

Humanity 1491

Chapter 1491 The Struggle for Supremacy

The Formation, although having the characteristic of autonomously maintaining itself before energy reserves are depleted, ultimately requires cultivators to control it; only then can its power be maximized.

Simply put, Unparalleled Island's protective array currently has some energy reserves. However, when defending against invading enemies, this energy is continually consumed. Once the reserved energy is exhausted, the protective array can no longer be maintained.

The only way to persist longer is to manually control the array by injecting spirit force from cultivators into the array hub or look for ways to stimulate the power of the spirit jade to supplement the array.

But no matter how you do it, manpower is essential!

And the biggest problem Unparalleled Island currently faces is the shortage of manpower!

Thus, Chu Shen didn't even consider just defending, because in the present situation, mere defense is futile; a counterattack is necessary to have any glimmer of hope.

A qualified big array not only needs defensive capabilities but also the power to counterattack!

Of the four million spirit jade Chu Shen spent, half was used for arranging the array's defense, while the other half was for deploying some assault-oriented spirit treasures.

Each of those spirit treasures is a powerful weapon for attacking fortresses, entirely different from the ordinary spirit treasures used by cultivators. Such spirit treasures are expensive and difficult to maneuver, and even a Constellation Late Stage cultivator would find it hard to wield them. These are often equipped on starships in stellar space.

However, at this moment, many Constellation Early Stage cultivators on Unparalleled Island are leveraging the power of the array disc, connecting their energies. The strength of several people can easily be unified.

Thus, those siege weapons placed in various Array Eyes can be activated to unleash their power.

Including Chu Shen, fourteen Constellation Early Stage cultivators were divided into three teams, each heading to the Array Eyes of three assault magic arrays.

Seeing the scene, Nan Xingzhen hurriedly transmitted audio to all sides: "Be careful, everyone!"

He himself was not afraid of Unparalleled Island's counterattack, given his strength, but the hundreds of Constellations he brought might not withstand it. If they were unable to dodge in time, unnecessary casualties might occur.

Their Koi Island was not a particularly strong force either, and this time they had virtually emptied their nest to capture Unparalleled Island. Any casualties would be an irreparable loss.

Just as he finished speaking, a buzzing sound emanated from Unparalleled Island, immediately followed by a light pillar erupting from somewhere on the island, aimed at the densest part of the crowd.

Nan Xingzhen's face fell because he discovered that the attack activated by the enemy was exceptionally fierce, far exceeding his expectations!

The protective array defends against external attacks but not internal ones. All attacks from outside were blocked by the light shield of the protective array. However, attacks launched from within the island were unaffected, passing straight through the array's light shield.

The speed was as swift as lightning. Although some cultivators reacted quickly and dodged, a portion still failed to respond in time.

Nan Xingzhen flickered and stood before these people, reaching out to grab the violently incoming light pillar in his palm.

This force, enough to shake Moon Jade, only caused his body to tremble slightly before settling tranquilly.

However, before he could catch his breath, another fierce force erupted from a different Array Eye on Unparalleled Island. A pitch-black beam pierced through the protective array's light shield, suddenly twisted and transformed into a tiger, viciously roaring as it lunged towards another spot.

Nan Xingzhen was already too late to block it. Fortunately, another Moon Jade woman summoned a protective magic treasure to intercept this attack.

Then came the third attack!

Chu Shen and his team, divided into three squads, could only trigger the spirit treasure power installed in three assault arrays.

This third attack was unlike the previous two. Though the attack was launched, no one could see it. There was only a loud bang, followed by someone dizzy and plummeting downwards, almost falling into All Phenomena Ocean below. If that had happened, there would be no chance of survival.

Luckily, Koi Island had sent quite a few people this time, and nearby companions promptly noticed and rushed to the rescue, allowing that person to escape unscathed.

"Sonic attack!" Nan Xingzhen's expression changed again, staring at the source of the third attack, where Chu Shen's squad was located.

He couldn't comprehend how a seemingly weak Unparalleled Island possessed such mysterious treasures. Such a spirit treasure would easily fetch over ten thousand spirit jade, and moreover, it's not something you can buy just with money.

What he didn't know was that Chu Shen had many treasures, and though not all were suitable as Array Eyes, one or two could be. This sonic attack treasure was one of them, featuring invisibility and intangibility, making it impossible to defend!

The three counterattacks from Unparalleled Island, launched almost simultaneously, made those from Koi Island realize that this was not a simple bone to chew.

On Unparalleled Island, Tang Jun, with both hands tucked into his sleeves, suddenly turned to look at Ban Ci not far away: "I don't care why you've come here or why you've not left, but if you dare to act against this island, I won't let you off easily!"

Recently, he had been collaborating with Ban Ci to manage and deploy the island's big arrays. The more they worked together, the more he felt this woman was extraordinary. Such a person might hail from an exceptional background. Tang Jun had probed openly and covertly to ascertain Ban Ci's origins, but he hadn't made much progress.

Though Unparalleled Island on the surface was ruled by Chu Shen, it was actually about the future path for the cultivators of Qingli Dao World. If one day the way home was found, then the people of Qingli Dao World could also come to All Phenomena Ocean, establish themselves, and cultivate on Unparalleled Island.

It can be said that, although Tang Jun had not been here for long, he had completely embraced this place and naturally didn't want any mishaps on Unparalleled Island.

He could basically see through the others, except Ban Ci, which prompted his warning to prevent any unnecessary thoughts from taking root.

Ban Ci was stunned for a moment, then pursed her lips with a smile: "Elder Tang, rest assured, although it's hard to explain to you, I can assure you that even if something happens to me, the Island Master will remain unscathed!"

Tang Jun deeply stared at her, as if wanting to peer into her heart's depths.

Regarding Chu Shen's origins, he knew somewhat, and now hearing Ban Ci say this, he roughly guessed her background.

"Then, it's up to you!" He nodded slightly, as his form shot skyward, heading directly toward Nan Xingzhen.

Almost simultaneously with his action, on the other side of Unparalleled Island, three figures arose to meet the Moon Jade woman.

These three figures were naturally led by Lu Ye.

Among the invading forces were two Moon Jades. Tang Jun could restrain Nan Xingzhen, and if the three could confront the Moon Jade woman using their formation, the pressure on Unparalleled Island would greatly lessen.

By then, Unparalleled Island would only need to face a group of Constellations, and Chu Shen and others, managing three assault magic arrays and unleashing the power of the array eye's spirit treasures, might not be powerless.

In an instant, the two Moon Jade mid-stagers were locked in combat, their mana clashing endlessly, fighting fiercely.

On Lu Ye's side, barely approaching the Moon Jade woman, several invader Constellations emerged head-on, the forefront of which was a burly figure, blood Qi overflowing, unmistakably a physique cultivator.

Initially seeing Lu Ye's trio's loosely arranged formation, he didn't think much of it, but during their rapid approach, he saw spirit lights erupt around Lu Ye's trio, their spirit forces converging and intermingling, tightly connected.

In a flash, the simplest Three Talents Array was formed.

Even the simplest formation caused a surge in Lu Ye's aura.

That physique cultivator was startled and wanted to halt, but it was too late. The moment the Three Talents Array formed, Lu Ye's speed suddenly increased, instantly pouncing towards the physique cultivator.

The deathly aura suddenly descended, leaving the physique cultivator cold all over. He roared, throwing a punch that was a hurried full-force burst, causing his abundant blood Qi to wither in an instant, accompanying the punch.

Such a punch was fiercely unmatched!

With one punch, Lu Ye's silhouette shattered.

But amidst the shattered silhouette, a blade light flashed out.

Nearby, Piao Ke and the specter Na saw a peculiar glint in their eyes, utterly unexpected of Li Taibai's formidable strength!

Especially Piao Ke, who had known Lu Ye for nearly two years, since shortly after Lu Ye arrived at All Phenomena Ocean. Yet, Piao Ke had never seen him in action, thus naturally unaware of his power.

It was only now he realized that this friend who once sought his advice on fishing was deeply hidden!

What surprised Piao Ke and the specter Na further was that the blade's elegance evoked a familiar trace for them, involuntarily reminding them of the Skeletal General's valiant fight in the tomb chamber.

The two turned and exchanged glances, every understanding clear without words.

The physique cultivator still maintained a punching stance; Lu Ye's figure clearly shattered, yet as that blade light flashed, he reappeared behind the physique cultivator without looking back, continuing his advance.

Behind him, amidst the swirling spirit force, the physique cultivator's body suddenly fragmented, falling into many pieces towards All Phenomena Ocean, each cut cleanly aligned.

As for the few Constellations who approached with the physique cultivator, none reacted before Lu Ye's trio charged fiercely.

Like a tiger in a flock of sheep, Lu Ye's blade light flickered, Piao Ke's fishing rod lightly swung, and the specter Na's five fingers, ghostly claws, shattered and routed their defenses. Even if they were also Constellation Late Stage, none could parry any of the trio's attacks.

The Constellations didn't even know how they died!

Considerable disparities exist even within the Constellation Late Stage. Not to mention Lu Ye, even Piao Ke and the specter Na, neither of them was simple. One ranked over a hundred on the Cumulated Points Ranking, while the other nearly two hundred, making them among the top-tier in the Constellation Realm. Only those similarly ranked on the Cumulated Points Ranking could contend with them; other Constellations simply weren't on the same level.

Moreover, the trio now formed a formation, and these Constellations who hadn't even appeared on the Cumulated Points Ranking were not opponents for the trio.

Chapter 1492 - Ban Ci

When Lu Ye and his two companions shattered the enemy's defenses, the Moon Jade woman suddenly glanced over. Seeing her cultivators' blood rain down from the sky, her heart twisted with pain.

Her sharp eyes instantly recognized the strength of Lu Ye and his companions, realizing that these three were not ordinary Constellations. They were likely all named on the Cumulated Points Ranking. Otherwise, a simple Three Talents Array could not possess such terrifying power. Not daring to be negligent, she raised her hand and summoned an object, hurling it forcefully at Lu Ye and his companions.

It was a magic treasure shaped like a seal. Although it was a small thing, once she summoned it, it suddenly enlarged, growing to the size of a small mountain in just an instant.

The bottom of the seal was a vivid crimson, resembling both cinnabar and freshly spilled blood, carved with the characters "Heaven and Earth Without Extremes!"

As the seal descended, Lu Ye, Piao Ke, and the specter all felt a tremendous weight pressing down on them as if an invisible mountain rested upon their shoulders.

Lu Ye's expression was cold and fierce, realizing the might of this seal. Even before it fully descended, it already unleashed such power. If it truly struck them, they would likely be pulverized in an instant.

With spirit forces connecting them, he could clearly feel that Piao Ke and the specter endured the same pressure as him.

With his expression unchanged, he wielded the Boulder Mountain Saber, unleashing a series of radiating blade lights.

This was the first time he truly experienced the power of a magic treasure head-on. It was indeed mysterious and unfathomable, extremely strange. That woman was only in the Moon Jade Early Stage, yet with just one magic treasure, she was already this formidable. If she were to summon more, none of the three could gain the upper hand.

Compared to the Skeletal General they defeated before, this woman's strength surpassed it by more than just a little.

Amid the sweeping blade lights, something seemed to break apart, and Lu Ye suddenly felt lighter. On the other side, Piao Ke and the specter also used some unknown means to free themselves from the seal's binding power.

In an instant, the three of them maneuvered swiftly, darting out of the seal's covered area.

The seal crashed down ferociously, only to hit empty space. Yet before Lu Ye and the others could catch their breath, the seal rose high again, descending upon their location, forcing them to find ways to evade it once more.

The woman was not only confronting Lu Ye and his companions; she was also activating protective magic treasures to shield her Constellations from Unparalleled Island's counterattacks. Though she was alone, she thwarted several strikes from Chu Shen and the others. For the few attacks that weren't defended against, the Constellations were prepared, making them difficult to succeed as well.

Unparalleled Island's counterattacks were ineffective, yet the enemy's assaults came incessantly. The protective array's light dimmed at a visible speed and was on the verge of breaking. Once it shattered, the fate of the Constellations on the island would be bleak.

There was only one way to resolve the situation: either hold back the Moon Jade woman so she couldn't aid her allies or bypass her and slaughter the invading Constellations completely.

Lu Ye led Piao Ke and the specter, repeatedly trying to reach the woman's side, but each attempt was blocked by the seal. This magic treasure appeared cumbersome but was exceedingly powerful.

He tried to disregard the ailment's attacks and focus on killing those Constellations, but again, the seal prevented him.

This was only because the Moon Jade woman couldn't fully devote herself to dealing with them. If she could spare her full attention, their situation would undoubtedly become even direr.

Compared to the Moon Jade man he lured to the Merfolk Race territory earlier, this woman was far more difficult. Though her cultivation was weaker, her magic treasure was formidable. That man hadn't used any magic treasures when pursuing him.

On Unparalleled Island, Chu Shen operated his spirit treasure with all his might while loudly rallying morale. Yet, no amount of morale could bridge the gap in strength. Ultimately, Unparalleled Island had too few people to fully unleash the protective array's capabilities.

He saw Elder Tang Jun fiercely battling with Nan Xingzhen, saw Leader Fa and his three companions desperately dodging the rain of attack, saw the enemy assaulting the array with fearsome vigor, causing it to teeter on the brink of collapse. He knew that Unparalleled Island was doomed this time.

Suddenly, he met the returning gaze of a woman named Ban Ci, who had been standing there without moving to aid them or join Fa and his companions in their formation.

He could not grasp Ban Ci's intentions or understand why she remained there, neither assisting them nor aligning with Fa and the rest.

He saw Ban Ci's lips move but didn't hear her voice. Yet, reading her lips, it seemed she said, "Don't worry!"

At this moment, what was there to not worry about?

Chu Shen was full of doubts. Then he saw Ban Ci drift out of Unparalleled Island, single-handedly advancing toward the Moon Jade woman.

Chu Shen's heart leaped to his throat. Although Ban Ci didn't seem to have much allegiance to Unparalleled Island, she was currently under his command. If she were killed, he would feel sorrow.

As Ban Ci approached, the Moon Jade woman noticed her but didn't pay much mind, casually pointing in her direction. A speck of glimmering light burst forth, unhesitatingly piercing through Ban Ci's body.

"Overestimating oneself!" The Moon Jade woman snorted softly. Killing a Constellation Late Stage effortlessly was nothing to her, akin to crushing an ant.

As she was about to look away, her expression suddenly changed. Despite the injury, Ban Ci displayed no sign of pain, didn't halt her advance, and her wound showed no trace of blood.

Her face still maintained a faint, elusive smile.

"How is this possible?" The Moon Jade woman exclaimed in shock, releasing another ray of light, putting another hole in Ban Ci's body, yet no blood flowed out.

Before she could deploy any other means, her expression suddenly changed, turning swiftly to look at Lu Ye and his companions.

At that moment, Lu Ye was leading Piao Ke and the specter, evading the stamp's attack, then sweeping above it. The pitch-black Boulder Mountain Saber shimmered brilliantly as Hefty Weight Spirit Runes rapidly formed.

Lu Ye had never attempted to construct so many Hefty Weight Spirit Runes within the Boulder Mountain Saber. At the moment when numerous spirit runes took shape, Lu Ye felt that he wasn't gripping a saber, but a mountain!

Taking advantage of the Moon Jade woman's distraction caused by Ban Ci, he fiercely slashed downward at the stamp!

The stamp was a magic treasure; Lu Ye never aimed to break it, knowing it was unrealistic, no matter how strong he was, to destroy such a treasure.

He only wanted to cleave the magic treasure into All Phenomena Ocean!

This thing was too annoying—if they wanted to deal with the Moon Jade woman or bypass her, they had to resolve this magic treasure!

The seawater of All Phenomena Ocean was a natural ally, so long as the treasure was slashed into the ocean, even if it was a magic treasure, it would be rapidly eroded, and thus, unable to wield its intended power.

The Moon Jade woman, aware of Lu Ye's intention, refused to let things go as she wished. Just as she was about to harness the stamp's might, Ban Ci spoke: "You'd better not look elsewhere!"

Suddenly, an eerie force surged from Ban Ci, startling the Moon Jade woman as she hurriedly looked toward Ban Ci, only to see Ban Ci placing her hands against her chest, forming an extremely intricate Dharma Seal. As energy surged, a black glow burst forth in front of her.

That black glow was merely a black dot, but once it appeared, the heavens seemed to lose color. The dot rapidly expanded, enveloping the surroundings.

The Moon Jade woman realized something was amiss and tried to retreat swiftly, but to her horror, no matter how she urged her form, she couldn't outpace the black dot's enveloping.

In an instant, a massive black sphere appeared out of thin air next to Unparalleled Island, with Ban Ci and the Moon Jade woman engulfed within it, vanishing without a trace!

Nang Xingzhen and Tang Jun, locked in fierce combat, showed expressions of bewilderment, for despite their rich knowledge and experience, they couldn't discern the nature of the black sphere.

It seemed like a secret technique, yet also resembled the power of a treasure.

With a resounding crash...

The enormous stamp was cleaved into All Phenomena Ocean by Lu Ye's saber, causing towering waves. Initially, there was no change in the stamp, but soon its glow frantically flashed, signaling erosion and destruction of restrictions, and as the stamp sank, it rapidly shrank, disappearing swiftly.

Lu Ye and his companions finally shook off restraints, no longer needing to deal with the Moon Jade woman, turning to charge into the crowd wildly assaulting the protective array.

The Moon Jade woman was restrained so suddenly that not only were the others unaware, even Lu Ye's group didn't expect such an occurrence. By the time Lu Ye's group charged forward, the crowd finally realized the situation was dire.

Moments ago, they had seen with their own eyes a Constellation Late Stage physique cultivator being shredded instantly by Lu Ye, not daring to meet his edge directly now.

Everyone unleashed methods attempting interception, yet facing them were saber lights like white silk streaks.

Amidst the saber lights, an occasional nearly imperceptible thin line would sneak in, once entangled, freedom of movement vanished instantly, succumbing either to Lu Ye's saber light or being heart-struck by the specter.

In an instant, death engulfed the area.

Near Unparalleled Island, within an about 30-mile radius, many watched the battle from a distance.

Those eyeing Unparalleled Island did not just include Nang Xingzhen's group, but Koi Island was the most impatient, acted swiftly, thinking they could seize Unparalleled Island, so they were the first to attack.

It wasn't a secret that Unparalleled Island had Tang Jun, a Moon Jade Mid-Stage cultivator, but aside from him, no other Moon Jade cultivators existed, and the manpower was few, the overall cultivation paltry.

No one believed Koi Island would lose this time, all thinking they would pick up a big advantage.

Yet the outcome astonished all watching cultivators!

Tang Jun faced Nang Xingzhen, their power gap not vast, so even as Tang Jun faltered, victory was difficult to settle promptly, something expected by observers. But Lu Ye and his companions' performance astonished, as they butchered the Koi Island's Constellation cultivators like chopping herbs, truly a spectacle.

Soon, some recognized the specter and Piao Ke as strong figures on the Cumulated Points Ranking, feeling slightly relieved.

Chapter 1493 - Repelled

Under the formation of the Cumulated Points Ranking experts, it's indeed not something that an average Constellation can withstand. If the battlefield environment was a space that restricted movement, it might have limited their performance. But on this All Phenomena Ocean, there's absolutely no restriction on movement. The number of people doesn't matter much anymore. As long as they move fast and frequently enough, it's difficult for the three in formation to be surrounded.

This is the main reason why the Constellations from Koi Island find it hard to make a difference.

But what surprised those observing the most wasn't the performance of Lu Ye and the other two, but the tactics displayed by Ban Ci.

No one knows what that is, nor do they know the situation inside that black sphere. However, the fact that a Late Stage Constellation can restrain a Moon Jade truly overturns their understanding.

The cultivators from different forces watch and feel a sense of relief; fortunately, Koi Island took the initiative to attack. Otherwise, whichever faction tried to attack Unparalleled Island would surely suffer significant losses.

The number of cultivators on Unparalleled Island may indeed be small, with an overall not particularly high standard. But with a few peculiar individuals like them, unless these forces join hands, none of them can take down Unparalleled Island easily.

In the midst of slaughter, wherever Lu Ye and the three passed, there was a blood rain. The figures of cultivators from Koi Island continuously fell into the All Phenomena Ocean, sinking without a trace.

They also attempted a joint assault, but the speed of Lu Ye and the two others was so fast that there was no room to encircle them. Instead, if any opponent was careless, they would surely be targeted by the three.

These people had all participated in the Constellation Palace struggle and had never encountered experts from the Cumulated Points Ranking before. Naively, they believed that even if there was a gap in strength, it wouldn't be too large until this confrontation made them realize that although they were all Constellations, there were great differences among them.

In little more than the time it takes to drink a cup of tea, over thirty of the hundred-plus were dead. Though a considerable number of Constellations remained, fear was written on everyone's faces, their morale plummeting. On top of having to guard against the rampant assaults of Lu Ye and his two companions, they also had to defend against the bizarre attacks emanating from inside Unparalleled Island, making their response chaotic and uncontrollable.

Until a stern shout rang out: "Retreat!"

It was Nan Xingzhen who, seeing the situation turn unfavorable, ordered them. If they didn't retreat, more would surely die.

The Constellations, as if receiving amnesty, employed their techniques to flee into the distance. Lu Ye and the other two paid them no mind, charging straight at Nan Xingzhen's position.

Seeing this, Nan Xingzhen knew their plan. Clearly, they intended to collaborate with Tang Jun to trap him. If ordinary Constellations dared to attempt this, Nan Xingzhen wouldn't care at all. But he had witnessed the performance of Lu Ye and the others and knew he couldn't underestimate them.

If he were alone, he could naturally retreat, but he still had a Moon Jade companion trapped inside that strange black sphere. If he left, that companion would be abandoned.

As he was hesitating, a cracking sound was heard. Following the sound, his expression lit up with joy.

The mysterious black sphere floating outside Unparalleled Island, at this moment, started cracking like a broken mirror, with countless fissures from which a familiar energy to Nan Xingzhen surged forth.

With a clatter, the black sphere completely shattered.

A figure was revealed, hastily retreating—it was none other than Ban Ci. However, her current state was evidently poor. It was unclear what she encountered inside the black sphere, but she was bleeding from the 7th orifice and as pale as paper, her aura as weak as a flickering candle in the wind.

Forcibly using a Constellation body to employ that secret technique to trap a Moon Jade indeed required a significant price.

And before her, the Moon Jade woman stood in the air with a cold and severe expression, her fierce and profound mana surging as she released a spell directly at Ban Ci, shouting fiercely, "Die!"

To think that she, a Moon Jade, was trapped by a Constellation using a technique. Even though that Constellation paid a hefty price for it, it was not enough to quell her inner fury. Only by killing her could the shame in her heart be washed away.

Ban Ci was almost at her limit, having no power to resist such an attack.

If nothing unexpected happened, there was hardly any chance of her surviving this attack.

Yet, just as the Moon Jade woman employed her technique, a figure suddenly appeared in front of Ban Ci.

Ban Ci was slightly stunned, not expecting anyone to come to save her life at such a time. Raising her eyes, she saw a back blocking the fierce storm ahead, a silhouette holding a blade turning slowly.

In a daze, Ban Ci seemed to hear the sound of a tsunami, waves rising and falling, suddenly becoming fierce and violent.

The might of the spell arrived, the collision of mana and spirit force was like a stone striking an egg, the latter proving completely ineffective.

Yet, the unrelenting blade light was like endless waves, one breaking after another, forming layers of defense, with that silhouette holding its ground unaided.

Back in the Merfolk Territory, Lu Ye was able to block a mid-stage Moon Jade's attack with a single slash. Although at that time, the opponent struck hastily with a casual blow without exerting full force, now forming a formation with Piao Ke and the specter, there was no reason they couldn't withstand the assault of an Early Stage Moon Jade.

Within the spell's ferocity, Lu Ye's figure even advanced forward, albeit slowly!

Such a scene sent shockwaves through the many cultivators observing from afar, unable to fathom how Constellations now possessed the capability to contend with Moon Jades. Today's insights truly opened their eyes, forcing them to reassess Unparalleled Island's potential in their minds.

If at the beginning this Moon Jade woman had used her spells to contend with Lu Ye and the others, he felt they could have managed. But her immediate release of a stamp-like magic treasure bound the three.

Sensing the peculiar momentum of Lu Ye's blade, the Moon Jade woman also displayed a look of astonishment, intending to further gauge Lu Ye and the others. However, just then, Nan Xingzhen called out, "The situation is untenable, we must leave!"

As his words fell, Nan Xingzhen retreated with ease, and Tang Jun didn't obstruct him.

The duel between the two had always been in favor of Nan Xingzhen; he wanted to leave, and Tang Jun couldn't possibly stop him, so he had to let him go.

As Nan Xingzhen left, the Moon Jade woman followed suit, though she glared fiercely at Lu Ye before leaving, as if blaming him for ruining her plans.

In an instant, the battle near Unparalleled Island ceased. The fierce offensive ended hastily, with the attacking side paying the price of dozens of lives.

Lu Ye stared in the direction the Moon Jade woman departed, only turning away when she disappeared from view, and he immediately saw specter stopping the weakened Ban Ci a short distance away.

Their eyes met, Ban Ci nodded slightly to Lu Ye as an expression of gratitude.

Without speaking, Lu Ye moved back to Unparalleled Island, into his cave, where he could faintly hear the cheering of Chu Shen and others on the island.

Chu Shen was undoubtedly very happy; he originally thought that Unparalleled Island would surely be lost in today's battle, given the obvious disparity in strength. However, he wasn't too worried about his own life.

If worse came to worst, he could invoke the name of Jiu Yan, and Nan Xingzhen and others wouldn't dare kill him, allowing him to preserve his subordinates.

But to his great surprise, Unparalleled Island was preserved!

Not only preserved, but they had also routed the attackers!

His biggest hope was naturally Leader Fa, whose strength he roughly knew, but who would have thought Ban Ci's performance was even more amazing? If Ban Ci hadn't acted at the last moment to trap the Moon Jade woman, winning this battle would have been nearly impossible.

It was because the Moon Jade woman was trapped that Leader Fa and the others could perform at their best.

However, Leader Fa truly lived up to his name; facing Moon Jade with a Constellation body, even in an array, was indeed awe-inspiring.

Unparalleled Island's personnel shrank by half, but Chu Shen wasn't sad because those who stayed in such times to share his struggles were trustworthy and would definitely become his core team in the future.

He thought these recruited ones would surely leave cleanly.

After the battle, those who needed to rest and heal did so, and Chu Shen personally visited Ban Ci to express his gratitude as the Island Master.

In the cave, Tang Jun sat dejectedly on the meditation mat in front of Lu Ye, letting out a long sigh.

Truth be told, although he was Moon Jade, he hadn't fought many cultivators of the same level before. Living in a place like Qingli Dao World, he hadn't encountered other Moon Jade, and after coming to All Phenomena Ocean, he hadn't had any conflicts with anyone.

Only today did he truly realize the gap between him and others; both in the Moon Jade Mid-Stage, Nan Xingzhen was undoubtedly much stronger than him, and if the battle had continued instead of ending abruptly, he would surely have lost.

This left him feeling quite defeated.

"What did you call me here for?" Tang Jun asked; Lu Ye had summoned him.

Lu Ye glanced at him, roughly guessing his thoughts, and tossed him a storage ring.

Tang Jun took it with a puzzled expression, checked it briefly, and was shocked: "So much spirit jade!"

Inside the storage ring, there were about a million spirit jade!

"Where did this come from?" he quickly asked.

As far as he knew, Li Taibai was also a pauper; when he learned about the Jade Conch Galaxy, he even asked for travel expenses before heading back...

After over a year apart, how did he suddenly become so wealthy?

Moreover, it seemed he had given him no small amount, surely there was more.

A million spirit jade, that's not a million Spirit Stones; Tang Jun had never seen this much spirit jade in his life.

Lu Ye didn't answer, simply saying: "Go buy two decent magic treasures."

In today's battle, despite his continuous array with Piao Ke and specter against the enemy, he had been paying attention to Tang Jun's situation.

Tang Jun's foundation was solid; among the Moon Jade Mid-Stage level, he was not top-tier, but at least average.

The reason he couldn't match Nan Xingzhen was mainly due to his inadequate magic treasure.

Chapter 1494 - Speculation

Tang Jun himself is a magic cultivator, and the role of a magic treasure is very important to him. Just like the woman who attacked today, if Tang Jun had a magic treasure like that stamp, dealing with Nan Xingzhen would have been much easier.

Tang Jun does have magic treasures, but coming from a place like the Qingli Dao World, what good stuff could he have? According to the grading system of magic treasures in the stellar space, the two magic treasures he holds are all below 3-star, which can be said to be quite poor.

Lu Ye couldn't see the grade of that woman from Moon Jade's stamp, after all, he is just a Constellation for now. But it must be above 3-star, otherwise, it couldn't possibly possess such an oddly powerful might.

Currently on Unparalleled Island, Tang Jun is the only Moon Jade, which can be said to be the representative of Unparalleled Island's battle strength. If he could be stronger, he could deal with more complex and dangerous situations in the future.

If not for such considerations, how could Lu Ye possibly give him a million spirit jades?

"Kid, where did you make a fortune?" Tang Jun looked excited. A million spirit jades aren't something an average person could produce. Even a small force might not have so many spirit jades available for use.

"Consider it a loan, remember to pay me back when you can," Lu Ye looked at him.

Tang Jun chuckled lightly, pretending not to hear. Previously, when Lu Ye asked him for travel expenses, he didn't mention anything about borrowing. Now that the spirit jades are in his hands, asking him to return them is out of the question!

But to be honest, if these spirit jades were used to buy two decent magic treasures, his personal strength would definitely improve significantly, and when he encounters Nan Xingzhen again in the future, who is stronger and who is weaker will be more obvious.

"Kid, that's very kind of you, this old man accepts it gratefully. In this All Phenomena Ocean, as long as this old man is alive, I'll ensure your safety!"

Tang Jun happily set off without delay, preparing to head to All Phenomena Island, ready to follow Lu Ye's suggestion to buy two decent magic treasures. With a million spirit jades, adding a bit more himself, he might barely be able to buy two 5-star magic treasures if the requirements aren't high.

A great battle had just ended, and Koi Island's fate was a lesson learned. So, it should be safe for Tang Jun to leave quietly and return soon.

Not long after Tang Jun left, Chu Shen approached and sat in front of Lu Ye, saying, "Senior Brother, I want to go to Zhaolai Island to recruit some people."

Previously, Lu Ye advised him not to recruit low-powered Constellation, which he heeded. But today is different from the past. Unparalleled Island needs more manpower to grow.

At the very least, there needs to be enough manpower to maintain the big array's operation. In today's battle, less than 30% of the protective array's power was utilized due to the lack of manpower.

Lu Ye asked, "You come from Cheling World; do you have trustworthy people from Cheling World or the local All Phenomena Star System?"

Chu Shen shook his head, smiling bitterly, "To be honest, I was always cultivating arduously in Wanxia Sect before I advanced to Constellation, hardly leaving, so I don't know many people. Although Wanxia Sect has some trustworthy senior brothers and sisters, most are cultivating on other Spirit Islands, and even if I invite them, they might not want to come."

Lu Ye nodded, knowing this was true.

Like those cultivators on Koi Island, they might come from some domain in some star system and have no suitable foothold in the All Phenomena Ocean, so upon seeing Unparalleled Island as appealing, they wanted to seize it. But Wanxia Sect, being a local domain sect with Jiu Yan backing it, could easily occupy a Spirit Island.

The Spirit Island they occupy must be better than the current Unparalleled Island. Inviting them would be equivalent to asking them to help. With the prior agreement with Jiu Yan, not to mention those people might not want to come, even Chu Shen himself was reluctant to do so.

"Then we can only release the news," Lu Ye suggested.

Chu Shen said, "That's what I'm thinking as well. In this vast All Phenomena Ocean, there are countless Constellations without a place to settle. Even Constellation Late Stage cultivators are numerous. Today's battle has made Unparalleled Island renowned. If news spreads, many will surely come. But don't worry, Senior Brother, I will strictly screen them to ensure no ill-intentioned people enter Unparalleled Island."

With a place like Zhongzheng Island, Chu Shen can investigate the past of these cultivators through the Zhongzheng Register, understanding their character and conduct through their records. As long as he maintains strict control, recruiting outsiders shouldn't be a big problem.

"Since you have a plan, go ahead," Lu Ye nodded and suddenly remembered something, "What's the situation with that Ban Ci?"

To speak of it, before today, he had only met Ban Ci once, when she first came to Unparalleled Island and visited him. After that, there was no interaction, but in today's battle, Ban Ci's performance was not like an ordinary Constellation.

Chu Shen scratched his head, "I don't know much about this Senior Sister's origins; she was recruited from Zhaolai Island by Lucky Star, and she came with Elder Tang."

"Together?" Lu Ye frowned.

"They just happened to meet. When Elder Tang went to Zhaolai Island, Lucky Star had just finalized the discussion with Ban Ci. Senior Brother, do you think there's a problem with her?"

Lu Ye shook his head, "I'm just curious. With such strength and foundation, she should have a name on the Cumulated Points Ranking, but there's no record of her on it."

"It is indeed strange!" Chu Shen agreed, "However, Senior Brother, she should mean no harm. You saw today's battle. Had you not intervened in time, her life might have been in jeopardy."

"That is precisely what piqued my curiosity."

Being merely recruited, with not-so-generous monthly salaries, Unparalleled Island is just a foothold for Ban Ci. Was it necessary to fight so desperately?

After pondering, Lu Ye said, "Does Cheling World have this person?"

Chu Shen was not slow to catch on, "Are you implying... Senior Sister Ban Ci was sent by my mother?"

If not, there's no way to explain Ban Ci's actions.

"But I've never seen this person from childhood to adulthood."

"Not necessarily from Cheling World..." Lu Ye mused.

Perhaps it's a cultivator from another domain in the All Phenomena Galaxy, taking on Jiu Yan's identity. It wouldn't be too difficult to find a celestial being that Chu Shen hasn't met to protect him.

However, Ban Ci's performance today was astonishing. As a celestial being, she forcibly restrained a cultivator like Moon Jade. Even Lu Ye admitted he couldn't do it, though Ban Ci paid a significant price for it in the end.

This shows that Ban Ci is definitely not an ordinary person. Her name isn't on the Cumulated Points Ranking; it's highly possible she's using an alias, or Ban Ci itself is the alias.

While Lu Ye and Chu Shen were discussing this, Piao Ke and the specter also gathered together.

The specter spoke with a serious expression: "Old Piao, did you feel it?"

Piao Ke was leisurely drinking, his mischievous eyes darting at Cai Yue and Cai Xing, the sisters nearby...

Hearing the specter's words, Piao Ke didn't turn his head and casually said, "What?"

"Do you think Li Taibai resembles someone?"

"Who?" Piao Ke appeared lost in thought.

"Think carefully, who does he resemble? Don't you feel it at all?"

"I do!" Piao Ke smiled: "Straight, slender, it's rare to see twins, they're almost identical, I can hardly tell them apart!"

The specter grabbed Piao Ke's head, forcibly turning it around, saying exasperatedly: "What are you looking at, what's there to see, look at me, I'm talking to you!"

Piao Ke said: "I can't move my eyes away, just speak, I'm listening."

The specter fumed: "Why can't you move your eyes away, are they forcing you to look?"

Piao Ke's gaze slowly turned back, looking dreamy: "No, just want to look!"

The specter was confused, not knowing what he was talking about, and sighed: "Did you hear what I'm saying?"

Piao Ke took another sip of the drink: "You want to say Brother Taibai resembles Fa Wuzun, right?"

"Don't you think so?" The specter was stern.

"It's not that he resembles him; they're practically the same person!"

If it were others, they might not notice as clearly, but they had fought alongside Fa Wuzun against the Skeletal General. That battle was extremely tough, and the experience was unforgettable. Today, under the same formation, the feeling was especially clear.

"But they are definitely not the same person!"

Piao Ke frowned: "How can you be so sure?"

The specter sighed and said: "Previously, in front of Li Taibai, I used an audio talisman to contact Fa Wuzun and received a response."

Piao Ke was astonished: "They're really not the same person? I thought Brother Taibai was Fa Wuzun!" After thinking for a bit, he said: "Well, if they're not, they're not, what's the difference."

With so many celestial beings in the All Phenomena Ocean, it's not strange to have two people who resemble each other.

"You just don't get it!" The specter left in a huff. She couldn't disclose anything about Fa Wuzun or the Merfolk Territory, so she could only keep her frustration to herself.

Recently, Unparalleled Island has had many celestial beings wanting to pledge allegiance, because the Island Master Chu Shen has spread the word that the newly established Unparalleled Island is recruiting talents.

For cultivators from various star systems who have nowhere to settle, this is undoubtedly very appealing.

Especially since Unparalleled Island is a Spirit Island! Such a place, even without a monthly stipend, cultivators are willing to join.

Chu Shen personally receives celestial beings coming to pledge, asks about their origins, and then has Lucky Star on Zhongzheng Island check the Zhongzheng Register records.

If they are suitable, they stay; any with a flawed record are all rejected.

Not only are celestial beings coming to pledge, but several Moon Jade cultivators have been attracted as well.

For the arrival of Moon Jade cultivators, Chu Shen politely refused.

Firstly, if a Moon Jade has ill intentions, it's hard to guard against, so the best way is not to accept any.

Secondly, every power is limited in the number of Moon Jades they can have in the All Phenomena Ocean. If Unparalleled Island accepts an external Moon Jade, it occupies a spot, and if one of their own later promotes to Moon Jade, they might have to find another place.

Chu Shen knows that both Piao Ke and the specter are close to reaching Moon Jade. The Moon Jade spots at Unparalleled Island should naturally be reserved for their own people.

Chapter 1495 - The Combat Cultivator's Troubles

The battle against Koi Island made many forces that had designs on Unparalleled Island abandon their ideas.

Any force that is impatient to make a move against Unparalleled Island at this time is not very strong. Koi Island is already the best among them, yet even so, it suffered heavy losses in the battle, leaving other forces wary of further involvement.

Especially recently, Unparalleled Island has recruited a number of reliable people, significantly enhancing its overall strength.

If Unparalleled Island can pass through this initial phase of development, the situation will inevitably stabilize further. Once the island produces another one or two Moon Jades, it will essentially be able to stand firm.

During these days, Lu Ye himself has been staying in a cave, utilizing the power of the Talent Tree to derive spirit runes. After spending considerable fuel, a new Breath-concealing Spirit Runes has been successfully derived, and currently, he's working on deriving the Life Origin Method.

Strictly speaking, the Life Origin Method, which is tied with Amber, isn't a spirit rune, but rather a secret technique. However, after years of cultivation, Lu Ye's knowledge and experience are no longer the same, and from the perspective of a spirit runes master, any technique in this world can be seen as an extension and development of spirit runes.

Therefore, even though the Life Origin Method is a secret technique, he can find a way to reverse-engineer it, transforming it into corresponding spirit runes.

If he can derive the spirit runes corresponding to the Life Origin Method, he can find a way to sever the bond, ensuring that his safety won't endanger Amber and Yiyi in the future.

However, this is much harder than deriving ordinary spirit runes. Without the three metamorphoses of the Talent Tree, Lu Ye wouldn't even dare to consider this, but those metamorphoses provided him with an opportunity.

While the original body was deriving spirit runes, the doppelganger was active outside; primarily because the specter was constantly suspicious, often suddenly coming over and contacting Fa Wuzun with audio talismans right in front of him, as if trying to expose his disguise.

In such a situation, Lu Ye could only leave his doppelganger outside.

On this day, Lu Ye suddenly felt a vibration from the audio talisman. Picking it up, he found that it was a communication from Cao Xiang.

Normally, this manager from the All Phenomena Merchants Guild wouldn't contact him proactively. He's reaching out now probably because there's news about something Lu Ye had previously commissioned.

It's not news about the Jade Conch Galaxy. After he received incorrect information from Cao Xiang last time, Lu Ye stopped having him investigate further.

"Fellow Daoist Li, in seven days, our guild will hold an auction, where there will be something you need. If you wish to participate, please try to gather more spirit jade, as the item is rather expensive."

Lu Ye knew well that the item was pricey, but he currently has no shortage of spirit jade, and getting the item shouldn't be a problem.

Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal! This is an extremely rare mineral, primarily used to refine magic treasures, and it's one of the few items that can upgrade a spirit treasure to a magic treasure!

The treasures used by cultivators against their enemies start from the lowest level spiritual artifact, followed by magic artifact, then spirit treasure, and above that is magic treasure.

Upgrading a spiritual artifact to a magic artifact, then to a spirit treasure, isn't that difficult. With suitable materials and exquisite craftsmanship from a skilled artifact refiner, it can be accomplished.

Lu Ye's Boulder Mountain Saber was upgraded step by step in this manner. When he first obtained it, the Boulder Mountain Saber was just a spiritual artifact.

However, upgrading a spirit treasure to a magic treasure is a huge chasm, as their nature is completely different — one is for cultivators under Moon Jade, the other is for cultivators above Moon Jade.

This type of upgrade not only requires a skilled artifact refiner but also requires some extremely special materials. Even though other expensive materials can be bought by the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, the rarest is not in stock.

The Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal is that elusive treasure.

Cultivators of other paths don't have this worry; they can simply buy suitable magic treasures once their strength reaches Moon Jade.

This trouble is unique to combat cultivators.

A combat cultivator's entire cultivation journey strongly relies on their weapon. For example, when Lu Ye switched from the Boulder Mountain Saber to the Crimson Dragon Saber, his performance was somewhat impacted, even though the two sabers were similar in shape and weight.

Therefore, once a combat cultivator advances to Moon Jade, they face an awkward problem: either abandon their weapon that has accompanied them throughout growth for a similar magic treasure weapon or find a way to upgrade their weapon!

Lu Ye is reluctant to change. The Boulder Mountain Saber has been with him for many years, having gone through countless battles, and is essentially one of his key supports in his journey. It is not just a weapon but an extension of Lu Ye's body.

With the Boulder Mountain Saber in hand, he can unleash his full potential. Switching to another weapon would affect his performance.

If he's unwilling to change, then upgrading is the only option, even if it requires a significant price.

Yet there are many combat cultivators in the world, and Lu Ye is not the only one facing this issue. Other combat cultivators face the same problem when advancing to Moon Jade, which leads to the Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal being priced yet unavailable.

Only in a place like the All Phenomena Ocean, where cultivators from numerous star systems gather and goods frequently circulate, would it be possible to find a piece of Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal. In other areas, getting such a crystal is as hard as ascending to the heavens.

The All Phenomena Merchants Guild somehow acquired a piece of Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal and plans to auction it, which is good news for Lu Ye.

Although he's not in a hurry to advance to Moon Jade right now, he will eventually take that step. Previously, he had asked Cao Xiang to keep an eye out for this item in preparation for his future advancement to Moon Jade.

If he misses this opportunity, there might not be another one for a while.

Lu Ye checked his current stock of spirit jade and found he had about fifty million. He estimated that this amount should be enough, as according to the stellar space's valuation and grading of magic treasures, this much spirit jade would typically be enough to purchase a 9-star magic treasure. Surely, it should be sufficient to acquire a Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal.

Many people likely desire the Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal, but not everyone is willing to pay a high price for it. After all, its maximum value might be around ten million spirit jade.

Lu Ye was in a great mood, quietly waiting.

A few days later, he leisurely walked out of the cave and set off for All Phenomena Island. There is some distance between Unparalleled Island and All Phenomena Island, so he needed to depart early.

Speaking of auctions, he had never participated in one, though he had previously hosted one himself at the Constellation Palace. However, that auction was solely for As-Close-As-Siblings Array Discs. The All Phenomena Merchants Guild's auction must have a more diverse range of lots, so it would be a good opportunity to increase his knowledge and see what good items there are at the auction.

Leaving Unparalleled Island, Lu Ye summoned the starboat he spent three hundred thousand spirit jade on and headed towards All Phenomena Island. The journey was relatively peaceful.

Under normal circumstances, the All Phenomena Ocean is bustling with people coming and going. Unless enemies meet, unnecessary conflicts rarely occur. Even if they find someone unpleasant, they seldom resort to fighting. After all, they are cultivators of the Constellation Realm, possessing restraint and composure. No one knows what kind of backing others might have, and provoking the wrong person could lead to disaster.

On the way, Lu Ye altered his appearance and attire, and he also put away the Boulder Mountain Saber.

He wasn't sure about the situation at the auction, but since many people would be competing for the Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal, it was wise to act discreetly to avoid attracting unwanted attention.

Upon reaching All Phenomena Island, he went to the familiar dock, paid the spirit jade as a fee, and exchanged it for a Passage Order to enter the island.

The first time he came here, Lu Ye daydreamed about when he could occupy a Spirit Island, make some interesting items to capture the attention of cultivators in the All Phenomena Ocean, and build a dock to collect toll fees and gain wealth.

At that time, it was just a dream.

But now, in just two years, he actually owned a Spirit Island. Although Unparalleled Island was nominally controlled by Chu Shen, it was only thanks to the Small Constellation Palace reversing the seawater that Unparalleled Island could operate. In essence, the island belonged to him.

In two years, there had been such significant changes, and his cultivation had also advanced from the Early Stage to the Late Stage.

The only regret was that in this vast All Phenomena Ocean, he had no family or friends to share his joy with.

He went straight to the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, where the hall was bustling. Lu Ye glanced around and immediately moved to the side.

He had already inquired with Cao Xiang on the way, so he knew what to do at this moment.

In that direction, there was an elegant room where the Manager of the All Phenomena Merchants Guild was entertaining guests preparing to participate in the auction. The famous top forces would not need to come here as the All Phenomena Merchants Guild would pre-arrange seats for them.

However, casual visitors like Lu Ye had to come here for a capital verification, as auctions weren't open to just anyone. Without any restrictions, the scene would be like the once-overcrowded Grand Hall 88.

Only those who passed the capital verification and qualified to participate in the auction would be given a Token to enter the auction venue.

When he arrived, he saw a voluptuously dressed woman seated there. Upon seeing Lu Ye, she stood up and gracefully greeted him, with almond-shaped eyes exuding charm: "Honored guest, are you prepared to participate in the auction?"

Lu Ye nodded expressionlessly, then took out a pre-prepared storage ring and handed it over. It contained nothing but ten million spirit jade.

The woman respectfully accepted it with both hands, scanned it with her Mental Consciousness, and smiled even more charmingly: "Honored guest, your capital is substantial. I hope you will successfully bid for your desired items at the auction!"

She respectfully returned the storage ring and handed over a jade tablet inscribed with the words "D-9".

Lu Ye accepted it, stowed it away, and turned to leave.

The auction would begin in a day, so he planned to visit the flea market to see if Ahn Zhe had returned. Although they had left audio talisman markings with each other, if Ahn Zhe had returned, he would have sent a message. Since no message had been received, it's likely he hadn't returned yet, as Ahn Zhe had mentioned last time that it would take about half a year to return to his world for goods and come back.

However, since the flea market was also on All Phenomena Island and not far away, and because deriving spirit patterns recently consumed a large amount of the Talent Tree's fuel reserves, Lu Ye decided to buy some fire attribute treasures to replenish them.

Chapter 1496 The Auction

Lu Ye wandered around the flea market, but couldn't spot Ahn Zhe at his usual spot. In his place was an unfamiliar cultivator, selling items Lu Ye didn't need.

It seems Ahn Zhe hasn't returned yet.

So, Lu Ye decided to browse fire attribute treasures, spending several million spirit jade.

There was still plenty of time, and nowhere specific to go, so after a brief moment of thought, he continued to wander around the flea market.

Compared to massive entities like the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, Lu Ye actually preferred places like this, though he couldn't quite put his finger on why.

As he was looking around, a small voice echoed beside him, "Fellow Daoist, do you need elixir pills?"

Following the voice, Lu Ye saw a young woman seated at a stall, her face slightly flushed, lightly biting her lip as if to muster the courage to ask him.

Glancing at her stall, Lu Ye noticed a dozen or so jade vials, presumably filled with various elixir pills.

He didn't really need any elixir pills. He had been deliberately suppressing his cultivation recently, avoiding active practice out of fear that rapid progress might destabilize his foundation.

Initially, he didn't intend to respond, but upon meeting the woman's gaze, he couldn't resist squatting down.

Her eyes weren't particularly remarkable, but they reminded him of his own awkward beginnings on All Phenomena Island. He could probably tell that her circumstances weren't great; otherwise, she wouldn't be hawking elixirs here.

Such items don't sell well at the flea market, as they're consumed internally. Regular cultivators usually buy elixirs from the All Phenomena Merchants Guild or other Spirit Island shops for assurance. Selling elixirs like this is hard to trust; low-quality elixirs could cause problems if used in combat.

The dozen or so jade vials had labels with the names of each elixir.

Seeing Lu Ye squatting down, the woman quickly composed herself, "Fellow Daoist, feel free to browse. I have all the common elixirs."

Lu Ye casually picked up a vial of Spirit Revitalizing Pills, a commonly needed elixir among Constellation cultivators for replenishing spirit force and cultivation, essential at the Constellation level.

"Are you a healing cultivator?" Lu Ye inquired casually, feeling a familiar, gentle aura from the woman. It was calming, just like Shui Yuan and Hua Ci.

He also caught a faint floral scent, but couldn't identify the flower.

"Yes," the woman nodded.

"Then it's not easy for you!"

Generally, healing cultivators travel with others, as they have fewer means to deal with danger, making them more vulnerable.

A solitary healing cultivator like the woman was uncommon.

The woman tilted her head, clearly not understanding his meaning.

"How much?" Lu Ye asked.

The woman quoted a price.

Lu Ye looked at her, "Your prices are even higher than the All Phenomena Merchants Guild."

No wonder her stall appeared neglected. Selling elixirs at a higher price, it's a wonder anyone buys them here.

The woman explained, "The elixirs I refine are of great quality. If you don't believe me, buy one and see."

Lu Ye responded, "If the quality isn't good after buying, can I return them?"

The woman's expression turned serious, "The quality is assured. I refined them myself, I know."

"What kind of assurance is that!" Lu Ye thought to himself. Her personality wasn't suited for business; she was far from Ahn Zhe's level.

"I'll take all of them," Lu Ye put down the jade vial.

"What?" the woman was momentarily stunned.

"I said I'll take all the elixirs you have!" Lu Ye looked at her. Being alone out here wasn't easy. He imagined if his Second Senior Sister or Hua Ci were here, struggling to attract business, how troubling it would be.

Though, his Second Senior Sister and Hua Ci weren't typical healing cultivators and probably wouldn't be in such a situation.

The woman realized and was overjoyed, "Is Fellow Daoist serious?" She had been at her stall for days but barely sold any elixirs. People passing by never stopped, so she didn't expect someone to buy everything.

"If you think I'm lying, I can leave now!"

"No, don't leave!" the woman quickly said, hurriedly retrieving vial after vial from her storage ring.

She stopped after retrieving over thirty bottles, cautiously looking at Lu Ye, "Fellow Daoist, isn't this too much?"

"Calculate the total!" Lu Ye urged.

The woman cheerfully calculated the final amount, reporting to Lu Ye a figure of just under three thousand spirit jades, which Lu Ye paid promptly.

After putting all the elixir pills away and preparing to leave, the woman kept thanking him repeatedly.

Walking a short distance, Lu Ye took out a vial of Spirit Revitalizing Pills, casually popping one into his mouth, while observing the reaction of the Talent Tree.

Other cultivators wouldn't dare consume elixirs lightly, but Lu Ye did not mind. With the Talent Tree by his side, he feared no harm from any flaw in the elixir pills.

Moments later, Lu Ye showed a surprised expression. Although the woman earnestly claimed her elixir pills were of higher quality than those sold by the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, words alone couldn't serve as proof. Even if some cultivator consumed them, it would be difficult to discern quality.

But Lu Ye was different; observing the changes in the Talent Tree offered a direct insight into the quality of the elixir pills.

The more impurities present, the lower the quality, and vice versa.

Upon observation, the Talent Tree showed very mild reactions, indeed confirming what the woman said: her elixirs were of high quality.

Looking back, Lu Ye found the woman had disappeared, likely having left after selling out her elixirs.

It was somewhat puzzling. With such alchemy skills, the woman could have joined a faction and become their exclusive Alchemist, saving herself the hardship of setting up a stand here.

Even the All Phenomena Merchants Guild would not turn away such talent.

Yet she preferred the hard work of setting up stalls rather than depending on any faction, suggesting to Lu Ye her character inclined toward independence from constraints.

After wandering the flea market a while longer, Lu Ye headed towards the All Phenomena Merchants Guild.

The auction was set to start in about half a day, and it was the time when cultivators attending the auction began entering the venue.

The entrance was situated inside the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, where many cultivators were lining up to get in. However, Lu Ye made his way directly in another direction.

There was another entrance on that side. Upon reaching it, Lu Ye produced the D-9 token received during financial assessment. Instantly, someone respectfully accepted it and led him inside.

Cao Xiang had previously advised him that the minimum requirement for a financial assessment was a hundred thousand spirit jades. In other words, only with a hundred thousand spirit jades could one gain access to the auction. Naturally, to receive better treatment, one must display more substantial wealth.

The one million spirit jades Lu Ye demonstrated indeed gained him treatment distinct from ordinary cultivators.

Under the guidance of the guild cultivator, he soon arrived at a private suite inscribed with the words "D-9."

The guild cultivator halted at the door, gesturing gracefully, "Honored guest, please enter. Once the auction begins, if something catches your eye, you only need to place your bid from inside; it's visible outside. Should you win a bid, we'll ensure the item is delivered to you."

Lu Ye gave a slight nod, indicating his understanding.

Entering the D-9 room, Lu Ye immediately noticed a colossal transparent mirror-like surface, of unknown material. Standing before it, he had a splendid overhead view of the entire auction venue.

A look around revealed numerous other rooms similar to his own, though from his vantage point, the mirror surfaces of those rooms were shrouded in swirling mists, completely concealing the interiors.

Lu Ye attempted to extend his Mental Consciousness but was still obstructed.

Assuredly, others were experiencing the same when trying to view his side.

The room's furnishings were simple: a large chair and a round table next to it, on which several fruit trays held fresh spirit fruits. Additionally, there was a pot of fine wine.

A protrusion on the chair's armrest showed Lu Ye, after a brief study, it served to place bids during the auction.

At this moment, a large number of cultivators were steadily entering the auction venue, guided by the tokens they acquired earlier for seating, with guild cultivators stationed to provide direction.

Thus, even with the considerable influx of attendees, there was no chaos; everything was orderly.

With some time before the auction commenced, Lu Ye reclined in the chair, casually nibbling on a spirit fruit. He didn't recognize the fruit, but it tasted sweet, and the inner spirit force could be refined into his own spirit force.

By the time Lu Ye nearly finished the spirit fruits, the auction hall was fully seated.

Such an orderly scene was still achieved post-financial assessment, leading one to imagine how crowded it might have been without valuation checks.

Lu Ye roughly estimated the participating cultivators numbered at least three thousand.

In the vast All Phenomena Ocean, many cultivators had wealth, though more struggled at the base level.

Suddenly, the previously well-lit auction hall dimmed, followed by a mysterious beam of light striking the front stage.

As the light brightened, an elderly man with white hair and beard materialized at that spot, though his appearance seemed like it always belonged there.

With his eyes half-closed and hands clasped in his sleeves, he stood casually, yet the powerful aura he emitted confirmed him as a formidable Moon Jade cultivator, at the Late Stage!

The previously bustling auction hall became instantly silent, with all eyes fixed on the elder.

The elder spoke slowly, his voice not loud but resonating in everyone's ear: "I am Yooi Xiuzhai, honored to serve as the Ninth Manager of the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, and I will be hosting this auction."

Chapter 1497 - Soul Race

As Yooi Xiuzhai's words fell, the auction hall was abuzz.

There are many managers in the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, like Cao Xiang, whom Lu Ye often interacts with. In the guild, he is just a manager responsible for handling guests and making deals with them, quite different from someone like Yooi Xiuzhai.

In the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, Yooi Xiuzhai holds a position of real authority and seldom appears casually. No one expected him to host this auction, making many realize there must be plenty of rare and valuable items in this auction, otherwise someone of Yooi Xiuzhai's status wouldn't preside over it.

On the high platform, Yooi Xiuzhai wasted no words, and after introducing himself, he gestured to the side. Another beam of light shone from an unknown spot, illuminating a tall woman carrying a tray, who walked out from the side entrance to stand beside Yooi Xiuzhai.

The tray was covered with a red cloth, and Yooi Xiuzhai lifted it, slowly saying, "Thirty bottles of supreme-grade revival pill, Fellow Daoists interested can bid now, no reserve price!"

After a brief silence, calls of bidding echoed throughout the hall. Lu Ye noticed that even some people in the private rooms were very interested in these supreme-grade revival pills.

The quality of elixir pills varies. The quality of pills made by different alchemists naturally differs, and even the same alchemist cannot guarantee the same quality every time they craft.

Wasted pills are not worth mentioning; they are faulty and have no value. The finished elixir pills are classified into four grades: low grade, mid-grade, top grade, and supreme grade.

The higher the grade, the fewer impurities mixed in the elixir pill.

Like the elixir pills Lu Ye bought previously at the flea market, which had very few impurities, basically reaching the level of top-grade elixir pills. Consuming such elixir pills poses minimal harm to cultivators because they contain very little pill poison.

And the impurities in supreme-grade elixir pills are almost negligible. Theoretically, cultivators consuming them would face minimal hidden dangers, significantly enhancing their cultivation efficiency with the help of supreme-grade elixir pills.

Yet, such supreme-grade elixir pills are scarce for any merchant guild since their emergence is largely out of an alchemist's control, often happening only when luck is on the alchemist's side during crafting.

Even the All Phenomena Merchants Guild needed a period of accumulation to bring out thirty bottles at once, making it undoubtedly worthy of being the first item at an auction. Everyone needs elixir pills, easily stirring the bidding atmosphere in the room.

If Lu Ye didn't have the Talent Tree, he would definitely be interested in such elixir pills, but with it, no matter how high their quality, elixir pills hold little attraction for him.

After round after round of bidding, many withdrew until, after a cup of tea, it was won by someone in room B-4, with the price far exceeding the normal purchase price.

After the bidding ended, the woman holding the tray stepped down, replaced by another woman stepping onto the high platform. This time, the tray did not hold a jade vial but a short arrow, looking peculiar.

Yooi Xiuzhai spoke, "Sky-Splitting Arrow, a type of exotic treasure. Although it's at the spirit treasure level, its power upon activation rivals the strike of a 3-star magic treasure, starting at ten thousand spirit jades; Fellow Daoists, please bid!"

Lu Ye was somewhat tempted. Although the so-called Sky-Splitting Arrow was far from him, making it impossible to scrutinize closely or feel its power, the All Phenomena Merchants Guild wouldn't falsify in this aspect. Since Yooi Xiuzhai stated its power rivals that of a 3-star magic treasure, it undoubtedly was true.

Lu Ye's current power is in a somewhat awkward status, unmatched in the Constellation Realm, but falling short against Moon Jade. This is mainly due to the difference in realm levels. Though the Tidal Sea Ten Thousand Waves allows him to contend with ordinary Moon Jades fleetingly, in a true life-or-death battle, he is no match for any Moon Jade.

He still has a red talisman gifted by Su Yuqing, which is a mighty weapon but can only be used once.

If there were any means or treasure that could deal with Moon Jade, he naturally would not want to miss it.

He raised a hand to press on the protuberance on his chair's armrest. As his Mental Consciousness surged, he placed a bid.

But he evidently underestimated the desirability of the Sky-Splitting Arrow among the cultivator community. This was just the second auction item, yet the whole hall was already in a frenzy, with bids continuously flowing without pause.

Lu Ye submitted several bids in succession, all quickly surpassed by others.

Until quite a while later, Yooi Xiuzhai from the stage suddenly looked toward the room where Lu Ye was, saying, "Fellow Daoist from Room D-9 has bid one million three hundred thousand spirit jades..."

Before the words fell, he glanced at another spot, "Fellow Daoist from Room A-6 bids one million three hundred twenty thousand!"

It's indeed a bit unbelievable that just a spirit treasure is bid up to such a high price since even a magic treasure could be bought for so many spirit jades, possibly a 5-star magic treasure.

Yet the Sky-Splitting Arrow's unleashed power only matched a strike from a 3-star magic treasure, plus it is an exotic treasure, indicating it's for single use only.

Ultimately, it's because Constellations can't channel a magic treasure's power. No matter how good a magic treasure is, it won't help if a Constellation can't activate it. But the Sky-Splitting Arrow is different; it's something a Constellation cultivator can activate, a life-saving item for Constellations, so it's naturally not considered expensive.

This is also why purple talismans are costly, especially those from the Dwarf Race, which are absolutely coveted, while a red talisman... is simply a treasure that can't be sought.

After several more rounds of bidding, Lu Ye ultimately won the Sky-Splitting Arrow at a price of 1.8 million spirit jade, showing a stance of determination not to give up.

It wasn't that the cultivator from Room A-6 lacked financial resources compared to him. Everyone who entered the private rooms had to show assets of at least ten million spirit jade during verification. However, they might have other things they wanted to buy and didn't want to spend too much on the Sky-Splitting Arrow, so they had no choice but to reluctantly give up.

Another auction item was then presented. Lu Ye glanced at it. The item was good, but it didn't interest him much, so he patiently waited.

A moment later, someone knocked on the door and entered, bringing the Sky-Splitting Arrow over. Lu Ye paid the corresponding amount of spirit jade.

He had acquired a similar type of exotic treasure before when he was in the Nine Provinces, but while the types were the same, the treasure in the Nine Provinces was naturally incomparable to the Sky-Splitting Arrow.

Playing with the Sky-Splitting Arrow in his hand, Lu Ye was very satisfied. If he encounters Moon Jade again, this thing could provide some level of deterrence. If used well, it might even hurt Moon Jade.

So although 1.8 million spirit jade was quite a lot, he felt it was worth the expense.

Truly, the All Phenomena Merchants Guild's auction was impressive, with an endless stream of good things being presented: various secret techniques and cultivation techniques, elixir pills and treasures, and exotic treasures. Each one was displayed.

Lu Ye initially just wanted to bid for a piece of Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal. However, halfway through the auction, he had already bid on several items.

Some were things he wanted, and some he found suitable for Hua Ci or his Second Senior Sister. He planned to bring them back to the Nine Provinces for them when he got the chance.

He hadn't even seen the Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal yet, and he had already spent nearly ten million spirit jade.

Lu Ye realized something was not right. He only had fifty million spirit jade in total, and having spent ten million, he only had forty million left. Even though this should be enough to buy a piece of Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal, he had to be cautious and refrain from further bidding.

No matter how good the items are!

Lu Ye secretly made up his mind.

On the high platform, Yooi Xiuzhai stood casually, as usual. Another auction item appeared on stage, and its sudden appearance intrigued many people.

It was actually a cage. Many people looked confused, and Lu Ye was watching too. Soon, he was surprised, as he vaguely felt something was in the cage, yet there seemed to be nothing.

The cage was undoubtedly a treasure. After being brought up by an All Phenomena Merchants Guild maid, Yooi Xiuzhai didn't speak. He simply tapped the cage casually.

Mana surged, light flashed in the cage, and a figure suddenly appeared inside!

The figure had seemingly been in the cage all along, yet none had seen it previously.

The venue erupted with noise as all eyes focused on the figure in the cage.

Lu Ye was watching intently, his expression showing extreme surprise, as he found the person in the cage felt very familiar.

This familiarity was not because he knew the person, but because he had encountered this type of being before.

The figure in the cage was definitely not of the human race, nor was it the result of any concealment technique. Had the person been in a concealed state earlier, Lu Ye should have noticed something amiss.

Judging from the figure, it seemed to be female. However, long hair covered the face, making the appearance unclear. Through the messy strands, Lu Ye saw a pair of vengeful and fierce eyes, filled with accusations of blood and tears, glaring fiercely at Yooi Xiuzhai, as if ready to devour him!

Lu Ye frowned. Though he had heard that rare species occasionally appeared in auctions by the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, he hadn't expected to witness it firsthand.

He wondered what race this was. Since it was auctioned here, it must be a very rare and precious race, like the Fairy or Merfolk Race. If either appeared at an auction, they would surely attract great interest.

Yooi Xiuzhai spoke: "Soul Race! A powerful expert captured her somewhere in the stellar space and entrusted our All Phenomena Merchants Guild to auction her. No reserve price. Interested Fellow Daoists may place their bids!"

Lu Ye was astonished.

The Soul Race! It was actually the Soul Race!

Like the Fairy Race that Lu Ye had interacted with and the Merfolk Race under the All Phenomena Ocean, the Soul Race was also an extremely rare and precious race in the vast stellar space. Races like these shared a common characteristic: possessing unique racial talents that greatly benefit cultivators. For this reason, many cultivators coveted them.

Chapter 1498 - Making a Big Move

The blessings from the Fairy Race are undoubtedly a powerful racial talent, those various strange blessings can directly enhance the power of a cultivator.

The songs of the Merfolk Race have a similar effect, and the women of the Merfolk Race are all beautiful. If one could merge with a pure merfolk woman, they might even gain some unique secret technique.

The Soul Race has no blessings or songs, but they can perform Soul Possession!

The bodies of this peculiar race are very strange, seemingly ethereal yet solid, like ghosts, so they are called the Soul Race.

Both men and women of the Soul Race possess a unique ability to perform the Soul Possession Technique. Cultivators subjected to this technique can enhance their strength.

Lu Ye once read about the Soul Race in the records of Xiyuan Pavilion of the Dwarf Race. He had entertained thoughts about it, because in the Nine Provinces, there existed a group of pioneers who had lost their bodies but still lived on.

The Nine Provinces have now advanced to a large domain, yet those pioneers who contributed greatly remained trapped in Xianyuan City, unable to escape or grow for life.

Their sacrifices shouldn't be forgotten. Nowadays, the Nine Provinces isn't what it used to be, and they deserve better treatment.

The state of these pioneers is very similar to the Soul Race described in the Xiyuan Pavilion records, so much so that they could be considered an alternate Soul Race.

Lu Ye once thought that if he ever encountered the Soul Race, he might try to engage with them and learn how they cultivate and grow stronger.

Unfortunately, he never encountered the Soul Race until later when he realized that they are very rare, and due to their innate racial talent, they are coveted by cultivators of all major races, thus rarely appearing before outsiders.

Unexpectedly, a member of the Soul Race appeared in this auction!

Lu Ye immediately realized that he could forego bidding on other items, but he absolutely had to acquire this Soul Race member. Missing this opportunity would make it much harder to meet them in the future.

So as soon as Yooi Xiuzhai finished speaking, he bid without hesitation!

At the same time, in Room A-6, a young man looked at the Soul Race member with bright eyes and said excitedly, "The information was indeed correct; there is a Soul Race member in this auction." He turned to a middle-aged man beside him, "Second Uncle, we must secure this Soul Race member. If we can forge that cover armor with her soul, the power will significantly increase, and even if we encounter Moon Jade, I will be able to escape."

The middle-aged man nodded slightly and was about to place a bid.

At that moment, Yooi Xiuzhai on the stage announced, "Fellow Daoist in Room D-9 bids five million spirit jade!"

Many cultivators in the audience envied, thinking that the person in Room D-9 must be wealthy. They had already auctioned several items with a total value exceeding ten million, and now started again with five million, showing a determination to win. They wondered which major force they belonged to.

In Room A-6, the young man said angrily, "It's that guy again."

He had wanted the Sky-Splitting Arrow earlier, but it was snatched away, and now they were trying to steal the Soul Race member from him, which was really infuriating. He looked at the middle-aged man: "Second Uncle, this time we must not be outdone!"

They hadn't contended for the Sky-Splitting Arrow before because they were waiting for this Soul Race member, and the price of the Sky-Splitting Arrow was indeed too high. This time they absolutely could not give up.

The middle-aged man remained silent and quietly called out his bid.

On stage, Yooi Xiuzhai immediately turned to this side and said, "Room A-6 bids five million and ten thousand!"

Soon several other parties placed bids, with Lu Ye consistently following, and within moments, the price exceeded eight million.

A few moments later, the price surpassed ten million, at which point there were not many bidders left. Including Lu Ye and Room A-6, only one other Room B-7 continued to bid.

When the price approached twenty million, Room B-7 became silent, apparently feeling that the price was too high or beyond their capacity to bear.

Even for the top major forces, mobilizing tens of millions of spirit jade at once is somewhat of a pressure. It doesn't mean that their assets only consist of so much spirit jade; the larger the family, the greater the expenses. The spirit jade that can be mobilized for an auction is ultimately just a small portion.

In this regard, Lu Ye undoubtedly had an advantage. Being alone, he didn't need to consider anything else.

The young man in Room A-6 started to sweat as he realized he had underestimated the capital of the cultivator in Room D-9. Twenty million spirit jade already exceeded their expectations, and continuing to compete was unwise. Yet this was a great opportunity, and missing it would be a pity.

He couldn't help but suggest, "Second Uncle, how about raising the bid by a significant amount to make them back down?"

The middle-aged man placed each bid only one million higher, appearing unhurried, which made the young man feel uncomfortable.

The middle-aged man shook his head: "You don't understand; raising the bid this way pressures the opponent. No matter how much they bid, we only go one million higher. This shows that we are determined to win the Soul Race member!"

The young man nodded in understanding, "Second Uncle, you truly are wise!"

In the auction hall, the participating cultivators this time felt their eyes opened wide because it was rare to see two factions fiercely competing with spirit jade here.

Honestly, not only were they surprised, but even Yooi Xiuzhai also felt unexpected.

Because in the All Phenomena Merchants Guild's own estimation, this Soul Race item might go for at most twenty million spirit jade at most, after all, no matter how valuable she was, there was a limit. But now, the situation was that twenty million was not the end, and it was already heading towards thirty million.

After a while, sure enough, the price broke the thirty million mark, and now it wasn't just the young man's forehead sweating, even the middle-aged man who had been unhurried started to show a serious expression.

It's really hard to understand what force this could be, biting the price so tightly, even at thirty million, they still didn't give up.

He was raising his price by ten thousand each time, but the other side was even fiercer, raising by a hundred thousand directly, showing more momentum, and every bid was quick, without any hesitation.

He pondered slightly, circulated his mana, and spoke: "Fellow Daoist, this Soul Race is of great use to my Wufang Island. I wonder if you could let it go, if you are willing..."

Before he finished speaking, Yooi Xiuzhai, who had been standing lazily on the high platform, suddenly looked over coldly: "If you dare say anything unrelated to bidding again, get out!"

In Room A-6, the middle-aged man's face turned green then white, although no one saw the situation on his side, he was after all a Moon Jade, being reprimanded so unceremoniously by Yooi Xiuzhai naturally left him with no place to hide his face.

However, he also knew it was himself who broke the rules. After all, this was an auction; there was no such thing as negotiating like this. It's just that he was indeed near his limit, and now it's obviously too late to draw spirit jade from Wufang Island.

The Soul Race's price finally settled at thirty-two million; Room A-6 stopped bidding.

In Room D-9, Lu Ye twitched an eye corner.

Just now, he was determined not to participate in any bidding no matter how many good things were at the auction. Unexpectedly, this time he made a big move.

He checked his spirit jade, after deducting what would be settled later, he only had eight million left.

However, if he could find a way to solve the predecessors' issues from this Soul Race and free them from Xianyuan City's constraints, no matter how much spirit jade was used, it would be worth it.

Luckily, there were still some spirit crystals, which if converted into spirit jade, should be about ten million, enough to get that Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal. According to the information Lu Ye gathered earlier, although this Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal is precious, it would at most a few million spirit jade, definitely not exceeding ten million.

The auction continued, and after a moment, the All Phenomena Merchants Guild people brought the cage over.

Along with it came a jade tablet, and from that person's explanation, Lu Ye finally understood the purpose of the jade tablet. The Soul Race was not only locked in a cage but also had a special restriction planted on her, the jade tablet was something that could control that restriction.

The All Phenomena Merchants Guild people were thoughtful, knowing that since the Soul Race was captured and brought to auction, she harbored resentment and wouldn't easily obey others, so they planted a restriction in advance to facilitate the cultivators who won the bid to control her.

Lu Ye directly opened the cage, and under the observation of Insight Spirit Runes, saw the Soul Race walked out of the cage, then stood at a corner, silent, without any intention to escape.

She was evidently not foolish, knowing it was impossible to escape from such a place, so she did not make any futile attempts!

Thinking for a moment, Lu Ye spoke: "I harbor no ill intentions towards you, there are some things I'd like you to help with, I still have one more item to bid on, once the auction concludes, I will take you away!"

No one knew if the Soul Race believed him, but anyway, Lu Ye seemed unconcerned, yet was actually on guard, knowing how hard it was to detect the Soul Race's movements, if she were to suddenly attack him here, without precaution, he might not evade it.

A moment later, the Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal that Lu Ye had been waiting for finally appeared. From the outside, it looked like a piece of crystal the size of a fist, seemingly without anything special, yet it was one of the most sought-after treasures for combat cultivators in the Constellation Late Stage.

The starting bid was eight hundred thousand, and Lu Ye immediately began making offers.

In Room A-6, upon hearing Yooi Xiuzhai announce the bid from Room D-9, the middle-aged man immediately raised his head and without any hesitation bid once.

Just now, he was scolded by Yooi Xiuzhai, but since Yooi Xiuzhai's cultivation was higher, age was older, and status more esteemed, he had no way to hold a grudge or seek revenge, thus he blamed everything on Lu Ye in Room D-9.

Previously, he was already robbed by Lu Ye of both the Sky-Splitting Arrow and the Soul Race. Now seeing Lu Ye was interested in the Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal, he naturally wanted to increase the price to vent his anger.

The cultivators in the auction hall witnessed another bizarre scene.

Room A-6 and Room D-9 once again started a fierce battle of spirit jade!

Originally worth only a few million spirit jade at most, the price of the Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal was pushed to nearly twenty million in this clash between the two.

However, unlike the previous two results, when Room A-6 shouted out a price of twenty million, there was no further sound from Room D-9.

Thus, people knew that in this confrontation, Room A-6 had won!

Chapter 1499 - Quit Messing Around

In Room D-9, Lu Ye rose expressionlessly and opened the door to walk outside, saying, "Follow me!"

There must be quite a few good things coming up at the auction, but missing the Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal means there's no point in staying.

He could feel that Room A-6 was targeting him, otherwise, they wouldn't have pushed the price so high. Twenty million spirit jade far exceeded the actual value of the Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal. Even if Lu Ye had more than eight million spirit jade, he wouldn't have continued to bid.

Without the Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal, he could choose other treasures as substitutes, but if he did so, the Boulder Mountain Saber's grade might not be as high after upgrading to a magic treasure.

Currently, he was not in a hurry to advance to Moon Jade, and there might be future opportunities to encounter Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal, so his need for it wasn't urgent.

He didn't get what he wanted to bid on, but he gained quite a bit from what he wasn't planning to bid on, especially with that Soul Race being something completely unexpected.

He could feel the Soul Race right behind him. However, their movements were silent, and their figure was invisible. If it weren't for the jade tablet in Lu Ye's hand that could control her, she would have likely escaped long ago.

After leaving the All Phenomena Merchants Guild, Lu Ye summoned the starboat and only departed after confirming that the Soul Race had also boarded the vessel.

Standing on the starboat, Lu Ye felt a chill behind him, as if a venomous snake was flicking its tongue at his neck. That faint chill clearly emanated from the gaze of the Soul Race.

The woman wanted to escape but had to seize that Token to do so. Otherwise, with the Token in Lu Ye's hand, she could never escape his control.

"If you want to try, go ahead!" Lu Ye's calm voice came from the front.

A strange gleam flashed in the eyes of the figureless Soul Race, and without hesitation, she lunged forward, her already invisible body directly merging into Lu Ye's body.

Lu Ye's eyelids drooped as he steered the starboat toward Unparalleled Island, simultaneously diverting some of his thoughts.

In the Divine Sea, his psyche spirit body manifested.

In the calm Divine Sea, a small pagoda was faintly suppressing the area. This was the Soul Suppressing Pagoda, a Soul Device Lu Ye had obtained in Nine Provinces. However, with the growth of his cultivation, the effectiveness of this Soul Device had diminished. The Soul Suppressing Pagoda was ultimately a domain treasure, and no matter how good its quality, it had its limits, starting to fall short of his growing strength. Yet, it could still serve some function.

Lu Ye's psyche spirit body stood at the tip of the pagoda, overlooking below.

Unlike the outside world, within this Divine Sea, the woman's figure was fully revealed, a tall woman with long hair cascading to her ankles, coldly observing Lu Ye's direction.

Generally speaking, for a cultivator to invade another's Divine Sea, they would need special means or an overwhelming amount of Divine Soul Power.

But the Soul Race did not need this; this race, whose name bore the essence of the soul, had incredibly unique methods regarding Psyche Force. As long as the gap in cultivation wasn't too great, they could easily infiltrate another's Divine Sea.

This was the most common technique used by the Soul Race against humans, being far more perilous than ordinary combat.

The Soul Race and Lu Ye indeed bore no grudges, but nobody wished to be controlled and not free. She needed to deal with Lu Ye to escape.

At the moment their eyes met, the woman suddenly raised her hands, forming a spell in front of her, followed by calm waves rippling outward with her as the center.

This was the result of the Soul Suppressing Pagoda guarding the Divine Sea. Without it, the sea within would have been turbulent, leaving Lu Ye's psyche in turmoil and mind unsettled.

Lu Ye merely watched her quietly without any intention to stop her.

Because for him, stopping this Soul Race was easy. All he needed was to take out the Token obtained from the auction, inject spirit force into it, and activate the restriction on the woman, which would expel her from his Divine Sea.

But Lu Ye didn't want her to harbor thoughts of him holding her life constantly; until a suitable and safe way to settle her was found, they might coexist for a time. As the saying goes, there's only a thousand days of being a thief, but no thousand days of guarding against one.

Lu Ye wanted the Soul Race to understand that her tactics would have no significant effect on him, to prevent any misaligned thoughts.

The records he found in the Dwarf Race's Xiyuan Pavilion were incomplete. Lu Ye only knew that the Soul Race had this particular method of invading others' Divine Seas, unaware that the Soul Race could even use the powers within someone else's Divine Sea against its owner!

Through her method, Lu Ye distinctly felt part of the strength within his Divine Sea being controlled by her.

This truly was a peculiar occurrence, considering that power was unmistakably his own!

The Soul Race was indeed an extraordinary race, and this bizarre power spelled a dismal fate for any cultivator whose Divine Sea was invaded by them.

One after another, arrows suddenly surged out from the waves, sweeping across the sky toward Lu Ye's psyche spirit body. Each arrow was transformed from Lu Ye's own Divine Soul Power!

With a thought, the Soul Suppressing Pagoda suddenly rose from beneath him, enveloping him and transforming into protection.

The sound of thumping continued to resound as numerous arrows manifested by the Divine Soul Power struck the body of the Soul Suppressing Pagoda, making it sway incessantly.

With Lu Ye's current Constellation Late Stage cultivation, his Divine Soul Power was extremely strong. Even the Soul Suppressing Pagoda couldn't withstand such a level of attack for long.

"Lift my restriction and I'll leave!" The woman urged her power while speaking, continuing her fierce attack. She could see that the quality of the Soul Suppressing Pagoda was not high and wouldn't last long. However, what puzzled her slightly was why this human race person didn't intend to stop her, even though he only needed to activate the power on the Token to restrain her.

Lu Ye shook his head slowly, silently expressing his stance.

The Soul Suppressing Pagoda couldn't hold on, but he had other methods.

With a thought, the Divine Sea boiled, and suddenly, a battleship gradually sailed out, as if riding the wind and breaking the waves on a sea of extremely harsh weather.

The battleship appeared to have gone through a brutal battle, its entire hull in tatters. But as it gradually emerged, and as Lu Ye's Divine Soul Power poured in, the battleship quickly became intact. Then, figures appeared on the battleship one after another, swiftly taking their positions.

Lu Ye stood on the deck of the battleship, looking expressionlessly at the Soul Race woman. All her techniques were blocked by the battleship's defenses.

The Soul Race woman's eyelids tightened, looking unbelievably at the abruptly appearing battleship. Even with her extensive knowledge and experience, she couldn't figure out what this Soul Device was.

In this world, are there actually Soul Devices shaped like battleships?

In the next moment, her body suddenly tensed up, as an overwhelming sense of danger enveloped her. She clearly felt an extreme force within the battleship brewing, and the aura of that power had already locked onto her, like a sharp sword hanging overhead, ready to fall at any moment.

"Stop messing around, just leave!" Lu Ye looked at her, his tone calm as if he were scolding a mischievous child.

The surging waves around the woman gradually subsided, her expression turning bitter. She finally understood why this human race person didn't use the power of the Token to restrain her.

With such a Soul Device guarding the Divine Sea, even as a member of the Soul Race, she couldn't do anything to him. If she didn't know her limits, she would surely suffer.

Weighing the situation, the woman ultimately retreated from Lu Ye's Divine Sea.

She raced back to Unparalleled Island, piloting the starboat straight through the protective array of the island.

Currently, the overall strength of Unparalleled Island was incomparably superior to the time when Koi Island attacked. Just counting those at the Constellation Late Stage, Unparalleled Island had already recruited as many as thirteen people. Including those at the Constellation Early and mid-stage, Unparalleled Island had recruited nearly a hundred individuals recently.

Such strength, coupled with Tang Jun, was more than enough for defense. As a result, no foolish factions had dared to trouble Unparalleled Island recently.

It could be said that with Unparalleled Island's current strength, even if two or three more factions like Koi Island joined forces against it, they might not be able to conquer it.

Those who were fortunate enough to be selected through the Zhongzheng Register to join Unparalleled Island naturally had impeccable character. Moreover, because Unparalleled Island is a Spirit Island, cultivating there saved a lot of spirit jade. So even without a substantial monthly salary, cultivators were willing to stay.

What further excited the cultivators was that they could clearly feel the stellar space energy within Unparalleled Island continuously increasing. Currently, Unparalleled Island was only a mid-class Spirit Island, but who could say if it wouldn't become a high-class Spirit Island if this improvement continued?

With such expectations, the cultivators who joined Unparalleled Island cherished this opportunity, and a sense of belonging and recognition to Unparalleled Island developed quietly within them. In this situation, even if strong enemies attacked, they wouldn't flee easily on the battlefield. For the sake of their future, they would advance and retreat alongside Chu Shen.

Chu Shen had been seeking ways to generate income recently.

For a Spirit Island to continue developing, a significant initial investment of spirit jade is required. For instance, the protective array alone cost Unparalleled Island four million spirit jade, which was no small amount, and they had to find a way to recover these investments.

Furthermore, the cultivators on Unparalleled Island would ultimately need spirit jade for cultivation and couldn't rely solely on the island's stellar space energy.

Therefore, there must be a suitable way to generate income. Only then can stability be secured, and talent retained.

The best way, naturally, is to open various shops on the island to attract cultivators for trade, which is the main source of income for most Spirit Islands.

However, for Unparalleled Island, it was a bit too early to consider these. Forcing such arrangements without particularly attractive goods would make it difficult to gather popularity. Chu Shen had been troubled by this recently but couldn't come up with a good solution. Only then did he realize how naive and immature his initial idea of creating his own power was.

Chapter 1500 - Chu Shen's Plan

Chu Shen thought over and over, and to solve this matter, he still needed to trouble Leader Fa; he had come to look for Lu Ye once before, but unfortunately, he hadn't found him.

At this moment, seeing the return of Lu Ye's starboat, he hurried over.

Lu Ye had just returned to his cave, hadn't even warmed his seat, when the restriction at the entrance was triggered. Upon opening it, Chu Shen scurried in.

At first glance, Chu Shen was stunned, because besides Lu Ye, there was also a tall and cold-tempered woman here.

Lu Ye wasn't sure why this Soul Race woman was willing to reveal her form, but she seemed no different from a human, as long as she didn't use those Soul Race's unique methods. Since she was willing, Lu Ye didn't bother about it.

At this moment, Lu Ye sat upright, and the Soul Race woman stood quietly beside him, looking like a maid.

Chu Shen apparently misunderstood something, looking at Lu Ye with admiration. He thought, as expected of Leader Fa, to have such a beauty and stature willing to serve beside him is truly exemplary for our kind.

However, he couldn't quite figure out the relationship between Lu Ye and this Soul Race woman and dared not ask rashly, only greeting Lu Ye.

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

Chu Shen sat in front of Lu Ye and briefly explained the plight of Unparalleled Island.

Lu Ye said, "A faction wanting to survive in this All Phenomena Ocean indeed needs its own way of making wealth." Those top-class Spirit Islands with Spirit Jade Veins go without saying, but below that, whether high, medium, or low-class Spirit Islands, they can't survive here without some means of income.

In cultivation, what doesn't require spirit jade?

"What are you planning?" Lu Ye asked, figuring that Chu Shen must have some ideas to come to him at this time.

Chu Shen straightened his face and said, "Senior Brother, this is what I'm thinking. We don't have any special skills ourselves to help with Alchemy or Artifact Refining, so besides doing some escort missions to earn spirit jade, we can only collaborate with other factions."

The escort missions he mentioned were common in the All Phenomena Ocean. For instance, after Ahn Zhe completed a large transaction of Dragon Breath Crystals with Lu Ye and needed to return to his home domain, carrying so much spirit jade, it wasn't safe to travel from the All Phenomena Ocean to the Insect Path location, so he had to recruit some people to escort him along the way. Once he passed through the Insect Path and returned to his domain, he would be basically safe.

But Ahn Zhe couldn't just find anyone for the escort. He had to find some reliable and trustworthy factions. Unparalleled Island now had the qualifications for such tasks, but hadn't paved the way yet, and Chu Shen wasn't planning to delve into it. First, because the profits weren't big; second, due to fierce competition; and third, because Unparalleled Island didn't hold any advantages in this regard and had limited manpower to begin with.

So he felt that collaborating with other factions was the most stable and expedient.

"How to collaborate?"

Chu Shen said, "By offering them a discount or even letting them open their shops on our Spirit Island for free, and once they are profitable, we take a certain percentage as a return. Although one or two shops might not generate much profit, as long as the number grows, the profits won't be small."

Lu Ye nodded, "You want to develop Unparalleled Island into a commercial Spirit Island."

"That's my thought, what does Senior Brother think?"

"The idea is fine, but there's a problem." Lu Ye looked at Chu Shen, "How will you convince those factions to open their shops on our Spirit Island, and even if you do, how can you ensure customer traffic?"

Without customer traffic, having more shops would be useless. Of course, if there are enough shops to turn Unparalleled Island into a commercialized Spirit Island, the customer flow wouldn't be too little. By then, even if Chu Shen doesn't actively reach out, some factions would be willing to come to him for talks.

But it's always difficult at the beginning. The first task for Unparalleled Island is to ensure a certain amount of customer flow so that various factions see the profit potential and are willing to open their shops here. The more shops there are, the greater the customer flow, creating a snowball effect.

Chu Shen said, "Therefore, we need a special product to attract many cultivators, ideally something that all Constellations find interesting, yet not too expensive!"

As soon as Chu Shen said this, Lu Ye knew what he was getting at.

He was clearly targeting the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc!

Although the Constellation Palace auction had ended some time ago, and many factions were studying the mystique of the array disc, with many making good progress, mass production of such items was still very difficult. Currently, besides All Phenomena Island, only a few top factions could sell array discs outside, with very limited quantities and high prices.

If Unparalleled Island could offer array discs at this time, they would certainly attract many cultivators, thus ensuring a steady customer flow.

Cultivators may come primarily for the array discs, but if they see other desirable commodities, they would likely purchase some as well. After all, in the vast All Phenomena Ocean, the distance between each Spirit Island is great. As long as the price difference isn't huge, no one would want to waste time traveling to other places to buy.

At the auction, the price for a single array disc, when divided, is indeed not too expensive. If three or five cultivators join forces, buying one wouldn't be difficult.

Lu Ye pondered in silence, considering that if they actually did this, Unparalleled Island wouldn't remain peaceful. However, if things really turned out well, it might be worth the bustle of people coming and going.

He planned that if there was a chance in the future, he would bring cultivators from the Nine Provinces to the All Phenomena Ocean. If there was a stable channel of income, the cultivators from the Nine Provinces wouldn't have to worry about running out of spirit jade when they arrived.

The Merfolk Territory was a financial avenue solely belonging to him. Although Lu Ye sent some elixir pills there last time and didn't ask the merfolk for spirit jade, he felt that compared to a transactional relationship, maintaining a good rapport was more important.

The merfolk valued him highly, especially since he had borrowed their strength last time to tackle a Moon Jade Mid-Stage issue. Such things weren't measurable by the abundance of spirit jade.

Chu Shen looked at him anxiously, unsure of what decision Lu Ye would ultimately make.

After a long while, Lu Ye spoke: "I can give you the item, but it is not suitable to release it in large quantities. Otherwise, it would attract envy. You should set a plan to ensure that only a limited number are sold within a specific timeframe."

"Don't worry, Senior Brother, I've considered this point thoroughly. There will be no small mistakes leading to large losses. I feel that selling three to five pieces a day would be ideal. It would guarantee a constant stream of customers while also avoiding the attention of large powerful clans!"

Lu Ye complimented, "The fact that you have thought of these things shows that you have seriously considered it. However, remember that cultivators should focus on their own cultivation. You have great talent, so don't let the matters of Unparalleled Island delay your own cultivation!"

"You're right, Senior Brother, I will remember that!"

With Lu Ye's consent, Chu Shen was evidently pleased and was in no hurry to leave. Instead, he discussed at length with Lu Ye about the future development and plans for Unparalleled Island.

It was clear that he was very invested in Unparalleled Island. It wasn't surprising since someone of his age could create a power in a place like the All Phenomena Ocean, and the prospects for the future seemed very promising, something to be proud of.

Half a day later, when Chu Shen was about to leave, Lu Ye suddenly said, "Send someone to All Phenomena Island, to the flea market, and seek out a woman selling elixir pills. See if we can recruit her!"

If possible, Unparalleled Island could have its own elixir pill store, as that woman's alchemy skill was quite good.

However, Lu Ye felt that the chances were slim. If someone with such alchemy skill wanted to join a power, she would have already done so and wouldn't have ended up selling at a flea market.

Nevertheless, Lu Ye wanted Chu Shen to give it a try.

Unfortunately, Lu Ye had no idea what her name was.

Chu Shen asked about the woman's appearance and characteristics, then took a bottle of elixir pills she previously sold from Lu Ye before leaving.

Lu Ye contemplated quietly for a moment. If Unparalleled Island could really develop as Chu Shen planned, it looked very promising, and he increasingly felt that keeping Chu Shen on Unparalleled Island was a wise choice. Otherwise, managing these matters himself would be a waste of time and energy.

He then turned his gaze to the Soul Race woman beside him and asked, "What should I call you?"

The Soul Race woman merely glanced at him indifferently, not intending to speak. If she hadn't spoken in his Divine Sea before, Lu Ye might have thought she was mute or couldn't understand him.

Lu Ye was undisturbed by her attitude. If he were restrained and lacked freedom, he wouldn't be any more pleasant.

However, it was impossible for Lu Ye to undo the restriction on her. The Soul Race was something he had spent thirty-two million spirit jade on in the auction to solve an issue for the fallen heroes of the Nine Provinces. Before resolving that, even if she bore him a grudge, Lu Ye had to keep her by his side.

The days ahead are long; they could eventually get along. Lu Ye believed that perseverance would yield results, and there would be a day when he could find a solution from the Soul Race woman.

Continuing to derive spirit runes for the Life Origin Method, Lu Ye also began to refine the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc.

The following days were calm; Lu Ye stayed in his cave while the Soul Race woman showed no intention of escaping. Besides, after last time's invasion into Lu Ye's Divine Sea, she had given up on attacking Lu Ye because the means of the Soul Race had no effect on him, rendering such efforts unnecessary.

During this time, the specter incessantly communicated with the doppelganger, clamoring to go to the Merfolk Territory to cultivate with Bai Lu. Frustrated, Lu Ye arranged a time and place with the doppelganger, and upon meeting, he sent her there, finally bringing peace.

Unparalleled Island entered another phase of large-scale construction. Chu Shen replanned the entire Spirit Island, dividing it into two parts: one for the local island cultivators' living and cultivation area,

which was not open to the public, and another part intended to be open to the public, with many shops planned.

Lu Ye didn't partake in the process, but from occasional intelligence reports he gathered, it seemed Chu Shen was progressing quite well and had likely negotiated with many forces. Now, it was just waiting for the early stages to be ready, for a prosperous opening.