

Humanity 1681

Chapter 1681 - Breaking the Limit

The location where Lu Ye currently stands is already at the limit of what he can endure. Although the ancient environment of this starry marvel hasn't affected him, the deeper position and the intense grinding force are not something he can ignore.

This intangible grinding force is extremely mysterious. Previously, Lu Ye was constantly fleeing and had no time to carefully experience it. Only now, as he calms his mind, does he become aware of it.

It seems as though he is truly situated within an invisible millstone, with every inch of flesh under a marvelous grinding.

His spirit force remains unchanged, flowing as it always has, but under this mysterious grinding, his flesh and blood begin to rhythmically pulse.

Lu Ye attempts to resist this rhythmic movement but finds that the more he resists, the more intense the grinding force becomes. Soon, his skin starts to crack open, oozing crimson blood.

Secretly taken aback, this strange grinding force... is so powerful.

It's important to know that his current physical body is considered the peak within the Constellation Realm. This level of resistance alone is causing him harm. Continuing would only have more severe consequences.

Moreover, in the process of resisting this rhythmic movement, Lu Ye finds that not only is his flesh sustaining some damage, but even his blood Qi shows signs of weakening.

This is quite an incredible thing.

Thinking it over, he no longer resists this mysterious rhythmic movement but rather observes the changes quietly.

Very soon, Lu Ye reveals a look of amazement, for under the influence of that mysterious grinding force, he clearly feels that his already refined to the extreme physical body shows signs of further enhancement.

He is greatly shocked because he believes that at this stage of the Constellation Realm, he has reached the pinnacle, and his body should have been refined to the limit. If it weren't for this, he wouldn't have comprehended the bloodline inheritance of the Blood Race and subsequently condensed treasure blood.

But in fact, what he thought was the extreme wasn't the limit!

Apart from the surprise, more is joy because there is still room for self-improvement. In this way, the more solid the foundation of the Constellation Realm, the stronger it would undoubtedly be when advancing to Moon Jade and Sun Blaze in the future.

The cultivation of the upper three realms for cultivators mainly lies in refining their Essence Qi. The essence of the body is the first to be refined because the physical body is the foundation for the cultivator. Subsequently, the Qi in the Moon Jade Realm, the spirit in the Sun Blaze Realm, are all built on the foundation of essence.

The stronger the foundation, the more intense the Qi and spirit it can carry.

This Yin-Yang Great Millstone, it was the right decision!

Fortunately, the Reincarnation Tree gave a reminder back then; otherwise, Lu Ye wouldn't have thought of coming all this way to such a place.

Although he could still come here to refine his body after advancing to Moon Jade, by that time, the benefits gained wouldn't be as significant as they are now.

What stage of cultivation a cultivator should focus on what is predefined.

The many Moon Jade cultivators currently cultivating in the Yin-Yang Great Millstone are presumably also compensating for their lack of foundation, but how much they can gain is debatable.

The intangible grinding force continues to exert its effect, and the rhythmic movement of his flesh and blood never ceases. Under such rhythm, Lu Ye feels his physical body has once again been enhanced.

After two days, the initial pressure gradually disappeared, and Lu Ye stood up, heading deeper.

The original position was already his limit, and it wasn't advisable to go deeper. But after his physical body was strengthened once more, the original limit was clearly broken.

Until Lu Ye reached another limit position, he stopped.

The grinding force in this place was undoubtedly stronger than where he stayed before. Once again, Lu Ye experienced the sensation of being placed in a millstone and being incessantly ground, with his flesh squirming intensely anew.

Time after time, advancing, breaking his limits again and again, such cultivation is intoxicating. Lu Ye completely forgets the passage of time, his mind fixated on one thought—discovering where exactly his ultimate limit lies.

Initially, he could still vaguely sense the aura of some physically strong Moon Jade cultivators practicing here, but as he delved deeper, not even a shadow of Moon Jade could be seen.

It's not that his body is necessarily stronger than those Moon Jade cultivators, but he can ignore the suppression of the ancient environment here, giving him an innate advantage compared to those Moon Jade. On the other hand, those Moon Jade cultivators are subject to environmental suppression upon entering here, making it uncertain how much of their strength they can exert.

The Reincarnation Tree probably didn't anticipate that Lu Ye could venture this deep. It actually advises every cultivator it takes an interest in.

However, throughout history, few have managed to achieve what Lu Ye has.

A part of the reason is naturally due to his extraordinarily solid foundation.

The other part is because of the countless Sacred Blood he has refined, acquiring the Blood Race inheritance, especially after the birth of treasure blood, propelling his physique to far exceed cultivators of the same realm.

It can be said that in terms of the extreme of physical refinement, he has an extremely enormous potential, a potential he had not realized before, even mistakenly thinking he had already refined his body to the utmost. Now, through the terrifying grinding force of the Yin-Yang Great Millstone, it has been developed step by step!

As a result, this led to his repeated breaking of limits and venturing deeper into the Yin-Yang Great Millstone.

Lu Ye slowly understood these matters and naturally became eager to discover where his true limit lies.

As time passed, he gradually noticed that the strengthening of his physique was slowing down, and the breaking of limits was becoming more gradual.

Although it was regrettable, he also knew that a person's limit couldn't be infinite; there would always be a true end.

At present, he was about to reach that true end.

Of course, this was just the end of the Constellation; when he advanced to Moon Jade, Sun Blaze, the limits of his physical body would greatly enhance.

He felt satisfied. If he hadn't come to this place, he might have already advanced to Moon Jade at the All Phenomena Ocean. Though still powerful, the potential of the Constellation Realm would not have been fully unleashed, which would ultimately affect his future growth.

Until a certain moment, when Lu Ye felt that his potential was about to reach its true limit, something inside him suddenly hummed, as if something had been broken...

An indescribable sense of comfort spread from within, making Lu Ye feel as if his entire being was undergoing a physical and spiritual sublimation.

The flow of blood Qi surged like a torrent, roaring like thunder, and the center of his forehead suddenly became incredibly hot, as all his blood Qi rushed rapidly to that location.

Lu Ye couldn't help but furrow his brow, not knowing what was happening.

But when he calmed his mind to sense it, he found nothing unusual within himself.

As the blood Qi flowed, the center of his forehead became hotter and hotter. Just as Lu Ye was about to reach his limit, that intense heat suddenly disappeared, replaced by boundless comfort.

Lu Ye paused for a moment, gently clenched his fist, and felt an exceedingly wild force surging throughout his entire body.

In the past, if he faced a cultivator of the Constellation Late Stage, he could kill with one saber strike, but now he could obliterate them with a single punch.

The refinement of his physical body's essence to its true extreme had enhanced his physical strength to a terrifying degree.

With such strength, supplemented by his saber skills, Lu Ye felt that even if there were a Moon Jade in front of him, he could prevail!

Previously, he certainly wouldn't have been able to. Over the years, he had contended with several Moon Jade cultivators, often relying on Lih Shang's Soul Possession to assist him, and even then, he could only fight on par with those who were newly advanced to Moon Jade.

However, now, even without Lih Shang's help, Lu Ye was confident he could slay a newly advanced Moon Jade, like a specter...

Moreover... he felt as if there was something new at the center of his forehead.

He quickly searched through his storage ring and found a mirror-like spirit treasure, and held it up to his face.

Yet there was nothing to be seen.

Lu Ye was somewhat skeptical. The intense heat at the center of his forehead just now wasn't an illusion, and he indeed felt there was something extra there. But why couldn't he see it?

After a brief contemplation, Lu Ye vigorously stimulated his blood Qi energy, and as the power surged to an extreme, the scene in his vision finally changed.

There was indeed something at his forehead, but it didn't reveal itself under normal circumstances. It only appeared when he pushed his blood Qi energy to the limit.

Upon closer inspection, the object resembled a star-like mark, sitting precisely at the center of his forehead, with a blood-red hue, vibrant and dripping.

What is this?

Lu Ye was puzzled, as he hadn't heard of anyone else having such a thing at the peak of the Constellation Realm. But he could feel that it was of no harm to him. As for benefits... there seemed to be none either; it didn't reveal itself under normal conditions, only emerging when he exerted himself to the fullest, meaning it only appeared during desperate situations.

It seemed the next time he saw the Reincarnation Tree, he needed to ask about this clearly.

Though he didn't understand the mysterious nature of this star mark, he was certain that his mission to the Yin-Yang Great Millstone was complete.

This was probably the purpose for which the Reincarnation Tree guided him here.

It was time to start preparing for his advancement to Moon Jade.

For other cultivators, having suitable treasures to assist in advancing to Moon Jade would naturally be the best, as that would increase the success probability of advancement. And if they could advance in a special environment like the Constellation Palace, that would be even better.

Lu Ye had initially planned to advance inside the Constellation Palace as well.

But after he learned of some mysteries, he realized there was no need, because whether advancing inside the Constellation Palace or using corresponding treasures, it was all about purifying one's spirit force.

Since Lu Ye began his cultivation, his spirit force had been pure and immaculate, so naturally, he had no need to rely on any external force.

And all this was thanks to the Talent Tree. The power of incineration from the Talent Tree allowed him to consume elixir pills or refine other forces without any impurities.

Other cultivators weren't so fortunate. Consuming elixir pills inevitably involved pill poison, and even so-called supreme-grade elixir pills from the outside contained it, albeit in very mild doses.

Likewise, refining spirit jade also incorporated minute, undetectable impurities into the body. Though not a concern short-term, once accumulated, it significantly impeded a cultivator's advancement to Moon Jade.

Chapter 1682 - Advancement to Moon Jade

Before any cultivator ascends from Constellation to Moon Jade, they will try every possible way to purify their own spirit force, reducing the impurities in it to the lowest level.

The purity and strength of the spirit force will directly affect the potential of the cultivator after ascending to Moon Jade.

This is similar to when a cultivator initially opens spiritual apertures in the Spirit Stream Realm; the more spiritual apertures opened, the greater the potential in the future. It might even be the case that if the number of spiritual apertures doesn't reach a certain level, one could be stuck at a certain realm for a lifetime.

Lu Ye doesn't need to purify his spirit force; his foundation is utterly perfect. Thus, what he needs to do is quite simple: activate the Dragon Transformation Method, allowing his spirit force to metamorphose into mana. When the spirit force metamorphoses into mana, that is when he ascends to Moon Jade.

He didn't ascend right where he stood; the grinding force here may no longer cause him any harm, but ascending in such a place still imposes a certain amount of pressure.

Thus, Lu Ye decided to head to the outskirts, where the grinding force impacts him less. He just needs to find a spot where it almost doesn't affect his ascension.

Having made up his mind, Lu Ye set off immediately.

Only a day later, he stopped. The grinding force at this spot is still strong for ordinary cultivators, but for him, it feels like a gentle breeze brushing his face.

This is the place!

If not absolutely necessary, Lu Ye would actually prefer not to ascend to Moon Jade here. Because in such a place, he could be interrupted by others, which wouldn't be good. If he fails at a crucial moment, it would be a lifelong regret.

Yet beyond there is still a Moon Jade Late Stage cultivator; Lu Ye is certain the other hasn't left and is definitely waiting for him. Without ascending to Moon Jade, Lu Ye isn't confident he can escape from their hands.

This account must be settled later.

Before ascending, Lu Ye released his three Treasure Blood Avatars, dispersing them to protect from multiple sides.

After reaching the peak of the Constellation Realm, his Treasure Blood Avatars seemed to have undergone significant changes. Lu Ye clearly felt that these three avatars were far stronger than before.

If the place were suitable for array setup, Lu Ye would definitely lay out a big array, but the conditions are too simple now, he can only make do.

He felt that his ascension to Moon Jade should not take too long.

Calming his mind, he activated the Dragon Transformation Method.

In the cultivation world, there are many types of Dragon Transformation Method. This technique is not for cultivation and cannot provide similar assistance for strength enhancement to cultivators. Its only role is to guide the metamorphosis of spirit force.

Lu Ye possesses many copies of the Dragon Transformation Method, some originating from the Merfolk Race, some contributed by specters, and others purchased from the All Phenomena Merchants Guild.

This item isn't worth much in stellar space.

Lu Ye had already found the most suitable one among many Dragon Transformation Methods. At this moment, he just needed to activate his spirit force and operate according to the route of the technique.

His spirit force surged, began to circulate following the Dragon Transformation Method route. Though initially unfamiliar, the circulation speed was not fast, but gradually, as Circumambulation progressed, the speed of spirit force flow increased, gradually forming a tumultuous movement within Lu Ye.

After hundreds of Circumambulations, Lu Ye distinctly felt a hint of heat emanating from his lower abdomen, precisely where the Root Spiritual Orifice originally was.

All his spirit force, under the guidance of the Dragon Transformation Method, converged and filled that position.

An extremely clear sense of bulging from the Root Spiritual Orifice arose, allowing Lu Ye to once again feel a long-lost barrier.

Many years it has been; only when he was in Spirit Stream Realm, opening spiritual apertures one by one, did he have this distinct sense of barrier, unexpected now even at the extreme of Constellation, he sensed it again.

However, the current barrier sensed is not the same as those from the Spirit Stream Realm.

What is the same is that these barriers of spiritual orifices must be broken!

Back then, the barriers were broken to open spiritual orifices, while now, they are broken to ascend to Moon Jade!

With spirit force continuously gathering, the bulging feeling grew more intense, but Lu Ye didn't experience much abnormal sensations. He exerted a bit more strength, enhancing the spirit force flow speed, causing the invisible barrier to break apart!

This is the advantage that comes with a strong foundation, as the spirit force is sufficiently pure and the base immensely solid, so breaking through the invisible barrier wasn't too difficult.

At this point, it is indeed the most dangerous moment of ascending to Moon Jade.

Because the Root Spiritual Orifice is broken, if what follows cannot be accomplished smoothly, ascending to Moon Jade would become a complete impossibility, and the cultivator's strength would suffer significant decline due to the broken Root Spiritual Orifice.

Such decline is even irreversible!

Remember when Li Baxian was in Spirit Stream Realm, his spiritual orifice broke, later repaired by the orifice repair pill gifted by Lu Ye; however, what shattered was not the Root Spiritual Orifice, but an ordinary spiritual orifice, so it could be repaired.

Should the Root Spiritual Orifice shatter, it's nearly impossible to find a way to repair it in this world.

At this moment, the Dragon Transformation Method operated at its utmost, with the spirit force flow reaching unprecedented speed. Almost at the instant the Root Spiritual Orifice shattered, the spirit force condensing and compressing to its limit seemed to undergo a marvelous transformation.

A faint flame rose from the location where the Root Spiritual Orifice originally was; this is the sublimation of Lu Ye's fire-type spiritual power.

Magic Source!

The origin of a Moon Jade cultivator's mana, and also the most apparent sign of promotion from Constellation to Moon Jade!

Basically, as long as one can condense their own Magic Source, they are considered to have successfully promoted to Moon Jade.

However, Lu Ye did not stop the activation of the Dragon Transformation Method because the newly formed Magic Source is still fragile, and it visually appears that this weak flame could extinguish at any moment.

Lu Ye still needs to transform all his spirit force into mana through this newly birthed Magic Source; only then is it considered a true promotion.

Otherwise, with a Magic Source but incomplete metamorphosis of spirit force, it seems awkward and incomplete.

With the activation of the Dragon Transformation Method, spirit force continuously converges into that small flame cluster, seemingly becoming the fuel, and as spirit force pours in, the small flame's brightness gradually increases.

Until after half a day, Lu Ye has exhausted all his spirit force, injecting it into the Magic Source, before pausing.

The initially weak small flame is still just a small cluster of flame, but its brightness now cannot be compared with before.

At this moment, there is no spirit force flowing within Lu Ye's physical body; all the strength, apart from his inherent physique, is concentrated in the Magic Source.

This is the greatest difference between Moon Jade and pre-Moon Jade; before Moon Jade, a cultivator's spirit force circulates continuously within the body, whether in normal or combat state.

But not with Moon Jade; under normal circumstances, a Moon Jade's mana is extremely restrained, concentrated within the Magic Source, only emerging when needed, allowing Moon Jade cultivators to control it as if directing their own limbs.

Having successfully promoted to Moon Jade, the next phase of cultivation is to continuously grow this small flame cluster; only when its essence changes will Lu Ye's realm be able to advance.

The form of each Moon Jade's Magic Source varies, especially among different element signs; Lu Ye's Magic Source resembles a small flame cluster, perhaps other Moon Jades manifest as water droplets, or saplings, or even lumps of earth...

But regardless of form, they are just the concentration of a cultivator's own strength.

Slowly opening his eyes, with a slight movement of thought, mana began to circulate within his body, and Lu Ye felt overwhelmingly strong!

Coming to the Yin-Yang Great Millstone has realized two enhancements in his strength—one minor and one major—causing Lu Ye to feel contemplative, as he never again has to fear his strength's essence being inferior to the enemy, breaking at a mere touch.

Using spirit force to clash with others' mana was indeed disadvantageous, akin to an egg hitting the stone.

Now he also has mana within his body, avoiding the scenario where his previous force would be shattered upon collision.

Of course, if facing Sun Blaze... it would probably still be the same.

Though Sun Blaze's power is also mana, his realm is higher, which Moon Jade cannot contend against.

If, with his physique refined to the ultimate point, Lu Ye was confident of defeating those like a newly promoted Moon Jade specter, then at this moment as he too has become Moon Jade, Lu Ye feels a specter wouldn't withstand a few strikes from him...

As he was already thinking this, the Boulder Mountain Saber at his waist suddenly trembled slightly.

"Hmm?" Lu Ye looked down, somewhat puzzled.

Though the Boulder Mountain Saber originates from the barghest, since subduing it, the barghest has acted as a dead object due to the Combat Race trait; only when without a master does their own consciousness awaken, but with a master, they are truly dead objects!

Therefore, this unprompted reaction from the Boulder Mountain Saber was quite strange to Lu Ye.

Has the barghest awoken?

Thinking this, Lu Ye prepared to draw the Boulder Mountain Saber to investigate.

But just as his large hand grasped the saber's hilt, his brow furrowed, for upon touching the Boulder Mountain Saber's hilt, it conveyed a feeling of insatiable thirst...

That sensation felt like someone starving long-term seeing appetizing food.

Despite never encountering such a situation before, Lu Ye quickly realized what was happening.

Without hesitation, he activated his mana, channeling it into the Boulder Mountain Saber.

The saber's body shook, starting to devour furiously.

Lu Ye initially thought the Boulder Mountain Saber couldn't consume much mana and didn't pay much heed, but as his own mana consistently depleted and the symbolic small flame of the Magic Source continuously dimmed, he realized a serious problem!

Hurriedly, he retrieved numerous spirit jade from the storage ring, placing them beside him, activating the Talent Tree's power to devour maniacally.

Although a cultivator promoted to Moon Jade, the main cultivation resource remains spirit jade. Refining spirit jade still yields spirit force, but it transforms into mana via the Magic Source.

The efficiency of conversion relates to the Magic Source's quality; although Lu Ye has just promoted, his foundation is extraordinarily solid, and the quality of his Magic Source is indeed not low; its efficiency in converting spirit force surpasses that of other newly promoted Moon Jades, yet this situation remains challenging.

Chapter 1683 - The Boulder Mountain Saber at Magic-Treasure Class

The continuously converted mana was quickly devoured by the Boulder Mountain Saber, and a sensation of insatiable hunger still emanated from the blade.

This can't go on, or else my own mana might be completely consumed. Of course, Lu Ye could interrupt this devouring by simply removing his hand from the hilt of the Boulder Mountain Saber, and he could probably continue later. But having realized what was happening, he naturally didn't want to interrupt.

If spirit jade isn't enough, then use spirit crystals!

As a higher-tier cultivation resource than spirit jade, when cultivators refine spirit crystals, they still only obtain spirit force, which also needs to be converted by the Magic Source. However, compared to spirit jade, spirit crystals undoubtedly contain more abundant spirit force, allowing cultivators to receive better replenishment in the same amount of time.

Lu Ye had spirit crystals on hand; when he first traded with the Merfolk, they gave him a million spirit crystals, which he hadn't used until now. Now they came in handy.

The Talent Tree began to devour the power within the spirit crystals, and Lu Ye felt much better.

100,000, 200,000, 300,000...

A million spirit crystals were consumed in half quantity before the devouring force from the Boulder Mountain Saber gradually weakened. Half a day later, the devouring force finally disappeared completely.

Lu Ye looked down and saw a faint cold light flowing over the Boulder Mountain Saber. This treasure, initially only at the spiritual treasure level, seemed to experience a miraculous ascension in that instant!

Exhausted in mind and body, but Lu Ye's expression was full of excitement.

He slowly drew the saber, and the pitch-black Boulder Mountain Saber appeared before his eyes. On the surface, there were no changes; it looked the same as before.

But under Lu Ye's calm perception, he could tell that his Boulder Mountain Saber had undergone earth-shattering changes.

Magic Treasure!

The Boulder Mountain Saber was now a magic-treasure class weapon, and not just any magic treasure—absolutely one of the top tier!

This wasn't an enhancement in the quality of the Boulder Mountain Saber; it was more like an unsealing.

The barghest-transformed Boulder Mountain Saber itself was of extremely high quality, having once accompanied many powerful cultivators. Without a high quality, it wouldn't have been useful to those cultivators.

But the nature of the Combat Race is peculiarly mysterious. When a mere Constellation like Lu Ye subdued it, it only manifested as a spiritual treasure level, so as not to be beyond Lu Ye's ability to handle.

This was like it placed a seal on itself.

Only today, when Lu Ye advanced to Moon Jade and after consuming large amounts of Lu Ye's mana, did the seal on the barghest get lifted, leaping from a spiritual treasure to a top-level magic treasure.

With the Boulder Mountain Saber vertically before him, Lu Ye examined it closely, smiling happily.

He slightly raised his hand and ran a finger along the blade, feeling pain as blood flowed and his finger was cut open!

So sharp!

Even at the spiritual treasure level, the Boulder Mountain Saber was sharp enough. Now, having been unsealed and becoming a magic treasure, it became even sharper. Otherwise, with Lu Ye's current physique, he wouldn't have been so easily cut by the blade.

Just this level of sharpness is clearly not something ordinary magic weapons can possess. If paired with the Divine Sharp Edge Spirit Runes applied by Lu Ye, this sharpness would undoubtedly reach a whole new level.

Additionally, its toughness was unmatched. Given its high quality, Lu Ye need not worry about his weapon being damaged when clashing with opponents—instead, it was the enemy who should be concerned about that.

Where Lu Ye previously felt a newly advanced Moon Jade specter might not withstand more than a few strikes from him, now with a magic-treasure class long saber, confronting a specter might only take a single strike, unless the specter had the ability to withstand such sharpness...

This undoubtedly is the tremendous enhancement a fine weapon could bring to a combat cultivator.

"Satisfied now?" Lu Ye murmured softly, looking at the Boulder Mountain Saber in his hand.

He didn't expect a response.

To his surprise, the Boulder Mountain Saber gave a slight hum, and a voice echoed in the depths of his mind.

"Three-tenths full."

Lu Ye paused for a moment, then was overjoyed: "Have you awakened?"

But there was no response anymore.

Lu Ye reckoned it was likely because he advanced to Moon Jade, breaking the seal, allowing the barghest's consciousness to awaken briefly, only to become dormant again.

But... three-tenths full?

Not to mention the mana he personally consumed and all the spirit jade, just the spirit crystals alone amounted to over 500,000. If converted to spirit jade, that would be a full five million.

And that only allowed the barghest to be three-tenths full?

Lu Ye's thoughts raced—within the barghest's words, it seemed clear that its current state wasn't its limit. Perhaps when his cultivation improves in the future, he'd witness the barghest's true potential.

Even a barghest only three-tenths full was a top-tier magic treasure—imagine its quality once fully restored?

Stellar space supreme treasure?

Unlikely, as stellar space supreme treasures are generally born with stellar space, and while the Combat Race is ancient, they're probably not at the level of a stellar space supreme treasure.

Nonetheless, this prospect filled Lu Ye's heart with anticipation.

Exchanging several million spirit jade for a top-tier magic treasure, and moreover, a long saber magic treasure he wielded with the greatest ease—this deal was undeniably a fantastic bargain.

With a casual flourish of the saber, then a satisfied assessment, Lu Ye sheathed the Boulder Mountain Saber.

After reclaiming the Treasure Blood Avatars dispersed in four directions, Lu Ye then began to restore himself.

The extracted spirit jade was continuously devoured and refined, then converted into mana through the Magic Source within his body.

Lu Ye immersed his mind, staring at the small flame in the Root Spiritual Orifice, feeling the efficiency of his Magic Source converting mana. He realized he needed to find a way to enhance the quality of his Magic Source, as it affected the speed of his future cultivation.

In the stellar space, the quality of magic treasures is divided into 1-star to 9-star. This classification comes from the Reincarnation Tree and is universally recognized across the stellar space.

However, in general, the most common magic treasures are 3-star to 5-star. Real 1-star or 2-star magic treasures are rare because their quality is too low, not favored by Moon Jade. Moreover, cultivators with even a little Artifact Refining skill won't craft mere 1-star or 2-star trash.

The quality of Magic Sources is similarly divided from 1-star to 9-star. It's said that this classification system is directly inherited from the division of magic treasures.

Coincidentally, the most common Magic Sources for Moon Jade are also 3-star to 5-star!

Although the treasures used to enhance the quality of Magic Sources are quite expensive, Moon Jade from major powers do have the means to elevate their Magic Source quality above 5-star.

But doing so would be wasteful.

Because the efficiency of converting mana does not equate to cultivation efficiency.

Cultivation in the Constellation Realm is simple; one only needs to refine spirit jade or other cultivation resources into one's own spirit force.

But Moon Jade cultivation undoubtedly has an extra layer: absorbing spirit force, then converting it into mana!

The efficiency of converting mana depends on the quality of the Magic Source. However, no matter how high the quality of the Magic Source, if the efficiency of absorbing spirit force doesn't improve, it's useless.

Therefore, for Moon Jade in the stellar space, a 3-star to 5-star Magic Source is already sufficient, anything higher is unnecessary.

Only when one's cultivation reaches Sun Blaze does one try to further enhance the quality of the Magic Source to speed up the conversion of mana.

But in this vast stellar space, how many Moon Jade can successfully advance to Sun Blaze?

Lu Ye wasn't sure about the quality of his Magic Source and had to wait until he returned to the All Phenomena Ocean to test it. Over there, the All Phenomena Merchants Guild has specialized equipment to test Magic Source quality.

By his estimation, his Magic Source couldn't be too poor; it must at least be at the 3-star level.

For someone who has just advanced to Moon Jade, this is already a pretty good result.

But it's still not enough...

Compared to other cultivators, his efficiency in refining spirit jade and other cultivation resources is too high; the conversion speed of a 3-star Magic Source couldn't keep up with his cultivation.

Lu Ye felt somewhat melancholic...

His cultivation always seemed like it was burning through spirit jade.

It wasn't an issue before, as he only needed to buy some fire-type treasures to use as fuel for the Talent Tree and take a plunge into the All Phenomena Ocean, but now, he also has to figure out how to boost the quality of the Magic Source...

Everything needs money.

Although he had the backing of the Merfolk Territory, that couldn't last forever, and the rate of extracting spirit jade there is also limited. Furthermore, both the Merfolk Race and the cultivators of Three Worlds Island need spirit jade for cultivation.

He could only figure it out later.

Setting aside the many distractions in his mind, Lu Ye focused on refining spirit jade.

Two days later, he was brimming with energy.

He could feel that with his breakthrough to Moon Jade, the limit of his physique had once again increased. In other words, the physique honed to its peak in the Constellation Realm was no longer at its peak now, and he could delve deeper into the Yin-Yang Great Millstone for further tempering.

But he didn't plan on doing so. Why? Because during this period, he had exhausted all the elixir pills and spirit flowers and rare herbs given to him by the Flower Race.

Even the 1,000 pieces of soul jade from the Soul Race were down to 300 pieces.

Although the World King Flower borne on the seven-color Divine Lotus didn't overload his Divine Sea, the constant consumption was undeniable.

He had been relying on external forces to replenish his soul power consumption.

If he didn't leave soon, once the soul jade was used up and without any soul power replenishment, things could get dire.

However, speaking of which, while the soul jade and other resources consumed during this period were substantial, they did bring some benefits. His psyche had noticeably strengthened.

But this wasn't what Lu Ye wanted. With the nurturing of the seven-color Divine Lotus, his psyche would continually grow even without these external forces.

Getting up, he retraced his route, channeling his Ocular Power to observe.

The late-stage Moon Jade from the Divine Wind Galactic Pirates Group likely wouldn't easily give up on a World King Flower, would they? The value of such an item is beyond measure.

So they might be waiting for him outside?

Hopefully, that's the case!

Although he had just advanced and the opponent was already in Moon Jade Late Stage, with the unique environment of the Yin-Yang Great Millstone, Lu Ye still didn't fear him.

A late-stage Moon Jade, and a leader of a galactic pirate group, should at least have some wealth.

Lu Ye was currently very poor, and naturally, he wouldn't want to miss out on such potential riches.

Moreover, he wanted to use this opponent to see how his strength had changed after his advancement.

It was precisely because of this consideration that he retraced his route. Otherwise, leaving the Yin-Yang Great Millstone in a different direction might cause him to miss the opponent.

Chapter 1684 - It's Him, It's Really Him

Yin-Yang Great Millstone, at some location, the white-haired elder of the Divine Wind Galactic Pirates Group stared wearily into the depths, his withered face full of anger and unwillingness.

Six months ago, when he was in a low-level domain, he inadvertently stumbled upon something strange — he sensed a Constellation cultivator had arrived in this low-level domain, yet somehow suddenly vanished.

After a thorough investigation, he vaguely felt that this low-level domain might be hiding some secrets because in the desolate star region, a domain like this, even if it's the lowest level, seemed somewhat special, especially since it was located on the periphery of the expanding Yin-Yang Great Millstone.

He was considered knowledgeable, and during an exchange with a certain Sun Blaze member, he had heard intelligence about the Flower Race and the World King Flower, and immediately made some assessments.

With excitement in his heart, he secretly left the low-level domain and gathered his forces to return.

Whether there was truly a World King Flower in that domain, before destroying the domain he couldn't actually confirm, there was just a possibility.

But it was just a low-level domain, and moreover in the desolate star region; if it were destroyed, it wouldn't cause any trouble for him.

As a result, that domain indeed concealed a World King Flower!

And this treasure, which should have belonged to him, was somehow taken away by an outsider at Constellation Late Stage, he was furious and ordered his men to pursue, but it resulted in heavy losses.

Even he himself pursued relentlessly but to no avail, until that late-stage Constellation cultivator escaped into the Yin-Yang Great Millstone!

Thinking that once here, no matter how strange the opponent's escape tactics were, they couldn't possibly slip from his grasp. Who knew the opponent had refined a Spirit Flower from the Taichu Realm and was completely unaffected by the special atmosphere of the Yin-Yang Great Millstone.

Lost the chase!

The elder's heart was wrenched with anguish.

The value of a World King Flower is immeasurable; as long as the news spreads, those large domains and even top-level domains would flock to it, with this one flower he would possess a lifetime of inexhaustible wealth.

Yet all his meticulous plotting ended up benefiting someone else.

He vaguely realized that the World King Flower was not to be regained; now that he had lost the trail, he had no chance of finding him again; the other party could easily escape from another direction.

But to just let him go so easily, how could he be resigned?

He still harbored an unrealistic hope; what if the kid got lost inside and ran back out here?

It was precisely due to this slight hope that he hadn't left; he remained stationed, eagerly waiting...

But a month's wait had made him restless.

Yet at this moment, a shadow faintly emerged ahead; the elder's heart skipped a beat, eyes widening with bloodshot gaze towards that direction.

Due to the omnipresent powerful grinding force, the space within the Yin-Yang Great Millstone appeared distorted, causing the elder to be unclear of the shadow's identity.

But as the figure approached, the silhouette became clearer, stirring excited anticipation in the elder's heart.

It's him! That's the kid!

He really walked out from this position.

The elder almost wanted to laugh aloud, resolutely deciding that this time, he would not let the opponent escape again, this was definitely his closest chance to seize the World King Flower.

Mana erupted from his body, invisible ripples spreading outward centered around his aged form, to capture Lu Ye, the white-haired elder did not hesitate, immediately activating a secret technique, at the cost of burning his life force, to forcibly enhance his strength.

At this position, affected by the Yin-Yang Great Millstone's environmental pressure, his Moon Jade Late Stage cultivation could only exert power equivalent to Moon Jade Early Stage.

Yet with this secret technique, he could exert power infinitely close to mid-stage.

In an instant, blood Qi surged within his withered body, mana fluctuated, and a string of bead-like treasures appeared in the elder's hand; as mana infused into it, the elder commanded softly: "Go!"

The beads in his hand spread out, transforming into five blazing suns, four sealing off the surroundings, the fifth hurtling directly towards Lu Ye.

The intensely scorching aura warped even the space.

Up ahead in the distance, Lu Ye leisurely arriving raised his eyebrows at the sight.

A magic cultivator, huh!

As a combat cultivator, he favored magic cultivators the most, as they were easy to cut down, unlike those beefy savage brutes whose bodies were as hard as stone, making the Boulder Mountain Saber vibrate with strong recoil when struck.

These sun-like manifestations were clearly the manifestation of the mana of the opponent's magic treasure.

It must be said, indeed this was Moon Jade Late Stage, even if now only capable of releasing early-stage power, this means was unlike any ordinary newly promoted Moon Jade.

Judging by the power of this magic treasure, it likely reached the six-star level.

Worthy of being the leader of a galactic pirate group, his worth was indeed incomparable to someone like Old Tang at Moon Jade stage.

In the past, when faced with such an aggressive attack, the only thing Lu Ye could do was avoid its edge.

However, what seemed like an incredibly fierce offensive a month ago, now... didn't seem all that much?

He gazed at the giant blazing sun rushing toward him and raised his hand to grip the Boulder Mountain Saber.

The old man on the other side was momentarily stunned by this scene because ever since his encounter with Lu Ye, Lu Ye had been fleeing continuously, never even daring to face him courageously, given the huge disparity in their strength.

But what was happening now? Had this kid lost his mind? Not only was he not escaping from the attack, but he didn't even intend to dodge it.

Yet this only delighted the old man more because once he killed Lu Ye, the World King Flower would reappear, allowing him to leisurely collect it. The only thing that worried him a bit was that the unfolding of the World King Flower might attract other Moon Jade cultivators.

As thoughts flickered through his mind, the gigantic blazing sun had already engulfed Lu Ye's figure.

The old man stared unblinkingly, as if he could already see the scene of the World King Flower revealing itself, his excitement indescribable.

A Constellation Late Stage cultivator couldn't possibly survive such an attack from him.

However, the World King Flower didn't reveal itself, only a faint flicker of saber light greeted his eyes.

The old man's pupils involuntarily shrank, instinctively sensing something was wrong. Even though his cultivation was greatly suppressed, his Moon Jade Late Stage experience and battle skills remained, having fought countless battles in his life as a galactic pirate.

Almost at the moment that sliver of saber light appeared, the old man's body instinctively leapt backward.

But it was already a step too late. Somehow, a figure had already appeared in front of him — the very enemy whom he thought his magic treasure had obliterated.

This seemingly very young man was now slightly crouched, his head lowered with his bangs casting shadows over his eyes. Yet the old man could feel the cold gaze staring at him; he looked like a hunting leopard.

The old man's eyes widened suddenly. Without thinking, he hurried to utilize his mana for protection, simultaneously causing a crystal pendant hanging on his neck to shatter, rapidly forming a protective barrier around him.

When the saber light flashed again, the old man was terrified as he was blasted backward by a huge force.

The protective barrier enveloping him shattered like a bubble as he flew, he even felt his own protective mana being sliced apart!

Only then did he become acutely aware of the energy fluctuations emanating from Lu Ye.

It was not the spirit force of a Constellation but the mana of a Moon Jade!

"Moon Jade!"

That boy... actually advanced to Moon Jade within the Yin-Yang Great Millstone!

Though it was hard to believe, the truth lay before his eyes.

And what was with such a terrifying slash? Even if the opponent did advance to Moon Jade, he shouldn't possess such shocking power.

The defense formed by his shattered magic treasure along with his own mana protection shouldn't be easily broken—not by a Moon Jade Early Stage, nor even a Moon Jade Mid-Stage, yet the opponent had effortlessly...

With both now being at the Moon Jade Early Stage, the old man felt the opponent could easily kill him.

Was this the potential of a cultivator who, during the Divine Sea struggle by the Reincarnation Tree, refined the spirit light born from the Taichu Realm?

He had long heard that cultivators like these, once they grew, all possessed terrifying strength. Although he had never had the opportunity to witness it before, was he seeing it now? But this... wasn't something he wanted.

Terror-stricken, the old man's mind raced.

The four blazing suns originally sealing the surroundings, under his control, rushed towards Lu Ye's position with incredible speed, quickly engulfing the area where Lu Ye stood.

Blinding brilliance soared heavenward, it was as if a great sun truly exploded, threatening to melt the entire vicinity.

Accompanying this was the assertive cry of the saber, within the exploding suns the saber light flashed, seemingly splitting space apart.

Soundlessly, one by one the blazing suns extinguished, a figure charged out from them unscathed, traversing swiftly to just a short distance in front of the old man.

When in Constellation, using the Brazen Plundering Technique imposed a significant burden on Lu Ye, making it unsustainable for long durations.

Now, having reached Constellation, his physique had greatly strengthened, and Lu Ye finally felt that the Brazen Plundering Technique wasn't as burdensome.

Given his current foundation, he could maintain such a technique for a full day and night without issue, though longer durations would be uncertain.

The old man was driven to despair; he hadn't anticipated that following such assaults Lu Ye could emerge unharmed, and now while retreating quickly, he couldn't match the speed of Lu Ye's Boulder Mountain Saber.

Without the enhancement of Divine Sharp Edge, nor activating the Boulder Mountain Saber's power, he relied merely on sheer slashes.

The long saber stained with blood, scattered in all directions.

The old man's eyes were nearly popping out; his abdomen had a deep wound reaching the bone. As he spewed blood, it instantly seemed to ignite, transforming into a layer of blood light enveloping him entirely, before he hurriedly fled without looking back.

Chapter 1685 - Winner Takes All

Cannot withstand!

This is the most genuine feeling in the heart of the white-haired elder at this moment.

Before today, he never imagined that a newly ascended Moon Jade cultivator could possess such terrifying strength. Logically, even if affected by the environment, his cultivation was severely suppressed, he shouldn't be so helpless against a newly ascended Moon Jade.

But in reality, during the previous encounter, he was nearly in a state of being crushed. Three of his magic treasures were destroyed in an instant, one offensive and two defensive.

The offensive one was of course that Five-Yang Bead, which was of 6-star quality.

The shattered pendant magic treasure was indeed only 4-star quality, but it was defensive and possessed extremely strong Protective Power.

Also... the Vestment robe he wore!

That was a Vestment robe of 5-star quality, incredibly durable itself, and also provided him with formidable Protective Power.

Yet it was still cut open by the opponent in one slash. If it weren't for the protective Vestment robe, given his physique, he feared he would have been sliced in half!

The elder's chest and abdomen had a large gash, blood seeped out, and the pain brought some clarity to his chaotic thoughts.

Suddenly, he realized that even a newly ascended Moon Jade, no matter how profound their foundations, shouldn't have rendered him completely defenseless. It was the blade in his hand!

That blade was indeed far too sharp. To cut through 4-star and 5-star defensive magic treasures so effortlessly, the quality of that blade must be exceptionally high!

At least a 7-star magic treasure.

Which domain exactly did this young man originate from, to have such a wealthy background.

The destruction of three magic treasures undoubtedly had a significant impact on a magic cultivator like him, but he had other replacement treasures to use, so as long as he wasn't dead, his combat power wouldn't diminish too much.

Now, all he wanted was to flee from this place as quickly as possible. Once he flew a suitable distance, he could regain enough strength to utilize Moon Jade mid-stage power, giving him the capital to fight the opponent.

He was absolutely unwilling to give up the World King Flower!

A 7-star minimum quality magic treasure blade held equivalent value.

If he could kill that young man, all losses could be made up, and a bright future awaited him.

On the other side, watching the direction in which the elder fled, Lu Ye didn't rush to pursue immediately. Instead, he looked down at the Boulder Mountain Saber in his hand.

Because he suddenly discovered another characteristic of the Boulder Mountain Saber after its magic treasure quality was upgraded.

Its destructive power against defensive magic treasures seemed exceptionally strong!

Though the magic treasure that burst out like a big sun was high in quality, being offensive, it wasn't primarily built for durability. The elder, using Moon Jade Early Stage power to activate it, naturally couldn't resist Lu Ye's slash.

Logically, even defensive magic treasures of slightly lower quality should not have been easily breached by the same slash.

But in fact, the two defensive magic treasures on the elder were effortlessly cut open by him, which was partly because the defensive magic treasures of the opponent weren't very high in quality, but the greater reason was evidently the characteristic of the Boulder Mountain Saber itself.

This benefit wasn't merely the result of sharpness.

This was intriguing—the defense methods of cultivators often caused mutual distress, but if the Boulder Mountain Saber had traits that could restrain such methods, then Lu Ye would undoubtedly find future battles much easier.

Without further thought, he looked ahead.

In that instant, the elder who had activated the Blood Escape Technique was already thousands of miles away. In such an environment, the escape speed indicated the elder was using all his reserves.

Due to the distortion of space, Lu Ye could hardly see the elder's figure.

But...

With a tingling in his hand, the Boulder Mountain Saber hummed softly.

Thousands of miles away, the fleeing elder suddenly cried out, because at that instant, he felt something mysterious was wriggling at the gash in his chest and abdomen, tearing at the wound.

Instantly, the injury worsened slightly, and the intense pain caused his body to stagger.

Only now did he realize with horror that his wound showed no signs of recovery.

This was clearly abnormal; given his Moon Jade Late Stage foundations, such flesh wounds should have been easily recoverable, consuming nothing more than some blood Qi energy.

But preoccupied with escape earlier, he hadn't noticed this until now.

Not only was the wound not healing, but it was continuously worsening under the influence of that strange force, and even though he tried desperately to suppress it, he could only slow it slightly.

What was this? The elder was horrified.

He naturally did not know that this was the initial characteristic of the Boulder Mountain Saber transformed by the barghest, an eerie power like invisible bugs clinging to wounds, not only hindering the enemy's recovery but also allowing Lu Ye to utilize the Boulder Mountain Saber to continually tear the wounds caused by its slash.

Under the condition of not having a significant disparity in strength, such control proved extremely deadly, worsening the already precarious state of the elder.

Although the old man didn't quite understand what was happening, he knew at this moment that he must get as far away from Lu Ye as possible. He pushed himself to move faster!

However, though his speed was quick, Lu Ye's speed was quicker.

In just a brief moment, the old man sensed the presence approaching from behind.

He was filled with rage and confusion, unable to understand why the situation had developed this way despite having everything planned perfectly. A Constellation Late Stage cultivator had ascended to Moon Jade within the Yin-Yang Great Millstone, which was already extremely bizarre. And now, even though he himself was Moon Jade Late Stage, he was completely outmatched.

"I will fight you to the death!" Realizing the difference in their speeds and knowing that he couldn't escape, the old man resolutely turned to face Lu Ye, ready for a desperate battle.

However, in the next instant, his expression suddenly froze.

What appeared before him wasn't Lu Ye's figure but a burst of blood light.

The blood light suddenly expanded, transforming into a Blood Sea.

What was going on with that young man? How could a combat cultivator wield such a sophisticated Blood Technique? The old man didn't understand.

Just as the thought crossed his mind, the immense Blood Sea had already enveloped his figure, engulfing a large area of space.

Lu Ye activated the Blood Sea as a precaution. He wasn't sure if the white-haired old man had any backup plans. After all, this was his first time facing a Moon Jade Late Stage opponent alone. Even if he had already gained an absolute advantage on the surface, what if the opponent had some strange tricks up his sleeve?

In the struggles between cultivators, unexpected mishaps were frequent. Lu Ye didn't want such a thing to happen to him.

With the Blood Sea covering the area, even if the enemy had some bizarre tricks yet to be used, as long as Lu Ye remained cautious, the opponent would merely have to wait for death with closed eyes.

However, this time while activating the Blood Sea, Lu Ye noticeably felt that its power was much greater than before. This change was undoubtedly brought about by his ascension to Moon Jade.

Moreover, Lu Ye had a feeling that if he injected treasure blood into the Blood Sea, its power would significantly increase.

This was something he hadn't realized before. Ever since he refined his own treasure blood, he hadn't activated the Blood Sea Technique.

Within the Blood Sea, Lu Ye pressed on with his saber. Although the blood light obscured the surroundings, Lu Ye could still clearly perceive everything within the Blood Sea.

The white-haired old man, trapped within, didn't have this ability. Already severely injured and now ensnared in the Blood Sea, he knew that his situation was hopeless. Unable to hold back, he roared to the heavens in frustration and unwillingness.

He didn't plead for mercy because he knew it would be useless, just as if he held the upper hand, he would never spare Lu Ye.

Victory belongs to the king; defeat to the bandit!

Almost simultaneously as Lu Ye activated the Blood Sea Technique, tens of thousands of miles away, a figure sitting cross-legged and refining his own body suddenly opened his eyes, looked in Lu Ye's direction, and showed a look of surprise and doubt.

After a brief moment of contemplation, this figure moved towards Lu Ye's location.

Judging by the mana fluctuations from this figure, he clearly had a cultivation of Moon Jade mid-stage, but considering the suppression of cultivation strength in this location, his true cultivation was undoubtedly more than just Moon Jade mid-stage, definitely a Moon Jade Late Stage!

The reason he wasn't suppressed to the Early Stage like the white-haired old man was clearly due to his more profound foundation. Otherwise, he wouldn't have come to such a place to refine his own body.

To a Moon Jade, tens of thousands of miles were nothing. Not long after, he arrived at the battlefield.

The closer he got, the more solemn his expression became, for he sensed a presence ahead that made his heart tremble...

This presence was so intense that he had never felt anything like it even when facing certain Sun Blazes.

Gazing at the vast Blood Sea ahead and feeling the profound aura emanating from it, this figure couldn't help but swallow hard. If he hadn't seen it with his own eyes or felt it personally, it was really hard to believe such a thing could exist in this world.

At this moment, within the Blood Sea, Lu Ye had already killed the white-haired old man.

The opponent, trapped in the Blood Sea and further troubled by the barghest's power, was also of Moon Jade Early Stage strength. How could he be a match for him?

The situation Lu Ye worried about, where the opponent might use some strange tactics, never occurred. Killing his opponent was as simple as cutting down a chick.

After collecting several storage rings from his opponent's hand, Lu Ye turned and gazed in one direction.

His eyes seemed to pierce through the Blood Sea, seeing the figure not far away!

A Moon Jade mid-stage... no, a cultivator suppressed to Moon Jade mid-stage, appearing much stronger than the white-haired old man he had just killed.

Was he drawn over by the commotion here?

It didn't make sense. At the level of Moon Jade cultivation, who wouldn't understand the wisdom of staying out of unrelated matters? Not every spectacle in this world could be watched idly without risking one's life.

So why had this person come here?

A cultivator suppressed to only Moon Jade mid-stage, Lu Ye wasn't afraid. If the person was truly looking for trouble, it would be a good chance for him to test his current strength.

Without hesitation, he asked bluntly, "What are you looking at?"

If you keep looking, I'll dig out your eyeballs!

However, unexpectedly, the observing cultivator cupped his fist respectfully and transmitted his voice, "Ma Shangsi from the Blood Demon Continent, greets the Saintly Venerable!"

Chapter 1686 - Blood Servant

As soon as Ma Shangsi finished speaking, Lu Ye knew what was happening.

This guy turned out to be a member of the Blood Race!

Others might sense the commotion here, but unless they are particularly curious, they probably won't come to investigate. The Blood Race is different...

Lu Ye activated the Blood Sea Technique here, which Blood Race cultivators could detect; he was probably mistaken for one of their own, wanting to see if there was any way he could help.

The Blood Race and Insect Race, although notorious in stellar space, are extremely united internally. Even if they don't come from the same domain, they won't hesitate to lend a hand when meeting outsiders.

This is very different from the human race whose cultivators often engage in conflicts when encountering each other.

Also, the Blood Race primarily cultivates the physique, so it's not surprising they would come to the Yin-Yang Great Millstone to refine their bodies.

When Lu Ye activated the Blood Sea Technique, he didn't restrain his own saintliness, which Ma Shangsi naturally sensed, hence his addressing him as Saintly Venerable.

Even within the Moon Jade stage, there is a significant difference in status between those who have refined Sacred Blood and those who haven't among the Blood Race.

Since entering stellar space, Lu Ye realized how advantageous the Blood Race in the Blood Refinement World had been. Even though the highest cultivation there is only the Divine Sea, many Blood Race members had refined Sacred Blood.

In stellar space, even if some Blood Race members have reached Moon Jade or even Sun Blaze, there are many who have not refined Sacred Blood because Sacred Blood is an extremely rare treasure for the entire Blood Race.

This Ma Shangsi clearly hasn't refined Sacred Blood.

Lu Ye didn't expect to encounter a Blood Race member here...

He naturally had no fondness for the Blood Race. During his Constellation stage, he might not have had any ideas, but now that he is Moon Jade, he can't let this Blood Race member go.

Not long after killing a Moon Jade Late Stage galactic pirate, he had the opportunity to take down another Blood Race member. Since advancing to Moon Jade, he swiftly achieved a double kill.

"Hmm...I've sustained some injuries and need some healing elixir," Lu Ye pondered aloud.

Ma Shangsi quickly replied, "I have some on hand; if the Saintly Venerable does not mind..."

"Then send them in," Lu Ye interrupted him before he finished speaking, simultaneously activating the Saintliness Restraint Technique to conceal his own saintliness, lest the other becomes a pushover.

Seeing Lu Ye being so accommodating, Ma Shangsi was visibly touched, hesitating not at all, plunging straight into the Blood Sea.

Primarily because Lu Ye's Blood Sea was so enticing; no one would suspect that a human could possess such powerful saintliness, typically reserved for Blood Race Saintly Venerables.

Ma Shangsi naturally assumed Lu Ye was a member of the Blood Race.

Feeling Ma Shangsi entering the Blood Sea, Lu Ye was about to unleash his saintliness once more.

Ma Shangsi's strength was already suppressed to Moon Jade Mid-Stage due to the special environment of the Yin-Yang Great Millstone, if further suppressed by his saintliness, it would be like carrying two huge burdens. His prowess wouldn't surpass that of the old man earlier and might even be weaker.

Such an enemy could easily be dealt with by Lu Ye.

However, just as he was about to proceed, a sudden flash of insight struck, birthing some intriguing thoughts within his mind.

Lu Ye frowned, quietly contemplating for a moment.

Much to his shock!

Because the sudden insight came from the Blood Race's bloodline inheritance, previously unnoticed because the conditions to trigger it hadn't been met.

Until Ma Shangsi entered his Blood Sea...

Lu Ye restrained the urge to unleash his saintliness to quickly eliminate Ma Shangsi, instead pondering while fixating on Ma Shangsi's direction.

This guy had only walked a short distance in the Blood Sea before stopping, evidently not daring to advance further, fearing misunderstanding due to his injuries, took out the best healing elixir from his storage ring, respectfully said: "Saintly Venerable, the elixir is here, please help yourself."

Instead of taking it, Lu Ye slowly spoke: "You...not bad!"

Ma Shangsi hurriedly replied, "Saintly Venerable, you're too kind, it's merely a small gesture."

"Would you be willing to become my Blood Servant?" Lu Ye asked again.

Ma Shangsi was astonished, almost not trusting his ears, but upon confirming he hadn't heard incorrectly, he was overjoyed: "Saintly Venerable is willing to take me as a Blood Servant?"

Never did he expect that merely running over to check on things and bring some elixir would lead to such a fortuitous opportunity.

Within the Blood Race, those who have refined Sacred Blood hold prestigious statuses, not solely due to talent but because after refining Sacred Blood, they can better comprehend the Blood Race's bloodline inheritance. Suppressing fellow clan members with saintliness isn't their intent but a natural trait of Sacred Blood.

However, right now in this stellar space, masterless Sacred Blood is exceedingly rare; ordinary Blood Race members typically have no chance to encounter Sacred Blood, the same goes for someone like Ma Shangsi in Moon Jade.

The Blood Race desires saintliness, aside from refining masterless Sacred Blood, there's another method, which is to become a Blood Servant of a Saintly Venerable, thus obtaining a share of Sacred Blood from them, leading to the birth of saintliness.

Of course, such saintliness is undeniably weak, unlike refining actual Sacred Blood, but compared to those without any saintliness, the future prospects are undoubtedly brighter.

So for any Blood Race individual, becoming a Blood Servant of a Saintly Venerable is considered a good thing.

However, this is not common, as Blood Race Saintly Venerables are unwilling to share their Sacred Blood. It would weaken their own bloodline and diminish their understanding of the bloodline legacy.

Thus, even if some Blood Race Saintly Venerables are willing to take Blood Servants, it usually happens after achieving Sun Blaze, and they won't take too many. At most two or three; anything more, they hesitate.

Lu Ye certainly doesn't have this concern. The amount of Sacred Blood he refined initially is not comparable to those Blood Race individuals; he could certainly take two or three hundred Blood Servants.

He doesn't place much importance on the legacy of the Blood Race bloodline.

Previously, he genuinely didn't know he could do such a thing; this ability must have come from refining his own Treasure Blood, but he hadn't encountered any Blood Race to trigger the information in the bloodline legacy until now.

Because if you want to subdue a Blood Race into becoming a Blood Servant, you must use Treasure Blood.

In this way, Treasure Blood has endless uses; it not only can transform into Treasure Blood Avatars, greatly enhance the power of Blood Race secret techniques, but also can be used to subdue Blood Servants...

Moreover, Lu Ye doesn't need to worry about rebellious actions from Blood Servants after they learn his true identity because once they become his Blood Servant, their life and death are decided by him, a bondage they cannot escape forever!

Lu Ye can even use the granted Treasure Blood to sense the psychological activities of the Blood Servant, capable of quelling dangers at their infancy.

Hence, within the Blood Race, becoming a Blood Servant of a Saintly Venerable is something some Blood Race extremely desire, yet others are highly averse. After all, not every Blood Race individual can accept having their life and death controlled by others.

Ma Shangsi was repulsed by the idea of becoming a Blood Servant when he was young, and of course, he hadn't met any Saintly Venerable willing to take him as a Blood Servant.

But as he aged, with the improvement of his cultivation, many thoughts from his youth gradually changed.

Especially since he had been trapped at Moon Jade for many years, unable to glimpse an opportunity to advance to Sun Blaze...

Becoming a Blood Servant and giving himself saintliness might indeed allow him to break his current shackles, perhaps even glimpsing the threshold of Sun Blaze.

For this, he had even personally visited a Sun Blaze Saintly Venerable to seek the position of Blood Servant, only to be coldly rejected.

With no other option, he could only come to the Yin-Yang Great Millstone, attempting to leverage the pressure here to find a path towards Sun Blaze.

The result was naturally fruitless...

He didn't expect a moment of unintended planting would lead to a lush orchard, as he now encountered a Saintly Venerable wanting to take him as a Blood Servant!

"If you're unwilling, I won't force it." Lu Ye spoke, yet his mind thought if a single word of refusal escaped his mouth, he would force him to submit.

Knowing that he can rely on Treasure Blood to subdue Blood Servants, and encountering a decent candidate, he certainly wants to give it a try.

"Willing, willing! Humbly, I am willing, please Saintly Venerable show mercy!" Ma Shangsi exclaimed without stopping.

This... is just too spineless.

Lu Ye felt somewhat dissatisfied with this fellow's behavior; he'd rather see him refuse to surrender to death, but things had come to this, leaving no choice.

Moreover, a Moon Jade Late Stage Blood Race is somewhat useful.

With a thought, a drop of Treasure Blood emerged at his fingertips, its color a vibrant red, but as Lu Ye's power surged, the color of Treasure Blood gradually turned golden.

Saintliness suffused upon it!

Lu Ye's saintliness is unparalleled across eternity, no Blood Race can resist. For the first time subduing a Blood Servant, he didn't want to be too stingy, especially as his opponent has decent strength, possibly good endurance.

Thus, the saintliness condensed within this Treasure Blood is basically equivalent to what a normal Sacred Blood would contain.

In other words, this drop of Treasure Blood is not much different from genuine Sacred Blood.

With a flick of his finger, the golden Treasure Blood flew to Ma Shangsi: "Since that's the case, refine it then."

Ma Shangsi's eyes widened, looking at the drop of Treasure Blood before him and feeling the rich saintliness within, his mind was greatly shaken.

Even though he had no experience as someone else's Blood Servant, and didn't know what the situation was with other Saintly Venerables bestowing Treasure Blood, he could ascertain this drop of Treasure Blood... is unusual!

Because the saintliness was too strong.

He had once felt the saintliness on a Saintly Venerable, and it was roughly this level.

Could this be a drop of real Sacred Blood? Ma Shangsi was startled by the thought arising in his mind.

Yet quickly he confirmed this is not real Sacred Blood, merely a drop of Treasure Blood.

A drop of Treasure Blood with saintliness almost reaching the level of Sacred Blood, how immensely profound must this Saintly Venerable be to bestow it effortlessly!

Ma Shangsi thought that if he indeed could successfully refine this drop of Treasure Blood, encountering the Saintly Venerable in the future, he wouldn't be suppressed much.

Chapter 1687 - It's Settled

Being able to casually bestow such treasure blood, the strength of the Saintly Venerable before him likely far exceeds imagination. To become a blood servant of such a strong being, for the Blood Race, is it not also an honor?

Ma Shangsi felt a surge of excitement and, without further hesitation, even felt a tearful gratitude: "Thank you, Saintly Venerable!"

He reached out to grasp that drop of treasure blood. The golden hue, rich with saintliness, as soon as it touched his hand, seeped into Ma Shangsi's palm like flowing water. The next moment, his expression changed drastically, a low growl emanated from his throat, and his surging mana and blood Qi went into a frenzy.

In fact, this place was not a suitable environment for refining Sacred Blood, especially with the suppression of the Yin-Yang Great Millstone. It would be best to leave this place and find a secluded spot outside.

But without Lu Ye speaking up, how could Ma Shangsi dare to say anything? With Sacred Blood before him, he had to seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Although his cultivation was suppressed by this special environment, Ma Shangsi still believed he could refine this drop of treasure blood.

While he was refining the treasure blood, Lu Ye had already withdrawn the Blood Sea, walked some distance away, and sat down cross-legged.

The process of the Blood Race refining Sacred Blood is perilous—it can result in death with one misstep. This has nothing to do with the cultivator's level of cultivation. Whether it's the Divine Sea or Moon Jade, a higher or lower cultivation level doesn't highly improve the refining process.

Moreover, no outsider can assist in this process, as it concerns one's bloodline, so Lu Ye could only wait.

If Ma Shangsi manages to refine it successfully, all the better—a Moon Jade Late Stage blood servant can be of some use. Even if the refinement fails and he dies from the backlash, it's no great loss to Lu Ye.

Initially, he intended to kill the other party, but inadvertently discovered another magical use of treasure blood, so he tried to recruit a blood servant in the spur of the moment.

Ignoring Ma Shangsi, Lu Ye took out a piece of soul jade and swallowed it directly.

Normally, cultivators refine soul jade much like refining psyche refinement herbs, needing to hold it in their hand and use Mental Consciousness for refinement.

Lu Ye found this troublesome and opted for direct ingestion for convenience. After all, with the Talent Tree on his side, he has consumed Blood Crystals of the Blood Race and even the inner cores of demon beasts, so eating some soul jade was no big deal.

Of the three drops of treasure blood, only two were left. Knowing now the boundless uses of treasure blood, he naturally planned to find time to condense more.

During the time of Constellation, condensing treasure blood was not easy for Lu Ye—in several months, he had only managed to condense two drops, and with the first drop he birthed, he only had three.

But now, at the Moon Jade stage, Lu Ye felt that if he were to condense treasure blood again, it would be somewhat easier than before.

However, there was no rush. Lu Ye took out several storage rings...

These were spoils of recent battles, belonging to the white-haired elder and the Flame Race Moon Jade.

Two Moon Jade Realm individuals and galactic pirates at that, they must have some assets. Lu Ye was currently a bit low in funds, so it's naturally worth looking forward to this sort of opportunity for wealth.

Cracking the restriction lock of the storage ring was not difficult for him, something done with ease.

In no time, a storage ring's restriction lock was broken. Lu Ye rummaged through it, finding the harvest decent. Spirit jade and spirit crystal weren't many—after all, even Moon Jades don't carry too much surplus. They usually use their cultivation resources for cultivation.

However, the storage ring contained some precious materials that should fetch some spirit jade.

One by one, the rings were cracked open, and the haul gradually increased.

One particular ring had an especially massive haul, with nearly ten million spirit jade alone, and over a hundred thousand spirit crystals. Additionally, many elixir pills and miracle cures to replenish Soul Power, all of high quality.

Lu Ye estimated that these elixir pills must have been specially prepared by the white-haired elder. He obviously knew that once the World King Flower was collected, it would pose a considerable burden to his psyche, so he prepared these specifically to replenish the consumed Soul Power.

As it turned out, he couldn't use them, so they all became Lu Ye's gains.

Lu Ye was in a splendid mood. Though he still had three hundred pieces of soul jade, they undoubtedly won't last long. With the replenishment now, his sustainability increased significantly.

While cracking the storage rings, he also sent a wisp of consciousness to inform those in the Flower World—Hua Qianying and the two clan leaders—about the current situation.

Learning that Lu Ye had already dealt with the white-haired elder, they were both shocked and delighted.

The greatest crisis had been resolved, yet Hua Qianying still had deep worries in her eyes, for they would soon face another layer of crisis.

The placement of the World King Flower!

Currently, the World King Flower is rooted in Lu Ye's Divine Sea, presenting no immediate concern, but this situation cannot be maintained indefinitely. Eventually, Lu Ye will be unable to sustain it.

The World King Flower must find a host to attach to in order to be maintained.

But finding a suitable host in a short time is no easy task.

Of course, the World King Flower is a divine object that any domain covets. Speaking of nearby locations, just beyond the boundaries of the Yin-Yang Great Millstone is the Grotto Void Galaxy. The Grotto Void World, a large domain, undoubtedly yearns for the World King Flower.

But human nature is complex, and before ensuring that the Flower World beings would be properly cared for, how could Hua Qianying entrust the World King Flower easily? What if the World King Flower were to attach itself there, and the beings of the Flower World's three races ended up enslaved...that's not the scenario she wishes to see.

Moreover, a domain like Grotto Void World is not the best choice for the World King Flower to attach itself to.

"Why not place the World King Flower in my homeland?" Lu Ye sensed Hua Qianying's thoughts and proposed the idea, which he had in mind ever since he learned of the World King Flower's divine nature.

"Where is your homeland?" Hua Qianying asked.

She wasn't opposed to placing the World King Flower in Lu Ye's homeland, especially since without him, the World King Flower would have already fallen into the hands of the Divine Wind Galactic Pirates Group.

Moreover, Lu Ye is someone valued by the Reincarnation Tree, trustworthy, and his future prospects are immeasurable.

She actually shared this thought, but she felt that any domain capable of producing a cultivator like Lu Ye must have significant roots, not lesser than Grotto Void World.

Grotto Void World isn't the best choice for the World King Flower to attach to, and likewise, Lu Ye's homeland wouldn't be either.

The best choice for the World King Flower is a domain with less formidable roots, where it can advance along with the domain, mutually benefiting and achieving. If it were to attach itself to a domain with extremely strong roots, the World King Flower might end up becoming subordinate, which wouldn't be good for it.

"My homeland is far away, and it only ascended to a large domain a few years ago, so its roots aren't particularly deep..." Lu Ye spoke honestly.

"What? Your homeland only ascended to a large domain a few years ago?" Hua Qianying was stunned.

Lu Ye was also taken aback; why did she suddenly seem somewhat excited?

"Yes, counting the years, it's been just over ten years since the ascension." Lu Ye replied truthfully.

Hua Qianying's eyes brightened: "Only just over ten years as a large domain!"

The Flower World within the World King Flower is considered a large domain, but due to its special environment, its roots are similarly shallow, comparable to Lu Ye's homeland, which makes it an ideal match for the World King Flower.

But Hua Qianying suddenly remembered something: "But your cultivation..."

Logically speaking, if Lu Ye's homeland had only been a large domain for over ten years, it wouldn't produce someone at the Moon Jade stage.

Lu Ye said: "Shortly after I ascended to the Constellation stage, I came to All Phenomena Ocean, and during this time, I encountered many opportunities, resulting in rapid advancement in my cultivation."

That advancement was incredibly fast... Hua Qianying thought silently, but considering he is endorsed by the Reincarnation Tree, perhaps it isn't surprising?

"If you don't mind, my homeland would gladly welcome the Flower World."

Lu Ye genuinely wished for the World King Flower to attach itself to the Nine Provinces, thus fostering its growth, but it depended on Hua Qianying to agree, as he wasn't a galactic pirate and wouldn't take advantage of kindness, even if he felt Hua Qianying might not refuse if he insisted.

"Could you guide me there? If your homeland really just ascended to a large domain recently, that's the best place for the World King Flower to attach itself to."

"Absolutely!" Lu Ye agreed readily, refraining from mentioning that the Nine Provinces is a domain capable of rapid growth, and once Hua Qianying saw it, she surely couldn't resist its allure.

The attachment of the World King Flower to the Nine Provinces was likely a done deal!

Looking ahead, with the Flower World's attachment, alongside the Flower Race, the wood spirits, and the Spore Race, with two Moon Jade cultivators, the domain's overall cultivation roots would surely receive a significant enhancement.

Lu Ye was in a good mood, so he didn't converse further with Hua Qianying, instead turning his gaze towards Ma Shangsi.

Low grunts of strain and struggle continued from that direction, and although Lu Ye couldn't determine Ma Shangsi's exact situation, he knew he was enveloped in a layer of golden light, with fluctuating aura...

Could this guy make it?

Lu Ye knew that refining Sacred Blood is a significant challenge for the Blood Race, yet Ma Shangsi had the Late Stage Moon Jade roots, and he was refining his own treasure blood, why was it proving so difficult?

Logically, anyone cultivating to the Late Stage Moon Jade wouldn't likely possess inferior aptitude.

If Ma Shangsi failed and perished, Lu Ye wouldn't be bothered, except for the loss of his drop of treasure blood, which wasn't easy to cultivate...

As he pondered this, the golden light over there began to gradually recede, slowly revealing Ma Shangsi's haggard form.

Though he appeared somewhat disheveled, there wasn't substantial change, and his own strength hadn't visibly increased, but Ma Shangsi's skin seemed to emit a hint of saintliness.

Could this be considered...success?

Lu Ye observed closely; Ma Shangsi's expression was undeniably jubilant, as he sensed the saintliness within himself, thrilled and eager, as he realized his initial impression was correct—after refining that drop of treasure blood, he had indeed gained saintliness almost identical to what he witnessed in Sun Blaze Saintly Venerable!

To his knowledge, that Sun Blaze Saintly Venerable had refined a drop of Sacred Blood, and now his saintliness was equivalent, implying the treasure blood he refined equated to a drop of Sacred Blood?

Chapter 1688 - I Don't Understand

A drop of carefully refined treasure blood is almost equivalent to a drop of Sacred Blood, and what kind of powerful entity could so casually bestow such treasure blood?

Suppressing the excitement and exhilaration in his heart, with reverence, Ma Shangsi swiftly flew toward Lu Ye.

The refining of the treasure blood was not yet complete, but the most dangerous phase had passed; all that remained was the gradual process. Once he could fully refine that drop of treasure blood, his own bloodline would experience a qualitative leap.

Following Lu Ye's aura, he stopped some distance away and respectfully spoke, "Greetings, Saintly Venerable. I have not let you down; I have refined the treasure blood!"

At the same time, he raised his eyes, quietly observing Lu Ye.

Previously, due to the interference of the Blood Sea's shroud, he hadn't seen Lu Ye's appearance, and he wasn't even clear about Lu Ye's cultivation level.

Until this moment...

Under his perception, the cultivation level of this powerful Saintly Venerable in front of him...wasn't what he imagined, a powerful Sun Blaze, but merely a Moon Jade Early Stage?

Even when considering the suppression of cultivation level due to this location, it was at most a mid-stage, or perhaps late stage at best.

His cultivation level was actually not higher than his own.

Even so, Ma Shangsi did not dare underestimate the other party, for the treasure blood casually bestowed by the Saintly Venerable had completely transformed him, and his future achievements would be boundless. He certainly wouldn't be foolish enough to belittle the other based on current cultivation levels.

Taking another look at the Saintly Venerable's appearance, he appeared very young, with the features of a human race.

This wasn't surprising; the Blood Race had long developed secret techniques to change their appearance to move freely in the stellar space. After all, the experience of parading around with Blood Race features wouldn't be too pleasant.

In this regard, the Insect Race was different. Being one of the two terrors of the stellar space, the Insect Race's characteristics couldn't be concealed no matter what.

However, what puzzled Ma Shangsi was...why did the Saintly Venerable's appearance seem somewhat familiar?

He vaguely felt as if he had seen it somewhere before.

The Moon Jade's memory was naturally strong, so after a slight pondering, he knew exactly where he had seen this face before.

It was an image!

An image brought back by a Moon Jade who once led the tribesmen to participate in the Divine Sea struggle at the Reincarnation Tree, the environment in that image was inside the Reincarnation Tree, gathering powerful figures from various domains, and the young figure right at the heart of the image had this appearance.

And based on this image, the Insect and Blood Races jointly issued a Bounty Order.

Indeed, it was Lu Yiye of Nine Heavens! Ma Shangsi immediately recalled this name.

But soon, he quickly dismissed the thought from his mind. How could such a powerful Saintly Venerable be connected to that human brat? It must be that the Saintly Venerable was using that kid's appearance for external affairs.

Yes, that must be it!

"Yes, that's exactly right, I am the person you think I am!" Lu Ye looked at Ma Shangsi with great interest.

The other party had refined the treasure blood, though not completely, having only passed the most dangerous phase, but Lu Ye could already control everything about him, including his current emotional fluctuations, which were all under Lu Ye's scrutiny.

Ma Shangsi was clearly momentarily dazed, then looked at Lu Ye with naive eyes: "Saintly Venerable, I don't understand."

He truly didn't understand. What did the Saintly Venerable mean by saying "I am the person you think I am"? However he thought about it, it didn't quite make sense.

Lu Ye said calmly, "I am Lu Yiye of Nine Heavens, the human that your Blood Race and the Insect Race jointly issued a bounty order to kill!"

Ma Shangsi was silent for a moment, then burst into awkward laughter: "Saintly Venerable, do not joke with your subordinate."

How could such a thing be possible?

Lu Ye looked somewhat regretfully at the Moon Jade Late Stage before him, feeling that the other party...didn't seem very clever.

Lu Ye did not bother to explain further, believing it or not, this fellow had already become his blood servant, unable to stir any waves. Even though he couldn't accept reality now, he would have to at some point.

"Let's go," Lu Ye beckoned.

Ma Shangsi quickly summoned his starboat, "Please, Saintly Venerable!"

Lu Ye nodded, embarked on the starboat, and Ma Shangsi then asked, "I ask for the Saintly Venerable's guidance; where should we proceed next?"

Lu Ye thought for a moment and said, "Before coming here, I saw a marketplace outside; let's go visit there!"

He originally intended to go there to purchase something to restore his Soul Power, but since he inherited the white-haired elder's legacy, it was no longer necessary.

Next, he had to return to the Nine Provinces and settle the World King Flower.

If it were before, he wouldn't have had this capability, as the time required to travel to and fro the Nine Provinces was too long, and such a long journey could only be sustained by having a large supply of soul jade or elixir pill to replenish his Soul Power.

But now, he was considered half Soul Race. With the help of the stellar space pond on the Soul Race's side, there was hope to find a convenient path to the Nine Provinces.

Lu Ye still remembered the reluctant farewell from Number Nine the last time he left the Nine Provinces and also remembered the promise he made to Number Nine, that he would bring back tasty treats upon his return.

Number Nine was like a child, but a child only known to Lu Ye. Once Lu Ye departed, despite the vastness of the Nine Provinces, it no longer had a companion. The only thing it could do was silently guard the Nine Provinces and eagerly await Lu Ye's return.

The lord is enjoying his life outside; naturally, he should bring gifts for the children left at home, especially when he has already promised to do so.

For a realm, delicious treats are undoubtedly things that can enhance the realm's foundation.

For instance, the wondrous objects within the Thousand Mounds Cemetery are a great nourishment for a realm, but Lu Ye currently has no ability to stir up trouble over there; last time he succeeded, thanks to the azure bird.

He can only think of other methods.

Lu Ye estimated that he would need to cultivate to the Sun Blaze level to go to the Thousand Mounds Cemetery and reap its benefits, and he would also need to discuss things thoroughly with the azure bird.

An alternative would be to visit the marketplace outside to see if there are things like the crystal cores of World Devouring Beasts; these could also serve as snacks for Number Nine.

Ma Shangsi received the order, swiftly piloting the starboat outwards at an incredibly fast yet steady pace.

Lu Ye couldn't help but sigh; having subordinates really makes things easier; he didn't even have to exert himself for the journey, just needed to give a command.

Furthermore, Ma Shangsi's efficiency as a Moon Jade Late-Stage is undoubtedly faster than his own; on foundational terms, Ma Shangsi is much stronger than the white-haired elder of the Divine Wind Galactic Pirates Group.

This is evident from the suppression of the Yin-Yang Great Millstone; at roughly the same depth, the white-haired elder is suppressed to Moon Jade Early Stage cultivation, whereas Ma Shangsi can exhibit Moon Jade Mid-Stage level, showing the white-haired elder's lack of foundation.

His entire cultivation is likely piled up through external forces.

Mere days later, they exited the suppression range of the Yin-Yang Great Millstone, passed through the invisible barrier, and entered the stellar space.

The marketplace was not far; Lu Ye had glanced at it from a distance when he was escaping.

Ma Shangsi discreetly utilized a secret technique to hide his Blood Race traits, transforming into a human form.

Although his stature remained tall, he undeniably looked more handsome, appearing to be no older than thirty.

Once outside the Yin-Yang Great Millstone, Ma Shangsi's cultivation reverted to Moon Jade Late-Stage, and according to Lu Ye's impression, he seemed not weaker than the Great Elder of the merfolk, Yann Miao.

This fellow was indeed at the Peak Moon Jade!

Having obtained the treasure blood, if he remains diligent in the future and seizes some opportunities, he might just ascend to Sun Blaze.

The blood servant he casually acquired turned out to be quite good, his prospects promising indeed.

Lu Ye was pleased with Ma Shangsi, but Ma Shangsi himself was confused at this moment.

Initially, he assumed Lu Ye was at Moon Jade Mid-Stage; he hadn't expected that even after exiting the Yin-Yang Great Millstone and being free from the suppressive ancient environment, Lu Ye remained at Moon Jade Early Stage.

What was going on?

However, being a Moon Jade Late-Stage with exceptional insight and experience, he quickly understood what the white-haired elder earlier had figured out.

He couldn't help but feel exhilarated because if he wasn't mistaken, the Saintly Venerable before him, who had granted him treasure blood, was definitely a winner in the Divine Sea contest at the Reincarnation Tree, having refined the Taichu Realm's spirit light; otherwise, he wouldn't be immune to the suppressive ancient environment.

The Blood Race winning in the Taichu Realm isn't really news; in previous years, both the Blood Race and Insect Race secured victory slots in every Divine Sea contest because the Blood Race could use secret techniques to search for kin and then team up.

The sole exception was the last Divine Sea contest, completely wiped out by Lu Yiye of Nine Heavens...

Thinking of Lu Yiye of Nine Heavens and recalling the words of the Saintly Venerable earlier, Ma Shangsi was a bit uneasy, having spent several days pondering the meaning of those words without clarity.

He didn't dare ask...

The marketplace here was rather lively; many cultivators who come to temper themselves at the Yin-Yang Great Millstone consider this a temporary resting place, replenishing their consumption.

The number of Constellations here is actually sparse, most are Moon Jade cultivators.

Not every Constellation dare to delve into stellar marvels like Lu Ye for body refinement; generally speaking, Constellation cultivators operate mostly within their domain's star system, rarely leaving their home galaxy.

Of course, environments as special as All Phenomena Ocean are exceptions; the opportunities there are abundant, and Constellations willingly go if possible.

Therefore, even if cultivators have the desire, they would act only after ascending to Moon Jade to ensure safety.

Lu Ye strolled among the stalls, observing leisurely.

It wasn't that there weren't good items; what Moon Jade cultivators offered for sale was undeniably decent, but Lu Ye himself had few needs—a combat cultivator only needed the Boulder Mountain Saber.

For cultivation, spirit jade he had, spirit crystals he had, as for elixir pills... there was no immediate need; the whole All Phenomena Ocean was his elixir pill.

Seeing Lu Ye search around without finding anything to his liking, Ma Shangsi asked, "What does the Saintly Venerable wish to purchase? Shall I assist in keeping an eye out?"

Lu Ye nodded, "Things like crystal cores of World Devouring Beasts that can enhance the realm's foundation."

Ma Shangsi understood, "Then, Saintly Venerable, your humble servant will wander around here; if there's anything, I'll buy it."

"Go ahead," Lu Ye nodded, pondering if he should require him to contribute financially given his status as a Moon Jade Late-Stage, but decided to postpone until finances were more strained.

Chapter 1689 - White Moon Crystal

Lu Ye parted ways with Ma Shangsi to act independently. After wandering around for most of the day without any gain, he suddenly caught sight of a gathering around a stall, where the vendor was an elegant-looking woman. He wondered what she was selling to attract such attention.

Lu Ye approached to join the crowd. Upon closer inspection and listening for a while, he finally understood what the fuss was about.

A piece of White Moon Crystal!

The White Moon Crystal is essentially a Crystal Core from a star beast, but unlike the typical ones. While most star beast Crystal Cores possess various uses, they cannot be directly refined and absorbed by cultivators. Across the stellar space, only a few types of star beast Crystal Cores can be refined by cultivators, offering significant benefits.

The White Moon Crystal is one such item, coveted by virtually every Moon Jade for its ability to enhance the quality of a Magic Source.

The quality of the Magic Source affects a Moon Jade's cultivation efficiency. Generally, when a Moon Jade initially forms, the Magic Source quality tends to be low and inadequate for cultivation needs, necessitating efforts to enhance the Magic Source to a satisfactory level.

In the stellar space, while Moon Jades are not as numerous as Constellations, they are certainly plentiful. The treasures desired by all are naturally rare and hence valuable.

This piece of White Moon Crystal is about the size of a fist. Once the vendor displayed it, many Moon Jades came asking for the price; however, after learning the price, most left, leaving only a few to haggle.

Yet, the woman seemed adamant about the price, holding firm, to the frustration of those Moon Jades interested in the White Moon Crystal.

Some even showed signs of malice, evidently planning to ambush the woman when she left the marketplace.

Lu Ye was naturally intrigued by the White Moon Crystal. He had never seen such an item before, mainly because he hadn't needed it. Now that he was at Moon Jade, he needed it more than other Moon Jades, unsure of how much he needed to enhance his Magic Source to meet cultivation demands.

The price was indeed steep, a full twenty million spirit jade, comparable to an 8-star magic treasure.

However, while a magic treasure is ultimately an External Force, the Magic Source forms the foundation of oneself, making this comparison unsuitable.

Yet, twenty million spirit jade is quite hefty; even for a Moon Jade, it is not typically within their wealth. Despite Moon Jades' easier access to cultivation resources, they rarely have much surplus.

Consider the white-haired elder of Divine Wind, a galactic pirate kingpin, with assets barely over ten million spirit jade.

Lu Ye could gather enough spirit jade and spirit crystal if needed, but doing so would effectively bankrupt him.

As the saying goes, having reserves brings peace of mind; cultivators without spare spirit jade and spirit crystal would be at a disadvantage during emergencies.

The cultivators haggling with the woman eventually realized they wouldn't get a better deal and gradually dispersed.

Lu Ye stayed behind alone.

The woman glanced at him, expressionless: "Twenty million spirit jade, no negotiations." Had she not been in urgent need of spirit jade, she wouldn't have put such a treasure up for sale, intending instead to keep it for personal use.

"I wasn't negotiating!" Lu Ye replied, still waiting.

After a while, Ma Shangsi eagerly approached: "Saintly Venerable, what do you think of this item?"

Having recently joined Lu Ye's side and been granted treasure blood, Ma Shangsi was keen to prove himself, his luck was favorable—he found a promising item on the other side of the marketplace and bought it immediately.

He handed over a storage ring.

Lu Ye took it and delved in with his Mental Consciousness, discovering an object as large as several water jars, entirely black like a rock.

"What is this?" Lu Ye asked.

Ma Shangsi replied, "Saintly Venerable, after some domains shattered, they left behind ruins. Most ruins are worthless, but a small portion contains the essence of the domain. This item is a ruin from a shattered domain, though its quality seems lacking. Still, it resembles a World Devouring Beast's Crystal Core."

Lu Ye had him seek items similar to the World Devouring Beast Crystal Core, enhancing domain essence, but World Devouring Beasts are exceedingly rare, hard to find.

This domain ruins are comparatively more common.

Lu Ye nodded slightly: "Not bad!" and put the ring away.

Encouraged by the praise, Ma Shangsi was delighted. Observing Lu Ye linger at the stall, he asked, "Saintly Venerable, have you found something good?"

Lu Ye didn't reply, but the woman vendor spoke, her tone cold: "A piece of White Moon Crystal, do you want it?"

Upon hearing this, Ma Shangsi immediately understood. The Saintly Venerable was now at the Moon Jade Early Stage, clearly eyeing the White Moon Crystal to enhance his Magic Source quality.

He carefully inquired about the price.

His face darkened instantly, and he shouted angrily: "Such a White Moon Crystal, in All Phenomena Ocean it sells for merely around fifteen million; why is it twenty million here?"

Lu Ye couldn't help but glance at Ma Shangsi, surprised at his familiarity with the prices in All Phenomena Ocean; clearly, he had been there before.

The woman didn't argue with him, just said flatly, "If the guest thinks All Phenomena Ocean offers a better deal, you can buy it there."

These words left Ma Shangsi speechless.

He gave Lu Ye a look, "Saintly Venerable, no need to waste money here, let's go."

Lu Ye nodded. Although he was interested in the White Moon Crystal, he wasn't interested in being overcharged. The price difference of five million spirit jade was significant. No wonder the few Moon Jade cultivators earlier, though tempted, hadn't bought it.

He stayed here initially to wait for Ma Shangsi to buy it for him, since the spirit jade of his Blood Servant was essentially his own.

However, now knowing the real price of the White Moon Crystal, there was no need. They could buy it later at All Phenomena Ocean.

After walking a bit, Ma Shangsi unexpectedly handed over a storage ring: "Saintly Venerable, this item is of no use to me at the moment. I offer it to you with great respect. I hope you do not reject it."

Lu Ye took it and found, surprisingly, a piece of White Moon Crystal inside!

And it seemed to be even larger than the one the woman was selling.

Seeing Lu Ye's curious look, Ma Shangsi explained, "This was something I prepared to use after advancing to Sun Blaze, but the advancement still seems far off."

In fact, before meeting Lu Ye, he didn't even see the opportunity to ascend to Sun Blaze. Although he now had a chance, the advancement was not something that could happen overnight.

Lu Ye had an interest in the White Moon Crystal, but he didn't want to waste money, mainly because he couldn't afford it. It was just right that he had a piece to present.

"You're not bad!" Lu Ye patted him on the shoulder.

Earning this Blood Servant was a great gain.

Just a drop of treasure blood, he could easily condense it again. As for the lost saintliness, it was negligible compared to what he possessed. Not only did he gain a Peak Moon Jade subordinate, but also a piece of White Moon Crystal worth tens of millions.

Additionally, that piece of domain ruins wouldn't be cheap either, estimated to cost at least a few hundred thousand spirit jade.

Lu Ye even considered having Ma Shangsi lead the way to capture more Blood Race Moon Jades. Being at Peak Moon Jade, he surely knew other Blood Race Moon Jades, who were valuable resources...

However, comparing the two, returning to the Nine Provinces to settle the World King Flower was undoubtedly more important. There would be plenty of opportunities to capture Blood Race Moon Jades in the future.

"Relieving the Saintly Venerable's worries is my duty," Ma Shangsi said sincerely, for compared to these external items, Lu Ye gave him the hope of advancing to Sun Blaze, which was the true motivation for his dedication.

Moreover, having been taken as Lu Ye's Blood Servant meant he couldn't escape for life, so naturally, he had to perform well.

Soon, the master and servant rode their starboat out of the marketplace, heading towards the Grotto Void Galaxy under the guidance of the star map given by Lu Ye.

Ma Shangsi steered the starboat; Lu Ye, with nothing to do, prepared to refine a few more drops of treasure blood.

Treasure blood had many wonderful uses, so the more, the better. However, with Lu Ye's Constellation Late Stage foundation, he could barely condense three drops. Now, having advanced to Moon Jade, things might improve.

Yet, before that, he remembered something else.

Immediately, he placed the Boulder Mountain Saber across his knees, immersing his mind within.

He had been stuck at Wang Xiu's level of the inheritance within the Barghest, not because he couldn't comprehend it at all. In fact, he'd made significant progress compared to when he was instantly killed by Wang Xiu at their first encounter. During his last attempt, he had a vague sense of the meaning behind it, though he still ended up being slain with a single strike. Yet, it was a different scenario compared to before.

Lately, he had been busy and had no time for comprehension.

Now that he advanced to Moon Jade... he wondered if things would improve.

As his mind immersed, he found himself once again in that familiar blue hall, facing Wang Xiu, who, as always, was poised for attack, standing a little way off with a subtly bent posture, left hand gripping the sword sheath and right hand on the saber's hilt, a powerful aura flowing around him.

Moon Jade Early Stage!

The projections of the Barghest saber's predecessors, revealed within this blue hall, were intricately linked to Lu Ye's cultivation. Whatever cultivation level Lu Ye had when he entered, was the level of the projections.

When he came in at Constellation Late Stage, Wang Xiu was at Constellation Late Stage.

Now, entering at Moon Jade Early Stage, Wang Xiu was at Moon Jade Early Stage as well. They wouldn't lower in strength with Lu Ye's cultivation advancement.

Because fundamentally, the power of these projections originated from what Lu Ye infused into the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Compared to the Constellation Late Stage, the aura Wang Xiu now projected was undoubtedly many times stronger. Once again, Lu Ye felt like he was being observed by a natural enemy, his heart fluttered with unrest, as if he were about to face death in an instant.

In fact, he had experienced this many times before.

Chapter 1690 - The Secret of the Drawn Saber Slash

This time, something seemed different. Lu Ye activated Insight Spirit Runes, channeling them into his eyes, and instantly saw through the aura of the cultivator opposite him, Wang Xiu.

Suddenly, the feeling of impending death intensified to the extreme!

Wang Xiu seemed to move, and in the next instant, saber light filled Lu Ye's vision.

The Boulder Mountain Saber in Lu Ye's hand fiercely met the attack.

With a loud bang, violent mana collided and scattered within the hall. Lu Ye felt an immense force surging towards him, pushing him backward uncontrollably.

However, his eyes were extraordinarily bright because he had already been knocked out at this point before, but now he was still in the azure hall. This undoubtedly indicated that he had blocked this strike.

He did block it, but not completely...

Because Wang Xiu's ferocious saber light had torn through Lu Ye's shoulder from a distance.

Even though it was just a spirit projection, this projection was no different from Lu Ye's physical body. The only difference was that dying here didn't pose a threat to his life, it merely consumed a bit of Mental Consciousness.

Considering the strength of his current physique, the fact that Wang Xiu could strike him from a distance showed the terrifying power of his attack.

Almost half of Lu Ye's shoulder was cut off, yet he paid it no mind, wielding the saber in the other hand fiercely downward, with a faint beastly roar echoing as an invisible beast opened its maw, the violent saber momentum enveloping Wang Xiu.

The fangs were bared!

As Wang Xiu was forced to retreat, Lu Ye surged forward fiercely, his aura becoming domineering and brutal.

In an instant, silhouettes moved within the azure hall as saber lights flickered.

Wang Xiu was strong. The predecessors who managed to leave their legacies within the barghest were all exceptional, unmatched in their realm across eras.

But his greatest strength was that Drawn Saber Slash!

If Wang Xiu in normal state was on par with the likes of Qing Li, Yien Xi, and the Praying Mantis, then the Wang Xiu executing the Drawn Saber Slash was on a higher level.

Lu Ye blocked this strongest strike. Therefore, what followed was straightforward. In this era, within the same realm, Lu Ye too was unparalleled.

A brief moment later, amid the intense battle, Lu Ye suddenly halted as Wang Xiu withdrew from the combat circle and slightly nodded at him.

Seeing this, Lu Ye was pleased, thinking he had passed the test?

But soon he was confused because usually, upon passing such tests, he would also comprehend the legacy left by the opponent in the barghest.

The barghest of Qing Li's Fangs Bared, Yien Xi's Brazen Plundering Technique, and Praying Mantis's Twin Saber Style were all comprehended through repeated deaths and confrontations.

However, in the contest with Wang Xiu... Lu Ye didn't actually sense his legacy.

Moreover, by his own reasoning, Wang Xiu's legacy should be that Drawn Saber Slash; how could he comprehend it through this confrontation?

What was going on?

Just as Lu Ye was puzzled, Wang Xiu sat down cross-legged, placing his sword sheath across his knees, and mana started surging up his body.

Lu Ye watched quietly, and in the next moment, realization dawned on him.

He had always pondered why Wang Xiu's Drawn Saber Slash was so powerful, and it was only now that he understood.

It was powerful because the charging up took long enough.

The draw of the saber was instantaneous, but there was an extended period of charging before the draw.

In the cultivation world, the power of secret techniques requiring charge time is not trivial, much like the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes that Lu Ye once used, where the charging time was long, but once successfully activated, it could annihilate a multitude of foes in the same realm.

Long charging time meant pouring in enough power, thus the force was naturally substantial.

At this moment, complex patterns began to manifest on Wang Xiu's sword sheath, and even with Lu Ye's insight into the Path of Spirit Runes, he could sense the complexity of these spirit runes.

Such a spirit rune couldn't possibly be constructed by an ordinary spirit runes master.

Wang Xiu was evidently an exceptionally outstanding spirit runes master!

The incredible secret behind his Drawn Saber Slash lay in this spirit rune, and as for the key to it, Lu Ye would need to explore it himself.

Within the azure hall, Lu Ye watched intently, committing each basic element's connection and transformation to memory.

For a typical combat cultivator, even if they forcibly memorized it, obtaining this legacy wouldn't be easy. But Lu Ye was different. He himself was a spirit runes master and possessed the Talent Tree, so he felt obtaining Wang Xiu's legacy shouldn't be difficult.

As time passed, Lu Ye stayed longer in the azure hall this time than ever before.

It wasn't until several days later that his Mental Consciousness returned.

Luckily, having subdued Ma Shangsi as a Blood Servant, with such a Peak Moon Jade level protector by his side, Lu Ye could be focus-uninterrupted. Otherwise, traveling through the stellar space, he wouldn't dare to do this.

Upon opening his eyes, the first thing he did was attempt to engrave the spirit rune into the Talent Tree.

If he could successfully inscribe that spirit rune into the Talent Tree, he could invoke it freely in the future.

This wasn't a difficult task for him; it just required some time and effort. At present, there were already many spirit runes on the Talent Tree, all inscribed by himself.

The blank leaves burning on the Talent Tree are all carriers that can inscribe spirit runes.

Recalling the experiences in the azure hall, Lu Ye meticulously began his task.

The spirit runes exhibited by Wang Xiu were far more complex than even the void, consisting of nearly ten thousand Yin-Yang Dual Origins.

This was not something a single leaf could bear.

It took Lu Ye several days to gradually inscribe the entire spirit rune. When he looked at the Talent Tree, it seemed to exude a sharp aura, as if a peerless weapon was hidden within the leaf area carrying this wondrous spirit rune, ready to strike at any moment.

The spirit rune was successfully inscribed, and the next step was to attempt verification; Lu Ye felt eager.

After slightly restoring his condition, he mimicked Wang Xiu by placing the Boulder Mountain Saber, sheath and all, horizontally across his knees, and immediately activated mana to construct the spirit rune on the sword sheath.

Wang Xiu's process was very slow, primarily due to the teachings; it's estimated that when he left this legacy, he was worried that future generations wouldn't understand, so he taught in almost a step-by-step manner.

Now that Lu Ye had learned this spirit rune, there was no need to be so slow.

Even though it was a spirit rune constructed from tens of thousands of basic elements, he built it in an instant.

Immediately afterward, he channeled mana into the spirit rune.

This infusion is the power build-up process for the Drawn Saber Slash; the longer the build-up time, the more terrifying the power of the slash!

As mana flowed into the spirit rune, it began circulating just like a cultivator performing their exercises; this situation made Lu Ye feel as though the spirit rune had truly become a living cultivator, with his infused mana operating a Major Circumambulation within it.

After a cycle, there was a slight change within the sword sheath.

Lu Ye felt that if he wished, he could transfer this pre-constructed spirit rune from the sword sheath onto the Boulder Mountain Saber at any moment, thereby enhancing the power of the swing at that instant.

This is the mystery of the Drawn Saber Slash.

However, with only one cycle of mana having operated within the spirit rune, the power enhancement upon drawing the saber was almost negligible.

Lu Ye continued to channel mana...

Yet he quickly realized another problem.

The quality of the Boulder Mountain Saber's sheath was too low, unable to withstand such power accumulations.

The Boulder Mountain Saber's current quality was hard to define, as it was transformed by the barghest devouring the old Boulder Mountain Saber, but the sheath was still the original one.

It's merely at the spirit treasure level, and not even of high quality.

Lu Ye had never thought to replace the sheath or enhance its quality before, as it was just a container, mostly unnecessary.

But now that he wanted the sheath to be the carrier of the spirit rune, its quality was undoubtedly too low.

After only a few cycles, the sheath already showed signs of strain, and continuing like this would certainly result in it shattering.

This made Lu Ye furrow his brows. It seemed that he would need to find a better sheath in the future, at least one capable of withstanding the continuous power build-up of that spirit rune.

Stopping his actions, Lu Ye thought for a moment.

Wang Xiu constructed the spirit rune on the sheath out of necessity, as he also owned the barghest and couldn't find an Artifact Refiner to craft such a spirit rune within the barghest; likely, no refiner in this world could do that.

So the only option was to take a step back and craft the spirit rune as a restriction within the sheath, thereby satisfying his requirement for continuous power build-up.

Because it was a formed restriction, he only needed to infuse mana into it and didn't need to deliberately maintain the existence of the spirit rune.

But for Lu Ye, these issues were not a problem at all. With the convenience of the Talent Tree, he could effortlessly control even the most complex spirit runes.

So... perhaps he didn't need the sheath for now; he could try within the Boulder Mountain Saber.

If the sheath couldn't withstand such power build-up, the Boulder Mountain Saber surely could.

With this realization, Lu Ye smoothly transferred the construction of the spirit rune to the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Everything went smoothly, with the wondrous spirit rune maintained within the Boulder Mountain Saber, its own mana circulating cycle after cycle, slowly building up power.

In the short term, this power build-up wouldn't yield significant results, but as time passed, it would naturally grow stronger and stronger.

The only hassle was that he always had to allocate part of his attention to maintaining the existence of the spirit rune, while continuously infusing it with his own mana.

However, for a cultivator pursuing personal strength, if it could exchange for an opportunity for an explosive outburst, these efforts were worth it.

Lu Ye's strength was already unmatched in the same realm, even though he hadn't truly fought against a full-strength Moon Jade Late Stage, Lu Ye felt he wouldn't face much difficulty against one at his current state.

With such a standard of strength in normal circumstances, if he could suddenly unleash a strike that far surpassed his current strength, could he perhaps qualify to threaten a Sun Blaze?

The two red talismans given by Su Yuqing had already been used, and the treasure coin was with Hua Ci; he indeed needed a trump card now.

Ma Shangsi was indeed loyal enough, but he couldn't rely on others for his own safety. Compared to others' protection, Lu Ye preferred having the ability to face crises on his own.