

Humanity 1441

Chapter 1441 - Exclusive Scenario

The so-called exclusive scene can actually be understood as a special kind of secret realm.

This kind of secret realm relies on the system of the Constellation Palace, and it cannot be entered without going through the Constellation Palace.

Lu Ye looked at the enemies Piao Ke was confronting. At first glance, they seemed like the Bone Race, but they were somewhat different from the real Bone Race.

Because although the Bone Race is named after bones, they actually have flesh and blood. Many of their bones are exposed, presenting a form of exoskeleton wrapping around flesh.

The enemies Piao Ke was facing were definitely not the real Bone Race, because these guys were pure skeletons without a trace of flesh and blood.

Lu Ye didn't know what power held these skeletons together without scattering, and even granted them considerable mobility and combat ability. He could only marvel at the vast stellar space, full of wonders.

The number of skeletons was large, surging like waves from the entrance of the tomb passage. Piao Ke stood there, the spirit treasure fishing rod in his hand moving swiftly, exhibiting an imposing stance as if one man could hold out against ten thousand.

The skeletons displayed overall power approximately at the level of someone who had just entered the Constellation stage, which naturally was nothing in front of Piao Ke.

However, because there were so many of them and each was fearless of death, Piao Ke couldn't hold out for too long.

Logically speaking, this place had already been explored by the specter once, so there shouldn't be so many enemies. But ultimately, the specter is a Ghost Cultivator. The last time she came here, she concealed herself and sneaked through without these skeletons ever discovering her location.

This time it was different; with Lu Ye and Piao Ke together, it was impossible to act as she did last time. They could only slaughter their way through.

Lu Ye flashed to Piao Ke's side, intending to test these skeletons' strength. He singled one out and executed a Drawn Saber Slash. Although he easily defeated an enemy, Lu Ye realized that these skeletons, though seemingly unimpressive, were actually quite tough. Because they had no flesh, the protection of their bones far surpassed that of an average Constellation Early Stage, barely reaching the Constellation Mid-Stage level.

This was undoubtedly not the correct way to kill skeletons. Faced with so many skeletons at the start, slashing through them all would surely dull the blade.

Lu Ye immediately changed from slashing to stabbing.

In each skeleton's eye sockets, spectral fire flickered. According to the specter, this was their weak point. As long as the spectral fire in their eye sockets was extinguished, the skeletons would truly die.

Piao Ke was also using this method to kill skeletons.

The long saber thrust, the blade's light flickering like a falling star. As the spectral fire in the eye sockets of a skeleton in front of him was extinguished, it immediately collapsed to the ground, completely motionless.

This really worked well.

The specter also flashed to join them, cooperating with the two to kill their way forward.

After dealing with a few skeletons, Lu Ye took out the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc and unleashed its power. In an instant, both Piao Ke and the specter felt invigorated.

Anyone experiencing the array disc's power for the first time could feel its incredible strength. What they both sensed was the terrifying and profound foundation within Fa Wuzun.

The observers at the Melee Battle Meet only knew that Fa Wuzun's personal strength was impressive, but most of them believed that Fa Wuzun's special squad had achieved such outstanding results due to the Black Tortoise Array's power. They thought that without such an array, no matter how strong one's individual power was, it would be hard to shine in such an environment.

Only by truly connecting with Lu Ye's energy could one clearly realize that while the Black Tortoise Array was important, the personal strength of the cultivator leading the array was the decisive factor.

The specter couldn't understand how someone at the Constellation Mid-Stage could have such a powerful foundation?

After all, she hailed from a top domain like the Northern Underworld Land of Specters. Whether in terms of personal strength or knowledge and experience, she was among the best at this Constellation level. Yet, she had never seen anyone like Lu Ye.

She silently rejoiced; seeking Fa Wuzun's help was the right choice. Had she asked anyone else, even those recognized on the Cumulated Points Ranking, it wouldn't have been possible to provide this instant sense of reassurance.

Indeed, the specter herself did not know what was happening. As soon as their energies connected, she felt a sense of peace, as if, with the three working together, no matter how formidable the enemy in front of them was, they could utterly crush it!

She had no objections whatsoever to Fa Wuzun autonomously taking the lead in the array.

Once in an array, it naturally couldn't be as sneaky as she was alone before; the array necessitates charging boldly at enemies.

As a Ghost Cultivator accustomed to lurking in dark corners, she was adept at dark tricks but inherently unsuited to lead an array.

As for Piao Ke... his appearance alone suggested he was not a typical combat cultivator, and his character seemed quite adaptable to circumstances.

Since Fa Wuzun wanted to lead the array, they let him.

The three joined forces, slaughtering their way through effortlessly. The skeletons charging from the front couldn't withstand their onslaught, and white bones shattered everywhere along their path.

They continued killing for one hour, not knowing how many skeletons had fallen before them, only realizing when the passage in front suddenly cleared.

After this hour of coordination, Piao Ke and the specter had thoroughly familiarized themselves with the array disc's power.

Ahead lay a dark hall, its gates opened like the mouth of a beast. Lu Ye took the lead, his Mental Consciousness surging forward to probe inside, but he detected no signs of life.

He turned to look at the specter.

The specter said, "There's a big guy inside. Just kill it!"

She had been here last time too, but before she could make a move, her presence was detected. Knowing she couldn't handle it alone, she returned to the Constellation Palace to recruit help. However, the Melee Battle Meet disrupted her plan, so she had to join the meet first.

Originally, the person she intended to invite was not Lu Ye, but another Constellation Late Stage ranked in the top hundred on the Cumulated Points Ranking. However, after witnessing Lu Ye's performance in the Melee Battle Meet and seeing the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc, she changed her mind.

In fact, that's why she had been secretly following Lu Ye from the start of the Melee Battle Meet, mainly to observe him more. As for snatching kills and spoils... that was purely because she couldn't resist.

Luckily, everything went smoothly.

"Recover for a bit," Piao Ke suggested.

No matter what was inside, anything that could make the specter retreat wasn't something to be trifled with. The three of them needed to be at their peak state before entering.

They weren't worried that the big guy inside might charge out. Honestly, if it did, it would be good for them because barging into such a strange hall was a risk in itself.

The three maintained their array as they each refined spirit jade to recover.

After a while, once Piao Ke and the specter fully recovered, Lu Ye signaled, "Let's go!"

Taking the lead, he stepped inside.

Their vision suddenly plunged into darkness, but through Mental Consciousness, they could detect the hall was vast and spacious. Yet, they saw no sign of the big guy the specter mentioned.

There seemed to be quite a bit of shattered bone on the ground, crunching underfoot.

The dark hall gave an eerie atmosphere with the crunching sound, making it somewhat sinister.

The three continued forward without any incident, until they reached the center of the hall when a sudden change occurred.

Pop, pop, pop... an unending string of sounds was accompanied by patches of light illuminating the surroundings. This came from countless oil lamp-like objects densely arranged on the hall walls.

The continuous oil lamps lit up like a coiling serpent, gradually brightening up from the bottom of the hall, spiraling upward.

With the lamps lighting up, a chilling breeze seemed to sweep through.

The specter's expression grew serious, "Be careful. I didn't encounter this last time, not sure what's happening now."

In just a short moment, the originally dim hall became vividly illuminated under the countless oil lamps.

A loud rumble sounded from behind, startling the three of them. Turning to look, they saw that the hall's door had closed.

Lu Ye and Piao Ke looked at the specter.

The specter looked innocent, "I didn't encounter this kind of thing!" She wasn't deliberately hiding information; this time entering the hall felt completely different from when she came alone last time.

Lu Ye didn't think the specter was lying. If she had encountered this last time, she wouldn't have been able to leave. The door of the hall had fallen tightly shut; just one glance told Lu Ye it couldn't be forced open by brute force.

"Look over there!" Piao Ke suddenly said.

Following his gaze, Lu Ye looked in that direction and saw, at about a hundred feet from their position at the front of the hall, a figure seated.

The figure was so towering as to be unbelievable; even sitting, it was three zhang tall. Standing up, who knows what kind of imposing manner it would have.

This should be the big guy the specter mentioned before—certainly large enough!

It seemed to be the same kind of thing as the skeleton frames encountered outside, absent any remnants of flesh. However, unlike the typical skeleton frames, this one was covered with heavy armor from head to toe. The armor was dull, rusted, and clearly weathered by time. Many parts of the armor were damaged, and there were traces of black marks at some spots—clearly old dried blood stains that made one tremble at the sight.

It was as if this was a great general who had been through fierce battles, with the damaged armor and blackened blood stains attesting to its heroic deeds.

At this moment, it had its head lowered, wearing a bull-horn helmet that, due to the angle and its horns, obscured its face. Before it was a giant sword, gripped by two white bony hands, standing still.

Lu Ye felt slightly puzzled. How could such a lifeless skeleton, seemingly long dead, have driven away the specter?

But recalling the skeleton frames encountered earlier, which also lacked signs of life, it wasn't hard to understand now.

Chapter 1442 - Skeletal General

As the gazes of the three focused, the Skeletal General, who had been sitting motionless as if dead for countless years, suddenly moved.

He slowly raised his head, and indeed, there was no flesh on his face, only stark white bones. His eye sockets were dark and profound, like two black holes capable of devouring all light.

What caught Lu Ye's attention was that in the left eye socket of this Skeletal General, there was a dirk inserted all the way to the hilt!

Lu Ye finally understood why the specter preferred to ask for help to kill this big guy; this broke bastard obviously had his eyes on that dirk!

If it were just an ordinary treasure, it would be another matter, but this dirk at first glance was clearly suitable for a Ghost Cultivator, and its quality was undoubtedly high!

When the time comes to take this dirk, whether to use it personally or sell it, both are good choices. Lu Ye figured the specter would most likely sell it, because she seemed to have no habit of using spirit treasures. In the Melee Battle Meet, when she killed, it was always with one move, the Black Tiger

Grabbing Heart. Who knows how she trained those claws, ordinary Constellations couldn't withstand her sneak attacks at all.

Lu Ye felt slightly puzzled; since the Skeletal General still had the ability to move, why hadn't he removed the dirk from his eye socket but kept it there?

There must be some unknown secret in this.

As the Skeletal General raised his head, a ball of spectral fire suddenly ignited in his right eye socket. Unlike the spectral fire in the eyes of the skeletons outside, the fire in the Skeletal General's eye socket shone with a golden brilliance, like a small sun burning within.

Creak, creak...

He slowly stood up from his throne, his mouth opened and closed, and a deep, resonant voice echoed in the hall: "I have slept for ten thousand years, yet there are still people disturbing the rest of the dead. You will pay the price for this!"

The hall was spacious, the voice echoing. The Skeletal General stepped down from the high platform of his throne step by step. His steps were extraordinarily heavy; with each step he took, the hall trembled. Accompanied by his deep voice, even Lu Ye and his companions found their ears buzzing and their blood Qi churning.

All three wore solemn expressions.

Lu Ye also finally understood why the specter had previously said that this thing somewhat restrained her. It wasn't just somewhat; it was practically a perfect counter.

The specter favored the Black Tiger Grabbing Heart, but this Skeletal General had no heart for her to grab, and her Ghost Cultivator techniques probably wouldn't work wonders against such an existence either.

Despite sensing the enemy's strength, possibly the strongest they had encountered besides Qin Yuandai, there was no possibility of retreat at this point.

Lu Ye slowly drew the Crimson Dragon Saber and said in a low voice: "Go!"

With those words, he led the three-person formation in a forward assault. As they moved, several saber lights had already slashed out, with some targeting different parts of the Skeletal General's body, and only one aiming at his right eye socket.

They certainly didn't expect these saber strikes to succeed, but probing attacks at the start of engagement were necessary.

Facing the oncoming saber lights, the Skeletal General showed no intention of dodging. He simply raised his hand to block before his right eye, effortlessly deflecting the incoming saber lights.

As for the other saber strikes, they all landed on the armor covering the Skeletal General, producing a harsh sound and sparks upon impact but causing no damage whatsoever.

This thing... is so tough!

Though the saber lights were casually struck by Lu Ye, with his current strength, such saber lights would be difficult for even a typical Constellation Late Stage to handle directly, yet the Skeletal General seemed indifferent.

The armor he wore, which appeared old and tattered, provided far more protection than expected.

Fortunately, his action in protecting his right eye indicated to Lu Ye that the spectral fire in the eye socket was still his weakness. As with previously defeating those skeletons, as long as this spectral fire could be extinguished, he should be able to defeat the Skeletal General!

A hundred paces passed in the blink of an eye. Lu Ye didn't attempt to stab directly at the Skeletal General's right eye, as a simple attack like that wouldn't work. It would require creating a flaw in combat to succeed.

A gleam of brilliance flashed across the Crimson Dragon Saber, empowered by the Hefty Weight Spirit Runes, fiercely chopping down!

He didn't activate the Divine Sharp Edge because Lu Ye felt it would be ineffective. Although the Hefty Weight Spirit Runes wasn't fully developed, the assistance it provided was still not to be underestimated. Furthermore, Lu Ye had formed the Three Talents Array with Piao Ke and the specter, which was different from forming an array with Little Dumb and Little Crooked. Both Piao Ke and the specter were much stronger individually than Little Dumb and Little Crooked, and even though they were fewer in number, the support they provided Lu Ye was greater. This strike was arguably the strongest Lu Ye had ever unleashed!

As Lu Ye's slash descended, the Skeletal General also responded, holding a giant sword in his hand— heavy and wide, clearly meant for charging into massive battles.

Ordinarily, such a giant sword wouldn't maneuver easily. The Skeletal General indeed seemed somewhat cumbersome, leading Lu Ye to believe that this strike would be wholly indefensible.

But at the instant the long knife chopped down, Lu Ye was astounded to find that the giant sword in the Skeletal General's hand actually blocked the edge of the Crimson Dragon Saber!

The giant sword in the Skeletal General's hand exhibited an extraordinary finesse, an amazing sense of effortless grace.

In the split second of spirit force collision, Lu Ye's eyes suddenly narrowed because he sensed his own spirit force being instantly overwhelmed and shattered in the confrontation, followed by an immense force transmitted back through the Crimson Dragon Saber.

Lu Ye drifted backward, intending to dissipate the force coming at him from the front.

Simultaneously, however, the Skeletal General swung the giant sword at him with thunderbolt speed.

For the first time in his life, Lu Ye felt a chilling sensation of impending doom. Hastily, he constructed a Sacred Guard in front of him, but it was quickly shattered as soon as it appeared. Layer upon layer of

Sacred Guard was destroyed, and although the power of the giant sword was somewhat diminished, it still slashed towards his chest.

Fortunately, in this moment of crisis, a Dao Fish line suddenly coiled around the Skeletal General's sword-wielding hand. It was Piao Ke who acted in the nick of time. The fish line snapped taut and pulled to the side, stalling for a brief instant, before snapping. However, this also dissipated part of the Skeletal General's force.

The specter had been clutching a purple talisman all along. Seeing the situation, she wasted no time in activating the talisman's power. Instantly, a protective light screen enveloped the trio. This was evidently a defensive purple talisman, perhaps a spoil she had acquired from the Melee Battle Meet.

With a thunderous bang, the giant sword struck the talisman's light screen. As the purple talisman shattered, the three figures were sent flying like kites, high into the air. Lu Ye felt his blood Qi surging tumultuously in his chest and nearly spat it out.

Luckily, the Skeletal General seemed somewhat confused and chaotic in thought, and did not seize the opportunity to pursue, instead lowering his head to look at his great sword, momentarily lost in thought.

Landing awkwardly, Lu Ye shot a vicious glare at the specter. "He's Moon Jade!"

With the current purity and intensity of his spirit force, it should have been impossible for anyone at the Constellation Realm level to so easily shatter his spirit force in such a collision.

Only a Moon Jade could do that!

He never expected a monster like Moon Jade to appear in this Constellation Palace scenario. It was precisely this oversight that cost them dearly.

Of course, the main issue was the aura of the Skeletal General, which clearly seemed only at the Constellation Late Stage, leading to a misjudgment.

If Piao Ke hadn't reacted swiftly, being struck by such a giant sword would have at least resulted in severe injury, if not death.

"I didn't know! Last time, I was forced to retreat before fighting him. I really didn't know he was Moon Jade!" The specter looked utterly innocent, her expression seemingly genuine.

It made sense, too. If she had truly known the Skeletal General was a Moon Jade, she wouldn't have returned here, let alone been able to evade him in time.

"Retreat!" Lu Ye decided instantly. If the enemy were at the Constellation Realm level, no matter how strong, the three of them working together would have a substantial chance of killing him. But if it was Moon Jade, they couldn't take the risk.

Lu Ye had agreed to accompany the specter on this journey mainly for the Spectral Runes. Now that he had seen the Spectral Runes and couldn't kill the Skeletal General due to the specter's faulty intelligence, it couldn't be blamed on anyone else.

The specter nodded vigorously like a pecking chick, indicating no objections.

The three of them quickly shouted their surrender.

A moment passed, Lu Ye's expression was grave, Piao Ke's brows knitted, and the specter looked utterly bewildered.

Because the three who should have left were still there, and there was no response after shouting their surrender.

This was obviously unusual.

It seemed that after the thick, heavy doors had closed, this place was completely isolated from the Constellation Palace, even the rules of the palace no longer applied.

"How did you leave last time?" Lu Ye looked at the specter.

The specter replied, "Last time, the grand hall's doors weren't closed, so I ran out!"

This time... it was clearly different from when the specter was acting alone.

The Skeletal General no longer contemplated his great sword, but rather dragged it along as he walked slowly. Despite his leisurely pace, the oppressive aura he exuded was overwhelming for the three of them.

"Looks like it's either him or us!" Piao Ke said while stuffing an elixir pill into his mouth and chewing it.

Lu Ye also knew there was no room for maneuver now, and it was indeed a fight to the death. Blaming the specter? Sure, but it wouldn't help the current situation.

Right now, the task was to resolve this issue with the Skeletal General!

He still had a red talisman in hand. Using the red talisman should solve the problem, but it was his only life-saving asset at the moment, one he was reluctant to use unless absolutely necessary.

"There's good news." Lu Ye fixed his gaze on the Skeletal General and spoke.

"What good news?" the specter perked up hopefully.

"He falls short of a true Moon Jade. His power indeed is at the Moon Jade Realm, distinctly different from the Constellation, but the strength he can exert is limited. I suspect it might have something to do with the dirk in his left eye socket!"

This deduction wasn't due to any meticulous observation from Lu Ye, but rather a direct feeling from his earlier confrontation with the Skeletal General.

In such an unexpected situation, if the opponent could bring forth the power of a true Moon Jade, even with the successive aid of Piao Ke and the specter, they might still have perished.

Chapter 1443 - Battle Against Moon Jade

So Lu Ye felt that this Skeletal General was not at its peak, otherwise, it wouldn't only display the aura of a Constellation.

His left eye socket had been pierced by a dirk, extinguishing a ball of spectral fire, which might be related to the loss of his strength.

If the opponent were a fully capable Moon Jade, even if the three formed an array, they might only be able to slightly hinder it, and killing it would be impossible—unless Lu Ye was willing to sacrifice a red talisman.

But for a Moon Jade whose strength had been compromised, with the three forming an array, the possibility of slaying it was not non-existent.

The main hall's doors were closed, making it impossible to retreat; the situation had reached a point, just as Piao Ke said, of either the enemy perishing or us dying, leaving no other choice.

The Skeletal General was already very close, and Lu Ye only felt fortunate that this guy seemed somewhat confused and didn't use any long-range attack methods. Otherwise, even though the hall was not small, the three of them might indeed have nowhere to hide.

While thinking this, he saw the Skeletal General raise the giant sword in its hand, showing a sign of surging spirit force, with an astonishing light bursting forth from the sword's tip.

Lu Ye's eye twitched—what you fear is what will come...

The next moment, the Skeletal General swung down the giant sword in its hand, sending a faint golden Heaven-shocking Sword Aura slicing through the air. Lu Ye immediately moved to dodge to the side, and under the pull of the array, Piao Ke and the specter followed suit.

The sword aura sliced past the specter's side, and the wind it stirred made her skin prickle with cold.

With a loud boom, the hall trembled, yet the sword aura that struck the rear wall left not a single mark, leaving one to wonder what material the hall was made of to withstand such a powerful sword aura.

Just as Lu Ye, Piao Ke, and the specter steadied themselves, another sword aura attacked, followed by the relentless assaults of the Skeletal General.

After dodging arduously for a moment, Lu Ye realized this wasn't a solution. If the three continued to act in unison, their maneuvering space would be limited. The Skeletal General's attacks were swift and fierce, and although they could dodge for now, they would inevitably make mistakes over time.

"Disperse!" Lu Ye gave a low shout.

Piao Ke and the specter decisively moved away from his side.

Though dispersed, their energies remained tightly connected.

The range over which the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc could exert its power wasn't small now and could easily cover the entire hall. So, as long as the three remained within it, they could maintain the array.

Unlike before, when Lu Ye led the array and Piao Ke and the specter only provided support, it was now truly a trinity with no hierarchy.

This was the flexible variation of the array. The three present were battle-hardened veterans who naturally knew what to do to gain the greatest advantage in this situation.

Although they scattered, it was as if the Skeletal General had set its sights on Lu Ye, with all the sword auras aimed solely at him, putting him in a dire situation.

Taking advantage of this, Piao Ke flicked his fish rod as if fishing, casting a long spirit line darting directly toward the Skeletal General's right eye socket like a long needle.

The Skeletal General, aggressively attacking Lu Ye, didn't even glance at Piao Ke's side. It casually raised its left hand to grab the spirit line, shattering Piao Ke's spirit force with a slight tremor.

The Skeletal General then abruptly turned and swung its giant sword down with overwhelming force. In the direction it slashed, the specter's ethereal figure appeared, promptly retreating with a startled cry.

Lu Ye finally freed himself, exchanging the Crimson Dragon Saber for the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Although the two sabers were similar in shape, length, and weight, a combat cultivator's reliance on their weapon is a flaw that can't be erased. When wielding the Crimson Dragon Saber, Lu Ye always felt somewhat uncomfortable, affecting his strength, albeit slightly.

In other words, even if Lu Ye used his full strength with the Crimson Dragon Saber, he could only exert ninety percent of his usual power.

Facing such a formidable enemy, he dared not hold anything back and had to switch to the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Seizing the moment when the Skeletal General attacked the specter, he suddenly advanced, reaching the Skeletal General's back in an instant. The next moment, a blinding saber light burst out ferociously like a big sun.

With the sudden explosion of light, it unfolded like a lotus flower blooming, with each petal formed by concentrated, sharp saber lights.

As the lotus shattered, Lu Ye was sent flying, and the Skeletal General's giant sword missed his waist by mere inches.

Upon closer inspection, the Skeletal General remained unscathed, leaving Lu Ye feeling a headache.

It was known that the Lotus Sun was his strongest saber skill so far, and no Constellation should withstand such a powerful burst of force in that instant, yet the Skeletal General seemed unfazed...

Even though this guy only displayed the aura of a Constellation, it was still a Moon Jade.

As Lu Ye retreated, Piao Ke and the specter's attacks came; Piao Ke continued wielding his fish rod, constantly casting it as if the Skeletal General was a fish to be hooked. The long spirit line assailed critical points from all angles, effortlessly neutralized by the Skeletal General.

It's not that Piao Ke was too timid to approach, but his combat style was inherently like this, and forcing his way forward would only add unnecessary risk.

Meanwhile, the specter continuously tried to assault but no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't come closer than three feet to the Skeletal General, being forced back each time she approached.

The two immediately understood that to win this battle, they would have to rely on Fa Wuzun.

He is the true combat cultivator, most skilled in close combat with enemies, and against a foe like the Skeletal General, only such melee fighting could possibly defeat him!

So the only thing they could do now was to restrain the enemy and create an opportunity for Fa Wuzun to strike.

That was what they thought, and that's what they did.

The trio's energy remained connected, maintaining the Three Talents Array. The primary and secondary roles changed unpredictably, allowing anyone attempting to make a move to instantly borrow power from the other two, amplifying their own attack.

Though it was their first time working together, after a brief familiarization, their cooperation became seamless and flawless.

The grand hall was bustling with activity.

The situation was extremely unfavorable for Lu Ye and his companions. Piao Ke's fighting style was limited to ranged distraction, forcing a close approach would only add risks; Specter couldn't even get close at all, and although Lu Ye occasionally had chances to get in close, most of the time he was repelled before reaching.

A strategy was needed.

In such high-intensity combat, a swift victory was necessary, otherwise, prolonging the fight would inevitably lead to mistakes.

Moreover, the enemy's tattered armor was really problematic. On the rare occasions Lu Ye managed to get close, his attacks were blocked by that tattered armor.

If the Skeletal General at his peak was truly a Moon Jade, then this armor must have been a treasure at the Moon Jade level.

If it were intact, Lu Ye wouldn't have any notions, but as it was now in tatters, it seemed possible to break it.

As the thought arose, waves surged, and the tide was born!

Piao Ke and Specter both looked astonished, glancing towards Lu Ye amidst their busyness. What they saw was a sea of blood, spreading through the grand hall in an instant.

Normally, the Blood Race's Blood River Technique would create just a river of blood, but in Lu Ye's hands, it transformed into a sea of blood.

This was due to his own surging blood Qi and the powerful saintliness, which is a mysterious aspect of the Blood Race; the stronger the saintliness, the greater the enhancement to the Blood Race secret techniques.

Piao Ke and Specter had no idea Fa Wuzun had such abilities, but didn't think much of it, assuming it was just a larger-than-usual blood technique.

Within the Blood Sea, torrents surged, obscuring vision, and even the Mental Consciousness was severely affected, yet the hindrance posed by the Blood Sea was no problem, thanks to their connection to Lu Ye's energy. Although they were enveloped by it too, they could still see and hear clearly, unaffected.

Then they witnessed an extremely shocking scene: originally dozens of feet away from the enemy, Lu Ye's figure specter-like appeared suddenly beside the Skeletal General, with his longsword thrusting straight towards the General's right eye socket.

This attack was strikingly abrupt; even the Skeletal General was unprepared for it.

But his reaction was swift. Just as the Boulder Mountain Saber was about to pierce the spectral fire jumping in his right eye, he tilted his head suddenly.

A piercing scraping sound echoed as the longsword scraped past the Skeletal General's bull-horn helmet, sparks flying.

The giant sword in the Skeletal General's hand was already sweeping in; Piao Ke and Specter's hearts leapt into their throats, as they realized Fa Wuzun seemed to have no intention of dodging.

But just as the giant sword was about to strike, Fa Wuzun's figure specter-like disappeared again, reappearing directly behind the Skeletal General, delivering a heavy chop.

This blow landed directly on the Skeletal General's back, causing him to stagger from the massive impact.

Specter almost cheered.

Since the battle began, this was the first time the trio's joint attack truly hit the Skeletal General without being blocked!

Fa Wuzun is indeed formidable!

Yet Specter quickly reminded herself, if ever facing Fa Wuzun in battle, not to get trapped in his blood technique.

Because, from her observation, in this Blood Sea, Fa Wuzun appeared unrestricted, able to appear wherever he desired—a truly incredible ability.

To be his enemy, if caught in such a Blood Sea, one might not even know how death came.

Utilizing the territorial advantage of the Blood Sea, Lu Ye's figure flitted back and forth, consistently appearing behind the Skeletal General, each slash rendering the already tattered armor even more decrepit.

He had attempted to target the enemy's weak points, but the weak spot around the eye socket wasn't so easily struck. After failing several times, Lu Ye resolved not to waste his efforts.

Thirty breaths later, just as Lu Ye reappeared behind the Skeletal General to raise his saber for a strike, a warning sign flared in his mind. Instantly, without a second thought, he vanished from his spot, reappearing dozens of feet away. Not only that, as he retreated, he also transmitted an audio message to Piao Ke and Specter, urging them to retreat swiftly!

Chapter 1444: Sword Fury Gusts

Piao Ke and the specter did not feel as strongly as Lu Ye, but after his reminder, they retreated to the edge of the hall without any hesitation.

Just as they steadied themselves, they witnessed an extremely terrifying scene: a tornado was rising on the side of the Skeletal General!

Upon closer inspection, it was no tornado, but rather the Sword Fury Gusts! It appeared like a tornado, but was actually composed of countless fine sword flashes.

What terrified them even more was that this Sword Fury Gust connected to the ceiling above and the floor below, rapidly expanding, and wrapping in the Blood Sea beside the Skeletal General, turning the entire Sword Fury Gust blood-red as it churned.

Lu Ye sensed trouble; the Blood Sea Technique was indeed strange and powerful, but it had a major issue that was worrisome: its severe consumption of one's own spirit force. Therefore, unless absolutely necessary, even the Blood Race wouldn't maintain the Blood River Technique for too long.

Moreover, if someone were to disrupt it from within, the energy consumption for the caster would be even greater.

The Skeletal General, despite being an enraged Moon Jade, wielding such prowess, how could Lu Ye withstand it?

If he didn't retrieve the Blood Sea quickly, once the Skeletal General shattered his Blood Sea Technique, at the very least, he would suffer severe damage to his vital energy.

Lu Ye knew things weren't that simple!

In that instant, Lu Ye made a decision, his figure flickered directly to the specter's side, grabbing her, and vanished again.

Reappearing beside Piao Ke.

"Defend!" He barked a low command while hurriedly retracting his Blood Sea.

The blood color vanished into nothingness, yet the Sword Fury Gusts of the Skeletal General continued to spread rapidly in all directions.

Piao Ke removed the large ladle from his waist, tossed it over his head, and it immediately formed a protective layer, enveloping the three of them.

The specter also wasn't stingy, once again summoning a purple talisman, forming a second protective layer.

This penny-pinching individual using purple talismans one after another clearly realized the gravity of the situation.

Without any valuable protective spirit treasures, Lu Ye could only rummage through his spoils for anything useful, unsure of their effectiveness, indiscriminately activating his spirit force to summon them all.

In a regular combat, cultivators rarely have such an opportunity to set up defenses, as by the time they did so, the enemy would have already attacked.

But with the Skeletal General clearly out of his right mind, his fury incited by Lu Ye's various tactics, he focused solely on unleashing his Sword Fury Gusts, granting the three of them this opportunity.

Lu Ye unleashed banners, using a protective spirit treasure that seemed decent as the Array Eye, setting up a layer of protective array.

Attempting another maneuver, he found it was too late.

The Sword Fury Gusts had enveloped the entire hall, already pressing upon where the three stood.

Feeling its ominous presence up close, one could more profoundly grasp the terror of these Sword Fury Gusts, composed of densely packed fine sword flashes sweeping over.

The first to bear the brunt was the protective array Lu Ye hastily set up; despite using a decent protective spirit treasure as its core, it provided significant protection.

Even so, it only held for two breaths before shattering, testifying to the killing power of the fine sword flashes.

With a crack, the protective spirit treasure acting as the array core crumbled to dust.

Following that, a symphony of cracking sounds ensued as protective spirit treasures shattered one after another.

In merely five breaths' time, all of Lu Ye's defenses were breached, leaving the specter's purple talisman next.

This wasn't likely a Dwarf Race purple talisman, just an ordinary one, yet propelled by the specter, a Constellation Late Stage, its protective power still proved substantial.

But it only withstood a single breath.

The glow of the purple talisman dimmed rapidly, then spontaneously combusted.

The expressions on the three turned grim; now only Piao Ke's ladle spirit treasure shield remained. If breached, they'd have to fend off the Sword Fury Gusts individually, and though Lu Ye might construct a Sacred Guard, it would likely be insufficient, as even at his rapid construction pace, it required time.

Against the ceaseless eroding fine Sword Fury Gusts, the Sacred Guard's effectiveness was limited!

The Sword Fury Gusts bore down, unflinching eyes locked on, and Lu Ye knew it was bad; Piao Ke's ladle spirit treasure couldn't possibly hold.

Raising his gaze forward, nothing was visible, as even his Mental Consciousness was shredded by the fine sword flashes.

But he knew, in this scenario, he could only take a desperate gamble.

Just as the final layer of defense teetered on collapse, Piao Ke and the specter were stunned to find Lu Ye vanished from their sight as his spirit force surged.

Soon after, from the direction of the Skeletal General, came the violent eruption of spirit force, alongside the faint sound of a long saber's hum.

Their spirits surged as they realized Fa Wuzun had charged forth.

However, they were slightly puzzled at how Fa Wuzun managed to charge forward? In the Blood Sea, he could move like a specter, but now with the Blood Sea retracted, he should have lost that ability.

The two couldn't comprehend the mystery of how Lu Ye managed to perform instant movement, so they naturally couldn't figure out how he did it.

In fact, during his previous battle with the Skeletal General, Lu Ye had left one of his controlled weapons in the gap behind the Skeletal General's armor.

If the enemy had flesh and blood, they would have sensed it, but this guy was ultimately just a muddled skeleton, giving Lu Ye an opportunity to exploit.

It was precisely by using the positioning of the controlled weapon that Lu Ye was able to get close to the Skeletal General.

The reason he dared to do so was a gamble on Lu Ye's part, because generally, the center of a tornado is calm, and the appearance of the Sword Fury Gusts around the Skeletal General resembled a tornado, making it likely that there were no tiny sword flashes where he stood.

Staying in place was a dead end, so he had no choice but to take a gamble.

The facts proved Lu Ye's gamble was correct!

Moreover, a surprising thing happened. Perhaps because of the full force needed to activate the Sword Fury Gusts, the Skeletal General stood motionless.

Originally, under such an offensive, no one could get close to him, but Lu Ye's sudden assault using Void Spirit Runes caught him off guard.

Realizing that this guy was now a sitting duck, Lu Ye immediately rushed to his front, ready to finish him with a single strike. But as he focused his gaze, he almost spat blood.

Because the Skeletal General's left hand had already covered his right eye, making it impossible for him to attack.

Even in his muddled state, he knew his right eye was the biggest weak point, so he concealed this vulnerability before activating the Sword Fury Gusts.

Frustrated with nowhere to vent, Lu Ye noticed the dirk inserted at the Skeletal General's left eye socket and raised his saber to strike the dirk.

Initially, when he saw the dirk, he merely thought it was a decent spirit treasure, which is why the specter coveted it. But after learning the Skeletal General was actually a Moon Jade, the previous assumption didn't hold.

This dirk was likely not a spirit treasure, but rather a Moon Jade's treasure, a magic treasure!

If so, its value was immense.

But regardless of whether it was a spirit treasure or magic treasure, since it was lodged in the Skeletal General's left eye socket, Lu Ye could make use of it.

He wasn't sure if it would be effective, but it was better than him hacking at the opponent with the Boulder Mountain Saber.

When the Boulder Mountain Saber struck the dirk's tip, an unbelievable scene unfolded.

No matter how fiercely Lu Ye had slashed before, the Skeletal General hadn't cared. But at this moment, he trembled violently as if electrified, then his figure soared high like he had been heavily struck and fell directly into his own Sword Fury Gusts.

A harsh screeching sounded from where the Skeletal General fell, accompanied by a creaking noise.

As the Skeletal General fell, the Sword Fury Gusts gradually calmed and quickly vanished into thin air.

Lu Ye looked into the distance and couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief. Though he could sense via connected energies that Piao Ke and the specter weren't dead, he couldn't discern their exact condition.

Looking over, though a bit disheveled, the two were ultimately unharmed.

The moment the Sword Fury Gusts disappeared, they simultaneously moved aside to assess the current situation.

They saw Fa Wuzun standing intact where the Skeletal General had originally stood, while the Skeletal General, for some unknown reason, lay at the edge of the hall a hundred meters away from Fa Wuzun.

The Skeletal General, having endured that blow, was clearly not in good shape. He staggered back to his feet, but there was a clattering sound as his tattered armor scattered to the ground.

Lu Ye's eyes lit up. He had wanted to deal with that tattered armor for some time without success, but unexpectedly, achieved it through this fortuitous mistake.

The Skeletal General lost not just his tattered armor but even the bull-horn helmet shattered, revealing bones covered in fine cracks and even fractures in many areas.

Both Lu Ye and Piao Ke and the specter could clearly feel the Skeletal General's aura had weakened significantly, the most marked sign being the spectral fire's diminished color in his right eye socket.

Lu Ye immediately realized this was due to the Sword Fury Gusts!

The move was the Skeletal General's full exertion, and accidentally caught in his own Sword Fury Gusts, he was evidently injured by his own power.

If Lu Ye were wrapped in a Lotus Sun, he'd be in just as much trouble.

This was interesting; the three fought in despair, never expecting to glimpse victory amidst the unforeseen chances.

Lu Ye put a handful of elixir pills into his mouth and with a Single Flash, suddenly appeared behind the Skeletal General.

This was his final opportunity for an instant movement assault, as with the stripping of the tattered armor, the controlled weapon he placed on the Skeletal General had also fallen.

So, he could only teleport to this position.

In the instant of his emergence, Lu Ye rushed to the Skeletal General's side, his long blade targeting the right eye socket.

As expected, the Skeletal General's raised left hand blocked it, but Lu Ye's target wasn't the right eye socket—it was the left one!

The long blade shifted its course, changing from a stab to a slap, once more hitting the tip of the dirk.

Chapter 1445: Beast Trap Still Fights

Just like before, as the Boulder Mountain Saber struck the end of the dirk, the Skeletal General shuddered violently once more.

Lu Ye was about to draw his saber to attack again when the giant sword in the Skeletal General's hand was already raised high, slashing down fiercely.

This strike was as swift as a gust of wind, and Lu Ye was very close to the Skeletal General, making evasion impossible. He could only raise his saber to block.

At the same time, a light flashed on the Boulder Mountain Saber, spirit runes forming—Moon Return!

This particular spirit rune possessed a mysterious counterforce, meant to defeat the strong with the weak. Lu Ye occasionally used it while in the Nine Provinces, but hadn't used it since entering the stellar space, mainly because the enemies he encountered were either overwhelmingly powerful or did not warrant the use of this rune.

At this moment, using it was a forced decision.

A loud "clang" resounded, deafening, as a violent force surged in. Lu Ye felt a numbing sensation in his right arm that held the saber, even causing his tiger's mouth to crack, splattering blood, and his body dropped slightly.

Utilizing the opponent's force, Lu Ye slid backward, avoiding the next attack from the Skeletal General.

Steadily regaining his footing, Lu Ye's eyes brightened because he discovered something interesting—the Skeletal General's strength had significantly weakened!

During their initial confrontation, the spirit force in his body was easily shattered by the opposing power. Had it not been for Piao Ke and the specter's timely intervention, he would have been doomed. But in this encounter, while the opponent's strength was still formidable, it was much weaker than at first.

At least Lu Ye didn't feel his spirit force was on the brink of collapse; he could somewhat withstand the force.

This was clearly related to the injuries the Skeletal General had sustained from his Sword Fury Gusts.

Additionally, the Skeletal General's shattered armor no longer offered as much protection as before. If this was the state of the Skeletal General... there was hope for this battle!

The sound of air being sliced came, from Piao Ke's distant fishing rod attack. But this time, not only the fishing line came out; at the end of the line was a small sphere the size of a baby's fist, the nature of which was unknown.

The Skeletal General reacted swiftly, slicing sideways with his sword, striking the mysterious object. But as the giant sword collided with the sphere, it exploded with a boom, followed by a spray of emerald-green liquid, akin to the sap of trees, splattering all over the Skeletal General.

A sizzling sound ensued, as the corrosive liquid seeped into the gaps of the Skeletal General's bones. The ghostly flames in its right eye socket flickered vigorously twice, and although having no flesh, it bizarrely let out a roar.

Piao Ke's move evidently harmed it.

At that moment, a specter-like figure appeared beside the Skeletal General—it was the specter who had somehow come up unnoticed. Her five fingers were clenched, secret techniques activated, and her fingertips turned a dark golden hue, aimed directly at the enemy's right eye socket with a stance to thoroughly extinguish the ghostly fire.

Though the specter appeared ineffective in previous combats, it wasn't due to her lack of strength but the enemy's overwhelming power. She was, after all, a member of the Specter Race from the Northern Underworld Land of Specters, a recognized power on the Cumulated Points Ranking, with keen battle sense and situational awareness.

If this strike succeeded, the Skeletal General would be in grave danger.

However, the Skeletal General never relaxed its vigilance regarding the weakness in its right eye socket. As soon as the specter emerged, the giant sword swiftly swept across.

It appeared as if the specter had recklessly lunged onto the giant sword.

In this situation, the specter had no room or chance to dodge; being struck by the giant sword would take mere moments, and given the disparity in their strength, the specter would undoubtedly meet her end.

But just as the giant sword was about to strike, the specter's figure, lunging forward, eerily halted and then rapidly retreated against logic.

Piao Ke acted just in time during her moment of danger, a fishing line wrapping around one of the specter's legs, forcefully pulling her back.

Even so, the sweeping aftermath of the giant sword struck the specter like a meteor onto her abdomen, causing her to cough up blood midair, her face veil instantly stained scarlet!

Almost simultaneously with Piao Ke saving the specter, a big sun suddenly exploded, blossoming like a lotus flower, engulfing the Skeletal General.

The continuous sizzling sound was endless, created by the boundless saber energy slicing through the Skeletal General's bone figure.

Lu Ye appeared at the center of the lotus flower.

The specter's assault did not succeed, but she wasn't aiming for a surprise attack, rather creating an opportunity for Lu Ye to strike!

Judging by the outcome, she undoubtedly succeeded.

Just having activated the Lotus Sun, Lu Ye sensed danger. The Skeletal General's left hand descended like a mountain, its five skeletal fingers like five dirks, piercing through his figure.

No blood flowed; Lu Ye's figure dissipated—it was, in fact, an afterimage.

His true form had appeared on the other side of the hall, standing on a spot where a pre-placed weapon control rune emitted a faint glow.

Piao Ke attacked once more; similar to before, his fishing line carried an unknown exotic treasure that appeared identical to the previous sphere. But when the Skeletal General nonchalantly sliced it apart again, the sphere released not emerald liquid but fierce flames.

In an instant, the Skeletal General became a fireball, burning fiercely.

He fiercely pushed his power, only then extinguishing the raging flames.

The specter was still regulating her breath. The residual force had swept across her abdomen just now, making her feel very uncomfortable.

Lu Ye had already charged again towards the Skeletal General. In the midst of his sprint, the long saber spun like a crescent moon, with blade lights cascading down in a wash, sweeping across.

Crescent Moon!

Thud, thud, thud sounds rang out as the crescent moon-like blade lights slashed onto the Skeletal General, whose towering and massive form staggered back two steps.

Before he could steady himself, Lu Ye was already upon him, lowering his posture to avoid the giant sword's cross slash, then leaping high like an eagle soaring through the sky, holding the saber horizontally next to his face, and thrusting straight!

It seemed as if a piece of stellar space appeared behind Lu Ye, with stars falling all around.

All the falling points of the stars targeted the right eye socket of the Skeletal General, and this time he didn't even have time to defend!

A faint 'puff' sound was heard as the spectral fire flickering in the Skeletal General's right eye socket suddenly extinguished.

Seeing this, Lu Ye was delighted, got him!

However, the joy barely surfaced before turning into sudden dread because, despite the Skeletal General's weak point being hit, he didn't lose his ability to move, nor did his aura change at all. The giant sword slashed diagonally at Lu Ye from below.

This swing, if it hit Lu Ye, would likely split him open.

He wanted to activate the Void Spirit Runes to teleport away, but it was too late, mostly because Lu Ye had never considered that the weakness they had been trying to exploit was just a wishful misjudgment.

It wasn't a weakness at all, or rather, the weakness wasn't fatal enough!

But in this life-and-death crisis, Lu Ye remained calm because he sensed force approaching from behind. Indeed, a fine fish line appeared out of nowhere at his feet, wrapping around the Skeletal General's sword-wielding right hand and pulling fiercely.

Though the fish line snapped instantly, this momentary delay was enough for Lu Ye to reclaim his life.

His figure reappeared at the weapon control location left beforehand, his chest heaving violently. Even if he could disregard life and death during combat, truly experiencing it revealed its terrifying nature.

Focusing his gaze, he saw that the Skeletal General's bones were more cracked and densely packed than before, clearly showing that their earlier efforts hadn't been entirely ineffective.

A faint 'puff' sound was heard as the spectral fire that had been extinguished in the Skeletal General's right eye socket rekindled, and then a fierce rush of energy surged around him. It was unclear what mysterious technique he activated, but the sound of 'puff puff puff' kept coming.

To the surprise of the three of them, as the sound rose, clusters of spectral fire appeared out of nowhere throughout the hall. In an instant, the temperature in the hall plummeted, cold currents surged, and the hall was covered in a thick layer of frost in the blink of an eye.

Even though all three were constellations, they felt the piercing cold, their limbs stiffening.

Piao Ke and the specter both looked grim, realizing the trouble had become severe.

When they charged through the tomb passage before, they had encountered this type of spectral fire, but those were just the scattered spectral fires outside, clearly not on the same level as what was currently unleashed by the Skeletal General.

Moreover, the number of spectral fires he was now wielding was so vast that it filled almost the entire hall, leaving no space for safe movement for any of the three.

In contrast, the Skeletal General seemed entirely unaffected.

In such an environment, facing such a formidable enemy, how could there be any chance of winning? Even though the Skeletal General's aura weakened again after utilizing this secret technique.

He was clearly infuriated by Lu Ye and the others, which was why he used this move to restrict their movement space, allowing him to gain absolute advantage.

And once any of the three were touched by the spectral fire during movement, they would be engulfed by the boundless cold, drastically reducing their mobility and becoming easily defeated.

But what shocked Piao Ke and the specter immensely was that with the emergence of these spectral fires, Fa Wuzun charged directly towards the Skeletal General.

Along the way, he didn't evade, letting the spectral fires touch him, yet they didn't affect him in the slightest...

When passing through the tomb passage encountering these spectral fires, Lu Ye had already tried it. Although these flames had cold infiltrating effects, their essence was still a type of bizarre fire.

Since it's fire, it can be restrained by the power of the Talent Tree!

At this moment, he was precisely activating the power of the Talent Tree, thus ignoring the contact with the spectral fires, isolating the cold from eroding his body.

As he rushed to the Skeletal General's front, the saber light bloomed brilliantly, instantly entangling in combat with the Skeletal General.

Piao Ke and the specter immediately showed joy because they discovered that Fa Wuzun could actually contend head-on with the Skeletal General at this moment. Although slightly at a disadvantage, this was a hope for victory.

The two quickly understood it wasn't that Fa Wuzun had become stronger, but rather the Skeletal General had weakened, giving Fa Wuzun the chance to contend.

Chapter 1446: Pyrrhic Victory

The left eye socket of the Skeletal General in the grand hall was pierced by a magic treasure. He was already weakened, being a Moon Jade, and he had been injured by his own Sword Fury Gusts. Using this bizarre fire further drained him considerably.

After these repeated setbacks, even though the Skeletal General had the foundation of a Moon Jade, it was unlikely he could exert much strength anymore.

On our side, however, the energies of the three were always connected, the array unbroken. Though Lu Ye was engaging the Skeletal General alone, he was actually borrowing the strength of the other two, never truly alone.

The continuous clanging sounds reverberated as the Boulder Mountain Saber clashed with the giant sword, each impact ringing loudly with sparks flying. The disparity in stature was evident, yet their abilities were not so mismatched.

While Lu Ye entangled with the Skeletal General, Piao Ke and the Specter were not idle. Piao Ke continued to manipulate his fishing line, deploying various strange tactics for support. The Specter, with fewer such tricks, fought like Lu Ye, closing in on the Skeletal General with ghostly agility, each appearance sapping a significant part of the Skeletal General's focus.

Spectral fires flickered around, drawn by the Skeletal General's control to create trouble for them. But each time, Lu Ye would charge into the spectral fires, using the power of the Talent Tree to absorb and devour them.

After a brief engagement, Lu Ye sent an audio transmission and suddenly withdrew.

He needed a breather!

So far, among the formidable foes he had encountered, aside from Qin Yuandai, only this Skeletal General stood out. However, when he killed Qin Yuandai, he relied on the power of the red talisman, so he couldn't truly gauge her strength.

But the Skeletal General before him was a solid adversary, stronger than him, yet not so overwhelming as to make him feel despair.

For a combat cultivator, such an opponent was most suitable and satisfying.

Engaging in close combat with such a powerful enemy was the best way to temper oneself.

Lu Ye was full of fighting spirit and excitement, but after prolonged clashes, his right hand holding the saber was trembling uncontrollably, his arm a bloody mess, a sign of flesh and blood splitting.

Fortunately, now that he was at the Constellation Mid-Stage, his Essence of Blood and Flesh had been refined to the extreme, so he just needed a bit of rest to recover.

As he withdrew, only Piao Ke and the Specter continued to harass the Skeletal General. Piao Ke managed well, standing from afar using his eerie methods. The Specter fared worse; watching Fa Wuzun

battle the Skeletal General seemed effortless, but when it was her turn, every step was perilous, making her feel a foot was in the Ghost Gate, always on the brink of falling.

It was not just due to the gap between her ability and Lu Ye's, but also because her ghost cultivation faction wasn't suited for direct confrontation. Her strengths lay in stealth and deceit.

Unable to resist shouting, "Fa Wuzun, help!"

After calling several times without response, like being watched for entertainment, she switched her plea, "FA-ther, save me!"

In matters of life and death, dignity no longer mattered...

Piao Ke's eye twitched, internally cursing himself for having such a shameless friend, secretly vowing to sever ties with her after this encounter.

Lu Ye charged back, not because the Specter called for her father, but because she was indeed in danger if he didn't.

The trio formed an array, and even with one missing, victory could slip away, having fought to this point. How could he let such a thing happen?

With Lu Ye resuming the lead, the Specter finally breathed a sigh of relief, promptly retreating to the side for a brief respite.

The fierce battle continued, but victory's scale slowly tilted towards the trio, for as time passed, the Skeletal General's bones cracked and fissured more frequently. Lu Ye, in direct combat with him, especially noticed the Skeletal General's power waned!

Until a critical moment, when Lu Ye cleaved his saber, and the Skeletal General failed to block in time—one of his leg bones snapped!

The towering figure staggered, nearly falling, barely steadying himself, but in face-off with Lu Ye, he had fallen significantly behind.

The breaking of a leg bone was the catalyst, triggering the Skeletal General's total collapse.

Soon after the first leg bone, Lu Ye seized another opportunity, severing the other leg bone, followed by his sword-wielding right arm!

By then, the Skeletal General had no room for resistance, utterly at their mercy.

He was clearly unwilling, spectral fire in his right eye socket flared violently, and the ghostly fires in the hall also flared up intensely.

The atmosphere became dangerously volatile.

Seeing the peril, Lu Ye intended to withdraw, but the legless, armless Skeletal General relentlessly held onto him.

In the next moment, the spectral fire clustered toward them, its aura growing more ragingly dangerous.

Lu Ye wanted to construct Void Spirit Runes for teleportation, but having done so repeatedly, the Skeletal General had caught on, and a spectral fire ignited the residual weapon control spirit force left behind, depleting it instantly.

With no spirit force in the weapon control, he couldn't create Void Spirit Runes to teleport himself.

In haste, Lu Ye steeled himself, frantically constructing Sacred Guard Spirit Runes to protect himself.

A cluster of spectral fire drifted over and then exploded.

The roaring sound was incessant, with flames shooting up to the sky, obscuring the figures of Lu Ye and the Skeletal General.

Piao Ke and the specter watched nervously, using the connection of each other's qi to check Lu Ye's life and death. Although they hadn't had much interaction with Fa Wuzun before, this was a grueling battle of life and death.

It is easy for cultivators to forge deep friendships in such battles, where trust and bonds slowly form between each other.

Even though it was a three-person array in today's battle, Fa Wuzun was undoubtedly the main force. He broke the Sword Fury Gusts of the Skeletal General, ignored the Netherworld Spectral Fire of the Skeletal General, and without Fa Wuzun, even if the current top-ranked person on the Cumulated Points Ranking came, they couldn't achieve this level.

The specter initially invited Fa Wuzun merely to leverage the power of his array disc, but after this battle, she realized that inviting Fa Wuzun was the wisest and only choice for victory.

Now, with victory in sight, if Fa Wuzun died, it would be hard for either her or Piao Ke to accept.

Fortunately, they kept feeling Fa Wuzun's qi...

The violent force gradually subsided, and in the place originally shrouded in flames, a figure stood, gray-faced and dusty—who else could it be but Fa Wuzun?

In front of him was a pile of broken bones, clearly belonging to the Skeletal General, with only the skull somewhat intact. The spectral fire in the right eye socket wasn't completely extinguished yet but had become extremely dim.

When Piao Ke and the specter looked over, they saw the spectral fire slowly extinguishing.

Lu Ye lifted his foot and stepped on it, and with a crack, the fairly intact skull shattered as well.

He plopped down on the ground, took out a healing pill, and stuffed it into his mouth.

Although the power of the Talent Tree could isolate the erosion of those cold spectral fires, the explosive impact in the end could not be isolated. He hurriedly constructed over a dozen layers of Sacred Guard Spirit Runes as protection, but they were all broken through, and he suffered considerable injuries.

At this moment, he was covered in blood and flesh, with shredded clothes sticking to his flesh, and his internal organs were somewhat displaced.

Piao Ke put away his fishing rod and rushed over with the specter to check on his condition. Once they confirmed he was not seriously hurt, they breathed a sigh of relief.

Suddenly, a massive mystic light descended from the sky.

In such exclusive scenarios, winning meant rewards of mystic light and cumulated points, and the rewards were richer than in ordinary scenarios.

If not for this, the specter wouldn't have bothered to pull in helpers for just a dirk treasure; after all, she had initially judged the dirk to be just a spirit treasure.

The three each occupied one corner of the hall, began to refine the mystic light, and recuperate.

If he were alone, Lu Ye would have refined this mystic light quickly, but with Piao Ke and the specter present, he couldn't reveal his speed in refining and had to refine it at the normal cultivation efficiency.

Three days passed in a flash, and Lu Ye noticed that the specter had finished refining and was cleaning up the battlefield.

The dirk from the Skeletal General's left eye socket was in her hands, and she smiled broadly. Then she examined the giant sword of the Skeletal General briefly before putting it down. She began searching the hall again.

As an adept ghost cultivator, treasure-seeking was an innate instinct, especially for someone as poor as her, even a piece of spirit jade in this hall would not escape her.

An hour later, Lu Ye and Piao Ke finished refining one after the other.

The three regrouped.

The specter held the dirk and cleared her throat, "I'll just take this thing. It's useless to you anyway, and I won't take the rest of the stuff!"

Mainly because her information was wrong, almost driving the three of them into a corner, so she voluntarily took fewer benefits.

She then pointed to the giant sword on the ground, "This magic treasure is for Fa Wuzun. He did the heavy lifting, so he deserves more."

Piao Ke nodded, indicating no objections.

Lu Ye didn't hesitate and put the giant sword into his storage ring. This thing was magic-treasure class, and though he couldn't use it, he could at least sell it.

Of course, he didn't lack for spirit jade now, so most likely he would have the sword gourd devour it. He wanted to know what kind of power a Sword Qi birthed from a devoured magic treasure would possess.

Finally, the specter pointed to the two piles of storage rings in front of her, "You two can each choose a pile. Good or bad, it's all up to your luck!"

Chapter 1447: The Empty Constellation Palace

Throughout the ages, the Constellation Palace has been opened countless times, and the number of cultivators who have entered this great hall is innumerable. Of course, many have died here in battle.

After the cultivators perish, their storage rings are left behind. The Skeletal General doesn't collect these items; they are all discovered by specters.

The storage rings currently placed before Lu Ye and Piao Ke, each pile containing at least thirty or forty rings, remain unopened due to their restrictions, so no one knows what is inside.

Lu Ye casually chose one pile, while Piao Ke picked another.

"Thanks a lot this time, call on me if you ever need help in the future." The specter looked at Lu Ye with a sincere expression.

If it weren't for Fa Wuzun, they would have been in grave danger this time, mainly because she never expected to encounter a Moon Jade in this exclusive setting.

Suddenly, as if she remembered something, she added, "Except for Spectral Runes!"

The words had already been spoken. If Fa Wuzun demanded to examine the Breath-concealing Spectral Runes on her, it would be quite awkward.

Lu Ye nodded and said nothing, silently withdrawing from the great hall.

When the Skeletal General died, the tightly closed doors of the hall slowly opened. Now, departing without hindrance.

Returning inside the Constellation Palace, Lu Ye glanced at the Cumulated Points Ranking. After a few days' delay, his ranking had fallen quite a bit again, indicating that with the approach of the ranking battle's deadline, the cultivators on the ranking were more vigorous than before.

He didn't mind; he was originally planning to slowly climb the ranks. According to the rules of the ranking battle, if the cultivators ranked higher than him accumulate more points, defeating them would bring him even greater benefits.

This reminded him of pig farming; generally, a pig is slaughtered only after it has been fattened...

The ranking battle shouldn't be too far away, Lu Ye decided not to participate in any more confrontations. After such a fierce battle with the Skeletal General, he felt that further engagements with Constellation cultivators wouldn't yield much benefit for him.

So he simply waited for the ranking battle to arrive.

Finding a corner, he set up an Array, sat quietly, and began to derive Concealment Spirit Runes using the power of the Talent Tree.

Spending three hundred thousand spirit jade just to observe the hidden Spectral Runes from the specter couldn't go to waste. Besides, based on past experiences, deriving spirit patterns through the Talent Tree is very time-consuming. Previously, each new spirit rune took him at least half a year.

Thus, the sooner he started, the better.

On the blazing leaves of the Talent Tree, patterns started manifesting and vanishing. In Lu Ye's mind, all sorts of spirit lights began to spark. At times like these, one's accumulation and foundation in the Path of Spirit Runes become essential. If the accumulation is adequate, more brilliant ideas can emerge during derivation, possibly resulting in a masterstroke that greatly enhances the efficacy of a spirit rune with a minor adjustment of a basic element.

Throughout history, many spirit runes have essentially been birthed this way.

The enhancement of strength requires steady progress. Even with the Talent Tree, rapid improvement in strength might lead to an unstable foundation.

Therefore, deriving Concealment Spirit Runes is imperative. This way, should he encounter an adversary he cannot defeat in the future, he can retreat and hide if necessary.

Gradually, he divided his focus and began breaking the restrictions of the storage rings he had brought out from the great hall.

It took quite an effort to string together all those storage rings and wear them on his waist. Suddenly acquiring dozens more meant he needed to deal with them quickly; otherwise, it would be inconvenient to carry.

Breaking down the restrictions one by one, Lu Ye extracted useful items from inside, sorting them accordingly. There were some valuable items in the storage rings, though not exceedingly precious, as they belonged to deceased Constellation cultivators. There couldn't be any incredible treasures among them. Considering Lu Ye's current wealth, very few things could attract his attention.

He also took out the sword gourd and stuffed inside some spirit treasures he couldn't use, including the giant sword magic treasure of the Skeletal General, for the gourd to consume.

When he first obtained the sword gourd, Lu Ye felt this treasure was peculiar, due to his limited insight at the time. Only after the Divine Sea dispute did he learn that this object was actually an affiliated treasure of a supreme treasure.

As an affiliated treasure of a supreme treasure, there was certainly no issue in consuming magic-treasure class artifacts. Lu Ye had suspected as much before, and the trial confirmed it.

Sensing quietly, he could clearly perceive nine sharp Sword Qi within the sword gourd. The Sword Qi was deep and restrained; even a slight perception gave a chilling feeling.

It's imaginable that the prowess of these nine Sword Qi is likely highly terrifying.

Should his sword cultivator doppelganger take action in the future, its strength would undoubtedly undergo a groundbreaking transformation compared to its previous appearance. This made Lu Ye rather expectant.

As another storage ring's restriction was broken, Lu Ye reached inside to retrieve its contents.

Suddenly, he stared at an item in his hand, his expression full of surprise.

Because the item in his hand was actually a White Spirit!

In the storage ring of some Constellation cultivator who died many years ago, there existed a White Spirit...

While storage rings have storage functions and can keep ordinary items from decaying over time, they actually cannot maintain freshness indefinitely.

If ordinary food were placed in a storage ring, it would at most last three to five years before it spoils.

The White Spirit is a type of star beast, and although it can last longer than ordinary food, ten or twenty years is the limit, any longer and it would undoubtedly rot.

Yet the White Spirit in Lu Ye's hand, aside from lacking any vitality, seemed as if it had just been fished out of the Star Sea.

However, Lu Ye quickly realized something was off because this White Spirit felt like it wasn't made of flesh, seeming as if it was carved from some kind of special jade, cold to the touch.

He activated his spirit force, channeling it inside to investigate.

An odd scene unfolded, the spirit force that Lu Ye activated was completely absorbed by the White Spirit in his hand!

His brow slightly raised, for such a situation to occur suggested that the White Spirit in his hand was not merely for decoration but a kind of treasure, since only treasures absorb a cultivator's spirit force to activate their powers.

This piqued his interest, causing him to diligently infuse more spirit force into the White Spirit, eager to discover what level of treasure it was and what capabilities it possessed.

Yet, to his astonishment, as he continued to channel his spirit force, the White Spirit in his hand seemed to come alive, the gills slowly moving and breathing, the tail flicking and jumping.

Lu Ye frowned slightly, this thing... was somewhat peculiar!

He immediately ceased his infusion of spirit force; originally, he only intended to see what powers this thing possessed, but the bizarre development made him wary.

He needed to figure out what on earth this thing was first.

Lu Ye thought that stopping the infusion of spirit force would end it, but unexpectedly, he couldn't stop! The White Spirit began actively devouring the spirit force from within him, and it was doing so at an alarming rate!

Lu Ye tried to fling the White Spirit away, but it seemed as though it was attached to his hand, and no matter what, he couldn't shake it off.

With a whoosh, the Crimson Dragon Saber was drawn, and Lu Ye swung it at the White Spirit clinging to his palm.

The White Spirit acted as if truly alive; with a flick of its tail, it deftly dodged the attack and began to swim around Lu Ye.

Suddenly, the sound of waves crashing and the rising and falling of tides filled Lu Ye's ears, making him feel as if he was suddenly by the sea.

As this sound appeared, a radiant glow trailed behind the White Spirit's tail, and when the glow dissipated, actual seawater appeared.

In just two breaths, Lu Ye was enveloped by a layer of seawater, and the White Spirit swam effortlessly around him.

The situation had become increasingly strange. Lu Ye felt he might have activated some bizarre item, but without understanding what it was, it was best to escape first to avoid unpredictable consequences.

As for whether it was truly a treasure... Lu Ye couldn't be bothered to find out.

With a thought, he immediately entered another great hall.

With a firm gaze, he noticed that there was no longer any seawater around him, nor was the White Spirit swimming about, indicating he had shaken it off.

Yet, before Lu Ye could breathe a sigh of relief, he noticed something was amiss.

In the past, no matter which numbered hall he found himself in, there were always several cultivators gathered, coming and going, but now, wherever he looked, there wasn't a soul in sight.

In the empty hall, only the Cumulated Points Ranking stood, without a cultivator in sight, and not even a single portal around the hall where cultivators could enter to engage in various competitions.

What kind of hall was this, to be so deserted!

Lu Ye guessed this might be a hall with a very late number, but when he looked up, he was dumbfounded.

Because above the dome, it was empty, without a number!

He stared blankly at the dome for a moment before lowering his gaze to the Cumulated Points Ranking.

When he first looked at the ranking, he hadn't noticed, but upon closer inspection, he found something strange: there weren't any names on the Cumulated Points Ranking!

Within the Constellation Palace, no matter which hall, the Cumulated Points Ranking always had names of powerful cultivators inscribed, and the rankings in each hall were identical.

Yet, here, not only was there no number, but the Cumulated Points Ranking appeared to have lost its original function.

Lu Ye was momentarily uncertain about what was going on.

Ever since he pulled out the White Spirit from the storage ring, the myriad anomalies had left him perplexed.

However, having weathered many storms, he remained composed and unperturbed, regardless of how unique this hall was, it was always best to explore a bit for answers.

For now, he could only be certain of one thing, and that was that he was still within the Constellation Palace. Since he was in the Constellation Palace, he would be protected by its rules, hence he wasn't too tense.

Chapter 1448: Seahorse

Based on various indications earlier, Lu Ye harbored some suspicion about one matter: that White Spirit... was very likely a Passage Order for some exclusive scene!

He activated his spirit force and poured it into the White Spirit, believing he had entered another main hall, but in reality, he was sent here.

If this is really the case, then this place is an exclusive scene!

It's similar in nature to the ancient tomb he entered before.

It made him feel a bit amused because before the specter invited him, he had merely heard about exclusive scenes, but after accepting the specter's invitation, he unexpectedly entered two different exclusive scenes in a short period. Is this good luck or bad?

Moreover, had he not gone to that ancient tomb with the specter, he wouldn't have obtained those storage rings as spoils of war, nor acquired the White Spirit; it seems like a fortunate coincidence.

But as far as he knows, many exclusive scenes are treasure hunts. Take the ancient tomb, for example, which is strictly speaking a treasure hunt, only that to obtain the final treasure, one must first kill the Skeletal General.

Yet this main hall looks no different from the Constellation Palace halls Lu Ye visited before. What treasure could be here?

He searched carefully, not missing the slightest anomaly but found nothing.

Until Lu Ye reached the other end of the hall and saw a tightly closed door...

Things seemed a little off because the Constellation Palace halls he had been to were all sealed, and cultivators could only enter different competition fields through various portals; there were no such doors.

Leaving the Constellation Palace was just a thought, and the palace wouldn't prevent it.

But this main hall actually has a door!

And it doesn't have a number!

The closed door is the only valuable clue at present. Lu Ye estimated he must go through this door to enter the true exclusive scene; this hall might just be a transit.

If so, he could only go forward and investigate.

Lu Ye pondered, changed the Crimson Dragon Saber at his waist to the Boulder Mountain Saber, and assessed his own condition, ensuring he was unharmed before striding towards the door.

Bang... a sound suddenly echoed.

Lu Ye immediately halted, pressed the handle of the Boulder Mountain Saber, and stared at the thick door ahead!

The sound came from beyond, as if something heavy was hitting the door.

Bang bang bang...

The collisions became more intense, and with each strike, the massive door showed signs of slowly opening.

Lu Ye swiftly floated backward dozens of yards, ready and alert!

Finally, after another impact, the door slowly opened a slit, and a figure flashed through, rushing inside from the gap!

Lu Ye drew his saber, ready to face the approaching enemy.

However, the next moment, his actions abruptly stopped, because as he unsheathed the Boulder Mountain Saber, a great fear suddenly descended upon him. Mingming inspired a feeling that in this hall, he absolutely must not fight anyone, or he would face disaster.

The halls within the Constellation Palace also have rules disallowing cultivators to fight, and it seems this rule applies here too.

If so, it's good for him. At least he wouldn't have to worry about being attacked here.

He sheathed his saber again and finally had the chance to examine the figure that had barged in.

Upon seeing it, he was greatly amazed, because the thing looked like a seahorse.

Only it wasn't quite the same as a normal seahorse; it had two horns on its head like dragon horns, and its tail was also like a dragon's tail, covered in fine Scale Armor.

It lay about thirty yards away from Lu Ye, its belly slightly heaving, with a pool of bright red blood on the ground, seemingly injured.

It's impossible to ignore that the aura emanating from this seahorse had reached the Constellation Late Stage!

It was injured, though the cause was unknown, with a piece of flesh missing from its back where the blood flowed.

When the seahorse rushed into the hall, it was unguarded until sensing Lu Ye's presence, it suddenly lifted its head and looked towards him.

Suddenly, wide eyes met small eyes, a bewildered four-eyed stare!

Lu Ye couldn't understand why a seahorse appeared here, and the seahorse was equally puzzled by what was before it...

For Lu Ye, however, since there was a no-fighting rule here, no matter the seahorse's strength, it posed no threat.

He stepped forward for a closer look.

The seahorse struggled to rise, its tail touching the ground, warily watching Lu Ye. As Lu Ye approached step by step, the seahorse retreated little by little until it reached the door, unable to retreat further.

Lu Ye vaguely felt this creature was a star beast. He had encountered quite a few star beasts when exploring around the Nine Provinces; star beasts possessed some distinctive aura, making them easy to identify.

And given that star beasts were always peculiar in appearance, a seahorse star beast wasn't too surprising.

After thinking about it, Lu Ye spoke, "Do you understand human speech?"

The seahorse stared at him, showing no reaction, seemingly not understanding. However, judging by the seahorse's behavior, it seemed to possess substantial spiritual intelligence, unlike most star beasts. Most star beasts, regardless of their strength, were no different from demon beasts: muddle-headed, ignorant, and lacking intelligence.

If communication is impossible, there's no way to interact. Lu Ye glanced at the wound on its back, then took out a bottle of healing pills from his storage ring, poured one out, and handed it over in his palm.

This is his exclusive scene. When an injured seahorse appears before him, it can't be killed, so it can only be saved.

It's merely some healing medicine, nothing significant.

The seahorse looked at him, then at the healing pill in his hand, remaining indifferent, clearly full of caution.

Lu Ye didn't insist; he raised his hand and tossed the healing pill toward it, then stood aside waiting.

After a moment of standstill, the seahorse seemed to realize Lu Ye had no ill intentions. It then lowered its head to look at the healing pill, slowly shifted its body, and sniffed at it. Its eyes noticeably brightened, and it swallowed the pill in one gulp.

Even if it had never seen a healing pill before and didn't know what it was, as a star beast, especially one at the Constellation Late Stage, it naturally could discern what was beneficial to it.

Although the seahorse's injury seemed serious, it wasn't too affecting for it. In the Constellation Late Stage, it could already regenerate flesh and blood; it likely was just greatly consumed.

After taking the healing pill and resting for about an hour, the seahorse made a strange, rhythmic noise in its mouth.

Lu Ye had been watching it all along. Seeing it nodding towards him as if expressing gratitude, he nodded in response.

Then, the seahorse turned around and vanished through the crack in the door, its destination unknown.

That's it?

Lu Ye was slightly taken aback. He initially thought that saving this seahorse would offer some assistance for his upcoming exploration, like the seahorse approaching him proactively and leading the way, but unexpectedly, the creature just ran off like that.

It didn't matter much.

Lu Ye walked to the door and looked outside through the crack the seahorse had made.

He watched quietly for a moment, unemotionally raised his hand, and closed the door!

He felt he must have seen it wrong...

He gently took a breath, organized his thoughts, reopened a slit of the door, and looked outside once more.

In his sight, the sea was filled. A school of faintly glowing strange fish swam leisurely and joyfully from a distance.

Logically, with the door open, seawater should surge in, but there seemed to be an isolating force in the hall. The endless seawater outside couldn't flood in even a drop; it was entirely blocked by an invisible power.

It's unexpected to be underwater!

What shocked Lu Ye even more was that the seawater gave him an extraordinarily familiar feeling.

He reached out, put a hand into the seawater, and couldn't help but twitch an eye corner.

Indeed, that feeling of familiarity was not an illusion. This seawater had the same nature as that of the All Phenomena Ocean, both being condensed from extremely pure and dense stellar space energy with strong corrosive power.

Because the Talent Tree had a very noticeable reaction, large swathes of gray mist rose up.

He withdrew his hand, falling into contemplation.

The reason he came here was that he activated the power of a treasure resembling a White Spirit he found in a storage ring. According to his previous speculation, that White Spirit was the Passage Order of the exclusive scene.

So, this is indeed his exclusive scene!

The hall is just a transit point; to enter the true exclusive scene, one must step through the door.

But why is it underwater? And why does the seawater match exactly with that of the All Phenomena Ocean?

Moreover, where else in this world has such seawater besides a place like the All Phenomena Ocean?

This place can't possibly be the All Phenomena Ocean, right?

Pondering this, Lu Ye took out his audio talisman, wanting to verify things.

He found Tang Jun's mark from the audio talisman and sent a message over.

After waiting for quite a while with no response, he sent another message to Cao Xiang, the manager of the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, but there was no reaction either.

He vaguely felt he might be overthinking it. Since it's an exclusive scene, how could he end up in the All Phenomena Ocean?

But upon closer thought, if he were truly under the All Phenomena Ocean, the audio talisman might be ineffective, because the seawater of the All Phenomena Ocean can almost completely block Mental Consciousness; how could the audio talisman allow communication?

Needless speculation is meaningless; since he's here, he can only go out and see.

If it were any other cultivator here, they'd likely only hide in the hall; leaving the hall would mean certain death. However, Lu Ye had no such concerns.

He had even cultivated underwater before.

Calming his mind and activating the power of the Talent Tree to envelop himself, he flashed out of the hall.

Upon stepping into the seawater, Lu Ye immediately felt a massive influx of pure energy surrounding him, despite not actively absorbing it. Fortunately, the Talent Tree promptly exerted its function, with the already fiercely burning tree body becoming even more luminous, as large areas of gray mist surged up.

The pressure was immense; Lu Ye felt as if he were carrying a mountain on his back, confirming one thing: this place was definitely the deep sea. Only the deep sea exerted such pressure. Previously, he had only cultivated in the shallow sea and never felt this weight before.

Chapter 1449: The True Constellation Palace

Under the sea, it was all darkness, not a trace of light existed. However, Lu Ye was ultimately a Constellation cultivator, and even in such complete darkness, as long as the distance was not too far, he could vaguely make out some things.

Of course, if the distance was too far, it was impossible.

Relying on Mental Consciousness was even less reliable. He had tried it before; in the seawater of the All Phenomena Ocean, his Mental Consciousness could not exceed three inches beyond his body. The pure and dense stellar space energy exerted too strong a suppressive effect on his Mental Consciousness.

He tried to construct Insight Spirit Runes to enhance his eyes, hoping to see more clearly, but it almost blinded him.

When the Insight Spirit Runes were functioning, they could allow observation of energy flow, thereby discovering things invisible to the naked eye.

This seawater was originally formed from extremely pure and dense stellar space energy, so after enhancing with the Insight Spirit Runes, Lu Ye saw a blinding brightness that almost made him unable to open his eyes.

He quickly dispersed the Insight Spirit Runes.

Swimming a certain distance away, he turned around and looked back, wanting to see what the Grand Hall he had emerged from really looked like.

In the dark waters, the outline of some gigantic structure seemed to imprint itself in his vision, but he couldn't see it clearly.

Fortunately, a school of fish with bodies emitting a faint glow swam by, and utilizing that weak light, Lu Ye finally saw the shape of the Grand Hall.

He was momentarily stunned...

From the outside, the structure of this Grand Hall gave him a powerful sense of familiarity, as if he had definitely seen it somewhere before.

Then he thought, isn't this the Constellation Palace?

When the Constellation Palace opened a few months ago, he was rushing over with Piao Ke and the specter, and he had once observed the Constellation Palace from the outside.

On the surface, this Grand Hall in the deep sea looked exactly the same as the Constellation Palace he had seen a few months earlier, both in size and structure.

The difference was that one was in some stellar space of the All Phenomena Star System, and the other was underwater in the deep sea.

Another difference was that one was void, the other real!

The Constellation Palace that many Constellation cultivators surged into seemed like an illusory presence. It was permanently stationed in that stellar space, visible to any cultivator passing by, but its doors would only open when it activated, allowing cultivators to enter and compete. Ordinarily, even if a cultivator passed through it, they wouldn't encounter any obstruction.

But the Grand Hall before his eyes was a tangible structure. It was unknown how long it had lain silent in the deep sea, with a mottled surface appearing as traces of time's erosion. When Lu Ye looked closely, he found that the mottling was actually due to entangled seaweed.

The entire Grand Hall was wrapped in a bizarre seaweed, as if it had grown a layer of fuzz.

Looking back at the Grand Hall that looked identical to the Constellation Palace, Lu Ye's heart pounded fiercely.

Could this be the true Constellation Palace?

The reason for such speculation was because during their journey to the Constellation Palace, Piao Ke had once told him something.

Piao Ke had said that some people speculated that the Constellation Palace into which cultivators could enter was merely a projection, which is why it appeared to be so illusory and ethereal. When not activated, anyone could pass through it.

If the Constellation Palace over there was really just a projection, then there should be a true Constellation Palace. Some powerful cultivators had tried to trace the source using the projection to find the real Constellation Palace but with no progress.

Later, there came the explanation that the Constellation Palace was an incompletely evolved stellar space supreme treasure, which is why it presented a phantom form.

But if the one in the deep sea was the true Constellation Palace, then it indicated that it had long been fully evolved into a real stellar space supreme treasure. It's just that no one could delve deep into this ocean, and naturally, no one had discovered its whereabouts.

The more Lu Ye thought about it, the more he believed it might truly be as he suspected.

This was indeed the genuine Constellation Palace, but its projection was cast into a certain stellar space of the All Phenomena Star System, giving Constellation cultivators a chance to enter and compete.

If the Grand Hall before him was the real Constellation Palace, then what was this place? It couldn't really be the All Phenomena Ocean, could it?

As he was pondering this, another school of fish swam by in front of him, instantly catching Lu Ye's attention, as he found them very familiar.

For over half a year, he had been outsmarting and contending with these kinds of fish, earning his first pot of gold in the All Phenomena Star System!

White Spirit, and moreover, a school of White Spirit fish, numbering no less than a hundred thousand. Even if calculated with each White Spirit worth three thousand spirit jade, the total value of such a school would exceed three billion spirit jade!

He worked hard laying out such a large game, selling so many array discs, only to earn a little over a billion spirit jade... In terms of value, just over thirty percent of this fish school's worth.

During his moment of distraction, the White Spirit fish school had already swum far away.

His expression was extremely grave.

Because he realized there was a great possibility that this place truly was the All Phenomena Ocean!

There are White Spirits in the All Phenomena Ocean, and here, too, there are White Spirits. It's too much of a coincidence otherwise.

And although the All Phenomena Star System is vast, if there's one place where even mighty Sun Blaze cultivators cannot venture, it is the All Phenomena Ocean!

The real body of the Constellation Palace had always been hidden deep in the All Phenomena Ocean, which is why no one had ever caught a glimpse of its location.

If this is true, then two of the three great stellar marvels of the All Phenomena Galaxy exist in the same location, or rather, one is located within the other.

This is undoubtedly a discovery that could shock the world, but Lu Ye felt little excitement because this discovery didn't mean much to him. Instead, his situation at the moment wasn't very good.

Without lingering further in the deep sea, Lu Ye swam towards the Constellation Palace and shortly returned to its interior.

He needed to make sense of things.

After killing the Skeletal General with Piao Ke and specter, they divided the spoils, from which he found a White Spirit. Through this White Spirit, he arrived here. But now he realizes that this might very well be the true Constellation Palace, located in the depths of the All Phenomena Ocean.

What should he do? He had no idea.

There were no treasures here, nor any enemies, only an empty grand hall.

After some thought, Lu Ye spoke: "Any guidance?"

If the Constellation Palace is a stellar space supreme treasure, it ought to have its own spiritual intelligence! Like the Reincarnation Tree. Of course, its intelligence might not be as complete as that of the Reincarnation Tree, but complete or not, it's bound to have some. So Lu Ye thought, instead of exploring and guessing on his own, he might as well ask directly.

Perhaps he could obtain some enlightenment and answers.

But after he asked, there was no response, as if the Constellation Palace lacked its own spiritual intelligence.

He opened his mouth again: "Is there anything you need me to do?"

Still, no response.

Lu Ye frowned and opened his mouth once more: "I'm leaving!"

He couldn't leave, just like in the Skeletal General's hall, the rules of the Constellation Palace no longer applied.

Lu Ye certainly knew it wasn't that the rules of the Constellation Palace no longer applied. This was the main hall of the Constellation Palace, so how could its rules not apply? Rather, the Constellation Palace wasn't allowing him to leave.

Thus, it seemed the Constellation Palace did indeed have its own spiritual intelligence, but for some unknown reason, it didn't respond to his inquiry.

Lu Ye didn't take it to heart. If it were someone else trapped here, and the Constellation Palace wouldn't let them go, they would truly be left to await death.

But he didn't necessarily need to rely on the rules of the Constellation Palace to leave here.

He could completely swim out!

If this really was the All Phenomena Ocean, then as long as he swam in one direction, he could inevitably escape; it would just take some time.

Of course, such an act would greatly consume the fuel of the Talent Tree. Fortunately, the fuel reserve for the Talent Tree is currently quite abundant, and he had previously spent over ten million spirit jades to purchase a large amount of fire-type treasures, so there should be no problem.

Right now, he was only glad he hadn't spared spirit jade before and had gone to Grand Hall 88 for a shopping spree. Otherwise, he wouldn't have had such confidence now.

"If there are no instructions, I'll be leaving." Lu Ye said, and seeing no reaction from the Constellation Palace, decisively walked out the main door.

Then, choosing a direction, he swiftly swam towards it.

While swimming, he was also looking around to see if he could encounter another school of White Spirit Fish. Those were all spirit jades, and catching a few randomly could fetch a good price, especially since it was the fishing off-season now, and the prices would certainly be higher than usual.

While he was leisurely swimming, a sudden sense of danger surged in his heart. He turned his head toward a direction and saw a black silhouette rapidly charging at him, full of momentum, clearly with malicious intent.

Lu Ye was just about to draw his saber when he suddenly remembered that this was the All Phenomena Ocean, and if he brought out the Boulder Mountain Saber, it would likely be eroded and damaged quickly.

He immediately dismissed the thought of drawing the saber, clenched his fist, and punched in the direction of the approaching black shadow.

He wasn't skilled at using fists to fight, being a combat cultivator who used a saber. But ultimately, his foundational strength was there, and such a punch even under ordinary circumstances would have significant power.

But here, in the depths of the sea, when he threw the punch, Lu Ye instantly sensed something wrong. The dense seawater wrapped around his fist, diminishing the force by thirty percent before it could fully unleash its power.

He then saw a gaping mouth full of sharp teeth coming to bite him.

In haste, the extended fist shot upwards, hitting one of the teeth in that giant maw, unleashing massive power, causing the seawater to surge. Lu Ye's body retreated, and the black shadow was temporarily forced back.

But Lu Ye quickly realized that there wasn't just one black shadow, but several. He had only managed to repel one, and the others were already coming at him.

Lu Ye was flustered in his response.

In this environment, his strength was greatly compromised. On a usual day, he could have easily chopped down these few attackers with a few swings. But here, it was as if he was a dragon swimming in shallow water, being toyed with by shrimps.

After entangling with them for a while, he didn't manage to kill any of the shadows and even got bitten when the opponent seized an opportunity.

He finally saw clearly what these shadows were—they were star beasts, resembling sharks.

Chapter 1450: Mission

This reminded Lu Ye of the seahorse he treated earlier in the Constellation Palace. It had bite marks on its back, which seemed likely to be from the Shark Star Beast.

In the All Phenomena Ocean, there are not only White Spirits but also Seahorse Star Beasts and Shark Star Beasts...

Perhaps there are more star beasts unknown to Lu Ye and the world, hidden deep in the sea, never exposing their tracks.

The few Shark Star Beasts were causing Lu Ye great annoyance, and finally, unable to hold back, he summoned the Crimson Dragon Saber, slicing down a few times and dealing with the two attacking Shark Star Beasts. The remaining two, sensing something amiss, hurriedly fled.

Lu Ye did not chase them. In just such a brief moment, the grade of the Crimson Dragon Saber was dropping layer after layer.

The grade of a spirit treasure is directly related to the number of restrictions inside it. The more restrictions there are, the higher the grade, and vice versa.

The erosion power of the sea water in the All Phenomena Ocean is too strong, and although the material of the Crimson Dragon is decent, it cannot withstand this level of erosion, causing the internal restrictions to collapse and the grade to drop.

This is why anglers use origin magnetic ore to specially refine their fishing lines — other materials, no matter how good the quality, cannot resist the erosion of the All Phenomena Ocean's sea water.

Lu Ye quickly stored the Crimson Dragon Saber, thought for a moment, and collected the corpses of the two Shark Star Beasts.

White Spirits living in the All Phenomena Ocean have high edible and medicinal value. These Shark Star Beasts are much more formidable than White Spirits, and he didn't know if they have any use, so he decided to at least keep them for now.

Continuing to swim towards the designated direction, Lu Ye had a bad feeling.

He realized that the depths of the All Phenomena Ocean are far from tranquil. He encountered a Shark Star Beast, which he could handle with his own ability, but what if he encountered something he couldn't?

Who knows if there are Moon Jade or Sun Blaze-level star beasts in this place...

If encountered, the consequences would be unimaginable.

As if his fear summoned them, Lu Ye had not swum far when he felt the intense clashing and sensed fierce waves of energy emanating from ahead, unfazed even by the barriers of the All Phenomena Ocean's sea water.

It was clearly two Moon Jade-level star beasts in conflict.

The distance was too great, and Lu Ye didn't know what kind of star beasts they were, nor did he care to investigate. He quickly changed direction.

As he swam, Lu Ye's body suddenly stiffened. Without thinking, he constructed Concealment and Breath-concealing Spirit Runes around himself.

Because he suddenly noticed a massive shadow slowly gliding beneath him!

Such was the size of the shadow, stretching a hundred feet long, yet strangely, before its arrival, Lu Ye hadn't sensed even a trace of its presence.

Holding his breath and focusing, he lowered his head and watched quietly.

A thread of crimson burst forth, transforming into a blood-red full moon...

As his gaze met the full moon, Lu Ye was terrified; it was no moon, it was clearly a huge eye! This eye was so gigantic it was like a full moon sliding beneath him.

Sun Blaze!

The star beast gliding beneath him was definitely Sun Blaze level, and Lu Ye's Concealment and Breath-concealing had no effect in front of such a star beast. The blood-red eye just stared at his location, its form continuing onward without pause.

It soon disappeared from view.

Sweating coldly, Lu Ye waited until the star beast had moved far away, then immediately changed direction and hurried towards the Constellation Palace.

He realized he was too naive.

Originally thinking that with the Constellation Palace not allowing passage, he could just swim out on his own, but now it seems the situation beneath the All Phenomena Ocean is more terrifying than he imagined.

In such a short time, he had encountered Star Beasts at different levels: Moon Jade from afar, and Sun Blaze almost up close. Thankfully, the Sun Blaze star beast had no interest in him; it likely dismissed him as insignificant, or else he'd be in grave danger.

Attempting to swim out on his own was not feasible; any random danger encountered along the way could lead him to eternal damnation.

Being inside the Constellation Palace is safer!

Returning swiftly, Lu Ye steadied his mind.

He now seriously doubted that his presence here was no coincidence, but rather manipulation by the Constellation Palace in the shadows, for in the vast All Phenomena Galaxy, he might be the only one who could delve into the All Phenomena Ocean!

Perhaps the will of the Constellation Palace noticed him long ago when he first entered the ocean to catch fish, and this is not impossible. As a stellar space supreme treasure, the capabilities of the Constellation Palace remain unknown.

The specter invited him to confront the Skeletal General, and later Piao Ke chose the spoils of war; it all seemed coincidental, but if the will of the stellar space supreme treasure was manipulating things, the cultivators belonging to the Constellation wouldn't notice a thing.

Furthermore, even if Lu Ye hadn't obtained the White Spirit Clearance Pass, the Constellation Palace could have directly sent him here.

Thus, there must be a definite purpose.

But Lu Ye did not know what he was supposed to do. The Constellation Palace had its intentions, so it could have told him or given him some hints. Yet, when he inquired, it had no reaction whatsoever.

Lu Ye could only vaguely surmise that the Constellation Palace indeed needed him to do something, but it wasn't convenient to explain!

Moreover, this matter must definitely require him to utilize his ability to delve into the All Phenomena Ocean.

What could it be? Lu Ye pondered deeply.

He wanted to leave here. Swimming out was no longer feasible; he could only rely on the Constellation Palace to release him. But before that, he had to do something that would please the palace.

Suddenly, he recalled the scene he saw when he glanced back at the Constellation Palace—the entire surface was covered in seaweed-like fuzz. If the Constellation Palace had intentions, then having this stuff growing on it surely wouldn't sit well with it.

Could it be...

At this thought, Lu Ye suddenly found direction. Once more, he stepped out of the Constellation Palace gate, but this time, he didn't leave. Instead, he swam to one side of the palace to observe carefully.

From a distance, these seaweed-like things appeared fuzzy, but upon closer inspection, it was evident they crisscrossed like an impenetrable net, enveloping the entire Constellation Palace.

Lu Ye became increasingly convinced of his guess.

Of course, whether it's true or not, he'll find out by trying.

He reached out, grabbed a handful of seaweed, and pulled hard. He felt the seaweed's toughness, yet it still snapped, but what surprised Lu Ye was the nearby seaweed seemed to have spiritual intelligence; it danced gracefully and wound toward him.

However, these seaweeds moved very slowly, and Lu Ye easily dodged them.

Looking at the snapped seaweed in his hand, Lu Ye vaguely felt it might be something valuable, perhaps useful for Alchemy.

Of course, he didn't have much achievement in the Alchemy Dao, but being the companion of the Constellation Palace and grown under the All Phenomena Ocean, it surely wasn't without value.

After a slight deliberation, he decided to keep the seaweed. If he ever had the opportunity, he could explore its market value. Even if it turned out worthless, it didn't matter.

Lu Ye continued his endeavor. The Constellation Palace showed no reaction, leaving him uncertain if he was doing the right thing.

Of course, even if he was mistaken, he had no alternative, for this was the only thing he could think of doing given the current situation.

After some pulling, Lu Ye found out this method wasn't effective. Once the seaweed broke off, its roots remained in the palace wall, allowing them to regrow after his departure.

So he simply activated the Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes, enhancing his hand. With his fingers brought together and straightened, they turned into a shovel to uproot the seaweed.

The Constellation Palace suddenly hummed slightly, like someone scratching an itch.

Lu Ye paused, feeling utterly speechless.

It was confirmed; the Constellation Palace indeed wanted him to help eradicate this seaweed. Given such, it could have directly provided a hint, instead of making him guess and worry.

But then, thinking about it, if the palace's intentions didn't wish for the seaweed's extinction due to himself, it indeed couldn't directly guide him.

It could only let Lu Ye comprehend on his own. If he comprehended, all were pleased; if not, he'd remain trapped until he eventually did.

Isn't this like taking on a burden without acknowledgment... Lu Ye grumbled inwardly.

The roots of the seaweed were very resilient, and it was unknown how many years they had grown here. The roots were exceedingly developed, making the process inefficient even with the Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes empowering his hand. Considering the Constellation Palace's scale, Lu Ye suddenly realized the task might consume considerable time.

In that case, he feared missing the upcoming ranking battle!

Now, he was only grateful that he had enough stored fire-type treasures. Otherwise, relying solely on the Talent Tree's current fuel reserves wouldn't sustain for a few days.

As he continued uprooting the seaweed, Lu Ye suddenly noticed something peculiar among a clump of seaweed. With a fixed gaze, he saw something resembling a shell. It looked like barnacles, firmly adhered to the palace wall, sprawling over an area, making the surface appear rugged.

Lu Ye paid no mind to what exactly it was; he simply went about eradicating them and tossed everything into his storage ring.

The seaweed might be valuable, and these barnacle-like things were surely good too.

Besides barnacles, there were items resembling sea snails stuck to the palace wall.

Only then did Lu Ye discover the All Phenomena Ocean contained an intricate world within; previously, he thought the ocean only housed creatures like the White Spirit because he had seen nothing else.

Only now did he realize how limited his knowledge was.

Do those Sun Blaze cultivators know the secrets within the All Phenomena Ocean? Perhaps they do, perhaps they don't, but whether they know or not, the All Phenomena Ocean itself is a vast treasure trove. No cultivator would abandon it because of potential danger.

Moreover, for so many years, there seems to have been no tales of deep-sea star beasts causing chaos in the shallows.

Lu Ye, transformed into a laborer, toiled tirelessly in removing the seaweed. Though exhausted, his spirit force remained abundant, thanks to an incessant influx of power into his body, not only replenishing his consumed spirit force but also enhancing his foundation, forcing him into a high-efficiency cultivation cycle.