1428 - Joining Forces

Everyone scattered like birds and beasts, and a cultivator shouted, "Let's join forces to deal with it, otherwise this Melee Battle Meet can't be fought at all!"

Although there weren't too many cultivators present, there were still over a hundred people. If they could truly unite, one starship could definitely be dealt with because the starship that came didn't appear particularly strong. Among all the starships, it should be considered the weakest.

But as soon as that person finished speaking, the starship's light traversed hundreds of miles, enveloping him and his companions. When the light dissipated, several figures had already turned into nothingness.

Undoubtedly, this was the starship's pilot killing one to warn the rest. They also knew they couldn't let these people truly join forces, so whoever dared to act out was killed first!

As a result, no one dared to speak recklessly again.

Lu Ye led the four women to flee into the distance without looking back.

Although the squad had been invincible since they started using the array disc to form arrays, Lu Ye wasn't arrogant enough to confront a starship. The difference in scale was too vast, making any collision unnecessary and impossible.

He wasn't particularly concerned about the outcome of the Melee Battle Meet. The spoils along the way were already substantial. Even if they encountered a formidable opponent and were eliminated, he wouldn't have any regrets.

Moreover, his main goal this time at the Melee Battle Meet was to showcase the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc. He didn't know how many eyes were watching him from outside, but it was definitely not few.

Main objectives achieved, everything else was secondary.

After flying away from the previous battlefield for a short distance, Cai Yue transmitted a message, "Senior Brother Fa, someone is following us!"

Lu Ye had already noticed, as those following didn't intend to hide their tracks at all.

It was a three-person squad that had performed exceptionally well on that battlefield!

Lu Ye wasn't sure what they intended, but judging by their posture, they didn't seem to be looking for trouble. Of course, he wasn't afraid of trouble either. These three were undoubtedly strong, likely all named on the Cumulated Points Ranking. Throughout his journey, he hadn't encountered anyone stronger than these three.

But his own team wasn't weak either. If a fight broke out, the outcome would be uncertain.

Since they weren't there to cause trouble, they must have had another reason.

After pondering briefly, Lu Ye led his group to a floating land suspended in the stellar space, stood firm while maintaining the Black Tortoise Array, and turned to look back.

Sure enough, the three flew towards them, a squad of two men and one woman, all seemingly young.

The trio landed not far from Lu Ye and his companions. The leading man sized up Lu Ye and cupped his fists, "Zhou Yuchuan!"

Indeed, someone recognized in the Cumulated Points Ranking. If not mistaken, his ranking was quite high, consistently within the top twenty. Using one's real name in such circumstances usually indicated a prestigious background, as they didn't need pseudonyms to hide themselves. Instead, using their real names could enhance their fame and bolster the reputation of their backing forces.

Lu Ye held the sword hilt and responded blandly, "Fa Wuzun!"

Zhou Yuchuan nodded slightly, "I thought so!"

He had previously guessed that Lu Ye was someone listed on the Cumulated Points Ranking, but he couldn't be sure who exactly, having never met or fought with him before. Now he finally knew Lu Ye's true identity.

"What advice do you have?" Lu Ye asked again.

Zhou Yuchuan grinned, "Interested in joining forces to take down that starship?"

"Do you have a method to deal with that starship?" Lu Ye asked with some curiosity. If it was anything else, it wouldn't matter, but dealing with a starship had its benefits. Not to mention the cumulated points to be shared, just being on the Melee Battle Meet battlefield meant they would eventually encounter it sooner or later.

Zhou Yuchuan replied, "The rules of the Constellation Palace are quite balanced. In arena battles, they try to arrange evenly matched opponents. Even in multi-person confrontations, different squads won't have too large a gap in overall strength. The same goes for the Melee Battle Meet. If a starship appears, there must be something to restrain it!"

Lu Ye paused, having to admit Zhou Yuchuan's point. When he first saw the starship, he was puzzled. With such an unconventional killing weapon in play, how could the Melee Battle Meet cultivators even compete?

It now seemed that a treasure capable of restraining a starship had already emerged, and that Zhou Yuchuan's team had acquired it. They were likely waiting for the starship's appearance all along.

However, they seemed short-handed or not strong enough, needing Lin Ye's team to help.

"Let me take a look first," Lu Ye said.

Zhou Yuchuan didn't withhold anything and directly took out a short spear. The spear was adorned with complex patterns, with arcs of lightning faintly pulsing across its shaft. As soon as the short spear appeared, Lu Ye felt a great sense of danger.

He immediately understood the power of this thing must be considerable!

Just from its appearance, it resembled the Destructive Lightning Spear he'd seen in Bingzhou, the treasured weapon of the Tianyuan Sect.

He could confirm that this short spear's power could undoubtedly threaten the starship. This was surely what gave Zhou Yuchuan the confidence to target the starship.

"What do you need me to do?" Lu Ye asked.

Zhou Yuchuan said, "I would like to ask you all to lure the starship to the ambush site. At that time, we can unleash the power of this short spear and destroy that starship."

Lu Ye squinted slightly, "That's not an easy task!"

Luring a starship to an ambush site is easy to say, but hard to do. Being pursued by such a starship means keeping your head attached with a thin thread, with your life at risk at any moment.

Zhou Yuchuan said, "If it were easy, I wouldn't have come to find you. To be honest, when we obtained this item, we realized that a starship would inevitably appear, so we've been looking for suitable people to team up with. Unfortunately, we hadn't found any until we saw you all!"

Lu Ye and his team's cultivation levels are not high, but they performed extremely well in the previous contest. What impressed Zhou Yuchuan and the other two most was that they managed to form a Black Tortoise Array!

This formation is known for its defense, so Zhou Yuchuan and his two companions felt that this team was the best choice, and there was no need to look for others.

If this team wasn't willing to join forces with them, finding others would just be sending them to their deaths; they simply couldn't fight against a starship.

Lu Ye contemplated for a moment before asking, "How confident are you?"

Zhou Yuchuan smiled confidently, "This treasure can only be used in the Melee Battle Meet battlefield, and it's specifically designed to counter starships. So, as long as you can lure the starship over, the chances... if not ten percent, then at least eighty percent!"

"The risk is too great," Lu Ye said slowly.

Zhou Yuchuan said, "But if we destroy the starship, the benefits won't be small either. In the Melee Battle Meet battlefield, every gain you make only counts for a small accumulation of points, but if we destroy the starship, even if we divide it among us, each person can get at least a hundred points. And, once this starship is destroyed, there will be nothing left that can threaten our two teams."

"That's easy to say, but the risk is ultimately ours to bear. A collaboration is possible... but you need to pay!"

Zhou Yuchuan was slightly taken aback, not having expected Lu Ye to make such a demand, then laughed, "Name your price!"

Lu Ye looked at Little Dumb and the others, then raised two fingers, "Twenty thousand spirit jade per person!"

A companion standing behind Zhou Yuchuan, who had not spoken before, angrily exclaimed, "Why don't you just rob us?"

Lu Ye leisurely said, "If you want us to take the risk, you naturally need to show some sincerity! Twenty thousand spirit jade per person, it's not much! Or, we can switch roles; you let us operate the treasure, and you're responsible for luring the starship, and I'll give you ten thousand spirit jade to split among you!"

The person said irritably, "The treasure is originally ours; although you're taking the risk, it's a deal with no capital, while we have to invest this treasure."

Lu Ye nodded, "That's a valid point, but this thing can only be used in the Melee Battle Meet battlefield and, besides dealing with starships... it doesn't seem to have any other use. This treasure has immense power, and the cost to use it must be substantial. You wouldn't use it against cultivators."

The person wanted to argue further, but Zhou Yuchuan raised his hand and said, "How about this, Fellow Daoist, ten thousand spirit jade per person. Although the three of us have good backgrounds, ten thousand is quite a lot. Any more, and we can't come up with it. In fact, even if it were fifty thousand, we wouldn't have it and would have to use the treasure as collateral!"

"Are you that poor?" Lu Ye looked at them in surprise. He thought these three guys, with their good backgrounds, wouldn't lack spirit jade. How come they're not as well-off as he is? He still has quite a bit of spirit jade on him.

Zhou Yuchuan looked slightly embarrassed, "Fellow Daoist, no one carries a lot of spirit jade except merchants who need to use it. No one has too much spirit jade on them."

That made sense. Lu Ye nodded, "Alright, let's go with that."

It didn't really have to be twenty thousand spirit jade. As he said, they were taking the risk, so there should be some compensation, or it would look too cheap.

Once they agreed, Zhou Yuchuan and the other two started making arrangements.

They put together some spirit jade, and for the shortfall, they brought out a few spirit treasures as collateral, all of which Lu Ye accepted.

Little Dumb and the others had no objections; so far, all the spoils of war were with Lu Ye anyway.

Zhou Yuchuan looked around, pointed to a nearby dead star, and said, "Let's choose there. All you need to do, Fellow Daoist, is find a way to lure the starship there, approaching from this angle, and leave the rest to us!"

"Just one last question," Lu Ye looked at Zhou Yuchuan.

"Please ask!"

"Since you have three people, why not send one to do this instead of finding outsiders for support?"

Zhou Yuchuan chuckled, "The spear's power is immense, and it requires the three of us to work together wholeheartedly to activate it. There's no spare manpower."

"Understood." Lu Ye nodded, "You may begin your actions now."

"Be careful, Fellow Daoist!" Zhou Yuchuan advised before leading his two companions toward the dead star.

Chapter 1429 - Fa Wuzun Bears Too Much

After Zhou Yuchuan's squad of three flew far away, Lu Ye turned to look at Little Dumb and the others: "Find a place nearby to hide!"

Little Dumb was stunned: "Don't you need our help?" She thought this time everyone would act together, especially since forming an array would make defense stronger.

Lu Ye shook his head: "The Black Tortoise Array can't withstand the starship's attack!"

This had already been confirmed earlier, so he didn't plan on involving Little Dumb and the others. Their strength was still too weak. Rather than relying on the Black Tortoise Array, he was better off alone, allowing more flexibility.

"But..." Little Dumb wanted to say more, but Lu Ye glanced at her, causing the words on her lips to be swallowed back.

Ever since their alliance began, Lu Ye had been quite considerate of them and hadn't shown any overly strong behavior, but the squad was ultimately centered around Lu Ye, naturally making his word final.

"Then be careful, we'll wait for you over there." Little Dumb pointed in a direction.

Lu Ye nodded, turning his body towards the battlefield from earlier.

The once noisy battlefield was now quiet, as the starship had suddenly appeared, causing all cultivators that were fighting here to scatter.

The starship pursued several groups of people, eliminating them all before leisurely turning towards the location of the treasure, now hovering beside it.

One of the cultivators left the starship, standing by the treasure and pressing his hand on the restriction, seemingly breaking the restriction.

With no disturbance, breaking the restriction wasn't difficult for a cultivator, requiring only a dozen breaths to break it and pocket the treasure.

But just then, a blood-red light suddenly came from the side and rushed straight towards the treasure's location at high speed.

It was Lu Ye, returning once more.

He didn't choose to conceal himself, because constructing Concealment Spirit Runes would greatly affect his speed. To lure the starship to Zhou Yuchuan's squad's ambush point, he had to do something to provoke the squad controlling the starship.

For example... stealing the treasure!

Time waits for no one, so speed was paramount.

Besides, starships generally have many intricate arrays with strong monitoring effects. His Concealment Spirit Runes hadn't been deduced and improved yet, effective in the Nine Provinces but not necessarily in the stellar space, unable to avoid the starship's supervision.

The distance rapidly closed, and the cultivators over there immediately noticed Lu Ye's presence. The menacing starship quickly turned, and on one side of the ship, a dark hollow tube-like thing aligned with Lu Ye's direction, making his skin tighten instantly.

Having once served as captain on the Ghost Ship, Lu Ye was no stranger to the starship's various capabilities. He knew that inconspicuous hollow tube was the starship's killing weapon.

The bright beam that the starship fired when fighting just now came from this weapon.

However, the other side didn't seem intent on activating this weapon, given the spirit jade consumption. Plus, Lu Ye's cultivation was only Constellation Mid-Stage, making them feel it unnecessary to activate it and instead tried to create a sense of crisis to scatter his focus.

A Constellation Late Stage cultivator emerged from the starship and rushed towards Lu Ye.

Judging by his stance, he was evidently a saber-wielding combat cultivator.

In a moment, the two figures clashed, saber lights cold, spirit force surging, victory was decided.

The Constellation Late Stage cultivator was bewildered as he spewed blood and flew out, unable to comprehend how he was defeated.

Thinking his cultivation was higher, his opponent would surely be weaker, but after the clash, he realized his naivety. Though Lu Ye was indeed Mid-Stage, his saber skills were unparalleled, especially frustratingly, he couldn't gain an edge during the spirit force confrontation, despite having Late Stage spirit force foundation.

Lu Ye's figure didn't stop, continuing to push towards the treasure's location.

Meanwhile, the cultivator breaking the restriction finally broke the restriction around the treasure, grabbing it in his hand.

Suddenly, an anomaly occurred!

Almost at the moment he seized the treasure, a spectral figure appeared suddenly behind him, fingers like blades, striking like lightning.

Lu Ye clearly saw this Late Stage cultivator being pierced straight through his heart, a slender hand protruding from his chest, grasping a still-beating heart!

Specter! Lu Ye's eye twitched, it was that woman again!

Long unnoticed, with her vile habit of picking up scraps alongside groups, Lu Ye was always wary of her. Previously, he specifically targeted her and taught her a lesson.

Since then, the specter had vanished without a trace.

Lu Ye thought the woman had left, who knew she had been wandering nearby, seized the opportunity at this moment, and struck decisively, swiftly killing the enemy with precision.

This also made Lu Ye realize the gap in stealth between himself and a member of the Specter Race. The supervision array on the starship would surely detect his hidden trail, but knew nothing of the specter's arrival!

The Constellation Late Stage cultivator attacked by the specter was filled with horror and anger. Having reached this level of cultivation, his life force was abundant. Even when his heart was gouged out, he did not die immediately. Knowing his end was near, he furiously turned around and threw a fierce punch at the specter.

However, he was ultimately severely injured. This punch, although seemingly powerful, posed no real threat to the specter, who easily dodged it, reaching out and snatching the treasure the cultivator had just seized, then floated back effortlessly.

Since the moment she appeared and killed for the treasure, it only took an instant. At this moment, Lu Ye was advancing with saber in hand, and the nearby starship adjusted its direction again, with the killing weapon outside the hull aimed at the specter's location, and the light illuminated!

Earlier, this killing weapon was only used to intimidate Lu Ye, but now it was obviously serious.

The specter's face changed dramatically, even as a member of the elusive Specter Race, being targeted by such a killing weapon brought immense crisis.

Not to mention, Lu Ye's cold killing intent had locked onto her.

Raising her hand, she tossed the treasure she had just seized toward Lu Ye, while her spirit force surged, shouting, "Run, don't worry about me!"

As her words fell, her figure disappeared without a trace.

Violent spirit force waves swept all around, and in his peripheral view, Lu Ye clearly saw the starship's hull slightly tremble, and a bright beam of light suddenly blasted out, piercing through the area where the specter had just been. Having lost a comrade to the specter, the cultivators on the starship were utterly enraged.

Whether the specter was dead, Lu Ye did not know, but he was aware that his situation was dire.

Because the specter previously tossed the treasure to him and shouted such easily misinterpreted words, the cultivators on the starship obviously considered the two as accomplices.

Lu Ye quickly stuffed the treasure the specter had thrown into his storage ring, changed his direction, and activated the Blood Escape Technique, turning into a blood light and fleeing as fast as he could.

Although there was a slight deviation from the plan, the sight of angering the starship was at least achieved.

Yet Lu Ye somehow couldn't shake off the unease he felt!

A sense of immense danger loomed over him, haunting his mind no matter how fast he ran. Without needing to look back, Lu Ye knew the starship would surely not let him go.

If put in their place, having such an unconventional killing weapon like a starship, anyone would feel invincible. Yet after the recent encounter, not only did they lose a comrade, but the treasure was snatched away. How could that be endured?

The specter had disappeared, leaving the cultivators on the starship to unleash their boundless fury on Lu Ye.

Considering flight speed alone, Lu Ye was in no way faster than the starship, especially with the terrain of the Melee Battle Meet filled with wandering meteorites, severely hindering his straight-line escape speed. So even though he fled first, the distance between him and the starship was quickly closing.

Luckily, thanks to these meteorites everywhere, he had more room and options for maneuvering. Using these meteorites as cover, Lu Ye consistently managed to break free of the starship's lock-on when his sense of crisis was at its peak, preventing the ship's cannons from fully attacking.

The dead star where Zhou Yuchuan and his squad set the ambush wasn't far. Lu Ye wasn't sure if they had completed their setup. If not, this trip would be troublesome.

In the distance, Little Dumb and the other three hid within an asteroid belt, watching Lu Ye being chased in chaos, each showing a worried expression but unable to intervene, filled with bitterness, feeling Fa Wuzun bore too much...

During the chase, a cultivator on the starship couldn't hold back and fired the ship's cannon at Lu Ye.

Several intercepting meteorites along the way were directly pierced through, forming hollow passageways. Even though Lu Ye was aware and relocated at the moment the starship attacked, he was still swept by the aftershocks.

He immediately became dizzy from the impact, and the location hit, even with multiple layers of Sacred Guard protection, became numb.

Hurriedly adjusting his position, he streaked toward the location of the dead star.

He felt he couldn't hold on much longer. In less than ten breaths, the starship would catch up to him, and the situation would turn grim.

Fortunately, the dead star was already in sight. He wasn't sure exactly where Zhou Yuchuan and his squad's ambush point was, so he charged straight ahead.

The dead star rapidly enlarged in his view, and the terrain below became clearly visible.

The starship behind was getting nearer, like a death-reaping demon. Lu Ye's neck throbbed with tension, as if invisible ghostly hands were throttling him, ready to take his life at any moment.

At this moment, he suddenly noticed a burst of purple light blooming from the mountaintop of a barren peak below, vibrant and intense in just an instant.

Looking closer, it was no purple light, but pure Thunderbolt twirling, as if a violent Lightning Pool was nurtured at the mountain summit below.

Zhou Yuchuan's squad evidently prepared everything. Seeing Lu Ye leading the warship closer, they immediately activated the short spear's powers.

Chapter 1430 - The Big Shot Is Dead

Lu Ye's sense of unease intensified; if the starship pursuing them was like a reaper bent on claiming his life, then the Lightning Pool ahead was like a tiger's den!

Things were indeed not as simple as they seemed. Zhou Yuchuan's squad evidently intended to eliminate both him and the starship.

When they discussed forming an alliance earlier, Lu Ye had already anticipated this possibility.

He wasn't foolish; he naturally understood that if they adhered to the plan, he, as the bait leading the starship, would be in the most perilous position.

If he were familiar with Zhou Yuchuan and the others, they might have made arrangements to ensure his safety.

But he didn't know them at all; this was merely a temporary collaboration with the goal of taking down the starship, so why would Zhou Yuchuan and the others care about his life or death?

In fact, from their perspective, getting rid of Lu Ye along with the starship could eliminate a strong enemy in one fell swoop—killing two birds with one stone.

When Zhou Yuchuan and the others didn't mention this at the time, Lu Ye didn't ask either. Some things didn't need to be asked; he never relied on the mercy of others for his own safety!

A tremendous crisis loomed both ahead and behind him simultaneously.

The outer area of the dead star no longer had meteorites to hide behind; Lu Ye's figure was fully exposed to the starship's attack. Atop the ship's cannon, a light began to glow.

At the same time, within the Lightning Pool on the barren mountaintop below, arcs of lightning began to crackle.

Almost simultaneously, the terrifying powers ahead and behind him erupted suddenly.

A bright and dazzling beam of light hit the area where Lu Ye was located, and in the blink of an eye, his figure vanished without a trace, as if he had evaporated completely.

In the Constellation Palace's Hall 935, Chu Shen's face turned pale, and he couldn't help but utter a curse, "Despicable bastards, if I ever meet those three again, they'll pay for this!"

The big shot was gone!

To him, this was a bolt from the blue. Honestly, not many people had earned his admiration as he grew up, since he himself was a genius. Even with Sun Blaze as a backing, and unlimited cultivation resources, he couldn't have advanced to the Constellation at his age.

People like him had high standards. Ordinary cultivators, even ones like Moon Jade, couldn't earn his admiration without his approval. Moon Jade may have higher cultivation, but that didn't necessarily make her superior.

Fa Wuzun was the first person he genuinely respected. Calling him the big shot was truly heartfelt, and following Fa Wuzun to glorious victories was a fantastic feeling.

If his luck hadn't been so bad to get eliminated early, he could've followed the big shot and basked in glory.

But this great figure, praised to the skies and with seemingly limitless potential, had died like this!

Chu Shen's heart ached, grieved, and chilled...

He felt that the morality in today's cultivation world was too terrible, with no trust between people at all.

Another point was that the big shot had promised him that after this Melee Battle Meet ended, he'd give him that array disc. Now that the big shot was dead, the array disc was probably out of reach too.

While Chu Shen was both disheartened and furious, the cultivators focused on Lu Ye mostly sighed with regret. They had witnessed how Fa Wuzun's squad had conquered supposedly formidable squads despite their apparent weakness. After this battle, they were expected to earn widespread fame, but who would've thought such a prodigious individual would die prematurely?

While they thought Zhou Yuchuan's squad's actions were dishonorable, cultivation was fraught with risks everywhere. They only blamed Fa Wuzun for not being cautious enough.

On the contrary, the major factions that intended to purchase array discs from Fa Wuzun's squad felt some regret, but it didn't concern them much. Fa Wuzun was dead, but the array disc had always been held by a woman in the squad. They only needed to find her when the Melee Battle Meet concluded.

They were just thankful Fa Wuzun had foresight and didn't take those four women with him; otherwise, the array disc might have been destroyed.

In the Constellation Palace, everyone was consumed by their own thoughts. Just as Lu Ye's figure disappeared, a thick lightning column surged upward from the mountaintop below like a violent Thunder Dragon, twisting and turning towards the starship.

The cultivators aboard the starship were still lost in the satisfaction of avenging their fallen comrades, only to face a crisis in the blink of an eye.

A cultivator deftly activated the starship's defenses, enveloping the entire vessel in a curtain of light at a critical moment.

The Thunder Dragon crashed into it, but instead of the expected destructive force, it exploded instantly, transforming into slithering lightning serpents that enveloped the starship.

The protective shield surrounding the starship, seemingly unbreakable, began to melt swiftly like snow under the scorching sun, under the influence of the lightning serpents.

The lightning serpents continued to writhe, and in mere moments, every array and treasure aboard the starship failed, leaving the once-mighty vessel plunging from the sky like a wingless bird.

Several figures scrambled out in disarray, among them the late-stage combat cultivator who had previously fought with Lu Ye.

Below, on the barren mountain, Zhou Yuchuan's squad, including two men with ashen faces, clearly exhibited signs of excessive exhaustion.

The short spear's treasure power was immense, naturally demanding considerable energy to wield. Even with pre-arranged Formation assistance, it had drained their spirit force almost entirely.

"How did they arrive so quickly!" The man who had previously argued with Lu Ye spoke.

The plan had succeeded, but not completely, because in their plan, it was not just about disabling the opponent's starship; they intended to eliminate the starship along with the cultivators operating it.

But the plan couldn't keep up with the changes. They didn't expect Lu Ye to arrive so quickly, causing their setup to be insufficient.

This resulted in the opponent's starship being incapacitated, yet the personnel remained unharmed. In contrast, two of their own had almost completely lost combat capability, with only the woman in their team maintaining her peak condition.

It wasn't because the woman was stronger, but because Zhou Yuchuan had not allowed her to partake in unleashing the short spear's power, allowing her to maintain her combat strength.

This was the result of Zhou Yuchuan's carefulness. It's undeniable that it was an extremely wise decision; otherwise, the three of them would just be lambs waiting to be slaughtered now.

"Recover!" Zhou Yuchuan commanded in a low voice, then turned to the woman, "Xiaoru, it's up to you!"

The woman, with a cool expression, said nothing and swiftly stepped in front of the two men, looking up at the sky.

In that direction, several figures emerged from the starship, with the leading cultivator, a Late Stage combat cultivator, coldly scrutinizing Zhou Yuchuan and the other two.

At this point, they realized they had fallen into Lu Ye's deception. Killing for treasures was false; the real intention was to provoke them into this place to disable their starship!

For them, it wasn't surprising that treasure could appear in this Melee Battle Meet battlefield that could restrain starships. They had been cautious and prepared, but some things can't be avoided by mere vigilance. In such a situation earlier, apart from chasing Lu Ye to death, they had no other choice.

Therefore, they felt that Zhou Yuchuan's trio and Lu Ye, along with the Ghost Cultivator who had previously killed and removed hearts, were all in cahoots!

Fortunately, two of them had already been killed by them one after another; now, all they had to do was deal with these three.

If Zhou Yuchuan's trio was intact, they naturally wouldn't be their match, but at this moment, Zhou Yuchuan's group had only one person left with any fighting capability!

The cultivators emerging from the starship saw the situation on that side at a glance. Without any hesitation, they charged towards Zhou Yuchuan and his companions, led by that Late Stage combat cultivator.

The female cultivator named Xiaoru's expression became solemn. She raised her hand, and two spirit treasures hovered on her sides; one looked like a palm-leaf fan, the other was a copper ring, on which flames blazed fiercely.

Seeing the enemy charging furiously, the female cultivator immediately unleashed the power of her spirit treasures. In an instant, the flames on the copper ring blazed fiercely, and a series of fire rings filled the sky to meet the enemy. She grasped the palm-leaf fan and waved it vigorously, unleashing an invisible wind.

The wind fueled the fire, causing the flying fire rings to expand suddenly, and the flames became ferocious, forming an extremely tight defense.

The attacking enemies wanted to break through, but momentarily they couldn't, realizing that this female cultivator wasn't just any Constellation Late Stage; she must be a formidable figure listed on the Cumulated Points Ranking.

This made the squad, led by the Late Stage combat cultivator, both anxious and excited. Anxious because if they couldn't break through the opponent's offensive quickly, the other two companions of the female cultivator might recover, making the situation more unfavorable.

Excited because they hadn't really faced an opponent from the Cumulated Points Ranking before. If they could eliminate her, it would give them bragging rights in the future.

If they were truly familiar with one another, they might have taken some risks with bold tactics, but they were just a temporary team without tight coordination, so they could only take a steady and secure approach.

The female cultivator, although impressive, couldn't hold off alone. Even if the opponents lacked coordination, their numbers were still a factor here.

Gradually, the situation became disadvantageous for Xiaoru.

And just as the battle reached a fever pitch, Zhou Yuchuan, who was seizing every moment to sit and recover, suddenly opened his eyes with a sense of something.

In the next moment, his eyes widened, and an expression of disbelief appeared on his face.

In that direction, someone was walking leisurely, hand resting on a long blade.

Half of his clothes were stained red with blood, obviously from a previous injury, but judging by his aura now, there was no major issue.

Zhou Yuchuan was stunned, "You..."

He wanted to ask, weren't you supposed to be dead? But the person appeared just fine here, clearly having somehow evaded the disaster.

The companion beside Zhou Yuchuan also opened his eyes and immediately sensed the trouble upon seeing Lu Ye.

They had previously harbored ill intentions towards Lu Ye's squad, and now the person was alive, appearing here clearly not to have a friendly chat.

With Lu Ye's sudden appearance, even the team combating Xiaoru involuntarily paused.

Then they witnessed a baffling scene.

Lu Ye's figure suddenly moved like a swift rabbit, charging at Zhou Yuchuan and his companions with fierce momentum, as if there was some enormous hatred between them.

Weren't they... supposed to be on the same side?