

Humanity 2161

Chapter 2161: Killing a Dao Fusion

The Talent Tree Avatar had swept in from the side, trying to intercept, but ultimately was a little too slow. If Mann Shan achieved his escape momentum, it would turn into a chase, and all previous efforts might come to nothing.

However, at that moment, Lu Ye suddenly shook the Boulder Mountain Saber in his hand.

Invisible ripples spread out, brushing across the surrounding Void.

Mann Shan, who was about to escape, suddenly felt an intense pain at the wound on his severed arm and chest, as if some dormant power within had erupted, transforming into invisible hands ripping open the injury he had painstakingly suppressed.

Blood spurted wildly.

Mann Shan, wracked with pain, couldn't help but pause.

The eruption of the barghest's power achieved wonders, as it was this moment of delay that finally allowed the Talent Tree Avatar to catch up.

Without weapons, the Avatar wielded its fists and unleashed a flurry of wild assaults against Mann Shan.

"Get lost!" Mann Shan furiously retaliated, throwing a punch back.

Based on previous encounters, this punch would surely repel Lu Ye's Talent Tree Avatar, giving him room to continue his escape.

Nevertheless, he miscalculated or underestimated Lu Ye's determination to kill him.

When the fists collided, their Dao force clashed and extinguished, but the disparity in power made the Avatar suffer a significant loss; one of its fists instantly became bloody and torn, and its body trembled violently as if struck by lightning.

Yet the Avatar did not retreat; it didn't even bother defending, continuing to channel Dao force aggressively, recklessly attacking without regard for its own life.

In the instant exchange, after multiple violent clashes, both arms of the Avatar shattered completely, and even its body cracked open with countless fissures like porcelain.

This was the gap in the power of the 4th Dao; in a head-on clash with no retreat, Mann Shan could actually kill the Avatar without much effort.

With Mann Shan enraged, just as he was about to deliver the final strike, Lu Ye's true form arrived.

Feeling the danger behind him, Mann Shan was greatly alarmed and had no choice but to face the Avatar hastily. What greeted him was a brilliant flash of saber light.

However, at that moment, the Avatar, now armless, leapt onto Mann Shan's back, its legs wrapped around his body, and it bit down ferociously on his neck.

This savage scene made Qing Yu and the others watching nearby twitch their eyelids.

The pincer attack from Lu Ye's true form and Avatar left Mann Shan struggling to cope and finally aware that unless he eliminated one Lu Ye first, he would have no chance to escape.

He had just ascended to Dao Fusion, with a bright future ahead; how could he die here?

Even if it meant letting Lu Ye strike him once more, he only used Dao force to protect himself, grabbing backward and clutching the Avatar's head, yanking it off his back.

A piece of flesh bitten by the Avatar came away with it.

"Pah..." The Avatar spat the piece of flesh toward Mann Shan, while using its legs to deliver a powerful kick forward.

"Die!" Mann Shan roared, squeezing the Avatar's head with force, while his other hand formed a tight fist and ferociously struck the Avatar's abdomen as it kicked him.

Blood Rain scattered across the sky, leaving no remains of the Avatar!

Lu Ye felt a wave of dread.

Because of the special nature of the Talent Tree Avatar, he never wanted to let it enter any dangerous situation, and this was the first time the Talent Tree Avatar had perished.

The sensation of its death was much stronger than when the Treasure Blood Avatar died.

Lu Ye even felt as if he had truly died once.

However, he quickly steadied his resolve and mercilessly brought down the long saber in his hand.

The blade sliced into Mann Shan's shoulder, cleaving all the way to his chest before stopping its momentum.

Lu Ye felt no joy but rather a jolt of anxiety.

Because he sensed that Mann Shan's Dao force hadn't depleted, yet this strike had succeeded, which was suspicious, as he knew that if Mann Shan's Dao force wasn't exhausted, he shouldn't have been able to break his defense.

Everything he had done so far, including the Talent Tree Avatar's death, had been for one purpose, and that was to furiously deplete Mann Shan's Dao force. Only by exhausting his Dao force would Lu Ye have the chance to kill him.

Desperate counterattack!

This thought suddenly flashed in Lu Ye's mind, and he immediately tried to pull back, but Mann Shan's flesh squirmed and clamped down on the Boulder Mountain Saber, then raised a hand to grab Lu Ye's wrist holding the saber.

"You want to kill me? You'll die too!" Mann Shan appeared frenzied. Until today, he had been high-spirited, feeling that after years of effort he finally had the credentials to establish himself in the Star Abyss, but today's battle shattered all his hopes.

He too had grown through a path of rivalry and vicious fights; in a desperate situation, what fear did he have of death?

Of course, before that, he would make it hard for anyone who made it hard for him.

Summoning the last of his Dao force, he gathered it beneath his fist and punched forward!

This should have been a fatal punch, but it didn't hit Lu Ye at all. As the punch blasted out, Lu Ye's form floated backward.

Mann Shan's eye twitched as he looked down to see the saber still stuck inside his body, the hand gripping the sword's hilt tightly, while he was clutching that hand's wrist.

But this hand... was already severed at the elbow.

It was clear that when Lu Ye sensed something was amiss, he cut off his own arm and withdrew.

"Hehe..." Mann Shan laughed, unsure of his own feelings and why he could still laugh under such circumstances.

He only knew that he was truly defeated this time, by a bizarre and strange freak, and he couldn't even confirm if the opponent was truly in Dao Fusion.

The momentum was lost!

He let out a slight sigh, exerted a little force, and pulled the long sword, still attached to the severed arm, out of his body, resulting in another spray of blood.

His expression unchanged, he lifted his hand and threw the severed arm and the Boulder Mountain Saber forward.

"Come and kill!" Mann Shan lifted his eyes, staring at Lu Ye, his voice like thunder.

Although he hadn't died, his Dao force was exhausted, leaving him with no chance of escape even if he was in Dao Fusion; thus, it was better to seek a swift end.

Lu Ye reached out to catch it, his gaze flickering, and placed the severed arm over his own wound.

Only then did he sweep beside Mann Shan, holding the saber in his left hand, the blade flashing as Mann Shan's head was severed from his body.

The Dao Fusion is dead!

Not far away, Qing Yu and others watched this scene in a daze, no one speaking, only a deep shock lingering in their hearts.

This was the first time they'd seen a Dao Fusion being killed.

And Lu Ye, who could slay a Dao Fusion so decisively, suddenly seemed towering and unapproachable in their eyes.

With the battle over, Lu Ye should have immediately cleaned the battlefield or calmed himself, yet he remained in place, his brow furrowed.

Because almost at the moment of Mann Shan's death, he felt as if something was about to descend.

The feeling was strange and indescribable, yet his Mental Consciousness detected nothing.

Just when he thought it was his imagination, above the place where he stood, a cloud-like mass suddenly formed.

Lu Ye looked up sharply, and within the churning cloud, a vortex formed, followed by a beam of light crashing down and enveloping his body.

Lu Ye was startled, dodging swiftly, but the beam, as if sentient, pursued relentlessly, striking into his body with lightning speed.

Lu Ye froze, his brow furrowing tighter.

Inside, a tingling sensation spread, and even the severed arm's wound itched terribly, as if some mystical power was swiftly repairing his damaged body.

In the battle with Mann Shan, his injuries were actually severe; on the surface, only the severed arm seemed significant, but in truth, battling against a stronger foe had left his internal organs and flesh and bones damaged to varying degrees.

Yet, in this moment, nourished by that mystical power, his injuries were healing at a bizarrely rapid pace.

This was undoubtedly good news.

However, what disquieted him was that his Talent Tree was swaying wildly, with black smoke rising from its crown.

This made Lu Ye realize that the beam that had entered him wasn't just healing him but seemed to contain something ominous.

Within mere moments, his injuries were as good as new, even the severed arm leaving no trace, and moreover, Lu Ye sensed his body becoming lighter and tougher.

The swaying of the Talent Tree had not ceased, and the black smoke was growing denser.

"Congratulations, Fellow Daoist, on defeating the powerful with the weak, and receiving the Star Abyss Blessing!" a voice reached Lu Ye's ears.

Lu Ye opened his eyes to see Qing Yu standing not far from him, with a group behind her gazing at him with newfound awe and reverence.

They had presumed him to be a newcomer under Qing Yu's wing due to her kindness, but who knew he was a raging tiger; without Lu Ye, they would have faced inevitable peril today, and aside from a few female cultivators, all others would likely have died.

"Star Abyss Blessing?" Lu Ye frowned. "What is that?"

Qing Yu blinked, momentarily unsure if Lu Ye was truly new to the Star Abyss.

Her earlier judgment was based on Lu Ye's pure aura, but if that were true, it wouldn't explain his terrifying strength.

Yet his ignorance of the Star Abyss Blessing seemed to confirm her initial assessment.

Not pressing for too much, if it was unknown, explaining shouldn't be an issue.

"Fellow Daoist, within the Star Abyss, its will is omnipresent, and killing a sufficient number of enemies or defeating the stronger with the weaker can grant the Star Abyss Blessing, a reward generally

considered a reward for us cultivators. Those who receive such rewards are usually the elites among their peers, destined for great accomplishments."

This was Lu Ye's first time hearing of such a thing; Uncle Duan had never mentioned it. Though to be fair, Uncle Duan wasn't particularly fond of him, always feeling that his lady was manipulated, so Lu Ye didn't ask, and Uncle Duan naturally didn't say much.

"By killing enough enemies or defeating the strong with the weak, one can receive this blessing?"

"It's only a possibility!"

"What benefits do we gain from such a blessing?" Judging by the current events, the benefits seemed certain, yet there seemed to be downsides, though without the Talent Tree's reaction, Lu Ye wouldn't have discerned this.

Chapter 2162: Star Abyss Blessing

"I don't know specifically." Qing Yu shook her head. She had been in the Star Abyss for hundreds of years and had never received the Star Abyss Blessing, and in fact, this was the first time she witnessed it with her own eyes. "However, someone once told me that the benefits of the Star Abyss Blessing vary widely, and can't be generalized. But the one common trait is that it helps in rapid healing. Fellow Daoist, your previous injuries were severe, but now, it seems you've fully recovered."

Lu Ye nodded. His injuries were indeed completely healed.

Originally, with his own recovery powers, it would have taken three to five days of rest after such a battle to be fine, but it absolutely wouldn't have been this fast.

As for the other benefits... Lu Ye felt that his physical body had become somewhat tougher.

Looking at it this way, aside from those unclear disadvantages, the Star Abyss Blessing was indeed a good thing.

But in this case, the Will of the Star Abyss...

Thinking deeper, Lu Ye suddenly felt a chill down his spine.

As they spoke, Qing Yu's subordinates had already taken the initiative to clean up the battlefield, collected all the Dao Bones, and respectfully presented them to Lu Ye.

Nearly thirty from Dragon Spine and over ten under Mann Shan, these forty-plus individuals were all killed by Lu Ye's Talent Tree Avatar, so naturally, these spoils of war need not be shared with others.

Once these Dao Bones are refined, not only will the resources consumed in this great battle be replenished, there will also be plenty left over to further refine Dao Bones.

The only regret is Mann Shan.

The Dao Bone of a Dao Fusion practitioner like him probably isn't useful anymore, but this was inevitable. To kill Mann Shan, one had to deplete his Dao force completely, otherwise, he couldn't be killed.

And by doing so, Lu Ye would gain no advantage.

After collecting the spoils, Lu Ye hurried to where his Talent Tree Avatar had fallen, and reached out to grab.

Qing Yu and the others didn't know what Lu Ye was grabbing, but with this motion, the roots of the Talent Tree that had been extended were retracted by Lu Ye.

They carried quite a bit of Dao force within them.

Among the three factions that came here, all that remained were Qing Yu's people, so there was no need to share the Dao Pool with anyone else.

This was the greatest benefit of having slain Mann Shan, otherwise, with a Dao Fusion practitioner watching from outside, no one could have peace.

After a while, near the Dao Pool, the crowd returned, and Lu Ye found a spot to restore himself.

Although his injuries were healed, the consumption from the battle was enormous. Not to mention the hundreds of Dao force expended, even the Essence Qi distributed by his Talent Tree Avatar needed to be replenished by Lu Ye.

Qing Yu and Yhing Hu voluntarily guarded not far from Lu Ye, with the former occasionally casting glances filled with a peculiar light towards Lu Ye.

The commotion of the Talent Tree persisted for more than a day before gradually fading away. The amount of fuel consumed during this time was astonishing.

According to Lu Ye's estimation, this fuel was enough for him to cultivate for three months in the All Phenomena Ocean, which showed just how tenacious the negative effects of the Star Abyss Blessing flooding his body were.

While recovering, Lu Ye was also refining the Dao Bones.

The cultivators from Dragon Spine and Mann Shan's group were almost all killed one by one by the Talent Tree Avatar without resistance, so the Dao force remaining in these Dao Bones was relatively abundant.

After refining dozens of Dao Bones, Lu Ye gained nearly two thousand Dao force, proving once again that "a horse can't gain weight without night grass." To quickly gain Dao force, one should find a place gathering Star Abyss cultivators and take them all out.

The refined Dao Bones weren't discarded by Lu Ye; he still remembered the Stellar Tree, which could be nurtured using these discarded Dao Bones. Though rare, if he encountered one in the future, these discarded Dao Bones might come in handy.

Because of this, he took out all of Mann Shan's Dao Bones and piled them somewhere in the Small Flower World.

However, after acquiring nearly two thousand Dao force, deducting what he needed to reserve, only about a thousand Dao force was available for refining Dao Bones.

If he's lucky, he could succeed once.

If he's unlucky... it's hard to say.

Lu Ye regretted deeply swallowing all the Dice of Fate earlier. Otherwise, he could roll them to check his luck.

"Fellow Daoist." Seeing that Lu Ye was almost done with his work, Qing Yu walked over.

Lu Ye looked up and nodded slightly, "Fellow Daoist Qing Yu, what brings you here?"

"May I sit and talk?" Qing Yu asked with a smile.

"Certainly." Lu Ye gestured with his hand.

Qing Yu then sat not far from him.

This was a woman of great charm, her beautiful eyes filled with allure.

But her allure was not seductive, rather it was a kind of maturity, the whole person like a ripe peach.

"Let's not beat around the bush. I'll get straight to the point." Qing Yu must have thought things over before coming, so she wasn't planning to beat around the bush with Lu Ye, "I wonder if brother has any thoughts of building a force? If so, we are willing to serve you, Fellow Daoist."

More than twenty people, the strongest being Qing Yu, but for her, a woman, to lead so many in the Star Abyss to survive was no simple task. Throughout the years, they had encountered countless crises and lost many people. Having seen Lu Ye's strength, naturally, they were seeking protection.

The most crucial point is, Lu Ye is of the human race, even if born from a different stellar space, we share the same roots, naturally feeling a sense of closeness.

Before Lu Ye could respond, Qing Yu continued, "Fellow Daoist, don't be quick to refuse. I saw your earlier battle, like Mann Shan, you've just entered Dao Fusion. Although our powers vary, we are ultimately a help to you, if you're willing to let us depend on you, we'll be loyal, with your will as the main priority. Additionally, I can promise to offer three-tenths of any Dao Bones we hunt in the future."

Lu Ye remained silent.

From Qing Yu's standpoint, she naturally hoped Lu Ye would accept. With a Dao Fusion to anchor them, they would be safer. Also, so many people pledging loyalty to a newly ascended Dao Fusion does offer considerable help.

Like Mann Shan, although having ascended Dao Fusion, is not a loner. In the battles within the Star Abyss, having more people is sometimes advantageous.

But from Lu Ye's perspective, it's not quite the same.

Currently, he possesses the strength of the 17th Dao, after this, with luck, he'd reach the 18th Dao, and in a while, the 20th Dao is no problem.

By then, even if not Dao Fusion, it would be equivalent.

His growth speed is unimaginable to ordinary people.

In the short term, Qing Yu and the others could aid him, but in less than a year or two, Lu Ye would far surpass them. Frankly speaking, they would become a burden.

Hence, Lu Ye never thought of taking them under his wing. If he had that intention, he wouldn't need Qing Yu to say it, he would have brought it up himself.

Moreover, he wouldn't stay in one place for long, it's unrealistic to bring so many people with him through the Star Abyss.

"Fellow Daoist, if you're not bothered, I can point you to a path." Lu Ye spoke slowly.

A trace of disappointment flashed across Qing Yu's face. Lu Ye's words clearly indicated refusal, but she still put on a listening stance: "Fellow Daoist, please speak."

"Three months' journey from here is a Star Abyss Gate, there lies a Qing Palace, the short-stay palace of a Peak Dao Fusion named Yin Luo, who guards that Star Abyss Gate. If you have nowhere to go, you can find her, mention my name, and she will surely not trouble you."

"Star Abyss Gate... We know about that one, but before the Star Abyss Gate truly opens, it's a highly chaotic place, so we didn't venture there."

Though their group isn't small, amidst the numerous Star Abyss living creatures, they are insignificant. More than a decade ago, Lu Ye saw the chaos there for himself, not knowing how many would perish in a single battle. Qing Yu and the others were wise not to go.

"Now you can go. After the Star Abyss Gate opens, there's no more slaughter between Star Abyss cultivators, they are all waiting to enter the stellar space beyond."

"I know that." Qing Yu smiled bitterly, "But we are all stellar space refugees, having witnessed the tragedies post-stellar space collapse, so we don't want to invade another. Though it brings benefits."

Lu Ye chuckled: "I'm not suggesting you invade the stellar space. To be honest, that's my birthplace."

Qing Yu was startled: "The one being invaded is the stellar space where Fellow Daoist hails from? Isn't that to say... your stellar space isn't broken yet?"

Lu Ye shook his head.

Qing Yu was incredulous: "Then how did you come from that stellar space? And when you emerged from the Star Abyss Gate, weren't you troubled by those Star Abyss living creatures?"

Despite Lu Ye showing near-Dao Fusion strength, a stellar space cultivator appearing near the Star Abyss Gate would be torn to pieces by countless Star Abyss creatures.

It's simply unimaginable.

"Qing Palace's Yin Luo, I have past connections with her. With her protection, I was unharmed, which is why I suggested you find her."

Qing Yu was baffled, how Lu Ye, a stellar space cultivator, connected with a Peak Dao Fusion like Yin Luo, not only escaping from stellar space but also securing protection.

"If you choose to go there, you wouldn't have to worry in the short term. If the opportunity arises, you can enter my stellar space, find the cultivators there, explain the situation, and help guard. Honestly, I left the stellar space for cultivation and to find a solution to the Star Abyss invasion."

Qing Yu was lost for words: "Fellow Daoist has grand ambitions, I'm not as capable."

Lu Ye waved his hand: "Who knows if it'll succeed, just do one's best, and leave the rest to fate. Even if my stellar space is invaded and shattered, you will suffer no real loss, just returning to the Star Abyss. It's better than staying here."

Qing Yu seemed tempted. Though nearby Dragon Spine and Mann Shan had been annihilated, residing in the Star Abyss leaves them at risk of a passing strong person casually killing them. Such apprehension plagues every weak Star Abyss creature.

If they entered Lu Ye's stellar space, there would be no such concern.

And as Lu Ye said, even if the stellar space broke, they would have nothing to lose, at worst back to the Star Abyss.

Chapter 2163: Dao Fish

"I'll consider it." Qing Yu did not immediately agree to Lu Ye's proposal. Having survived in the Star Abyss for so many years, she was definitely not the impulsive type.

She had more than twenty people under her command, so she had to think things through.

Lu Ye did not pressure her. Indeed, it would be great if these people could enter the stellar space and become a support for the governors. However, even without them, the current stellar space was not facing major issues.

Moreover, Lu Ye vaguely felt that these people were already considered Star Abyss cultivators. Trying to enter the stellar space through the Star Abyss Gate might not be easy, and they would likely face the same restrictions as other Star Abyss living creatures.

"In a couple more days, the Dao Fish will appear. Fellow Daoist, you might not know how to catch it, right?" Qing Yu changed the topic.

"I was about to ask for advice."

Qing Yu said, "The Dao Pool is mystical. When the Dao Fish appears, the entire pool will undergo some strange transformations. But Fellow Daoist should not enter the pool at that time, as there will be great danger. To capture the Dao Fish, you can only rely on Dao force..."

Qing Yu explained, and Lu Ye listened quietly, developing a keen interest in this Dao Pool.

The group waited another two or three days, and the Dao Pool indeed underwent changes.

In that not-so-large Dao Pool, the water was initially crystal clear, but then suddenly became murky as if something invisible was stirring within. In just one incense stick's time, the pool water turned pitch-black.

Lu Ye tried to use his Mental Consciousness to probe into it, and as Qing Yu had said earlier, the current pool water resisted his Mental Consciousness, only allowing it to float on the surface, unable to discern the situation inside.

Qing Yu and her group spread out by the Dao Pool, looking expectantly.

In the past, when the Dao Pool opened, this group could only claim a corner and share with two other families. But this time it was different; with Mann Shan and Dragon Spine annihilated, only their group remained, ensuring a bountiful harvest.

For cultivators like them, who mostly rely on arduous cultivation to accumulate their Dao force, such opportunities are extremely precious.

Lu Ye focused on the pool water in front of him, and discreetly extended a hand into the pool when no one was watching.

According to the information Qing Yu provided, after the Dao Pool undergoes transformations, the pool water becomes highly erosive. There was once a Dao Realm cultivator who fell in, and within moments, half of his body was gone, ultimately dying tragically.

Lu Ye wanted to see what was really going on. The Talent Tree had absolute advantages against erosion.

If he could evade the harmful effects of the pool water, he could jump in to catch the Dao Fish.

With just one fingertip in the water, Lu Ye immediately sensed a change in the Talent Tree. Sure enough, some power infiltrated his body, provoking a response from the Talent Tree, but the reaction wasn't very strong.

If it was just that, it would be all right. The key was that within merely three breaths, Lu Ye felt his fingertip was rapidly becoming stiff and showing signs of losing sensation.

He hastily withdrew his hand and examined it closely, couldn't help but feel alarmed as that fingertip seemed somewhat ethereal, vaguely indicating it did not belong to this spatial realm.

He had never encountered such a bizarre phenomenon before, and after some contemplation, he abandoned his plan to enter the pool.

Qing Yu was right; the Dao Pool during this period harbored great danger. It wasn't that the Talent Tree couldn't withstand the Erosion Power, but rather there was a more perilous force at work.

After a moment, the illusory fingertip gradually solidified, and the numbness and rigidity faded.

Lu Ye refocused on the pool water before him, secretly gathering Dao force, ready for action.

Suddenly, amid the darkness, a speck of gold flashed and disappeared, water rippling faintly.

He swiftly raised a hand, condensing the Dao into a bind and struck toward that spot.

When the concentrated Dao force entered the water, Lu Ye faintly felt as if he had locked onto something. At the same time, a violent struggle emanated, but before he could continue, what he locked onto broke free of his control, causing a large splash which made Lu Ye's brow furrow.

With a splash, beside him, Qing Yu showed an expression of delight. Lu Ye turned to look, and saw a golden fish about the length of a palm, being pulled out of the water by Qing Yu's guidance.

The golden fish appeared alive, but Lu Ye immediately recognized it was not a living creature but a marvel condensed purely from Dao force.

Just like the Stellar Fruit, which looks like a fruit but isn't actually a fruit.

The Dao Fish landed in Qing Yu's hand, she slightly opened her mouth and gently sucked it all in.

Dao Fish cannot be preserved, so once caught, it must be used immediately; otherwise, over time it will slowly dissipate.

Qing Yu turned to Lu Ye: "You can't use brute force; you must use a finesse. The more brute force you use, the fiercer the Dao Fish's resistance. Fellow Daoist, don't rush; try a few more times and you'll get it."

Lu Ye nodded and returned his attention to the water before him.

If there was movement, he would immediately try to capture it.

Yet after several attempts, he failed each time. The best opportunity had the Dao Fish above the water but still escaped his grasp, falling back into the water.

Angry, Lu Ye pushed his fifteen Dao power.

This time, it finally succeeded!

The so-called resistance is a mere joke in the face of absolute power.

Imitating Qing Yu's method to enjoy the Dao Fish, Lu Ye found his Dao force had only increased to around twenty Dao!

The gains were not significant... because every time he captured the Dao Fish, the Dao force used was immediately consumed upon contact with the strange pool water, meaning he only gained five strands of Dao force.

This is why Qing Yu repeatedly emphasized that Lu Ye should use finesse; they employed only one or two Dao force each time, never too much, because they couldn't afford the consumption.

After succeeding a few more times, Lu Ye frowned: "Fellow Daoist, is this the only way to capture the Dao Fish?"

Doing this, although he has gained something, it's not much.

Qing Yu said: "We've always used this method until now, but..." She seemed to recall something, "Mann Shan complained last time, saying that when he ascends to Dao Fusion, he must nurture a Dao soldier specifically for fishing to net all the Dao fish in this pool."

Then she chuckled and said: "He indeed ascended to Dao Fusion, but that Dao soldier might never be nurtured."

Lu Ye's expression changed: "Can a Dao soldier withstand the peculiarity of this pool water?"

Qing Yu shook her head: "Not entirely sure, but considering Mann Shan's words... it should be the case."

Lu Ye immediately drew out the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Qing Yu was startled: "Fellow Daoist, what are you doing?"

Lu Ye blinked: "Testing it!"

Even though he hasn't had the strength to nurture it, the Boulder Mountain Saber is definitely at the Dao soldier level!

Though that's what he said, he was still very careful, holding the saber, he slowly dipped the tip into the pool water, pulling it out as soon as it touched.

After close inspection, the tip showed no abnormalities.

Tried again, this time submerging a bit more, confirmed that the Boulder Mountain Saber wasn't damaged, he relaxed.

Indeed, a Dao soldier can withstand the strange qualities of the pool water.

"Dao soldier!" Qing Yu stared in disbelief at the Boulder Mountain Saber in Lu Ye's hand, realizing finally, Lu Ye was truly a Dao Fusion, as only someone at that stage is eligible to possess a Dao soldier. Someone like us, at the Beginner Realm, still trail laboriously on the path of honing Dao Bones, how could we be eligible to nurture a Dao soldier.

Then she twitched an eye, seeing Lu Ye invert the Boulder Mountain Saber, poking towards the pool water in front of him...

Suddenly, Lu Ye grinned, lifting the long saber, discovering a struggling Dao Fish pierced on the tip.

This actually worked?

This absurd behavior left Qing Yu dumbfounded, and the others around couldn't help but stare, more envious than amused.

With the aid of the Boulder Mountain Saber, Lu Ye's efficiency in catching Dao Fish greatly increased, and without needing to exert Dao force, it was practically a cost-free business.

Those Dao Fish swimming below the surface probably never imagined a long saber would descend from above to pierce their bodies.

Gradually, though, Lu Ye noticed the number of Dao Fish near him became sparse, it took a long time to catch them, likely his actions had scared the Dao Fish away from him.

He didn't mind, Dao Fish is rare for Qing Yu and the others, but for him, it's merely icing on the cake.

The changes in the Dao Pool only lasted two days, as the water gradually cleared again, there were no abnormalities.

More than twenty people each gained something, smiling happily.

"Fellow Daoist, we're preparing to go back, what are your plans next?" Qing Yu approached Lu Ye and asked.

"Going with the flow, adapting to circumstances."

Lu Ye really had no concrete plans, currently the main focus was to enhance his strength, and to find a solution to the stellar space crisis.

"About the suggestion earlier, didn't Fellow Daoist consider it again?" Qing Yu originally didn't intend to persuade further but couldn't help but say more.

Lu Ye shook his head: "I appreciate the kindness, but I won't stay long in any particular place."

Qing Yu sighed inwardly, having no choice but to say: "Then... let's bid farewell, I will seriously consider what Fellow Daoist mentioned earlier."

"Take care!" Lu Ye clasped his fists.

The group reciprocated the gesture.

Twenty figures under Qing Yu's lead retraced their steps to return. Whether they will head to the Star Abyss Gate, Lu Ye won't insist, it's up to Qing Yu and the rest.

After they left, Lu Ye urged the Treasure Blood Avatar to guard the surroundings, sitting down himself.

Examined his Dao force, near four thousand.

Excluding the reserved two thousand, there remained two thousand Dao force to hone Dao Bones.

Calmed his mind, began the work.

One day later, Lu Ye stood up, expression calm.

Under the consumption of two thousand Dao force, the expected difference wasn't large, gaining two more Dao Bones.

Now he had ten Dao Bones, with nineteen Dao power wielding, steadily advancing on the path to invincibility in the Beginner Realm.

Previously facing Mann Shan, if he had nineteen Dao power, Lu Ye estimated he wouldn't have been injured, relying on his true form and doppelganger he could have encircled and killed him.

But also thanks to Mann Shan for not having a Dao soldier, otherwise, Mann Shan could wield even greater force.

The path Lu Ye is walking is somewhat unique, the enhancement of strength through honing Dao Bones certainly brings joy, yet it makes the path to Dao Fusion distant.

It's considered both gain and loss.

Chapter 2164: I'll Fight You to the Death

Wandering in the Star Abyss, Lu Ye felt like he had returned to the times when he was weak, constantly vigilant and aware of concealing himself.

The path of cultivation is long, and there was a time he thought that Sun Blaze was the pinnacle, but until today, he still couldn't see the end.

At a gathering place of Star Abyss living creatures, Lu Ye held a long knife, slaughtering enemies relentlessly, aided by his Talent Tree Avatar blocking those who tried to escape. Within one incense stick's time, he killed all the assembled Star Abyss living creatures.

The strongest here was only at the level of Qing Yu, naturally unable to withstand his wanton actions.

Since parting ways with Qing Yu and others, this was already the third small faction he had wiped out.

For him, it was actually quite simple to annihilate these small factions because his power was deeply concealed; until a true fight occurred, who would think someone who entered the path could unleash such formidable strength?

The difficulty lies in the search.

Lu Ye was not someone who killed indiscriminately; he was never that kind of person. Those he killed were all who displayed hostility towards him.

During these days of wandering, he gradually set a goal: to find a Star Abyss Gate that was about to open!

Just like the stage when he first touched Qing Palace with Jiu Yan and others, that chaotic environment was undoubtedly the most suitable for his growth because he could freely seek targets to hunt.

Unfortunately, he hadn't discovered it on his journey.

As usual, he collected the Dao bones, but before he could refine them, Lu Ye felt a stir and turned to look in one direction.

In that direction, a figure swiftly approached, with no intention of concealment.

In a short moment, it was close.

Seeing the figure clearly, Lu Ye squinted slightly because this creature had a thick white carapace on its body, its head was elongated, and its whole body seemed to be carrying a turtle shell.

Its narrow eyes glanced at Lu Ye, then focused on the many Dao bones Lu Ye had collected, and spoke with an eerie tone: "Human race, hand over those Dao bones, and I'll spare your life!"

Insect Race!

This was the first time Lu Ye had encountered the Insect Race in the Star Abyss.

According to the information he had gathered from Uncle Duan, the Insect Race was a dominant force in the Star Abyss. Due to the nature of insect hives, all Insect Race members inside moved and retreated together. Although only one Insect Race member appeared, there was definitely an insect hive backing it!

Moreover, it was not far away; this Insect Race member was likely a scout probing the surroundings.

Thus, despite being alone, it dared to speak arrogantly.

If you're not absolutely certain, don't lightly provoke the Insect Race; this is one of the laws of survival for the many weaker beings in the Star Abyss.

This Insect Race scout likely detected the commotion from combat and came to investigate, becoming greedy upon seeing so many Dao bones.

As for its promise to spare Lu Ye's life if he handed over the Dao bones, that couldn't be trusted.

Lu Ye's thoughts just turned, his expression changed suddenly, and he lowered his voice, exclaiming: "Insect Race!"

This was the proper reaction for a Star Abyss living creature upon seeing the Insect Race. The Insect Race cultivator was undoubtedly satisfied with Lu Ye's change in expression and spoke coldly again: "Hand over the Dao bones!"

Lu Ye's expression changed again, he gritted his teeth, showing a pained expression, and scattered the many Dao bones forward, shouting: "Take them all!"

As he spoke, he turned and fled backward.

The Insect Race cultivator snorted disdainfully: "Trying to escape?"

It reached out and grabbed, collecting all the Dao bones, its figure darting forward, chasing after Lu Ye with obvious intent to kill.

Lu Ye fled desperately, but seemingly couldn't match the other's speed, the distance between them decreasing rapidly, he turned back and called: "Fellow Daoist, all the Dao bones have been handed over, why the relentless pursuit?"

The Insect Race cultivator chuckled coldly: "Handed over completely? Not necessarily. You still have Dao bones within, bring them all out, I guarantee you'll be spared!"

Lu Ye's face changed dramatically: "If I take out the Dao bones from my body, how can I survive?"

"That's your problem."

"I... I'll fight you!" Lu Ye seemed unable to bear the insult, stopped fleeing, and turned to confront.

Seeing this scene, the Insect Race also adjusted its stance; before truly engaging, it couldn't ascertain Lu Ye's capability, but, based on its 9th Dao strength, believed it shouldn't be unlucky enough to face a Dao Fusion.

If this human truly was Dao Fusion, he wouldn't have been so panicked earlier.

A brief exchange confirmed for the Insect Race that Lu Ye matched its strength, also possessing 9th Dao capability, causing some irritation. If Lu Ye's strength were inferior, it could kill him easily, but now they were equally matched, making the fight unprofitable for either.

Its heart already harbored retreat intentions.

But what frustrated it was that Lu Ye appeared very angry, each move was the Method of Dao Destruction, portraying a life-and-death struggle.

This made the Insect Race a bit flustered; its hard-earned Dao force wasn't meant for such reckless use, regretting its greed after having obtained so many Dao bones, it realized further pressure was unnecessary.

While clashing with Lu Ye, it spoke: "Human, you're strong, let's end this for today."

"I won't believe you. You want to kill me, so I'll kill you!" Lu Ye's face was full of anger, "Let's see who dies today!"

"Human race, I'm not lying to you this time." The Insect Race cultivator was full of bitterness, regretting having deceived Lu Ye earlier, resulting in a complete loss of trust.

As the words fell, he was suddenly shocked, as somehow the opponent's blade had broken through his defenses, striking heavily and causing the Insect Race to cry out in pain.

Sensing danger, the Insect Race was alarmed: "Human race, stop immediately. You've heard of the Insect Race's methods; if you kill me today, you won't have a good ending!"

Lu Ye gritted his teeth without speaking, using the power of the 9th Dao to wield his long blade, occasionally bursting out with the power of the 10th Dao when the opponent was distracted, each time gaining results.

Moments later, the Insect Race truly felt something was wrong.

This human, clearly only at the 9th Dao like him, but in battle, he was completely outmatched. Even after a few threats and intimidation, seeing that the opponent was completely ignoring him, he could only fight desperately.

But it was just a beast trapped in a corner, struggling. About one incense stick's time later, with Lu Ye's final slash, the Insect Race's head flew off.

He didn't die instantly, only glaring with wide eyes, murmuring: "The Insect Matriarch... will avenge me, you're dead!"

Life force dissipated.

Lu Ye appeared breathless, severely exhausted.

But in the blink of an eye, he returned to normal, sheathed his blade, leisurely collected his previous spoils, and also took that Insect Race's Dao Bone.

This feigned battle was truly exhausting.

But if his guess was correct, there should be movement from the insect hive.

The Insect Race in Star Abyss mostly operates as units from the insect hive, each hive having an Insect Matriarch, at least at the Dao Fusion level, because the Insect Race is all birthed by the Insect Matriarch through the hive, thus there's an extremely peculiar connection between them; each Insect Race individual can be considered the eyes and ears of the Insect Matriarch.

Under normal circumstances, if the Insect Matriarch wishes, it can use the perspective of all Insect Race individuals to survey the surrounding situation.

But the Insect Matriarch generally doesn't do this; its sole duty is to continuously birth new Insect Race individuals, strengthening the insect hive.

Besides this, there's another situation where the Insect Matriarch can learn about the status of its underlings, which is at the moment of an Insect Race individual's death, the Insect Matriarch can glimpse the last moments encountered before death.

This is also why Lu Ye went through so much trouble to stage this scene.

When killing other Star Abyss living creatures, he needs to distinguish between good and evil, but there's no such taboo with the Insect Race; to him, all Insect Race can be killed.

With his current strength, he cannot contend with the insect hive, but he can find a way to kill some Insect Race individuals!

Waiting quietly in place, just as he finished refining the many Dao Bones he obtained earlier, Lu Ye sensed several presences approaching.

Looking up, he saw over thirty figures rushing towards him.

The Insect Race reinforcements had arrived.

Evidently, the Insect Matriarch had sensed the situation here and dispatched them to pursue Lu Ye. The reason for sending so many is simply because the Insect Matriarch was unsure of Lu Ye's path; once these Insect Race arrived here, they could split up to track Lu Ye's whereabouts.

If just one Insect Race finds Lu Ye, the others can swarm and attack.

But what these Insect Race hadn't expected was that upon arriving here, they found that the individual who had killed their kind was actually waiting for them!

This bizarre situation caused the leading Insect Race to feel a sinking in their hearts, simultaneously halting their movements, each with a solemn expression, suspiciously eying their surroundings, as if suspecting a nearby ambush.

These Insect Race individuals aren't fools; naturally, at this moment, they would have doubts.

Seeing this scene, Lu Ye felt assured!

He could be certain that the Insect Matriarch would dispatch more Insect Race to chase him, but what he could not determine was whether any of these Insect Race were at the Dao Fusion level.

He had purposely disguised his strength as the 9th Dao, fearing the Insect Matriarch would retaliate fiercely by sending out a Dao Fusion level. Normally, to deal with one 9th Dao individual, the Insect Matriarch does not need to dispatch Dao Fusion level.

Now it seems that indeed there were no Dao Fusion, otherwise these Insect Race wouldn't have such expressions.

If this is the case...

He slowly stood up, alone, and charged towards the multitude of Insect Race individuals.

"Be careful, everyone!" the leader of the 9th Dao Insect Race shouted, still on guard for any potential ambush.

Lu Ye had already reached in close proximity, a burst of bloodlight exploded, the Blood Sea spread out, enveloping everything.

From somewhere in the Blood Sea, a Void Spirit Rune suddenly appeared, and from tens of thousands of miles away, the Talent Tree Avatar teleported in. This was originally Lu Ye's reserved escape method; once he discovered an enemy among them at Dao Fusion level, he could use the Talent Tree Avatar to leave this place.

Now that there's no need to escape, he simply teleported the avatar here to join forces with the main body to kill the enemies.

"Blood Race? Or Blood Technique?" an Insect Race cried out in alarm. If it was Blood Technique, this power was too overwhelming, but if it was a Blood Race, Lu Ye showed none of the traits of the Blood Race.

Suddenly screams rang out, then followed one after another, as life forces floated and drowned in the Blood Sea.

The numerous Insect Race fell into chaos.

Chapter 2165: Doppelganger Out of Contact

Moments later, the Blood Sea recedes, and the Talent Tree Avatar shoots out, fleeing swiftly in one direction.

Lu Ye remains behind to collect the spoils of battle.

In this ambush, over thirty Insect Race were annihilated, including four from the 9th Dao, reaping substantial rewards.

But Lu Ye knows that after this, he should prepare to flee.

Judging by the overall strength of these Insect Race dispatched by the Insect Matriarch, there are certainly Dao Fusion experts under its command. With such a huge loss, the Insect Matriarch can't continue sending beginners to their deaths; it will resort to using Dao Fusion.

Though Lu Ye has slain a Mann Shan before, that guy could be considered the weakest Dao Fusion, and at the time he had Qing Yu and others assisting.

He certainly wouldn't be arrogant enough to dismiss Dao Fusions.

Just as he was about to leave, a sudden change occurred.

Lu Ye looked up, his expression turning strange.

Above him, a vortex rapidly formed, hinting at the impending arrival of something within.

The Star Abyss Blessing... it's coming again!

When he slew Mann Shan, he was given a Star Abyss Blessing. According to Qing Yu, the Will of the Star Abyss is omnipresent, bestowing rewards to the strong. So, the more you kill, or defeat the strong while weak, the higher the chance of receiving this blessing, especially in the latter case.

For all living creatures in the Star Abyss, a Star Abyss Blessing is a great boon, though rarely encountered.

Yet Lu Ye, in just a few months, has encountered it twice.

Thinking carefully, it's not surprising.

During this period, he single-handedly exterminated three small factions, and just now he ambushed a large group of insects, including four from the 9th Dao.

Although not exactly beating the strong while being weak, he remains at the beginner level, so it can be said he fought many with few.

This is likely why he attracted the Star Abyss Blessing.

While pondering, a white light descends from the vortex, and Lu Ye knows he can't avoid it, so he chooses not to evade.

The white light enters his body, just like before, causing a strong reaction in the Talent Tree. Additionally, a peculiar force wanders within; last time, this force helped heal him rapidly, but with no injuries currently, there's no need for repair.

Lu Ye feels his body seems to become a bit more resilient...

His expression turns peculiar momentarily; despite any hidden drawbacks of such blessings, if this continues, who knows how strong his physique will become, which could be considered a good thing.

It's just... Qing Yu mentioned there are various benefits to the Star Abyss Blessing, so why did the benefits he received twice both enhance his physique?

Unsure if it's a coincidence, he can only confirm after receiving the next Star Abyss Blessing.

Quickly leaving this place.

Half a day later, as Lu Ye is escaping, he looks back to see a stream of light rapidly approaching, carrying a terrifying killing intent.

Even from a distance, Lu Ye can't help but feel a vague sense of crisis.

The Insect Race Dao Fusion is chasing him down!

He expected this situation; as the overlord of the Star Abyss, having so many insects killed by Lu Ye alone would be a huge loss of prestige, how could the Insect Matriarch possibly let this go?

So, upon detecting the pursuers, Lu Ye immediately constructs Void Spirit Runes, teleporting away.

Upon reappearing, he's already where the Talent Tree Avatar is located, tens of thousands of miles away from the previous spot.

He doesn't dare relax, despite the distance seemingly vast, who knows what astonishing abilities those Dao Fusions possess.

Therefore, after gathering, both the original and the avatar again split and act separately.

Several days later, with no traces of pursuers found, Lu Ye finally relaxes.

The Insect Race Dao Fusion must have been thoroughly shaken off. If they could still catch up in this situation, it truly would defy logic.

He found a large floating land, entered a cave, then retrieved the Dao Bone obtained from the insect kills and began to refine it.

Ten thousand miles away in a hidden spot, the Talent Tree Avatar quietly lies dormant, ready to assist the original at any time.

After refining the Dao Bone, assessing his own Dao force, Lu Ye felt invigorated.

It's time to polish some Dao Bone; the dual efforts of hard cultivation and battling enemies have accumulated considerable Dao force.

Lu Ye estimates, if lucky, he can polish three Dao Bones, and even if unlucky, at least two.

Settling his mind, he channels Dao force into the Dao Bone as time flows by.

Two hours later, Lu Ye opened his eyes feeling refreshed.

After exhausting the Dao force accumulated over months, gaining an enhancement of three Dao's power, which was undoubtedly a commendable outcome.

Currently, he possesses thirteen Dao Bones and twenty-one paths of power, genuinely stepping onto the Dao Fusion power level.

Calculating, in just over a month, he can generally enhance by one path of power. If he wants to polish all his body bones into Dao Bones, it would take at least twenty years.

Such a timespan isn't long for any cultivator in the Dao Realm, but Lu Ye still feels somewhat unsatisfied.

According to his plan, it's best to achieve this goal within five years.

By then, with over two hundred paths of power, even against Peak Dao Fusion like Yin Luo, he wouldn't be unable to fight. At this level, he would truly have the qualification to establish himself in the Star Abyss.

Unlike now, when an Insect Race Dao Fusion comes out, he has to flee in panic.

But then again, as his strength gradually increases in the future, the enemies he can kill will surely become stronger, and the rewards will naturally be greater.

Completing this goal within five years might not be impossible.

Just as Lu Ye was enjoying such thoughts, he suddenly felt a shock in his heart and hurriedly dashed out from his hiding place, rushing towards the location of the Talent Tree Avatar.

Because in that instant, he unexpectedly lost the connection with the avatar!

And before this, he hadn't felt any abnormality at all.

The essence of the Talent Tree Avatar is a piece of the Talent Tree's root, which is crucial and irreplaceable; time was of the essence, and he barely managed to do some superficial concealment.

In the span of a hundred thousand miles, with Lu Ye traveling at full speed, he quickly arrived nearby.

He didn't rush to reveal himself but quietly observed the area, and soon frowned.

The situation was not quite as he expected!

He originally thought that the Talent Tree Avatar was ambushed and killed by someone, hence the loss of connection; but if that were the case, the piece of the root should've been left behind, and he should've been able to sense it.

Just like the last time, when the avatar was slain by Mann Shan, he could still retrieve the root, which was something others couldn't see and only he could perceive.

However, in the current situation, it didn't seem like the avatar was killed, and even the floating land where the avatar was hidden had disappeared.

If that's the case... there's only one possibility left.

The avatar entered another space isolated from the outside, which is why it lost connection with the main body.

Lu Ye hurriedly rushed forward to the place where the avatar was previously, flicked his fingers, and the 9th Dao Treasure Blood Avatar dashed out, spreading in all directions to search.

After thoroughly investigating, there were no findings; there was no other space here at all.

Furthermore, the Talent Tree Avatar had been quietly lurking here without any commotion, how could it abruptly go into another space?

If not proactive, then it was passive.

Thinking quickly, Lu Ye immediately expanded the search area.

Half an hour later, finally one of the Treasure Blood Avatars discovered something unusual.

After a while, Lu Ye and all the Treasure Blood Avatars gathered at the site, retrieved the avatars, and Lu Ye looked ahead.

In sight, a vast area was shrouded by a cloud of stellar sand emanating multicolored light, with some distance between each grain, covering a remarkably large region all together.

This patch of stellar sand was transforming and flowing, looking bizarre.

Lu Ye focused his mind to observe and didn't find anything special; but when he pushed his Mental Consciousness in, it was like a stone sinking into the sea, empty inside.

Lu Ye already experienced the peculiarities of the Star Abyss many times before, and in usual times, encountering such oddities, he would only observe from afar and never rashly engage.

Because no one could be certain whether this thing posed any danger.

But today, concerning the Talent Tree Avatar, he had to take some risks.

Is the avatar inside?

If so, why did it lose connection with the main body?

Lu Ye couldn't be sure, but having searched all around with no abnormalities, this massive cloud of stellar sand was the strangest.

Just as he was about to test with one of the Treasure Blood Avatars, suddenly he saw a streak of light approaching rapidly from the side.

Turning his head to look, once he saw who it was, his expression immediately darkened: "Persistent as a ghost!"

He had been hiding for several days, yet this Insect Race Dao Fusion hadn't given up chasing him. Moreover, it had indeed found traces to follow.

Quickly gathering a Treasure Blood Avatar, it rushed toward the stellar sand cloud.

Upon entering, the Treasure Blood Avatar vanished without a trace right under Lu Ye's eyes, like a drop of water into the ocean.

Confirmed, there's something strange inside this stellar sand cloud, definitely an isolated space, flowing silently in the stellar space and covertly engulfing the place where the Talent Tree Avatar was hiding.

That's why the avatar suddenly lost connection with the main body.

Without further hesitation, Lu Ye plunged headfirst into the stellar sand cloud.

The Dao Fusion Insect Race pursued up to this point, halted, glanced at the stellar sand cloud still drifting forward, and showed a look of dread in his eyes.

He evidently recognized this cloud of stellar sand, as it was quite renowned in the Star Abyss; ordinary cultivators might not be aware, but he, being an Insect Race Dao Fusion, naturally had heard about it.

After a moment of silence, he eventually turned away; that human had entered, and probably will never escape for the rest of his life, making it irrelevant whether he was killed or not.

After Lu Ye rushed into the stellar sand cloud, his view suddenly changed without warning, and he immediately found himself in a colorful, starry sky.

It was described as colorful because the surrounding stars were all radiating in various colors, appearing both beautiful and mysterious.

Lu Ye couldn't help but be stunned; through the earlier tests, he knew there was an isolated space inside the stellar sand cloud, but he never expected it to be this vast.

The grains of stellar sand seen from outside were, astonishingly, these colorful stars.

The great mass of the stellar sand cloud was essentially a miniaturized version of the stellar space!

Chapter 2166: Banlan

Lu Ye quickly sensed the location of the Treasure Blood Avatar that had entered earlier, but due to isolation, before the main body entered, the Treasure Blood Avatar was like a living dead without any consciousness and was still far from him...

Additionally, he also sensed the location of the Talent Tree Avatar, which was likewise in a distant place.

Aside from the Talent Tree Avatar, speaking of Lu Ye's main body and the Treasure Blood Avatar, although they entered here one after another, their positions may not seem too far apart, yet in this stellar space, they were actually very distant.

Lu Ye breathed a sigh of relief. The Talent Tree Avatar must not be lost, it's good to have found it.

Just at this moment, there seemed to be some abnormalities over at the avatar...

His mind stirred, constructing Void Spirit Runes, and he directly teleported to where the avatar was.

"Hey, wake up, or I'll throw you away if you don't wake up." Just as he appeared, a somewhat anxious voice sounded beside his ear.

Lu Ye looked up and saw the Talent Tree Avatar being carried on the shoulder of a man who was running away, with two others beside him, looking panicked.

It was no wonder they were like this, as they had pursuers behind them.

Lu Ye's sudden appearance obviously caught the attention of the three, startling them all, and they quickly scattered, taking up a defensive posture.

However, after seeing Lu Ye's face, the three were momentarily stunned, especially the man carrying the avatar, who couldn't help but glance at the avatar's face again.

Lu Ye raised his hand, summoning the avatar back to him.

This delay allowed the pursuers to catch up.

The man who had been carrying the avatar cursed in anger, "Fight to the death with them!"

The other two said nothing, but their expressions were resolute.

The man looked up at Lu Ye again, his expression stern: "Fellow Daoist, we'll talk later. If you want to survive, help us out. Don't even think about begging for mercy; falling into the hands of the Blood Race, you'll only become a container for Bone Growing. It's a fate worse than death!"

"You don't need to say more!" Lu Ye nodded. In this brief moment, he had discerned what kind of pursuers they were.

Surprisingly, they were the Blood Race.

Silently, he thought to himself that he had just gotten rid of the Insect Race, only to encounter the Blood Race.

"Kill!" the man roared, charging forward to meet them, his two companions following closely behind.

Lu Ye was initially unsure of their strength, but upon deploying his Dao force, he vaguely sensed that the strength of the three was not particularly high, only around the 6th or 7th Dao level.

With this in mind, the Blood Race chasing them couldn't be much stronger either.

The fact was, these Blood Race were indeed not exceptional, relying only on their numbers to wreak havoc. Lu Ye drew his saber and advanced; it was almost one cut for each enemy.

In just a brief moment, these Blood Race were completely wiped out.

What they thought would be a fight to the death, with survival uncertain, was unexpectedly concluded so quickly.

All three pairs of eyes looked at Lu Ye in astonishment, only then realizing that they had just rescued a 9th Dao cultivator!

"Fellow Daoist, I know you have many questions, but this is not the place to talk. Please follow me first." the man said, taking the lead to guide the way.

Lu Ye nodded, following swiftly.

In a massive floating land, the four concealed themselves within.

The three men had obviously gone through a fierce battle earlier, each bearing wounds. Honestly, if not for Lu Ye's intervention this time, they might not have survived.

However, being cultivators who had Entered the Path, recovering from injuries was not difficult.

They first exchanged names; Lu Ye then learned that the lead man was named Kang Xing, with the other two being a man and a woman, the woman Jyang Yuning, and the man Zhao Tuo. Apart from Kang Xing, who was at the 7th Dao level, Jyang Yuning and Zhao Tuo were both at the 6th Dao level.

"Fellow Daoist, did you unintentionally enter here?" Kang Xing asked.

"More or less." Lu Ye nodded. While his main body entered deliberately, the avatar did so accidentally, so the main body had to chase in.

"Alas," Kang Xing sighed, "we are the same. Every cultivator here was basically swallowed up unintentionally."

Lu Ye's brows furrowed upon hearing this: "How long have you been here?"

Kang Xing replied, "Not very long, really. I've been here the longest, just a few decades. These two have been here no more than twenty years." After pausing, he continued. "I know you want to ask about leaving. Once here, there's no way out; not even for those who've achieved Dao Fusion, many of whom have been trapped for thousands of years."

Lu Ye was taken aback: "Those who've achieved Dao Fusion are trapped?"

This was quite ominous.

If he were trapped here for thousands or tens of thousands of years, what would become of the stellar space? His purpose in coming to the Star Abyss was to quickly bolster his strength and return to resolve the stellar crisis.

Not to mention thousands or tens of thousands of years, but even a few hundred years was a delay Lu Ye couldn't afford.

"What exactly is this place? And what was that cluster of stellar sand cloud I saw before entering?" Lu Ye asked.

Kang Xing responded, "This is the Yiyuan stellar space, but unlike a normal stellar space, not naturally formed, but nurtured by a powerful being."

"Nurtured?" Lu Ye wondered, then his expression changed: "Dao soldier?"

The only thing that can be nurtured to such an extent would be a Dao soldier.

Kang Xing nodded solemnly, "Indeed, it's a Dao soldier, named Banlan!"

A storm raged in Lu Ye's heart. Although these words came from Kang Xing, a 7th Dao cultivator, they were certainly not baseless.

The Dao soldier named Banlan encompassed an entire stellar space. How terrifying.

Although the Boulder Mountain Saber had already become a Dao soldier, Lu Ye could hardly imagine the cost to elevate it to Banlan's level.

"What happened to the master of this Dao soldier?"

"Naturally, perished in battle, hence the Dao soldier was left behind."

Lu Ye's eye twitched. The immense majesty of Banlan was unimaginable, and its master must have been a mighty figure. Such a powerful individual actually fell in battle.

Kang Xing continued, "Banlan drifts in the Star Abyss, devouring wherever it reaches. If cultivators carelessly fall into it, they will be trapped, just like us."

Beside him, Zhao Tuo spoke ruefully, "You were trapped by accident; I was too curious for my own good, regretting my initial decision."

Lu Ye looked at him as Kang Xing laughed, "Brother Zhao, upon first seeing Banlan, thought it a treasure and wanted to explore it, thus getting trapped."

There must be many like Zhao Tuo. Greed is a universal trait among people. Treasures are indeed treasures, but such treasures are usually not for the ordinary.

"Over countless years, who knows how many cultivators have fallen into this Banlan stellar space? This will likely continue. Now that Fellow Daoist is here, what are your plans?"

Lu Ye remained silent in contemplation.

Having understood the situation from Kang Xing, he was at a loss for what to do next.

"Is there really no way to leave?" Lu Ye asked, unwilling to give up.

Kang Xing shook his head, "In any case, I've never heard of anyone leaving. Perhaps those in Dao Fusion know more, but such information is beyond our reach."

Lu Ye nodded in agreement, as this was only reasonable.

After some thought, Kang Xing suggested, "If you wish to gather more information, you might as well come with us to the battle alliance, where a Dao Fusion expert resides."

"The battle alliance?" Lu Ye asked, looking puzzled.

Kang Xing explained, "Although there are cultivators of various races within this Banlan stellar space, there are mainly three factions. The first, dominated by us humans, occupies a portion of the domain as a base, consisting of not only humans but also some cultivators of other races."

"The second faction, led by the Giant Race, also harbors many cultivators from other races. The third and strongest faction is the Insect and Blood Races!"

At this point, Kang Xing's expression became heavy.

Lu Ye showed a look of disgust. Though he'd seen Blood Race members chasing Kang Xing and others, the ubiquity of these two races was still exasperating.

"The Insect and Blood Races have always sought to control Banlan stellar space. Hence, we've been in collaboration with the Giants, resisting their assaults. The central region of the entire stellar space is a battlefield, with the battle alliance being the foundation of our human race at the fringes of the battlefield."

"Then let's go together!" Lu Ye nodded.

With the three factions in this Banlan stellar space, as a human, he naturally ought to join the human side. Even if he hadn't intended it, surviving here required making a choice.

"Excellent. Fellow Daoist has a 9th Dao-level strength, no small feat. In the future, great accomplishments are inevitable. Once you advance to Dao Fusion, your future is bright!"

"By the way, Brother Kang, I forgot to ask, are there any Dao Harmony experts here?"

"There are no Dao Harmony experts. Someone of such power must have heard of Banlan's name and would not rashly enter."

Lu Ye understood.

In that sense, anyone who has heard of Banlan's reputation is unlikely to fall here unless, like his doppelganger, they are swallowed without warning.

Kang Xing and others were initially planning to return to the battle alliance, but unexpectedly encountered that Blood Race squad on their way, compelling them to hide to avoid confrontation.

It was at this moment Lu Ye's doppelganger suddenly appeared, attracting the Blood Race squad.

They could have left him to perish, but as fellow humans, they couldn't bear it and instead, fled with Lu Ye's doppelganger.

Though the loss of the Talent Tree Avatar, even if killed, would be minor for Lu Ye, as he could simply retrieve that section of root later, Kang Xing and others' assistance was something he appreciated greatly.

As a token of gratitude, Lu Ye gave them the Dao Bone from the Blood Race squad he had previously slain.

Despite Kang Xing's refusal initially, he eventually accepted.

This place was already near the edge of the battlefield, so there were few strong experts. About a day later, the group of four left the battlefield behind and could see the location of the battle alliance from afar.

It turned out to be a domain, within which stood a giant city, sprawling over countless miles of land.

At the sight, Lu Ye was somewhat awestruck. Frankly, he had never seen such an enormous city before.

Inside, it was bustling with people, including not only those in the Dao Realm but even those below it, and even a large number of mortals!

Seeing Lu Ye's confusion, Kang Xing explained, "Banlan has existed for countless years. These mortals have been reproducing and thriving over time. Not only here, but the domains our human race controls also have other domains inhabited by many living beings."

Chapter 2167: Dao Artifact

Actually, not only within this colorful stellar space, but even in places with harsh environments like the Star Abyss, there are domains where many living beings proliferate.

These domains mostly come from various fragmented stellar spaces, preserved through some fortuitous circumstances.

However, unless luck is favorable, domains within the Star Abyss usually have no guarantees; perhaps just the aftermath of a clash between powerful beings could cause countless casualties or even destroy the entire domain.

This giant city of the battle alliance can be said to be a stronghold on the battlefield for the human race and a protective barrier. As long as this barrier stands, the rear is secure.

In front of a city gate, Kang Xing and the other two descended with Lu Ye and headed directly to a grand hall beside it.

Newcomers need to complete some procedures to enter the city; it's not just a casual entry. This is also a precaution, mainly against spies, particularly the Blood Race, some of whom are adept at disguise,

capable of impersonating humans to act outside. Many races have suffered due to this in the stellar space.

On the way back, Kang Xing had already mentioned this to Lu Ye.

Shortly afterward, they met the Manager here, a corpulent man who seemed not particularly strong. It was unclear what kind of connections allowed him to oversee here.

As required, Lu Ye first walked through an area covered by a Formation. This Formation has the power to banish falsehoods and preserve the truth, capable of distinguishing most disguising methods.

Then, the corpulent Manager took out a mirror-like object to illuminate Lu Ye, nodding slightly, "Indeed, a human race."

With his identity verified, there was nothing more needed. The Manager then collected a drop of Lu Ye's Essence Blood and a strand of psyche force, helping him create an authority waist tablet.

A moment later, the group of four walked out.

Kang Xing reminded Lu Ye, "Fellow Daoist, you must keep this waist tablet safe. It's not only proof of our free entry and exit from various battle cities, but it's also a means of contact. As long as you are within the colorful stellar space, anyone with this waist tablet can generally be contacted."

Lu Ye nodded.

In a way, the communication use of this waist tablet is equivalent to an audio talisman.

"Shall we exchange contact marks first?" Lu Ye proposed.

The three of Kang Xing couldn't have been happier.

With their strength, it's difficult to befriend a powerful person; though Lu Ye isn't considered a strong figure, he's still a member of the 9th Dao. If something happens on the battlefield, perhaps they could seek aid.

Shortly afterward, the group of four flew into the giant battle city. Now with the waist tablet, Lu Ye no longer worried about being attacked by the Formations within this battlefield. Without the waist tablet, recklessly intruding would certainly not end well.

Kang Xing and the other two have been fighting in the battlefield for quite some time. This trip back was mainly for recuperation and to purchase some supplies like elixir pills for healing.

Lu Ye naturally did not stay with them.

After asking about the location of the Governor's Residence in the battle city, the four parted ways, and Lu Ye swiftly headed toward the Governor's Residence.

He wanted to meet the Dao Fusion here and enquire about ways to leave.

Shortly afterward, in front of the magnificent and somber Governor's Residence, a guard shouted, "Go, go. If everyone came to trouble Lord Governor as you do, where would he have any spare time?"

Lu Ye was not annoyed. After all, the guard had a point. He knew his trip would probably yield no results, but he was still not quite resigned to it. With cupped fists, he said, "Fellow Daoist, I simply wish to ask if there's a way to leave. Since you are on duty in front of the Governor's Residence, you must be knowledgeable. Could you please give me some guidance?"

The guard couldn't help but sneer, "A way to leave? New here, aren't you? Every newcomer thinks about leaving, but you don't use your brain. If there really was a way to leave, this colorful place wouldn't be called a prison. Now scram, stop being a nuisance, or you'll pay for it."

Ultimately, with a weak status, even a guard in front of the Governor's Residence dared not regard him.

Lu Ye left helplessly.

For the time being, even if there was a way to leave, it would be out of his reach unless he had the strength of Dao Fusion, which would give him the qualification to converse with other Dao Fusions.

But his cultivation path differs somewhat from others, and ascending to Dao Fusion is uncertain as to when it might be.

For now, he could only make the best of the situation and slowly plan.

For the short-term, there's no way to upgrade his realm, and in terms of strength, Lu Ye is unwilling to expose himself. As someone who can wield over twenty powers of the path at the Enter the Path stage, he's likely considered an outlier in the entire Star Abyss. If discovered, it could lead to unexpected incidents.

If a powerful being were to capture him for research, life would be worse than death.

After some thought, Lu Ye turned and walked in another direction.

Shortly afterward, inside a large hall in the battle city, Lu Ye stepped in. The hall was large, but many cultivators were coming and going.

Looking around, there were indeed mostly human race cultivators, with others from different races, but overall, humans made up to less than thirty percent.

This is the Hall of Battle Merits of the battle alliance, where cultivators account for their battle merits after slaying enemies on the battlefield.

"Fellow Daoist Lu," a familiar voice called out.

Lu Ye turned to see Kang Xing and his two companions, whom he had just parted with not long ago, coming over as they called out.

That the three would be here did not surprise Lu Ye. Any cultivator with spoils from the battlefield would inevitably come here upon returning.

"Fellow Daoist, are you here to settle battle merits?" Kang Xing asked.

Lu Ye blinked, "How does one settle it?"

Kang Xing replied, "It's simple, you just need to hand over the useless Dao Bones. The Merits Officer will handle the clearing, and the battle merits will be recorded on your authority waist tablet. All the supplies within the battle alliance require battle merits for exchange; additionally, if you accumulate enough battle merits, you can also upgrade the rank of your waist tablet."

Lu Ye raised an eyebrow, "Useless Dao Bones equal battle merits?"

"Of course." Kang Xing laughed, "You certainly can't submit Dao Bones that haven't been refined; otherwise, we would incur a great loss."

With this... Lu Ye couldn't help glancing at the pile of useless Dao Bones accumulated in the Small Flower World.

Over these days, he had kept all the refined Dao Bones, intending to use them to nourish the Stellar Tree if he encountered one in the future. Who would have thought there would be an unexpected delight here?

However, he certainly couldn't submit such a large number of Dao Bones all at once. Having just arrived in the colorful stellar space, suddenly handing over so many Dao Bones would raise suspicion even in a fool.

What interested Lu Ye more was another matter.

"What is the meaning of the rank of the waist tablet?"

Kang Xing explained, "Once we join the battle alliance, we become alliance guards. Whether for ourselves or for the alliance, we need to go to the battlefield and kill enemies."

Lu Ye nodded, understanding that the battles here did not require any grand principles; slaying enemies always had its benefits. Any cultivator with ambition would enter the battlefield for tempering without needing others' prompting.

"But alliance guards also have a rank hierarchy." Kang Xing continued, patting his waist tablet, "Fellow Daoist, haven't you noticed the color difference in our waist tablets?"

Lu Ye had noticed this long ago but didn't pay much attention.

"As a newcomer, Fellow Daoist has no accumulated battle merits, merely an ordinary Iron Guard. The three of us are now Bronze Guards, a change brought by a certain level of battle merit accumulation. Above that, there are Silver Guards and Gold Guards."

"Are there practical advantages to upgrading the rank of the waist tablet?" Lu Ye asked.

"Certainly plenty." Kang Xing explained, "At the basic level, the cost for material exchange is different. For instance, Silver Guards receive a 20% discount on materials, and different ranks have distinct exchange lists. The lists for Bronze Guards and Iron Guards have little difference, but I've heard the lists for Silver Guards and bodyguards contain numerous rare items."

"There are Dao artifacts!" Jyang Yuning chimed in.

"Dao artifacts?" Lu Ye was puzzled, "What are Dao artifacts?"

He had never heard of Dao artifacts before; he only knew of weapons.

"Dao artifacts are more powerful magic treasures. If one possesses Dao artifacts, they can harness more Dao Force!" Jyang Yuning explained.

Lu Ye was stunned, "Isn't this an affiliated treasure?"

"No!" Kang Xing shook his head, "They're not affiliated treasures. Affiliated treasures are derivatives of supreme treasures, but I've heard affiliated treasures can only enhance one Dao force, whereas Dao artifacts... seem even more powerful."

Lu Ye was shocked; Dao artifacts are even more potent than affiliated treasures?

Kang Xing's expression grew serious, "About ten years ago, I saw a Gold Guard wield a Dao artifact in battle, fighting an enemy. Both seemed to have the strength of the 9th Dao, yet the Gold Guard's opponent lasted only ten breaths before being slain on the spot."

Determining life and death in ten breaths, the disparity in their Dao Force was at minimum three Dao forces.

Lu Ye was befuddled.

If there truly are Dao artifacts within the Star Abyss, why had he never heard of them before? His understanding of the Star Abyss might be lacking, but he should have been aware of such fundamental matters.

However, given this context, it's no wonder why those alliance guards were keen on accumulating battle merits to upgrade their waist tablets' rank.

Dao artifacts indeed have great allure.

"How do Dao artifacts come about?" Lu Ye asked.

"I've heard they're crafted. Top-tier Artifact Refiners can create Dao artifacts."

This sounded remarkable; a top-tier Artifact Refiner can forge Dao artifacts, implying that on that battlefield, there would be many beyond the 9th Dao, entering the Path.

After contemplating, Lu Ye further inquired, "How much Dao Force can a Dao artifact enhance?"

Kang Xing appeared a bit embarrassed, "That, I don't know. We've only heard tales, never personally encountered them. However, Dao artifacts certainly have a hierarchy."

It's unknown if there's a Dao artifact that could elevate a cultivator's strength to a Dao Fusion level; if there were, it would nearly match his current prowess.

Originally, he felt that he might have to appropriately conceal his prowess later, to avoid exposing his strength.

But now, he realized he must remain cautious; he couldn't assess enemies with past views. There's no telling if they possess Dao artifacts, carelessness could lead to mishaps.

After some more conversation, Lu Ye then, guided by Kang Xing, arrived at a desk, where a senile Merits Officer sat. Lu Ye casually handed over a few Dao Bones and presented his authority waist tablet. The Merits Officer, verifying no discrepancies, recorded the battle merits.

Soon after, Lu Ye requested a list of material exchanges from the Merits Officer, glanced at it, and instantly lost interest, as the items available for exchange were mostly healing supplies.

Chapter 2168: Blue Water Battle Planet

After leaving the Hall of Battle Merits, Kang Xing hosted Lu Ye at a restaurant, ordering a table full of food and drinks.

At the Beginner level, there was no longer a need for food, but with Kang Xing's enthusiastic invitation, Lu Ye found it hard to refuse.

The three of them frequently raised their glasses during the meal, expressing gratitude for Lu Ye's life-saving aid earlier. Lu Ye accepted with pleasure, and the atmosphere became harmonious.

Although Kang Xing and his companions were not particularly strong, their character was admirable, as evidenced by their risky rescue of the Talent Tree Avatar.

Lu Ye had saved their lives, and in a way, they had saved the Avatar's life as well.

At that time, with his true body not present, the Avatar was in a state akin to a living corpse, which any member of the Blood Race could have easily destroyed.

After the feast dispersed, the four parted with an agreement to meet again in the future.

Kang Xing and the others planned to stay a few more days for recovery before entering the battlefield, but Lu Ye was feeling rather impatient.

His primary objective in entering the Star Abyss was to quickly grow stronger, and while he had been searching for enemies to vanquish, the efficiency was low.

By chance, he had fallen into this colorful place, which turned out to be an opportunity.

Setting aside the fact he was temporarily trapped, this place was practically a dreamland for him.

The three forces were vying for control, the battlefield was chaotic, and the ones being killed were all from the Insect and Blood Races.

Additionally, Lu Ye was very interested in the Dao artifact. Certainly, with his current power of 21 Paths, even with a Dao artifact, the boost wouldn't be significant, but it was a rare treasure for others at the Beginner level.

If he could procure one for thorough study, and later have it forged upon returning to stellar space, it could significantly enhance the overall strength of stellar space cultivators.

However, to exchange for a Dao artifact, one at least needed to be a Silver Guard; thus, accumulating battle merit was the pressing matter.

As he left the restaurant, he used his Mana to dispel the effects of the alcohol and then raised a Crystal Ball-like object.

This was the stellar space map of the colorful stellar space, which he had exchanged for with his meager battle merits under Kang Xing's guidance.

It's fair to say that this kind of stellar space map was indispensable for any cultivator entering the battlefield, as it allowed them to know where to go.

His Mental Consciousness immersed within, he immediately saw a scaled-down version of the stellar space, where every star, every Insect Path, and even the various stellar marvels were marked within this stellar space map.

Overall, the stellar space map displayed in three colors.

Red, yellow, and blue.

Red areas represented territories occupied by the human race battle alliance, yellow for the Giant Race, and blue for the Insect and Blood Races.

The three forces were established at different corners of stellar space, while the vast region in the middle was where the battlefield lay.

In this enormous battlefield region, which spanned almost half of stellar space, light dots of different colors were scattered, representing the territories held by the three forces on the battlefield, also known as battle planets.

Each battle planet had a Dao Fusion cultivator stationed, pinned like nails in the battlefield.

The cultivators from the three forces centered their activities around these battle planets, and if nearby allies were in danger, they could flee to the battle planet for refuge or aid.

Therefore, every battle planet carried significant strategic value for any force.

Once a battle planet was breached, it meant the loss of that entire area.

Lu Ye swiftly surveyed and felt the power of the Insect and Blood Races. It was no wonder the human race battle alliance had to ally with the Giant Race, as the color distribution on the stellar space map showed that the blue areas were the largest, with red next, and yellow the smallest.

Even when red and yellow were combined, they could only barely compete with the blue.

Lu Ye reviewed the stellar space map and quickly determined a location.

Blue Water Battle Planet!

He aimed to go to the battlefield to slay enemies, which required enemies to slay. Many battle planets within the battlefield had rear positions with smaller chances to confront enemies.

However, it couldn't be too forward either. The very forward battle planets were those where the fiercest combats took place, usually guarded by powerful strongholds, and encountering them could be perilous.

He sought a place that ensured intense combat without being overly hazardous.

The Blue Water Battle Planet undoubtedly met his requirements; its position was neither too forward nor too backward. Nearby, there was a battle planet belonging to the Insect and Blood Races, ensuring enemies were available, and according to the stellar space map, there was also a Giant Race battle planet at its back for support.

This way, even if major battles erupted, the combined forces of the two battle planets could coordinate and support each other.

Determined to head to the Blue Water Battle Planet, Lu Ye carefully assessed the route, then put away the stellar space map and soared into the sky.

After half a day, he arrived in front of an Insect Path, where a cultivator was stationed. Lu Ye presented his authority waist tablet, and once verified, he was allowed to pass.

Thus, after transiting through another Insect Path and traveling for several days, he finally reached his intended destination.

He didn't need to enter the Blue Water Battle Planet itself, for it was a nail of the human race battle alliance on the battlefield, with a Dao Fusion guarding it. If he truly entered, there would be no battles to fight; to defeat enemies, he had to remain outside.

Along his journey, he encountered a few hurried cultivators, but so long as they were not from the Insect and Blood Races, mutual unharmed coexistence was possible even upon encounter.

Essentially none were journeying alone like Lu Ye.

Even a 9th Dao needs to travel in pairs on this chaotic battlefield. Once, there was a team that tried to invite him to join, but Lu Ye refused.

If he were just an ordinary 9th Dao, he might consider teaming up with others, but he ultimately wasn't.

Lu Ye originally thought that there would be battles everywhere here. However, when he actually arrived, he found that the situation wasn't quite what he expected. Perhaps due to the constant conflicts over the years, both sides here were very cautious and did not easily expose their whereabouts.

It wasn't until after half a day that Lu Ye finally sensed the aftermath of a battle and, without hesitation, immediately moved in that direction.

He quickly reached the location.

Raising his eyes to look, there was a Blood Sea sprawling across that region, with fierce combat sounds emanating from within.

Only a Blood Race could lay out such a Blood Sea, no doubt about it. Moreover, the battle noise was so great that it was sure to attract nearby cultivators.

If those who came were allies, it would be fine, but if they were enemies, then the situation would be dire.

Lu Ye immediately decided to charge over. No matter what, he would first help his fellow cultivators kill the enemy, even if he didn't know the cultivators trapped in the Blood Sea, or if they were good or bad.

Just as he was about to act, another team of cultivators revealed themselves not far away.

Exchanging glances, Lu Ye nodded slightly, as this team was composed entirely of humans.

"Fellow Daoist," the leader of the human group called out, "Wait a moment. Join us in attacking, and we can make significant achievements!"

Saying that, he led several people towards Lu Ye's side.

Lu Ye paused his movement and blinked: "Very well."

The leader approached with a wide smile, but the people behind him suddenly dispersed, forming an encirclement.

"You all..." Lu Ye was taken aback.

"Strike!" The leader shouted harshly, and simultaneously a flash of blood light appeared, his speed abruptly increasing. At the same time, his companions all moved to Lu Ye's side, attacking from all directions.

As invisible ripples swept through, each of those who made a move suddenly froze, as if struck by a mighty hammer, their power dissipating.

The glint of a blade flashed like a crescent moon, and several heads flew off.

The panicked expression on Lu Ye's face had long disappeared, leaving only cold indifference. He finished his sentence, "...What a fatal gift you've delivered!"

While drinking and chatting idly with Kang Xing and the others before, these three had imparted to Lu Ye a lot of survival tips for the battlefield. One such tip was that the Blood Race was adept at disguises, so even when encountering humans on the battlefield, if you are not familiar with them, do not trust them easily; for all you know, they could be Blood Race in disguise.

Many human race cultivators had suffered greatly because of this, with the lesson learned through much bloodshed and sacrifice.

When Lu Ye first met this group, he didn't think much of it, but their actions were too peculiar.

So with a slight exertion of saintliness, he discerned the true identity of these Blood Race members.

For other human race cultivators, distinguishing the Blood Race's disguises was not easy, but for Lu Ye it was simple.

Anything suppressed by his own saintliness must undoubtedly be Blood Race!

The power level of these Blood Race members was inferior to his, and with them suppressed by saintliness, they were as easy to slaughter as livestock.

"No wonder!" Lu Ye turned his head to look at the Blood Sea, a look of understanding dawning, as he dashed towards it.

Surely, the intensity of the battle noises here was suspicious, which was precisely because the Blood Race wanted to lure nearby human race cultivators for an ambush. The group he just killed was clearly in league with the Blood Race inside the Blood Sea, waiting to ambush those who came to investigate or rescue.

A simple but effective tactic, indeed.

Except, they had targeted the wrong person...

Rushing into the Blood Sea, he also spread his own Blood Sea. The Blood Race within immediately sensed it and exclaimed, "Which fellow clan member comes to help?"

Lu Ye followed the voice, responding, "It's me!"

The Blood Race member was still puzzled, "Who are you?"

The voice was unfamiliar, and they couldn't recall it at the moment.

But there was no need to ponder, as Lu Ye approached, they realized it was a human.

The next moment, this Blood Race member was sliced in half at the waist. As the Blood Sea collapsed, a few silhouettes hidden inside were revealed.

Upon seeing them clearly, Lu Ye couldn't help but laugh in exasperation.

These were actually members of the Insect Race!

There were no other race cultivators in the Blood Sea.

In other words, what he thought was a battle between Allied Forces of humans or Giant Race against the Blood Race was actually a staged performance by the Insect and Blood Races working together, with the earlier intense battle sounds just a ruse created by these Insect Race members.

As the Blood Sea dispersed, they were still feigning an intense fight. When they suddenly saw Lu Ye staring at them, they were all momentarily stunned.