

## Humanity 1571

### Chapter 1571 - Long Time No See?

The stellar space was silent. On a small desolate planet, a few streaks of light suddenly streaked out in succession. Their speed was astonishing, but they appeared to be in a panic.

Among these people, one had a vigorous blood Qi and a majestic figure, another exuded fierce Sword Qi with Sword Intent soaring to the sky. Then there was a breathtakingly beautiful woman with colorful sleeves winding around, and a short man who covered his backside with his hand as he fled, fresh blood seeping through his fingers.

All four possessed Constellation Early Stage cultivation. Judging by their formation, it was clearly a practical combination of a physique cultivator, sword cultivator, magic cultivator, and ghost cultivator, a common and equally effective combination for handling most emergencies in the stellar space.

However, judging by their current plight, it was evident they had encountered an unsolvable dilemma and were fleeing in desperation.

Just as the four barely sped out of the desolate planet, a large group of rabbit-shaped star beasts pursued them. Though resembling rabbits, these star beasts were significantly larger and more terrifying with blood-red eyes and razor-sharp buck teeth that glinted coldly.

The star beasts varied in strength, ranging from True Lake to Constellation. However, their sheer number was too overwhelming, further compounded by two or three beasts comparable to Constellation Late Stage among them, leaving the four no match.

As they fled, the ghost cultivator wailed incessantly, "Mong Jie, you old demon! How could you make me cover the rear, can't you see I'm a ghost cultivator? Don't you have any humanity?"

Having been slightly slower, he was bitten, leaving his buttocks torn with a chunk of flesh ripped out...

While they were talking, a Constellation Late Stage star beast in the beast horde abruptly accelerated, charging towards the ghost cultivator's back with its gaping maw ready to bite.

The ghost cultivator was petrified, a scream escaping his lips as he found himself unable to evade the deadly bite. Suddenly, a heaven-shocking sword aura cleaved down, aimed straight at the star beast's head.

The star beast, however, seemed unfazed, allowing the sword aura to strike its forehead, leaving just a shallow cut. This sight made the sword cultivator's expression tense, as this faction was renowned for its lethal power. Even though he had hastily struck, causing merely superficial damage showed the hardness of the beast's bones, primarily due to the power disparity.

Just as the star beast was about to bite the ghost cultivator, a colorful ribbon suddenly coiled like a snake, wrapping the star beast up like a dumpling.

However, the next moment, the ribbon shattered abruptly.

But that brief moment of delay allowed the physique cultivator to arrive, delivering a savage punch to the star beast's forehead. Silent yet filled with violent power, the hit forced the beast back a few steps, though it was as strong as a Late Stage.

"Go!" Mong Jie growled in a low voice, as the ghost cultivator sped ahead without slowing.

After deterring the star beast, Mong Jie quickly turned away, continuing his escape, with his fist dripping with fresh blood.

The four figures were being relentlessly pursued by a horde of star beasts, engaging in a retreating battle, hoping that distance would eventually allow them safety, as they had encountered numerous star beasts over the years and learned their patterns. Typically, star beasts lacked persistence and would abandon a chase after a while.

However, this time it was different. This beast horde refused to let up. Just as the four were lost on what to do, the keen-eyed ghost cultivator cried out, "There's someone up ahead!"

Because far ahead, a streak of light was moving swiftly, though given the distance, it was unclear who it was.

But someone appearing at such a time and place would undoubtedly be a cultivator from the home world.

A sword chime suddenly rang out, its pure, melodious sound carrying across thousands of miles in the stellar space. This was the sword cultivator issuing a warning, as shouting across such a distance in the stellar space would be futile. Only this method could alert the stranger to leave quickly.

To their bewilderment, upon hearing the sword chime, the person didn't flee but instead accelerated towards them.

The ghost cultivator, indignant, cried, "Which family's dumb brat has no sense! Run away, what are you doing coming here!"

Glancing over, the ghost cultivator's expression turned to surprise, as the person's speed was exceedingly fast, surpassing what any Constellation Early Stage cultivator should possess.

In just a dozen breaths, the streak of light drew near.

"Starship!" The four then saw clearly that what they had mistaken for cultivator's spirit light was actually the glow from an approaching starship.

At that moment, standing tall at the ship's bow was a young man, his attire neat, a long saber at his waist, smilingly watching them.

"Junior Brother Lu!" The magic cultivator girl's eyes lit up, utterly astonished to find Lu Ye here.

"Senior Brothers, Senior Sister, long time no see, how have you been?" Lu Ye greeted them with a beaming smile, expressing a genuine sense of having returned.

Until stepping into Jade Conch Galaxy's territory, Lu Ye didn't truly feel he was home. A star system was vast, and his place was small within it. Only upon seeing these familiar faces did it finally feel like homecoming.

From setting out from Qingli Dao World till now, nearly two months had passed, and this was even with Lu Ye driving the starship at full speed.

Years ago, he had used Soul Taming Divine Runes on a cultivator from Qingli Dao World, through whose mind he gleaned much information about Qingli Dao World, including the route from Qingli Dao World to Unparalleled Continent. So, upon departing Qingli Dao World, he proceeded as planned towards Unparalleled Continent.

By now, Unparalleled Continent was not far off. Lu Ye had been searching for signs of Nine Provinces cultivators, and upon spotting some commotion ahead, hastened his approach, leading him to meet familiar faces.

Mong Jie, Jian Guhong, Lady Moon, and Wuchang were the four top experts under the Senior Brother back then.

It's unknown how they provoked this beast pack. It seems they are being chased. The other three were fine, but Wuchang was clutching his butt, blood flowing, looking like he was injured.

"Do you guys need help?" Lu Ye asked with a smile.

"Quick, quick, quick!" Wuchang quickly boarded the starboat, with the other three following closely behind, "Let's get out of here!"

The starboat was not unfamiliar to them. Lu Ye left a Silver Fish when he left, which was now at the Nine Provinces Governor's Palace. The Artifact Refiners of the Nine Provinces had been studying it meticulously over the years to see if they could create a starboat to make traveling through stellar space easier for Constellation cultivators. Unfortunately, there had been little progress, not due to the skill of the Artifact Refiners, but because of the material issues. As a newly emerging large domain, it was not easy for the Nine Provinces to find materials within the domain suitable for Constellation use. Without external force, it would take a long time to accumulate and evolve.

So, up to this point, the entire Nine Provinces only had one starboat.

The four of them were somewhat slower than those star beasts, but they all knew the speed of the starboat. Once aboard, their hearts were at ease.

However, the starboat showed no intention of moving, and as the beast pack rapidly closed in, Wuchang turned pale and urged, "Yiye, hurry up and go!"

If he could control the starboat, he would have piloted it himself by now.

Lu Ye glanced at the approaching star beasts, his gaze falling on the strongest one at the forefront, and smiled slightly, "No need!"

With that, he jumped out of the starboat, raising his hand to grip the handle of the Boulder Mountain Saber.

The expression on Mong Jie and the others' faces turned to astonishment as they had no idea what Lu Ye intended to do. But from his stance, it seemed he intended to stop the beast pack alone?

The beast pack came very fast, especially the largest one in the lead, which nearly reached them as Lu Ye leapt out of the starboat. Its eyes were blood-red, its jaws open, and its tusks sharp as swords.

A clanging sound suddenly rang out, followed by a series of blade hums, merging continuously.

Mong Jie and the others' astonishment instantly turned to shock because the moment Lu Ye struck, they finally sensed Lu Ye's cultivation.

Constellation Late Stage!

Had it been just that, it would have been acceptable, but what truly left them endlessly stunned was the rolling torrent of blade light that surged forward, instantly as vast as the sea.

What met their eyes seemed like waves formed from blade light, each wave stronger than the last, and the sound they heard was the undulating rhythm of the waves.

The colossal star beast at the forefront, possessing Constellation Late Stage strength, had its eyes filled with blood color and ferocity that hadn't faded before it suddenly turned into countless fragments.

The wave-like blade light swept forward, overwhelming the beast pack charging at them. In that instance, countless life forces began to wither.

In just three breaths, the sea-like blade waterfall suddenly vanished, and Lu Ye stood motionless, slowly sheathing his saber, with not a single creature left alive in front of him. All the star beasts that had been pursuing them were wiped out in those three breaths, not a single one remaining.

The expressions of Mong Jie and the others froze, staring at the field of fragments and blood water as if in a dream.

Not to mention them, even Lih Shang, who had been with Lu Ye over the years, was astounded because she felt that Lu Ye's strength had been growing stronger and stronger over the years. Despite also being at the Constellation Late Stage, compared to Lu Ye, she was nothing.

Her knowledge was actually limited because the Soul Race rarely showed themselves among people, so she couldn't figure out if many out there were like this, or if Lu Ye was unique.

Lu Ye returned to the starboat, seeing Mong Jie and the others all staring fixedly at him, even Wuchang seemingly forgetting the pain of his injury.

"Why are you all looking at me like that?" Lu Ye said with a smile and a shake of his head.

Still, no one spoke.

After a long moment, Lady Moon finally hesitated, "You... are really Lu Yiye?"

"Absolutely!" Lu Ye puffed out his chest.

"I don't believe it!" Moon Jade shook her head, "You're not Lu Yiye. Tell me, what kind of monster are you really?"

Wuchang also nodded in agreement, "That's right, though Yiye was remarkable, he couldn't have become this powerful in just a few years. You must be an imposter."

Lu Ye smiled gently and said, "Then how should I prove myself to you?" He understood that Lady Moon and Wuchang weren't truly doubting him; the scene just now had been too unbelievable, and they needed some time to adjust.

Chapter 1572 - Returned

"Old, old, truly old!" on the starship, Wuchang muttered to himself.

Once upon a time, they were the powerful figures who dominated an era above the Nine Provinces. In their respective times, they were unrivaled across the Nine Provinces. It was under their leadership that their sects established the solid foundation of a 1st grade sect.

Later, when they were sent to the Blood Refinement World by the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury, although the situation was somewhat difficult, those Blood Race cultivators were no more than a large crowd, and they were not afraid.

It was not until the Nine Provinces ascended to a large domain and set foot in stellar space that they truly realized their own insignificance.

Everything had to start from scratch. The many dangers in stellar space were unimaginable to their former selves. Not to mention, the beast group just now had chased the four of them into a desperate situation, yet this group of beasts that left them helpless was resolved by Lu Ye in three breaths.

In terms of age, each of them was much older than Lu Ye, and in terms of cultivation, they were originally much stronger than Lu Ye. Back in the Blood Refinement World, who among them hadn't taught Lu Ye?

But after a few years of not seeing him, Lu Ye's strength had become something they could only look up to.

However, none of the four felt depressed; instead, they were somewhat excited and expectant. For they had witnessed the majesty of great power firsthand. Anyone capable of dominating an era, even someone as aloof as Wuchang, was undoubtedly of high spirit and pride.

If Lu Ye could achieve such feats, they believed they too could one day do the same. All they lacked was the accumulation of foundation.

The crystal cores from the star beasts previously slain had been collected by the group, and the starship was heading towards the lair of the beast group. According to Wuchang, there were many spirit jades on that desolate planet, and it was while collecting spirit jade that they encountered the beast group attack.

Since it was on their way, Lu Ye took them along.

Halfway through the journey, Lu Ye inquired about the situation in the Nine Provinces over the recent years. He learned that after he disappeared back then, the Nine Provinces withdrew all the cultivators earning battle merit by slaying the Corpse Race in the Unparalleled Continent, leaving only a portion of constellations here to monitor the area. They were part of that portion.

Originally, they were on guard against retaliation from the Qingli Dao World, but no outsiders had been seen for several years. Since three years ago, the Unparalleled Continent had reopened. Many cultivators from the Nine Provinces were sent to the Unparalleled Continent for tempering, but the necessary vigilance remained in place, along with a set of emergency retreat plans. In case of constellation-level warfare on the Unparalleled Continent, the cultivators there could immediately return to the Nine Provinces.

At present, in the stellar space surrounding the Unparalleled Continent, there were quite a few Nine Provinces constellations, roughly about five hundred. Some had been here since earlier, while others slowly made their way here, which also served as a type of dispersion. After all, if everyone stayed in the Nine Provinces, the resources for cultivation would become scarce. A portion coming to the Unparalleled Continent could seek more spirit jade.

Among those Lu Ye was close to, the sect master, his master, the senior brother and his wife, and Nian Yuexian were all on the Unparalleled Continent. They seemed to have formed a team and were moving



around together. However, because their exact location was not fixed, contacting them was not always possible and required going through several people for message transmission.

Lu Ye took out his audio talisman to check and found he couldn't reach the sect master and others, likely because they were out of range for the communication.

This aspect was not as good here on the Unparalleled Continent compared to near the Nine Provinces. Over there, with Number Nine, as long as cultivators weren't too far from the Nine Provinces, Number Nine could pinpoint their exact location, while here they could only rely on audio talismans.

Unable to contact them temporarily, Lu Ye wasn't anxious, merely asking Wuchang and others to help with reaching out.

Wuchang and the others then inquired about Lu Ye's experiences over the years, as he hadn't appeared since leading Tang Jun away, which was about six years ago now.

They too had searched for Lu Ye's tracks all around, but to no avail. Fortunately, news from the Nine Provinces confirmed that Lu Ye was alive, merely missing, which slightly eased everyone's minds.

Lu Ye briefly recounted the events of those years and spoke to the group about the grandeur of the All Phenomena Ocean, piquing Wuchang and others' interest.

Upon learning that Lu Ye planned to bring a group to the All Phenomena Ocean, everyone was excited and eagerly signed up.

Lu Ye asked, "If the news about the All Phenomena Ocean spreads, how many people do you think would be interested?"

Mong Jie thought for a moment and said, "I guess most people would be interested; I wouldn't guarantee more, but at least seventy percent would be."

"How many constellations are there in the Nine Provinces now?"

"About fifteen hundred people."

When Lu Ye left the Nine Provinces back then, the Nine Provinces constellations had just surpassed a thousand, but that was a special situation. The thick accumulation and thin eruption of the Nine Provinces, along with a significant buildup of Divine Sea Level 9 and the Nine Provinces itself ascending to a large domain, led to a mushroom-like burgeoning of constellations over those years.

It wasn't just the Nine Provinces; every newly promoted large domain went through such a boom period. However, over time, the number of constellations emerging each year would stabilize, with the specific amount depending on the domain's foundation strength.

One thousand five hundred people, even if it's just seventy percent, that's still a thousand people.

Although Lu Ye planned to take some of the Constellations to the All Phenomena Ocean, he didn't intend to take that many. The Nine Provinces still need to have Constellations stationed, and besides, the All Phenomena Ocean is not a peaceful place; you can't put all your eggs in one basket.

If some close acquaintances wish to go to the All Phenomena Ocean, Lu Ye would naturally take them, but with so many Constellations in the Nine Provinces, most of whom he's unfamiliar with, how to select those who want to go poses a problem.

It must be carefully considered.

Just as well, since Wuchang and a few other seniors were present, Lu Ye sought their opinions, asking them to reflect on it as well.

"This person is..." Lady Moon had noticed Lih Shang, who was with Yaya, for a while now and had some speculations but wasn't certain. She had hoped Lu Ye would take the initiative to introduce them, but since he showed no signs of doing so, she had to ask.

Seeing Lady Moon's expression, Lu Ye immediately realized she must have misunderstood and quickly explained, "This is Fellow Daoist Lih Shang. She has some matters I asked her to assist with, so I invited her to return with me."

Only then did Lady Moon come to an understanding. She looked at Lih Shang, then at Yaya, unsure if she believed it.

While they were speaking, the starboat had already arrived at the desolate planet, where indeed, many spirit jades were formed. It seems like the beast group had sensed the stellar space energy gathering here and settled down, only to be wiped out by Lu Ye.

After a round of gathering, they obtained over two thousand spirit jades, making Wuchang and the others beam with joy. They intended to divide the spoils into five parts, but Lu Ye declined, so the four of them split it evenly.

"On the side of Qingli Dao World, no one will come to cause trouble anymore, and you need not worry about Unparalleled either. Please help spread the word about what we discussed earlier, and inform the Fellow Daoists." On the starboat, Lu Ye said while taking out some items, "These are what I brought back from the All Phenomena Ocean. Please gather the Constellations from Unparalleled here and discuss the distribution."

Lu Ye originally planned to make a trip to the Unparalleled Continent, but since he happened to meet Wuchang and the others, there was no need to waste time. His journey was meant for the Nine Provinces, using the Unparalleled Continent merely as a transit point.

He had already discussed the matters of the All Phenomena Ocean with Wuchang and the others, asking them to help spread the news, saving him from explaining it to more people later. Once he returned to the Nine Provinces, he could act according to plan.

After bidding farewell to Wuchang and the others, Lu Ye piloted the starboat towards the direction of the Nine Provinces.

Years ago, Lu Ye had hurriedly made his way from the Nine Provinces to rescue Unparalleled, using the Silver Fish given by Su Yuqing, which took over a month. Now at the Constellation Late Stage, his speed was much faster, estimating it would take only half a month.

After he left, Wuchang and the others examined what exactly Lu Ye had left behind.

"Isn't this the As-Close-As-Siblings Array Disc?" Wuchang pulled an array disc out of his storage ring, looking puzzled.

Even though many forces in the All Phenomena Ocean can now refine this disc, its price remains high. However, this toy is something the Nine Provinces cultivators had long moved past.

The array discs Lu Ye made back then mostly catered to the needs of Divine Sea Realm cultivators during combat, with limited coverage range, which is why Nine Provinces cultivators rarely used them after attaining the Constellation level. Wuchang wondered why Lu Ye had left behind these discs.

"It's a bit different!" Lady Moon also picked up an array disc for a closer look, injecting spirit force into it and indeed feeling the difference.

"Yiye must have improved it. Since he left these, they should meet the needs of Constellation cultivators!" Jian Guhong mused thoughtfully.

Whether it meets the needs or not, trying it out would reveal the answer.

A moment later, their expressions were all elated.

Just as they had surmised, the discs Lu Ye left this time truly meet the combat needs of Constellation cultivators. The range covered by the disc's power is much larger than before. Not only for those at the Constellation Early Stage like them, but even those at the Constellation Late Stage might not find it an issue for maneuvering.

"If we had these discs earlier, we wouldn't have been in such a sorry state before." Wuchang rubbed his behind, which still hurt a bit.

But it's not too late now. The biggest issue in the Nine Provinces is that Constellation cultivators generally have low strength, all at the Constellation Early Stage. During exploration in stellar space, they often encounter star beasts at the Constellation Mid-Stage or even Late Stage, generally only able to run for their lives in such situations. But now, with the aid of these discs, they have a fighting chance against previously unbeatable star beasts. Consequently, cultivators can explore more areas, leading to greater gains.

"And there's this." Wuchang said, retrieving another item from the storage ring, which puzzled everyone as it looked like a starboat, but its design was more menacing, resembling a shark.

Wuchang infused it with spirit force, and the shark-like starboat enlarged rapidly as they all filed inside.

#### Chapter 1573 - A Good Show Awaits

A moment later, a battleship shaped like a Tiger Shark swiftly glided through the stellar space. From afar, it looked like a real Tiger Shark, its appearance menacing.

Inside the Tiger Shark battleship, Wuchang and others were visibly excited. Although they didn't know the difference between a battleship and a starboat, they understood its value.

When Lu Ye departed from All Phenomena Ocean, he had purchased a total of thirty Silver Fish starboats and ten Tiger Shark battleships, almost exhausting his resources at that time. What he now left for Wuchang and the others was just a small portion, a compact battleship suitable for three to five people, perfect for Wuchang and his group.

Through Wuchang and the others' widespread communication, even before Lu Ye returned to the Nine Provinces, the news of his safe return had already spread.

Even after being missing for a full six years, the name of Lu Yiye from the Righteous Blood Sect remained as strong as ever. For a cultivator, six years wasn't long. The memories of the Nine Provinces army repelling the Insect Race's Great Secret Realm, and their expedition to the Blood Refinement World, were still vivid. These two significant battles laid the foundation for the current large-scale domain of the Nine Provinces.

If anyone played a decisive role in these two major battles, it was none other than Lu Yiye from the Righteous Blood Sect.

Later, when Unparalleled was beset, it was also Lu Ye who used the red talisman to kill Moon Jade, single-handedly luring away a second Moon Jade, enabling the Nine Provinces Constellation to retreat intact.

Such achievements cannot and dare not be forgotten.

Along with the news of Lu Ye's return, information about All Phenomena Ocean spread, sparking the interest of numerous Nine Provinces Constellations. Upon learning Lu Ye planned to take a team to All Phenomena Ocean this time, everyone was eager and anticipatory.

This led to many Nine Provinces Constellations already heading toward the Nine Provinces, prepared to await Lu Ye's return.

Several days after bidding farewell to Wuchang and the others, Lu Ye suddenly felt a slight warmth on the back of his hand. Understanding the sign, he raised his hand and touched the back of it, and in the next moment, a lively and familiar voice echoed in his mind, "Lu Ye, are you back?"

In a place like this, only Number Nine could contact him. The battlefield marking could be used within the Nine Provinces domain but became useless outside of it.

"I'm back!" Lu Ye responded briefly, "How have you been?"

"I'm doing well; everything's fine. Earlier, I heard you went missing. Where have you been all these years?"

"It's a long story," Lu Ye sighed and casually recounted the incident of being hunted by Tang Jun.

"All Phenomena Ocean, huh..." Number Nine clearly knew about All Phenomena Ocean. After all, some remnants from the pre-Nine Provinces era survived. While current cultivators were unaware of the outside world, Number Nine could glean information from various remnants that Nine Provinces cultivators couldn't, like the doppelganger of the Reincarnation Tree, which Number Nine had always been aware of.

"What's with All Phenomena Ocean?" Lu Ye sensed something odd in Number Nine's tone.

"Nothing, it's a good place."

Number Nine likely hadn't communicated with anyone for a long time. In the entire Nine Provinces, aside from Lu Ye, only the Xianyuan City Lord knew of its existence. Typically, it only offered vague insights to Nine Provinces cultivators and didn't directly communicate with them. In the years when Lu Ye was absent, Number Nine was probably frustrated from lack of interaction. Now that Lu Ye had returned, it seized the opportunity to converse nonstop.

Lu Ye didn't tire of chatting, and as he journeyed, he casually conversed with Number Nine. Time flew by quickly.

Several days later, a domain appeared within sight, and on the starboat, Lu Ye gently exhaled, gazing toward the domain's direction, feeling a subtle sensation of near-home unease.

As if sensing his change in mood, Lih Shang looked in the direction he was gazing and asked, "Is that your homeland?"

Lu Ye nodded, "That's right!"

Lih Shang continued observing but soon noticed something amiss. Lu Ye's homeland was beside another vast domain. Though the two domains weren't directly adjacent, their closeness in the stellar space appeared unusual.

What shocked her more was that the distant domain resembled a woman's body from afar, except the woman seemed to have been decapitated and dismembered...

Lih Shang suddenly recalled a passage recorded in the Soul Race's ancient texts, feeling a chill. If what she saw matched that description, it was indeed frightening.

The starboat soared closer to the Nine Provinces.

Just before entering the Nine Provinces, two figures suddenly appeared ahead. They should be Nine Provinces Constellations preparing to return. Lu Ye's return had been circulating for half a month, leading many Nine Provinces Constellations to head back. These two must have not ventured far from the Nine Provinces, enabling them to return so quickly.

Sensing movement behind them, both paused and turned, seeing a starboat speedily approaching and then stopping in front of them.

Looking up, a familiar face that had been missing for six years came into view.

"Senior Brother Qian, Senior Sister Fan, it's been a while!" Lu Ye greeted with a respectful bow from the starboat.

Currently, there were many Nine Provinces Constellations, though Lu Ye wasn't familiar with most. The two before him, however, were relatively close to him.

Back then, Qian Wudang, the Justice Department Chief of Bingzhou, and Fan Xiangyi, the Chief of Heralds Office, were both somewhat acquainted with Lu Ye. Although he didn't directly work with Fan Xiangyi, his frequent interactions with Qian Wudang led to familiarity; Qian Wudang often visited the Heralds Office.

Judging by their demeanor, it seemed the two were now inseparable.

"Lu Yiye!" Fan Xiangyi's eyes brightened with surprise, "We were just talking about you with old Qian, and here you are back already?"

Qian Wudang also said, "Your speed... is quite fast. Where did you find another starboat?"

Clearly, it was everyone's first time advancing to Constellation, and Lu Ye hadn't advanced much earlier than him. Yet Lu Ye had already acquired a starboat for the Nine Provinces before, and now he got another one. Truly magnificent means.

Lu Ye was amused: "Of course I bought it." What else could he have done, rob one?

"Bought it from the All Phenomena Ocean? How many spirit jades for one?" Qian Wudang looked at the starboat with great interest, silently calculating that if it wasn't too expensive, he would buy one too and explore the stellar space with Fan Xiangyi. How carefree and happy that would be.



"Three hundred thousand spirit jades!"

Qian Wudang's gaze was like it had been stung, and he quickly withdrew it, asking uncertainly, "How much?"

He doubted if there was something wrong with his ears.

"Three hundred thousand!" Lu Ye looked at him calmly.

Qian Wudang looked back at him as if watching a spendthrift, and Fan Xiangyi's expression was also full of shock.

Three hundred thousand spirit jades, that's not thirty pieces! Thinking about how the two of them had searched for spirit jades in the stellar space for so many years, they probably only gathered a few thousand in total. How many years would they need to work hard to get three hundred thousand spirit jades?

"Haha..." Qian Wudang laughed stiffly and nodded, "Not bad, not bad, the younger generation is truly fearsome, the younger generation is truly fearsome!"

His heart was full of murmurs. Is the wealth of the legendary All Phenomena Ocean really so easily gained? He was already interested in that All Phenomena Ocean, and now he was even more eager to go and see it.

Then he changed the topic, "Yiye, when you worked at the Justice Department back then, I treated you well, didn't I?"

Lu Ye immediately became alert: "What does Senior Brother want?"

Could it be he had his eye on this starboat of mine? Although giving away a starboat wouldn't be a big deal, some things fear favoritism. If it spread that he was gifting it, where would he get so many starboats to give away?

Qian Wudang chuckled, "Don't be nervous, as your senior brother, I don't covet anything of yours. But I heard you're taking a group of people to the All Phenomena Ocean, and I'm quite interested in that place. Remember to bring me along when you leave next time!"

Lu Ye immediately breathed a sigh of relief: "That's no problem."

"Then it's settled." Qian Wudang was delighted and then asked, "What kind of place is that All Phenomena Ocean exactly?"

Before Lu Ye could speak, Fan Xiangyi gave him a sidelong look: "Junior Brother Lu has just returned and hasn't even entered the domain yet. When you have time, go visit him, why hold him here for this talk?"

Qian Wudang slapped his forehead: "I wasn't considerate enough. Yiye, you go back first, and I'll come to see you later."

Lu Ye cupped his fists: "Then Senior Brother and Sister, I'll take my leave!"

"Go ahead!" Qian Wudang waved his hand.

Watching Lu Ye's starboat leave, Qian Wudang said with a shake of his head, "Looks like there's a good show to watch."

"What?" Fan Xiangyi was puzzled.

Qian Wudang said, "Didn't you notice there's a girl and a child beside Yiye? In just a few years without seeing him, a child has even been born. Do you think if this news reaches that person, it wouldn't be quite the commotion?"

Fan Xiangyi immediately understood who he was referring to.

In recent years, many Constellations were born in the Nine Provinces, but if one were to ask which Constellation is the most famous, it would undoubtedly be the poison doctor of the Righteous Blood Sect.

Healing cultivators are already rare; among all the factions, the number of healing cultivators is the least, and even fewer can cultivate to Constellation.

Looking at the Nine Provinces, among fifteen hundred Constellations, there are only a few dozen healing cultivators.

The healing cultivator who can advance to Constellation is undoubtedly an expert in medical skills, almost on par with others. Yet, among them is one whose healing methods are unique—while others use medicine, she uses poison.

It is said that the healing process is unbearable to watch. Any cultivator who seeks treatment from her, even if they're a Constellation, endures inhumane torture, leaving them with lifetime shadows.

Yet strangely, the more painful it is during this process, the better the healing effects.

Other healing cultivators may need a month to heal a wound, but she requires no more than ten days to half a month.

The most sensational event was when Long Bai, the City Lord of Ten Thousand Demons City on Bingzhou Plateau, was bitten by an unknown star beast in stellar space and returned poisoned, disgraced.

At that time, Ten Thousand Demons City on Bingzhou Plateau gathered star healing cultivators from all over the Nine Provinces to treat Long Bai, but the results were unsatisfactory. In the end, it was this poison doctor who stepped in, and in just three days, Long Bai was saved.

Chapter 1574 - Listen to My Explanation

Nobody knows the specifics of the treatment process, and Long Bai remains tight-lipped about it. But ever since that time, whenever Long Bai hears that person's name, he can't help but turn pale and tremble.

Long Bai is renowned, and even such a tough man was reduced to this state, not to mention others.

Some people, not convinced by such stories, went to the Righteous Blood Sect for treatment after being injured, specifically seeking out this healer. But after going once, they never went back a second time.

In recent years, even if the Nine Provinces Constellations suffered serious injuries in stellar space, they tried not to go to the Righteous Blood Sect, unless absolutely necessary.

This further enhanced the notorious reputation of these poison doctors in the Righteous Blood Sect.

But putting everything aside, this person's medical skills are truly outstanding, recognized across the Nine Provinces. As long as there's still a breath left, she can usually save the person.

There are also rumors that this poison doctor met Lu Yiye during humble beginnings and formed a deep bond; the two have long been in love.

Lu Ye was missing for six years, and now that he's back, that person would surely be happy. But if he were to bring back a beautiful woman and a five or six-year-old child, no one knows how she would react.

"Who would have thought, this kid Yiye still has these tricks up his sleeve," Qian Wudang said, stroking his chin with interest.

"Envious?" Fan Xiangyi turned to look at him with a knowing smile.

"Impossible!" Qian Wudang's expression was serious. "I despise him. As a great man, I, Qian Wudang, look down on those who start indiscriminately and abandon the women they entice!"

Fan Xiangyi snorted softly and turned, flying towards the Nine Provinces, with Qian Wudang hurrying to catch up.

Bingzhou, Mount Ao, the scenery is as it was before, but inside the sect, it has become even more lively.

Nowadays, the foundation of the Nine Provinces is richer than in the past, making cultivation easier for lower-tier cultivators. In six years, the sect has seen a large number of Cloud River-True Lake cultivators emerge, and even in the Divine Sea Realm, Lu Ye has noticed several.

Many sect members and disciples roam back and forth among the spirit mountaintops. Some practice martial arts in the square, some sprint through the wild hills, some develop spirit fields, and plant spirit plants...

The Righteous Blood Sect now finally has the aura of a big sect.

Lu Ye put away the spirit ark and took Lih Shang and Yaya straight to Righteous Peak.

This place is always the most bustling, because the Heaven's Augury Hall is located on Righteous Peak, and all disciples entering and exiting the Spirit Stream battlefield and Cloud River battlefield must come here.

On a giant platform on Righteous Peak, a disciple in the Divine Sea Realm is instructing others in cultivation. In front of him, a group of young children sits cross-legged, looking solemn.

Lu Ye recognizes the Divine Sea who is guiding the disciples in cultivation as none other than Kong Niu, who used to follow Hua Ci.

This guy is slow-witted and seems not to have high aptitude, yet the less aptitude someone has, the more dedicated they can be to cultivation matters. In Lu Ye's generation, there were quite a few disciples in the Righteous Blood Sect, and many of them exceeded Kong Niu in terms of both aptitude and cultivation. However, now Kong Niu has progressed to the Divine Sea, exceeding the achievements of most of them from back then.

Compared to the bustling location of the Heaven's Augury Hall, another corner appears much quieter. This is also where Second Senior Sister Shui Yuan resides. Lu Ye used to come here often, and every time he came, there was good food to be had.

Currently, the sect master is not present in the sect, so all matters big and small in the Righteous Blood Sect are overseen by Shui Yuan. However, she is now in the Constellation Realm, so she generally does not concern herself much with sect affairs. The eyes of a Constellation cultivator are always on the stellar space. Therefore, unless the sect encounters some major issue that is difficult to solve, those newly advanced in the Divine Sea come to consult Shui Yuan, otherwise, they settle matters on their own.

Glancing over there, Lu Ye didn't disturb them. The gap in cultivation was too large, and if he intentionally hides his presence, even Kong Niu wouldn't notice him.

He walked straight in another direction, heading towards that familiar grass hut before Lu Ye finally revealed his presence.

In an instant, a disorderly noise erupted from inside the hut, followed by two strands of Mental Consciousness belonging to the Constellation Realm spreading out together.

Recognizing the familiar Mental Consciousness, Lu Ye smiled faintly.

The door of the hut opened, and two figures emerged one after the other, both looking disheveled, as if they had been doing something inside.

But smelling the scent of pills wafting from the hut, Lu Ye roughly understood. These two had probably been doing alchemy just now, maybe at a critical point, yet got interrupted by his arrival. Needless to say, that batch of pills was probably ruined.

"Second Senior Sister!" Lu Ye bowed to the person on the left.

Shui Yuan wiped the ash off her face, which only made it blacker, turning it into a big dirty spot, yet her smile was as blooming as a flower: "As long as you're back, as long as you're back!"

"I ran into some trouble and have been wandering outside all this time, making Second Senior Sister worry!" Feeling the relief from Shui Yuan, Lu Ye's heart felt warm.

The All Phenomena Ocean is nice, but it's here where the ones he cares for and who care for him reside.

Lu Ye then turned to look at Hua Ci. Not having seen each other for six years, this woman's charm had become even more mature, as if you could squeeze water from her with just a touch, her smile still so soft and gentle.

Like Second Senior Sister, her face was black and white patched, but she just quietly smiled at Lu Ye.

Locking eyes, Lu Ye saw his own reflection in the woman's clear gaze. Even without saying anything, he felt like all the hardships of his journey were nothing.

In front of the grass hut, blossoms fell and drifted; the man and woman who hadn't seen each other for years locked eyes with tender affection.

The scene seemed frozen in that moment.

"Papa, I'm hungry!" A sudden voice rang out, with Yaya in Lih Shang's arms breaking the beautiful spell.

Lu Ye's eye twitched, suddenly realizing something was amiss. He looked again at the woman in front of him, and the tenderness in her eyes had turned to shock and bewilderment. She looked at Lu Ye, then at Lih Shang behind him, and then at Yaya in Lih Shang's arms...

The smile was still gentle, but Lu Ye could clearly feel that there was an underlying shift in tone.

Big trouble!

Yaya, having not received a response from Lu Ye, turned to Lih Shang and said, "Mom, I'm hungry!"

Disaster was imminent!

Even Shui Yuan's expression turned peculiar.

Hua Ci's gentle voice rang out, "Whose little girl is this? She's absolutely adorable."

Yaya puffed up her chest with pride and declared, "I'm Daddy and Mommy's little girl!"

It's over!

Lu Ye hurriedly spoke up, "It's not what you think..."

"Heh," Hua Ci giggled softly, covered her mouth, and then turned around. With a push of her spirit force, she floated away and disappeared in an instant!

"Don't go, listen to my explanation!" Lu Ye shouted, but Hua Ci didn't acknowledge him at all, acting as if she hadn't heard a thing.

Lih Shang didn't know exactly what had happened, but she was a sharp and intelligent woman, so she had some guesses. She couldn't help but give Lu Ye a shove. "Go after her!"

Lu Ye looked at his Second Senior Sister, Shui Yuan, who was giving him a reproachful look. "You, you!"

Messing around outside was one thing, but having a child and bringing the mess and the child home was something no woman, no matter how generous, could tolerate. Shui Yuan truly didn't know what Lu Ye was thinking.

"Second Senior Sister, please look after them," Lu Ye said, then instructed Lih Shang, "Please help explain things."

Lih Shang nodded. "Don't worry."

Only then did Lu Ye chase after Hua Ci's departure direction into the sky.



Soon after, at the Emerald Bamboo Peak, Lu Ye landed.

This spirit mountaintop was chosen for him by Yiyi and was gifted to him by the sect master after he had reached the True Lake. Strictly speaking, he was still the Peak Master of Emerald Bamboo Peak, eligible to take disciples here. However, Lu Ye was constantly on the move, without the mindset for this, so as of now, only a few close to him lived on Emerald Bamboo Peak.

At present, with Yiyi and Giant Armor not around, only Hua Ci was residing here.

The structures hadn't changed much. His little bamboo house was still there, and next to it was Hua Ci's residence, also a bamboo house. Hua Ci was inside at that moment.

Lu Ye didn't enter, instead looking at the figure outside the bamboo house that resembled a door deity.

He had seen this creature before; initially, it appeared to be a toad but without the bumpy texture. It had a bronze hue, seemingly something Hua Ci had captured from the Cloud River battlefield.

When Lu Ye had first seen this creature, it wasn't very large. Now it had grown to the size of a house, squatting there with its two protruding, large eyes fixed on Lu Ye.

The most astonishing thing to Lu Ye was that the creature was exuding the aura of a Constellation.

Back when he first encountered it, Lu Ye sensed it was no ordinary kind. Looking at it now, he was even more convinced it had some extraordinary bloodline, otherwise, there was no reason for it to have grown so rapidly.

After all, the former Nine Provinces was a top-tier domain, home to many ferocious beasts. Though the Nine Provinces had declined, these ferocious beasts left behind some bloodlines, so this was not surprising.

"Ribbit!" The toad made a strange noise. As it sounded, its mouth opened wide, and a scarlet lash shot straight toward Lu Ye at lightning speed.

Lu Ye was secretly amazed, for the creature's strength was quite impressive. Had it been an ordinary Constellation Early Stage cultivator facing this strike, it would have been hard to dodge.

However, his prowess was not something an average Constellation could match. So instead of dodging, he reached out and caught the scarlet object, feeling its warmth. It was the creature's tongue.

With a pull, the toad's already bulging eyes protruded even more. Its house-sized body was dragged straight toward Lu Ye by a formidable force.

Lu Ye sidestepped its collision, spun it around a few times holding its tongue, and then let go, watching the giant toad soar into the sky. Satisfied, he dusted off his hands.

Before he could proceed further, the ground suddenly trembled, and a gleam of cold light shot up from beneath his feet like a sharp sword.

Lu Ye leaped into the air, but the cold gleam pursued relentlessly. It was only then that Lu Ye saw his attacker.

A scorpion the size of a pot lid, with a blood-red pattern on its back resembling a human face—a beautiful woman's face—was smiling alluringly at Lu Ye, captivating and bewitching.

The scorpion's tail was raised high, with a cold gleam at the tip.

This scorpion only had the aura of the Divine Sea, yet Lu Ye hadn't detected it at all before its attack.

What on earth had Hua Ci raised here?

Chapter 1575 - Gifted Beyond Compare

A few moments later, a scorpion the size of a pot lid was trapped in a formation, dizzy and unable to escape.

Lu Ye strode toward the bamboo building, climbed the stairs, and reached the second floor. As he pushed open the bamboo door, a foul wind hit his face, accompanied by a hissing sound.

With a casual grab, he caught a green snake in his hand. Upon examining it closely, he found the snake resembled a fresh bamboo shoot. Even with its head caught, it retained its fierce demeanor, flicking its tongue.

Lu Ye glared at it, and simply exerted a bit of his own pressure, causing the snake to immediately wilt, its previously straight body now limp.

He wrapped it around his waist, tying it in a knot. Looking up, he saw Hua Ci emerging from the inner room, carrying a bunch of bags, appearing ready for a long journey.

Lu Ye was surprised: "Oh, Madam, where are you heading?"

It was the first time Hua Ci heard him address her this way, but as they were accustomed to playful banter, she wasn't surprised. She spat, "Pah, who's your madam? Don't call me that!" She wiped her eyes, her gaze full of sorrow, and her expression seemed on the verge of tears: "Where else can I go? I'm making space for your happy family. You three can live here, blissfully as father and daughter."

Lu Ye originally chased after her to explain, but seeing Hua Ci like this, he knew no explanation was needed. He chuckled: "If you're not staying here, where else will you stay?"

Hua Ci replied sadly: "In this vast world, I'll find a place eventually. Worst comes to worst, I'll find a small nook in the starry sky and survive somehow."

"Really leaving?" Lu Ye acted surprised.

Hua Ci said: "The new laughs while the old becomes a nuisance, why stay?"

Lu Ye nodded: "Makes sense, be careful on the road. Let me know when you find a place, I'll visit you."

"Take care!" Hua Ci gave him a deep look, carrying her bags as she walked out.

As they passed each other, Hua Ci suddenly gasped, her body lifted off the ground, cradled in his arms. Instinctively, she dropped her bags and wrapped her arms around Lu Ye's neck: "What are you doing?"

Lu Ye looked down at her, replying: "Guess!"

Heading straight to the inner room, Hua Ci tried to struggle but was subdued with a playful smack from Lu Ye.

Her hair was disheveled, ornaments askew, and her face bore traces of spent passion.

After a while, Hua Ci lay lazily on Lu Ye's chest, her hands folded under her chin, eyes widened in surprise: "You said that little girl is a Sun Blaze?"

Lu Ye held his head with both hands, nodding gravely: "Yaya is indeed a Sun Blaze, but she suffered from the Soul-Devouring Aphid, affecting her psyche, so she now has a childlike nature."

Hua Ci expressed doubt: "Are you lying to me?" This sounded too fantastical.

Lu Ye pinched her nose: "If I were lying, I wouldn't make up something so ridiculous."

Hua Ci found reason in this and continued: "So she sees you as her dad and that woman as her mom?"

"That woman is Fellow Daoist Lih Shang, a member of the Soul Race and somewhat resembles Yiyi. I brought her back to solve the issue in Xianyuan City."

Very few people across the Nine Provinces knew about Xianyuan City's predicament; Lu Ye had mentioned it to Hua Ci before, so she had some understanding.

Hearing this, Hua Ci nodded: "The ancestors of Xianyuan City have suffered for years; resolving it is good."

"So now you understand, don't always trust your eyes; listen to explanations." Lu Ye playfully smacked her, enjoying the feel.

Hua Ci smiled gently, suddenly biting into Lu Ye's shoulder with vigor, making him wince in pain.

"What's the matter?" Lu Ye felt his shoulder being bitten, as Hua Ci applied great force.

"You're getting back at me, right?" Her eyes glowed dangerously, glancing sideways at Lu Ye.

"How so?" Lu Ye was puzzled.

"Back on the Unparalleled Continent, I held someone else's child... you suddenly bring a child back now."

"Nothing like that happened!" Lu Ye denied vehemently. Even if it did, he couldn't admit it, otherwise Hua Ci would surely retaliate.

"Let's pretend it didn't." Hua Ci pouted, suddenly biting his other shoulder even harder.

"What now?" Lu Ye endured the pain, this time the bite was more forceful than before, and he was sure his shoulder was bleeding.

Hua Ci lifted her head, her lips stained red, eyes radiating danger, breathed lightly: "Earlier, someone was more enthusiastic than ever before, care to explain?"

Lu Ye internally panicked but maintained a calm demeanor: "Innate talent, self-taught!"

Hua Ci gazed at him, her deep eyes seemingly probing into his soul, then lowered her head, letting her untamed hair veil her alluring face, making it impossible to discern her expression. Her voice echoed as if from the Deepest Hell Purgatory: "Then I need to properly acquaint myself."

Lu Ye couldn't help but shiver.

Righteous Blood Sect, at the central hub of the big array on Mount Ao, several disciples guarding this place were staring at the sky, seemingly idle.

Suddenly, a stream of light swept in from the outside, flying straight into Mount Ao and heading towards the position of Righteous Peak.

A disciple chewed on a blade of grass, speaking idly, "How many waves have it been today?"

"It's the fourth wave. Altogether, we've had nearly a hundred Constellations come by," another disciple replied.

"What's going on?" someone asked, puzzled.

The cultivation of the disciples guarding here was not high, only at the True Lake level, so they didn't know the specifics. They only knew that since a few days ago, Constellation cultivators had been visiting continuously. Initially, just a few came, and not frequently, but as time passed, the number of visitors increased, and the frequency grew too, as if all the Nine Provinces' Constellations were rushing back from the stellar space to gather here.

It was foreseeable that the situation would only become more frequent as time went on.

A True Lake who knew a bit of the inside story whispered, "It should be related to that person on Emerald Bamboo Peak."

"Emerald Bamboo Peak?" Upon hearing this, an image of a gentle woman instantly formed in their minds. Many people had seen this woman and knew she was one of the earliest batches of disciples of Righteous Blood Sect, and among the few Constellations in the sect.

The name of the Poison Doctor was even more widely known.

The speaker quickly clarified their thoughts, "Not Master Uncle Poison Doctor, but the Peak Master of Emerald Bamboo Peak!"

Several True Lakes were instantly shocked, "That legend?"

Everyone knew the Peak Master of Emerald Bamboo Peak was a legendary figure. He hadn't been a disciple of the Righteous Blood Sect for long, and he didn't seem to be very old, yet his influence was present in all the significant events within the Nine Provinces over the years.

He was also among the first batch of cultivators to ascend to the Constellation stage. He mysteriously disappeared six years ago, without a trace until now.

"Has he returned?" someone asked in astonishment.

"I've heard from Master Uncle Kong Niu that it seems indeed so, and apparently there's something big happening, which is why all these Nine Provinces Constellations are coming to visit."

"What big event?"

"Who knows, but just wait. Anything related to this person isn't an ordinary affair. There's a chance the Nine Provinces could change dramatically again."

On Righteous Peak, Shui Yuan looked worriedly in the direction of Emerald Bamboo Peak. Since that day Hua Ci and Lu Ye left one after the other, there has been no trace of them. Shui Yuan could easily imagine what the two were up to using only her intuition.

Long-separated and reunited, sparks flying—what else could they be doing?

But it's been several days—why haven't they come out yet?

The Constellations who came to visit for news couldn't find Lu Ye, so Shui Yuan had to entertain them herself. Over the past few days, she had hosted over a hundred people, leaving her no time to study elixir pill formulas.

Though Lu Ye hadn't discussed anything with her since his return, through Lih Shang and the word-of-mouth of the Nine Provinces Constellations, she learned of Lu Ye's intentions this time.

It was because he planned to take a group to All Phenomena Ocean that the Nine Provinces cultivators, who heard the news, rushed back from the stellar space to inquire about Lu Ye's plans.

But everyone knew Lu Ye wouldn't be able to take everyone on this trip, only a select few. Yet, too many Constellations were interested in the All Phenomena Ocean, making it challenging to decide who would go and who would stay—a problem needing careful coordination.

The Constellations who came to visit were all familiar with Lu Ye, hoping to put in a good word and gain an advantage.

Seeing no other option, Shui Yuan informed everyone that in one month, there would be a gathering at the Nine Provinces Governor's Palace, where Lu Ye would appear and explain everything.

Only then did the Righteous Blood Sect regain some peace.

A month was a bit rushed. After all, some Nine Provinces Constellations were deep in stellar space, and even if they got the news, they couldn't return in time within a month.

The only starboat of the Nine Provinces had set sail, aiming to bring back as many scattered Constellations as possible.

Everything was being carried out intensively, except for the one who started it all, who remained absent.

Three days, five days, ten days, half a month...



Lih Shang stayed at Righteous Peak with Yaya. Yaya, with a child's nature, was hopping and jumping around daily, catching birds and fish. Others might not know her Sun Blaze details, but Lih Shang was well aware, so he stayed by her side daily, fearing someone might provoke her.

With the one-month mark approaching, Lu Ye still hadn't shown his face, so Shui Yuan had to personally go to Emerald Bamboo Peak to discuss matters with him.

Just as she arrived at Emerald Bamboo Peak, she saw a familiar figure, supporting himself on the bamboo house's stairs, slowly descending one step at a time.

Shui Yuan took a closer look and was startled, quickly rushing forward, "Little Junior Brother, what happened to you?"

At that moment, Lu Ye had dark circles under his eyes, sunken eyes, and a pale complexion, looking severely depleted of vital energy. Despite his Constellation Late Stage foundation, his legs were wobbling as he walked.

Hearing the voice, Lu Ye looked over, his eyes gradually focusing, and he managed a strained smile, "Second Senior Sister..."

Chapter 1576 - I Really Was Fooled

"What happened?" Shui Yuan asked, amused and confused. Originally, she thought that after hiding here for a month, the two would be carefree and happy. But seeing her junior brother's demeanor, it seemed things weren't as she imagined?

"Misfortune never comes alone; it's hard to explain in a few words!" Lu Ye waved his hand in distress. He almost thought he would die here if not for the month-long deadline approaching, with many people urging him to hurry to the Nine Provinces Governor's Palace. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to leave.

"Lu Ye..." came Hua Ci's voice from the bamboo house, gentle as water, "Time to drink your medicine!"

Upon hearing this, Lu Ye's face changed. He immediately gathered his spirit force and awkwardly shot up into the sky, disappearing in an instant.

Inside the bamboo house, Hua Ci walked out with a large sea bowl. The bowl was filled to the brim with a lush green liquid, the steam rising from it was even green...

Shui Yuan looked up, astounded to find that, contrary to Lu Ye's emaciated state, Hua Ci appeared full of life and vigor. Her skin was rosy and glowing, so youthful it seemed to almost drip with freshness.

Though only a month had passed, Hua Ci seemed to have become a few years younger, and Shui Yuan even felt that Hua Ci's cultivation had grown more profound.

"Why did he run away," Hua Ci said, looking in the direction Lu Ye had fled, a faint smile on her lips. She looked down at the bowl of medicinal solution and drank it all.

This was a carefully concocted tonic of great nourishment and couldn't be wasted lightly.

Shui Yuan glanced at her, understanding dawning. Blushing, she said, "Even if young, one must have restraint."

Hua Ci nodded obediently, "Second Senior Sister, you're right. I'll talk to him next time."

In the sky, Lu Ye headed straight for the Nine Provinces Governor's Palace, wobbling for a while before finally steadying himself, feeling lucky to narrowly escape a tiger's den.

A month had given him a lot of insights, finally understanding why the old saying goes, 'There are only tired oxen, never worn-out fields.'

The female physique is a strange thing. Often, it seems soft like mud, pleading desperately, but in no time, it recovers.

Lu Ye felt deceived by Hua Ci, as she had shown signs of exhaustion countless times during the month, acting as if she was on the brink of death, but in the end, it was him who was near death!

This misled him into thinking that in such a unique battle, he just needed to try harder to win. However, the battle had always been under Hua Ci's control!

Indeed, he had been fooled!

The Nine Provinces Governor's Palace was located in Tianzhou, with Jian Guhong as its first governor. Lu Ye had also served as a governor for a while, making him the second. He was familiar with the place.

With his current speed, he reached the Governor's Palace in no time and sensed a large gathering of Constellations in the distance.

Someone with sharp eyes suddenly shouted, "Lu Yiye is here!"

In the next moment, numerous Constellations turned to look in this direction, indeed spotting Lu Ye.

Lu Ye landed in front of the Governor's Palace, raising his eyes to see many familiar and unfamiliar faces. Straining himself, he cupped his fists and saluted, "Apologies for keeping you waiting."

Pang Zhen laughed heartily, "You came at just the right time; we arrived early." Looking closely at Lu Ye, he asked puzzledly, "Yiye, are you hurt? You don't look too well."

Lu Ye coughed lightly, "A minor injury, nothing serious." He looked around and said, "There are quite a few people. Let's talk outside."

Gathered here were about seven hundred or so Nine Provinces Constellations, showing their high efficiency. Initially, they were scattered across the stellar space, but hearing the news, they rushed back. Many hadn't arrived yet, or the number would've been even larger.

There was certainly no way for all to enter the Governor's Palace, so it was best to talk outside.

No one had objections; everyone found a spot, either standing or sitting, eyes fixed in Lu Ye's direction.

Lu Ye took out a meditation mat and sat down, getting straight to the point. "I believe all of you have heard some information from different channels in recent days, which is why you're gathered here. I don't know what exactly everyone has heard, but if there's anything you wonder about or want to ask, feel free, and I'll answer as best as I can."

As soon as he finished speaking, the scene buzzed with a flurry of chatter, people speaking over one another, causing an instant uproar.

Lu Ye listened attentively. Despite the chaos, with focus, he could easily discern the voices.

Having a good grasp now, he smiled slightly once the commotion died down and said, "It seems everyone is quite interested in the All Phenomena Ocean. In that case, let me tell you. I inadvertently drifted there while being pursued by Moon Jade from the Qingli Dao World..."

Lu Ye had already spoken to many about the Vast Ocean; bringing it up again now was second nature. Soon, the grandeur of the Vast Ocean unfolded before everyone like a giant painting.

Lu Ye didn't speak only of the beauty of the Vast Ocean, but also described its chaos and danger.

He then mentioned obtaining a star map from the Reincarnation Tree and the many hardships faced on the journey back.

Those Constellations, who had not seen much of the world, listened with rapt attention...

After Lu Ye finished speaking, everyone had a general understanding of the Vast Ocean and the journey.

Lu Ye then spoke, "Although I intend to take some people to the Vast Ocean, whether to do so depends on the collective willingness of all Fellow Daoists present. Frankly, while our Nine Provinces is now just newly promoted to a large domain, ten thousand years ago, it was a renowned top-tier domain. But it declined due to unspecified attacks from all sides. So, aligning ourselves with mainstream entities like

the Vast Ocean is beneficial to us, but it also has drawbacks. Should the existence of the Nine Provinces be exposed, it might attract trouble."

Ten thousand years is a long time, but not so long for the cultivation world, especially since hatred isn't easily erased.

The former strong figures of Nine Provinces like Ma Bin are still active. Who knows if there is a second or third Ma Bin? Ma Bin doesn't want Lu Ye involved with him and even refrains from seeking information about the Nine Provinces from the Reincarnation Tree for fear someone might investigate.

Once the name Nine Provinces is exposed, it will indeed invite significant trouble; aligning with mainstream entities like the Vast Ocean carries risks.

Everyone naturally understood this principle. Longbai said, "There is no such thing as gaining benefits without needing to pay a price in this world. While the Nine Provinces have just been promoted, we are all at the early cultivation stage. Relying solely on searching for spirit jade in the stellar space, who knows how long it will take to ascend to the Moon Jade Sun Blaze stage? The former Nine Provinces' glory was not born out of hiding. Such a rare opportunity should not be missed!"

Immediately, a large group of people nodded in agreement.

Those who didn't nod weren't unwilling to go to the Vast Ocean but were more concerned about weighing the pros and cons.

Pang Zhen also agreed, "Opportunities are rare and indeed shouldn't be missed. Some risks must be taken, and hiding won't help in some matters. You can't cower because of fear; only by becoming strong can you have the power to protect yourself when danger comes!"

Lu Ye said, "It seems that everyone agrees to go to the Vast Ocean."

Pang Zhen laughed, "If they didn't agree, why would they come here?"

Lu Ye nodded, "Alright then, let's come up with a plan. The Nine Provinces currently have fifteen hundred people among the Constellations, and I plan to take three hundred people to explore the way. Once we've established a foothold in the Vast Ocean and familiarized ourselves with the routes, those who still wish to go can do so on their own!"

Pang Zhen said, "Three hundred people... isn't that a bit too few?" Though knowing Lu Ye couldn't take everyone, three hundred out of fifteen hundred seemed only a fraction.

Lu Ye said, "We don't need too many in the first batch, and this action isn't solely about the Nine Provinces. The Jade Conch Star System, Qingli Dao World, and Jade Conch World all need to send people as well. I've already visited Qingli Dao World, but haven't contacted Jade Conch World yet. However, given the Nine Provinces' current foundation, standing firm in the Vast Ocean requires cooperation with the other two worlds because they have Moon Jade, and we don't."

Pang Zhen nodded, understanding.

After a moment of silence, Longbai cleared his throat and asked, "Fifteen hundred people selecting three hundred, how should we choose? Yiye, do you have any ideas?"

With about seven hundred people gathered here, many others not present also awaited eagerly. Choosing three hundred from them wouldn't be easy.

Lu Ye quickly said, "I'm only responsible for leading the way. You all can discuss the selection process among yourselves, just make sure it's harmonious! This opportunity isn't the only one!"

He had never intended to get involved in the selection process. He only needed to take his close friends to the Vast Ocean if they were willing. He wouldn't force anyone against their wishes.

As he spoke, Lu Ye took out a storage ring and handed it to Pang Zhen: "Senior Brother Pang, please take care of the contents and distribute them as you see fit later."

After saying this, Lu Ye stood up and soared into the sky.

What was left to Pang Zhen was, of course, the starships and battleships he had brought back from the Vast Ocean. He had left part of them at Unparalleled, and except for one kept as a spare, the rest were given to Pang Zhen.

Seeing Lu Ye leave, Pang Zhen and Longbai exchanged a look, both smiling wryly, realizing Lu Ye didn't want to offend anyone and had passed the hot potato to them.

Despite feeling helpless, they could only steel themselves to discuss with everyone.

Once Lu Ye left the Governor's Hall, he found a desolate place to call out, "Number Nine."

Beside him, a mysterious energy gathered, and soon Number Nine appeared, still in the form of a rabbit. After glancing at Lu Ye, he was suddenly furious, "That woman is too much, how could she torment you like this? Look at how you've been tormented, Lu Ye. Do you want me to teach her a lesson?"

Lu Ye couldn't help but laugh, "No need for teaching. Kids shouldn't speak carelessly, and I've already given her a good lesson."

Chapter 1577 - The Future of the Nine Provinces Depends on You

Number Nine quieted down upon hearing this.

"Come, let me show you something good." As Lu Ye spoke, he took out two fist-sized objects from his storage ring.

Number Nine's attention was immediately captured, and it bounced over to Lu Ye.

"What is this?" Number Nine asked suspiciously, looking somewhat uncertain about this thing, but instinctively sensing that it could be significantly useful for the Nine Provinces.

"Crystal Cores of the World Devouring Beast."

"These are the Crystal Cores of the World Devouring Beast?" Number Nine exclaimed joyfully. It surely knew about the World Devouring Beast but had never seen one before.

"Absolutely genuine." Lu Ye casually tossed the two Crystal Cores over. Number Nine caught them with its paws, tilting its head to examine them closely, growing happier with each look.

Then Lu Ye watched it open its mouth wide and swallowed one Crystal Core at a time, devouring both into its belly.

The rabbit in front of him was merely a manifestation of Number Nine, not a physical entity, just a special energy gathering, so naturally, it couldn't eat things. It only appeared as though Number Nine swallowed the two Crystal Cores, but in fact, it transferred them somewhere else to let the Nine Provinces slowly digest them, enhancing its own foundation.

"Are there any more?" Number Nine looked at Lu Ye with some lingering desire, appearing delighted.

Thinking back to when Lu Ye wasn't strong enough, Number Nine had often secretly looked after him, openly and covertly providing Lu Ye with various benefits. Now that Lu Ye had grown stronger, he knew to bring back good things from the outside.

A sudden feeling of pride grew, like watching one's own child making a mark in the world and now knowing to respect elders.

"No more." Lu Ye spread his hands. World Devouring Beasts are not easy to come across, and he had only encountered them by chance in the Qingfeng World.

While speaking, Lu Ye suddenly remembered something: "By the way, do you recognize this thing?"

Saying so, he took out another item from his storage ring. It was pink, at first glance resembling a pink serpent's body, with quite a fleshy appearance, but it was neither any kind of flesh nor did it have any hint of bloodiness.



This was the item Lu Ye had previously brought back from the nebula tomb mound of the Thousand Mounds Cemetery. The azure bird had swallowed the pink worm-like thing from within the tomb mound, leaving behind pieces several meters long, which Lu Ye had taken after cutting down.

It contained an overwhelming amount of energy, but ordinary refining methods were useless; Lu Ye could only utilize the Talent Tree to devour the energy within. Yet, that would consume the fuel of the Talent Tree excessively.

Bearing such a consumption of the Talent Tree's fuel, he might as well enter the All Phenomena Ocean to cultivate, achieving practically the same effect.

So, for him, this thing was somewhat of a burden.

Lih Shang didn't recognize what exactly it was either, so Lu Ye thought of letting Number Nine have a look to see if it could discern anything.

He threw the piece that looked like pink flesh in front of Number Nine, which circled around the object, examining it as it walked.

Lu Ye gradually realized something was off because Number Nine's eyes sparkled more and more, its demeanor showing an eager appetite, even more obvious than when it saw the World Devouring Beast's Crystal Cores.

And then Number Nine opened its mouth again...

The rabbit's mouth wasn't large, logically it couldn't swallow something so big, but the rabbit form of Number Nine was not a real rabbit, so when it opened its mouth, its entire head suddenly swelled to many times its size, and even its rabbit mouth turned into a gaping maw.

In one gulp, a large chunk of pink flesh disappeared from sight.

Lu Ye was stunned: "Just what exactly is this?"

Number Nine looked at him eagerly: "I don't know!"

"Why are you eating something you don't know!" Lu Ye chuckled helplessly.

Number Nine replied: "Although I don't know what it is, the energy contained within is fundamentally the world's essence, the same type of energy as in the World Devouring Beast's Crystal Cores, and it can aid in the growth of a domain."

Lu Ye was taken aback, then silently retrieved all the pink flesh-like objects from the storage ring.

Number Nine was dumbfounded, then began to cheer joyously, swallowing each piece that Lu Ye brought out.

In just a moment, everything was devoured clean.

"No more!" Lu Ye looked at it.

Number Nine asked: "Where did you get this stuff from? The energy inside seems even more potent than the World Devouring Beast's Crystal Cores."

Thinking for a bit, Lu Ye said: "On the way back, I passed by a stellar marvel called the Thousand Mounds Cemetery. There are numerous nebula tomb mounds there, and this came from one of those mounds."

Number Nine's rabbit eyes shone brighter: "There are many mounds?"

Lu Ye nodded solemnly: "Countless!" He could see clearly what Number Nine was thinking and put an end to its fantasy: "However, those mounds are inexplicably dangerous. It's fine if you don't get close, but once you do, you'll face peculiar attacks. I was able to get these things thanks entirely to an azure bird." With that, he recounted his previous experience.

Number Nine was startled: "That azure bird is probably an ancient species."

"Ancient species?" It was the first time Lu Ye had heard this term.

Number Nine explained: "In ancient times, various ferocious birds and exotic beasts ran rampant across the stellar space, each with enormous unmatched size. However, with the changes and evolutions in the stellar space and the hunts by great cultivators, the number of these ancient species has been dwindling, and now they're very rare."

This made Lu Ye think of Planet Tengu. From afar, Planet Tengu looked like a giant dog. If Planet Tengu is indeed the corpse of a giant dog, then this dog was likely an ancient species in its life, a ferocious beast from the same era as the azure bird.

"Lu Ye, strengthen yourself quickly; the future of the Nine Provinces rests on you," Number Nine said suddenly in a solemn tone.

Such a feeling of knowing there's a treasure mountain but being unable to possess it was quite distressing. If the mounds within the Thousand Mounds Cemetery contained those pink worm-like things, the Nine Provinces would only need to devour a few to gain tremendous growth. By then, advancing to top-tier domains would not be out of reach.

But coveting those nebula tombs in the Thousand Mounds Cemetery was no simple matter. Not to mention that the azure bird treats the pink worms as food, the mounds themselves are filled with great dangers; without sufficient strength, there's no way to break them open and obtain the pink worms inside.

Yet cultivation is not something that can be rushed. Currently, Lu Ye is only at the Constellation Late Stage, with Moon Jade and Sun Blaze stages still ahead. How many more years it will take to reach Sun Blaze is unknown.

Fortunately, the Nine Provinces is now absorbing the foundation of the Blood Refinement World and Unparalleled, gradually growing steadily and not urgently requiring other external forces for the time being.

After lingering for quite some time with Number Nine, Lu Ye reluctantly returned to the Righteous Blood Sect.

On Righteous Peak, Hua Ci and Shui Yuan were huddled together studying something. Seeing Lu Ye return, Hua Ci looked up and smiled at him softly.

Lu Ye composed himself and avoided her gaze, approaching with ease: "What are you two studying?"

Shui Yuan replied, "After the Nine Provinces advanced to a large domain, some exotic flowers and rare herbs have been conceived within the domain that we have never seen before, which hold some medicinal value. My junior sister and I are trying to see if we can research some usable elixir pill formulas based on these exotic flowers and rare herbs."

Lu Ye said, "Stop your research. When we go to the All Phenomena Ocean later, I'll bring someone to teach you a few things."

Learning from someone is more convenient than researching from scratch. Lu Ye had the perfect candidate in mind to recommend to them. That person's alchemy skill was exceptional, suitable to guide Shui Yuan and Hua Ci.

Hearing this, Shui Yuan and Hua Ci exchanged a glance, suddenly feeling that their previously enthusiastic research had lost much of its significance...

Hua Ci's expression turned slightly resentful: "Why didn't you say so earlier!"

Seeing something was amiss, Lu Ye quickly changed the subject: "By the way, I brought back some gifts!"

Saying this, he took out two green crystal pieces, one for each of them.

Shui Yuan and Hua Ci examined them curiously, unable to discern much at first.

Lu Ye explained: "These are Crystal Cores from the Wood Spirit Race, very useful for healing cultivators. You'll understand after refining them." These two wood crystals were gifts from the Wood Spirit Clan Leader after Lu Ye helped them and the Spore Race resolve a crisis at the request of the Reincarnation Tree.

He had intended to bring them back for Hua Ci and Shui Yuan, but it had slipped his mind until recently.

Lu Ye then took out many small cloth bags from his storage ring and handed them all to Shui Yuan:  
"These are various spirit seeds I bought from the All Phenomena Ocean. I'm not too familiar with them, so I just bought some randomly. Some might not be suitable for planting in the Nine Provinces, Second Senior Sister, you'll need to find someone to cultivate them."

This is one of the benefits of aligning with the mainstream of the stellar space. Newly promoted large domains, even if they give birth to some exotic flowers and rare herbs, have limited quantity and quality. However, if aligned with the stellar mainstream, you can purchase spirit seeds like Lu Ye did and cultivate them yourself, buying whatever you want, which is incredibly convenient.

Bidding farewell to the two, Lu Ye found Lih Shang and Yaya in a spot on Mount Ao.

Ever since arriving in the Nine Provinces, Yaya had been playing wildly, and the weary Lih Shang followed her like a nanny up the mountains and down the rivers.

When Lu Ye found them, Yaya was roasting bird eggs she had dug up from who knows where over a fire in the wilds, with a large flock of birds circling noisily overhead, seemingly protesting Yaya's actions.

Lih Shang looked at Lu Ye with a resigned expression: "Finally, you show up."

Even when she was captured and imprisoned, it wasn't as exhausting as taking care of a child. The key was Yaya's spontaneous nature, acting on impulse without any warning.

"I was away for a while, had some matters to handle, thank you, Fellow Daoist," Lu Ye said with a serious look.

"Is that so..." Lih Shang's expression was playful, clearly knowing something.

Yaya handed over a roasted bird egg: "Daddy, eat!"

Lu Ye had noticed before that Yaya seemed to particularly enjoy sharing her cherished things, so it was best to go along with her wishes at times like this; otherwise, she would be unhappy.

Lu Ye accepted the roasted egg without hesitation, peeled it, and ate it, then praised Yaya a few times, making her very happy.

Turning to Lih Shang, he said: "Fellow Daoist, please come with me to a place!"

Lih Shang's expression turned solemn, with a vague awareness of something.

#### Chapter 1578 - Return to Xianyuan City

The reason Fellow Daoist Lih Shang tirelessly followed Lu Ye back to the Nine Provinces was because of the promise they made to each other. Lu Ye gave her freedom, and she was to help Lu Ye's group of friends find a way out.

Long ago, she accidentally exposed her whereabouts and was captured by a Sun Blaze cultivator, eventually being sent to the All Phenomena Merchants Guild for auction. Lu Ye spent a considerable amount of money to snatch her from another bidder.

For Lih Shang, Lu Ye even missed out on the Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal.

In hindsight, missing out was a good thing because he got the barghest, making the Phoenix Sky Blue Crystal unnecessary.

When Lih Shang first met Lu Ye, she was on high alert, because no one understands the Soul Race's value to other race's cultivators better than the Soul Race themselves. So, for quite a long time, Lih Shang didn't even bother talking to Lu Ye. No matter how sincerely and genuinely Lu Ye behaved, she felt it was just a ploy to gain her trust, so she'd willingly serve him.

It wasn't until Lu Ye received the Reincarnation Tree's call that Lih Shang realized Lu Ye's terrifying potential. It was from this moment that Lih Shang gradually changed her perception of Lu Ye.

Being chosen by the Reincarnation Tree and given the Imprinter, his character was beyond question, and it was unlikely that he was a villain.

Slowly, through interaction, and slowly getting familiar, they've now reached a level of mutual understanding.

Back in this domain for a month, Lu Ye was nowhere to be seen. Until today, when he suddenly appeared, Lih Shang naturally understood his intentions.

As Lu Ye's words fell, a ripple suddenly appeared in the void before them, followed by a portal manifesting out of thin air.

Lih Shang was amazed because she hadn't perceived any sign of Lu Ye channeling spirit force or taking any action. Despite her sharp eyesight, she couldn't discern how the portal opened.

How could she know that the Nine Provinces had Heaven's Augury, and Lu Ye only needed to notify Number Nine in advance? Under Number Nine's operations, the portal could open whenever desired.

"Fellow Daoist, please!" Lu Ye gestured with his hand.

Though puzzled, Lih Shang did not probe further and stepped into the portal.

Lu Ye lifted Yaya from beside him and followed inside.

The familiar sight of Xianyuan City immediately came into view, with Lu Ye and Lih Shang positioned beside the soul pool at the City Lord's Residence. At this moment, a middle-aged man stood quietly nearby, gazing in their direction.

Lu Ye turned and bowed: "Senior!"

This middle-aged man was none other than Zhang Zishan, the City Lord of Xianyuan City.

Zhang Zishan smiled in return: "Yiye has come." Then, he glanced at the child Lu Ye held, displaying a puzzled expression, not knowing why Lu Ye brought a child here.

Zhang Zishan only had peak Divine Sea cultivation, and with his eyesight, he naturally couldn't see the peculiarity of Yaya.

But when he looked at Lih Shang, he couldn't help but show a look of surprise, because he sensed a peculiar aura from her, which gave him an inexplicable sense of warmth.

This feeling was clearly very abnormal.

"Who is this..."

"This is Fellow Daoist Lih Shang!" Lu Ye introduced, "Senior, Number Nine should have informed you, right?"

Zhang Zishan said, "Number Nine only mentioned you'd bring a friend over but didn't specify the matter."

Lu Ye understood and explained: "Senior, Fellow Daoist Lih Shang is not from the human race; she is from the Soul Race..."

As he spoke, the soul pool beside him suddenly surged, and several Xianyuan Guards jumped out from it, cursing as they rushed off.

Lu Ye watched, dumbfounded.

Zhang Zishan explained: "The secret realm of Xianyuan City has opened, and now there are some younglings training here."

Lu Ye unfolded his Mental Consciousness and indeed sensed many Spirit Stream cultivators scattered throughout the city. Many cultivators were competing fiercely with the Xianyuan Guards, fighting



desperately. There was also a battlefield where over a hundred Spirit Stream cultivators were divided into two groups, attacking each other.

This reminded him of his first time entering Xianyuan City, which seemed not much different from the scene before him.

Although the Nine Provinces had upgraded to a large domain, within the Spirit Stream battlefield and Cloud River battlefield, the conflict between the Haotian Alliance and Ten Thousand Demons Ridge continued. Although such conflicts inevitably resulted in many casualties, the Constellations of the Nine Provinces have walked this path step by step, and everyone knows that flowers nurtured in a greenhouse will never grow large. Therefore, internal conflicts and opposition are needed in the Nine Provinces. If the world truly becomes peaceful, cultivators will also lose the opportunity to sharpen themselves.

Only cultivators who grow up amidst blood and rain have the ability to face greater dangers in the outside world; otherwise, even with successful cultivation, leaving the Nine Provinces means having a weak spine.

The true strength of the Xianyuan Guard is naturally not as simple as the Spirit Stream level; they possess power up to the Cloud River-True Lake and even Peak Divine Sea. However, when the secret realm of Xianyuan City is opened, the Xianyuan Guard will only use the strength of the Spirit Stream Realm, hence they inevitably get killed by cultivators. But within Xianyuan City, the Xianyuan Guard possesses Undying Bodies, and even if killed, they will resurrect from the soul pool. Those few Xianyuan Guard who were cursing earlier might be the ones who were killed and resurrected.

Transforming Xianyuan City into a secret realm for Nine Provinces cultivators to train is also a way for the Xianyuan Guard to maintain their sanity. Because most of the time, they are sleeping in the soul pool. If the time spent asleep is too long, even with nourishment from the soul pool, their mental faculties might still falter. Allowing cultivators into this place for training adds vitality to Xianyuan City, enabling the Xianyuan Guard to keep their sanity for longer periods.

Previously, there were occasional invasions by the Insect Race in Xianyuan City. But since the Nine Provinces cultivators occupied the Insect Race's Great Secret Realm, the Insect Race has disappeared. Now, allowing Nine Provinces cultivators to come in for training is the only method left.

Such training, Lu Ye naturally disdains. When he risked his life honing his skills here in the past, it now seems like child's play.

Beside the soul pool, Zhang Zishan looked at Lih Shang: "May I ask, Fellow Daoist, what kind of race is the Soul Race?"

Lih Shang smiled slightly and didn't explain; instead, she slightly activated her own power. Visibly, Lih Shang's figure became ethereal.

Zhang Zishan's expression turned extremely shocked because, with the activation of Lih Shang's power, he realized that the nature of this woman's existence was quite similar to his own and that of the Xianyuan Guard.

Lih Shang then began to speak: "Strictly speaking, you also count as the Soul Race; however, you aren't naturally born soul race individuals. Instead, you were derived due to losing physical bodies, fundamentally different from true soul race individuals but with similar nature."

Lu Ye's expression was slightly invigorated; he always suspected this but found it difficult to confirm until Lih Shang now verified it, setting his mind at ease.

He said, "Senior, I brought Fellow Daoist Lih Shang over because I want her to find a way out for you. Now that the crisis in the Nine Provinces has been resolved and the Insect Race's Great Secret Realm has been cleared out, the senior members of Xianyuan City can't remain trapped within this soul pool forever."

Zhang Zishan nodded: "You're considerate."

Xianyuan City exists primarily as a governor over a breach in the Insect Race's Great Secret Realm. Now that the crisis there has been resolved, Xianyuan City's significance is greatly diminished. The Xianyuan Guard shouldn't have to suppress their strength, playing games with Spirit Stream Realm young ones, barely eking out a life.

The sacrifice and righteousness of the seniors should not be forgotten, nor should their contributions to the Nine Provinces be ignored. But how to save them becomes a worrying issue for Lu Ye until he saw Lih Shang at the auction.

Lu Ye then turned and solemnly saluted Lih Shang: "Fellow Daoist, please guide Xianyuan City to a way out."

Lih Shang pondered briefly and looked at Zhang Zishan: "May I enter the soul pool for a look?"

Zhang Zishan gestured with his hand: "Please!"

Lih Shang swiftly entered the soul pool.

Yaya also ran to the edge of the soul pool and curiously peeked in, then leapt forward intending to jump down, but was caught mid-air by Lu Ye who held her by the collar, causing her to flail her arms and legs.

After waiting for a while, Lih Shang emerged from the soul pool and said: "The reason you've survived for so many years seems to be, firstly relying on nourishment from the Soul Cleansing Water within the soul pool, and secondly by leaving your Soul Seal within the soul pool, thus, as long as the soul pool isn't dry, you remain immortal!"

Zhang Zishan nodded: "Fellow Daoist has a keen insight; it was indeed like this. When our domain faced catastrophe, we tried many methods before finding this path."

Lih Shang showed a faint look of sorrow: "Immortality sounds good, but it's not necessarily truly beneficial, and all of it relies on the soul pool. Should this soul pool dry up someday, all of you would dissipate entirely. Furthermore, due to the limitations of the soul pool, your cultivation can't grow, always remaining at the moment of your demise."

Lu Ye asked after listening: "Is there a way to resolve it?"

Lih Shang, having deduced so much and spoken so far, should have an idea.

Lih Shang replied: "There is only one solution: let me take them to the ancestral land of the Soul Race. Only there can they be transformed into true soul race, freeing them from their current shackles."

The location of the ancestral land of the Soul Race remains a mystery across the entire stellar space, impossible for ordinary individuals to find or enter. The Xianyuan City cultivators can barely be considered part of the Soul Race, with a prior agreement with Lu Ye. Therefore, Lih Shang thought of such a solution. Otherwise, she could never bring outsiders to the Soul Race's ancestral land.

Lu Ye bowed deeply: "Please, Fellow Daoist, extend your help, whatever the cost, the entire domain is willing to accept!"

Lih Shang shook her head: "You saved me from suffering; I truly have no way to repay you. Besides, they can be considered part of my race, so it's right for me to save them. Bringing them to the ancestral land is no problem, but there is a difficult issue at hand."

Zhang Zishan's expression tensed: "Please, Fellow Daoist, speak."

Lih Shang said: "You've left your Soul Seals in this soul pool, so unless the entire soul pool is moved, there's just no way to bring you along."

Lu Ye asked: "Can the Soul Seals be detached?"

Lih Shang replied: "Detachment is not difficult, but once detached, they are like rootless wood, sourceless water, unable to survive long in this world."

Chapter 1579 - Where Did You Go

The Xianyuan Guards of Xianyuan City have persisted for many years, rooted in the soul pool, which contains Soul Cleansing Water from all over the Nine Provinces. This is the foundation of their immortality and existence, yet it now becomes a constraint.

Once their Soul Seal stored in the soul pool is stripped away, without the pool as support, it will simply not last long.

Lu Ye listened with some difficulty, unsure of how to resolve the current situation. As he pondered, he noticed Lih Shang showing a thoughtful, hesitant expression and quickly asked, "Fellow Daoist, do you have any solution?"

Lih Shang paused and then said, "Actually, it's not difficult to solve this matter. Your Soul Seal is anchored in the soul pool, and since the pool can't come along, you just need to find a suitable object for support as a carrier."

"Please guide us, Fellow Daoist!" Zhang Zishan said solemnly.

Lih Shang said, "The simplest solution is to let the soul bodies of this city hide in the Divine Sea of others; thus, they should be unscathed for a short period."

Lu Ye's eyes lit up upon hearing this; suddenly recalling how Lih Shang would sometimes hide in his own Divine Sea without showing face, he realized that if Lih Shang could do this, the Xianyuan Guards should be able to as well.

Lih Shang shifted the conversation, "But doing so places a burden on the carrier, as they differ from true Soul Race members, requiring them to draw some Divine Soul Power from the carrier to sustain themselves."

Lu Ye responded, "That's fine; there are many Constellations in this domain. Although Xianyuan Guards are numerous, dispersedly, each person's pressure should be minimal. Plus, I have psyche refinement herbs; distributing some can replenish their Divine Soul Power anytime."

Lih Shang smiled bitterly, "If it were only that, there would be no issue. Yet outsiders are forbidden from entering the Soul Race ancestral land, even if this method is employed; you can't take them to the ancestral land."

Lu Ye was taken aback, having forgotten this matter.

If truly following the recent suggestion, it would surely require considerable effort from Constellations followed by Lih Shang leading them to the Soul Race ancestral land to settle the Xianyuan Guards. But without access to the ancestral land, how could they be settled?

"No possibility for compromise?" Lu Ye asked, "I can assure you that Constellations from this domain, even if entering your ancestral land, will hold their tongues, not revealing a word."

Lih Shang shook his head, "Those are the rules of the Soul Race; I'm merely a Constellation, not capable of making such decisions. If I rashly bring outsiders to my race, the best outcome is a lifetime of imprisonment for you, and possibly even execution by our powerful members!"

Lu Ye frowned deeply, facing a difficult situation.

Zhang Zishan suddenly spoke, "As for the carrier... Fellow Daoist, could this item be useful?"

Saying so, he abruptly reached into the soul pool, causing mists to billow within, and extracted an item, clutching it.

Lu Ye stared intensely, recognizing it as something familiar, as if seen before; upon closer inspection, he suddenly realized, "Isn't that the one..."

"It's the Million Souls Banner!" Lih Shang also recognized the item, immediately showing expressions of hatred and disgust, questioning, "How did you come by such a vile thing?"

Sensing her emotions, Lu Ye hurriedly explained, "Fellow Daoist, don't misunderstand; this was not crafted by cultivators of our domain but seized from others."

The origin of this item was that Sun Ying from Qingli Dao World.

Back then, several individuals from Qingli Dao World discovered the Unparalleled Continent, intruding and committing massacres. Many Nine Provinces cultivators refining themselves there suffered misfortune, killed by Sun Ying and others, their psyches extracted and refined into the banner.

Later, Lu Ye led a swift rescue from the Nine Provinces, slaying Sun Ying and seizing the Million Souls Banner, which precipitated two Moon Jade from Qingli Dao World seeking vengeance, resulting in Lu Ye using a red talisman to kill Qin Yuandai and being pursued by Tang Jun.

At that moment, after slaying Sun Ying and confiscating the Million Souls Banner, Lu Ye didn't know how to handle it; destroying it would vanquish the psyches of Nine Provinces cultivators, yet keeping it

seemed improper. Just as Nian Yuexian needed to return to the Nine Provinces for reinforcements, Lu Ye had her bring the Million Souls Banner back.

Now it seems Nian Yuexian must have followed his instructions, leaving it in the Nine Provinces, then Number Nine transported it to Xianyuan City, placing it in the soul pool.

If Zhang Zishan hadn't brought this item forth, Lu Ye would almost have forgotten about it.

Seeing the Million Souls Banner, Lu Ye's eyes lit up unexpectedly; the Soul Seal of the Xianyuan Guards needing a carrier, making Nine Provinces cultivators as carriers was unsuitable, yet the Million Souls Banner seems a great option.

If so, then what was once unintended can now be a lifeline.

After Lu Ye's explanation, Lih Shang's expression finally relaxed.

The Million Souls Banner is notorious in stellar space like the Insect Race and Blood Race; any cultivator wishing to maintain reputation wouldn't casually refine such a thing, as its growth requires excessive slaughters, often demanding blood sacrifice of a domain's lives for the Million Souls Banner to achieve Final Achievement.

Lih Shang, as a member of the Soul Race, is particularly repulsed by this item because historically, many cultivators refining the Million Souls Banner favored capturing Soul Race members to use as Primary Souls, thus adding twofold power to the Million Souls Banner.

"If it's this object, then it's worth a try." Lih Shang took the Million Souls Banner in her hand, examining it carefully before looking at Zhang Zishan. "May I ask, City Lord, how many soul bodies are there in this city?"

Zhang Zishan immediately provided a number: "Thirteen thousand two hundred and twenty-nine."

Lu Ye was taken aback. Although he knew the number of Xianyuan Guards in Xianyuan City was large, he hadn't expected there to be so many! Regardless of their cultivation level, these ancestors willingly

sacrificed themselves out of righteousness. It's hard to imagine what kind of environment it must have been, that made the entire city so united in purpose.

Lih Shang said: "The number is quite large. This Million Souls Banner isn't of great quality; the refiner's technique is flawed, probably unable to contain so many soul bodies. I'll keep this banner first, and after re-refining, it might be usable!"

Lu Ye was surprised: "You can refine the Million Souls Banner?"

Lih Shang said: "There are some records within my tribe. Our Soul Race had conflicts with many refiners of the Million Souls Banner in the past, which even led to a great war. In that battle, our tribe suffered substantial losses but also seized many Million Souls Banners. So re-refining them shouldn't be a problem, though I need assistance from cultivators of your domain."

After all, she isn't a genuine Artifact Refiner. Even if the technique for refining the Million Souls Banner is unique, she still needs someone to assist her.

"No problem, tell me what kind of people you need, and I'll have them cooperate with you." Lu Ye promptly agreed. The Nine Provinces Constellation now consisted of fifteen hundred people, with talents from all fields. They might not be main forces, but they can certainly lend a hand.

Zhang Zishan bowed deeply to Lih Shang: "If the issue with the Xianyuan Guards can be resolved, then Fellow Daoist will be the benefactor of all Xianyuan Guards. In the future, should you have any requests, Xianyuan Guards will not dare to refuse."

Lih Shang smiled and shook her head: "Fellow Daoist, there's no need for such courtesy. As I've said, strictly speaking, you could be considered my tribe's kin. The Soul Race is not numerous to begin with, so bringing you to the ancestral land would be a boon for my Soul Race."

The issues in Xianyuan City seemed to be resolved, Lu Ye was in a great mood. It wasn't in vain that he spent so much to bid for Lih Shang. Now there's finally a good outcome for Xianyuan City and Xianyuan Guard, an explanation at last.



As for the secret realm's disappearance once the Xianyuan Guards depart, it's a minor issue. This was originally a secret realm meant for Spirit Stream Realm cultivators' training, losing one isn't much of a hindrance.

After leaving Xianyuan City with Lih Shang and Yaya, Lu Ye discussed in detail with Lih Shang for a while, then began sending messages far and wide, gathering suitable personnel to assist Lih Shang in re-refining the Million Souls Banner.

According to Lih Shang's estimation, this would take about a month.

After sending Lih Shang to the most renowned sect in the Nine Provinces for Artifact Refining, ensuring her proper placement, Lu Ye returned to the Righteous Blood Sect with Yaya. As soon as he entered Mount Ao, he felt a thrill in his heart, and with a joyful expression, gazed forward.

Feeling a sensation, Yaya, perched on Lu Ye's neck, shielded her eyes with her hand and gazed forward.

In front, a white light flashed rapidly from Righteous Peak, swift and fierce, pouncing near in a flash, revealing its form.

It was a massive, snow-white tiger, as lustrous as jade, with a clear "King" symbol on its forehead, exuding fierce majesty, its two tiger eyes appearing orange-yellow, deep like ancient pools.

Amber!

After years apart, Amber had become visibly larger and sturdier, its body brimming with blood Qi like a tide, flowing with demonic power, and the aura emanating from it had evidently reached the level of Constellation!

A small figure rode on Amber's back, leaping into the air almost instantly when Amber stopped, diving towards Lu Ye.

Lu Ye laughed heartily, opening his arms wide and catching the figure in his embrace, spinning several circles on the spot, nearly tossing Yaya off, prompting her to hurriedly grab Lu Ye's hair tightly.

The small figure hugged Lu Ye tightly, as if trying to merge into his body.

Suddenly, the little figure began to cry loudly, heartbroken.

Lu Ye felt distressed, soothing her quickly: "Don't cry, don't cry, such a pretty little girl doesn't look good when she cries."

Yiyi ignored him, continuing to cry her heart out for quite some time before chokingly asking: "Lu... Lu Ye, where... where did you go?"

Although since Lu Ye's ascension to Constellation, they met rarely, even when apart, Yiyi could at least know about Lu Ye's whereabouts. But ever since six years ago, there had been no news of Lu Ye, leaving her feeling anxious and uneasy, even though through Amber's life and death she could confirm Lu Ye was alive, but without seeing Lu Ye, her heart felt empty.

The only thing she could do was cultivate, cultivate, and cultivate again, hoping that one day she'd become strong enough to personally enter the stellar space to seek Lu Ye's traces.

So from the moment she ascended to Constellation, she hadn't returned to Nine Provinces, always roving the stellar space with Amber and a few other companions, scouring for spirit jades to cultivate.

Until recently, news suddenly came that Lu Ye had returned to Nine Provinces, prompting them to rush back without stopping.

Chapter 1580 - We Are the Real Family

Normally, Yiyi's team couldn't return to the Nine Provinces within such a short time because they were quite far into their journey.

Fortunately, on the way back, they contacted the starboat of the Nine Provinces, which saved a lot of time.

Yiyi cried out loud, and no matter how Lu Ye tried to console her, it was futile. He could only hold her tightly, letting her vent.

Amber came over, nudging Lu Ye's body with her big head, making a low purring sound; this was her way of acting spoiled.

Yaya's eyes lit up, clapped, and cheered: "Big Tiger!" Saying this, she quickly climbed down from Lu Ye's neck and then rode on Amber's back.

Amber wiggled a few times but did not bother her. Amber was very intelligent; if anyone else had ridden up like that, she would definitely not be happy. But both Amber and Yiyi had learned from Sister Hua Ci the information about Yaya, knowing this child looked like a kid but was actually a Sun Blaze powerhouse.

Who would dare offend her?

Yaya lay comfortably on Amber's back with a contented expression.

Yiyi cried for quite a while before she gradually stopped, but she was still choking on sobs.

Lu Ye grabbed her arms and placed her in front of him: "Let me take a look!"

Yiyi pouted and glared at him, then suddenly burst into a giggle, a delicate charm even with tears in her eyes.

"You're still so small." Lu Ye smiled warmly at her.

Yiyi immediately said angrily: "What's wrong with being small? I am small!" She knew Lu Ye had two hobbies, big and round, which were fields she could never reach in her lifetime.

"Small has its advantages." Lu Ye patted her little head, "In the future, wherever I go, I'll take you with me. I can even put you in my pocket!"

Yiyi's eyes sparkled: "You said it! If you dare break your word, I will... I will..."

She thought for a long time but couldn't come up with anything to threaten Lu Ye, then suddenly had an epiphany: "I'll let Sister Hua Ci deal with you!"

Lu Ye's face immediately turned bitter, speaking earnestly: "Yiyi, you see, I'm Lu Yiye, you're Lu Yiyi, we're family, Hua Ci is an outsider. If we have any problems, we should solve them internally, not trouble outsiders, which makes the Lu family seem unreasonable."

Yiyi listened even happier, her eyes bending into crescents: "You're making sense!"

While they were talking, several figures came flying from the direction of Righteous Peak.

Lu Ye put an arm around Yiyi's shoulder, smiling as he looked over there.

Earlier, upon returning, he hadn't seen Yiyi and the others, so he had asked Shui Yuan. From Second Senior Sister, he learned that several members of the former Bingzhou Justice Department's Team D-9 had successively advanced to Constellation in the past two years and ventured into stellar space, not yet returning.

However, Shui Yuan reassured him not to worry because, although Yiyi and the others hadn't returned, they regularly sent back some news, and many Nine Provinces constellations roaming in stellar space had seen traces of them.

Seeing them now, indeed, the members of Team D-9 had all advanced to Constellation.

Li Baxian, Feng Yuechan, Xiao Xinghe, Giant Armor, Lin Yinxiu, all were present, with Lu Ye even seeing Lann Qiyue.

In over six years, the cultivation of these individuals had grown immensely. Their aptitude was inherently excellent; Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan went without saying, the aptitude of both was top-

notch across the Nine Provinces, especially Li Baxian, otherwise he couldn't have dominated the rankings in the Spirit Stream battlefield for so many years.

Giant Armor was exceptionally gifted, Lin Yinxiu was Qian Wudang's daughter, and rightly so, the daughter of a tiger couldn't be a dog.

Lann Qiyue was even more special; being human, after refining Sacred Blood, she actually turned into Blood Race, such talent was not something just anyone could possess.

The one with the weakest aptitude among them was probably Third Senior Brother Xiao Xinghe, but only relatively speaking.

Moreover, after the Nine Provinces were promoted to a large domain, the cultivation environment was better than before, making the accumulation of foundation simpler, creating the scene of them advancing to Constellation together.

It's not just them; the new generation has emerged with many constellations and constellation seeds. In the next decade, the Nine Provinces will nurture more constellations.

Looking at everyone, Lu Ye had a smile on his face, clasping his fists in a salute: "Greetings, Senior Brothers and Sisters!"

Everyone returned the gesture in unison, Li Baxian smiled and said: "Little Junior Brother, you've been gone for several years; you've worried Yiyi a lot."

Yiyi said hurriedly: "Fourth Senior Brother and the others were very worried about you too; they just didn't say anything." But they often comforted her.

"Thank you, Senior Brothers and Sisters, for your concern," Lu Ye said with a guilty expression; back then, he was chased by Tang Jun and stumbled into the Insect Path, having no chance or means to send a message out.

Those who worried about Lu Ye over the years were not only Yiyi; despite how Hua Ci appeared calm when Lu Ye returned, the truth was she simply didn't show it. Her concern over the years was no less than anyone else's.

"It's good that you're back," Li Baxian nodded, "Let's not stand here, let's go back and talk. Second Senior Sister and Sister Hua Ci have made a lot of delicious food; we can eat while we chat."

Lu Ye winked at Li Baxian, "I brought back quite a bit of fine wine from the All Phenomena Ocean!"

Li Baxian's appetite was instantly whetted, "Then I must have a taste!"

On Righteous Peak, Shui Yuan and Hua Ci indeed prepared a table full of delicacies. Lu Ye also took out a spirit fish he had caught in the All Phenomena Ocean from his storage ring and handed it to them, asking them to find a way to cook it. Outside, everyone sat in a circle, eating heartily and chatting excitedly.

Most of the time, it was Lu Ye who was speaking, and everyone listened. The more they learned, the more they yearned for and longed to see a place like the All Phenomena Ocean.

They couldn't wait to go and witness its grand splendor firsthand.

The feast lasted an entire day and night. The wine Lu Ye brought back from the All Phenomena Ocean was almost finished, and more than half of the spirit fish and shellfish had entered everyone's stomachs.

Satiated, everyone found places to sit and meditate, cultivating.

The reason was that the spirit fish and shellfish Lu Ye brought back contained substantial energy, and if not promptly refined, some of it would surely be wasted.

Lih Shang was leading several Nine Provinces Constellation experts skilled in artifact refining to reforge the Million Souls Banner. Every day, the Nine Provinces Governor's Hall was filled with a large gathering of Constellation experts, discussing the allocation of spots for the All Phenomena Ocean. The debates were endless and noisy because too many wanted to go, yet the spots were limited, creating disputes over who should go and who should stay.

Moreover, it wasn't only the Nine Provinces that needed consideration; the Constellation experts from the Unparalleled Continent also had to be accounted for, making the available spots even fewer.

On Emerald Bamboo Peak, Amber lay sound asleep on the ground, with Yaya sprawled out in a star shape on its back, sleeping sweetly, drool dribbling from her mouth. Yiyi stood by, keeping watch over them.

On the wide open plaza ahead, three figures were tangled in a fray, with Li Baxian and Xiao Xinghe teaming up against Lu Ye.

Lu Ye's long blade remained sheathed, and his cultivation was restrained to the Constellation Early Stage, matching the level of his third and fourth senior brothers. Yet even under such conditions, he seemed at ease as he engaged the two of them single-handedly.

In the midst of the bout, Li Baxian and Xiao Xinghe suddenly halted, revealing pensive expressions.

"Junior Brother, is this the Brazen Plundering Technique you mentioned?" Li Baxian asked.

"Indeed!" Lu Ye nodded.

In the barghest's teachings, he had only unraveled Qing Li's "Vicious Fangs," Yien Xi's "Brazen Plundering," and had yet to fully comprehend the essence of Praying Mantis's "Twin Blades."

Compared to Qing Li's "Vicious Fangs," Lu Ye felt that Yien Xi's "Brazen Plundering" offered greater benefits in combat. Its swiftness and freedom were akin to thunder, and if one ever encountered an overwhelming foe in stellar space, Qing Li's teachings might not suffice, but Yien Xi's "Brazen Plundering" would absolutely be of use, even serving as a means to escape.

Lu Ye wished to impart the profoundness of "Brazen Plundering" to Li Baxian and Xiao Xinghe, hence this sparring session.

Xiao Xinghe, like him, was a combat cultivator wielding a blade, making the "Brazen Plundering" Technique perfectly suited for him. Even though Li Baxian was a sword cultivator, fundamentally he was still a combat cultivator, and gaining insight from "Brazen Plundering" could only be beneficial to him.

"Interesting!" Li Baxian's eyes gleamed with intrigue, clearly intrigued.

He and Xiao Xinghe also executed plundering moves during combat, but they couldn't compare to Lu Ye's "Brazen Plundering" Technique.

"Let's go again!" Xiao Xinghe declared, raising his long blade. Before the words finished leaving his mouth, he was already charging at Lu Ye. Although only in the Early Stage of Constellation, he could tell that this Brazen Plundering Technique was profoundly intricate. With Lu Ye making great efforts to personally teach them, how could they pass up such an opportunity?

As days passed, the "Brazen Plundering" of the three figures on Emerald Bamboo Peak continued ceaselessly. Every day, Shui Yuan and Hua Ci would use the spirit fish and shellfish Lu Ye brought back from the All Phenomena Ocean to prepare delicious meals. In just a month, everyone felt they had gained tremendously.

Lih Shang sent word that the Million Souls Banner had been reforged and they needed to visit Xianyuan City once more.

Lu Ye hurried over, accompanying Lih Shang back to Xianyuan City.

Compared to a month ago, Xianyuan City was now much quieter. The secret realm had closed, and the Spirit Stream Realm cultivators who came to train had already left.

By the soul pool at the City Lord's Residence, Lih Shang ceremonially displayed the Million Souls Banner. Lu Ye looked closely and found the newly reforged Million Souls Banner looked much like before. Of course, this was only the surface—he couldn't comprehend its intricacies or see much beyond appearances.

As the banner flapped, Lih Shang nodded slightly to Zhang Zishan, who stepped forward and gently stroked the soul pool with his hand.



Ripples spread, and from the soul pool emerged countless ethereal figures, all rushing into the Million Souls Banner in Lih Shang's hands.

The scene, at first glance, seemed rather eerie. After all, the soul pool was filled with soul bodies that had lost their physical forms. However, these souls were all ancestors who had sacrificed their bodies for the peace of the Nine Provinces, and this realization dispelled much of the eerie feeling.

The process lasted nearly half an hour, with over ten thousand soul bodies in total. As the final soul entered the banner, Lu Ye felt as though the ominous black aura surrounding the Million Souls Banner had become almost tangible.

Zhang Zishan bowed to Lih Shang, "The rest is up to you, Fellow Daoist!"

Lih Shang nodded, "Rest assured, City Lord, I will ensure they are taken into our Soul Race ancestral land."

Only then did Zhang Zishan rejoin the Million Souls Banner, disappearing from sight.