

Humanity 2101

Chapter 2101: Breaking Through the Limit

The four members of the squad were all refining Dao Bones, accumulating Dao force.

Although Lu Ye only obtained one piece, it took him longer than ever before, because the remaining Dao force in this Dao Bone was extremely abundant.

When Lu Ye finished refining, his own Dao force accumulation had reached two hundred and sixty-two!

In other words, the benefit he gained from that one piece of Dao Bone was over sixty threads of Dao force, which was unprecedented before.

Only he, possessing the Talent Tree, could gain so much benefit. If it were Du Qingsha refining it, getting twenty threads of Dao force would be her limit, and more than that would be wasted.

This is why Lu Ye's Dao force kept increasing, while the others' accumulation was far less efficient; sometimes, they could barely replenish it from the spoils of battle.

The other three were still refining Dao Bones, as Lu Ye opened his eyes, recalling the moment from several days ago...

Then he slowly stimulated five threads of Dao force to integrate into his Mana, silently feeling it.

The 5th Dao should have been his limit.

But now... Lu Ye vaguely felt as though he had broken through this limit, and if he wished, he could harness another thread of Dao force!

This was an unprecedented feeling, and it was also why he suddenly hesitated during the battle against the 5th Dao human cultivator a few days ago.

At that time, he had this sudden feeling, which caused him to make a small mistake.

After a moment of hesitation, Lu Ye couldn't resist trying it out.

Then he was pleasantly surprised to find, indeed, he could do it.

The sixth thread of Dao force smoothly integrated into his Mana, and Lu Ye was stunned for a while, had he truly broken through his limit?

Before he could understand the reason, his expression changed. With the power he had just activated, his entire being suddenly underwent a massive transformation. His blood Qi circulation sped up sharply, his heartbeat became rapid and dense like drumbeats, when he looked at his raised hand, his skin turned red. His entire body from inside to out, suddenly felt an immense pressure, as if countless invisible long needles were traversing all over, threatening to tear him apart.

Lu Ye quickly withdrew the Dao force...

Dao force, when not activated in combat or in confrontation with an enemy's attack, could be retracted without any loss, as in Lu Ye's case just now where he only just tried it.

Everything returned to normal.

Frowning with confusion, Lu Ye pondered that the limit of a cultivator's ability to harness Dao force was related to their foundation, and he hadn't enhanced his foundation recently, so how could he suddenly surpass the 5th Dao limit?

Moreover... he recalled that a while back when his Dao force accumulation surpassed two hundred, he had felt a strange feeling. But no matter how he investigated it, he couldn't find the source of this feeling.

Thinking back now, that strange feeling might have been a sign of breaking through his own limit, only he was unaware of it at the time, until he fought against that 5th Dao human and suddenly realized.

So, could it be that accumulating a certain amount of Dao force allows one to break through the limit?

It's just that, because his own foundation hadn't improved, managing the power of the 6th Dao still brought pressure.

No, if that were the case, why was Du Qingsha still at the 5th Dao? She's been fighting in this battlefield for at least a hundred years, surely her accumulation of Dao force would be over two hundred.

He needed to get a clear answer.

A day later, Du Qingsha finished refining her spoils, slowly opened her eyes, and immediately heard Lu Ye's audio transmission: "Captain, there's something I want to ask you."

Du Qingsha turned her gaze over and also used transmission: "What is it?"

Lu Ye, feeling that Du Qingsha seemed to have become somewhat gentler, didn't think much of it and asked his question: "Captain, how much Dao force have you accumulated now? Of course, if it's inconvenient to say, you don't have to."

Du Qingsha smiled and said, "There's nothing inconvenient about it, my Dao force is just over a hundred."

Just over a hundred? Lu Ye was puzzled, how could it be just over a hundred? That was too little, even with consumption during battles, Du Qingsha shouldn't have only that amount of Dao force.

As if she saw the doubt in his heart, Du Qingsha explained, "In recent years, I've been honing my second Dao Bone, so Dao force cannot be accumulated."

"Second Dao Bone?" Lu Ye became even more confused.

While he and Jiu Yan obtained a lot of information they had never encountered before at the Thunderbolt Battle Fortress, they hadn't heard of this so-called second Dao Bone, and the intelligence provided by the Thunderbolt Battle Fortress didn't include it either.

Du Qingsha said: "All 5th Dao cultivators are qualified to refine their second Dao Bone, whether they are stellar space cultivators or those monsters from the Star Abyss. You should also be qualified, and once successful, you can break through your limits. For example, if I succeed, I will change from the 5th Dao to the 6th Dao, greatly increasing my power!"

Lu Ye's heart couldn't help but stir: "How to refine?"

"It's simple. When the accumulation of your own Dao force exceeds two hundred, gradually inject all Dao force into the second Dao Bone, fundamentally changing the essence of the second Dao Bone. If the Dao Bone withstands the impact of Dao force without breaking, then it is a success, otherwise it is a failure, and all Dao force will be consumed, requiring re-accumulation. In this process, the choice of Dao Bone is vital, and there is a corresponding cultivation technique to make the chosen Dao Bone more solid, able to withstand the impact of Dao force!"

Lu Ye was hearing this kind of talk for the first time, yet if the second Dao Bone was refined in this way, it could explain why someone like Du Qingsha, a powerful expert, has Dao force less than a hundred.

She must have failed before, with all previously accumulated Dao force turned to nothing.

However... he himself does not have a second Dao Bone, so why did his Dao force accumulation breakthrough past two hundred also achieve a breakthrough?

Moreover, he fundamentally does not have Dao Bones, as all Dao force is carried on the leaves of the Talent Tree, breaking the rule that non-Star Abyss beings cannot forge a Dao foundation to obtain Dao force.

But from another angle, what if the Talent Tree is his Dao Bone?

Others need to refine their second Dao Bone, while the Talent Tree does not need refining, which is why such a strange situation arises?

No matter the reason, this is undoubtedly good news for Lu Ye.

"Otherwise, how do you think those 6th and 7th Dao experts in this stellar space came into being?" Du Qingsha laughed.

"There are 7th Dao experts in this stellar space?" Lu Ye was utterly shocked.

"Chen Wulei, the fort master, is a 7th Dao expert. Don't you know?" Du Qingsha curiously looked at Lu Ye. She previously thought Lu Ye had some connection with the fort master.

Lu Ye shook his head; he only knew the fort master was strong but had no idea he was a 7th Dao expert.

A 7th Dao expert needs to simultaneously control seven threads of Dao force; currently, managing six threads is already pressuring him greatly, seven threads...he might only be able to do so with further cultivation realm improvement.

"Breaking through to the 5th Dao allows one to oversee their domain; around this battlefield, every stronghold fortress is managed by at least a 6th Dao expert!" Du Qingsha's eyes showed a look of desire. She has been striving for this goal for many years, but unfortunately, has not succeeded, consuming more than a thousand Dao force in the process.

Lu Ye recalled another question: "Captain, if a 6th Dao expert needs to refine their second Dao Bone, what about the 7th Dao one? Wouldn't it be..."

Du Qingsha nodded: "You're correct, a 7th Dao expert has a third Dao Bone as well. You know that the amount of Dao force handled is related to the cultivator's underlying strength, but even at peak Divine Realm, one can only handle five threads of Dao force, thus requiring more Dao Bones to share the pressure. The second Dao Bone requires over two hundred accumulated Dao force for refining, and the third requires over four hundred. Further, there's the fourth Dao Bone, fifth Dao Bone, corresponding respectively to six hundred, eight hundred... It's said that after the 5th Dao, each progression in the power of Dao becomes exceptionally arduous, but upon success, one's strength will soar rapidly. You and I should both strive for these goals and encourage each other in progress forward."

Lu Ye was fascinated as he mentally calculated, refining the fourth Dao Bone corresponds to an 8th Dao cultivator, and the fifth to a 9th Dao expert!

"Then what happens after breaking a thousand Dao force, if the Dao Bone refining succeeds, would it make one a 10th Dao expert?"

Du Qingsha laughed: "Unknown, no one in the entire stellar space knows. Perhaps such monsters exist in the Star Abyss, but the strongest here is just the 7th Dao."

"Over the years, has no one gone through that Star Abyss Gate to explore the situation in Star Abyss?"

Du Qingsha paused, then spoke: "The stellar space once bred an 8th Dao expert, the only one ever, who charged into the Star Abyss Gate fifty years ago and vanished without a trace thereafter."

It seems that beyond the Star Abyss Gate lies great peril indeed!

Lu Ye couldn't help but think again of the Blood Ancestor, who came from the Star Abyss and shattered a supreme treasure like Mount Fangcun. Just how powerful is she? Could she be a 10th Dao expert?

Yet Lu Ye sensed things were not so simple because even if Blood Ancestor was a 10th Dao expert, controlling ten threads of Dao force, could a 10th Dao expert really shatter a supreme treasure, which is the condensation of Dao?

"Our understanding of the Star Abyss is still far too limited, even though we've been invaded for over three hundred years, the Star Abyss remains a huge mystery to us." Du Qingsha sighed and then brought out a jade slip, tossing it to Lu Ye: "Take this."

"What is this?" Lu Ye asked.

"Some cultivation techniques for Dao Bone, exchanged from the Hall of Battle Merits, no longer useful to me."

She had already cultivated what needed cultivating, leaving this jade slip of no further use.

Instead, it held some value for Lu Ye; if not for himself, Jiu Yan could use it, saving some battle merit. He immediately thanked and put it away.

In the time that followed, Du Qingsha imparted many details to him that need attention when refining Dao Bones. Over the years, she underwent five attempts to refine her second Dao Bone, all unsuccessful, yet accumulated much experience from this, and it's her personal experience, far more accurate than hearsay.

Lu Ye listened attentively, secretly noting it all.

Chapter 2102: Taking On a Big Job

Upon examining the jade slip given by Du Qingsha, it indeed contained many cultivation techniques for the Dao Bone, not only concerning the second Dao Bone but also techniques for cultivators who have entered the Dao Realm.

For example, Xsu Rong and Snake Girl are currently 3rd Dao cultivators, but this doesn't mean they'll remain 3rd Dao cultivators for life. They can also enhance their foundation through certain cultivation techniques or treasures, thereby increasing their control over Dao force, providing the opportunity to advance to the 4th or even 5th Dao.

At the very least, Xsu Rong is already quite close to the 4th Dao.

Another day passed, and Xsu Rong and Snake Girl also finally refined their spoils of war. The squad set off again.

Among the team, there were two 5th Dao cultivators and two 3rd Dao cultivators. Such a configuration was unique across the entire battlefield, and as long as they were careful enough, there was basically no danger.

That day, Lu Ye, who was acting as bait, was wandering around an area when he suddenly heard Du Qingsha's audio transmission: "Follow me!"

Lu Ye turned his head to see Du Qingsha and the others, who had been Concealed, revealing themselves, with Xsu Rong waving at him from over there.

Lu Ye quickly flew over, walking side by side with Xsu Rong.

"Where are we going?" Lu Ye asked.

Xsu Rong chuckled, "To do something big."

Lu Ye was immediately intrigued. Currently, his Dao force accumulation was stable, and he was curious about what changes would occur if his Dao force broke through 400. He asked, "What do you mean?"

"Kill a 6th Dao!" Xsu Rong succinctly replied.

Lu Ye's expression turned serious. Although his current limit was also the 6th Dao, he had never encountered a powerful 6th Dao opponent. Even though the squad had been active in the central area, the range was vast, and nobody knew how many powerful Star Abyss outsiders were hidden within.

"Just us?"

"Of course not, there's another team coordinating with us."

Lu Ye instantly understood.

It wasn't just Team A-3 active in the central area; there were many other teams. They had encountered several teams during this time, but there wasn't much in-depth communication. They usually parted ways after a brief encounter.

Since they needed to kill a 6th Dao powerhouse, it was clear that a single team, Team A-3, wouldn't suffice.

Two hours later, under Du Qingsha's lead, the team arrived at a large piece of floating land and successfully met up with another squad waiting there.

This squad's configuration was the same as Team A-3, with four members. The leader was a young man with sword-like eyebrows and starry eyes, along with an old man, a woman, and a middle-aged man.

They were all cultivators from the Thunderbolt Battle Fortress and came from the hunting camp. Naturally, they were familiar with each other. Upon meeting, the two captains exchanged a few words.

The young leader then curiously sized up Lu Ye: "Sister Qingsha, what's the situation with this team member? If I'm not mistaken, he's only at the Divine Realm Early Stage, right? How did he get here?"

Du Qingsha smiled slightly: "He is indeed in the Divine Realm Early Stage, but his strength can't be measured by his Cultivation Realm."

"Oh? Can he also harness Dao force?" the young man asked with keen interest, and the others also looked over at Lu Ye, seemingly wanting to see what was special about him.

"Not only can he harness Dao force, but he is a 5th Dao!" Du Qingsha didn't hide the fact because, given that they were cooperating to hunt a 6th Dao powerhouse, everyone needed to be clear about each other's abilities.

"What?" The young man was shocked, his eyes widening as he looked at Lu Ye and then at Du Qingsha: "Sister Qingsha, you're not joking?"

Du Qingsha said solemnly, "I wouldn't joke about such a thing."

The young man frowned and pondered for a while before saying, "Sister Qingsha, it's not that I don't want to believe you, but such matters... I need to verify it. I have to be responsible for my team members."

Du Qingsha nodded: "Understandable." She then gestured to Lu Ye.

Lu Ye stepped forward and gently pressed a palm against the young man's palm.

The young man also responded with a palm, and after a brief contact, they both withdrew their hands.

Lu Ye remained calm, but the young man's expression changed repeatedly as he reevaluated Lu Ye: "Unbelievable, how did you do it?"

"Perhaps it's due to my special physique," Lu Ye repeated the explanation he had previously given Du Qingsha.

It was unclear whether the young man believed it, but the fact was undeniable, and Lu Ye's unexpected strength was certainly beneficial for the upcoming operation. He nodded and said, "I'm Chang Yu, captain of Team A-6, and these are my team members."

He introduced the other three members, and Lu Ye nodded slightly.

"Let's discuss the plan, shall we? Also, what's the situation on the prey's side?" Du Qingsha asked.

Chang Yu immediately explained the situation in detail, then began discussing the hunting plan with Du Qingsha.

Lu Ye listened on the side. It was clear that the squads from the hunting camp were experienced in coordinating to hunt 6th Dao powerhouses. Although the 6th Dao was much stronger than the 5th Dao, with proper coordination between two teams, it was possible to succeed without taking on too much risk.

The two captains had done this before, and they quickly came to an agreement.

Originally, in Chang Yu's plan, he and Du Qingsha were undoubtedly the main force, responsible for diverting the efforts of that 6th Dao expert, while the rest of the squad needed to use their tactics to wear down the enemy's Dao force. Once the right opportunity was found, the two of them, as 5th Dao cultivators, would attack and kill the opponent.

But now with the addition of Lu Ye, another 5th Dao, the risk was significantly reduced.

After listening for a while, Lu Ye proactively said, "Captain Chang, actually, I have an idea."

Chang Yu looked up at him and smiled, "Brother Lu, feel free to share your idea." As a fellow 5th Dao, he undoubtedly placed Lu Ye on an equal footing with himself.

"To be honest, my cultivation system is somewhat different from yours. I have quite a bit of expertise in Blood Technique," Lu Ye said slowly.

With his explanation and demonstration, both Chang Yu and Du Qingsha couldn't help but brighten up. If the previous plan had a sixty percent chance of successfully killing the enemy, then following Lu Ye's plan would have at least an eighty percent chance, and the risk would be much lower.

There were naturally no objections!

A few hours later, Lu Ye moved swiftly in one direction.

According to the information provided by Chang Yu, that 6th Dao expert was active in an area ahead.

Sure enough, only a moment later, Lu Ye noticed a fierce battle sound coming from afar. He hurried over and saw a chaotic battlefield, where an extraordinarily tall figure was standing, exuding a strong aura of blood. In one hand, he was holding a corpse, rummaging through it, and soon pulled out a dimly golden glowing bone.

Lu Ye's eyes lit up at the sight.

Comparing it to the characteristics provided by Chang Yu, this tall Star Abyss outsider was their target this time.

He had obviously had a battle with another Star Abyss outsider, but the other was no match and was killed. Judging from the golden glow on the Dao Bone he obtained, a significant amount of Dao force clearly still remained within!

Lu Ye was originally planning to quietly approach and then strike, but seeing this fat Dao Bone, he couldn't hold back. Instantly urging his mana, he pounced towards the opponent.

"Truly courageous!" At Team A-6's hiding place, Chang Yu's eyelid twitched. As a fellow 5th Dao, he would never dare to do such a thing because the risk was too great.

On the other side, Du Qingsha couldn't help but worry. After all, Lu Ye was her team member, and recently, working together with Lu Ye to kill enemies had yielded far more results than before. If anything happened to Lu Ye, she would be heartbroken.

The 6th Dao outsider, who had just retrieved the Dao Bone, abruptly raised his head to look at Lu Ye at the moment Lu Ye took action, then roared and proactively charged.

The distance between them closed rapidly.

A blood light suddenly blossomed on Lu Ye, then transformed into a Blood Sea, enveloping the vast stellar space. The two figures disappeared in an instant.

"Take action!" The shouts of Chang Yu and Du Qingsha rang out almost simultaneously, and the two teams, seven figures riding seven suits of cover armor, rushed into the Blood Sea in a flash.

Once inside the Blood Sea, Chang Yu was secretly astonished. He had also fought experts from the Blood Race before, knowing that once caught in the Blood Sea, numerous actions become difficult. In contrast, the Blood Race could move freely within it.

The Blood Sea he was in now surpassed even the strongest Blood Race experts he had encountered before.

He couldn't comprehend how Lu Ye cultivated such Blood Techniques.

No time to think deeply, because almost the moment he rushed into the Blood Sea, a trace of mystical guidance descended, allowing him to clearly perceive the exact location of that 6th Dao expert, and this guidance kept changing as the enemy's position changed.

The surrounding density didn't hinder him in the slightest!

He was delighted, immediately realizing that this was Lu Ye assisting him, and in such a battlefield, such assistance could be tremendously beneficial.

Without hesitation, he directly maneuvered his cover armor towards the enemy, and so did Du Qingsha.

As for the remaining team members, each activated distant attack methods.

When facing a 6th Dao expert, two captain-level 5th Dao cultivators had some entangling power, but those below the 5th Dao dared not get close.

The huge Blood Sea was instantly in turmoil.

The 6th Dao expert trapped in the Blood Sea also realized things were amiss, immediately urging Dao force to protect his body, then charged straightforwardly in one direction, intending to break out of the Blood Sea's encirclement.

How could Lu Ye let him have his way? Under his control, the Blood Sea moved at the same speed, ensuring the enemy could never escape.

But moments later, he sensed something was wrong.

The intensity of the confrontation caused the Blood Sea to show signs of strain and might collapse at any moment.

Helplessly, he had to explode a drop of treasure blood into the Blood Sea, and the turbulent Blood Sea immediately stabilized somewhat.

It must be a quick battle!

Not to mention the Blood Sea couldn't withstand too much prolonged impact, Du Qingsha and Chang Yu, every close-range engagement carried enormous risks. Even a slight error might lead to disaster.

Upon this thought, Lu Ye raised his hand and pressed it against the Boulder Mountain Saber, a slight vibration in his Dao force within, instantly disappearing six strands.

Chapter 2103: Slaying a Six Dao

Using the concealment of the Blood Sea, Lu Ye silently swept behind the enemy.

However, the tall figure seemed to have foreseen it, suddenly turning around, and his fist thundered towards Lu Ye.

A powerful foe like him had an extremely keen sense of life-and-death crisis, so even with the Blood Sea's cover, he detected Lu Ye's killing intent.

At this moment, Lu Ye's blood Qi surged, his eyes turning blood-red, and harnessing six strands of Dao force clearly put a heavy burden on his body.

As the long saber fell, the six strands of Dao force exploded forth.

This method of Dao force explosion is an ability possessed by every being qualified to wield Dao force. This one-time explosion results in the complete disappearance of the exerted Dao force, but in exchange for stronger damage.

This technique is known as the Method of Dao Destruction in this stellar space and is generally used as a last-ditch effort.

Lu Ye certainly could choose not to do this; he could engage in a prolonged fight using the six strands of Dao force, perhaps exhausting the force after several exchanges, but doing so would not achieve the intended effect.

The enemy's fist collided with the edge of the Boulder Mountain Saber, and Lu Ye felt an overwhelming power sweeping over him, shaking his body violently as he flew back following the momentum.

Yet with the falling of this saber strike, the enemy's eyes also showed an incredibly surprised expression because his protective magic was actually slashed through!

He immediately realized that amongst these stellar space cultivators there was actually one who was of equal rank with him!

In haste, he tried to channel more protective magic.

However, it was already too late, as Du Qingsha, piloting her cover armor, was just sweeping in from the side, wielding a massive broadsword in both hands and made a crosswise cut!

Lu Ye had already accounted for Du Qingsha's assistance when he made his move.

The sharp blade cut into flesh and was blocked by bone, and as Du Qingsha passed by, a spray of fresh blood was brought out.

Inside the cover armor, Du Qingsha was visibly taken aback, because based on past experiences of hunting 6th Dao powerhouses, they needed to brawl with such an opponent for a considerable time to have the chance to injure or kill the foe, during which every member would expend a massive amount of Dao force.

When hunting the 6th Dao, it was no longer a matter of gains and losses; it was a task the hunting camp squad must undertake because if the 6th Dao was left unchecked, it would inevitably lead to increasing casualties, hence no matter the cost, once the 6th Dao appeared, it must be swiftly dealt with.

Thus, Du Qingsha never expected the 6th Dao encountered today to be so weak, barely a moment had passed, and she had already harmed him.

Without time for further thoughts, she quickly transmitted audibly in all directions: "He's injured, everyone be careful!"

The injury caused by her saber was terrifying, but for the 6th Dao strongman, it was not lethal, and injured foes often became even more formidable.

"Damn it!" came the snarls of the 6th Dao powerhouse amidst the Blood Sea, realizing there was someone around of equal rank, his heart was in turmoil, and he dared not linger any longer, only wanting to leave immediately.

His protective magic was re-consolidated, infused with his own Dao force, finally bringing him a bit of security.

But coming swiftly after were remote attacks from all directions; after a fierce strike, Chang Yu also darted to his side and then quickly withdrew.

In such a siege, even attacks from 3rd Dao cultivators like Xsu Rong and Snake Girl could have a certain weakening effect, not that being 3rd Dao meant they could not play any role at all.

Not to mention among the other squad members, that old man was still a 4th Dao cultivator.

In a flash, Lu Ye returned to the fray, blood Qi floating around him, Mana boiling, and once again his saber fell—another Method of Dao Destruction!

If the enemy were unharmed, then most likely Lu Ye could do little damage with this strike; similar to earlier, Lu Ye had broken through his protective magic, but was actually powerless in the follow-up; the real harm was done by Du Qingsha who struck timely.

However, at this moment, the enemy was first remotely attacked by several squadmates, then suffered a blow from Chang Yu, leaving the infusion of Dao force in his protective magic in an incomplete state.

This in turn resulted in Lu Ye's saber not only completely breaching his defenses but also having enough force left to continue its strike!

The Boulder Mountain Saber slanted downward from the opponent's neck, almost splitting his entire body open, and the fierce pain caused continuous roars.

He instinctively raised his arm to strike, and Lu Ye couldn't dodge in time, being cruelly knocked flying.

Suddenly, several dazzling beams shot from various spots, crashing onto the enemy's towering body, directly blasting him into fragments.

Du Qingsha, who had returned to the fray, paused briefly, while Chang Yu, who had just steadied himself afar, was also somewhat dumbfounded, and the other five squad members scattered around were all showing peculiar expressions.

"Dead?" Snake Girl asked, with a somewhat doubtful expression.

The Blood Sea receded gradually, revealing everyone's figures.

Only then did everyone manage to confirm that their target in this hunt was truly dead!

"How did he just die?" Xsu Rong racked his brains, unable to fathom why this happened, then he turned to Chang Yu: "Captain Chang, are you sure this is a 6th Dao powerhouse?"

If he truly were 6th Dao, why was he so weak? This hunt felt so different compared to previous encounters with the 6th Dao, could it be that Chang Yu made an error? Such things had happened before, where the presumed strong adversary turned out to be a stuffed straw pillow.

Chang Yu spoke: "Sister Qingsha should know if he was truly 6th Dao."

"Indeed, it's the 6th Dao." Du Qingsha spoke, though they had only clashed a few times, anyone who could withstand her and Chang Yu's attacks and remain unscathed was definitely a 6th Dao.

Moreover...

"He left behind three pieces of Dao Bone!"

One of them was undoubtedly the spoils that the 6th Dao powerful expert had just obtained, while the remaining two were his own.

As she spoke, Du Qingsha glanced at Lu Ye with some puzzlement. It didn't quite seem right to say that the ease of this hunt was due to Lu Ye's assistance. The environment of the Blood Sea indeed provided them significant convenience, but killing enemies still depended on actual strength.

How did a 6th Dao powerful expert's protective magic get broken so easily?

Lu Ye quietly stood aside, aware of Du Qingsha's gaze but feigned ignorance.

"This fellow likely was already injured, and his Dao force was unstable." Chang Yu concluded, as this was the only situation that could explain everything just now.

Being able to kill a 6th Dao so easily, no matter the reason, was a good thing. Not to mention the spoils obtained, the battle merit from this fight surely couldn't be compared to those involving the 4th or 5th Dao.

Cleaning the battlefield and collecting the spoils.

The two squads quickly sought a nearby place to distribute the loot.

Because there were only three pieces of Dao Bone obtained, it wasn't easy to distribute them. However, such cooperation between hunting camp squads was not their first time, and naturally, there were methods to ensure fairness as much as possible.

Soon the distribution was completed, and each went their own way.

Team A-3 stayed behind, and Du Qingsha took out some previously obtained spoils for another internal distribution within the squad.

Then she looked at Lu Ye: "Once I refine these Dao Bones, I should be able to polish the second Dao Bone. During this period, I'll have to trouble you to protect me."

Originally, polishing the second Dao Bone required her to return to the Thunderbolt Battle Fortress. She always did so before since she was the strongest in the team, and this spot often encountered 5th Dao powerful experts, who other team members might struggle against.

But now with Lu Ye, she didn't need to waste time returning to the Thunderbolt Battle Fortress, as polishing the second Dao Bone wouldn't take long, at most two days.

Lu Ye readily agreed: "Captain, rest assured and focus on your retreat; everything will be on me." With his current strength, even facing a 6th Dao powerful expert, he had a fighting chance.

Xsu Rong clasped his fists: "Wishing the captain success, and promotion to the 6th Dao!"

Snake Girl chimed in with a blessing.

Du Qingsha smiled bitterly: "The hope is small, but I must give it a try."

This was her sixth attempt at polishing the second Dao Bone, having failed five times before, each time exhausting her Dao force completely, leaving her in dire straits.

Moments later, Du Qingsha entered a retreat state, while Lu Ye and the other three concealed themselves, scattered around keeping guard.

Time passed.

Everything around was peaceful.

With nothing to do, a thought suddenly popped into Lu Ye's mind, so he activated a drop of treasure blood, transforming it into a Treasure Blood Avatar.

Throughout, the Treasure Blood Avatar could exert the full strength of his true self. Ideally, anyway. In reality, a significant part of Lu Ye's strength depended on the Talent Tree and Boulder Mountain Saber, which the Treasure Blood Avatar lacked. It could only manifest Lu Ye's physical strength and would gradually weaken over time because once the battle started, the treasure blood would get consumed.

If that's the case, he wondered if the Treasure Blood Avatar could, like the true self, control six threads of Dao force?

If it could, then his nine avatars, along with the true self, would make ten 6th Dao powerful experts. Such a terrifying lineup could easily kill a 7th Dao upfront.

However, after a few attempts, he realized the Treasure Blood Avatar couldn't bear Dao force. Even if Lu Ye forcibly infused Dao force into it, the treasure blood would become highly unstable and unable to transform into an avatar.

Thinking it over, this was as expected. For stellar space cultivators like him, having a Dao foundation was essential to wield Dao force.

The Talent Tree could be considered his Dao foundation. The Treasure Blood Avatar didn't possess a Dao foundation, hence incapable of controlling Dao force.

In this view, the Talent Tree Avatar should be able to wield Dao force, as it essentially stems from the Talent Tree.

Lu Ye promptly condensed a Talent Tree Avatar, simultaneously integrating part of his Dao force while splitting the Talent Tree.

It turned out it indeed could, although the avatar's capacity differed from the true self, only reaching the level of a 5th Dao cultivator.

This was undeniably due to the insufficient transfer of Dao force, totaling less than two hundred.

Continuing the attempt, once he apportioned over two hundred Dao force to the avatar, it indeed became a 6th Dao cultivator. However, the reduced Dao force on the true self side downgraded him to the 5th Dao!

More Dao force was evidently needed!

Chapter 2104: Star Abyss Gate Mutation

According to Lu Ye's current experiments, as long as there is enough Dao force, both his true form and his doppelganger can become 6th Dao cultivators. At that point, whether for self-defense or killing enemies, his capabilities will greatly increase!

He checked his Dao force and saw that he was not far from four hundred. Once his Dao force exceeded four hundred, he would, through balanced distribution, effectively become equivalent to two 6th Dao cultivators!

This was undoubtedly a goal worth striving for.

Calculating the time, Jiu Yan should have already entered the Enlightenment Pool over there; he wondered about the situation. If everything went smoothly, she would be able to establish her own Dao foundation and advance into the Dao Realm. Then, he would take a moment to bring her out and hunt Star Abyss outsiders for Dao Bones, rapidly accumulating her Dao force.

Thinking of Jiu Yan, Lu Ye couldn't help but think of the other eight.

The Spectral Sedan Chair had brought ten people here in total, but after arriving in this Yiyuan stellar space, everyone dispersed. Lu Ye truly didn't know the situation of the others, but none of the other eight were less than Peak Sun Blaze. With chance, they might advance further.

Two days later, Du Qingsha emerged from seclusion.

Detecting the movement, Xsu Rong and the Snake Girl rushed over to investigate first, and Lu Ye leisurely walked over as well.

At a glance, he saw Du Qingsha standing there somewhat dejected, looking exhausted.

By her appearance, it was clear she had not managed to refine her second Dao Bone as she wished.

The Snake Girl was about to offer some comfort when Du Qingsha suddenly laughed, clenching her fist, and said, "I finally... succeeded!"

The Snake Girl was stunned, then overjoyed: "The captain has advanced to the 6th Dao?"

Xsu Rong also sincerely felt happy for Du Qingsha. They had followed her for much longer than Lu Ye had, sharing nearly a century together. They had witnessed Du Qingsha's previous failures, but the heavens did not fail those who strive tirelessly. The success after numerous failures was not too late.

Lu Ye stepped forward to congratulate her.

Du Qingsha advancing to the 6th Dao meant another formidable general for the Thunderbolt Battle Fortress. However, because refining the Dao Bone almost exhausted her accumulated Dao force, she now had to focus on quickly gathering Dao force; otherwise, she'd be caught in an awkward situation if she faced an enemy without sufficient Dao force to deploy.

Another period of hunting followed.

Lu Ye's accumulation of Dao force had already passed four hundred, heading toward the milestone of five hundred.

As he had anticipated, with his Dao force past four hundred and evenly distributed between his true self and his Talent Tree Avatar, he alone could transform into two mighty 6th Dao cultivators.

One might even say that if not limited by his own foundation, he could fully command seven strands of Dao force and become a 7th Dao cultivator.

But his foundation was ultimately insufficient, and controlling six strands of Dao force was already a huge pressure; handling more was simply not possible.

During another interval of rest, Du Qingsha found Lu Ye and got straight to the point: "I'm planning to hand over Team A-3 to you and appoint you as the captain."

Lu Ye frowned, "Why are you saying this out of the blue?"

He knew that with his current strength, he fully qualified to be the captain, but he had never considered it. After all, he was not a cultivator from this home planet.

Du Qingsha said, "I've entered the 6th Dao, so it's not appropriate for me to lead the team. According to the battle fortress's regulations, I need to engage in deeper enemy killing, and the deeper areas are beyond your reach for now. So, in a few days, I will take you back to the fortress, step down from the captain's role, and once I'm gone, you'll be a member short and can recruit as needed."

Lu Ye hadn't known that Thunderbolt Battle Fortress had such regulations, but he understood that deeper positions hosted stronger fighters. The team had only encountered one 6th Dao enemy because most were slain by the powerful in this stellar space.

If Du Qingsha had not just advanced to the 6th Dao and needed to accumulate Dao force, she wouldn't have delayed until now.

"I understand." Lu Ye nodded. Since it's a rule, he would follow it. Besides, he could check on Jiu Yan's progress; if she entered the Dao Realm, she could fill the squad's vacancy.

He believed that with Jiu Yan's foundation, once she entered the Dao Realm, she'd be at least a 3rd Dao, unquestionably qualified to join the squad.

"Xsu Rong and the Snake Girl have been with me for many years, surviving numerous life-and-death situations, they have not had it easy. I'll leave them in your hands..." Du Qingsha paused, suddenly turning her head in a direction.

At the same time, Lu Ye felt something and looked in the same direction.

It was the direction of the Star Abyss Gate.

Though this was considered the central area, it was still some distance from the Star Abyss Gate. Yet, at this moment, both Lu Ye and Du Qingsha clearly sensed a peculiar disturbance emerging from that direction.

There seemed to be a terrifying aura arising from that side, making the space of the entire front-line battlefield tremble.

Lu Ye didn't understand, quickly turning to look at Du Qingsha, only to find her equally bewildered, clearly never having encountered such a situation.

Just then, another strange aura emerged from a certain direction, approaching with unimaginable speed. The aura was grand and vast, giving Lu Ye a vague sense of familiarity, as if he had sensed it somewhere before.

Soon after, he saw a mystic light sweep across the distant stellar space, charging straight toward the location of the Star Abyss Gate.

"The Power of the Sand Pot!" Du Qingsha suddenly stood up, her face changing dramatically as if she had seen something incredibly unbelievable.

Xsu Rong and the Snake Girl had already hurried over, their expressions extremely grave.

"What is the Sand Pot?" Lu Ye couldn't help but ask.

Before Du Qingsha could respond, there was a violent collision sound from the direction of the Stellar Abyss Gate, followed by a terrifying surge of Dao force that swept in all directions like a tidal wave. In the face of such a torrent of Dao force, Lu Ye felt as small as an ant. Despite being separated by an unknown distance, the aftermath gave him an incredibly oppressive feeling, causing his blood Qi to almost stagnate.

There was no need for Du Qingsha to respond; from this sensation, Lu Ye already sensed the truth.

"Supreme Treasure!"

This kind of terrifying aftermath could not possibly be achieved by human power; it was the power of a supreme treasure.

It was at this moment that Du Qingsha's voice entered his ears: "The Sand Pot is the supreme treasure that guards this battlefield. There are hundreds of bases on this battlefield, and each one has a portion of the power of the supreme treasure. Now the power of the Sand Pot is manifesting..."

As she spoke, her expression was bewildered and helpless, not at all like that of a powerful 6th Dao cultivator, but more like that of an ordinary woman who had never experienced turmoil.

Because she knew, the power of the supreme treasure could not be released easily, and once it did, it meant that the situation had already escalated to a level that the home planet cultivators could not manage.

How could this happen?

Lu Ye clearly realized this as well, and finally understood why the Thunderbolt Battle Fortress's fort master could see through his and Jiu Yan's origins at a glance. At that time, he had asked about it, and the fort master said that someone had informed him.

Lu Ye was curious about who had such sharp eyesight. Now it seemed that if the one who saw through his and Jiu Yan's origins was not a person but the supreme treasure of this stellar space?

Now that the power of this supreme treasure had erupted, it was obviously countering something. What had happened on the side of the Stellar Abyss Gate to have triggered the disturbance of the supreme treasure?

Logically speaking, only another supreme treasure could counter a supreme treasure.

At this thought, Lu Ye was struck with terror!

The aftermath of the confrontation was becoming increasingly fierce, and the four members of the squad could not stay put; they could only retreat. Not only were they retreating, but countless auras from all directions were moving away from the Stellar Abyss Gate.

Lu Ye released his mental consciousness to sense, secretly shocked. Although his mental consciousness couldn't expand over a large area due to the suppression of the Star Abyss ambience, even so, he detected quite a few terrifyingly powerful auras roaming nearby.

In the time it took to drink a cup of tea, the confrontation between the supreme treasures suddenly vanished without a trace.

The four members of the squad hastily stabilized themselves, turned back to look, but couldn't see much.

Vaguely, an invisible gust blew from the front, rustling their clothes.

"Why is there wind?" Snake Girl looked puzzled.

"It's not the wind..." Du Qingsha's face turned pale, and her lips were dry: "It's the Star Abyss ambience!"

The extremely dense Star Abyss ambience swept in from the direction of the Stellar Abyss Gate, carrying a stormy surge.

For so many years, the Star Abyss ambience had been eroding this stellar space, which caused the battlefield here to continuously expand. However, this kind of erosion had always been stable, never erupting suddenly like this.

If the previous invasion of the Star Abyss ambience was like a trickling stream, this time was like a dam breaking.

Combining this with the earlier eruption of the power of the supreme treasure, even Lu Ye realized one thing—the Stellar Abyss Gate had undergone a change!

It was highly likely that the Stellar Abyss Gate had expanded.

Suddenly, an evil and grand voice came from the direction of the Stellar Abyss Gate: "The Star Abyss has invaded; if you want to gain more attention from the Will of the Star Abyss, then kill all the living beings of this stellar space. Go, the more you kill, the stronger you will become!"

Upon hearing this voice, Lu Ye felt a wave of irritation, with an inexplicable murderous intent surging within him.

Beside him, Xsu Rong and Snake Girl were in an even worse state; their eyes were bloodshot.

He couldn't help but exchange a look with Du Qingsha, feeling horrified. Just the voice alone could cause such a wide range of impact. How powerful must the owner of this voice be?

Such a powerful being, cultivators like them at the 6th Dao couldn't possibly resist. Could the strongest at the 7th Dao of their stellar space withstand it?

"Hahaha, there's prey!" A sinister voice sounded as a powerful aura rapidly approached from nearby.

"Equip armor!" Du Qingsha shouted sharply, and the three members of the squad immediately donned their cover armor. She took the lead to meet the incoming enemy and instantly engaged in combat with them.

"It's a 6th Dao!" Du Qingsha was startled, quickly warning the others.

6th Dao cultivators were usually rare to encounter, yet now they suddenly came across one. Obviously, it was due to the earlier disturbance that drove many strong beings away from the Stellar Abyss Gate.

Moreover, if the Stellar Abyss Gate had expanded, then inevitably, more powerful Star Abyss outsiders would invade the stellar space.

Almost the moment her words fell, Xsu Rong had rushed to the enemy's side, only to have his cover armor shattered by a single punch, with half of his body disintegrating into fragments along with the broken armor.

Chapter 2105: Spectral Sedan Chair Reappears

Over the past few months, the four-member squad has gone through countless battles. Du Qingsha has always been the main force, with Lu Ye largely playing the role of bait, while Xsu Rong and Snake Girl primarily provide long-range support.

Because their strength is not very high, if they engaged in close combat with the enemy, accidents were likely to happen.

Hundreds of battles large and small have been fought, and both Xsu Rong and Snake Girl have been able to complete their tasks well.

But this time, Xsu Rong acted foolishly by charging forward alongside Du Qingsha.

Not only Xsu Rong, but also Snake Girl!

Lu Ye immediately realized that the problem was not with them; it was the result of the malevolent voice earlier. Under the voice's influence, even someone like him, a 6th Dao, was overwhelmed with killing intent, almost losing control, let alone Xsu Rong and Snake Girl.

With most of his body shattered, Xsu Rong was definitely not going to survive. In his last moment of clarity before death, he realized the foolishness of his actions. Out of the corner of his eye, he glimpsed Snake Girl not far away and shouted, "Run!"

Snake Girl's eyes, originally crimson, turned completely blood-red, her entire being surging with murderous intent. Xsu Rong's death drove her to madness, as she howled and manipulated her cover armor, entangling with the enemy's form.

However, that 6th Dao expert merely reached out and pulled hard, tearing the snake-shaped cover armor into two pieces. Blood and viscera spilled from the broken sections.

Perceiving danger and about to help Snake Girl, Lu Ye halted, sighing heavily. He was ultimately one step too late. He hadn't anticipated such an outcome.

Having spent time together, they had developed some camaraderie, and this time with Du Qingsha stepping down as squad leader, barring any unforeseen events, these two would be his team members.

Now, however, they seemed like insects crushed easily.

"How pathetic!" the 6th Dao expert casually tossed the two halves of the cover armor aside.

"I'll make you pay with your life!" Du Qingsha shouted angrily, attacking the enemy with her cover armor, every move deadly.

Lu Ye also brandished the Boulder Mountain Saber, lowering his gaze as he charged forward.

Unable to save Xsu Rong and Snake Girl in time, he could only avenge them.

With Dao force in command and surging blood Qi, in tandem with Du Qingsha, they quickly overwhelmed the 6th Dao enemy.

The opponent clearly hadn't expected Lu Ye and Du Qingsha to be on his level, quickly losing his arrogant demeanor, desperately summoning Dao force to protect himself while seeking an escape route.

But no opportunity arose, and in moments he was covered in wounds, soon to be killed if nothing unexpected happened.

However, the fierce battle attracted nearby Star Abyss outsiders. Their state was just like Xsu Rong and Snake Girl earlier; clearly all were influenced by that malevolent voice, disregarding differences in strength, recklessly joining the fight, each fearless.

Although Lu Ye and Du Qingsha could easily slaughter these weaker enemies, it gave the 6th Dao expert a chance to catch his breath.

Moments later, Lu Ye activated the Blood Sea Technique, enveloping the area in a vast blood sea, completely cutting off the 6th Dao expert's escape hopes.

Together with Du Qingsha, they finally killed him.

They barely had time to catch their breath before two more 6th Dao figures stormed into the Blood Sea.

The battle raged on relentlessly!

Lu Ye had already condensed his Talent Tree Avatar. Though he didn't have the Boulder Mountain Saber, with Dao force empowerment, even merely punching the enemy could unleash immense power.

In the Blood Sea, weaker Star Abyss outsider breath continually dwindled, yet the enemy seemed endless. The Talent Tree Avatar was withdrawn and re-condensed, as this kind of battle severely drained his Dao force, soon dropping below two hundred, which left both him and his avatar capable of wielding only 5th Dao strength.

After re-condensing, his main body maintained 6th Dao strength, while the avatar, due to less Dao force distribution, could only maintain 5th Dao strength.

He realized continuing the fight was futile. The changes at the Star Abyss Gate seemed to have let more Star Abyss outsiders into this stellar space. While currently encountering only 6th Dao, persisting could

bring forth 7th Dao, 8th Dao, or even stronger beings. In that case, both he and Du Qingsha would be doomed!

He needed to return to Thunderbolt Battle Fortress first, before considering anything else.

"Let's go!" Lu Ye called out sharply.

Du Qingsha's voice responded, "You go first, I'll cover the rear!"

"No more talking!" Lu Ye replied, grabbing her and heading out from the Blood Sea.

At such a close range, Du Qingsha noticed something unusual. She couldn't help inspecting Lu Ye: "Why aren't you wearing clothes?"

In this world, who fights to the extent of losing their clothes?

Lu Ye didn't want to respond. At the moment, it was his Talent Tree Avatar dragging Du Qingsha; in such intense combat, there was no time for the avatar to dress properly. He could only stimulate his blood Qi to cover vital areas roughly.

The avatar and Du Qingsha escaped together, while his main body maintained the Blood Sea to confine and kill the enemy. After a moment, he withdrew the Blood Sea, activated Void Spirit Runes, and Teleported away.

After regrouping with the avatar, Lu Ye immediately retracted the avatar and continued escaping toward Thunderbolt Battle Fortress with Du Qingsha.

However, hardly had they fled when Lu Ye felt something tightening around his waist, as if something bound him. Looking down, he was shocked to discover a red ribbon wrapped around his waist, without knowing when it happened.

This thing... looked somewhat familiar!

As the thought flashed, his body became uncontrollably drawn in one direction.

Du Qingsha was utterly bewildered, looking up to see a ghostly carriage that appeared unexpectedly, looking extremely festive.

Lu Ye's entire being was wrapped in a red ribbon inside the carriage, flying toward its interior.

"Run! Don't stop!" Lu Ye shouted, looking back to see many figures charging toward Du Qingsha.

Although she had advanced to the 6th Dao, the recent arduous battle had drained her Dao force significantly, leaving her unable to sustain prolonged combat.

Du Qingsha was completely unaware of what had occurred, but after Lu Ye shouted, his figure vanished, along with the suddenly appearing red carriage.

With no time to ponder, Du Qingsha continued to flee.

With a rumble, Lu Ye rolled a few times, struggling to get up, and saw several familiar figures standing not far from him.

Among them was Jiu Yan.

Seeing Lu Ye, Jiu Yan visibly exhaled with relief, stepping forward: "Are you alright?"

Lu Ye shook his head, glancing around at everyone, realizing: "Are we captured by the Spectral Sedan Chair again?"

"Indeed!" Chen Li said with a speechless expression, "I was in seclusion, forging the Dao Realm, but the Spectral Sedan Chair suddenly captured me. If not, maybe I would have succeeded by now!"

In the carriage, aside from Lu Ye and Jiu Yan, were Chen Li, Bewitchment Shadow, and Water Fairy.

The number of ten people was still five short.

Water Fairy spoke softly: "I wasn't in seclusion; I was still battling enemies on the battlefield when captured. Junior Brother Lu seemed similar?"

Lu Ye looked extremely disheveled due to using the Power of the 6th Dao to fight, bearing a tremendous burden, covered in blood, and with cracks on exposed skin, now rapidly healing.

"Correct." Lu Ye nodded, comprehending, "In this sense, the other five Fellow Daoists should return as well."

The Spectral Sedan Chair captured their group of ten into the Yiyuan stellar space, and judging by the situation, they would all be gathered again, though this timing...

Du Qingsha's situation was unknown, but with her capabilities, she should be able to escape to the Thunderbolt Battle Fortress, regardless of his presence. As for the future of the home planet, it's beyond his concerns.

After contemplating, he said, "Over these days, surely everyone has sensed something, correct?"

After a silent pause, Chen Li sighed: "Who would have thought, the stellar space isn't singular. This is another stellar space, and their plight is our stellar space's future, truly concerning."

After separating, each attempted to return to their original realm, yet as time passed and information gathered, they found themselves in another stellar space, the realization profoundly astounding.

Like Lu Ye and Jiu Yan, they entered a battlefield base, not coincidentally, but as their only option. As Peak Sun Blaze individuals seeking to forge the Dao foundation, they could reach places with Star Abyss ambience.

Lu Ye and Jiu Yan entered Thunderbolt Battle Fortress; the others dispersed in different bases.

"Once the other five Fellow Daoists are gathered, let's discuss this together. There are many matters to sit down and talk over." Lu Ye suggested.

No one disagreed.

Lu Ye and Jiu Yan sat aside, clearing their filth, while he quietly asked, "Sister, what's your situation?"

Jiu Yan lowered her head, slowly shaking it, expressing dimly.

Though he anticipated, since Lu Ye didn't sense Dao force from Jiu Yan, learning she hadn't forged the Dao foundation was still surprising.

Forging the Dao foundation isn't easy, yet Jiu Yan entered the Enlightenment Pool without succeeding, raising doubts.

Her aptitude and foundation shouldn't be so lacking.

Lu Ye knew little about the Enlightenment Pool, but according to Du Qingsha, it significantly enhances a cultivator's chances to forge the Dao foundation.

Calming his mind, he reassured, "No rush, there's always another opportunity."

If the Star Abyss invasion begins, Sun Blaze cultivators from the All Phenomena Ocean stellar space will have a path forward, though it's both opportunity and calamity.

Inside the calm Spectral Sedan Chair, Su Wan, Zi Ji, and Chong Yue were all captured inside.

Moments after Chong Yue entered, Lu Ye suddenly showed a shocked expression.

Because at that instance, he felt the familiar confinement force resurge within him, immobilizing him and sealing his power within.

This was...the punishment for confronting Charng Feng from the Spectral Sedan Chair.

Wasn't it over? Why has it returned!

Chapter 2106: Star Abyss!

Just when Lu Ye was puzzled, the previously stable Spectral Sedan Chair suddenly shook violently, much like the commotion experienced when traversing through different stellar spaces before.

The eight people inside the sedan, every single one of them, had a change of expression.

Having experienced the Spectral Sedan Chair traversing through different stellar spaces once before, everyone knew what was likely to happen next.

Jiu Yan, sitting beside Lu Ye, grabbed his arm, but upon glancing up, found that not far away, Water Fairy and Su Wan were both rushing towards Lu Ye.

Jiu Yan blinked, bit her lip, leaned over, and fell into Lu Ye's arms, wrapping an arm around his neck and burying her head in his chest.

"This is..." Warm fragrance and soft jade in his embrace, Lu Ye subconsciously held tighter.

"Fellow Daoist Lu, lend a hand." As a fragrant breeze waved over, Su Wan giggled, sat down next to Lu Ye, and firmly clasped his arm, with no intention of letting go.

Water Fairy sat on the other side, her face red, looking down with an unclear expression, but she also held Lu Ye's arm.

Lu Ye was both amused and helpless.

This scene... seemed familiar; only last time, the matter arose abruptly, and it was Water Fairy in his arms. This time it was obvious everyone was prepared, and Water Fairy was replaced by Jiu Yan.

The four on this side were already prepared, while the other four were dumbfounded.

Bewitchment Shadow, still like a fluid mass, found a spot to firmly attach itself, while not forgetting to warn Chong Yue, "You be careful."

Last time, Chong Yue had tormented him quite a bit.

Chong Yue let out a hearty laugh, suddenly shouting out loud, half-squatting and anchoring himself, looking as immovable as a mountain.

On the other side, Chen Li and Zi Ji exchanged a glance, each seeing the other's profound helplessness...

As expected, violent turbulence appeared. Except for the four people on Lu Ye's side and Bewitchment Shadow who managed to stay somewhat stable, the other three couldn't control themselves at all and flew around inside the Spectral Sedan Chair.

A moment later, Bewitchment Shadow couldn't hold on any longer. This time, not only did Chong Yue crash into him, but even Zi Ji and Chen Li bumped into him, forcing him off the sedan's wall, joining the flying chaos. Though more awkward, this was safer.

Amid the bumps, exclamations rang out one after another, a lively affair.

Chen Li shouted, "Everyone, where is the Spectral Sedan Chair taking us this time?"

Last time, after such violent turbulence, they traveled from the All Phenomena Ocean stellar space to the previous stellar space. So what's happening this time? Not only Chen Li, but everyone wanted to know.

Chong Yue's deep voice came, "Maybe it's another Yiyuan stellar space?"

Bewitchment Shadow followed, "I guess it might send us back this time!"

This stellar journey had helped everyone understand many things. Though no one had forged a Dao foundation yet, at least they had acquired methods. Their home stellar space was about to face a Star Abyss invasion, a chance for everyone present. Naturally, Bewitchment Shadow hoped the Spectral Sedan Chair would send them back.

Not only did he harbor this wish, but everyone hoped so too.

"Perhaps it's heading for Star Abyss instead!" Zi Ji said leisurely.

The atmosphere of lively discussion abruptly froze...

If last time everyone felt intrigued and expectant about Star Abyss, after realizing the vast power of Star Abyss, they had no such thoughts anymore.

In the Star Abyss, too many beings existed who could easily kill them!

Chong Yue muttered gloomily, "Fellow Daoist Zi Ji, please... say less."

Chen Li changed the subject, "Speaking of which, where are Fellow Daoists Sacred Eldest One and Wuchen?"

No one replied, and after a while, Chong Yue said, "You too, should say less!"

The Spectral Sedan Chair had taken ten people to the Cover Armor stellar space but only took eight away in the end. It couldn't have been an oversight; the reason Sacred Eldest One and Wuchen didn't appear in the sedan could only be because...

They were dead!

Though no one knew where they had gone after separating from the rest, they likely did the same as the others, entering the front-line battlefield, trying to forge their Dao foundation. However, in such a place, danger lurked everywhere.

The Peak Sun Blaze reckoned supreme at the All Phenomena Ocean stellar space but was at the very bottom on the battlefield, with too many enemies who could kill them.

The survivors present, who hasn't encountered life-and-death situations in these days? All had, but their luck was slightly better, allowing them to survive.

The violent turbulence eventually subsided. When the Spectral Sedan Chair returned to its previous stability, the tightly closed sedan door suddenly opened.

The disheveled group quickly tidied their appearances, gathered at the sedan door, and looked outside.

Not much was visible; the stellar space outside wasn't significantly different from those seen before.

But everyone knew they were no longer in the Cover Armor stellar space. Whether it was their home stellar space or another place, they could only confirm after leaving the Spectral Sedan Chair.

Despite their many years of cultivation, one couldn't help but feel somewhat nervous and apprehensive at this moment.

"Who goes first?" Chen Li turned his head, glancing around.

Chong Yue stepped forward unhesitatingly: "Let me do it."

Last time, he also intended to be the first to go out. After all, the Stone Race naturally has thick skin and strong bodies; if any danger arises, they're better equipped to protect themselves.

Just as he finished speaking, Zi Ji took a step forward and left the spectral sedan chair.

Lu Ye stared at Zi Ji's back, raising his brows slightly. If he wasn't mistaken, Zi Ji had traces of Dao force flowing on his body just now.

This guy... actually forged his Dao foundation? No wonder he is the first Great Demon Venerable of Zixuan Demon Planet.

Zi Ji led the way, and the others followed closely. Moments later, all eight had left the spectral sedan chair.

Then everyone's expression turned stern.

Because the place they found themselves in was shrouded with an extremely dense Star Abyss ambience, surpassing any environment Lu Ye had been in before.

It's important to note that when he followed Du Qingsha to slay enemies, he was at the center of the battlefield, where the Star Abyss ambience was already very rich, only the area closest to the Star Abyss Gate surpassed it.

But here...

"Star Abyss!" Zi Ji frowned.

This was a precise statement. The spectral sedan chair did not send them back to their original stellar space but rather directly to the Star Abyss, undeniably the worst outcome for them all.

"The spectral sedan chair is gone." When Lu Ye turned back, he could no longer see any trace of the spectral sedan chair.

Just like last time, no one noticed when it disappeared. This treasure lives up to its name, elusive and comes and goes without a trace.

"Conceal your presence, let's find a place to hide first and then plan." Zi Ji spoke.

Naturally, no one had any objections.

With his Dao force activated, everyone noticed, after all, they've seen some of the world. Now that Zi Ji is the strongest, he can certainly issue orders.

Zi Ji looked at Bewitchment Shadow: "Fellow Daoist Ying, when it comes to the Path of Concealment, no one in the Specter Race can match you. We'll rely on you to scout the path.

"No problem!" Bewitchment Shadow agreed readily and flew ahead, disappearing from sight in the blink of an eye.

Everyone activated their methods to conceal their presence, avoiding drawing attention from nearby strong individuals, and followed Bewitchment Shadow's lead.

Lu Ye and Jiu Yan stayed at the back, and after proceeding for a while, Water Fairy deliberately slowed her pace to walk alongside him. Her mental consciousness flowed with an audio transmission: "Junior Brother Lu, I noticed you seem to have some grudge with Fellow Daoist Zi Ji?"

She had been in seclusion in the Boundless World for years, unaware of the huge upheaval in the All Phenomena Ocean, so didn't know about Lu Ye's grudge with Zi Ji. Yet, she wasn't foolish and sensed something during their time in the spectral sedan chair.

"Yes." Lu Ye nodded.

Water Fairy said, "Fellow Daoist Zi Ji should have entered the Dao Realm. Now that we have arrived at the Star Abyss, if your grudge isn't too significant, it would be best to find an opportunity to talk to him. After all, we're all from the same stellar space and will rely on each other for survival from now on."

If not for Su Yuqing's relationship, Water Fairy wouldn't involve herself, but since Lu Ye is Su Yuqing's fellow Daoist, she couldn't stand by.

Entering the Dao Realm is a different level. Zi Ji is not currently interested in settling scores with Lu Ye, but no one can guarantee his true intentions. Water Fairy worried that Zi Ji might act against Lu Ye.

"Thank you, Senior Sister, for your concern. I'll find an opportunity." Lu Ye nodded.

Water Fairy said, "If you need help, just speak up anytime."

Lu Ye thanked her again.

It must be said, the Specter Race's abilities naturally suit exploration, especially since Bewitchment Shadow is the current Clan Leader of the Specter Race. Under his guidance, they met no setbacks on their journey, and at times of danger, he warned them in advance, allowing everyone to avoid it.

Half a day later, they finally found a concealed location.

It's a broken desolate planet. From afar, it looks like a bitten fruit, with the remaining areas cratered and uneven, caused by some unknown grand battle.

Under a massive chasm formed by a giant crack, there is a large cave system, with passages extending in all directions, undoubtedly a suitable place for recuperation.

Bewitchment Shadow led the formation setup, with assistance from those skilled in formations. In no time, everything was arranged satisfactorily.

In the massive cavern, the eight of them sat around. Water Fairy took several pearl-like items from her storage ring and placed them around, their gentle light dispelling the darkness.

It wasn't until this moment that everyone could finally breathe a sigh of relief, feeling a faint sense of safety.

There is truly no doubt that this is the Star Abyss. Even here, the Star Abyss ambience is extremely rich. Lu Ye felt that in such a place, even without hunting, just through cultivation, the accumulation of Dao force would be quite significant.

No wonder so many formidable beings emerge from the Star Abyss. It seems mainly related to the cultivation environment.

After a moment of silence, Zi Ji took the initiative to speak: "If you don't mind, could everyone briefly share their experiences in that stellar space? There are some matters I'd like to verify."

No one had any objections, and Zi Ji was the first to share his experience.

It was simple; initially, when he found out he had arrived in another stellar space, he immediately went to the nearest stronghold. From there, he learned the method to forge a Dao foundation and then entered the battlefield.

But just before the spectral sedan chair picked him up again, there seemed to be some major upheaval in that battlefield. Suddenly, the Star Abyss ambience became very dense, and the number and strength of Star Abyss outsiders increased significantly.

Chapter 2107: Weathering the Storm Together

Under the gentle glow, everyone began recounting their own experiences one by one.

Everyone was mostly scattered, although there were some coincidences where they gathered together, such as Bewitchment and Water Fairy entering the same stronghold, and Su Wan and Chong Yue, who always acted together.

However, they all only operated at the battlefield's periphery, and although they sensed the changes at the center of the battlefield, they weren't too clear on the specifics, because during these days, they were all in seclusion, impacting the Dao Realm, and rarely left their secluded places.

Once everyone finished speaking, Lu Ye began to recount what happened to him, selecting stories that could be shared and omitting those that were better left unsaid to avoid being too astonishing.

A moment later, Zi Ji nodded slightly, "It seems it is just as I thought."

"Fellow Daoist Zi Ji, did you notice something?" Chong Yue asked.

Zi Ji said, "Initially, when we were captured by the Spectral Sedan Chair, everyone speculated it would bring us to the Star Abyss, but instead it took us to the Cover Armor stellar space. This is quite perplexing."

Although Zi Ji was not quite in agreement, this mystery was also something Lu Ye couldn't figure out.

Why did the Spectral Sedan Chair initially not take them to the Star Abyss, but then bring them there the second time?

"Moreover, according to what you all just said, various battlefields shifted almost simultaneously, and then the Spectral Sedan Chair appeared, gathering all eight of us." Zi Ji spoke slowly, his voice low, "Additionally, the battlefield's upheaval is likely caused by the expansion of the Star Abyss Gate. The Cover Armor stellar space has been invaded by the Star Abyss for three hundred years, yet the Star Abyss Gate has shown no substantial change. However, the Star Abyss ambience invasion might trigger a qualitative transformation at a certain moment!"

Chen Li's face changed, perhaps understanding what Zi Ji was saying: "Fellow Daoist Zi Ji, you mean..."

"If my predictions are correct, then the Cover Armor stellar space is likely to completely fall within a very short time, and when that happens, there won't be a single Pure Land in the universe, and the Star Abyss ambience will fill every corner of stellar space, and unfortunately, even the Yiyuan stellar space might become part of the Star Abyss!"

Everyone fell silent.

Even though the Cover Armor stellar space wasn't their birthplace, the thought of the Yiyuan stellar space falling so thoroughly still weighed heavily on their hearts.

"There is more than one stellar space, and looking at it this way, many might have already been eroded by the Star Abyss. Our own stellar space..." Chong Yue looked worried, observing that such signs were already evident at the All Phenomena Ocean stellar space; the situation would just worsen in the future. When that time comes, can cultivators from our stellar space do better than those from the Cover Armor stellar space?

"Our own stellar space has been invaded before," Lu Ye spoke.

The words startled everyone, and they turned their heads to look.

Bewitchment asked, "Fellow Daoist Lu, from where did you get this information?"

Lu Ye glanced at him, "You all must have heard of the Blood Ancestor, a terrifying formidable being who can shatter the supreme treasure of Mount Fangcun. Which stellar space do you think could birth such a formidable being?"

Chen Li's expression shifted, "You mean..."

"The Blood Ancestor was birthed in the Star Abyss, and the Insect Race were also native to the Star Abyss. That Insect Race High Priest likely knows some secrets unknown to others, which is why previously, at the All Phenomena Ocean, the Insect Race could utilize certain methods to open the Star Abyss Gate! They connected with the Blood Race, probably intending to return to their ancestral roots after the Star Abyss invasion."

Everyone fell into deep thought, and after a while, Chen Li nodded, "Makes sense!"

Water Fairy's eyes lit up, "Given this, the Star Abyss invasion is not unsolvable. Since our stellar space has dealt with such events before, there must be a solution."

"Unfortunately, there is no record in any race's texts regarding this matter, likely due to the passage of time being too long."

"If talking about the most knowledgeable being in the universe, there is only one, and this being has a long lifespan, born alongside stellar space. He surely experienced the previous Star Abyss invasion, and if seeking this being for insight into Star Abyss matters, one might gain some understanding."

As people conversed, the path gradually opened, and unbidden, a name popped into their minds.

"Reincarnation Tree!"

Lu Ye blinked, suddenly his expression shifted, and he looked down at the back of his hand, a bold idea flashing through his mind.

While everyone was excited, Zi Ji spoke slowly, "Currently, we are drifting in the Star Abyss, utterly clueless on how to return, how can we seek out the Reincarnation Tree for intelligence?"

Chong Yue turned his head, looking at him wryly, "Fellow Daoist Zi Ji... perhaps say less."

Su Wan glanced around, "Spectral Sedan Chair... Even though it took us to the Cover Armor stellar space and then to the Star Abyss, perhaps one day it may suddenly appear again and take us back."

"Here's hoping."

Such is the hope, ultimately...

"The situation is generally understood, and as we are now in the Star Abyss, the first thing we need to do is to secure the power of self-preservation. And to have sufficient self-preservation power in such a place, we need to forge our Dao foundation and enter the Dao Realm!" Zi Ji spoke while slowly looking at everyone, "Besides myself, is there any fellow Daoist who has forged their Dao foundation?"

Although everyone had speculated before, when Zi Ji personally confirmed his success in forging the Dao foundation, they couldn't help but feel envious.

"Isn't there a single one?" Zi Ji looked at everyone and sighed, "Since this is the case, then I ask all of you to retreat and cultivate diligently in the coming days, entering the Dao Realm as soon as possible. During this time, I will protect you all, and if you have any doubts or difficulties, come find me. I will share without reserve!"

As soon as he spoke, several people looked at him with extreme astonishment, never expecting that the number one Great Demon Venerable of Zixuan would act with such frankness and generosity.

Bewitchment Shadow was the first to shout, "Fellow Daoist Zi Ji, high virtue!"

The others also expressed their gratitude one after another.

Zi Ji replied calmly, "We, having fallen into such dire straits, should indeed help each other. Perhaps in the future, I might have places where I'll need to seek help from you all."

"Absolutely!" Chen Li nodded continuously, "To this vast Star Abyss, we are now but guests; we must huddle together for warmth. The Star Abyss ambience here is intense, and for us, forming our Dao foundation should not be an issue—it's just a matter of time. When the time comes, the eight of us in the Dao Realm can join forces and venture through this vast Star Abyss."

"Then I shall await good tidings from Fellow Daoists." Zi Ji gave a slight bow, then his gaze turned toward Lu Ye: "Lu Yiye, we need to have a good talk."

Lu Ye met his gaze: "I have the same thought!"

The originally warm atmosphere suddenly froze; everyone more or less perceived the grudges between Zi Ji and Lu Ye, and Bewitchment Shadow and Chong Yue were even more aware of the specifics.

Chong Yue frowned immediately: "Fellow Daoist Zi Ji, weren't you just advocating mutual assistance? This is the Star Abyss; can we set aside starry grudges temporarily?"

Water Fairy also gently advised, "Yes, Fellow Daoist Zi Ji, as the saying goes, it's better to resolve enmities than to make them. Although I don't know what grudges exist between you two, when will the cycle of retribution end?"

Zi Ji gave them a faint glance, waving his hand: "Don't worry, if I wanted to kill him, I would have done so long ago, I wouldn't wait until now. It's just that some things... must be discussed to avoid having thorns in our hearts, making future interactions unpleasant!"

Hearing this, Lu Ye was somewhat surprised. He had originally thought Zi Ji would take this chance to seek revenge, but now it seemed he had no such intention?

During the battle in the Jade Conch Galaxy, Zixuan had lost ten Demon Venerables and ten thousand demon cultivators—a grudge so deep, could Zi Ji really let it go?

After pondering for a moment, Lu Ye looked toward Chong Yue and Water Fairy, smiling slightly: "Thank you both for your kind intentions. I also want to have a good talk with the Demon Venerable. The Demon Venerable's word is golden; if he says he won't kill me, naturally he won't act. You two needn't worry."

Chong Yue and Water Fairy both nodded.

In this situation, Zi Ji had no need to employ means that would sow discord internally.

Soon everyone dispersed, each seeking a place to cultivate; even Jiu Yan left.

Only Lu Ye and Zi Ji remained seated across from each other at a distance of a few yards.

With eyes meeting, Zi Ji slowly spoke: "You have quite the courage; no wonder you caused such a stir in the All Phenomena Ocean!"

He didn't sense any vigilance or worry from Lu Ye.

"Demon Venerable over-praises!" Lu Ye replied calmly.

"Do you know why I don't kill you?" Zi Ji asked.

"I invite the Demon Venerable's guidance!"

Zi Ji didn't respond immediately, instead fell silent for a moment before continuing: "Regarding the attack on the Nine Provinces, I was unaware. For the past hundreds of years, I have been in secluded cultivation, indifferent to worldly matters, thus the affair with the Nine Provinces has nothing to do with me. However, the loss of so many elites from Zixuan is a fact. By rights, I should kill you to honor the spirits of those young lads who died."

As he said this, a hint of killing intent flashed in his eyes, but it quickly subsided.

"If you were alone, killing would be easy! But now you are the master of the All Phenomena Ocean, with a vast force under your command. If I were to kill you here, once the news spreads back to the All Phenomena Ocean, the forces between you and me cannot coexist. With Star Abyss's invasion, all forces in the Cover Armor stellar space should unite, casting aside sect differences, achieving internal harmony, yet still failing to withstand the great tide. If our home stellar space's forces were to fall into conflict, it might fare no better than the Cover Armor stellar space."

"Demon Venerable sees clearly!" Lu Ye now truly praised. After understanding the various aspects of the Star Abyss invasion, he too did not want to escalate conflicts with Zi Ji, otherwise even if Zi Ji really forged a Dao foundation, he could still be killed.

Before the descending great tide, grudges in the stellar space no longer mattered.

He understood this point, and so did Zi Ji.

Shifting the topic, Lu Ye then said: "Is the Demon Venerable certain we can return to our home stellar space?"

Zi Ji's gaze was deep: "There will always be a chance. At worst, during a Star Abyss invasion, a Star Abyss Gate will connect through; once the corresponding Star Abyss Gate is found, naturally we can return." His eyes became sharp, intently watching Lu Ye: "Today, I don't kill you, am even willing to shelter you, but you must agree to one condition of mine!"

Lu Ye raised an eyebrow: "Please tell, Demon Venerable."

"The descending great tide is unstoppable. When that day comes, if we have the chance to return to our home stellar space, I hope when Zixuan faces difficulties, you can lend a helping hand! Don't say you lack the capability; I know someone under you controls a stellar space supreme treasure; against such a treasure's might, no matter how strong the Star Abyss cultivators are, it's useless."

Lu Ye immediately understood, this was the main reason Zi Ji was willing to set aside grudges. No matter how grandly he spoke before, it was all a prelude.

"No problem!"

Chapter 2108: Sun Blaze Mid-Stage, Jiuyan's Troubles

The group of eight settled down, each finding a place to cultivate. Having arrived in the Star Abyss, and with only Zi Ji in the team having forged a Dao foundation, everyone naturally kept to the principle of acting low-key.

After Lu Ye's discussion with Zi Ji, the atmosphere within the team also became more peaceful than ever.

Everyone understood their own situation. To the entire Star Abyss, they were the outsiders, so naturally they had to huddle together for warmth and unite everyone's strength.

Zi Ji was responsible for sitting in town and watching the four directions, guarding against any crises that might arise.

Lu Ye wasn't idle either. He spent a few days visiting everyone's seclusion spots, then set up Teleportation Arrays at their locations, and gave them some additional instructions and warnings.

In this way, even if some danger really did appear and Zi Ji couldn't make it in time to rescue them, these Sun Blaze cultivators scattered about could still use the Teleportation Arrays to leave in time.

The other end of the Teleportation Arrays was where Lu Ye himself was located.

Only after doing all this did Lu Ye begin his own cultivation.

He checked the Dao force carried by the Talent Tree and found that there were just over two hundred left.

One had to know that at his peak, his Dao force had been close to five hundred, but in that final battle the enemies were too many, and the consumption of Dao force had been extremely severe. Moreover, at that time both his true body and the Talent Tree Avatar had been consuming together, so the loss was naturally huge.

Just over two hundred Dao force could barely maintain a 6th Dao level, but couldn't support a drawn-out battle.

The most urgent matter was still to first accumulate his own Dao force.

He urged the might of the Talent Tree, constructed many small spirit energy gathering funnels around himself, and as Lu Ye sank his mind into cultivation, he immediately sensed how fast cultivation was in such a place.

This was already the Star Abyss; the Star Abyss ambience was extremely dense, so cultivating here was naturally far more efficient than back then.

In less than two days, another strand of Dao force appeared upon the leaves of the Talent Tree; such efficiency was downright terrifying.

Time passed, the desolate planet remained silent. Occasionally, the aura of living beings swept past nearby, some strong, some weak, but with the Array's concealment, as long as these Star Abyss cultivators did not delve deeply to investigate, they absolutely would not discover them.

Three months flashed by.

On this day, while Lu Ye was immersed in cultivation and unable to extricate himself, he suddenly opened his eyes. The nearby Teleportation Array stirred; someone should have transmitted over.

He quickly probed the surroundings and, after confirming there was no major abnormality, focused his gaze.

The next instant, Chong Yue's burly figure emerged from the Array, radiant with energy.

Lu Ye glanced at him and immediately cupped his fists. "Congratulations, Fellow Daoist, on entering the Dao Realm and leaping through the dragon gate."

In three months' time, someone among those six had finally forged a Dao foundation, though Lu Ye hadn't expected the first to be Chong Yue.

Chong Yue laughed heartily. "Just a fluke, just a fluke. Mainly, this environment is more suited to cultivating the Smelting Furnace Method than the place I stayed before. As per Fellow Daoist's earlier instructions, I've come specially to seek guidance."

Back in the Cover Armor stellar space, although Chong Yue had entered the battlefield, he hadn't gone very deep. The Star Abyss ambience there wasn't very dense, so its help in forging a Dao foundation was naturally inferior to the environment here.

Now that he had changed environments and had his deep, profound foundation as a base, everything came together smoothly.

The reason he came over, of course, was because when Lu Ye had set up the Teleportation Arrays for them earlier, he had repeatedly told everyone that after forging a Dao foundation, they were to come find him at once, as there were things he needed to give them.

"I don't dare claim much; it's just some common knowledge about the Cover Armor stellar space." Lu Ye handed Chong Yue a jade slip he had prepared in advance. The contents were what Du Qingsha had given him back then. After some organizing and distilling, he kept what he thought would help Chong Yue and the others.

Chong Yue's expression turned solemn as he picked it up to examine.

A moment later, a look of realization appeared on his face. "So that's how it is. I have to first determine exactly which Dao level I'm at. Only then can I cultivate in a targeted way."

If Chong Yue was a 5th Dao cultivator, then the subsequent cultivation would be simple. He'd just need to accumulate his Dao force to over two hundred, then he could start polishing his second Dao Bone.

If he wasn't yet 5th Dao, then he'd have to continue deepening his own foundation, raising himself to 5th Dao.

Right now, with his Dao foundation newly formed, Chong Yue didn't have a single strand of Dao force, so he naturally couldn't determine which Dao level he was at.

For a cultivator like him who had just entered the Dao Realm, even though his speed at refining Star Abyss ambience would increase significantly due to having his own Dao foundation, accumulating Dao force would still take some time. Before he had enough Dao force, he didn't have much combat power.

Chong Yue's entry into the Dao Realm was just a beginning. Over the next two months, Su Wan and Water Fairy also entered the Dao Realm one after another, and after some time accumulating, Chong Yue finally confirmed that he was a 5th Dao cultivator, which showed how deep his foundation was.

Counting himself and Zi Ji, among the eight there were only three left who hadn't entered the Dao Realm.

But when it came down to actual combat strength, it was still only him and Zi Ji who really had it; Chong Yue barely counted as half, and Su Wan and Water Fairy couldn't be relied on in the short term.

It was time to go out once.

Lu Ye silently planned in his heart. If he wanted everyone to gain combat strength matching their realm more quickly, going out to hunt Star Abyss cultivators and obtain Dao Bones was undoubtedly the best choice.

Because refining Dao Bones for Dao force was much more efficient than pure cultivation.

He had already had this plan before, because in clashes between Dao Realm cultivators, when the gap in strength wasn't too big, numbers often became the key to victory. Helping the others improve their strength would also allow them to better protect themselves in this Star Abyss.

He didn't rush to set out. Instead, he took out a large number of spirit jades and spirit crystals, scattered them around, and urged the Talent Tree's power to begin refining.

He felt that he was already not far from Sun Blaze Mid-Stage.

During this period, although he had been constantly refining Star Abyss ambience to obtain Dao force, the Star Abyss ambience also contained a large amount of stellar space spirit energy, so while gaining Dao force, his cultivation was also accumulating.

According to his previous speculation, if he could advance to Sun Blaze Mid-Stage, he should be able to easily control the 6th Dao, and wouldn't feel that crushing pressure like before.

As the saying goes, sharpening the axe won't delay the chopping of wood; this bit of time was something Lu Ye could afford to wait.

Spirit jade and spirit crystal were consumed in large quantities, and Lu Ye completely forgot himself, immersed in cultivation.

After a full half month, Lu Ye's body suddenly trembled, the circulation of Mana in his body abruptly sped up by a level, and a feeling as if some invisible shackle had been broken arose spontaneously.

Sun Blaze Mid-Stage!

He slowly opened his eyes, and just as he was about to verify his earlier conjecture, he suddenly discovered a familiar figure sitting not far away.

"Senior Sister? When did you come?"

The one sitting there was actually Jiu Yan. Just now he had been focused on his breakthrough and hadn't noticed her arrival. Of course, that was mainly because Jiu Yan harbored no hostility toward him; if it had been Zi Ji coming over instead, he would have sensed it at the first moment.

Jiu Yan didn't speak, only gazed at him with deep, shadowy eyes.

"Senior Sister, did you encounter some difficulty?" Lu Ye's heart tightened. He didn't know what had happened on Jiu Yan's side, and quickly sent out his Mental Consciousness to probe. There wasn't much change in Jiu Yan; it seemed she still hadn't forged her Dao foundation.

Just as Lu Ye was puzzled, she had already stood up, then walked step by step to stand in front of him, looking down at him from above.

Lu Ye raised his head, even more confused. "Senior Sister?"

Jiu Yan's expression shifted, as if she had made a huge decision, then she lifted a hand, pressed a fingertip to Lu Ye's forehead, and gently pushed backward.

Completely unprepared, Lu Ye was pushed straight down onto the ground.

His body suddenly felt a weight on it, and when he looked again, Jiu Yan had already sat down. Her head was lowered, both hands braced against her own chest, her body faintly trembling as she whispered, "The Smelting Furnace Method—body transformation furnace, smelt one's entire foundation, only then can one forge one's own Dao foundation. In this process, one must be without thoughts, without ideas, without self, without form!"

She slowly lifted her face, looking at Lu Ye with a complicated expression. "I can't do it!"

Lu Ye was stunned.

Forging the Dao foundation with the Smelting Furnace Method—of course he knew of this. It was just that he had never cultivated this method himself, so how could he know the intricacies within?

Only now, after hearing Jiu Yan's words, did he finally understand why after so long, Jiu Yan had still not been able to Enter the Path into the Dao Realm.

It wasn't that her foundation wasn't enough, nor that her cultivation technique was wrong, but that she had distracting thoughts in her heart—in other words, she had an unresolved heart knot.

And this heart knot...

He hadn't expected that the accident between him and Ban Ci would become Jiu Yan's source of trouble at a time like this.

With a sigh, Lu Ye raised a hand to seal the nearby Teleportation Array, then activated all the Formations he had previously arranged, isolating inside from outside. With his other hand he wrapped around Jiu Yan's slightly trembling shoulders and gently flipped their positions.

Since there was a heart knot, it could only be shattered; this was also the reason Jiu Yan had come looking for him.

...

With the heart knot dispelled, Jiu Yan should have no problem Entering the Path into the Dao Realm. This could be seen just from how, with cheeks flushed but her whole body light and carefree, she left.

Since even Jiu Yan was about to step into the Dao Realm, then he, on his side, even more so needed to go hunt Dao Bones.

Having made up his mind, Lu Ye immediately took action.

He first went to find Zi Ji.

A moment later, Zi Ji stared at him in shock. "What? You want to hunt Star Abyss cultivators to obtain Dao Bones? Do you have any idea what you're saying?"

He sized Lu Ye up from head to toe, as if wanting to see how much weight Lu Ye really carried.

Lu Ye naturally knew what doubts he held in his heart, so he raised a finger and pointed toward Zi Ji, urging his Dao force. "Demon Venerable, would you like to give it a try?"

Zi Ji frowned and likewise extended a finger to point out. His body then shook, and his face filled with shock. "You actually have Dao force! How many Daos have you opened?"

"The 6th Dao!" Lu Ye didn't conceal it.

"Impossible!" Even with his having lived for who knew how many years, he still found such a thing hard to accept. "This is absolutely impossible."

But the fact was right in front of his eyes. From that brief exchange just now, Lu Ye's ability to wield Dao force was indeed above his own.

He, after all, was a 5th Dao cultivator!

Beside shock, his face was full of lingering fear.

Fortunately, back then he hadn't developed any intent to kill Lu Ye, but instead, after a candid talk, had turned hostility into friendship; otherwise, the one who would have died would definitely have been himself!

This guy hides really deep!

Mainly because no one would ever think that with Lu Ye's current cultivation he could actually be a 6th Dao. One must know that any 6th Dao, placed in the Cover Armor stellar space, was a powerhouse who presided over a region.

Zi Ji suddenly realized something. "Because of the Dao Tree?"

All the inconceivable things about Lu Ye—if one had to find a single source, it would absolutely be the Dao Tree. This was a Supreme Treasure inheritance; how many mysteries it contained, no one knew.

Chapter 2109: Hunt

After a discussion with Zi Ji, Lu Ye departed.

Simultaneously, he left a talent tree avatar stationed at his original position.

Since the shared Dao force wasn't substantial, the avatar could only exert the strength of the 5th Dao. Thus, including Zi Ji, there were two guardians with 5th Dao strength protecting the place. As long as no overly powerful intruder came, there shouldn't be any major issues.

Moreover, as long as the main body remained connected to the avatar, Lu Ye could return at any moment using the Void spirit runes, providing timely support in case of danger.

The Star Abyss ambience was incredibly mysterious, heavily suppressing a cultivator's mental consciousness, which could only be alleviated by using Dao force to enhance it.

However, doing so invisibly consumed the Dao force.

Therefore, in the Star Abyss, cultivators wouldn't waste their hard-earned Dao force unless necessary.

In such an environment, the weak undoubtedly could hide themselves more easily.

As Lu Ye proceeded along his path, he occasionally encountered some Star Abyss living creatures, but after a few skirmishes, he discovered that the Star Abyss was not entirely populated by strong beings. At least the ones he killed did not have Dao bones and could only wield a trace of Dao force.

After half a day, he finally acquired his first loot.

This loot came from a large star beast with the strength of the 3rd Dao. With Lu Ye's current capabilities, such a star beast was no concern to him.

Extracting the Dao bone, he held it in the palm of his hand, and using the talent tree's power, he refined it.

In the following days, Lu Ye acquired more loot, refining them all steadily and quickly accumulating his own Dao force.

Only after his Dao force exceeded 400 did Lu Ye transport his loot through the Void spirit runes to the talent tree avatar, which then passed it to several others who had entered the Dao Realm, assisting them in accumulating their own power.

Ninety percent of the subsequent loot was sent back, and he retained only ten percent for himself.

On this day, Lu Ye sensed a sharp aura lingering in a distant area, immediately becoming vigilant.

In the Star Abyss, most living creatures were cautious, rarely flaunting, as dangers were everywhere, and no one knew if they might encounter someone stronger, which usually led to an unpromising outcome.

However, the aura ahead was so clear even from afar, indicating that the individual had strong confidence in their ability.

Lu Ye pondered briefly, tried to conceal his own aura, and approached quietly.

Though he hadn't engaged the opponent yet and was unsure of their strength, Lu Ye wasn't too worried, as his avatar could assist from afar. If danger arose, he could flee using the Void spirit runes unless the opponent possessed the ability to kill him instantly with one strike.

With his current strength, only an 8th Dao expert could achieve that, and Lu Ye didn't think he was that unlucky.

Moments later, he finally saw the owner of that aura.

It was a member of the Winged Race with pure white wings. Though the Winged Race existed in the All Phenomena Ocean's stellar space, they weren't a large race with a significant population. Lu Ye had seen a few in All Phenomena Ocean.

Getting closer, Lu Ye realized why this individual revealed their aura so recklessly — the aura was not just sharp, but also had a chaotic and confusing feel.

This guy... seemed to have lost his mind.

Lu Ye blinked, recalling his days with Team A-3 and Du Qingsha hunting Star Abyss outsiders with befuddled minds; they had encountered several, varying in strength. The Cover Armor stellar space cultivators referred to these unsettled individuals as bedlamites!

They were consumed by slaughter, and any living thing that appeared in their view became an enemy.

The number of bedlamites was not negligible, indicating this was a consistent phenomenon in the Star Abyss. However, no one knew why the bedlamites were mentally disturbed.

This bedlamite of the Winged Race seemed to be quite strong, but the exact strength could only be determined through combat.

Stealthily approaching, the Winged Race bedlamite stood quietly, seemingly unaware.

Until at some point, he suddenly turned his head, gazing towards Lu Ye's location.

No matter how careful, there's always a chance of being exposed. Almost simultaneously with the Winged Race turning, Lu Ye sprang forward, attacking.

The Winged Race's reaction was swift; even as his head turned, his body moved. His eyes were blood-red, full of what seemed like bloodstains, a distinct symptom of a bedlamite.

He suddenly twisted his body horizontally, his two wings like fan blades, exuding threads of white light, cascading towards Lu Ye like rain or a waterfall, while his body followed closely behind, with unstoppable momentum.

Uncertain of the opponent's strength, Lu Ye dared not underestimate, immediately channeling the power of the 6 Dao, weaving it into his mana, protecting himself.

As he anticipated, following his cultivation's promotion to mid-Sunshine realm and enhancement in foundation, he was now truly a 6th Dao cultivator.

No longer did he bear the enormous burden of wielding the power of the 6 Dao, though forcibly channeling the power of the 7 Dao would still cause strain.

In other words, he now had the combat power of the 7 Dao, though it couldn't be sustained for long.

The white attack fell on Lu Ye's body, all blocked by protective magic, and in an instant, the two figures collided with each other.

The long blade slashed down, the power of the 6th Dao burst forth.

Under the eradication of the Dao, the protective spirit light on the Winged Race shattered, the sharp blade directly cut off one of his arms, along with the wing on that side.

As they passed by each other, Lu Ye thought it a pity. If that slash had been a bit faster, it might have killed the opponent instantly, but even though the opponent's mind was impaired, his instinct was intact. At the crucial moment, he twisted his body, narrowly surviving.

Through this brief confrontation, Lu Ye also discerned the opponent's strength.

5th Dao! Weaker than himself.

Lu Ye felt assured, turned and launched an attack.

Severely injured, the Winged Race roared in anger. If he still had sanity, he would have realized he wasn't a match and fled, but now not only did he not escape, he looked determined to fight to the death with Lu Ye, which undoubtedly hastened his demise.

Moments later, the battle subsided, Lu Ye took a piece of Dao Bone from the Winged Race's body, used Void Spirit Runes to teleport back to the doppelganger, and left calmly.

This was the first 5th Dao cultivator Lu Ye had encountered so far. Although the opponent was a bedlamite, his strength was genuine.

Jiu Yan had already successfully established a Dao foundation, this piece of Dao Bone from the 5th Dao cultivator should help her accumulate a significant amount of Dao force in a short time.

Days passed by, almost every day, Lu Ye sent back various amounts of loot.

A half year's worth of hunting made him intimately familiar with the surroundings within a hundred thousand miles. Several times, he encountered danger, facing insurmountable strongmen, relying on Void Spirit Runes in moments of crisis to save his life.

This gradually made him realize something: the area where the Spectral Sedan Chair brought them isn't too dangerous. Otherwise, it wouldn't have been so peaceful for so long.

Lu Ye didn't know how big the Star Abyss was, but he knew it undoubtedly housed more formidable beings than the ones he had encountered.

Take the Cover Armor stellar space, for instance, once an 8th Dao strongman entered the Star Abyss and never returned, obviously there were beings stronger than the 8th Dao in it.

If he had truly encountered such a strongman, Lu Ye felt he might not even have the chance to construct Void Spirit Runes.

This long period of hunting also made Lu Ye realize something: although most of the living creatures in Star Abyss roam alone, it doesn't mean there are no existing forces.

Nearby lies a force where many Star Abyss cultivators gather, and Lu Ye's hunting in this area seems to have caught their attention.

Lu Ye understood clearly that this place could not be stayed in for long.

Almost a year after the Spectral Sedan Chair brought everyone to Star Abyss, with Chen Li establishing a Dao foundation, all eight entered the Dao Realm!

Among them, Zi Ji, Chong Yue, Jiu Yan, Su Wan were of the 5th Dao, while Water Fairy, Bewitchment Shadow, and Chen Li were of the 4th Dao, showcasing the strict selection standards of the Spectral Sedan Chair in the past. If Sacred Eldest One and Wuchen hadn't died, they would have at least reached the 4th Dao after establishing a Dao foundation.

After so long, Lu Ye's efforts finally paid off. Each person present, regardless of the count, has accumulated a considerable amount of Dao force, basically dozens of dao, even Chen Li who advanced last accrued nearly a dozen strands of Dao force.

Great Demon Venerable Zi Ji even tried to refine his second Dao Bone once, but unfortunately, failed, leaving him deeply saddened.

In the large cave where they initially arrived, almost a year later, the eight gathered again.

Compared to the bewilderment and helplessness of a year ago, the group now was obviously more spirited. For cultivators like them, as long as there is a path to grow stronger, there is hope regardless of the harsh environment.

In contrast, back in the All Phenomena Ocean stellar space, even living in luxury and ruling a region, the future was bleak.

The eight sat in a circle, only Lu Ye's voice echoed.

He recounted everything he had discovered over these days, emphasizing the existence of a nearby force. As soon as he finished, Zi Ji immediately grasped the situation: "So, we can't stay here any longer."

Lu Ye nodded: "Exactly, I don't know how strong that force is, but lately they've been sending cultivators out to search for my traces. Even though our hiding place is discreet, they will eventually find us, and conflicts will arise."

"Then we must move!"

"Where should we go?" someone asked.

They all looked at each other, no one could offer a solution. Since arriving at Star Abyss, they hadn't gathered enough information to know where to go.

"If anyone lacks direction, then follow me." Lu Ye spoke, "Perhaps... I can find a way back!"

Everyone was stunned.

Chong Yue looked at him: "A path back? Brother Lu, do you know how to return?"

The expressions of the others also became enthusiastic. If they could really go back, it's what they all desired.

Chapter 2110: Golden Rice Bowl

It's quite ironic to say, hearing about the legends of the Star Abyss within the Spectral Sedan Chair, everyone was extremely eager for it.

Now that they've come to the Star Abyss, they all want to go back.

But that's human nature. The path forward is already in their grasp. The All Phenomena Ocean's stellar space could be invaded by the Star Abyss at any time. If these cultivators in the Dao Realm can return in time, the help they could provide to the entire stellar space is unimaginable.

However, if they want to return, they need to find the Spectral Sedan Chair, which appears and disappears unpredictably, and no one knows when it will show up next or where it will take them.

Therefore, when Lu Ye mentioned he might be able to take them back, one can imagine the surprise and excitement among them.

"It's just a possibility, I can't be sure!" Lu Ye spoke while raising one hand slightly, and with a slight activation of his mana, a peculiar mark suddenly appeared on the back of his hand.

They are all well-informed, so when this mark appeared, almost everyone felt a vague sense of familiarity, as if they had seen or heard of it somewhere before.

After a brief contemplation, Zi Ji realized: "Is this the Reincarnation Tree mark?"

"The Demon Venerable has sharp eyes, indeed it's the Reincarnation Tree mark!" Lu Ye nodded.

Chong Yue also realized: "I see, Brother Lu, this mark is your reliance for taking us back?"

Water Fairy spoke softly: "I heard only those favored by the Reincarnation Tree can be bestowed with the mark, and such marks don't appear even once in a thousand or several thousand years. Those who

receive it all achieve great fame, and as long as they are in the stellar space, those with the mark can teleport to the Reincarnation Tree!"

Su Wan's eyes also brightened: "This is the Star Abyss, isolated from the stellar space, so it's certainly impossible to teleport back to the Reincarnation Tree. But since this mark was bestowed by the Tree Elder, it must have a slight connection to his original form, if we follow this connection..."

Lu Ye looked at her: "It's very weak, I can only sense a general direction."

This connection he had sensed a year ago, sometimes there and sometimes not, so weak it was almost undetectable, but nonetheless, it was a direction.

Searching for the Spectral Sedan Chair is unrealistic; following the guidance of the Reincarnation Tree mark is more practical.

These days, he has been waiting for others to establish their Dao foundations, so that when traveling, everyone would have sufficient power to protect themselves. Thus, even without the potential threat from the nearby faction, Lu Ye was ready to take everyone away.

Others are concerned about the All Phenomena Ocean's stellar space, and he is no exception, all his family is over there.

As for why there could still be a slight connection with the Tree Elder while being in the Star Abyss, Lu Ye has his own guesses.

If the stellar space were stable, then there shouldn't be any connection, but the All Phenomena Ocean's stellar space had been corroded by the Star Abyss long ago, the entire stellar space already had flaws, and previously the Insect Race had opened the Star Abyss Gate over there.

Although the Constellation Palace later exerted power to seal it, the stellar space on that side had experienced problems. The Reincarnation Tree is a supreme treasure, so it's not strange that the mark on Lu Ye's hand has a slight potential connection to it.

"A general direction is enough!" Chong Yue became excited.

"Then what are we waiting for? There's no time to lose, let's set off now?" Chen Li shouted.

Everyone looked at Lu Ye with anticipation.

But Lu Ye said: "Before we set off, I want to do something big!"

"What do you mean?" Zi Ji raised an eyebrow.

Lu Ye slowly spoke: "Hunt the seven-power creature!"

Zi Ji took a deep breath, looking at Lu Ye as if gazing at a heavenly being, and the others were also inexplicably shocked.

Tens of thousands of miles away from the desolate planet where they were hiding, there was a not-so-large stellar marvel with a peculiar shape, like a small bowl.

From a distance, it glimmered with golden light.

Lu Ye named it the Golden Rice Bowl.

Out of curiosity, he came to investigate once and encountered a star beast with the strength of the seven-power. Lu Ye had a brief skirmish with it and left. Although he too could unleash the power of seven-power in a burst, he couldn't sustain it for long. Naturally, he wouldn't risk his life.

If it were just this seven-power star beast, it wouldn't matter. The key was, when Lu Ye left, he discovered a peculiar tree. It wasn't a Spirit Plant he recognized; the entire tree was dotted with starlight, seemingly forged from it, and it seemed to bear a few fruit-like items!

Later, Lu Ye went to investigate a few more times, and that seven-power star beast was always there, seemingly guarding the tree and its fruits.

Though unclear about what the tree exactly was, Lu Ye knew that anything regarded and protected by a seven-power star beast was no ordinary thing!

Knowing now that there is a treasure in the Star Abyss, how could he miss it?

Excitedly, a group of them, led by Lu Ye, headed toward the Golden Rice Bowl. Before they even reached it, they saw colorful lights interwoven and bursting, feeling the residual waves of mana battles from afar.

Lu Ye paused in his steps.

"Why is there a fight over there?" Chong Yue was full of doubt.

Lu Ye exerted his ocular power to observe and discovered that the two factions engaged in battle were the seventh Dao star beast and a group of over twenty figures, led by a Flame Race member engulfed in flames.

Judging by the fierce clash between the Flame Race member and the star beast, this guy is clearly a seventh Dao as well!

Despite him restraining the star beast, the Star Abyss cultivators under his command suffered numerous casualties, and those still alive were almost all injured.

"It's from the nearby faction!" Lu Ye immediately concluded.

Previously, he was curious why the nearby faction hadn't come to the Golden Rice Bowl area to hunt beasts and seize treasures. He initially thought the faction lacked a strong figure. Now it seems that's not the case.

If not due to a lack of strength, then it's about timing.

Previously, the Star Abyss cultivators of this faction hadn't acted because the timing was not right. Now that the opportunity has arrived, they can't hold back any longer.

At this thought, Lu Ye felt a movement in his heart, realizing that arriving early isn't as good as arriving timely.

"Stay hidden. If I don't act, no one should act rashly!" Lu Ye ordered, before stealthily approaching the battlefield.

The others followed closely, each concealing their presence.

The melee at the Golden Rice Bowl was intense and fiery, with no one noticing another group lurking on the battlefield's edge, stealthily spying.

The seventh Dao star beast resembled a sphere covered with countless eyes, densely packed. Each opening and closure of these eyes emitted a dark ray. This made its attacks nearly seamless, forcing the Flame Race members, despite their numbers, to rely on attrition tactics unable to swiftly kill the beast.

Lu Ye instantly knew that, under these circumstances, even if they killed the seventh Dao star beast, they wouldn't gain much because when the star beast dies, it will exhaust its Dao force.

However, the Flame Race's target seems to be not the star beast but the fruit on the tree!

Lu Ye turned to look, noticing both sides of the fierce clash were consciously avoiding the tree's area, clearly afraid the clash might destroy the tree.

Should he secretly pick the fruits now? If he went now, it would likely be easy to succeed. Lu Ye thought this but quickly dismissed the idea, knowing that doing so would make him a target for both sides. Alone, it wouldn't matter, but the other seven don't have his strength, and regardless of who wins, the other side would suffer significant losses, perhaps presenting an opportunity.

The battle raged with the Flame Race suffering increasing numbers of casualties under his command, yet he seemed indifferent. Even when chances to rescue his subordinates arose, he ignored them, almost as if willingly allowing them to die.

Under such intense conflict, the seventh Dao star beast's Dao force rapidly depleted.

With support from his subordinates, the Flame Race's Dao force was consumed much less than the star beast's.

After half a day, the star beast weakened further, accumulating more injuries and growing increasingly severe.

Then at a certain moment, the Flame Race member swung a punch, engulfing the star beast in fierce flames. Amidst a pained scream, the star beast's vitality extinguished.

After such a prolonged confrontation, the Flame Race had undeniably expended much energy, especially after the final strike, leaving him with a somewhat fatigued look.

He had only under ten Star Abyss cultivators left under his command. Those who survived such a battle undoubtedly were no novices, and from Lu Ye's observation, they were at least fourth Dao, with one even suspected to be sixth Dao!

Despite the massive losses, the Flame Race member still showed a satisfied expression after slaying the seventh Dao star beast, ready to issue the order when he suddenly sensed something. He turned to see two identical figures suddenly appear, one bare-handed and the other wielding a long blade, swiftly closing in near the sixth Dao cultivator under his command.

"Watch out!" The Flame Race member roared in anger, rushing to aid immediately.

The sixth Dao cultivator also sensed the crisis, fiercely channeling energy to protect himself while attempting to retreat, yet it was too late.

Lu Ye's true body and doppelganger teamed up like a pair of scissors, swiftly moving past the sixth Dao cultivator, blood spurting as they instantly slaughtered him on the spot!

Over time, Lu Ye had accumulated over seven hundred Dao force, allowing him, even when divided, to unleash the power of seven Dao. The doppelganger wielded six Dao.

In contrast, the opposing side was in the post-victory relaxation phase, and caught in this carefully planned ambush, survival was impossible.

The sudden turn of events made the surviving Star Abyss cultivators freeze. No one had anticipated being caught in the scheme of the mantis stalks cicada unaware of the yellow bird behind.

As they suddenly recovered, they were horrified to find more than two assailants.

Following Lu Ye's action, Zi Ji and the others also launched attacks, each showing a solemn expression, with Chong Yue leading the charge resembling a towering mountain, instilling a strong sense of security.

Bewitchment Shadow had melded into the environment, waiting to strike before anyone noticed his presence.

The remaining group unleashed various tactics, attacking the enemy without hesitation.

Lu Ye's true body confronted the seventh Dao Flame Race member, while the Talent Tree Avatar swiftly maneuvered towards the enemy cluster. Midway, blood light erupted, spreading Blood Sea!

Priority in eliminating the suspected sixth Dao figure was mainly to quickly wrap things up because, on a comprehensive level, the enemy wasn't inferior to theirs. Even though they had endured a hard-fought battle, leaving that sixth Dao figure would still pose a challenge.

Now the situation was different, with Lu Ye's true body engaging the Flame Race member, while the doppelganger spread the Blood Sea to assist the others. The remaining Star Abyss cultivators stood no chance of survival.