

Humanity 1781

Chapter 1781 - Found It

In the battlefield, the corpse of the Insect Race Moon Jade lay across, and Lu Ye had already gone far.

This opponent's death was actually quite unjust, because the secret technique he used in the final moments turned out to be the Great Windmill Secret Technique...

Lu Ye had thought early on while cultivating this secret technique whether the Insect Race might also have this secret technique's legacy since the creator of this secret technique, the Praying Mantis, originated from the Insect Race.

However, up until today, Lu Ye had never encountered it.

When the opponent posed in that stance, he recognized it as the starting position of the Great Windmill Secret Technique; for other Moon Jade, breaking this secret technique would require action before the opponent's saber momentum was fully mobilized; otherwise, there would be no chance at all.

But Lu Ye had been slain countless times by the Praying Mantis; in terms of cultivation in the legacy of this secret technique, he considered himself not inferior to the opponent, and naturally understood all sorts of subtleties of this secret technique.

Breaking it became very simple.

Of course, even if he hadn't cultivated this secret technique, he only needed to use the Brazen Plundering Technique to create a distance, waiting for the opponent's saber momentum to exhaust; he could still easily reap the victory.

This secret technique, once executed, put a great strain on oneself; even a Moon Jade Late Stage opponent couldn't maintain it for too long.

The obstacles along the way delayed him for roughly twenty breaths; after he collected the opponent's two bone sabers and storage ring, he quickly resumed his journey.

After a while, his brow furrowed as the various negative states in his mind suddenly cleared away—the Blood Eye was broken by the seven-color Divine Lotus!

Observation of the Blood Eye Spirit Runes had made some progress, but the progress was minor. At this rate, Lu Ye estimated that fully comprehending the Blood Eye Spirit Runes would require experiencing two or thirty blinks of the Demon Eye.

This could take a very long time.

The blinking of the Demon Eye had no predictable pattern; even if it happened every month, experiencing it two or thirty times would take two years!

If it occurred every three to five months, it would take even longer.

The key was that the indistinct connection was also severed after the Blood Eye was broken!

However, Lu Ye did not stop; instead, he continued to fly toward the direction of the previous sensing, believing that even though this connection was interrupted, its source still lay in this direction, and perhaps he might discover something.

He wasn't certain whether that source was as he guessed, but it still posed an opportunity.

If it indeed matches his guess, then one question remains unanswered—why would this source resonate with him?

Is it perhaps due to the three red talismans he nourished within his body?

These three red talismans were made by the Dwarf Race hand; if this resulted in a connection with that unknown source, it somewhat makes sense.

Because in Lu Ye's speculation, that unknown source is the core of Mount Fangcun!

But ultimately it still feels tenuous.

Because foreign clan Moon Jade dispatched by the Dwarf Race in the past must have carried Spirit Talismans granted by the Dwarf Race too—perhaps not three, but certainly one.

No feedback was ever reported by foreign clan Moon Jade regarding such matters.

But if not due to the red talismans... then why?

Lu Ye recalled Su Yuqing; after combining forces with this woman, he was tainted with the Dwarf Race's aura, and he had even refined part of Su Yuqing's cultivation, which allowed him to participate in Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet as a human.

Mount Fangcun is the nurturing grounds for the Dwarf Race; perhaps it's because he carried the Dwarf Race's aura on him?

It seemed incorrect; Su Yuqing had mentioned that for unknown reasons, the core of Mount Fangcun had been avoiding the Dwarf Race, so early on, when Dwarf Race Moon Jade came seeking, they found nothing, and had to resort to seeking foreign clan Moon Jade to handle the matter.

Yet foreign clan Moon Jade likewise found nothing, some even disappeared.

If simply due to the Dwarf Race aura caused this resonance, Su Yuqing wouldn't have refrained from mentioning it.

Unable to understand... he could only seek out the source and investigate.

Whether this source is truly the core of Mount Fangcun, he would know upon finding it.

He still wondered about one issue: why would the core of Mount Fangcun avoid the Dwarf Race? Logically, it should actively welcome them given their unique relationship, as the Dwarf Race entire clan originated within Mount Fangcun.

So many mysteries remained unsolved.

He advanced ahead, finding nothing.

Until several days later, as he was exploring, Lu Ye remotely sensed something was approaching this area.

The entity lacked life; it seemed not to be a living thing, and its speed was not particularly fast.

He released his Mental Consciousness to investigate and quickly perceived that it was a meteorite about the size of a water barrel, seemingly inconspicuous, amidst many similar ones found in this marvel.

This meteorite appeared to be propelled by some force, drifting within this marvel; this was quite common, as Lu Ye had encountered many such meteorites before and didn't pay much attention.

He glanced habitually.

Lu Ye hadn't expected that this glance would reveal trouble.

Almost at the same moment when he noticed the meteorite rushing toward him, a sudden sense of alarm burgeoned in his heart, an inexplicable feeling of impending doom hovered over him.

Lu Ye immediately halted his movements, simultaneously alert to his surroundings.

He thought that there might be some formidable figures lurking around! And a strong person who could evoke such a sense of crisis within him, even leaving no trace for him to detect, would surely have immense power!

As this thought flashed through his mind, he abruptly discovered that the meteorite drifting toward him accelerated unreasonably.

In the blink of an eye, it was just a few dozen miles in front of him!

Urgently, a mysterious power surged forth, ripples spread across the void, in an instant centered around the meteor, covering all directions.

Almost simultaneously as the mysterious power surged out, Lu Ye retreated backward.

The next moment, his eyes widened significantly because, with the annihilation of the void ripples, everything within several dozen miles of the meteorite disappeared without a trace.

As if it were swallowed by the meteorite.

Lu Ye felt a pang of fear, fortunate for his quick reaction, otherwise, in that split second, he would have been swallowed too. Although he wasn't sure of the consequences of being swallowed, it was obviously not a good thing.

Seeing that Lu Ye was unharmed, the meteorite accelerated even further, rushing straight toward him.

Lu Ye was greatly alarmed, was this... coming for him?

Unsure, he immediately dodged aside, darting away, but the inconspicuous meteorite shifted direction as well, closely following behind. That magical mysterious power undulated from time to time, turning large areas of the void into vacuums wherever it passed.

A moment later, Lu Ye finally confirmed one thing: the meteorite indeed was coming for him, because no matter how he adjusted his direction, it relentlessly pursued.

Clearly, it was a lifeless-seeming, seemingly commonplace meteorite, yet it held such mysterious abilities.

Lu Ye had only one thought in his mind—he had found it!

This was obviously the core of Mount Fangcun!

Honestly, he hadn't expected his journey to be so successful. Throughout history, the Dwarf Race had expended immense time, human resources, and material efforts on this matter, yet no significant progress had been made until now.

Lu Ye came here first because Su Yuqing personally told him about it, and secondly, he thought that if he could find the core of Mount Fangcun, he could integrate it into the Jade Conch as its shield.

However, he didn't seriously think that he would succeed on this trip and had already mentally prepared himself to return empty-handed.

Thus, he never imagined that he would really find the core of Mount Fangcun!

Or rather... that the core of Mount Fangcun found him!

The reason for determining it was the core of Mount Fangcun was naturally due to its strange devouring power!

The core of Mount Fangcun must contain some kind of world inside, and those disappeared objects seem to be swallowed by it, but actually, they should have fallen into the world within the core.

The source of the sense he previously felt must have undoubtedly been the core.

Actually, that sense of connection had existed a month ago, but at the time Lu Ye was immersed in comprehending the Blood Eye Spirit Runes and hadn't paid much attention.

He didn't pay attention, but the core of Mount Fangcun did, so a month ago, this core was already searching for him, but after that connection broke, the core couldn't precisely track his whereabouts, hence wandered in another direction.

A few days ago, with the blink of the Demon Eye, that connection re-emerged. As he traveled, the core was also heading his way. It was truly a mutual approach!

Until this moment when they encountered each other at this location.

Lu Ye couldn't initially discern the essence of the core, but the core could perceive him, so it struck unexpectedly when Lu Ye was caught off guard. If not for Lu Ye's quick glimpse of opportunity, he would have already been swallowed into the core world by now.

Indeed, this core possesses its own spiritual intelligence.

If it has spiritual intelligence, that means communication is possible!

While fleeing forward, Lu Ye transmitted with his Mental Consciousness, "Lu Ye of the Jade Conch, entrusted by the Dwarf Race's Su Yuqing and Zhang Kun, has come here to seek the lost core. The three parts of Mount Fangcun have long been divided, hoping to reunify soon, restoring the glory of our ancestors!"

After transmitting several times, Lu Ye helplessly found that the core chasing him showed no response at all, as if determined to go on a relentless pursuit.

Lu Ye found it both comical and frustrating; he never expected that one day he would be hunted by such a thing.

He didn't dare to stop, nor even let the core come too close, because given what he had just witnessed, if too close to the core, it would inevitably be swallowed into its internal world.

The situation then would be uncertain. The ideal scenario, of course, would be for him to communicate with the core's spiritual intelligence and safely bring it out, but the other side showed no signs of wanting to engage him.

Lu Ye couldn't understand why this was so!

Why did the core resonate with him? Why did it target him? Having spiritual intelligence, why didn't it wish to communicate with him?

As these thoughts churned in his mind, Lu Ye pinched his fingers, a red light blossomed at his fingertips, continuing his audio transmission, "This is the red talisman given to me by Sun Blaze of the Dwarf Race before my departure. If you have spiritual intelligence, you should recognize it!"

As his words fell, Lu Ye clearly felt the core chasing him pause for a moment.

He was overjoyed, thinking there was hope!

Chapter 1782 - Core World

Almost at the same moment Lu Ye had some expectations, the meteor formed from the core accelerated and chased after him.

Lu Ye felt helpless, the core gave him the impression of being unyielding and indifferent, and it did not respond to his audio transmission in the slightest.

The chase continued, and Lu Ye sadly realized that his speed was not as fast as the core. If this continued, he would eventually be caught, and judging by the power the core had displayed earlier, once he got within a certain distance, he would be directly swallowed into the inner world.

Lu Ye dared not take this risk.

After a brief consideration, he raised one hand, and a drop of treasure blood oozed from his fingertip. With a flick, the treasure blood flew in a certain direction.

He planned to use the Treasure Blood Avatar and Void Spirit Runes to escape the core's pursuit, a technique he had used many times before to escape from formidable enemies.

However, unlike before when he mostly relied on weapon control, using the Treasure Blood Avatar now was undoubtedly more convenient.

Yet he never expected that this action would trigger an even greater change.

As the treasure blood was flicked out, the originally unremarkable core, resembling a common meteorite, suddenly emitted a bright red glow, instantly transforming into a Blood Stone.

If it was just this, it would have been fine, but the key was that after transforming into a Blood Stone, the core emanated a mysterious pressure.

This mysterious pressure wasn't tangible, but felt incredibly familiar to him!

Lu Ye couldn't help but show a look of shock.

Simultaneously, the core, which was already not slow, suddenly surged in speed, closing the distance with Lu Ye in the blink of an eye.

The terrifying devouring force swept across all directions.

Within about 30 miles radius, all dust, meteorites, along with Lu Ye and the treasure blood he flicked away not far, vanished completely in an instant!

The Void returned to tranquility!

The bloody glow slowly faded, the core reverted to its original form, and even if a cultivator passed nearby, they wouldn't see anything unusual about it.

In a daze, Lu Ye felt himself continuously falling into a Bottomless Abyss, endlessly.

The process wasn't pleasant, but he didn't panic, because if his thoughts were correct, he wasn't in too much danger; he had just been swallowed by the core.

In other words, he would probably appear in the core's inner world later!

During this fall, various thoughts surged in his mind, and combining them with his earlier experiences, he suddenly realized many things.

He activated his Mana and reinforced himself with Defense Spirit Runes, protecting his body.

After some time, the previously dark vision suddenly turned crimson, followed by a world's aura enveloping him.

But before Lu Ye could react, he felt a pain in his back and crashed heavily to the ground, creating a large pit.

Fortunately, his physique was strong; this crash didn't cause him any substantial harm.

Dust rose all around, and Lu Ye didn't hurry to get up, instead, he fixed his gaze on the overcast sky.

Being alive meant his previous guess was correct; after being swallowed by the core, he wasn't in danger, just falling into the core's inner world.

His mind was clearer than ever, finally figuring out many previously confusing points.

Earlier, Su Yuqing told him that the core of Mount Fangcun seemed to intentionally avoid the Dwarf Race's Moon Jade, which puzzled him because, logically, if the core of Mount Fangcun truly had spiritual intelligence, it should be close to the Dwarf Race, even if not close, it shouldn't deliberately avoid them.

Now he understood, this intentional avoidance was the core of Mount Fangcun protecting the Dwarf Race, as it didn't want the Dwarf Race to have any contact with his current self.

The root of everything lay in the core's change.

This core... has the aura of the Blood Race!

And it's the aura of an extremely noble Blood Race.

Blood Ancestor!

Mount Fangcun split because the Blood Ancestor coveted this stellar space supreme treasure, so many years ago, he led the Blood Race to attack Mount Fangcun. Lu Ye didn't know the final result of that battle, but judging from the current situation, although the Blood Ancestor shattered Mount Fangcun, he didn't achieve what he desired.

Despite this, the core of Mount Fangcun was tainted by the Sacred Blood of the Blood Ancestor.

This was evident from the moment when the core transformed into a Blood Stone during its pursuit of him, releasing an unmistakable pressure that was incredibly familiar to Lu Ye.

That was the saintliness unique to the Blood Race! Others couldn't sense it, but Lu Ye could detect it, as he had refined much Sacred Blood and possessed a deep saintliness himself.

No matter what kind of Blood Race he encountered before, even if their cultivation was higher than his, in terms of saintliness, they couldn't compare to him.

Take Ma Shangsi, for example, a Peak Moon Jade's saintliness was no match for even a fraction of Lu Ye's, and a drop of treasure blood could make him a Blood Servant!

Yet just now, when the core was a Blood Stone, the saintliness that emanated was beyond Lu Ye's reach; if he were truly part of the Blood Race, under the saintliness, he wouldn't have the strength to move a finger.

His saintliness came entirely from refining countless Sacred Blood through the Talent Tree; is there any Blood Race in this world that can compare to him in saintliness?

Only the source of the Blood Race, the deceased Blood Ancestor, could surpass him in this field!

Mount Fangcun has split, its core tainted by the Blood Ancestor's Sacred Blood, which makes sense, but the core's spiritual intelligence is clearly still present, so the Moon Jade of the Dwarf Race coming here won't discover anything.

The core also fears the Dwarf Race might take it away; if so, once the three parts of Mount Fangcun merge, the entire Dwarf Race would be implicated.

Lu Ye finally understood why there was a distant echo between him and the core, and why the core was actively seeking him.

Because he had the Blood Race's inheritance, only the core tainted by the Blood Ancestor's Sacred Blood could sense his existence.

The core was split by the Blood Ancestor; it should deeply resent the Blood Race, which is why it relentlessly pursued him upon sensing his existence!

The core obviously mistook him for the Blood Race, and as for Lu Ye's numerous audio transmissions before, the core would certainly not believe them under its preconceived judgment.

After figuring this out, Lu Ye immediately realized that the Dwarf Race's plan to retrieve the core and reunite the three split parts would be difficult to achieve.

To accomplish this, he must first find a way to leave this world, and secondly, solve the issue of the Blood Ancestor's Sacred Blood eroding Mount Fangcun.

As for the latter, he might be able to try with the power of the Talent Tree.

So the only problem before him was - how to leave this world.

This matter shouldn't be easy; Lu Ye estimated that throughout the ages, those who unintentionally fell into the Core World were definitely not just him alone, yet there's never been any information leaked out about this place, likely because everyone was trapped here.

He stared fixedly at the sky, shrouded in gloom; crucially, the thick gloom was crimson rather than the pitch-black he was familiar with.

He could even sense the faint presence of the Blood Race from those crimson clouds...

Suddenly, several auras rapidly approached, each seemingly quite formidable.

Sure enough, there were quite a few trapped cultivators within the Core World!

The commotion from his fall from the sky must have startled nearby cultivators to come and investigate.

These cultivators stopped only about 30 miles away from him, without any intention of getting closer—not out of fear of him, but because they were wary of each other.

One by one, Mental Consciousness probed over, investigating his situation.

Shortly thereafter, a robust voice sounded: "Not dead, still alive, probably stunned from the fall."

Another somewhat elderly voice immediately followed: "This child... the old man will take him."

The robust voice promptly sounded again, clearly displeased: "Wang Taisheng, have some shame. Clearly, this place is closest to my cave residence, so why should you take him?"

The elderly voice replied: "Just because the old man is of the human race, and he is human too!"

The robust voice snickered: "Human race? Here, there's only one race. Do you dare say you're of the human race? Go outside and see which human would acknowledge you!"

The elderly voice fell silent for a moment.

The robust voice spoke again: "Let's follow the previous rules; he fell near my cave residence, so he's mine!"

"Following the rules is fine..." a soft and pleasant voice chimed in, probably a woman's, "Our sister's cave residence is also quite close here. Shouldn't it count as ours too?"

The robust voice angered: "You already got one last time, and now you want more? Should we just give all who fall around here to you in the future?"

The soft voice giggled: "If Fellow Daoist is willing, our sisters would be most grateful."

"You're dreaming!"

The elderly voice spoke again: "You two, since he is human, please give him to the old man; the old man would be most grateful!"

The robust voice cursed: "Enough with the human race! You're really after the resources he brought in—are you even interested in him as a person?"

The three parties argued endlessly and noisily.

"Shut up already!"

A slightly displeased voice came from the center of the three parties, causing the arguing cultivators to turn their heads, only to see a young figure slowly stand up from the pit, brushing off the dust.

However, his gaze didn't turn towards them but remained fixed on the sky.

Seeing this, the cultivators understood what Lu Ye was thinking, because when they ended up here, they all had the same thought initially.

The owner of the robust voice crossed his arms, ready to watch the spectacle.

The owner of the elderly voice frowned slightly, tempted to offer some advice, but knowing that without experiencing certain setbacks, there would be no consensus.

Under the gaze of the cultivators, Lu Ye indeed soared into the sky.

"He's Moon Jade Mid-Stage!" The robust voice sounded, assessing Lu Ye's cultivation, his face showing delight, thinking a Moon Jade Mid-Stage's resources wouldn't be scarce.

In their vision, Lu Ye's figure disappeared into the crimson haze.

Soon, from the depths of the haze, came the sound of mana surging.

Chapter 1783 - This Is a Misunderstanding

After a long time, Lu Ye returned from the shadows.

There was nothing he could do; a layer of invisible barrier blocked the way forward behind the thick shadows. He tried various methods to break through it, but he was utterly unable to shake it.

Realizing that the situation was more or less as he expected, once trapped in the Core World, it was difficult to get out. That barrier undoubtedly isolates this world from the outside, and unless he had the power to break this entire world, he could not break it.

Perhaps he could have a discussion with the spiritual intelligence of the core! This thought crossed Lu Ye's mind.

Previously, he tried audio transmission with the core, but there was no response. Now that he was trapped here, as long as he proved that he was not of the Blood Race, the core should respond in kind.

The core detested the Blood Race, and since he was indeed entrusted here by the Sun Blaze of the Dwarf Race, he naturally had an advantage in this regard.

Determined, Lu Ye looked up.

Surrounding him were four cultivators: one was burly and broad-shouldered, another was an elderly man whose spirit still seemed vigorous, and two women stood side by side, looking like flowers and jade.

The burly one seemed to be from the human race, but from the discussion just now, he was clearly not. Lu Ye couldn't identify his specific race.

In the stellar space, many races appear indistinguishable from the human race.

As for the elderly man, he was undoubtedly of the human race.

Regarding the two women... their aura was icy, and both had snow-white hair and skin. Lu Ye vaguely felt that they were from the Snow Race!

The Snow Race was a minor race in the stellar space, not numerous, but faring better than the Merfolk and Fairy races, similar in size to the Five Elements Spirit Race.

Having spent considerable time in the All Phenomena Ocean, Lu Ye was familiar with the cultivators of various races, including the Snow Race.

He should be able to gather information about the Core World from these cultivators, which was what he needed most. But given their prior conversation, this might not be straightforward.

As he pondered, the burly man with crossed arms spoke: "Kid, no matter where you come from or your identity, you should cut ties with the past upon arriving here, understand?"

Lu Ye quietly stared at him.

The burly man frowned and said, "Why do you seem slow-witted? Forget it, you don't understand. Come back to the cave residence with me, and I'll explain it to you later."

With those words, he reached out to grab Lu Ye.

Lu Ye blinked and remained still. Just as the burly man was about to seize him, a withered hand intervened from the side, and in a Single Flash, a figure blocked the way in front of Lu Ye.

The burly man frowned, "Wang Taisheng, are you really asking for death!"

Wang Taisheng remained unmoved, "The matter hasn't been discussed, Fellow Daoist, and you're already making a move. That's not right, is it?"

"Discuss with your grandmother!" the burly man angrily cursed, evidently short-tempered, attacking Wang Taisheng at the slightest disagreement.

Both were at the Moon Jade Late Stage in cultivation, and as they fought, their Mana buzzed and surged.

Lu Ye drifted back a bit, observing that neither Wang Taisheng nor the burly man was going all out. Clearly, they were holding back, apparently wary of something.

Soon, Lu Ye realized what they were wary of.

At that moment, the two Snow Race women flanked him from both sides, seeming to want to take him away while Wang Taisheng and the burly man were occupied.

But their plan fell through, as the moment Wang Taisheng and the burly man noticed their movements, they immediately halted their fight and lunged at the Snow Race women.

In an instant, the four figures split into two battlegrounds, fiercely contending.

Lu Ye watched from the sidelines, unaffected.

What astonished Lu Ye was that all four were at the Moon Jade Late Stage! Yet despite the same cultivation level, their strength varied.

The elderly Wang Taisheng was undeniably the strongest, proving the saying about old ginger being spicier. He was followed by the burly man, and the Snow Race women were relatively weaker.

With the battlegrounds divided, the two women were clearly at a disadvantage.

"Sister!" a soft voice suddenly called out.

The next moment, to Lu Ye's astonishment, something bewildering happened.

As the soft voice echoed, a mist of blood spread around one Snow Race woman and transformed into a Blood Sea, permeating all around.

At the same time, the other Snow Race woman with a similarly cold demeanor also unleashed the Blood Sea Technique, and the two Blood Seas flowed toward each other, seemingly to merge.

Seeing their actions, Wang Taisheng and the burly man couldn't resign themselves to losing. They both quickly activated the Blood Sea Technique.

In the blink of an eye, the vast area was enveloped by the Blood Sea, shrouding it in darkness, which even engulfed the place where Lu Ye stood.

In the Blood Sea, the battle raged on, but the Snow Race sisters were obviously more in sync. Their cooperation significantly enhanced their strength, more so than the simple collaboration between Wang Taisheng and the burly man.

So in Lu Ye's perception, the fierce battle between the three parties maintained a balance...

He was greatly surprised, because he could tell at a glance that the secret arts used by these four Moon Jade cultivators were not ordinary Blood Path secret arts, but pure Blood Race secret techniques!

These four cultivators... are they from the Blood Race?

Something's not right. Earlier, during their conversation, Lu Ye heard that, except for the other three, Wang Taisheng was clearly human. How could they use such Blood Race secret techniques?

Moreover, if they were truly of the Blood Race, why didn't they show any trace of the Blood Race before? Or were they all using some disguise technique?

Lu Ye had many unanswered questions, and then a soft female voice came from within the Blood Sea: "Gentlemen, fighting like this won't solve the problem. If it goes on too long, unforeseen complications might arise. Since we can't determine a winner, I have a suggestion."

"Speak!" a strong man's voice rang out.

"Why not let him choose who he wants to go with? And the other two parties cannot interfere once he makes his choice."

As these words fell, the noises from Wang Taisheng's side lessened slightly, but the strong man was unyielding: "This isn't a good suggestion! This kid looks naive. You two beauties have an advantage. Wang Taisheng, being of the same race as him, has his advantage too. But what do I have? Furthermore, we had agreed on rules, and we have to stick to them. If you break the rules, don't blame me for being ruthless!"

With that, he fiercely punched forward, sending his opponent flying backward, and then turned and charged towards Lu Ye, shouting fiercely, "Kid, if you want to live, throw me your storage ring, or today will be your death day!"

Lu Ye had been watching the show comfortably, hoping to gather more intel about the Core World. He hadn't expected the strong man would suddenly direct his aggression at him.

Feeling the opponent's fierce presence and the determination to not stop until gaining benefits, Lu Ye sighed slightly.

Blood Qi spread out, and when it surged through him, a dense and sticky saintliness erupted.

The vast Blood Sea trembled violently and instantly collapsed.

The vision cleared, yet Lu Ye stood quietly in his original position, hand gently resting on the knife, with a faint aura of blood Qi surrounding him.

Not far in front of him, the strong man who had charged over stiffened, sweat covering his forehead, his expression full of fear.

Behind him, the cool and distant woman of the Snow Race was equally frozen, her white cheeks growing even paler, and even her body couldn't stop trembling.

Wang Taisheng's eyes were filled with terror, and the owner of the soft voice had their mouth wide open, as if able to fit a fist inside.

Several pairs of eyes were fixed on Lu Ye, each filled with disbelief.

This unexpected twist was something none of them anticipated. They had all viewed Lu Ye as a coveted treasure, but who would have thought this treasure would suddenly transform into a high and mighty presence that inspired awe!

Unfathomable!

Especially the terrifying saintliness emanating from Lu Ye, something they had never felt before. Under the oppression of such saintliness, they felt they had no chance of resisting against Lu Ye.

Lu Ye stared at the strong man not far away: "You want my storage ring?"

The strong man swallowed hard, feeling an unprecedented terror descending upon him, enveloping his entire being. He quickly shook his head like a rattle drum and forced a strained smile on his face: "Fellow Daoist, this is a misunderstanding."

Lu Ye looked at him indifferently for a while, showing no intention to pursue the matter further, then spoke: "I'm new here and have many questions. Can anyone help clarify a thing or two?"

The strong man dared not utter a sound, Wang Taisheng was still deep in thought, but the owner of the soft voice immediately spoke up: "Fellow Daoist, feel free to ask whatever you wish to know. We sisters will tell you everything without holding anything back!"

As she spoke, she kept making eye gestures towards her elder sister.

The cool and distant woman understood and quickly nodded in agreement.

Lu Ye nodded and then retracted his saintliness. The four Moon Jade cultivators instantly felt as if a heavy burden had been lifted, each taking a relieved breath, though their faces still showed signs of shock and respect as they looked at Lu Ye.

It was truly baffling how someone in this world could embody such saintliness.

After a while, sitting on a large rock, Lu Ye rested his hand on the long knife, with the four Moon Jade Late Stage cultivators standing in a line not far in front of him, each with a cautious expression.

In terms of cultivation, they all surpassed Lu Ye by a minor realm, but the recent experience had made them realize that if Lu Ye wanted to kill them, it wouldn't be any more difficult than killing a chick, so even though Lu Ye was seated and they were standing, no one dared to voice a complaint.

In the quiet wait, Lu Ye asked the first question: "Are you... of the Blood Race?"

The four shook their heads in unison.

Wang Taisheng was the first to speak: "I am Wang Taisheng, of the human race!"

The strong man followed: "Zhou Ran, of the Demon Race."

The owner of the soft voice said: "We sisters belong to the Snow Race. I am Xiang Yin, and my sister is Xuan Yu."

Lu Ye frowned: "Then how are you able to use Blood Race secret techniques?"

Xiang Yin knew Lu Ye wanted to ask this question, so she immediately explained: "Fellow Daoist, you might not know, but any cultivator who drifts into this world, regardless of their original race, over time starts to develop some Blood Race traits. In fact, we no longer know what race we truly belong to." With that, she showed a bitter smile.

Chapter 1784 - First Generation Blood Race

Xiang Yin and the others accidentally came into contact with the core of Mount Fangcun, and subsequently drifted into this world. The earliest among them can be traced back to three hundred years ago, and even the most recent, Wang Taisheng, arrived a hundred years ago.

But no matter what race they belonged to before, once they entered this place, over time, they gradually acquired some traits of the Blood Race and developed some of their abilities.

Yet, their appearances still maintained their original racial forms, which is undeniably a bit strange.

Xiang Yin continued to explain, "We speculate that this place should have some connection with the noble powers. Fellow Daoist, since you are a Blood Race, you should know of the Blood Ancestor."

Lu Ye did not respond but simply said, "Continue." However, from Xiang Yin's words, it was clear she mistook him for a genuine Blood Race.

Such a misunderstanding was not surprising at all, given the intense saintliness he had just exhibited, Xiang Yin naturally made such a judgment.

"It is rumored that the source of the noble powers is the Blood Ancestor. For reasons unknown, after her death, her body transformed into several domains suitable for the noble powers' survival and growth. Each of these domains is crucial to the noble powers and can be considered their foundation. There are several such domains known to the outside world. We suspect this place is one of them, but it has remained unknown. Even though we know about it, once we enter, we cannot leave, so the information cannot be relayed outside."

This speculation was obviously incorrect. This place is not a domain transformed from the Blood Ancestor's body; it is the core of Mount Fangcun.

"Upon arriving here, the environment of this domain greatly impacts us, allowing us to slowly acquire some abilities of the noble powers. To be precise, we could be considered the first-generation Blood Race!"

"First-generation Blood Race?" Lu Ye looked puzzled.

Xiang Yin let out a bitter smile: "The Blood Ancestor created an entire race from herself. With so many members, it was impossible for her to have birthed them all herself. A more credible theory is that the Blood Ancestor invaded many domains of different races and used her methods to erode those races,

granting them the abilities of the noble powers, much like us now. The descendants of these beings became today's Blood Race."

This was the first time Lu Ye had heard this theory. However, upon careful consideration, it seemed quite plausible.

Lu Ye had always thought that the Blood Race was nurtured from the domains formed after the Blood Ancestor's death. If that were so, the era when the Blood Ancestor lived would have no Blood Race.

But that was not the case. When the Blood Ancestor attacked Mount Fangcun, she had many subordinate people at her command. Where did these Blood Races come from? As Xiang Yin mentioned, they could not possibly have all been birthed by the Blood Ancestor. Therefore, what she described could be the truth!

The Blood Ancestor invaded several domains, using methods to erode the bloodlines of the creatures within, turning them into beings like Xiang Yin and the others, the first-generation Blood Race.

These Blood Races still maintained the physical features of their original races, only they have acquired the abilities of the Blood Race. Their descendants are the Blood Race of today.

If this theory holds, then Xiang Yin and the others, whether they still maintain the facial features of their original race or not, are fundamentally a part of the Blood Race.

Consequently, they would naturally be suppressed by the saintliness.

"Why do they become... the first-generation Blood Race after staying here for a long time?" Lu Ye asked again.

His speculated information was that the core of Mount Fangcun was stained with the Sacred Blood of the Blood Ancestor. Therefore, the core closely resonated with him, even emanating an astonishing saintliness when it had pursued him earlier.

But this did not explain the transformation of Xiang Yin and the others.

Xiang Yin didn't provide an explanation but only looked up at the sky and said, "Fellow Daoist, just wait a moment, and you will know soon."

Lu Ye followed her gaze and looked up, only to see the already gloomy sky growing even heavier. Within the crimson overcast, rolling thunder flashed and rumbled.

It seemed like it was about to rain.

With another thunderclap, a raindrop fell from the sky.

Lu Ye, staring at the sky, locked his gaze on this raindrop, his pupils slightly contracting.

The raindrop falling from the sky was not an ordinary raindrop, but rather something red, resembling blood!

Whoosh...

The rain began pouring torrentially, the entire world becoming shrouded in a red curtain of rain. Xiang Yin, bathing in the rain, gave Lu Ye a bitter smile: "Fellow Daoist, now you should understand why one becomes a first-generation Blood Race after staying here for a long time?"

Lu Ye indeed understood.

Because within this Blood Rain, there was evidently something wondrous, similar to the saintliness of Sacred Blood, but very diluted, as if a drop of the Blood Race's Sacred Blood had been diffused into this torrential downpour, flooding the entire world.

In fact, when Lu Ye observed coldly just now, he noticed one thing: when Xiang Yin and the others were activating the Blood Sea Technique, each of them exuded saintliness.

Of course, their level of saintliness wasn't strong, so in the face of Lu Ye's suppression, they felt utterly powerless.

Even so, it was still saintliness, something all Blood Race members dream of because only those who have refined Sacred Blood possess saintliness. Such Blood Race individuals have a deeper understanding of their secret techniques and a broader future and grand prospects.

Based on Lu Ye's experience, the saintliness that Xiang Yin and the others possessed was roughly equivalent to the refinement of a drop of Sacred Blood.

This was quite a remarkable thing, considering the limited amount of Sacred Blood among the vast numbers of Blood Race in the stellar space. It is incredibly difficult for a regular Blood Race to obtain Sacred Blood.

The fact that all four of them had saintliness was obviously abnormal, which puzzled Lu Ye at first, but now he understood.

The reason for everything lay in this Blood Rain.

This kind of Blood Rain must have occurred repeatedly. By bathing in the Blood Rain, Xiang Yin and the others could easily refine the extremely weak saintliness, thereby enhancing themselves.

Although the efficiency of such refinement isn't high, it's undoubtedly much safer compared to directly refining an entire drop of Sacred Blood!

Lu Ye raised his hand to catch a raindrop and found that he almost didn't need to refine it himself. The weak saintliness contained within the raindrop, like a living thing, flooded into his body, strengthening his own saintliness.

Of course, this kind of strengthening was negligible to him, but if it continued for a long time, it could result in a considerable improvement.

At this moment, Wang Taisheng's voice echoed, "The Blood Rain envelops the entire domain, and the Spirit Plants and spirit jade born within are contaminated. Unless one avoids contact with the Blood Rain and refrains from using Spirit Plants and spirit jade for cultivation from this domain, becoming like us is only a matter of time."

Hearing this, Lu Ye said, "Is there anyone in this domain different from you?"

Having personally witnessed this Blood Rain, he thought all the cultivators who fell into this place were like Xiang Yin and the others, but judging by Wang Taisheng's words, it seemed otherwise.

Wang Taisheng nodded, "Yes, the Red Talisman Society folks are different from us. They... are quite fortunate!" As he spoke, Wang Taisheng showed a bitter smile.

The Red Talisman Society... Lu Ye's heart stirred; the name seemed to intentionally convey certain information!

If he wasn't mistaken, this Red Talisman Society was likely created by an outsider Moon Jade sent by the Dwarf Race. The name was clearly meant to provide guidance to newcomers. Over the years, although the number of Moon Jade sent by the Dwarf Race wasn't large, there were always a dozen or so. These advance party members entered this place and established such an organization so that if a newcomer like Lu Ye arrived and heard about the Red Talisman Society, they would undoubtedly go to investigate and then join forces with them.

Of course, this was only Lu Ye's speculation, and further verification was needed to confirm it.

"Fortunate?" Lu Ye noticed Wang Taisheng's peculiar choice of words and looked at him inquisitively.

Wang Taisheng said, "We cultivators who enter from the outside, if we are found and taken by the Red Talisman Society immediately, we can avoid being eroded by the Blood Rain and be accepted by them. But for those like us, who are unlucky and first eroded by the Blood Rain or contaminated with saintliness through other means, they absolutely won't accept us."

"Does the Red Talisman Society hate people like you?" Lu Ye asked.

"It's not about hatred; it's just that their resources are limited and can't support too many people. Besides, they've been competing against the Sacred Blood Summit all along. Even if we sincerely joined them, we wouldn't be of much use."

Lu Ye's eyes gleamed, "Tell me about the Sacred Blood Summit."

As a newcomer, gathering information was imperative. It seemed his previous predictions were accurate. Over the years, many cultivators inadvertently fell into this world, but because a barrier sealed this domain, none could leave, and they couldn't send information outside, leaving the outside world in the dark about this peculiar domain.

The Red Talisman Society was likely founded by a Moon Jade related to the Dwarf Race, but what about this Sacred Blood Summit? Why did the Red Talisman Society continuously vie with it?

Xiang Yin's soft voice answered, "The Sacred Blood Summit is the name of a spirit mountaintop and the foundation of one of this domain's two major powers. If the cultivators of the Red Talisman Society are untouched by saintliness, then everyone tainted by saintliness has the opportunity to join the Sacred Blood Summit, and they are quite willing to absorb such cultivators."

Lu Ye immediately understood that whether one was tainted by saintliness was the primary criterion for the two major powers to recruit individuals. However, suggesting that this alone caused their conflict seemed inadequate.

It's probably a case of two tigers not living on one mountain...

"Are all of you from the Sacred Blood Summit?" Lu Ye asked.

Xiang Yin shook her head, "No, if we went to the Sacred Blood Summit, they would definitely accept us, but we haven't gone because once we join the Sacred Blood Summit, we'd be compelled to contend with the Red Talisman Society, which is quite dangerous."

"But we can't hold out for much longer," Zhou Ran, who had been silent, suddenly interjected with a bitter expression.

Chapter 1785 - Warning

"What do you mean by that?" Lu Ye turned to look at Zhou Ran.

Zhou Ran said, "The earliest among us to wander in here have been here for three hundred years, the latest for a hundred. Over these years, the resources we brought in have almost been used up. Without resources, how can a cultivator maintain their strength? Wouldn't they be at the mercy of others when they come across them? But to acquire resources within this domain, you either join the Red Talisman Society or turn to the Sacred Blood Summit. Otherwise, you can only find some usable Spirit Plants in the wild yourself..."

Listening to his explanation, Lu Ye understood Zhou Ran's intent.

If a cultivator lacks resources, their own power will inevitably weaken unless they never use their own mana, which is impossible.

However, once mana is used, it is consumed and cannot be replenished. How much can be supplemented by relying only on finding usable Spirit Plants in the wild?

That's why they were fighting over Lu Ye earlier. They weren't interested in Lu Ye as a person, but in the spirit jade, spirit crystal, and elixir pills he brought from outside!

It's just that their strength is strong enough, and their time in this domain isn't too long; otherwise, they would've long been unable to hold on.

Those cultivators who came to this domain earlier or lack strength, once tainted by the Blood Race's saintliness, have no other choice but to turn to the Sacred Blood Summit.

The Blood Rain came fast and went fast, stopping in less than one incense stick's time, but the gloom in the sky did not disperse and remained as Lu Ye initially saw it, as if another Blood Rain could fall at any time.

After a brief pause, Lu Ye spoke, "Continue talking about the Red Talisman Society and the Sacred Blood Summit."

"In what aspects?" Zhou Ran asked. With their interaction, he realized that Lu Ye wasn't difficult to deal with, so probably there was no life-threatening danger, and he relaxed significantly.

"All aspects." Lu Ye glanced at him.

Knowing he misspoke, Zhou Ran openly talked about the information he knew, with others occasionally adding, time passed, and Lu Ye gradually understood the situation of these two major forces.

The more he learned, the more he felt anxious.

Standing from his standpoint, he was certainly on the same line as the cultivators of the Red Talisman Society, after all, everyone had ties to the Dwarf Race; in a way, everyone could count as brothers-in-law...

But now the situation of the Red Talisman Society seems not very optimistic!

Firstly, in terms of numbers, the Red Talisman Society is at a definite disadvantage.

The number of cultivators on the Sacred Blood Summit side far exceeds that of the Red Talisman Society by several times, which is naturally understandable. The Red Talisman Society only includes cultivators not tainted by saintliness, but any cultivator arriving at this domain has only a small chance of not being tainted by saintliness. Once tainted, they naturally bear the Sacred Blood Summit's mark.

It's important to know that over the years, the cultivators who unwittingly fell into this world included not only Moon Jade but also many Constellations. These Constellations ended up in such a place, faced with many Moon Jades, having little power for self-preservation, inevitably seeking an affiliation early on, and basically turning to the Sacred Blood Summit.

If it were mere numbers, the situation for the Red Talisman Society wouldn't be difficult, as the strength of the cultivators on the Sacred Blood Summit side is somewhat uneven.

But the key is, there is a Sun Blaze on the Sacred Blood Summit side, although this Sun Blaze hasn't been elevated for long, yet a Sun Blaze is ultimately a Sun Blaze. The difference of one major realm is not something Moon Jades can contend against.

Furthermore, the Sacred Blood Summit occupies the only Spirit Jade Vein in this domain!

Thus, the cultivators of the Sacred Blood Summit have no worries about cultivation resources, whereas the cultivators on the Red Talisman Society side are living like the Three Worlds cultivators when they first arrived at the All Phenomena Ocean, tightening their belts, avoiding disputes to prevent consumption of strength without replenishment.

The Sun Blaze's elevation has undeniably benefitted greatly from this Spirit Jade Vein.

In terms of cultivator numbers, quality, and resources, the Red Talisman Society is far from being a match for the Sacred Blood Summit.

The reason they can stand against them and remain unyielding is because of the red talisman!

The Moon Jades dispatched by the Dwarf Race all have the red talisman by their side. Over the years, these red talismans have been nurtured by their blood Qi, so the power of any activated red talisman is comparable to a Sun Blaze taking action personally!

So even though there is a Sun Blaze on the Sacred Blood Summit side, it can't achieve a unified domain; both parties are locked in a stalemate.

Having acquired this information, Lu Ye felt somewhat heavy-hearted, worrying about his future and lamenting the Red Talisman Society's predicament.

After some thought, Lu Ye asked, "You are scattered outside, hasn't the Sacred Blood Summit thought of taking you in? What about the Red Talisman Society? Haven't they considered dealing with you first, after all, you will eventually turn to the Sacred Blood Summit, dealing with you now is akin to snuffing out some dangers in advance."

Xiang Yin smiled wryly, "Fellow Daoist is perceptive, but just as Fellow Daoist said, we will eventually turn to the Sacred Blood Summit, so why rush to accommodate us? After all, our strength isn't weak. If they forcibly take us in, it's hard for us to be loyal. As for the Red Talisman Society... they won't easily conflict with us unless necessary."

The reason, still, is resource scarcity, fighting consumes mana, needing replenishment afterward; thus even if the Red Talisman Society is aware of scattered cultivators like Xiang Yin outside, they lack the energy to target anything, leaving them be.

The four of Xiang Yin appear to fend for themselves, but if faced with danger, they'd certainly band together, which explains why when Lu Ye arrived, they quickly banded together; their cave residences were not far apart, allowing quick support for each other.

Lu Ye understood, having gained a rough understanding of the overarching situation in this domain.

"Tell me, over the years have you heard of any way to leave this domain?"

Expecting they wouldn't provide any useful clues, surprisingly Xiang Yin quickly replied, "There are rumors if the Red Talisman Society and the Sacred Blood Summit decide victory or defeat, the seal of this domain will be broken, then we can freely leave."

Lu Ye frowned: "Why does the outcome between these two forces affect the blockade of the domain?" Is there some mystery in this? Lu Ye was somewhat puzzled.

Xiang Yin shook her head and said: "Everyone says so, but as for why, no one knows. But I heard it has something to do with the Black Abyss Struggle."

A gleam flashed in Lu Ye's eyes: "Black Abyss Struggle?"

He had once participated in the Black Abyss Martial Arts Meet as an external aid for the Dwarf Race. Is this Black Abyss Struggle the same thing?

Whether it is or not, there's definitely a connection!

"Yes, every ten years, the Red Talisman Society and the Sacred Blood Summit engage in a Black Abyss Struggle. At that time, all cultivators of the two major forces participate. It is said that as long as there's a winner and a loser, the situation of the domain will change, and the blockade will be broken."

"When was the last Black Abyss Struggle?"

"Nine years ago."

Lu Ye raised his eyebrows, which meant there was still a year until the next Black Abyss Struggle.

But up until now, the domain has remained in a state of blockade, which means that the two major forces in the home world have not been able to determine a winner!

The Red Talisman Society is very strong! It's not surprising to think about it. Even if the opponent has a Sun Blaze, as long as they have a Moon Jade holding a red talisman to restrain this Sun Blaze, the strongest combat power of the Sacred Blood Summit cannot be fully utilized.

After a conversation, Lu Ye had learned a lot about the intelligence of the home world, but there were still many unexplained points. However, these doubts could not be answered by Xiang Yin and the others.

He pondered in long silence.

It was after a full cup of tea that Lu Ye reopened his mouth to ask the last question: "Tell me, where is the base of the Red Talisman Society located?"

Xiang Yin shook her head and said: "This I don't know. The bases of the Red Talisman Society are very secretive. The Sacred Blood Summit has been seeking them for years but to little avail." After saying this, she was somewhat puzzled: "Fellow Daoist, why are you inquiring about the base of the Red Talisman Society?"

Logically, shouldn't one ask about the location of the Sacred Blood Summit? After all, Lu Ye is a Blood Race.

Lu Ye looked at her blandly without speaking.

Xiang Yin shivered, realizing she had been a bit nosy, she quickly lowered her head.

"Alright, you're dismissed." Lu Ye waved his hand.

The cultivators exchanged glances. Zhou Ran and Wang Taisheng clasped their fists in sync and quickly flashed away.

Xiang Yin and Xuan Yu, the sisters, also performed a respectful salute and returned the way they came.

Lu Ye still sat quietly on the large rock, pondering his next steps.

First, he must seek out the Red Talisman Society. Since they are of the same kind, if he could join them, many doubts could be resolved.

But unfortunately, he didn't know where to search; he could only take one step at a time. The Core World should not be too big, searching diligently would yield results.

Moreover, he might also try to contact the Sacred Blood Summit. Xiang Yin and the others mistakenly thought he was of the Blood Race, which would certainly be an innate advantage if he approached the Sacred Blood Summit. In contrast, the Sacred Blood Summit was easier to locate than the Red Talisman Society.

"Sister!" A suppressed exclamation came from afar.

Lu Ye looked up to see Xiang Yin, who had already gone far, unexpectedly turning back and flying toward him. She quickly landed in front and took out a jade slip, sending her Mental Consciousness into it.

Lu Ye did not interrupt, just watched closely.

Soon after, Xiang Yin handed the jade slip to Lu Ye: "Fellow Daoist, this is an approximate map of the home world. It might not be very accurate, but please make do with it."

Lu Ye reached out to take it, nodded, and said: "Thank you!"

Xiang Yin smiled: "It's a small matter, but there is one more thing Fellow Daoist must remember."

"Go ahead."

Xiang Yin's expression became serious: "Never go seek allegiance with the Sacred Blood Summit!"

Lu Ye's eyes flickered: "Why?"

Xiang Yin said: "Your saintliness... is too intense, but your cultivation is not high. I once sensed Lih Tian's saintliness from afar... Oh, Lih Tian is the Sun Blaze of the Sacred Blood Summit. Compared to you, it's like comparing a firefly to the brilliance of the moon. Your saintliness is so intense, but your strength is inferior to his. If you go to seek allegiance, I'm afraid you'll go there alive but won't return alive!"

Chapter 1786 - A Joyous Occasion

If Lu Ye's saintliness wasn't strong, going to seek refuge at Sacred Blood Summit would naturally not be rejected; on the contrary, they would even warmly welcome him. But his saintliness was exceptionally strong, even far surpassing that of Sun Blaze Lih Tian!

Under such circumstances, if he were to seek refuge there, how could Lih Tian tolerate it?

He is the only Sun Blaze of this domain; as long as he is not suppressed by saintliness, he is undoubtedly the strongest. He has been leading the Sacred Blood Summit for many years, with high status and power; such a person would never allow someone like Lu Ye to stay by his side.

So Xiang Yin was right; if he chooses to seek refuge at the Sacred Blood Summit, there's a high possibility he won't return alive.

Her reminder was completely out of good intention, and Lu Ye thanked her.

Xiang Yin and her sister left, and Lu Ye diverted part of his mind to check the jade slip Xiang Yin left for him.

The jade slip indeed contained a general map of this domain, which is something Lu Ye urgently needed at the moment. Although it's not very valuable, Xiang Yin's act of leaving it for him was a help.

As for whether Xiang Yin would tamper with the map, Lu Ye did not mind. He did not sense any malice from her, and when gathering information earlier, it was Xiang Yin who spoke the most.

After some investigation, Lu Ye had a rough understanding of the Core World. Soon, he noticed a particularly marked region on this map.

It wasn't that the region itself was special, but Xiang Yin had made a specific mark on this area when imprinting the map.

A simple mark without any other information.

Lu Ye's eyes flickered.

This mark was undoubtedly intentional by Xiang Yin. Was she trying to convey some information to him? If so, she could have just told him. Why be so secretive?

Lu Ye speculated that she might have two reasons: one, she wasn't sure if there are valuable clues in the area, so she simply marked it without giving any opinions to avoid responsibility; second, she might be guarding against something.

But what was she guarding against? When she gave him this map, Wang Taisheng and Zhou Ran had already left, leaving only Xuan Yu waiting nearby.

She couldn't be guarding against her own sister...

Lu Ye carefully examined the marked area and a conjecture arose in his mind.

This area might be the location of the Red Talisman Society's base!

Because the position of Sacred Blood Summit on the map is very clear, and Xiang Yin had specifically warned Lu Ye against seeking refuge at the Sacred Blood Summit. If he can't join Sacred Blood Summit, he can either be free like Xiang Yin and others or seek out the Red Talisman Society to find a way to join them.

Lu Ye wasn't sure because from Xiang Yin's perspective, he is a genuine Blood Race member. The Red Talisman Society wouldn't accept people like them who are contaminated with saintliness, let alone a Blood Race member. She had no reason to guide him to the Red Talisman Society.

Nevertheless, Lu Ye decided to explore the marked area.

Currently, he was already inside the Core World. According to Xiang Yin, to leave here, the Red Talisman Society and Sacred Blood Summit must settle their differences. Only then can the domain's blockade be broken. The reason is unclear, but if rumors are consistent, there's always a basis.

If he can truly find the Red Talisman Society and integrate with them, with their resources and his strong saintliness, there's a significant chance of defeating the Sacred Blood Summit.

With this decision in mind, Lu Ye set out on his journey.

He didn't dare to be too ostentatious, so his speed forward wasn't fast.

The Core World, while not excessively large, is still a complete world. It took two days before Lu Ye arrived in the marked area.

He immediately began searching.

For several days in a row, he found nothing.

Upon careful consideration, this was normal. The cultivators of the Red Talisman Society had to avoid being contaminated by the Blood Race's saintliness. However, inside the Core World, blood rain occasionally falls, so the Red Talisman Society cultivators likely hide somewhere. They wouldn't easily show themselves to prevent accidental contamination.

If that's the case, then the surface definitely isn't their activity area, because once blood rain falls, the entire Core World gets covered. If he were a member of the Red Talisman Society, he would surely choose underground spaces, providing a natural defense barrier, eliminating worries of contamination.

The place is undoubtedly a dream paradise for the Blood Race, as being here requires no effort. Even getting soaked by the blood rain enhances their saintliness, gradually increasing it.

However, for the Red Talisman Society, who strive to avoid saintliness contamination, the blood rain is poisonous.

Lu Ye sent out a treasure blood avatar for deeper exploration.

Indeed, he discovered some entrances leading underground, some naturally formed, but most showed artificial excavation traces.

Unfortunately, when Lu Ye followed these entrances to investigate, he found little of value. Often, after venturing a certain distance, the path was suddenly blocked, forcing him to retreat.

That day, Lu Ye once again found an entrance leading underground and explored it. As before, when reaching the depth, he abruptly found the path blocked.

However, traces from the last cavern passed suggested that cultivators once lived here.

It's likely that the place once had Red Talisman Society cultivators stationed, but they left later.

The area marked by Xiang Yin shouldn't have major issues, but it's a pity the Red Talisman Society cultivators are too cautious and probably won't stay in one place for long.

In addition to their small numbers, it really wasn't an easy task for Lu Ye to find them.

Just as he was about to leave, Lu Ye suddenly looked down at his feet. The moment he took a step, he felt as if he had triggered something.

Immediately, alarm bells rang in his heart, and when he looked up suddenly, he saw intricate patterns light up on the cave walls around him. Chaotic and violent energy fluctuations began to surge!

Lu Ye blinked and instantly understood what was happening.

This place had been set up with a Formation by the Red Talisman Society in advance...

If someone trespassed here to investigate, they would inevitably trigger the Formation. In such a location, under these circumstances, even Moon Jade wouldn't be able to leave in time.

If the Formation was activated, it would be fatal or at least injurious.

This was clearly a surprise left for the Sacred Blood Summit by the Red Talisman Society, after all, from their perspective, the only ones who would be searching for them would be the cultivators from the Sacred Blood Summit.

Perhaps a cultivator from the Sacred Blood Summit had suffered such bad luck before.

But today, Lu Ye happened to stumble right into it.

Almost at the same time he figured all this out, the dark cave was flooded with light, and his figure was engulfed by it.

About 30 miles from there, a figure stood still, gazing in this direction.

A humming sound emerged from deep underground, as if a fierce beast had turned in its sleep, causing the ground to swell and tremble, and gigantic cracks suddenly appeared.

A moment later, all chaos subsided, and there were no signs of life in that direction. Only then did the cultivator prepare to leave.

However, just as he moved, he suddenly stopped, because someone was rapidly approaching from the front.

The cultivator strained his Ocular Power to take a closer look and was slightly startled because the person who was coming looked unfamiliar; he had never seen this person before.

It should be known that though cultivators occasionally fell into the Core World, their numbers weren't many, sometimes not even one in a decade or two.

One could say, the number and identity of cultivators in the Core World were generally well known to everyone.

At this moment, the sudden appearance of an unfamiliar face was intriguing, reminding him of the recent disturbances in this domain, which were an unmistakable sign of a newcomer's arrival.

The newcomer was, of course, Lu Ye.

Back when he was wandering in the Nine Provinces, Lu Ye had a habit: before venturing into semi-enclosed environments, he would leave himself an escape route.

He could construct Void Spirit Runes at will, so as long as the space he occupied wasn't entirely enclosed, he could escape in time if danger arose.

Moreover, to search this area more conveniently, Lu Ye had deployed an Avatar to assist.

With the Avatar's positioning and the construction of Void Spirit Runes, he could ensure his own safety.

And at the moment the Formation was about to erupt, Lu Ye noticed that it seemed to be of a remote-controlled type; in other words, someone nearby was managing its activation.

Therefore, after escaping from the depths underground, Lu Ye immediately tracked his way back following the traces.

Sure enough, someone was here.

The distance between them quickly narrowed and soon, Lu Ye stopped not far in front of the other party, raising his gaze.

This was a Demon Race man, with several beast-like markings on both cheeks. His eyes were purple, looking somewhat peculiar.

They examined each other briefly. Lu Ye clasped his fists, "Jade Conch Lu Ye, greetings Fellow Daoist."

The man with purple eyes remained wary, but seeing Lu Ye's harmless demeanor, he nodded, "Hu Dequan!"

Lu Ye didn't waste words; nowadays if he wanted to join the Red Talisman Society, he needed a way to prove his stance, and the red talisman was undoubtedly the best pass.

So, he raised a finger, unleashing the power of the red talisman subtly, and red light flickered at his fingertip.

Hu Dequan, who was still cautiously watching him, was suddenly surprised and delighted: "You're sent by Mount Fangcun?" From that red light, he sensed a familiar aura.

Lu Ye nodded, "Exactly!"

Hu Dequan was visibly excited, "Great! So you're the one who fell into this domain earlier?"

Lu Ye nodded again.

"A joyous event, indeed!" Hu Dequan was overjoyed.

The Dwarf Race hadn't sent Moon Jade over in a long time, causing the Red Talisman Society's strength to continuously decline, whereas the Sacred Blood Summit was constantly growing stronger. At this rate, the Red Talisman Society's situation would only worsen, and when it reached its limit, it might collapse on its own even without any action from the Sacred Blood Summit.

Chapter 1787 - Allow Me to Explain 12

Lately, especially as the next Black Abyss Battle draws near, the cultivators of the Red Talisman Society have been under growing pressure.

At this time, Lu Ye's sudden appearance undoubtedly boosts the morale of the Red Talisman Society. His appearance reassures them that Mount Fangcun has not abandoned them!

Morale may be intangible, but it often plays an extremely vital role. Lu Ye's arrival signifies Mount Fangcun's stance, and Hu Dequan immediately understood that Mount Fangcun is still making efforts; the cultivators sent here are not without backup.

"Fellow Daoist, which section of Mount Fangcun do you come from?" Hu Dequan asked, "Who's your Dao companion?"

Although the power of the red talisman that Lu Ye deployed felt familiar and close to him, there were still matters that needed clarification.

"The Eastern Section," replied Lu Ye, "As for my Dao companion... Su Yuqing!"

"Who?" Hu Dequan was momentarily stunned, almost thinking he had misheard.

Lu Ye repeated once more.

Hu Dequan's expression turned peculiar. He scrutinized Lu Ye for a moment before hesitatingly saying, "Fellow Daoist, this is not something to joke about."

He certainly knew of Su Yuqing, one of the three Sun Blaze of the Eastern Section! Lu Ye, a mere Moon Jade Mid-Stage, how could he possibly become her Dao companion?

"This is no joke," Lu Ye replied solemnly.

Hu Dequan felt somewhat disoriented, instinctively reluctant to believe it, but he knew Lu Ye wouldn't make light of such matters.

But if this were true...

He too was sent by Mount Fangcun of the Eastern Section. His Dao companion was a female cultivator from Cloud Sea Peak, a disciple of Chen Xuanhai.

Chen Xuanhai was of the same caliber as Su Yuqing, and he had to address Su Yuqing as Master Uncle when with his Dao companion. If Lu Ye truly was Su Yuqing's Dao companion, did that mean...

The young man before him, whose cultivation didn't match his own, was also a Master Uncle?

"Fellow Daoist, you are truly... admirable!" Hu Dequan struggled for a while, unable to fully express his complex feelings. It was hard to imagine someone like Su Yuqing choosing such a young man as her Dao companion. As for the title Master Uncle... he could never bring himself to say it, nor would he discuss his Dao companion with Lu Ye.

After clearing his throat, Hu Dequan shifted the conversation, "Fellow Daoist, did you come here specifically to find us?"

Lu Ye nodded, "Someone hinted that there are two major forces in this domain, one being the Red Talisman Society. I guessed it might've been founded by our people, so I came to try my luck."

"That's indeed the case," Hu Dequan responded, then called out, "Fellow Daoist, come with me. I'll introduce you to the others. They'll surely be delighted to know you're here."

The matter of being a Master Uncle couldn't just be his burden alone; it was only fair if everyone shared in it... Already Hu Dequan could imagine what expressions those guys would have when they heard that Su Yuqing's Dao companion was here.

Due to the constant threat of ambushes by cultivators of Sacred Blood Summit, Hu Dequan suppressed his mana fluctuations as they proceeded.

Along the way, he asked, "Fellow Daoist, you haven't been contaminated by the Blood Rain, right?"

"No," Lu Ye replied, having already been informed by Xiang Yin of the Red Talisman Society's stance on recruitment. He naturally knew how to respond.

Moreover, unlike Xiang Yin and others, if Lu Ye didn't activate the Blood Race secret techniques, he was no different from a normal human. Xiang Yin and the others couldn't hide it even without activating the techniques. If Lu Ye activated his saintliness, they would still be suppressed because they bore the traits of the Blood Race.

"That's a relief!" Hu Dequan sighed, not that he genuinely trusted Lu Ye entirely, but considering he'd only just arrived, the likelihood of Blood Rain contamination was low, "The saintliness contained in the Blood Rain seeps everywhere, and anyone contaminated would be in great trouble."

Chatting casually, they continued walking.

After half a day, they arrived in an underground cave. As Lu Ye looked around, he noticed that it seemed long abandoned, devoid of any signs of life.

He looked at Hu Dequan in confusion, who explained, "Fellow Daoist, let's wait here for a moment. Fellow Daoist Meng Xu and Fellow Daoist Yang Ling will be here shortly."

Lu Ye had already noticed on their way here that Hu Dequan transmitted a message using an audio talisman. Meng Xu and Yang Ling were who he had called over to meet them here.

Surveying the cave's environment, Lu Ye blinked and nodded, "Alright!"

Saying this, he casually found a spot to sit cross-legged.

After waiting a bit, footsteps sounded from outside, followed by a loud voice, "More brothers joining us?"

Another voice quickly followed, "Keep it down, or you'll attract the enemy."

The loud voice sneered, "I'm already hiding here. If I still manage to lure them over, I'll twist my own head off."

As they spoke, two men entered from outside, one fat and one thin.

Their gazes swept past the familiar Hu Dequan and landed on Lu Ye, their eyes lighting up as if spotting a treasure.

Standing up, Hu Dequan introduced, "Brother Meng, Brother Yang, this is Fellow Daoist Lu Ye from the Eastern Section."

He then introduced the two to Lu Ye. The loud-mouthed Yang Ling was the fat one, and the thin one was Meng Xu. Along with Hu Dequan, all three were Moon Jade Late-Stage!

After all, they were sent by the Dwarf Race to seek Mount Fangcun's core, so their strength wouldn't be low.

If Lu Ye hadn't been insistent, Su Yuqing also wanted him to wait until the Moon Jade Late Stage before asking him to help search.

Yang Ling laughed out loud: "We're a family, I'm just sent from the east side, who is your Dao companion? I stayed at Mount Fangcun for a while, maybe I know them."

Hu Dequan secretly chuckled beside them.

When Lu Ye reported Su Yuqing's name, Yang Ling's expression suddenly stiffened, and he turned to look at Hu Dequan, with a face that said, "Is this kid joking with me?"

Hu Dequan shrugged, his reaction when he heard this news wasn't much better than Yang Ling's.

Meng Xu also realized the severity of the problem. Previously, everyone here called each other brothers, living joyfully and freely, but suddenly a Master Uncle comes up, who could handle that?

Meng Xu didn't even bother to say which part of Mount Fangcun he was sent from, afraid of making himself uncomfortable.

After an awkward moment, Yang Ling scratched his head: "Let's forget about it, no matter where we came from, we're all brothers sharing hardships and joys here anyway!"

"That's right, that's right!" Hu Dequan and Meng Xu expressed their deep agreement.

With one sentence, they moved past the topic, Yang Ling's expression became serious: "Brother Lu, although some matters can be basically determined, there are still procedures to go through to join the Red Talisman Society, please don't mind."

Lu Ye nodded: "No problem, how should I proceed?" He had mentally prepared for this, knowing that joining the Red Talisman Society wouldn't be that simple.

If it were really that easy, the Red Talisman Society wouldn't have remained so pure over the years.

"First, please exhibit your red talisman," Yang Ling began.

Although Hu Dequan had experienced the power of Lu Ye's red talisman, Yang Ling and Meng Xu hadn't.

Lu Ye immediately activated the power of the red talisman, allowing Yang Ling and Meng Xu to focus on experiencing it.

A moment later, both nodded, signifying no problem.

Yang Ling then spoke again: "Brother Meng also needs to test if you have been contaminated with saintliness. If not, then from now on, you will be a member of the Red Talisman Society."

With his words, Meng Xu suddenly reached out to take a sphere-like object and directly tossed it to Lu Ye: "This is something I've spent years refining, I ask Brother Lu to drop some blood on it."

Lu Ye looked at the sphere-like item in his hand and nodded readily: "No problem!"

He was actually a bit puzzled before as to how the Red Talisman Society differentiated whether cultivators were contaminated with saintliness. Now he understood, they had specialized artifacts for testing.

The Red Talisman Society has been fighting against the Sacred Blood Summit in the Core World for so many years, so naturally, they have some unique methods.

He didn't know what the result of using this item to test would be, although when refining the Sacred Blood, the Talent Tree had burned away all harmful things and didn't affect him daily, he ultimately had refined some things belonging to the Blood Race.

Normal methods couldn't detect anything abnormal, but with such a blood test, he couldn't be sure what the outcome would be.

In fact, when Hu Dequan brought him here, he already had some guesses.

If Hu Dequan really trusted him completely, he should be at the Red Talisman Society's stronghold now, not being brought here.

The reason for being here indicated that Hu Dequan clearly had precautions.

In this environment, with three Moon Jade Late Stage cultivators gathered, if Lu Ye's test showed any issue, escaping would be difficult—Lu Ye even suspected the entrance had been warded by the later arrivals Yang Ling and Meng Xu.

But regardless, this test was unavoidable; if he could successfully join the Red Talisman Society, their capital to oppose the Sacred Blood Summit would greatly increase.

As for confessing upfront... It probably wouldn't work, given the Red Talisman Society's standards for recruiting people; if he confessed, the only result would be being excluded.

So he could only gamble.

Drawing the Boulder Mountain Saber, he lightly sliced his hand, and droplets of blood dripped onto the spherical artifact.

Yang Ling's voice came: "No need to be too nervous, Brother Hu said you've only been here a few days. As long as you haven't been contaminated by the Blood Rain, there shouldn't be a problem."

As he finished speaking, the originally pitch-black sphere suddenly emitted a bright red light, growing increasingly bright until the entire cave was flooded with red.

Lu Ye looked up to see Yang Ling's expression turning extremely solemn, saw Meng Xu's face filled with regret and pain, and clearly sensed Hu Dequan behind him radiating hostility!

At some point, the three Moon Jade cultivators had positioned themselves in three directions, encircling him in the center.

Lu Ye let out a sigh.

He raised his hand and tossed the spherical artifact to Yang Ling, speaking: "Could the three of you allow me to explain a bit?"

Yang Ling's expression was somber: "There's no need to explain, I know you're not intentionally contaminated with saintliness, but the Blood Rain is all-encompassing, and you didn't know when you first arrived..." Saying this, he couldn't help but curse: "Our actions were too slow, Fellow Daoist, if you want to blame anyone, blame us!"

If their information had been more timely and actions faster, they could have found Lu Ye as soon as he arrived and avoided the current situation.

Chapter 1788 - Listening to Snowy Peak

"Fellow Daoist, do you have any last words?" Yang Ling asked, as his mana subtly surged, knowing that the young man before him must have been caught in the blood rain upon arriving in this world.

One thing puzzled him, though. The red glow from earlier seemed too dazzling; they had used this method before to identify whether incoming cultivators had been stained by the saintliness of the Blood Race, but never had something been as bright as today.

This must not have been just a splash of blood rain, but a bath in it...

He felt immense regret in his heart; it's hard to come by a natural ally, yet here they are, forced into conflict.

They had gone through this kind of situation more than once!

"Is there no room for negotiation?" Lu Ye asked, still trying to make an effort amidst the current situation.

Hu Dequan, who had led him here, sighed, "Little brother, let me tell you a story."

"I'm all ears!" Lu Ye nodded.

Hu Dequan said, "The initial recruitment criteria of the Red Talisman Society weren't as stringent. Anyone dispatched from Mount Fangcun or who shared our aspirations was accepted. We were strong for a period, but internal changes occurred over time. Many who were stained by the saintliness turned traitors, including those dispatched from Mount Fangcun. Do you know why?"

Without waiting for Lu Ye to answer, Hu Dequan provided the answer himself, "Resources brought from outside are limited. When a person's resources are depleted and their strength can't be replenished, the pain of dwindling cultivation is unbearable for most. Such torment shakes firmly-held beliefs, and joining Sacred Blood Summit becomes the only choice."

Meng Xu, who hadn't spoken until now, said sorrowfully, "We have been betrayed before; once bitten, twice shy. Brother Lu, it's not your fault; ultimately, we didn't do well enough!"

Yang Ling stepped forward, "So even if you harbor resentment, we can't let you leave. Once you leave, you will eventually join Sacred Blood Summit and become our enemy!"

Lu Ye nodded, understanding their concerns.

He didn't attempt further explanation because his current situation was inexplicable, especially when Yang Ling and others had preconceived notions.

In their view, any cultivator stained by saintliness isn't one of their own, an unbreakable iron rule.

Being an outsider, destined to become an enemy, naturally leads to them striking first. They hadn't acted against Xiang Yin and others because they were potent, and attacking them directly would only push others to join Sacred Blood Summit sooner.

On the other hand, Lu Ye had come to them voluntarily, and they couldn't let him escape.

"Speak your last words!" Yang Ling shouted, "If we ever escape from this place, we will report everything truthfully to Mountain Master Su without a single falsehood."

Lu Ye glanced at him and smiled slightly, "I trust you all."

Saying this, he removed a storage ring from his hand and tossed it to Yang Ling.

Yang Ling didn't catch it, instead dodging aside, clearly afraid of any tricks in the ring.

Lu Ye didn't mind and simply said, "Time will prove everything, and I hope to fight alongside you one day!"

Yang Ling frowned, clearly feeling Lu Ye was stubborn, but before he could speak further, Lu Ye's mana suddenly fluctuated, and a spirit rune quickly formed beneath his feet.

"Attack!" Meng Xu, realizing the danger, immediately shouted.

In an instant, the trio attacked ferociously, unleashing violent power at Lu Ye's location.

However, before their attacks could strike, Lu Ye's figure suddenly vanished into thin air.

The turbulent mana calmed, leaving Yang Ling puzzled, then he turned to Meng Xu, "What technique was that?"

Meng Xu frowned, "It seems like a Space Array! Did he prepare beforehand?" Speaking, he looked at Hu Dequan, who brought Lu Ye here.

Hu Dequan was bewildered, "I didn't see him do anything!"

While chatting with Lu Ye, he had been secretly observing him; if Lu Ye had prepared beforehand, he would have noticed.

Suddenly, Hu Dequan remembered something, "Before I met him, he entered a trap I set. I triggered the formation in that trap from afar, thinking to kill him, but he appeared before me unharmed!"

Meng Xu immediately understood, "He has the transposition technique!"

There's no other explanation, though even the three of them couldn't discern the technique's subtleties.

"Can you trace his whereabouts?" Yang Ling asked.

"It's too late," Hu Dequan shook his head, "He can't still be at the original spot; by now, he must have fled far away."

Yang Ling couldn't help but sigh, today's efforts were fruitless, and in the future, they feared he'd be another enemy.

Meng Xu turned to the side, reaching and grabbing the storage ring left by Lu Ye, and upon checking it, felt amazed, "He left a lot of spirit jade!"

This was undoubtedly Lu Ye's gesture upon hearing of their resource shortage.

Hu Dequan was silent for a while before speaking, "This young brother is actually good-hearted."

Even when they turned hostile and intended to kill, Lu Ye didn't react too aggressively, and Hu Dequan didn't sense any resentment from him.

Yang Ling coldly said, "Human nature can change; today you think he's good, but when he exhausts his resources and his cultivation weakens, watch how he chooses!"

Hu Dequan fell silent; they had experienced such circumstances and even doubted themselves because of them...

"Let's go, there's already been a commotion here, it's not suitable to linger!" Yang Ling spoke while stepping outside.

Three thousand miles away, Lu Ye's figure moved swiftly.

The interaction with Hu Dequan and others made him realize that his previous plan had failed; given his current situation, there's no way the Red Talisman Society would accept him.

He understood Hu Dequan and others' caution and also agreed with their decisive actions because if it were him, he would do the same.

But he truly can't prove he's different from the other initial Blood Race members... Some things can't just be explained with words; they must be proven through actions!

Currently, his understanding of this realm's information is not comprehensive enough, so he still needs to find someone to learn more.

Moreover, he still has a doubt he wants to resolve.

Snowy Peak, a spirit mountaintop with an elegant name, yet this peak has no snow; the name Snowy Peak appeared somewhat misleading.

The main reason is that the two Snow Race women who reside here named it after the spirit mountaintop they lived on in their Snow Race homeland, which was also called Snowy Peak.

A previous Blood Rain had yielded some gains for Xiang Yin and Xuan Yu, so after parting with Lu Ye, the two women returned to Snowy Peak, each retreating to refine the saintliness that had invaded their bodies.

Hu Dequan and others strictly avoided contact with Blood Rain, seeing it as a great beast, but for Xiang Yin and others, Blood Rain could provide assistance to them.

Suddenly, Moon Jade's aura descended from the sky!

The two women were startled, sensing this somewhat familiar aura, and hurriedly walked out from their retreat.

Looking up, it was indeed Lu Ye who had arrived.

"Greetings to Fellow Daoist!" Xiang Yin hastily saluted, her expression somewhat cautious, undoubtedly due to the profound impression Lu Ye left earlier.

Xuan Yu also followed suit with a salute, her demeanor still cool as ice.

Lu Ye took a deep look at Xiang Yin and opened his mouth: "Just arrived with no place to go, I intend to stay here for a while, you two don't mind, do you?"

Xiang Yin forced a smile: "Don't mind, if Fellow Daoist wishes, there's no problem staying here as long as you wish."

Inwardly complaining, we've come this far, even if my sister and I mind, can we dare to say it?

Lu Ye nodded: "Arrange a place to stay."

Xiang Yin looked around and spoke: "Fellow Daoist can stay in my place, my sister and I will live together."

"Alright!" Lu Ye had no particular requirements for his residence, so he stepped toward a nearby wooden house upon hearing.

Xiang Yin pursed her red lips and suddenly asked: "Fellow Daoist, how were your gains on this trip?"

Lu Ye stopped and tilted his head to look at her: "No significant gains."

Xiang Yin nodded: "Then perhaps I was mistaken."

Almost ten days after arriving in the Core World, Lu Ye settled at Snowy Peak. Initially, sisters Xiang Yin and Xuan Yu were worried whether Lu Ye would make some excessive demands of them, but if he did, given the strong saintliness Lu Ye exhibited earlier, the sisters had no choice but to meekly comply and become playthings.

To the sisters' relief, after arriving, Lu Ye showed no intention of surfacing, remaining in the house daily, occupied with unknown activities, which surprisingly put them at ease.

Another ten days passed.

On this day, Xiang Yin suddenly came to Lu Ye's house and gently called out: "Fellow Daoist!"

Lu Ye's voice quickly answered from inside: "Come in!"

Xiang Yin pushed the door and entered, immediately seeing Lu Ye sitting cross-legged on the fragrant bed that originally belonged to her, seemingly in cultivation.

"Didn't disturb you, Fellow Daoist?" Xiang Yin showed a sweet and compliant smile, with a soft voice that perfectly epitomized a woman's tenderness.

"Speak!" Lu Ye glanced at her indifferently.

Xiang Yin began: "Fellow Daoist, my sister and I may need to leave for a few days."

Lu Ye nodded: "Understood."

Xiang Yin was a bit surprised: "Fellow Daoist, aren't you curious where we're going?" Lu Ye's reaction was not quite as she had expected.

Only then did Lu Ye ask: "Where to?"

Xiang Yin explained: "Fellow Daoist, since you've entered from the outside, you must have experienced the Demon Eye blink; in a day or two, the Demon Eye should blink."

Upon this mention, Lu Ye, who had shown little interest, suddenly became spirited: "Demon Eye blink?"

Regarding the Blood Eye Spirit Runes imprinted above his Divine Sea during the Demon Eye blink, Lu Ye was truly attentive, but unfortunately, due to limited time in the marvel, he only glimpsed a small part of the spirit runes, leaving a regret.

He originally planned to wait for another opportunity to probe the complete set of spirit runes once outside, but to his surprise, Xiang Yin brought it up.

Chapter 1789 - Red Talisman Assassination

Xiang Yin's words sparked an exciting speculation in Lu Ye's mind: "Could it be that there's also a Demon Eye blinking in this domain?"

Xiang Yin replied: "Yes! And based on our tentative assumptions, the root of the Demon Eye's blinking lies within this realm."

"How do you figure?" Lu Ye straightened his posture, realizing that coming back to find Xiang Yin and her sister was indeed the right decision, as he inadvertently stumbled upon some critical information.

Xiang Yin carefully chose her words before speaking: "Fellow Daoist must have experienced the Demon Eye blinking outside, thus knowing what effects it has on a cultivator. It's an extension of a force we cannot comprehend. In other words, the Blood Eye reflecting in your Divine Sea indicates a manifestation of a formidable power!"

Lu Ye nodded, finding this explanation quite reasonable, and gestured for her to continue.

"Such immense power doesn't appear out of thin air. There must be a source, and if we're not mistaken, that source is here in this realm. When the Demon Eye blinks, the Blood Eye hangs in the sky like a blood moon, lingering without dispersing."

Lu Ye understood, "So when the Demon Eye blinks, not only is that marvelous scene affected outside, but changes occur inside this realm too?"

However, the changes are different. If a cultivator is within the marvel, they will experience what Lu Ye previously encountered: a Blood Eye reflecting in their Divine Sea, affecting their mental state, causing them to become overly aggressive and irritable.

But if you're in this realm, the Blood Eye won't reflect in your Divine Sea; instead, a blood moon directly appears in the sky.

Looking at it this way, the Demon Eye blinking affects both inside and outside this realm. Xiang Yin's speculation seems accurate; the source of that mystical power indeed lies within this realm!

Suddenly, Lu Ye recalled a previous hypothesis he had—the Core World has been tainted by the Sacred Blood of the Blood Ancestor!

This suggests that the root of the Demon Eye's blinking might well be the mischief caused by the Sacred Blood of the Blood Ancestor.

It even implies that the blood rain falling from the sky is related to the Sacred Blood of the Blood Ancestor; otherwise, how would Xiang Yin and others like her, the initial generation of the Blood Race, come into being?

Many things suddenly became clear.

Could it be that the Illusory Blood Devil's Eye, this stellar marvel, is a result of the Blood Ancestor's Sacred Blood? A bold guess popped up in Lu Ye's mind.

Xiang Yin continued, "So every time the Demon Eye blinks, we're greatly affected, turning hostile and aggressive. During such times, my sister and I have to find a place to settle ourselves, to avoid killing each other."

Lu Ye finally understood why the sisters had to leave for a few days. Apparently, they had gone through this more than once, so they prepared a plan in advance.

"How do you determine when the Demon Eye will blink?" Lu Ye asked.

Understanding this would undoubtedly help him a great deal in probing the Blood Eye Spirit Runes.

Xiang Yin smiled slightly, "Fellow Daoist, since you arrived, you've been secluded in cultivation and haven't seen the changes outside. If you take a look, you'll see that the gloom in the sky is weakening, and there are signs of the blood moon emerging. When the gloom completely dissipates, that's when the Demon Eye blinks; the blood moon will be high in the sky then!"

Upon hearing this, Lu Ye quickly got up, went outside the cabin, and looked up at the sky. He saw that the thick shadow was indeed different from a few days ago; it had become quite thin as if it might disperse at any moment.

Behind that thin shadow, there was a faint red light, reminiscent of a Blood Eye squinted into a slit.

Lu Ye felt a quiet joy in his heart, but kept a calm exterior.

The Demon Eye will blink inside this realm as well, with the Blood Eye directly appearing as a blood moon in the sky. This undoubtedly made it easier for him to explore its mysteries, without worrying about the Blood Eye in his Divine Sea being shattered by the seven-color Divine Lotus.

Yet, whether the Blood Eye here is the same as the one reflecting in his Divine Sea previously remained unclear, as only the right time would reveal the answer.

He did not refuse Xiang Yin's request. Since they had a self-preservation plan all these years, he respected their approach and let them be.

However, before leaving, Xiang Yin thoughtfully reminded him, "Fellow Daoist, we sisters know a little about Formation, so we set up something inside the Listening Snowy Peak. During this time, you can take refuge inside!"

After she spoke, she handed him the jade cluster of the big array.

Xiang Yin and her sister left, but Lu Ye had no intention of hiding; instead, he waited outside the cabin.

About 30 miles away, Xuan Yu hurriedly followed behind Xiang Yin, holding back for a long time before finally asking, "What are you doing?"

She had no idea what Xiang Yin was up to or why she suddenly brought her out here. Moreover, before leaving, Xiang Yin had specifically instructed her not to ask anything and just follow her lead. Trusting her sister, Xuan Yu complied without questioning—until now.

"No need to worry, sister. You'll know soon enough." Xiang Yin took Xuan Yu's hand.

Xuan Yu was about to say something when she suddenly turned serious, looking towards a direction, "Who's there?"

...

On the Listening Snowy Peak, Lu Ye sat on a chair, eagerly looking up at the sky.

The gloom that had already faded a lot became even thinner. A day after Xiang Yin and her sister left, the crimson hue suddenly expanded.

In the blink of an eye, a blood moon hung in the sky, casting the entire world in a crimson hue!

Lu Ye's eyes were instantly enhanced by Insight Spirit Runes, and he focused his Ocular Power on the blood moon.

He quickly revealed a look of delight, because this blood moon was identical to the Blood Eye that had once imprinted upon his Divine Sea, with its intricate patterns densely covering it. It was clearly a manifestation of a profoundly deep spirit rune.

He hurriedly observed it with great attention, noting the interwoven Yin-Yang Dual Origins.

Immersed in his thoughts, time flowed silently.

However, Lu Ye felt a bit perplexed because his current state was different from what Xiang Yin had described, as well as different from his feeling while inside the marvel.

When he was within the marvel, while the Blood Eye imprinted upon his Divine Sea, his mindset was greatly affected. It was only with the Soul-calming Bell and the seven-color Divine Lotus that he wasn't swayed by sudden emotional shifts, or he would have become as bloodthirsty and frantic as that Winged Race.

Yet now, there were no such indications; rather, bathed in the radiance of the blood moon, he felt wholly soothed, like a fish returning to water.

He even thought in this state, if he activated Blood Race secret techniques, its power would be enhanced!

It wasn't merely an illusion, but his most genuine feeling.

This clearly wasn't because he had some special qualities; previously, within the marvel, his experience was no different from other cultivators, only equipped with unique and strong resistance methods could he remain unscathed.

Now, being in this domain, logically speaking, he shouldn't be any different than other cultivators. In other words, if what Xiang Yin said was true, then under the blood moon at this moment, he should be experiencing the same feeling as before.

But he didn't, which could only mean one thing.

Xiang Yin... lied!

It seems, after parting ways with Hu Dequan and the others, before coming here, the doubts he had in his heart now have an answer!

The truth should be that during the blink of the Demon Eye, within the domain compared to within the marvel, the cultivator's sensations are completely different. In the Core World, anyhow cultivators like Xiang Yin and her sister who are tainted with saintliness, bathed in the blood's reflection, will have their power enhanced. As for those like Hu Dequan who are not tainted with saintliness, Lu Ye doesn't know what their reaction would be, as it's impossible to investigate.

Many thoughts crossed his mind, and suddenly Lu Ye turned to look in a direction, where suppressed Mana fluctuations were coming from.

Far from him, though the other party didn't know how to conceal it, the Mana fluctuations were too fierce to be fully suppressed!

Only because he was outside observing the blood moon could he sense these Mana fluctuations.

If he had indeed listened to Xiang Yin and entered the big array within Snowy Peak, he certainly wouldn't have been able to perceive them.

This woman, with her softly spoken words and sweetly beautiful smile, had a vicious mind; crucially, Lu Ye didn't know what he had done to provoke her. He considered that upon arriving in this domain, he hadn't had too direct conflict or enmity with Xiang Yin.

It could even be said he had spared Xiang Yin's life!

The Mana fluctuations in the distance suddenly grew extremely violent, with such powerful might, comparable to Sun Blaze's strikes!

However, Lu Ye was certain this wasn't Sun Blaze's doing, because the initial Mana fluctuations hadn't reached that level, and there was only one Sun Blaze in the home world, Lih Tian from Sacred Blood Summit.

The other party wouldn't personally come to such a place.

If it wasn't Sun Blaze's doing, yet able to unleash such power comparable to Sun Blaze within a short time frame, then there was only one possibility.

The person acted by activating a red talisman!

Moreover, the person acting had a certain understanding of his background, hence chose to act from a distance, not daring to meet him face to face.

If it were a cultivator from the Red Talisman Society, they wouldn't act in this manner; they indeed want to kill him but haven't reached a point where they don't dare to face him. After all, the Red Talisman Society only regards him as a Moon Jade Mid-Stage, and it doesn't make sense to recklessly use such a precious thing as a red talisman to eliminate him.

Red talismans are their crucial bargaining chip against Sacred Blood Summit, and wouldn't usually be used unless absolutely necessary.

Fearing him yet unhesitatingly using a red talisman, Lu Ye could only think of one possibility—someone betrayed the Red Talisman Society and sided with Sacred Blood Summit!

The situation has become clear, further confirming his guess regarding that doubt he held in his heart.

As he was pondering, the red talisman's might over there had already reached its limit, and on Snowy Peak, Lu Ye's view was instantly filled with a crimson glow.

Inside that crimson glow, a massive spear extending several hundred yards pierced through the space, reaching Snowy Peak in an instant, directly striking the not-so-tall mountain.

The extremely violent energy surged, and from the point of impact, Snowy Peak started to melt. In the blink of an eye, the entire spirit mountaintop was enveloped in red light.

The red light gradually dissipated, with the several-hundred-yard-high Snowy Peak completely leveled!

Chapter 1790 - Do We Have a Grudge?

About 30 miles away from Snowy Peak, three figures stand tall, two of which are Xiang Yin and her sister.

Xuan Yu's body trembles slightly. Although she had heard of the terrifying power of the red talisman crafted by the Dwarf Race, witnessing it firsthand is a first. Under such terror, even a cultivator at the Moon Jade Late-Stage appears extremely fragile and can be easily obliterated.

Xiang Yin's face flickers in the blood moonlight, a hint of guilt flashes in her eyes, quickly replaced by determination. In such a place, under such circumstances, her actions are solely to struggle for survival, unrelated to personal grudges. Moreover, she has no enmity with Lu Ye at all.

A man in a blood-red robe stands before the sisters, his head and face covered, obscuring his appearance. Xuan Yu saw this man when she followed Xiang Yin here earlier.

Though she does not recognize him, his attire undoubtedly reveals his identity — a cultivator of Sacred Blood Summit!

And he is not just any cultivator from Sacred Blood Summit; he is one who once betrayed the Red Talisman Society and joined Sacred Blood Summit. The red talisman he just activated was once bestowed by the Dwarf Race.

Meng Xu had previously told Lu Ye that they had been betrayed before; not only by those of weak will but also by those they once considered brothers, who had undergone years of trials before coming here and were trusted by the Dwarf Race.

Hu Dequan was right; the resources brought in from the outside are limited. When one's own resources are exhausted and the consumed strength cannot be replenished, the pain of waning cultivation is unbearable for many.

The only Spirit Jade Vein in this realm is held by Sacred Blood Summit. To obtain resources, one can only turn to them.

Due to these years of painful experiences, when Hu Dequan and others learned that Lu Ye had been tainted with saintliness, they decided to kill mercilessly; this has historical reasons.

"You have done well, follow me back to the Summit, and the Saintly Venerable will reward you." The man in the red robe spoke slowly, appearing quite weak.

Even though he is at the Moon Jade Late-Stage, fully activating a single red talisman greatly drained him.

This red talisman has been nurtured in his body for nearly a thousand years.

But to ensure a one-hit kill on Lu Ye, he dared not hold back at all, because according to the information provided by Xiang Yin and his own probing of nearby independent cultivators, the saintliness on this newcomer is terrifying, beyond even the reach of the Saintly Venerable.

For this reason, Saintly Venerable Lih Tian spared no expense, dispatching him to use the red talisman for this matter; otherwise, such a strategic killing weapon as the red talisman would not be used lightly.

If not for the concern about the opponent's saintliness, wouldn't sending Lih Tian personally have been more stable?

Now the entire Snowy Peak has been flattened, and the cultivator at Moon Jade Mid-Stage there must be dead with no place for burial.

"Thank you, Fellow Daoist, thank you, Saintly Venerable." Xiang Yin pressed her dry red lips, showing little joy.

"I need to recover for a while, protect me." The man in the red robe instructed, about to sit cross-legged.

But at that moment, he suddenly sensed something, turned his head to look aside, and saw a figure approaching leisurely from that direction. He looked unfamiliar, a young man with a long knife at his waist, indicating a combat cultivator identity, and his mana fluctuations were not very strong, only at Moon Jade Mid-Stage.

In this world, Moon Jade Mid-Stage is really nothing, considering how this damned place has countless Moon Jade Late-Stage cultivators.

The red-robed cultivator was slightly taken aback because he didn't know who was coming.

But beside him, Xiang Yin gasped in shock, her voice filled with disbelief and fear.

Immediately, the red-robed cultivator heard Xiang Yin shout urgently: "Sister, run!"

Amidst the fluctuation of mana, the clothes of Xiang Yin and her sister flapped as they fled into the distance as if encountering a ferocious beast.

Unfortunately, they can't escape!

Rivers of blood formed from treasure blood rushed in from all directions, as Lu Ye's figure approached, turning this place into a circle of encirclement.

Xiang Yin still struggled, but those blood rivers suddenly swelled and merged, transforming into a massive blood orb that tightly enveloped the entire area.

The center of the blood orb was devoid of blood color, as were the faces of Xiang Yin and her sister. Realizing they couldn't escape, they had no choice but to descend, terrified, watching Lu Ye standing not far ahead. Xiang Yin's body trembled, and her clenched fists turned white.

She couldn't understand how Lu Ye, only at the Moon Jade Mid-Stage, managed to escape the red talisman's might unharmed, seemingly unaffected by its power.

Originally, the red-robed cultivator didn't know who Lu Ye was, but after seeing the reaction of Xiang Yin and her sister, he immediately had a guess.

Gazing steadily at Lu Ye standing not far away, a flash of guilt appeared in the red-robed cultivator's eyes.

Originally... he could have been on the same side as Lu Ye, brothers in arms, but now they met in such a terrible way.

"Which division are you from?" he asked, showing a touch of resignation.

For if the saintliness of this newcomer is as terrifying as known, then even if he surpasses him by a minor realm, resistance is futile.

Not to mention he is now greatly exhausted, his strength significantly reduced.

For many years, he had lived in pain, and perhaps dying from that forced betrayal was a kind of relief.

"The East!" Lu Ye replied casually.

The red-robed cultivator nodded slightly, "I'm from the Southern Region, my Dao companion is..."

Lu Ye raised his hand to stop him, "No need to say it, I won't carry your message out."

The red-robed cultivator was taken aback, then sighed with relief, "That's good to know!" As soon as he spoke, the remnants of his mana hummed violently, and purple glimmers burst from within him.

Indeed, he couldn't just resign himself to death. If he could really face death calmly, he wouldn't have chosen to join the Sacred Blood Summit back then.

He had already used the red talisman, but he still had the purple talisman!

After all these years of nurturing, though the power invoked by the purple talisman was not as formidable as the red talisman, it was not to be underestimated. As long as he could invoke the power of the purple talisman, he could resolve the crisis before him.

While activating the purple talisman, he also shouted, "Do it together!"

This was undoubtedly directed at Xiang Yin and her sister.

However, just as these words fell, the world suddenly hummed, and at the same time, the red-robed cultivator's body hunched as if bearing a star, his mana stilled and unable to flow smoothly.

Even when he was at his peak, he could barely exert thirty percent of his strength under such terrifying suppression.

The red-robed cultivator widened his eyes, utterly unable to comprehend how anyone in this world could possess such terrifying saintliness!

Compared to what he was feeling now, Lih Tian's saintliness was like the glow of a firefly trying to compete with the brilliance of the moon.

He had already had some understanding of this matter from Xiang Yin and had even personally inquired with two local cultivators, but what he learned differed vastly from his personal experience.

Some concepts cannot be imagined without firsthand experience.

The world went dark, and as he looked up again, Lu Ye was already closing in, a flash of blade light passed by, and the red-robed cultivator's vision turned upside down before slowly plunging into darkness.

Lu Ye flicked the blood off his blade, pushed aside the headless body of the red-robed cultivator, and looked expressionlessly at Xiang Yin and her sister.

Xiang Yin's face was deathly pale, her eyes dimmed to the extreme, and Xuan Yu wasn't doing any better. Both sisters knew that today might be their last.

In terms of cultivation, both sisters were stronger than Lu Ye, but the Blood Race's saintliness suppression was just that unreasonable. They had experienced it once before, and now faced with Lu Ye who had killed the red-robed cultivator, they didn't even have a thought of resistance.

Fortunately, Lu Ye did not immediately kill them.

He looked at Xiang Yin and said, "You gave me the map of this realm, intentionally marked a region, hinting for me to find people from the Red Talisman Society there, intending to use their hand to kill me, right?"

The Red Talisman Society had means to discern if a cultivator was stained by saintliness, it shouldn't be a secret, and Xiang Yin surely knew it.

But Lu Ye, being new, wouldn't know these things, so Xiang Yin intentionally marked it on the map she gave him, clearly to borrow someone else's hand for murder. If Lu Ye came into contact with people from the Red Talisman Society, he'd be doomed.

Furthermore, Xiang Yin was likely aware that the Red Talisman Society had laid many traps for Sacred Blood Summit in that area, and without a doppelganger to help or the Void Spirit Runes for teleportation, Lu Ye would have been killed well before meeting Hu Dequan.

Hearing him ask, Xuan Yu looked at Xiang Yin in shock, clearly unaware of the situation and unable to understand why her sister bore such murderous intent towards a stranger.

"Yes." Xiang Yin's dry voice responded.

Lu Ye nodded, just as he thought.

He hadn't understood before why Xiang Yin directed him to that area, initially thinking she meant well, but now it was clear she did not.

After parting with Hu Dequan and others, Lu Ye had some suspicions and came back specifically to find Xiang Yin and her sister; partly because he had nowhere else to go, and partly to verify some things.

Otherwise, he had no reason to come to this Snowy Peak.

"After I arrived here, you secretly contacted Sacred Blood Summit, left while the Blood Moon was overhead, actually fearing the impact of the red talisman's power, you even intentionally gave me false clues before leaving, wanting to trap me within the big array of Snowy Peak, making it more convenient for Sacred Blood Summit people to kill me."

"Yes!" Xiang Yin admitted again.

"Do we have a grudge?" Lu Ye looked at her.

"No enmity." Xiang Yin replied, her head, which had been lowered all along, suddenly lifted to meet Lu Ye's eyes, and she pursed her lips, "This is just a woman's way to survive!"

At this point, any explanation and argument were useless. From Lu Ye's previous decisiveness and ruthlessness, Xiang Yin knew she wouldn't escape death today, so her demeanor was much calmer, "I plotted against you, sold you out, just to live better, that's all!"