

Humanity 1971

Chapter 1971: Came in Here Yourself

In front of the Nine Provinces Governor's Palace, Black Cloud's heart surged.

A hundred thousand years ago, the Nine Provinces was the most renowned domain in the entire stellar space, its fame surpassing even that of the present Yellow Dragon World.

But today, a hundred thousand years later, this domain was just an ordinary large domain. In recent days he stealthily investigated and found this domain contained many Constellations, yet not even a single Moon Jade, let alone the Sun Blaze.

Although he didn't know why the Nine Provinces became this way, it was clearly due to the loss of foundational essence.

This also had nothing to do with him; it was merely a trip for revenge. Who would have thought there would be unexpected rewards, truly delightful.

In a large domain with only Constellations, the power of a Sun Blaze was unimaginable. He pondered how he could find clues about the Dao Tree legacy and ultimately decided to display his supreme might, forcefully suppressing this domain. As long as he controlled this domain, sooner or later he would find the Dao Tree legacy and claim it for himself.

This was the confidence of a Sun Blaze!

At the same time, Lu Ye arrived at Immortal Spirit Peak on Mount Fangcun, meeting an astonished Su Yuqing, as Lu Ye had previously mentioned he was going to train in the Asura Field, yet years later he somehow ended up returning.

Before there was time to inquire, Chen Xuanhai and Woo Qimo arrived after receiving a message from Lu Ye.

The situation was urgent, and Lu Ye immediately informed them about Black Cloud.

Woo Qimo was suddenly enraged: "That Demon Race must be blind, daring to cause trouble right under our noses at Mount Fangcun. Junior Brother, don't worry, I'll go get him out of the Nine Provinces right now."

Saying this, he was about to head out.

Mount Fangcun's relationship with Lu Ye was unshakable. When Lu Ye wasn't in the Nine Provinces, they naturally had to protect the peace in Nine Provinces, but because they always stayed within Mount Fangcun, they hadn't noticed that a Sun Blaze had infiltrated Nine Provinces, which made him very angry.

"Senior Brother Woo, hold on." Lu Ye quickly stopped him. He indeed came here to seek help from the three Sun Blazes of the Dwarf Race, but the battle must not erupt within the Nine Provinces.

Immediately, he detailed his plan, and Su Yuqing and the others nodded repeatedly, quickly preparing.

A moment later, Lu Ye left Mount Fangcun again, quietly contacting Number Nine.

Whether his plan could be executed depended on the might of Number Nine and the Asura Field Treasure. If Number Nine could utilize the treasure to create a scene suitable for a Sun Blaze battle, all would be well, but if not, the Dwarf Race Sun Blaze would have to take action by force.

Soon, Lu Ye received a message from Number Nine, and his heart was reassured!

In front of the Governor's Hall, Black Cloud had already decided and was about to drive his Sun Blaze might to showcase his existence, thus intimidating the Nine Provinces cultivators when he suddenly sensed something and looked up towards the outer sky.

His perception was exceptionally strong, immediately detecting a familiar aura rapidly approaching the Nine Provinces.

After a brief assessment, he chuckled: "Good, good, indeed blessings come in pairs!"

He hadn't expected that at such a juncture, Lu Ye from Three Worlds Island would appear!

Admittedly, his original intention here was just to destroy the Nine Provinces and avenge Lu Ye's past slaughter of the Zixuan demon cultivators, but doing so would only temporarily alleviate his hatred, not truly avenge it.

Yet, Lu Ye stayed over at Three Worlds Island in All Phenomena Ocean for so long without coming out, leaving him without a better option.

At this moment, Lu Ye's appearance was undoubtedly an unexpected joy.

He had communicated face-to-face with Lu Ye back then, so naturally remembered the other's aura, and thus clearly judged that it was the arrogant human youth from years ago who had arrived.

"Then let's start with you!" Black Cloud snorted coldly, his figure soared into the sky towards Lu Ye.

Near Nine Provinces, Lu Ye wore an easygoing expression, as if he'd been sightseeing outside for a long time and finally remembered he was a traveler returning home.

Suddenly, his body halted, his expression changed dramatically, confusion and suspicion written on his face: "This is..." He gazed deeply into the depths of the Nine Provinces, as if witnessing something unbelievable: "Demon Venerable Black Cloud? How can you be here?"

Black Cloud's figure rapidly approached Lu Ye, laughing: "Island Master Lu, long time no see?"

After being suppressed for several years, seeing Lu Ye's panic-stricken expression made him feel unprecedentedly comfortable, as if all the previous humiliation had finally found an outlet.

Lu Ye's face was already pale, raising his hand and pointing to the Void in front of him. As he pointed, a spinning vortex suddenly appeared in front of him.

Instantly, Lu Ye, like a startled rabbit, plunged directly into it, and as his figure disappeared, the vortex began to rapidly contract.

Black Cloud was stunned, not quite comprehending this method, but regardless of the method, it was merely another way to escape.

As the whirlpool was about to close up and disappear, Black Cloud's speed suddenly increased tremendously. In an instant, he rushed to the front of the whirlpool, showing no hesitation, and followed it inside.

Having made a move personally, if Moon Jade manages to escape, it would truly be a joke.

With a shift in vision, the environment became extremely peculiar. It seemed like a starry space, yet somewhat distorted, giving off a very unreal feeling, even the planets in the distance looked strangely shaped, with one resembling a sheet of paper...

This was undoubtedly due to Number Nine's unfamiliarity with controlling the affiliated treasure. In a hurry, being able to create such an environment was already quite challenging.

Of course, this also relates to the affiliated treasure not being a true stellar space supreme treasure; it is ultimately just an affiliated treasure and cannot unleash the true supreme treasure's power.

Black Cloud had no interest in investigating those matters, instead, he raised his eyes to see Lu Ye standing not far away. He smiled slightly, with a confident expression: "Run, why don't you run anymore?"

However, as soon as he spoke, he suddenly felt something was off, because Lu Ye's face showed not a trace of panic, and he stood there calmly, even more composed than Black Cloud himself...

"You walked into this yourself!" Lu Ye gazed at him with pity.

Honestly speaking, although Number Nine could barely create such a scene, if Black Cloud was cautious enough not to break in, Number Nine wouldn't be able to forcefully bring him in. Unfortunately, Black Cloud was blinded by hatred and led by Lu Ye into this place.

Black Cloud finally sensed something was wrong, though unsure of what tricks Lu Ye was hiding, warning bells rang loudly in his heart!

Without daring to hesitate, he activated his Demon Origin and raised a hand to grab towards Lu Ye, thinking that whatever scheme the other may have, against overwhelming power, it would be futile!

But as his hand extended, a astonishing sword light suddenly emerged from thin air, its fierce brilliance made Black Cloud's coloration change.

"Sun Blaze!" He widened his eyes in shock, hurriedly pulling back, yet even so, a considerable amount of Demon Origin was sliced away.

"Congeal!" A cold voice rang out, followed by a blast of purple light from the side. Though Black Cloud noticed it, he was still grazed by it, immediately feeling his body freeze.

"Break!" Another robust voice sounded, and similarly, a purple light came flying.

When Black Cloud turned his head, he was astonished to find that the purple light transformed into a massive axe, descending directly upon him, and from this purple light, he felt another distinct Sun Blaze aura.

His face showed horror, and he swiftly attempted to evade, yet that chilling sword light reappeared.

Moments later, Black Cloud stood there with a terrified expression, having been suddenly attacked, he was slightly injured. He was exceedingly surprised as he looked at the three figures that appeared ahead.

Two men, one woman, each shrouded in the aura of Sun Blaze, and besides the burly man with the Sun Blaze in the middle, the other two seemed not to be ordinary Sun Blaze cultivators, especially the woman...

And the purple light...

"Are you from the Dwarf Race?" Black Cloud finally realized, although he hadn't personally fought with Sun Blaze cultivators from the Dwarf Race before, he had lived long enough to know that only the Dwarf Race would use talismans to fight with others.

But... how could there be Dwarf Race here, and three Sun Blaze experts at that? Before, he clearly hadn't discovered any cultivators above Constellation level in Nine Provinces.

"You three, I am Black Cloud of Zixuan Demon Planet, and pass through this place unintentionally, why have you acted? Is there some misunderstanding?" Black Cloud spoke in a deep voice.

The name of Mount Fangcun's Dwarf Race was widespread, but Zixuan Demon Planet was not weak either. Currently, he found himself unable to contend against these three alone, hoping they would be wary of Zixuan and leave some room between them hence he promptly introduced himself and his background.

Moreover, he knew, Mount Fangcun's various divisions roam the stellar space, rarely making enemies with powerful beings, because once enmities are formed, targeted sieges might occur.

Unfortunately, to his disappointment, the three Dwarf Race Sun Blaze cultivators merely looked at him indifferently, showing no intention to respond.

He suddenly turned his head towards Lu Ye, who watched not far away, filled with disbelief.

Given the current situation, he was entirely certain that the three Sun Blaze individuals were called upon by Lu Ye for aid. Although he had heard of Lu Ye's good relations with the Dwarf Race, there was a talisman shop run by the Dwarf Race on Three Worlds Island, but no one had ever mentioned... their relationship was this good, three Sun Blaze cultivators summoned at will?

The key is... how did he summon them? He didn't understand.

"Do it," Lu Ye spoke lightly.

"Dragon's Wail!" Chen Xuanhai whispered, the talisman sword like a dragon, roaring loudly, merging with the sword light charging towards Black Cloud.

Su Yuqing formed a seal with one hand, her serene face calm, sending out waves of purple light, while Woo Qimo's body was surrounded by purple light, somehow transforming into a fierce exotic beast, furiously attacking.

If it were another place, even in a three-on-one scenario, if Black Cloud intended to escape, it's possible the three Dwarf Race Sun Blaze would have no effective method unless they were willing to exchange injuries, but this place was ultimately a scene created by Number Nine, with limited ability, and wasn't as expansive as it appeared on the surface, the actual area for Sun Blaze to contend was only a specific region, all other parts were illusory and couldn't be accessed.

As a result, Black Cloud found himself in a tragic situation.

Chapter 1972: The Death of Black Cloud

The space for the confrontation was limited, and facing three opponents alone, unless Black Cloud had the strength of Ma Bin, he stood no chance.

How many like Ma Bin exist in this world?

So the outcome of this battle was already destined.

After half a day, Black Cloud's massive demon body was battered and tattered, his breath weak to the extreme, on the brink of death.

Yet, he managed to cling to life.

It wasn't because Su Yuqing and the others showed mercy but because Lu Ye had specifically instructed them to do so.

He had some questions he wanted to ask Black Cloud...

The three Sun Blaze dwarves surrounded him; even at this moment, they showed no sign of lowering their vigilance, fearing Black Cloud might suddenly launch a deadly counterattack, a possibility they had to be wary of.

Meanwhile, Lu Ye shouted from a distance, not getting any closer: "Demon Venerable, can you answer a few questions for me?"

Black Cloud lay prostrate on the ground, looking down on Lu Ye's caution, but he couldn't deny that the kid truly was careful enough.

He still had one final reserve of strength left, not enough to challenge the Sun Blaze, but if Lu Ye came close enough, he might drag him down with him.

Who knew this kid was this cautious!

"The victor is king, the loser is the villain. If you want to kill, then kill, why waste words?" Black Cloud snorted coldly, showing no sign of yielding even at this moment.

Lu Ye nodded: "Killing you is certain, but how you die depends on you, Demon Venerable."

Black Cloud's voice was icy: "What do you mean?"

Lu Ye replied: "If the Demon Venerable cooperates, I'll give you a quick death."

"And if I don't cooperate?"

"Hehe..." Lu Ye chuckled without further explanation, but that smile alone was enough to show that nothing good would come of it.

Black Cloud's expression changed, and his massive demon body quickly contracted, reverting to a human form with a face full of apathy: "Ask away."

Withdrawing his demon form clearly indicated he had abandoned his original plan. For him, death wasn't frightening, but certain tortures were.

While the Dwarf Race wasn't inherently evil, the Sun Blazes might be proficient in such methods. Not to mention, Black Cloud knew that the Dwarf Race had a type of Spirit Talisman specifically used for torment, one that truly made life worse than death if fallen into its trap.

Now, all he sought was a swift death.

Seeing this, Lu Ye finally began to ask: "How did you find this place? Who gave you the route?"

It wasn't easy to travel from the All Phenomena Ocean to the Nine Provinces. Lu Ye had only managed it thanks to the guidance of the Reincarnation Tree, which provided a specific path, allowing him to overcome numerous challenges and finally return to the Nine Provinces.

So Black Cloud finding his way here was no coincidence; someone must have guided him.

"Don't you know who you've made enemies with?" Black Cloud responded sarcastically.

Lu Ye blinked: "Seems like Demon Venerable is not very convinced? Senior Brother Woo, could you help calm the Demon Venerable's fiery temper?"

Woo Qimo stepped forward: "No problem!"

Black Cloud's expression changed: "There's no need!" Then he looked at Lu Ye and said: "Yuan Du gave me a route, and I followed it here!"

So it was that old fox.

"How did Yuan Du know the route from the All Phenomena Ocean to here?" Lu Ye asked further.

Black Cloud sneered, instinctively wanting to mock, but he quickly realized and restrained himself, then said: "Hadh't there been quite a few disappearances on Three Worlds Island before? Most of them were secretly captured by Yuan Du. Under the Soul Searching Technique, what information couldn't he extract?"

Lu Ye had already suspected this, but Black Cloud's words confirmed it.

There had indeed been some disappearances among Three Worlds Island cultivators. Though the number wasn't large, it wasn't unusual. Before the massive battle with Zixuan, Luan Xiao'e had specially reported this to him.

These were unsolvable cases in such a chaotic place as the All Phenomena Ocean, where conflicts and battles among cultivators resulted in deaths or disappearances every moment.

Even on Three Worlds Island or among any renowned major factions, cultivators could vanish or die unexpectedly.

At the time, Lu Ye didn't pay much attention to it, except for one case involving Wey Po, which eventually led to the battle between Three Worlds Island and Zixuan.

But now it seems that some of those missing cultivators from Three Worlds Island fell victim to Yuan Du, who used the Soul Searching Technique to extract routes from their memories.

"So you followed the route all the way here for revenge against the Zixuan demon cultivator?" Lu Ye asked.

"Indeed! You killed so many of my Zixuan demon cultivators; I'm just here to kill your compatriots. Is that too much?"

Lu Ye made no comment on that.

Black Cloud suddenly became furious: "Yuan Du, you good-for-nothing fellow, you're more of a ruin than a help. His Soul Searching Technique is a pile of dog shit. Your domain has three Sun Blaze cultivators stationed here, and he was completely oblivious. It's laughable that he even thought of using someone else's hand to kill me!"

Lu Ye blinked... and looked at Black Cloud sympathetically.

It would be odd if Yuan Du knew. When Lu Ye led the Nine Provinces cultivators to All Phenomena Ocean initially, there was no Mount Fangcun on the Nine Provinces side, nor any Sun Blaze.

So, the intelligence Yuan Du obtained through Soul Searching was long outdated. He thought this was merely a typical large domain, secretly guided Black Cloud here for revenge, and as a result, Black Cloud blundered into a trap, finding his life and death beyond his control.

"Moreover, the route he provided was actually incomplete. I wasted quite a bit of time finding the correct path!" Black Cloud's face was full of anger, clearly showing his dissatisfaction with Yuan Du.

No wonder this guy, being a Sun Blaze, took several years to travel from All Phenomena Ocean to Nine Provinces; it turns out this was the reason.

But in fact, Yuan Du couldn't really be blamed, because the Soul Searching Technique is extremely sinister. Once used, it causes massive trauma to the psyche of those it is used on, so the information obtained through it is limited and mostly incomplete.

"Aside from directing you here, did he say anything else?" Lu Ye asked.

Involved with Nine Provinces, Yuan Du having performed Soul Search on the cultivators from Three Worlds Island might not necessarily be unaware of the true name of Nine Provinces. Yet he still led Black Cloud over here, undoubtedly proving that even if Yuan Du knew about Nine Provinces, he paid it no mind.

Additionally, Three Worlds Island cultivators are aware of the Merfolk Race and the underwater Merfolk Territory; does Yuan Du know?

Even if he knows incompletely, he probably has some understanding, just that he keeps it secret for some unknown purpose.

But Lu Ye isn't too worried about the Merfolk issue. Even if Yuan Du knows, he can't use it to make a big deal.

"Nothing more." Black Cloud assumed a meditative position, trying to make himself comfortable, hanging his head low and said: "You have offended him, and have grievances with my Zixuan as well. He can't leave All Phenomena Ocean easily, so he incited me to come here. If I succeed, he would feel relieved."

"That's not right." Lu Ye stared deeply at him. "I've heard that you've been in this domain for a while. What are you sneaking around looking for?"

Black Cloud seemed very cooperative, yet Lu Ye could sense that this guy wasn't being honest; there were things he hadn't revealed.

Black Cloud remained expressionless: "I'm new here; it's just caution, being careful. What's there to find? If searching, it'd be for individuals related to you."

Lu Ye quietly observed him for a few moments before softly asking: "Demon Venerable, have you heard of... the Dao Tree?"

The seated Black Cloud still showed no change in expression, with no trace of a flaw.

But having no flaw is the biggest flaw. An experienced Sun Blaze of the Demon Race, living so long, how could he not know the Dao Tree? If Black Cloud were in perfect form, he might disguise it more convincingly, but now heavily injured and near death, he couldn't maintain the perfect facade.

Lu Ye already arrived at a conclusion, and pressed: "Does Yuan Du know about Nine Provinces and the Dao Tree?"

Black Cloud glanced up at Lu Ye before speaking: "Yuan Du found it odd why you claim to be Nine Heavens, yet it's merely that! If he knew this Nine Provinces was the once-famous Nine Provinces, he wouldn't have sent me; he would have come personally!"

A reasonable explanation.

"However... he doesn't understand now, which doesn't mean he won't ever understand. Since the Dao Tree is involved, no matter how minute the possibility, he should thoroughly investigate."

Lu Ye smiled: "Then we must welcome him warmly when he arrives."

Black Cloud's eye twitched, almost foreseeing the wretched fate that awaits if Yuan Du truly comes to Nine Provinces, potentially as tragic as his.

"Anything else you want to ask?" Black Cloud looked at Lu Ye.

Lu Ye slowly shook his head, having clarified everything that needed clarification.

He turned to Chen Xuanhai: "Please, Senior Brother, give the Demon Venerable a swift end."

As these words fell, a sword light flashed. When Lu Ye turned to look, he found Black Cloud had already been decapitated, with life ebbing rapidly.

"Number Nine, let us out." Lu Ye called out, then instructed: "Also, keep this scene intact for now to ensure Black Cloud is thoroughly dead before lifting it."

A vortex gradually formed, and Lu Ye, along with the three Sun Blaze cultivators of the Dwarf Race, departed.

In some corner of the stellar space, a giant planet lies expansive, encircled by a band of ring-shaped nebulae. From a distance, under the big sun's radiance, the nebula casts a mystical purple hue.

The name Zixuan comes from this, renowned across the stellar space.

On the demon planet, countless members of the Demon Race thrive, with strong ones like clouds.

On the entire Zixuan Demon Planet, there are five Great Demon Venerables, eighteen minor Demon Venerables, twenty-three Demon Venerable-level experts overseeing various places in the domain, leading to the mighty Zixuan Demon Planet being divided into twenty-three regions, each belonging to a Demon Venerable's territory.

Both Great and minor Demon Venerables are Sun Blaze experts; a domain with twenty-three Sun Blaze cultivators attests to the powerful foundation of Zixuan, not including the Sun Blaze cultivators from other domains in the Star System.

At this moment, within the territory belonging to Demon Venerable Black Cloud, atop Black Cloud Summit, a furious roar echoes from the grand hall, causing the entire spirit mountaintop to tremble!

"Who! Who killed my doppelgänger!"

Inside the grand hall, Demon Venerable Black Cloud's face is engulfed in rage. One must know that the fallen doppelgänger wasn't ordinary, but something he painstakingly prepared over three thousand years for a possible great disaster. It wasn't just a doppelgänger but a magic body.

Though the magic body isn't as powerful as his primary form, it belongs to the Sun Blaze level, barely a step below his own strength. Now it's suddenly dead, rendering three thousand years of preparation futile. How could he not be furious?

Chapter 1973: Happy Little Nine

Although he didn't know who exactly killed his magic body, as long as the main body and the magic body weren't separated, there was always a connection between them that wasn't affected by distance.

After a moment of fury, Black Cloud frowned and pondered, recalling everything that happened before the magic body faced trouble.

It turns out that the Nine Provinces, which had mysteriously disappeared after that earth-shattering war ten thousand years ago, were now in a very remote star system. If he hadn't known this, it would be fine, but now that he knew, how could Black Cloud possibly let it go?

Over there, the magic body had thoroughly investigated, and the Nine Provinces was now just an ordinary large domain, only containing Constellations and not even a Moon Jade. How could it be suddenly killed?

Only a Sun Blaze can kill a Sun Blaze.

And the power of the magic body is not something an ordinary Sun Blaze could handle, so there must be more than one powerful Sun Blaze hidden within the Nine Provinces!

Sure enough, even after a span of ten thousand years, one must not underestimate this domain in the slightest.

He would not let the death of the magic body go unpunished, especially since the Nine Provinces were also linked to the supreme treasure, the Dao Tree. This alone suggested he might have to seek help and call in some favors.

Furthermore, he had to consider the possibility that the Dao Tree legacy might have already been acquired by someone...

Thinking this, he suddenly remembered that Yuan Du once mentioned to the magic body that the Three Worlds Island's Lu Ye had been advancing rapidly in cultivation, clearly possessing some great opportunity.

Previously, he was unaware that Lu Ye was from the Nine Provinces, so he didn't think much of it. But now, connecting the information he obtained, could this Lu Ye be... Black Cloud's gaze flickered, his spirit invigorated. If so, there's no need to go to the Nine Provinces. As long as he can find a way to resolve things with Lu Ye in the All Phenomena Ocean.

No, since Lu Ye is now in the Nine Provinces, the Nine Provinces must not be spared either!

With countless thoughts swirling in his mind, Black Cloud quickly formed a vague plan. No one knew if or when that great calamity would arrive, but with his level of cultivation and power, he was already making preparations for the future.

And if he could gain the Dao Tree legacy, he would have an extra measure of self-preservation when the great calamity descended. After all, this was a stellar space supreme treasure, only stellar space supreme treasures could play a role in such a catastrophic event that swept through the stellar space.

The Nine Provinces was shrouded and isolated by scenes created by the Asura Field Treasure, so the death of a Sun Blaze went without a ripple, unnoticed by anyone in the Nine Provinces.

Lu Ye thanked Chen Xuanhai and the other two, watching them return to Mount Fangcun before leisurely making his way to the Governor's Hall.

The Constellation stationed here was unknown to Lu Ye, likely having recently been promoted within the last two years. He wondered why his fate was such that he ended up on guard duty.

Though Lu Ye did not recognize him, he certainly recognized Lu Ye and greeted him with respect.

As his cultivation level rose, Lu Ye's status in the Nine Provinces grew ever more prominent. In terms of age, many of the older generations were likely older than him, but in terms of contribution to the Nine Provinces, none could match even a fraction of what he had accomplished.

No one in the cultivation world was unaware that the current prosperity and thriving state of the Nine Provinces was largely due to Lu Ye of the Righteous Blood Sect.

As a result, the Righteous Blood Sect had become a top-tier big sect in the Nine Provinces, commanded respect and no one dared to underestimate it.

After exchanging a few brief words with the Governor, an order quickly spread from the Governor's Hall, transmitted through layers of cultivators, rapidly reaching various places.

On the Unparalleled Continent, a four-person squad was searching for traces of the Corpse Race. All team members had only True Lake cultivation, led by a handsome young man in white clothes with a long sword at his waist, clearly a combat cultivator.

Influenced by Lu Ye, the number of combat cultivators in the Nine Provinces had increased significantly in recent years, especially those using swords. Numerous young disciples were emulating his style.

This young man was undoubtedly one of them.

"Spent three days and only found a few isolated Corpse Races; earning merit is getting harder," sighed a woman in magic cultivator attire within the group.

Since the establishment of contact between the Nine Provinces and the Unparalleled Continent, several years had passed, and the Unparalleled Continent no longer saw rampant Corpse Races. With continuous hunts by cultivators, their numbers dwindled, making today's pursuit of battle merit on the Unparalleled Continent quite challenging, primarily dependent on luck. Good fortune might lead to encountering some Corpse Races, while bad luck might mean not seeing any for days.

Encountering a few isolated ones in three days was still considered good for them.

"Yeah, this efficiency hardly beats meditating and cultivating back in the Nine Provinces," another physique cultivator responded.

With the increasing foundation of the Nine Provinces, the nature's spiritual energy inside had become much more abundant. Although most of the spiritual energy had been stockpiled by Number Nine using special methods, there was no way the domain could have been left with none.

Compared to the times Lu Ye was cultivating, the cultivation environment within the Nine Provinces had improved by several folds.

Though sitting in meditation for cultivation might be slow, it was sustainable and could be done anytime.

"Do the Divine Seas have any solutions?" another ghost cultivator inquired.

"What solution can the Divine Sea cultivators offer?" The combat cultivator smiled wryly, "They're also troubled by the future path of cultivation. It's not just us who can't hunt the Corpse Race; the Divine Sea cultivators face the same problem."

The physique cultivator was worried: "Then where is the way forward for the Nine Provinces?"

The few fell into silence, pondering where the path might lead, but who could know?

Suddenly, the combat cultivator's expression changed, indicating that a message had been transmitted to him. Almost simultaneously, the others also received messages one after another.

Shortly after, they looked up and exchanged glances, seeing the surprise in each other's eyes.

"I just received a message from my sect. There's a new training ground within the domain that can accommodate the training needs of those below the Constellation Realm and even those within it. Any cultivator from the Nine Provinces can access it with a battlefield marking to hone themselves and earn merit!" the combat cultivator said.

"I received this message too," the magic cultivator nodded.

"Me too!"

...

The four were briefly stunned before the combat cultivator called out, "What are we waiting for, let's hurry back and check it out." After saying that, he flew towards the nearest camp, with the other three following closely.

In their flight, they saw countless cultivators rushing towards the camp from all directions, clearly having received the same message from their respective sects.

Everyone was curious about what kind of training ground it was that could support cultivators of the Constellation Realm. Such a thing had never been heard of before.

Not only from Unparalleled Continent were there cultivators returning to the Nine Provinces, but also in stellar space, the Constellations who had been searching for spirit jade hurried back after receiving the news.

Unlike when the Nine Provinces first advanced to a large domain, when its near-space was undeveloped and the Constellations could easily find spirit jade to meet their cultivation needs with no issue.

But over the years, as the number of Nine Provinces Constellations increased, any spirit jade born in the nearby stellar space would quickly be found and collected. As a result, obtaining spirit jade now required significantly more time and effort.

Though Lu Ye had brought back a large amount of spirit jade from Three Worlds Island, enough to meet the cultivation needs of Nine Provinces Constellations, cultivators need more than just cultivation; they also require various kinds of training. Therefore, the Governor's Hall strictly controlled the distribution of spirit jade, preventing the Nine Provinces Constellations from becoming overly dependent.

The Nine Provinces suddenly became bustling like never before.

In a void space, Lu Ye stood silently. Number Nine was beside him, while Little Flower Girl, still looking timid, hid in the thick fur around Number Nine's neck, occasionally peeking at Lu Ye but retreating whenever she met his gaze.

Nearby, numerous mirrors of varying sizes reflected different scenes, each showing Nine Provinces cultivators at various stages undergoing trials.

The Asura Field Treasure had been officially put to use. Although Lu Ye roughly understood the situation, he was still uneasy, choosing to stay and observe.

His main concern was whether Number Nine could truly handle this treasure.

But now it seemed he had worried needlessly. Number Nine managed the task effortlessly, which made sense considering Number Nine had maintained the Spirit Stream battlefield and Cloud River battlefield, along with various secret realms, and had meticulously handled the allocation of merit and the exchange of resources and spirit fortune sticks for all Nine Provinces cultivators without error for thousands of years.

Utilizing the Asura Field Treasure was even more effortless than its previous duties.

"Lu Ye, Lu Ye, you brought back something fantastic," Number Nine sounded a bit excited. As the spiritual intelligence born from the union of Nine Provinces Origin and the Heaven's Augury Compass Artifact Spirit, Number Nine had always had one wish since its inception—to protect the Nine Provinces and ensure its prosperity.

Anything beneficial to the Nine Provinces was something it would fervently pursue.

The activation of the Asura Field Treasure resolved a deep concern for it. From now on, there's no need to worry about the future path of the Nine Provinces cultivation world.

"But from now on, it'll require more effort from you." Lu Ye looked at it apologetically. From the perspective of the human race, Number Nine was like an uncomplaining steward, despite having the temperament of a child.

Number Nine waved its paw dismissively, "It's no trouble at all, a very simple matter." As it spoke, it suddenly remembered something, "Lu Ye, do you think there's still a need to maintain the Spirit Stream and Cloud River battlefields?"

Before Lu Ye could answer, it made a decision, "Definitely no need to maintain them. Let the Spirit Stream Realm and Cloud River Realm cultivators come in for training as well."

"As long as you're happy," Lu Ye smiled.

The records within the Asura Field, although capturing shadows above the Constellation Realm, could actually be adjusted. Thus, even if Spirit Stream Realm cultivators entered for training, Number Nine could use the treasure to adjust the shadow's power to the appropriate level, preventing the cultivators from facing inescapable predicaments.

The principle of the Asura Field is that there are no unsolvable situations during training, a principle that the Treasure would naturally uphold.

Chapter 1974: Not So Passionate

After several days, Lu Ye finally left.

The newly acquired affiliated treasure from the Asura Field, Number Nine seemed to have gotten a toy it liked, and would certainly indulge in it for a short period. Fortunately, Little Flower Girl was accompanying it, preventing it from feeling lonely.

The matters of the Nine Provinces were dealt with.

In mid-air, Lu Ye's figure stood tall, his Mental Consciousness spread out, probing in the direction of the Righteous Blood Sect. He thought for a moment, then slowly shook his head, abandoning the idea of returning to the sect.

The current Righteous Blood Sect hardly had anyone he knew or was familiar with.

Previously, there were Second Senior Sister and the sect master in the sect; every time he returned, he felt warmth, like coming home. But now, Second Senior Sister was absent, the sect master wasn't there, and even his teacher, Yun Xuechu, was gone too. So, whether he returns or not makes no difference. Moreover, given his current level and strength, returning rashly would only make the entire sect feel anxious and fearful.

In this vast Nine Provinces, he seemed to have no place to go... feeling desolate momentarily.

He glanced up toward the direction of the Blood Refinement World, sensing that his three Blood Servants were cultivating within, his heart moved.

Moments later, three streaks of bloodlight flew from that direction, quickly arriving near Lu Ye.

"Greetings, master!" Xuan Yu, Xiang Yin, and Dhim Beifeng greeted in unison.

"Hmm?" Lu Ye seriously examined the three Blood Servants before him, noticing that compared to a few years ago, they seemed to have undergone some significant changes. He couldn't help but show a playful interest: "Looks like you've all gained something."

Could this Blood Refinement World truly benefit the cultivation of the Blood Race?

Yet strictly speaking, he too belonged to the Blood Race, closer to the Blood Ancestor's bloodline than the Blood Servants. Why hadn't he perceived anything?

He pondered slightly; perhaps it was precisely because his bloodline was too rich that it remained unnoticed?

Xiang Yin, being the most lively, joyfully said, "We've gained a bit, and we must thank the master for his kindness."

Lu Ye nodded, waved his hand, and said: "Then continue cultivating." Advancing to Sun Blaze sooner will allow for greater contributions, and if these three were Sun Blaze, perhaps they would have detected the Black Cloud's intrusion earlier. As for whether these three will break free from his control after advancing, Lu Ye wasn't too worried. His cultivation now wasn't low, and it was uncertain who would advance first.

There's another Blood Servant... Old Ma was his first to be subdued over there, and he's been loyally devoted all these years; it's time to bring him back and give him a chance.

Xiang Yin and the others departed again, rare to have a chance to glimpse the secrets of Sun Blaze; none wanted to miss it.

Lu Ye stood in place for a moment, then simply moved towards Mount Fangcun.

On Immortal Spirit Peak, after several days of intimacy, Su Yuqing's myriad charms washed away Lu Ye's years of fatigue.

In the hidden chamber, Lu Ye sat alone.

Two individuals, one Sun Blaze and the other Moon Jade Late Stage, naturally couldn't be like ordinary couples, indulging in each other all day.

Earlier, Lu Ye had planned to inquire with Su Yuqing about something he saw in the Sky Asura Race's Haichuan Tower. Among those secrets, there was actually one he was somewhat concerned about.

One of the jade slips mentioned out-of-body incarnation and Inner Core Technique, saying these methods are merely for preemptive accumulation...

Lu Ye recalled Su Yuqing possessing something akin to an inner core; it was because of this inner core-like item that sparked the entanglement between them years ago.

But after conversing with Xuyuan, Lu Ye abandoned his original plan.

Xuyuan's words were true: knowing something prematurely holds little value. Cultivation focuses on one's own cultivation; when strength reaches the required level, the knowledge will naturally come.

The hidden chamber wasn't large, and carried traces of Su Yuqing's aura. Lu Ye retrieves various resources he had exchanged in the Asura Treasure Vault, placing them nearby.

Each treasure, varying in size and type, was extremely valuable and rare.

The closing of the Asura Field was too sudden; otherwise, he could have exchanged enough treasures there to refine his Magic Source to a Perfection state.

These current resources... might not suffice.

But regardless if they are enough or not, he can only use them first. Lu Ye casually picked up a fist-sized Green Moon Spirit Marrow, activating the Talent Tree's power to commence refining.

He could clearly feel a very mysterious energy being absorbed by the Talent Tree from the Green Moon Spirit Marrow, merging into his own Magic Source, enhancing the quality of the Magic Source slowly.

The treasures consumed one after another...

The Talent Tree's devouring speed was swift; so many treasures, and if an ordinary Moon Jade tried refining them, it would take years to succeed; but for Lu Ye, it took merely several days to exhaust them.

Lu Ye examined his Magic Source state, clearly sensing that compared to before, the Magic Source's quality had significantly improved. This could be conveniently verified by refining spirit jade and checking the efficiency of spirit force conversion into mana.

However, as expected, the Magic Source hadn't reached Perfection.

He felt there was still a gap...

This left him feeling somewhat distressed.

After a long while, Lu Ye sighed deeply.

Two days later, Lu Ye bid farewell to Su Yuqing and embarked on the journey to the All Phenomena Ocean.

He had an arrangement with Ma Bin and couldn't stay in the Nine Provinces for too long. If Ma Bin went to the All Phenomena Ocean and couldn't find him, it would be troublesome. With the current situation, he wanted to acquire more treasures to refine the Magic Source, which could only be obtained from the All Phenomena Ocean.

When he left Three Worlds Island years ago, he had He Baichuan announce a bounty for such treasures, buying at any cost. Over the years, there should be some harvest.

Furthermore, Yuan Du was a nuisance; some Nine Provinces Constellations had been subjected to Soul Search by Yuan Du. If the matter of the Merfolk Race gets exposed, so be it; Yuan Du had no grounds to object. But if Yuan Du realized that the Nine Provinces is the same Nine Provinces from ten thousand years ago...

He had to find a way to deal with this old fellow. With long-held grudges, peaceful coexistence was no longer an option.

But this old fellow was ultimately a Sun Blaze and spent most of his time on All Phenomena Island. How could he be dealt with?

No matter what, he first had to return to the All Phenomena Ocean. He was worried that during his absence, something might change on Three Worlds Island.

But even if that happened, he had long prepared for it. Utilizing the door opened by the green sea conch, he could transfer the local island cultivators to the Merfolk Territory, minimizing any casualties.

A long journey.

A month later, Lu Ye's figure appeared over the All Phenomena Ocean, heading straight toward Three Worlds Island.

From a distance, Three Worlds Island remained as prosperous as ever, with numerous cultivators coming and going. Lu Ye felt relieved; it seemed that during his years of absence, nothing had changed on Three Worlds Island.

This was to be expected.

After the confrontation with Zixuan, Three Worlds Island established its reputation thoroughly. Now, in this vast territory, no one dared provoke Three Worlds Island under the Sun Blaze's consideration.

Baiyue, Zixuan served as a cautionary tale. After the two forces clashed with Three Worlds Island, the Moon Jade ranks were almost annihilated, and many Constellations were killed or injured.

When Lu Ye left previously, he did so quietly, and nobody knew he was gone. His reputation intimidated others, and thus Three Worlds Island had become even more prosperous these past years.

Upon his return, Lu Ye had once again disguised himself.

His Mental Consciousness swept across the entire Three Worlds Island, quickly locating himself at the talisman shop of the Dwarf Race, where he met Hai Tang in the back hall to hand over the items from Su Yuqing.

These included materials for crafting Spirit Talismans, mainly specialties of Mount Fangcun, which were not available elsewhere. Nearly every time Lu Ye traveled from the Nine Provinces to Three Worlds Island, Su Yuqing prepared a batch of such materials for him to bring along.

Hai Tang was delighted. She chatted casually with Lu Ye for a while, inquiring about the recent status of her master, which Lu Ye conveyed truthfully.

A moment later, Lu Ye was ready to leave.

Suddenly, Hai Tang called, "Senior Brother."

"Hmm?" Lu Ye turned to look at her.

Hai Tang, with her head down, said, "Although Master is a Sun Blaze, she has never experienced romantic feelings all her life. Moreover, she's much older than you; her emotions might not be as passionate as those of young people, Senior Brother... don't take it too hard."

She had mustered the courage to tell Lu Ye this. Having stayed on Three Worlds Island for years, she gradually heard certain things; apparently, Senior Brother Lu Ye had a fellow Senior Sister, with whom

he had deep feelings since his earliest days. She was currently on Three Worlds Island but seemed to remain in retreat due to some unexpected circumstances.

Although her master's cultivation was higher, wouldn't any man prefer someone younger and more spirited?

She feared that Lu Ye, after comparison, would despise her master.

Her perception of Lu Ye was admittedly complex. Initially, Lu Ye saved her life, and under her master's arrangement, she became Lu Ye's Dao companion, giving her the qualification to partake in the Dwarf Race's Black Abyss contention. Yet later, her master had developed a relationship with him...

Though she always called Lu Ye Senior Brother, knowing her master was involved with him, how could she truly regard him as a mere sibling?

Lu Ye's eyes flickered; not so passionate?

Hai Tang was entirely unaware of her master!

"Of course not, Yuqing is wonderful!" Lu Ye said sincerely.

"That's good!" Hai Tang nodded with a smile.

Leaving the Dwarf Race's talisman shop, Lu Ye returned directly to the local island cultivator's stationed area, where his Mental Consciousness surged.

A moment later, He Baichuan, Ma Shangsi, Yoo Xi, Chennng Xin gathered at the assembly hall, along with Tang Jun.

This basically represented the entire management team of the island, with Yoo Xi and Chennng Xin being the two elders from the Merfolk Race.

After a few brief exchanges, He Baichuan got straight to the point, reporting the business situation of Three Worlds Island over recent years to Lu Ye.

Lu Ye quickly raised a hand to stop him: "Senior Brother He, when Senior Sister Luan was present, she never discussed these matters with me, so you needn't be reserved."

He Baichuan said, "It's not about being reserved or not, Junior Brother. You're the First Island Master now, so you should understand how much spirit jade we earn, where it's spent, and what the surplus is. Three Worlds Island, after all, represents our collective force."

"I don't need to understand!" Lu Ye looked at him seriously. He only required Three Worlds Island's all-out support when he needed spirit jade.

Chapter 1975: Recent Developments

"Alright." He Baichuan gave a helpless smile, in this vast All Phenomena Ocean, Lu Ye being treated like this by the First Island Master is rare, especially now that Three Worlds Island has already become a top-class Spirit Island.

The other Island Masters all tightly grasp the financial power of their respective islands, while Lu Ye appears utterly unconcerned, leaving He Baichuan unsure whether to call him reckless or carefree.

Setting aside the matter of the spirit jade, He Baichuan said, "Junior Brother, the island has recently added a few new Moon Jade cultivators. Aside from those present, there are eighteen more Moon Jade cultivators on this island."

These newly promoted Moon Jade cultivators are all from the Jade Conch World. When they first came to the All Phenomena Ocean, they were already in the Constellation Late Stage, and have since advanced through cultivation on Three Worlds Island.

In the Nine Provinces, cultivators started too late, so while there are some in the Constellation Late Stage, none have yet reached the Moon Jade level.

As for Qingli Dao World... this domain itself has issues, preventing cultivators there who are advancing through Constellation from having any hope to progress to Moon Jade.

"How should these newly promoted Moon Jade cultivators be settled? Please come up with a plan, Junior Brother," He Baichuan said.

Lu Ye replied, "How are they arranged on other Spirit Islands?"

He Baichuan said, "Although there's no rule in the All Phenomena Ocean regarding the maximum number of Moon Jade that a Spirit Island can accommodate, other forces generally send newly promoted Moon Jade out. Either they return to their original world or leave the island, providing for themselves. This is because the energy on each Spirit Island is limited, and Moon Jade cultivation is much more demanding than Constellation. If there are too many Moon Jade cultivators, it affects the efficiency of Constellation's cultivation, so the number of Moon Jade on other Spirit Islands is generally kept low."

Just like the previous Baiyue and Zixuan islands, the number of Moon Jade cultivators is indeed small; not because they don't have any, but because there is no need to keep too many Moon Jade on the Spirit Island.

Each Spirit Island can have only five Moon Jade governors, so even if there are a hundred Moon Jade on the island, in case of conflict, only those five registered governors can participate.

The number of Moon Jade on Three Worlds Island has now exceeded twenty, and will continue to grow, so it's time to consider this issue.

Sending excess Moon Jade out is indeed a solution. With their strength at this level, they should easily be able to fend for themselves.

But the situation with Yuan Du remains unclear, taking such actions might provide the enemy with opportunities.

As for letting them return to their original world... not only is the journey long, passing through the geomagnetic turbulence zone poses great risks, and might even lead to fatalities.

Thus, after a brief contemplation, Lu Ye said, "Let them do as they like, no need to send them out."

They are all newly promoted Moon Jade; even if their consumption impacts the island's energy, with their numbers being not too many, how much could they possibly consume?

Moreover, he could adjust the Small Constellation Palace's power to ensure an optimal cultivation environment on Three Worlds Island.

"In that case, I'll thank Junior Brother on behalf of them," He Baichuan nodded. He was somewhat concerned about the livelihood capabilities of these newly promoted Moon Jade. Lu Ye's words relieved him of his worries, as leaving those Moon Jade cultivators from the Jade Conch World here would certainly help stabilize their cultivation.

"By the way," Lu Ye suddenly asked, "Has anyone been looking for me while I was away?"

If Ma Bin arrived at Three Worlds Island, Zhu Yuan would definitely inform him. Although three months isn't long, Sun Blaze is swift, so perhaps Ma Bin could have already arrived at the All Phenomena Ocean.

"Yes," He Baichuan nodded, "I was just about to tell you."

"Oh?" Lu Ye raised his eyebrows, "Where are they?"

"At the Spirit Jade Vein," He Baichuan replied.

"Huh?" Lu Ye was stunned; Ma Bin is efficient, isn't he? He arrived even before Lu Ye returned, and already entered the Spirit Jade Vein.

But upon closer thought, it didn't make sense. If Ma Bin had arrived, he would have contacted Lu Ye; he would wait and not liaise with He Baichuan.

If it isn't Ma Bin, then who is currently in the Spirit Jade Vein?

Suddenly feeling uneasy, Lu Ye asked He Baichuan, "Who are you talking about, Senior Brother?"

"Our Three Worlds Island's supporter, Senior Jiu Yan from Cheling World," He Baichuan looked at him puzzled, "who else do you think it could be?"

"Jiu Yan..." Lu Ye was dumbfounded.

Why did Jiu Yan go to Three Worlds Island and take over the Spirit Jade Vein? What's her intention?

He had promised Ma Bin earlier that he could come to use the Spirit Jade Vein for healing, yet now Jiu Yan is there, and if these two encounter each other...

Lu Ye didn't dare imagine what might happen.

He suddenly recalled something Ma Bin mentioned before.

That former Nine Provinces elder had said about the Spirit Jade Vein that it was not merely a resource exclusive to top-tier domains, but also related to the path after Sun Blaze...

Lu Ye didn't understand what the path after Sun Blaze entails; he lacked the cultivation level to comprehend it yet. But given the current situation, Jiu Yan might be there for related reasons.

The timing is just too coincidental.

Jiu Yan hadn't mentioned coming to Three Worlds Island before...

No, Lu Ye suddenly remembered, Three Worlds Island's promotion to a top-class Spirit Island happened after the battle with Zixuan; before that, Three Worlds Island was merely a high-class Spirit Island, which naturally wouldn't have attracted Jiu Yan.

She is the visible patron of Three Worlds Island. Back then, it was by borrowing her prestige that Three Worlds Island secured a foothold in All Phenomena Ocean and rapidly developed and grew strong. Jiu Yan never asked for anything in return. Now, the Spirit Jade Vein of Three Worlds Island is beneficial to her cultivation, and she occupies it, who could say anything?

Not to mention Lu Ye wasn't even there at the time, even if he were, he wouldn't dare utter a word of dissent.

But if that's the case, what about Ma Bin? Lu Ye was stuck in a bind.

Various thoughts flashed through his mind; taking Ma Bin back to the Dwarf Race was obviously not suitable. Primarily, he didn't want any association with the Nine Provinces.

Given that, there's only one place to go!

"How are Senior Sister Luan and Elder Yann Miao doing?" Lu Ye turned to look at Yoo Xi and Chong Xin beside him.

Yoo Xi had a typical bewitching face, and her smile was full of charm. She spoke softly: "Answering the First Island Master, Senior Sister Luan and the Great Elder have been thinking of you a lot. Just a few days ago, they sent a message saying if you return, remember to bring them some good news."

Lu Ye was taken aback, then suddenly understood and couldn't help but laugh: "Great, great, I'll visit the two senior sisters later!"

Yoo Xi hadn't made the message completely clear, as there was a Sun Blaze from the local star system in Three Worlds Island at the moment, so she dared not speak too plainly, but Lu Ye already understood her meaning.

Unexpectedly, in just a few years, the two have succeeded!

This truly is a pleasant surprise, though it isn't suitable to be made public. This way, Ma Bin can go to the Merfolk Race's spirit ground to heal without worrying about interfering with their cultivation.

Moreover, the two can consult Ma Bin on post-Sun Blaze cultivation experiences. As an experienced Sun Blaze, it's certainly possible for him to guide two newcomers.

Thus, Three Worlds Island can be considered to have its own Sun Blaze now, even though it's newly promoted; a Sun Blaze is unmistakably superior to Moon Jade.

All worries are swept away, Lu Ye's mood lightens significantly.

"And also..." He Baichuan continued speaking, taking out a storage ring and handing it to Lu Ye: "Over the past few years, this island has been doing its utmost to offer rewards and has found a few treasures for you, not many in number, but make do with them."

Lu Ye glanced inside and felt even better. These were treasures meant for polishing the Magic Source, and while there weren't many, finding such items in a place like All Phenomena Ocean was undoubtedly difficult.

Since these few items could be found, more could certainly be gathered.

"Increase the reward efforts, spare no expense, and collect as many of these treasures as possible," Lu Ye instructed.

"Alright, I'll arrange it later," He Baichuan agreed.

With discussions concluded, everyone dispersed, and Lu Ye had a general understanding of the situation on Three Worlds Island over the past few years.

In his bamboo lodge, he sat cross-legged, invoked the power of the Talent Tree, and refined those treasures, feeling the quality of his Magic Source improve slightly, edging closer to perfection.

Satisfied, he stood up, left the bamboo lodge, and headed in a particular direction.

There were few passersby, as on Three Worlds Island, cultivators typically only move around while performing patrol tasks, otherwise, they mostly remain focused on their own cultivation.

Having emerged from poor regions, they naturally recognize how precious the current cultivation environment is; any diligent cultivator wouldn't waste time.

The environment on Three Worlds Island could be described as distinctly divided into two parts. The commercial district buzzed with crowds, lively and bustling, whereas the local island cultivator zone was quiet and deserted, with few people around.

Soon, he arrived in front of a pavilion, flicked his finger lightly in the Void ahead, activating the Array.

Quickly, a head popped out from the second floor of the pavilion. Seeing Lu Ye, it was overjoyed: "Big Brother!"

Once spoken, the head withdrew again. After a series of footsteps, the pavilion door opened, and Chu Shen walked out to greet him with a broad smile: "Big Brother, you're back?"

Outsiders believed Lu Ye had been in seclusion for cultivation over these years, but only a few knew he hadn't been on Three Worlds Island, and Chu Shen was undeniably one.

Lu Ye glanced him over, nodding slightly: "Your cultivation has progressed well, already reaching Moon Jade?" Chu Shen's cultivation aptitude was undoubtedly high; the last time they met, he was close, and now he's promoted, which isn't surprising.

Chu Shen chuckled: "Thanks to you, Big Brother, without cultivating on Three Worlds Island, how could my cultivation grow so swiftly? Come in and talk, Big Brother."

Shortly, the two brothers sat down, Chu Shen poured Lu Ye a cup of tea, and then looked curiously at Lu Ye: "Big Brother, when will you advance to Sun Blaze?"

Lu Ye chuckled: "Is Sun Blaze that easy?"

Chu Shen replied matter-of-factly: "For others, it's certainly not simple, but wasn't it a piece of cake for you, Big Brother?"

It seemed to him that Lu Ye was capable of anything.

Lu Ye didn't know why he had such a notion and could only reply: "It still requires some polishing."

Chapter 1976: Meeting Jiuyan

Speaking of which, running into Chu Shen here in the All Phenomena Ocean really was his fortune. If not for Chu Shen, he would never have met Jiu Yan, nor had the channel of Cheling World, and the predicament Three Worlds Island faced back then would have been impossible to resolve.

Precisely because of Chu Shen, Lu Ye had gone to Cheling World that year to pay respects to Jiu Yan at her mountain. From then on, Three Worlds Island had gone smoothly with the wind at its back, and now that it had advanced to a top-class Spirit Island, no one dared harbor covetous thoughts toward it.

Chu Shen could be considered a Sun Blaze descendant, yet he did not have the usual overbearing arrogance and conceit typical of Sun Blaze descendants. His temperament was simple and sincere, his aptitude outstanding; he was bound to achieve something in the future.

Having left the Nine Provinces for so many years, Lu Ye had met many people—of every stripe and kind—but the ones he could truly befriend were actually very few.

Chu Shen counted as one of them.

The two brothers chatted idly for a while longer before Lu Ye finally opened his mouth: "In fact, the reason I came to find you this time is that there's something I want to ask."

"About my mother?" Chu Shen understood at once.

Lu Ye nodded slightly: "Has Senior Jiu Yan said anything to you over there?"

Chu Shen shook his head: "She didn't say much. Mother only said that the Spirit Jade Vein here is beneficial to her cultivation, so she came over. I'd wanted to mention it to you before, but Big Brother, you weren't on Three Worlds Island, so Mother went in by herself."

As expected... Seen this way, for a Sun Blaze the Spirit Jade Vein really is an extremely important cultivation resource. This has nothing to do with the output of spirit jade, but with another kind of mystery Lu Ye does not understand.

That kind of mystery could even allow Ma Bin's Dao foundation injury to recover!

After pondering briefly, Lu Ye said, "Since Senior has come, I must pay her a visit. Brother Chu Shen, if you're free, why not come along with me?"

Whatever the case, he was the First Island Master of Three Worlds Island, and his backing had arrived. As the master of Three Worlds Island, it had been one thing when he wasn't present before; now that he had returned, he definitely needed to go pay his respects, otherwise it would be discourteous.

Bringing Chu Shen along would undoubtedly make things easier to talk about; this was precisely why he had come to find Chu Shen first.

"But..." Chu Shen was about to nod when his expression suddenly changed; then he shrank his neck and looked pitifully at Lu Ye. "Big Brother, Mother said I should devote myself to cultivation and not let my mind wander about."

Lu Ye blinked.

He had not sensed anyone monitoring this place at all, but since Jiu Yan had sent an audio transmission over, it meant she had been paying attention here the whole time.

The power of a Sun Blaze truly wasn't something a Moon Jade could fathom.

"Then you just focus on cultivating." Lu Ye said, standing up. "I'll come see you again later."

"Take care, Big Brother!" Chu Shen waved.

Leaving Chu Shen's residence, Lu Ye headed straight for the Spirit Jade Vein, feeling inevitably a bit apprehensive. As for Jiu Yan, he couldn't quite say what he felt; he always felt this Senior was somewhat different from the other Sun Blaze he had come into contact with, especially in her attitude toward him—there seemed to be a hint of dislike.

Yet Lu Ye was sure he'd never done anything to offend her, and if she truly disliked him, why would she be willing to act as the backing for Three Worlds Island?

Unable to figure it out, Lu Ye had no time to dwell on it. Jiu Yan not allowing Chu Shen to come along was probably because she had something she wanted to say to him alone.

He quickly arrived at the entrance to the Spirit Jade Vein. There were local island cultivators stationed here; normally, even cultivators of this island were not allowed to enter without orders.

Seeing Lu Ye, the several cultivators hurriedly saluted.

Lu Ye waved his hand and walked straight into the tunnel.

The Spirit Jade Vein on Three Worlds Island was actually not very large in scale, so the mine tunnel was not very deep. After walking only about a hundred zhang, he reached the vein itself.

The energy here was extremely dense, especially at the locations of each Vein Source, where many formed or unformed pieces of spirit jade were being nurtured.

A voluptuous figure sat cross-legged over there, eyes closed in concentration, both hands forming seals resting atop her knees. Her long black hair was coiled into a married woman's bun, exposing a slender, fair neck. Her palace robes were tight-fitting, the exaggerated curve at her chest stirring the heart.

What left Lu Ye helpless was that Jiu Yan's face was still shrouded in a halo of radiance, making it impossible for him to see clearly. It had been like this last time when he went to Cheling World, and it was the same this time...

He lowered his head and clasped his fists. "Lu Ye pays his respects to Senior!"

There was no response.

Lu Ye simply stood there waiting.

He waited like that for most of the day. Lu Ye didn't feel the slightest impatience, merely pondering his own matters silently. He knew that when a Sun Blaze cultivated, they had little sense of time, but since Jiu Yan had previously sent an audio transmission to Chu Shen, she certainly wouldn't really leave him hanging here.

After another spell, Jiu Yan's voice suddenly rang out: "In the stellar space, Sun Blaze is the peak. No matter who it is, once their cultivation reaches Peak Sun Blaze, there is no longer any room to improve. Do you know, after Sun Blaze, where does the path lie?"

Lu Ye was taken aback for a moment, then shook his head. "This junior does not know."

He was only at Moon Jade Late Stage and hadn't even reached Sun Blaze yet—how could he possibly know anything about the path beyond Sun Blaze?

"After Sun Blaze comes the Dao!"

"The Dao?" Lu Ye showed a puzzled expression. "But didn't Senior just say that Sun Blaze is the peak? If so, how can there still be a road after Sun Blaze, and where does this Dao come from?"

"Heh..." Jiu Yan seemed to chuckle lightly, yet also seemed not to. "It is true that Sun Blaze is the peak; it is also true that after Sun Blaze comes the Dao. At different times, the road ahead is different."

Lu Ye racked his brains in bitter thought, completely unable to understand why Jiu Yan had suddenly started telling him these things.

As if seeing through the doubt in his heart, Jiu Yan spoke slowly, "You have peerless talent, your strength is advancing at an astonishing pace. Sooner or later you'll face these problems. I just don't know whether, when that time comes, you'll be able to find your own Dao."

"Senior overpraises me. This junior is still worrying about advancing to the Sun Blaze realm. Those things are still a bit far off for me."

Jiu Yan said, "No need to belittle yourself. When that day truly comes..." She suddenly stopped, then shifted the topic. "Your Three Worlds Island's foundation is shallow, and it seems there is no powerful figure guiding you from behind. The path of cultivation is full of hardships. Since you and Shen'er are close, I intend to take you under my tutelage. Are you willing?"

Lu Ye was completely stunned.

His dealings with Jiu Yan were actually not many, and judging from the feeling last time they met, Jiu Yan's impression of him didn't seem that good. So he never imagined Jiu Yan would have the intention of taking him as a disciple.

However, in the eyes of outsiders, Three Worlds Island's foundation was indeed extremely shallow. There wasn't a single Sun Blaze in the entire Jade Conch Star System. Jiu Yan's proposal was undoubtedly a kindness, and to a large extent was for Chu Shen's sake...

But in reality...

Lu Ye thought it over carefully. Leaving Ma Bin aside, just on Mount Fangcun's side alone, there were already close to ten Sun Blazes standing behind him. If he really needed someone to guide his cultivation, a single Su Yuqing was enough; there was absolutely no need to enter the tutelage of some other Sun Blaze.

Yet Jiu Yan had already spoken, and it came from good intentions. If he refused her at this moment, would it make her angry?

Taking a Sun Blaze as master was indeed a good thing, but correspondingly, there would also be constraints and shackles—especially with Ma Bin arriving soon!

"You have misgivings?" Jiu Yan instantly saw through what was in Lu Ye's heart.

Lu Ye thought for a moment and said, "Please forgive me, Senior. There is much enmity between Three Worlds Island and Governor Yuan Du. Senior and Governor Yuan Du are both Sun Blazes of the All Phenomena Star System. If this junior were really to take you as master, then on Governor Yuan Du's side..."

"Yuan Du..." Jiu Yan let out a cold laugh. "If you truly enter my tutelage, he would no longer dare harbor any thoughts."

Those words were... extremely domineering!

Lu Ye started to gain a bit of understanding of Jiu Yan's power and imposing might.

"No need to rush your answer. Whenever you've thought it through, come and tell me then." Jiu Yan spoke slowly.

"Many thanks, Senior." Lu Ye secretly let out a breath of relief. If Jiu Yan had really wanted an answer from him now, he would have had no choice but to resign himself.

Taking a Sun Blaze as master was, in the end, not a bad thing.

"If Senior has no other instructions, then this junior will take his leave." Lu Ye lifted his eyes and cautiously glanced at her.

"Go." Jiu Yan waved her hand.

Lu Ye turned and left.

Suddenly, a voice came from behind him again: "The person you're looking for, have you found them?"

What person? Lu Ye was dazed for a moment, then immediately reacted. Jiu Yan must be asking about Ban Ci; back in Cheling World, he had asked Jiu Yan about this.

"Not yet." Lu Ye shook his head.

"Then just take your time searching. You'll find them eventually."

Lu Ye stood where he was, his expression slightly dazed. After confirming Jiu Yan had nothing else, he finally left.

On All Phenomena Island, in the governor's short-stay palace, Yuan Du's gaze was gloomy.

Several years had passed since the great battle between Three Worlds Island and Zixuan. Though Zixuan had taken back its own top-class Spirit Island, the losses were extremely heavy, and because of this incident, Zixuan had completely severed contact with Yuan Du!

This was clearly Zixuan's upper echelon expressing their dissatisfaction. If not for Yuan Du's secret instigation, Zixuan would never have suffered such a calamity—losing their Spirit Island in the end, having their Moon Jade-level cultivators wiped out, and their reputation severely damaged.

Three Worlds Island was indeed the main culprit, but Yuan Du could not wash his hands of responsibility.

As a result, Yuan Du now had no decent Spirit Island attached to him. Originally he had Baiyue, and also Zixuan... but now, he had only the title of governor, with no way at all to gain his own benefits from it.

For Zixuan's actions, Yuan Du was helpless. He could only pour all his hatred onto Three Worlds Island, onto Lu Ye.

Counting the time, Black Cloud should already have reached that Lu Ye's homeland. With a Sun Blaze taking action, a domain like that would have no power to resist.

When the news arrived, that Lu Ye would surely be plunged into utter grief and despair, right?

But that still wasn't enough. From his standpoint, as long as Three Worlds Island did not collapse, his reputation could not be salvaged. So no matter what, he had to destroy Three Worlds Island and kill that Lu Ye!

He already had a detailed plan, and this time it would absolutely be with just cause. That way, even if he personally took the field, it wouldn't count as breaking the rules of the All Phenomena Ocean. When a Sun Blaze took action, even a top-class Spirit Island could not withstand it!

Yet he had made no move so far, all because an accident had disrupted his plan.

Jiu Yan from Cheling World had actually entered Three Worlds Island—and still hadn't come out.

This left him extremely vexed. Although his plan could be said to have a legitimate pretext, it couldn't withstand too much scrutiny. At most it was a suspicious point. Without Jiu Yan, he only needed to solidify that suspicion. But with Jiu Yan present, the matter became much harder to handle.

If Jiu Yan decided to dig to the root of it, what would he use to confront her? He might end up trying to steal a chicken only to lose the rice instead.

So what he had to consider now was how to make Jiu Yan leave Three Worlds Island!

Chapter 1977: Ma Bin's Arrival

It'd be best to make Jiu Yan leave the All Phenomena Galaxy; otherwise, with Sun Blaze's speed, once he gets the news, it won't take much effort to rush over from Cheling World.

At that point, he can swiftly take action and obliterate Three Worlds Island with Thunderbolt methods, and even if Jiu Yan finds out afterward, he won't be able to reverse the situation.

As long as Three Worlds Island is wiped out, he won't only gain a ready-made top-class Spirit Island, but also a channel to connect with the Merfolk Race!

He had previously performed Soul Search on some Three Worlds Island Constellations, so he certainly knew about the existence of the Merfolk Race. They are an extremely rare species. If he could control them, they would be a tremendous fortune, not to mention that beneath the All Phenomena Ocean

where the Merfolk Race lives lies the Divine Conch Hall and a vast Spirit Jade vein that the home galaxy has never ventured into.

Thus, in his eyes, Three Worlds Island represents more than just the value of a top-class Spirit Island; it offers much more allure beyond what's visible.

He hadn't mentioned this secret to anyone...

After thinking about it, Yuan Du felt a summons from an old friend was a good solution. Coincidentally, he and Jiu Yan had a mutual friend, a Sun Blaze from another galaxy. If this person requests something, Jiu Yan should show him some respect.

With the plan set, it was time to proceed with it...

On Three Worlds Island, in the pill-making room, Lu Ye visited Second Senior Sister. Although she no longer needed to perform Alchemy to sustain this island's livelihood, she still stayed in the pill-making room regularly, as she needed to refine a large number of elixir pills amidst her cultivation. These elixir pills wouldn't be sold but were for the family members' use.

After a brief chat, Lu Ye suddenly remembered something: "Where's Yaya?"

Back then, when he left, he entrusted Yaya to Shui Yuan. But upon returning this time, he didn't see any trace of that little girl. It seemed like there was no sign of her presence on the entire Three Worlds Island.

This made him somewhat puzzled.

Shui Yuan said: "Yaya is in the Merfolk Territory. She seems to really enjoy the environment there. Once she went, she never returned. I visited once, and she was very happy there, so I left her be."

Lu Ye understood. Speaking of which, he also needed to visit the Merfolk Territory.

When Ma Bin arrives later, he'll need to borrow their Spirit Jade vein, so he definitely needs to inform the Merfolk Race first.

Moreover, Luan Xiao'e and Yann Miao both recently advanced to Sun Blaze. He should indeed congratulate them.

A short while later, Lu Ye retrieved his green sea conch from Second Senior Sister, blowing it to open the doorway to the Merfolk Territory.

As he stepped into the portal, the next moment, he found himself outside the Divine Conch Hall.

A moment later, Lu Ye finally met both Yann Miao and Luan Xiao'e. On the surface, the two women hadn't changed much, but their undeniable Sun Blaze aura highlighted their current strong cultivation.

This was normal, given they had only just advanced, and hadn't yet solidified their cultivation, but in time their auras would become more controlled.

Whether Luan Xiao'e or Yann Miao, they appeared very happy and were immensely grateful to Lu Ye.

Yann Miao was naturally grateful, for if it hadn't been for Lu Ye helping her dissolve the Bloodline Curse Poison, she couldn't have advanced to Sun Blaze. Nowadays, not only had her cultivation increased, but she was no longer afflicted by the Bloodline Curse Poison, and could leave the All Phenomena Ocean at any time.

If the living conditions in the Merfolk Territory weren't decent, the entire race might have considered relocating by now.

As for Luan Xiao'e... if she had remained in Jade Conch World, she equally couldn't have advanced to Sun Blaze due to the lack of an excellent cultivation environment and abundant spiritual resources, especially the supreme-grade psyche refinement pills she had consumed over the years.

Both women were the first and only Sun Blaze of their clans, and leaping over the dragon gate seemed akin to rebirth.

Lu Ye congratulated the two women a few times, then turned to Yann Miao: "Great Elder, I have a request."

Yann Miao smiled: "If Junior Brother has a matter, feel free to speak. No need to say request. The fact that our race has today is entirely due to Junior Brother's care. Whatever the race has that you fancy, just take it."

Lu Ye nodded: "It's like this, a senior of mine recently clashed with someone and got injured..."

He briefly explained Ma Bin's situation without mentioning Ma Bin's identity or anything about Dao foundation, as he didn't really understand, merely stating he wanted to borrow the Spirit Jade vein here for healing.

Yann Miao immediately agreed upon hearing this.

Though the Merfolk Race respects the queen, the queen is young, so Yann Miao has been overseeing internal affairs, and such minor matters don't require reporting to the queen.

Lu Ye subtly mentioned the senior's exceptional cultivation, likely Peak Sun Blaze, suggesting Yann Miao and Luan Xiao'e should take good care, as perhaps he could provide future cultivation guidance.

Both women were delighted; it was precisely what they greatly desired.

Initially, Lu Ye planned to ask Luan Xiao'e about her future plans, given she's now advanced to Sun Blaze, her remaining in the All Phenomena Ocean was meaningless, and she couldn't openly appear, making it entirely feasible to return to the Jade Conch Galaxy and oversee Jade Conch World.

But seeing her hopeful appearance, he refrained from asking.

While they were conversing, suddenly a petite figure came running from afar, leaving a string of silver bell-like laughter in her wake, then she dove into Lu Ye's arms: "Papa!"

The little head burrowed wildly in Lu Ye's embrace.

Lu Ye held Yaya and patted her little head: "Why did you come over here?"

"It's fun here." Yaya lifted her head and squinted at Lu Ye with a smile.

Lu Ye also looked up, watching Bai Lu who had hurried over with Yaya, and beside Bai Lu was the specter...

It seemed that Bai Lu had been taking care of Yaya during this time, otherwise it wouldn't have been such a coincidence for them to be together.

Bai Lu was still the same, with no major changes, and she smiled gently upon seeing Lu Ye: "Senior Brother."

Lu Ye nodded: "Sorry for troubling you."

The specter looked disdainful: "If you know it's trouble, then quickly take the child away."

Bai Lu hadn't had any time to cultivate with her because she had been taking care of Yaya, making her quite unhappy.

"Hmm?" Yaya, nestled in Lu Ye's arms, suddenly turned her head, giving the specter a glance.

The specter couldn't help but shrink back, hiding behind Bai Lu. She couldn't quite figure out what was up with Lu Ye's daughter, only instinctively feeling that this little girl was not quite normal. After all, from the looks of it, this little girl showed no signs of cultivation, yet if she truly showed no signs, how could she appear in a place like this?

Moreover, there was a time when she seemed to have suffered a setback at the little girl's hands, but she couldn't recall exactly what had happened, which made the situation very strange.

It must be noted that she was currently at the Moon Jade stage, and methods that could interfere with her memory and thinking were anything but ordinary.

Amidst a lively hubbub, Lu Ye hadn't visited the Merfolk in a long time. Yann Miao immediately set up a feast, partly to entertain Lu Ye, and partly to celebrate both herself and Luan Xiao'e advancing to the Sun Blaze stage.

The entire Royal Conch Palace was enveloped in a joyous atmosphere.

Lu Ye stayed with the Merfolk for several days, mainly waiting for the interval needed to use the green sea conch. After the feast, he went to the place where Amber sealed Hua Ci and stayed by her side.

Many years had passed, yet Hua Ci still showed no signs of waking, which made Lu Ye a little worried. Throughout his cultivation, it was the first time he experienced what it meant to be afraid, fearing that Hua Ci might remain in her sealed state forever, never to awaken.

He talked to Hua Ci endlessly about many things, not minding the lack of response.

After a few days, Lu Ye left. He had intended to take Yaya away because staying with the Merfolk wasn't ideal, but Yaya didn't want to leave, and with Bai Lu pleading alongside her, Lu Ye had no choice but to let her stay.

Returning to Three Worlds Island, Lu Ye left behind a Treasure Blood Avatar to guard this island.

His true self silently departed, and only when he reached a secluded and uninhabited place did he take the opportunity to dive underwater and begin his own cultivation.

His current cultivation was indeed at the Moon Jade Late Stage, but since advancing back then, he hadn't cultivated properly. With the problem of the Magic Source unresolved, he naturally had to focus on cultivation for the time being.

Years of accumulation and precipitation had long stabilized his Moon Jade Late Stage cultivation.

For some time thereafter, everything was calm, and Three Worlds Island remained as prosperous as ever, with nothing particularly special happening. Lu Ye was immersed in his own cultivation, ignoring external affairs.

Until two months later, the Treasure Blood Avatar stationed at Three Worlds Island received some news. He hurriedly went to greet it and, sure enough, saw a familiar figure in the visitors hall.

"Fellow Daoist Zhu!" Lu Ye clasped his fists.

"Fellow Daoist Lu." Zhu Yuan returned the gesture.

Ma Bin was nowhere in sight, but Lu Ye knew Ma Bin was already here.

Ma Bin seemed to have a special ability to possess others. Lu Ye had witnessed him plunge into Zhu Yuan's body and disappear. It was likely through this method that Ma Bin managed to leave the All Phenomena Galaxy unscathed amidst tight security.

"At Fellow Daoist's invitation, I have come," Zhu Yuan said with a hint of meaning.

Lu Ye dared not show any hint of strangeness. When he invited Ma Bin earlier, he hadn't expected Jiu Yan to come to Three Worlds Island. Now that Jiu Yan was here, who knew if she was secretly observing. Any unusual behavior might be detected by her.

"Come with me!" Lu Ye called out, leading the way outside.

Although Zhu Yuan didn't understand the intention, he stepped forward to follow.

Just as the two made some movement, Lu Ye felt a shadow flash before him, accompanied by a gust of fragrance. Looking up, a voluptuous figure was standing before him, her face surrounded by radiant light, her true appearance obscured.

Zhu Yuan was startled and quickly assumed a defensive posture.

Lu Ye blinked and promptly paid respects: "Greetings, Senior Jiu Yan. Is there something the matter?"

Jiu Yan didn't reply. Although Lu Ye couldn't see her face, he could still feel that Jiu Yan was gazing at Zhu Yuan, seemingly scrutinizing him.

Could Sun Blaze stage senses be this sharp? Lu Ye was secretly amazed.

Jiu Yan wouldn't have come over for no reason; she had obviously sensed something.

Upon reflection, it didn't seem right. If Sun Blaze stage senses were truly this sharp, Ma Bin wouldn't have been able to escape the All Phenomena Galaxy all those years ago.

Given this, either Jiu Yan's personal strength was truly formidable, or Ma Bin was injured, causing some of his aura to leak.

Chapter 1978: The Limit

Jiu Yan suddenly appeared, Lu Ye's expression remained calm, but Zhu Yuan was greatly shocked, quickly looking at Lu Ye: "This is..."

Lu Ye quickly said: "This is Senior Jiu Yan from Cheling World, recently cultivating on this island."

Zhu Yuan had previously roamed the All Phenomena Ocean, naturally hearing of Jiu Yan's great name. Upon hearing this, he quickly saluted: "Greetings, Senior Jiu Yan!"

Jiu Yan remained silent, her soundless pressure not only made Lu Ye uneasy, but also made Zhu Yuan tense, sweat dripping from his forehead.

At a certain moment, Lu Ye even felt that Jiu Yan's mana had signs of violent upheaval.

But for some reason, it was suppressed by her, then she slowly turned her head, looking at Lu Ye: "Your friend?"

Lu Ye hurriedly replied: "Yes!"

"What is the purpose of this visit?" Jiu Yan asked again.

"Brother Zhu wants to buy some things, but is unfamiliar with All Phenomena Ocean, so he came to find me to take him to All Phenomena Island for a trip." He casually fabricated.

Jiu Yan stayed silent, after a while, her figure suddenly vanished, only her voice remained: "Buy the things and leave."

"Yes!" Lu Ye hurriedly replied.

A little later, he headed with Zhu Yuan straight in the direction of All Phenomena Island, entering the All Phenomena Merchants Guild.

After half a day, the two then left the All Phenomena Merchants Guild together, flying toward All Phenomena Ocean.

Until one desolate planet, the two entered a secretive location, Lu Ye set up a formation to cover them, Zhu Yuan finally let out a long breath!

"Senior, you can come out now." Lu Ye gently called out.

A blur of virtual image flashed out of Zhu Yuan, condensing into Ma Bin's form, his condition seemed even worse than a few months ago, his face slightly pale.

"Jiu Yan is indeed formidable!" Ma Bin exclaimed in admiration, looking at Lu Ye: "How did you get involved with her?"

Lu Ye smiled bitterly: "She was the patron when this island was established, she suddenly came to this island and occupied the spirit jade vein to cultivate... Did she discover you, senior?"

"She sensed something but couldn't confirm it, and she doesn't know it's me, otherwise she wouldn't have tolerated it," Ma Bin said, "Since the spirit jade vein is occupied by her, then it's my fate."

"It's no problem." Lu Ye heard Ma Bin's implication and immediately said: "Although the spirit jade vein on this island can't be used temporarily, there are other places."

"Other places?" Ma Bin showed a surprised expression, but quickly remembered Lu Ye did indeed mention a third vein before.

"Please wait, senior."

After a moment, a spirit rune suddenly flashed away before Lu Ye, then another Lu Ye appeared out of thin air, evidently receiving the clone message, rushing to converge with the original.

With a wave of his hand, he recalled the Treasure Blood Avatar.

Zhu Yuan watched dumbfounded nearby, even Ma Bin showed an intrigued expression: "What kind of clone technique is this of yours?"

Even he couldn't find any flaw, though his power was diminished nowadays, but nevertheless, he lived many years and his vision was still sharp, Lu Ye's technique was truly unexpected.

"Just a minor trick, not worth mentioning." Lu Ye didn't explain this was a Treasure Blood Avatar of the Blood Race, diverting the topic, took out the green sea conch and blew it, a portal soon appeared before him.

"Follow me, senior."

Saying so, Lu Ye stepped in first, Ma Bin followed closely, Zhu Yuan walked at the end.

A moment later, before Divine Conch Hall, Zhu Yuan watched in amazement at the merfolk race people walking around, never thinking he could one day see such a rare race, after all, rumors had it that the Merfolk Race was long extinct.

Although Ma Bin was astonished, he managed to remain composed.

But when he learned this place was under All Phenomena Ocean, his composure turned into astonishment, for he never knew that under All Phenomena Ocean such scenes existed.

Luan Xiao'e and Yann Miao personally came to greet, Lu Ye had already informed them before, so there was naturally no need to elaborate.

"Senior, rest assured and heal here. This portal won't last long, I must hurry back, this island is occasionally in contact with this place, should you need anything, just have someone relay the message, and I will arrange it properly for you."

Ma Bin looked at Lu Ye with complex emotions: "You're kind-hearted."

Back when Ma Bin learned about the situation of the Nine Provinces from Lu Ye and felt relieved his homeland still existed, he never thought he'd have any connection with his homeland again. But unexpectedly, in his most difficult and helpless time, it was a descendant from his homeland who relieved his worries and even gave him hope and possibility to rise again.

"You're too kind, senior." Lu Ye nodded and looked at Yann Miao and Luan Xiao'e: "It's in your care now, senior sisters."

"Rest assured." Yann Miao smiled faintly, watching Lu Ye step through the portal, disappearing once more.

After settling Ma Bin, Lu Ye finally put his mind at ease, though Ma Bin's injuries were of the Dao foundation, even with the spirit jade vein available, recovery might not be quick, it may require a long period of convalescence.

The only thing he needed to do here was cultivation!

First, raise his cultivation to the Peak Moon Jade level, when in the future his Magic Source grinds to perfection, he can condense the Qi Flower and advance to Sun Blaze!

The Treasure Blood Avatar returned to Three Worlds Island, Jiu Yan did not appear again, nor did he inquire about anything.

It seems as Ma Bin said, Jiu Yan vaguely sensed something, but couldn't make a concrete judgment, so he had Zhu Yuan quickly buy things and leave.

It's not that there are no foreign Sun Blaze in the All Phenomena Ocean, but they don't stay too long; a short pause is fine as long as there's a report, just like when Luo Xie of the Daluo Galaxy escorted many cultivators here, he was immediately summoned for a talk by the native star system's Sun Blaze.

Yet, even so, Luo Xie couldn't stay long in the All Phenomena Ocean; that time he seemed to be there for less than a month.

Time flew by, and another year passed in the blink of an eye.

Below the All Phenomena Ocean, Lu Ye slowly opened his eyes.

His cultivation had already reached its limit, and the improvement in the Magic Source quality greatly increased his cultivation efficiency, allowing him to achieve such significant gains in just a year.

Normally, a Moon Jade cultivator at his level would be preparing to advance to Sun Blaze, but this hurdle is hard to break through. Back then, Luan Xiao'e and Yann Miao, and now He Baichuan, Yoo Xi, and Cherng Xin are all stuck at this barrier.

Looking across the stellar space, countless Moon Jade cultivators can't break through this restriction.

Cultivation in the upper three realms is the cultivation of Essence Qi and Spirit, and Sun Blaze corresponds to Spirit!

So, for a Moon Jade to advance to Sun Blaze, not only must their cultivation be up to par, but their Mental Consciousness must also meet the requirements, which is the fundamental reason why supreme-grade psyche refinement pills are so popular.

Luan Xiao'e and Yann Miao managed to advance largely thanks to consistently taking supreme-grade psyche refinement pills over the years.

While the Moon Jade on this island has such a convenience, other Moon Jade cultivators don't; they have to rack their brains to gather some elixir pills or treasures that enhance psyche cultivation. But elixirs, unless of supreme quality, aren't beneficial when consumed too much.

It can be foreseen that here on this island, He Baichuan and others will find it much easier to advance to Sun Blaze than other Moon Jade cultivators because they're currently being supplied with supreme-grade psyche refinement pills, but this doesn't mean they're guaranteed to advance; it also depends on their previous accumulation and foundation.

As for Lu Ye...

He showed a wistful expression, because when his Moon Jade cultivation reached its ultimate level, he clearly felt a restriction holding him back, and this restriction, which is the greatest barrier for all Moon Jade, he felt he could easily break through with a little effort!

This is definitely not an illusion, but a fact.

In other words, if he wanted to advance to Sun Blaze, he could achieve it right now!

This undoubtedly shows that this restriction doesn't pose any obstacle to him, which, upon careful consideration, makes perfect sense.

Back when he was cultivating in the Nine Provinces, even at the True Lake Realm, he had already nurtured his psyche spirit body and Divine Sea, his Mental Consciousness was always stronger than others at the same level.

Later, he obtained a seven-color Divine Lotus at the Soul Race ancestral land, and since then, his psyche has been constantly nourished and strengthened.

Over the years, even though he hasn't consumed supreme-grade psyche refinement pills, the effects of the seven-color Divine Lotus have been far greater than simple elixir consumption.

His psyche strength is sufficient to meet the requirements for advancing to Sun Blaze!

Psyche strength is sufficient, cultivation accumulation is sufficient, so the restriction is no longer a restriction, easily breakable.

But Lu Ye naturally wouldn't just advance to Sun Blaze; if he only wanted to improve his cultivation, he could have done so years ago. All these years, he has been seeking resources to refine his Magic Source, the various experiences in the Asura Field have brought him close to success, giving up now would render all previous efforts meaningless.

So, no matter what, he still aimed to condense the Qi Flower.

Unfortunately, over the past year, even though Three Worlds Island has increased the bounty significantly, it's still yielded little.

So far, only one treasure that can refine Magic Source quality has been received.

Lu Ye was thinking about visiting Cheling World...

Back then, he obtained a trophy from Zixuan, which was such a treasure, and he casually gifted it to Aunt Yue; later, when he realized the situation, it was already too late.

But after considering, he decided against it; Moon Jade cultivators who receive such treasures generally refine them immediately, and Aunt Yue isn't someone who lacks spirit jade, so she likely no longer has it.

Besides, after all, it's something gifted; is it right to ask for it back?

Judging by his current need for such treasures and his assessment, if he can obtain only one a year, it would take at least twenty to thirty years to achieve his goal.

Returning from the ocean, Lu Ye felt despondent, where should he go to find them?

He couldn't help but remember the Asura Field, Mi Shi of the Sky Asura Race advanced too quickly; if he had been delayed by a year or two, if the Asura Field had closed a year or two later, his situation wouldn't be so awkward.

This is the All Phenomena Ocean, a gathering place for cultivators from countless star systems, practically the center of the entire stellar space. If he can't find what he needs here, where else could he?

Chapter 1979: Undercurrents

In the midst of distress, his expression suddenly shifted, and he swiftly darted in a particular direction.

No other reason but Jiu Yan's summoning; he wondered what it might be about.

A moment later, within the Spirit Jade Vein, Lu Ye bowed and greeted, "I have seen Senior."

Jiu Yan was still seated in cultivation as she had been last time, but she did not make Lu Ye wait. She directly asked, "Have you given thought to the matter from last time?"

"What?" Lu Ye was momentarily confused. The matter from last time... was it about Zhu Yuan?

Soon, he realized Jiu Yan was referring to the matter of taking him in as a disciple.

This left him unsure of how to respond, as he hadn't considered it at all. But to refuse directly seemed inappropriate.

"It seems you're unwilling!" Jiu Yan hummed lightly, already seeing his inner thoughts.

Lu Ye apologized, "Please forgive me, Senior. It's just that..."

"There's no need to say more. If you're unwilling, I won't force it," Jiu Yan interrupted, seemingly annoyed. "However, your cultivation seems to have made significant progress."

Lu Ye replied quickly, "I've gained some insights from recent closed-door cultivation."

Jiu Yan said, "Moon Jade and Sun Blaze are separated by just one step, yet in reality, they are worlds apart. Crossing over leads to a new realm, but failing means a life of stagnation. You are at this critical juncture now, so remember to be humble and avoid impatience. Refrain from conflict and be cautious of injuries."

"Yes," Lu Ye responded, suddenly wondering if he had misunderstood Jiu Yan. She didn't seem to harbor any aversion toward him, her words clearly showed a senior's care for a junior.

"I heard you're searching for treasures to enhance Magic Source quality?" Jiu Yan switched topics abruptly.

On Three Worlds Island, efforts have been relentless to reward such treasures, so Jiu Yan naturally heard of it.

"Indeed," Lu Ye's expression shifted. "Senior, do you have a lead?"

Jiu Yan did not answer directly, only saying, "While a higher Magic Source quality is better, each person has their limits. So, having an adequate Magic Source quality is sufficient; excessive pursuit is unnecessary."

Lu Ye naturally understood this reasoning.

The main function of Magic Source is to convert spirit force refined into the body into mana during a cultivator's cultivation, a feature unique to those above Moon Jade.

If a cultivator's efficiency in refining spirit force is limited, then even a high-quality Magic Source holds no meaning, as there isn't enough spirit force to be converted.

So, truly, Magic Source quality should just be adequate...

But Lu Ye wanted more than just adequacy; he sought to polish his Magic Source to Perfection, a matter he couldn't elaborate to Jiu Yan. He could only reply dutifully, "I understand, Senior."

"As long as you understand," Jiu Yan said, snapping her fingers, and a small object flew toward him.

Lu Ye instinctively caught it, and before he could inspect it, Jiu Yan's voice resounded, "Go now, cultivate diligently, and attain breakthrough soon."

Lu Ye blinked and then bowed out.

Upon exiting the Spirit Jade Vein and returning to his residence, Lu Ye finally had the chance to examine the item Jiu Yan had given him—a storage ring. And when he checked the contents, he was bewildered yet thrilled.

Inside the ring lay no less than eight treasures for enhancing Magic Source quality. If calculated by the Asura Field's standards, these treasures were worth at least an Asura Seal.

What does Jiu Yan mean by this?

She summoned him to advise restraint, seeming to dissuade him from wasting energy and time on Magic Source quality, yet handed him these treasures...

Lu Ye was somewhat puzzled and couldn't understand why.

As a Sun Blaze, especially a long-lived old guard, keeping such treasures was normal, but... why give them to him?

What Lu Ye couldn't understand was this point.

They should be needed by Aunt Yue, not to mention, Chu Shen recently advanced to Moon Jade, he also needed them; why did Jiu Yan give them to him?

Thinking about it, Lu Ye concluded there's only one explanation: both Aunt Yue and Chu Shen have adequate Magic Source quality, those treasures in Jiu Yan's possession were surplus, and she knew about his search for such treasures on Three Worlds Island, so she effortlessly gifted them to him.

Regardless, Jiu Yan's gift was precisely what Lu Ye longed for, and he silently noted this favor.

Currently, the power and status disparity is too vast for talk of reciprocation; it'll be deferred to the future.

After refining these treasures with delight, Lu Ye keenly sensed an unusual change in his Magic Source, as if it was nearly reaching Perfection!

He carefully perceived and confirmed it wasn't an illusion; his Magic Source was indeed close to Perfection.

This brought him great joy, indicating some discrepancies between his previous estimation and actual developments.

As per the current situation, we only need two or three more treasures on our side.

Two or three treasures... that's really not much. If luck is on our side, it might be accomplished in a single stroke, and even if it's not, it should be hopeful within two or three years.

Now, my cultivation is sufficient, and I have met all the requirements to break through to Sun Blaze. All that's left is to condense the Qi Flower, and then I can ascend in one move.

Lu Ye was in great spirits and looking forward to it eagerly.

In the Governor's short-stay palace of All Phenomena Island,

A gust of demon wind swept through, and Black Cloud appeared.

Yuan Du sensed it and immediately went out to meet him. Upon seeing the figure Black Cloud was holding, he nodded slightly and said, "Fellow Daoist Black Cloud's speed is indeed impressive, catching him so quickly."

Black Cloud tossed the figure he was holding onto the ground in front: "It's just capturing a Moon Jade, what's the trouble in that?"

Despite the words, this Moon Jade wasn't caught casually. The figure lying on the ground was tall, with skin exposed in blood-red color, and ears that were pointed, clearly of the Blood Race!

At this moment, this Blood Race Moon Jade seemed to have been placed under Black Cloud's restriction, unable to move, with a face full of fear and unease.

"So what do we do next?" Black Cloud looked at Yuan Du and asked, with a very grim expression.

Previously, not only did Zixuan suffer heavy losses, he himself went on a wild goose chase to the Nine Provinces, which ended with his magic body of three thousand years being lost over there. Such a great enmity, how could he not avenge?

Moreover, unlike Yuan Du, he recognized the Nine Provinces and still had in mind the stellar space supreme treasure, the Dao Tree.

His magic body didn't find any clue of the Dao Tree over in the Nine Provinces. Coupled with the intelligence he had gathered on Lu Ye prior, he boldly speculated whether Lu Ye already obtained the Dao Tree legacy; otherwise, how else would his cultivation advance so rapidly?

This was a significant suspicion, and since it was a suspicion, it couldn't be ignored.

And with such a hypothesis, he naturally aimed to come to the All Phenomena Ocean, solely to capture Lu Ye!

In this matter, he and Yuan Du shared similar interests. The difference was, Yuan Du was simply seeking to assert his own authority and get a nagging frustration off his chest, while he had further designs.

The collaboration with Yuan Du was a matter of necessity.

To capture Lu Ye at the All Phenomena Ocean side, bypassing the All Phenomena Star System was not feasible; thus, he had no choice but to cooperate and join forces with Yuan Du. With Yuan Du's involvement, the resistance would be significantly reduced.

He had no other demands, only that Lu Ye be handed over for him to deal with at that time. His explanation to Yuan Du was that he wanted to avenge the fallen Zixuan demon cultivator and take him back to Zixuan Demon Planet to sacrifice to the Demon God.

Yuan Du suspected nothing and agreed to this matter since, to him, as long as he could capture Three Worlds Island and open the passage to the Merfolk Race's territory, it didn't matter if Lu Ye was handed over to Black Cloud. He believed Black Cloud wouldn't let Lu Ye survive.

Furthermore, Zixuan did suffer significant losses because of him, and Yuan Du knew if he wanted to maintain his relationship with Zixuan, he couldn't refuse even this minor request from Black Cloud.

Both had their own agendas, naturally coming to a seamless agreement.

And judging from their standpoint, with two Sun Blaze cultivators joining forces to conspire against a Moon Jade and the top-class Spirit Island behind him, it was as easy as snapping a finger—no unexpected occurrences could happen.

Six months ago, Black Cloud had already visited once, reaching some verbal agreements with Yuan Du, then Yuan Du asked him to capture a Blood Race member. Black Cloud didn't know his intention, but since it was cooperation, he didn't refuse.

He painstakingly captured a Moon Jade from a Blood Race domain, despite being chased for a month by several Sun Blaze cultivators.

"Next, we just need to wait," Yuan Du smiled slightly, with an expression of confidence.

Once Jiu Yan leaves Three Worlds Island, he can proceed with peace of mind because Jiu Yan still made him cautious over there.

As for how to make Jiu Yan leave Three Worlds Island, he had been devising a plan for a long time, confident that the news should reach Jiu Yan's ears in no time.

Day by day passed.

On this day, at the local island cultivator's garrison area on Three Worlds Island, a group of people sat cross-legged around Lu Ye's bamboo house, surrounding him in the central position.

He was unable to advance his cultivation, found no suitable treasure to refine the quality of his Magic Source, and seemed to have nothing to do. Disinclined to get involved in the operation of Three Worlds Island, he casually spread the word that anyone with questions about cultivation could come to him at any time.

He intended to help local island cultivators resolve some cultivation puzzles to aid in their growth, but after spreading the word, many people sought him for clarifications daily.

Gradually, more people gathered, eventually building up to the current scale.

People seeking him weren't solely from the Qingli Dao World and Jade Conch World; a significant number of seniors from the Nine Provinces also came, including the sect master, who asked him several questions.

Lu Ye answered each one carefully, allowing many cultivators to gain substantial insights.

While it was lively at this side, Lu Ye suddenly noticed something, turning his head in a certain direction with a puzzled expression.

Half a day later, when the crowd dispersed, Lu Ye sought out Chu Shen: "Why did Senior Jiu Yan suddenly leave?"

He clearly sensed Jiu Yan's aura flicker then disappear earlier, suggesting he had left Three Worlds Island.

Chapter 1980: Misfortune

Before Jiu Yan left, she didn't inform Lu Ye at all, and it's not reasonable for her to inform him, so Lu Ye came to Chu Shen to ask for information, hoping Chu Shen might know something.

Chu Shen indeed knew the situation: "Mother said an old friend has summoned her to another Star System for help, and she'll be back soon."

"I see," Lu Ye understood.

Jiu Yan went to visit a friend, which is normal for someone of Sun Blaze's stature to make friends in different Star Systems. Not to mention Sun Blaze, even he himself knows many people from other Star Systems.

So Lu Ye didn't think too much about it.

After chatting with Chu Shen for a few more moments, he soon departed.

Yet for some reason, with Jiu Yan's departure, Lu Ye suddenly felt a sense of unease, as if something bad was about to happen.

This feeling made him secretly cautious; with his cultivation power at this level, some moments of sudden premonition might be a warning.

In the bamboo building, Lu Ye pondered over the matter but couldn't find anything amiss or worthy of concern. This was the All Phenomena Ocean, and as long as its rules were not broken, he could rest easy based on Three Worlds Island's foundation and his previously established reputation.

After thinking for a long time, he finally reached into his chest and took out the Dice of Fate.

Since acquiring this item, he had actively shaken it only once; other times it appeared by itself in various training scenarios.

From past experiences, the Dice of Fate lived up to its name; the omens it revealed were often closely linked to his forthcoming situation.

So Lu Ye thought, it was not the Dice of Fate that dictated fate, but the fortunes and misfortunes of the future reflecting on this dice.

If it hadn't been for this time's unease, he wouldn't have casually used this item, but at this moment, he couldn't afford to ignore it.

After a brief contemplation, he tossed the dice forward.

With a roll, the small dice settled down, flashing a ghostly light, and transformed into the character "Misfortune."

Before Lu Ye could examine it closely, the character "Misfortune" reverted to ghostly light and penetrated his forehead.

Lu Ye frowned, realizing this "Misfortune" was evidently not a favorable omen, confirming his unease wasn't baseless, and something truly might happen.

However, since it is "Misfortune" and not "Disaster," it seems the matter might not be significant? Or perhaps not overly dangerous, just a bit challenging?

No matter what, it made Lu Ye proceed cautiously. After pondering, he got up and headed to the pill-making room, found Second Senior Sister, explained the situation, and Second Senior Sister simply nodded without inquiry.

After leaving Second Senior Sister, Lu Ye checked the Talent Tree. Under the fire glare, gray fog rose, clearly indicating the Mysterious Power of the Dice of Fate was being consumed by the Talent Tree. Given this pace, it would be entirely consumed in two or three days.

He felt slightly at ease.

In the blink of an eye, two more days passed.

On this day, while Lu Ye was resolving some cultivators' doubts, he suddenly felt a powerful aura rapidly approaching from one direction. He immediately raised his head to look over, his eyebrows furrowing.

His sudden premonition truly came true, yet he never expected Yuandu, that old scoundrel, would be the one coming!

Moreover, it was right after Jiu Yan left, within just a few days—is this mere coincidence?

Lu Ye felt it wasn't quite so.

He wasn't the only one sensing this Sun Blaze aura; many Moon Jade governors on the island felt it as well, and soon several strands of Mental Consciousness transmitted from various places.

After a brief exchange, Lu Ye sprang into action, heading toward the direction of Yuandu. Meanwhile, with his command, the entire Three Worlds Island's protective array was pushed to its limit.

Yuandu's personal arrival clearly indicated hostile intent; some things could not be left undefended.

A moment later, within the protective array, Lu Ye at the forefront, with several Island Masters gathered behind him, stood in mid-air, staring in Yuandu's direction.

That old scoundrel did not conceal his Sun Blaze aura; yet his speed was not fast, even rather slow, allowing countless cultivators to take notice. No one knew what Yuandu was up to.

But when discerning that Yuandu's path led to the renowned Three Worlds Island, many cultivators showed a curious expression, following from afar.

Many cultivators knew about the enmity between Three Worlds Island and Yuandu, but as Yuandu was the All Phenomena Ocean's governor, he needed to adhere strictly to its various regulations, meaning even as Sun Blaze, as long as Three Worlds Island hadn't violated the rules, he couldn't do anything.

Now Yuandu suddenly aimed directly at Three Worlds Island, clearly preparing for big action, naturally sparking curiosity.

"Junior Brother Lu, this old geezer is coming with ill intention," He Baichuan said worriedly; he clearly understood Yuandu's motive, as someone of Sun Blaze stature could arrive very quickly but instead moved slowly, deliberately drawing attention and letting others follow. This was creating a momentum, putting pressure on Three Worlds Island while showcasing his fairness and justice to others.

He must have absolute confidence in himself, so whatever he intends to do is under All Phenomena Ocean's regulations, avoiding any situation that could be criticized.

The speed at which news travels in the All Phenomena Ocean is astonishing, especially when it concerns the Sun Blaze governor and the Three Realms Island. So, in just a short time, the whole All Phenomena Ocean knew what was happening here. Those nearby hurried over to witness it, and those further away were on their way.

Everyone realized that something significant might happen today!

A journey that should have taken only a dozen breaths was forcibly stretched into one incense stick's time by Yuan Du. By the time Yuan Du arrived outside the Three Realms Island, the surrounding area was already crowded with people.

Yuan Du did not come alone; he brought nearly a hundred Moon Jade cultivators. Some of these Moon Jade belonged to a certain domain in the local star system and directly obeyed Yuan Du. However, most were governors of various Spirit Islands.

For instance, Lu Ye saw Zhao Yunqi from Giant Blade Island...

This Island Master of Giant Blade Island, who had been twice extorted by the Three Realms Island, couldn't help but shrink his neck when meeting Lu Ye's eyes. He had a psychological shadow and did not want to get involved in matters against the Three Realms Island this time. Unfortunately, Yuan Du's summons left him no choice.

Although on the surface, Yuan Du personally leading the charge meant the Three Realms Island had no means to resist, Zhao Yunqi's heart was still uneasy. He felt things wouldn't go so smoothly. If Yuan Du were to fail, Giant Blade Island would have no standing in the All Phenomena Ocean any longer.

Despite knowing such a thing was unlikely to happen, the worry persisted.

The Moon Jade governors summoned by Yuan Du were not limited to Zhao Yunqi alone; there were several demon cultivators, obviously from Zixuan's side, but they were all new to the scene, unfamiliar to Lu Ye.

As for the other Moon Jades... Lu Ye didn't recognize many of them either.

As the Sun Blaze governor, Yuan Du had the right to summon Moon Jades from various Spirit Islands for assistance in certain matters. This time, his move was to make a big show of it, to let people know he wasn't acting out of personal vendetta, but standing on the moral high ground!

One side was the Sun Blaze in person, followed by a hundred powerful Moon Jades, while the other side had only Lu Ye and a few others. The two sides were separated by the protective array, only a hundred feet apart.

Lu Ye looked at Yuan Du and spoke calmly, "Such awe-inspiring might! I wondered who could possess such power; it turns out it's Governor Yuan Du in person. Forgive me for not welcoming you from afar. May I ask what brings the governor here?"

Yuan Du just looked at him indifferently, and due to the angle, it carried a slightly superior feel.

Faced with Lu Ye's inquiry, he didn't respond at all, clearly considering Lu Ye unworthy of conversation.

Beside him, Yuan Cheng stepped forward, smiling at Lu Ye, "Island Master Lu, we meet again." He had personally witnessed Lu Ye kill Lion Heart back then, which left him jittery for a long time. Lu Ye gave him the impression of being lawless, daring even to offend Yuan Du. His dealings with Lu Ye were far from pleasant, and if one day Lu Ye decided to kill him, how could he resist?

However... after today, he would no longer worry about such things.

The reckless, lawless sort would eventually face the consequences. Living on the All Phenomena Ocean dared to offend a local Sun Blaze; Yuan Cheng couldn't understand what Lu Ye was thinking. Was there a hole in his head?

"Fellow Daoist Yuan Cheng!" Lu Ye turned to look at him.

Yuan Cheng nodded, his expression serious, "Island Master Lu, the Lord Governor has matters to attend to, so please open the protective array and allow us to enter and discuss things first."

"The protective array..." Lu Ye tilted his head, "What an unfortunate coincidence. The array here on this island had some issues recently and can't be activated for now. If the governor has any business, perhaps it can be discussed here."

Faced with a Sun Blaze, the protective array might serve as a layer of security. How could Lu Ye casually open it to let anyone in? If the other party had ill intent, his side would be powerless to resist.

Moreover, judging by the other party's stance, it was obvious they were here for more than just a conversation.

"The protective array cannot be activated." Yuan Cheng's eye twitched, finding it hard to understand how Lu Ye could be so blatantly dishonest.

But before he could say anything, Lu Ye spoke first, "Or is it that the governor has matters unsuitable for outsiders to see?"

This was clearly implying that Yuan Du intended to carry out some shady schemes.

Yuan Cheng merely laughed, "Naturally not. Well then, since so many fellow Daoists have gathered here today, there are indeed matters that need to be revealed to the public, so that fellow Daoists could see some people's true colors!"

The fact that the Three Realms Island kept its array tightly closed was expected, so Yuan Cheng didn't care.

As long as that matter was confirmed, the Three Realms Island and Lu Ye would have no chance of turning over!

"Bring it up!" Yuan Cheng suddenly gestured.

The next moment, two Moon Jades escorted a figure to the front. Under countless gazes, astonished exclamations quickly spread.

"Blood Race!"

"It's a Blood Race."

"Why bring a Blood Race here? Could it be..."

The presence of the Blood Race hidden within All Phenomena Ocean was something many were aware of, but their concealment was so discreet that unless a Sun Blaze investigated closely, they were almost undetectable.

Furthermore, the hidden Blood Race numbers were not substantial, and they hadn't caused any disruption. Most of them lay low, cultivating quietly and gathering some information, which was relatively harmless, so naturally, no one paid much attention.

But at this moment, with Yuan Du personally involved and presenting a Blood Race directly before the Three Realms Island, it inevitably sparked some speculations.