

Humanity 801

Chapter 801 Opening the Door

"It's finally over!"

Zhou Yulong let out a long sigh of relief in the cabin atop the spirit ship, his expression revealing a sense of liberation.

The people struggling to survive at the outpost only saw these cultivators from the secret realm as powerful and noble, but how could they understand their hardships?

If it weren't absolutely necessary, if it weren't for the unbreakable family creed, who would willingly leave the safe secret realm to take on the role of a Guiding Envoy?

In this day and age, there's no safe place outside the secret realm.

Even though they had the spirit ship as their support, along the way, they often encountered provocations from the Corpse Race, numerous battles, and several near-total annihilations.

Historically, there have been instances where spirit arks from the secret realm were destroyed by the Corpse Race, resulting in the entire crew being wiped out.

For cultivators like them, born and raised in the luxury of the secret realm, coming out is akin to gambling with their lives!

To cultivators outside the secret realm, the role of a Guiding Envoy seems like a glamorous job. Wherever they go, the people at outposts welcome them warmly, but those truly born in the secret realm hesitate to take on such a role.

However, to climb to higher positions within the secret realm, one must undertake the task of being a Guiding Envoy at least once. The first master of the secret realm set the rule that only by experiencing the hardships of human survival outside could one truly cherish all that they had in the secret realm.

His Zhou family, highly influential within the secret realm, governing alongside a few other families, and he himself was exceptionally talented, with a powerful cultivation at a young age, making him the most promising star of the Zhou family.

With this guiding experience, upon returning, he would surely secure a good position, and in the next ten years, he might even have a chance to compete for the position of Zhou Family Patriarch. What a glorious future that would be!

The continent shattered, humanity struggling to survive outside the secret realm, while inside, it was all music and dancing. Even cultivators, upon reaching their own limits, had no desire to continue cultivating, and their nature of power struggles and greed became apparent.

People do not know that the so-called Sacred Land of the secret realm is actually a place filled with filth and corruption. If they knew, perhaps many would not long for the secret realm as much.

But truth be told, although he was forced out due to family creed, after this journey, Zhou Yulong was quite moved.

The people outside lived such hard lives. Several times he was tempted to just take the people from the outposts along with him.

The secret realm is so big, it's not like it can't accommodate those people.

But that thought was just a fleeting fancy; actually doing it would be taboo.

True, the secret realm is vast and can accommodate many humans, but it can't house all the remnants of humanity. Even if all three Great Secret Realms opened up, it wouldn't be enough.

So he could only guide as many youths and children as he could within his authority.

As for what fate awaits them in the secret realm, that's no longer Zhou Yulong's concern. At the very least, the environment in the secret realm is much better than the precarious outside. As long as they didn't make any major mistakes, survival shouldn't be an issue.

In these times, staying alive is paramount.

As if recalling something, Zhou Yulong suddenly called out, "Someone, come!"

Immediately, the door was pushed open, and a pretty female cultivator, a servant of the Zhou family, entered with her head bowed and fists cupped. "My lord."

"We're heading back soon. Instruct someone to heat some water and let the children take a bath. We can't bring them back smelling this bad."

"Yes!" the female cultivator responded and turned to leave.

Shortly after, in the bottom cabin, the door was pushed open, and a group of youths and children watched the busy cultivators. In a short time, ten wooden barrels filled with clean water were lined up in the spacious area.

A man stepped forward, hands behind his back, and announced, "Lord Yulong is showing mercy to you all by ordering us to prepare these baths. Clean yourselves up before entering the secret realm. You have one hour, so make it quick!"

With that, he turned away impatiently.

For people like him, the smelly environment of the bottom cabin was unbearable unless necessary.

The other cultivators also turned and left, leaving the group of youths and children staring at each other.

In these doomsday times, survival resources were scarce, including clean water. They had to be frugal with drinking water from birth, let alone take baths.

Many hadn't bathed for two or three years.

Gazing at the ten barrels of clean water now, they were somewhat unaccustomed.

After a while, someone stepped forward, cupped a handful of water, and drank a big gulp. Soon, many more gathered around to drink.

Zhou Yulong could not have imagined that most of the water he ordered for bathing would end up in the bellies of these youths and children.

Only after drinking their fill did they begin to bathe.

The water was cold. Despite Zhou Yulong's order to heat some water, who would go through the trouble for a group of lowly lives from the outpost? Zhou Yulong wouldn't check in person anyway.

No one got into the barrels. They just stood beside them, using small amounts of water to wipe the dirt off their bodies.

Saving every possible resource had become an instinct engraved in their bones.

"Big brother, why don't you go wash up?" The little girl saved by Lu Ye returned with wet hair and urged him and Ying Wuji. "You should wash too. They said that if you wash up nicely, you might make a good impression on the important people in the secret realm and be taken as disciples."

"We don't need to." Ying Wuji smiled at the innocent little girl, "And we're too old for those big shots to see us. You should give it your best shot."

The little girl immediately showed a hopeful expression.

Half an hour later, the previous cultivators appeared again to collect the barrels. The middle-aged man who spoke earlier came in, shouting, "Get moving, you little brats, we're home!"

His shout made the cabin bottom erupt.

He roared, "No noise, no pushing! Line up and behave, or I'll make you pay!"

Everyone fell silent immediately.

Under his intimidation, the youths and children formed a somewhat disordered line and began to head out.

The little girl was about to call for Lu Ye and Ying Wuji, but when she turned around, she couldn't find them. She was startled, almost believing she had seen ghosts.

The spirit ship had docked on a barren mountain peak. Zhou Yulong stood with the woman who had been with him before, holding a golden disc, watching below.

Before leaving the secret realm, the Zhou Family Patriarch had instructed him to arrive here at a specific time and wait.

At this specific time, the secret realm would drift to this location. Coupled with the special Spiritual Artifact in Zhou Yulong's hand, the portal to the secret realm could be opened.

If he missed this time and place, even someone like Zhou Yulong from the Zhou family would find it extremely difficult to return to the secret realm.

The golden disc in his hand was the Spiritual Artifact for opening the secret realm portal. The disc had two sides, Yin and Yang. Zhou Yulong would activate the disc's power, and the person holding the corresponding disc in the secret realm would sense it, check the external situation, and only then open the portal.

This caution was to prevent the disc from falling into the Corpse Race's hands.

If they opened the portal without checking, it would be disastrous if the Corpse Race attacked.

On the mountain peak, Zhou Yulong waited impatiently, glancing at the disc and the sky.

When the sun was at its zenith, his expression became vibrant, and he let out a long breath. "The time has come!"

As he spoke, he infused spirit force into the disc. Suddenly, the mountain peak was filled with dazzling golden light, causing all the cultivators to squint their eyes.

The golden light flowed like a tangible substance. In the Void, a gap seemed to form, allowing the golden light to pour in, continuously dimming.

Zhou Yulong watched the flowing golden light anxiously.

After a moment, the dim light suddenly brightened. Zhou Yulong relaxed, knowing someone in the secret realm was responding.

The golden light continued to surge, transforming into a portal that stood upright on the mountain peak. The portal wasn't large, big enough for three or four people to enter side by side. Golden light flowed around the frame, looking magnificent.

"Everyone, you've worked hard. I'll go in first!" Zhou Yulong said, leading the woman beside him into the portal.

The portal vanished like a beast's mouth the moment they stepped in.

Inside the Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm, the natural Spiritual Energy was abundant. Before the golden portal, stationed cultivators from various families stood guard. Besides them, many were hidden. The area was also covered by a big array.

The portal's defense on the secret realm side was the strictest. For years, countless cultivators watched overtly or covertly. Although nothing had ever happened, it's better to be prepared.

Centuries ago, the number of guards here was more than five times what it is now. But as time passed, the vigilance inevitably loosened.

"Yulong!"

Seeing Zhou Yulong's figure, a tall middle-aged man approached. His endearing tone indicated he was also from the Zhou family.

"Third Uncle." Zhou Yulong saluted the middle-aged man.

Third Uncle Zhou immediately helped him up, looked him over, and patted his shoulder approvingly. "You've worked hard on this journey."

Zhou Yulong replied, "It's my duty; you're too kind, Third Uncle."

As they exchanged greetings, the woman who returned with Zhou Yulong was also welcomed. Her name was Ning Tongtong, from the distinguished Ning family within the secret realm.

The Zhou family and Ning family had long-standing ties, with many intermarriages. Elders from both families were trying to match them, so they were tasked with this guiding mission together.

Chapter 802 Disaster Strikes Each Flees on Their Own

In the secret realm, the cultivators of the Zhou family and the Ning family warmly welcomed Zhou Yulong and Ning Tongtong, while the cultivators of the other three great families watched coldly.

A golden portal stood tall, with people continuously emerging from it.

Those members of the human race who came to the secret realm's outpost for the first time had never experienced such dense spiritual energy or smelled such an intense fragrance. For a moment, they felt as if they were in a different world.

Although their faces were full of excitement and shock, they suppressed their inner turmoil, not daring to make noise or become restless.

The secret realm's cultivators in charge of reception led them aside one by one.

These outpost humans, upon entering the secret realm, had to go to the Indoctrination Department first. Regardless of their cultivation level, they would have to stay there for at least three years or even longer. The Indoctrination Department would then teach them many survival rules within the secret realm and instill in them the supremacy of the Five Great Families.

Only by passing certain tests from the Indoctrination Department could they leave that place, where they would either be selected by various family clans to become house servants or be sent to different locations for hard labor.

Over a thousand years, the human race seemed to have been divided into two parts.

The secret realm human race and the outpost human race.

To the former, the latter mostly appeared like beasts who ate raw meat and drank blood.

In such an environment, even if the outpost humans were brought into the secret realm, they found it extremely difficult to stand out.

Reception went smoothly at first, with waves of outpost humans stepping inside.

Ying Wuji mixed in the crowd, activated his Concealment Technique, and stepped in. The children in front of and behind him did not notice his presence at all.

Almost at the same time Ying Wuji stepped into the Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm, the golden light standing on the ground suddenly brightened intensely, and the golden light spread like an ocean, illuminating everything. Ying Wuji's figure became conspicuous in the sea of light.

The people of the Zhou and Ning families who were conversing turned their heads swiftly, and the other families' cultivators on duty were equally astonished; for a moment, they couldn't react to what had happened.

Ying Wuji's reaction was extremely quick. Though he did not know what trick the portal had, revealing his presence, the moment his figure became visible, he leaped into the air and fled to a distant location.

"Enemy attack!" a sharp cry rang out.

The cultivators on duty in the secret realm finally came to their senses.

The main reason was that no one had ever tried to enter the secret realm without permission for many years, so encountering such an event for the first time, they reacted a half-beat slower.

When Ying Wuji leaped into the air, several cultivators joined forces to activate the big array covering the area.

In an instant, the stars shifted, and the scenery changed. Ying Wuji, who was flying, suddenly felt the weight of a mountain pressing down on him, and he plummeted straight down.

"?!" At that moment, Ying Wuji was both shocked and furious. He had relied on his excellent concealment skills to enter the secret realm unnoticed, but who would have thought he would be exposed so quickly and fall into an array trap.

While he was falling, he saw golden ropes of spiritual artifacts coming at him from all directions.

His heart pounded wildly, knowing he must avoid being touched by these spiritual artifacts, which seemed like Dragon-Binding Ropes, capable of restraining and capturing people.

He quickly activated his spirit force to forcibly twist his body.

However, several figures intercepted him, attacking him fiercely with their spirit force.

Ying Wuji was beaten into a daze, inwardly wailing.

"There's another one!" another exclamation rang out.

It was Lu Ye, who had followed closely behind Ying Wuji, also exposing his presence.

Lu Ye frowned, not understanding what went wrong, but he realized that the secret realm must have some means to detect those trying to sneak in through concealment techniques, or there were some special abilities of the secret realm leaving marks on the outpost humans being led in.

Those with these marks could enter the secret realm safely, while those without them could not hide.

Lu Ye faintly felt it was the latter.

Just arriving here, he couldn't figure out the situation. Moreover, his initial purpose in coming to the secret realm was to use the cultivators here to fight against the Corpse Race, so he couldn't cause too much trouble and escalate the situation.

Thus, he immediately activated Insight Spirit Runes to enhance his eyesight and observed the nodes of the big array here.

He saw Ying Wuji being bound tightly by rope-like spiritual artifacts, falling from the sky in a sorry state.

With Ying Wuji's trouble resolved, many of the cultivators on duty turned to attack Lu Ye.

Lu Ye hesitated slightly but did not choose to rescue Ying Wuji. Instead, he turned and fled in one direction, deploying several array banners as he ran.

Those array banners shook and hovered in mid-air, and with Lu Ye's spirit force activation, the big array teared open an entrance. He dashed out of the array's coverage and flew away.

Ying Wuji, bound and immobile on the ground, felt his heart turn cold as he watched.

Inexplicably, a saying surged in his mind.

Husband and wife are birds of the same forest, but when disaster strikes, they fly their separate ways!

This scoundrel Lu Yiye abandoned him so decisively!

However, he understood clearly that in such a situation, Lu Ye's immediate escape was the best choice. Otherwise, if they started fighting, he might not be able to save himself, and killing people would bring them no good.

As for whether Lu Yiye would get captured here... Ying Wuji didn't even consider it.

"Catch him!" More than a dozen on-duty cultivators chased after Lu Ye, while the remaining stayed alert against any unforeseen events.

Among the Five Great Families, a Wei family cultivator shouted: "Zhou Yulong, who did you bring back?"

Zhou Yulong was dumbfounded.

Who could he have brought back? During this trip with Ning Tongtong, they only brought back young people and children from various outposts. Where did those two people come from?

He hadn't even seen these two people before.

But he understood that if this matter was not handled well, not only would all their efforts be wasted, but his future would also be impacted.

With that thought, he looked at Ying Wuji with a grim expression.

The peaceful Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm, which had been quiet for almost a thousand years, suddenly became bustling. Patrols of cultivators roamed everywhere, seemingly searching for something.

At first, the various families within the secret realm didn't know what had happened, but secrets are hard to keep in this world.

The news of an external invasion into the secret realm spread quickly.

Though one person was captured on the spot, another was still at large. How could anyone in the secret realm feel at ease without finding him?

Yet, even though the secret realm's cultivators searched high and low, they couldn't find any trace of the person.

As a result, the captured Ying Wuji suffered much and was tortured first by the Silver Snake Valley to pry information from him about Lu Ye...

Strictly speaking, the secret realm in the Unparalleled Continent could almost be considered a miniature world, albeit not as vast as the Unparalleled Continent.

While the outside world was ravaged by the Corpse Race, leaving humans with almost no place to stand, this place remained unaffected, a scene of prosperity and peace.

The entire Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm had one large city and sixteen smaller ones.

The largest city, Five Prime City, was where the Five Great Families resided and was the central hub of the secret realm. The sixteen smaller cities were distributed around Five Prime City, arranged in a certain pattern, like stars surrounding a moon, seemingly aligning with some kind of array.

However, the current power of the Five Great Families could no longer fully activate such a large array.

That array was a method left by the strong cultivators in the Divine Sea Realm from the time before the Unparalleled Continent shattered.

At this moment, in an empty residence in Five Prime City, Lu Ye sat quietly on a Taishi Chair, playing with a crystal-like object in his hand, looking leisurely.

A large number of people were dispatched from the Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm, searching for his trail everywhere, yet they didn't expect him to sneak into Five Prime City, right under the Five Great Families' noses.

The thing in his hand was the Heaven's Augury Pillar, sealed by Heaven's Augury through a mysterious method.

Upon entering the Unparalleled Continent, Lu Ye received Heaven's Augury's instructions to save this broken land.

This was undoubtedly a daunting and dangerous task. Otherwise, Heaven's Augury wouldn't have prepared such an impressive lineup.

Although he had learned much after arriving in this land, Lu Ye still had no clear idea on how to save it.

He had initially thought that uniting the strength of the three great secret realms to fight the Corpse Race would resolve the crisis here.

However, implementing this plan was extremely difficult.

For one thing, the cultivators in the Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm had become accustomed to their life here and had no intention of leaving to fight the Corpse Race in the outside world.

What could Lu Ye offer to convince them to risk their lives?

Lu Ye didn't know the situation in the other two secret realms, but he was certain that no matter what he said, it wouldn't persuade the people here in the Silver Snake Valley.

Using force was even less plausible. He was just a lone individual, even if he counted Ying Wuji, that made only two of them.

And now Ying Wuji was captured.

At this point, Lu Ye finally sensed something.

The matter in the Unparalleled Continent had to be resolved by the Nine Provinces cultivators. Only they had the courage and spirit to face the Corpse Race head-on!

The Heaven's Augury Pillar sealed in his hand was the answer. Heaven's Augury had already given him the solution, but he simply hadn't realized it until now.

He stood up, drew the Boulder Mountain Saber, and dug a hole in the ground before him. Then he buried the sealed Heaven's Augury Pillar in the hole, covered it with soil, and stamped it down firmly.

The saying goes, "Plant melons and you'll get melons; sow beans and you'll get beans." By planting this Heaven's Augury Pillar today, he hoped it would yield another Heaven's Augury Pillar someday.

After finishing, he took out the transmission stone to contact Ying Wuji.

Without relying on the strength of the Silver Snake Valley, his actions would face fewer restrictions.

Ying Wuji was now a companion. While he had to abandon him earlier out of necessity, it was time to rescue him now.

Chapter 803 The Big Fish

Five Prime City, in the city, within a grand hall, a shadowy figure sits, among the vast hall, only about a dozen people.

But these dozen people are the rulers jointly in charge of the Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm from the Five Great Families, each holding high positions and great power.

People from the Five Great Families all regard stepping into this hall in their lifetime as their ultimate goal.

Zhou Yulong originally had hopes, but if this matter is not properly resolved, in the future, not to mention stepping into this hall, even becoming the Zhou Family Patriarch might not be his turn.

Though the Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm is jointly managed by the Five Great Families, a snake cannot function without a head, so ultimately a master of the secret realm is still needed.

The ancestors of the Five Great Families set a rule that the position of the master of the secret realm should be rotated among the heads of the five families, with each term lasting ten years.

This current term's master of the secret realm is the Chu Family Patriarch, Chu Ruoyu.

He sits in the central position; on the lower seats to his left and right are the family heads of the other four families, and further down are the power holders in various fields from each of the five families, two people from each family.

These fifteen people are the top tier of the entire Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm.

At this moment, a storage sack and a crystal stone-like thing are being passed around among the group.

Everyone who inspects the storage sack shows a solemn expression.

It's no surprise that despite the few items in the storage sack, each one is enough to move them.

Particularly those elixir pills, each of excellent quality, indicating that the craftsmanship of the Pill Master who refined them is highly sophisticated, far surpassing that of the Pill Masters in Silver Snake Valley.

Also, the Spiritual Artifacts and those spirit fruits, even ones whose names they couldn't call out...

Although they are people of high positions and great power, today they felt a sense of enlightenment seeing the items inside the storage sack.

It is hard to believe that such items exist in the world.

If Silver Snake Valley had a Pill Master capable of refining such elixir pills, the growth of their younger generations would certainly be faster.

"It is certain that these two come from other secret realms, but which exact one is still unknown." An elder suddenly spoke.

Such wealth is not something checkpoint cultivators could possess, and the concealment techniques used by Ying Wuji and Lu Ye previously were extraordinary. If it weren't for the marks left on each person brought in, those two might have sneaked in without being detected at all.

"Could they be from the Ziwei Dao Palace?" Someone frowned and guessed, "Ziwei Dao Palace has been trying to counterattack the Corpse Race these years and has negotiated with us and Mount Sumeru many times. Could it be that they've lost patience and are attempting some cunning scheme?"

"Just two people, what kind of scheme could they possibly pull off?"

"One puzzling thing though, didn't these two know that rashly entering would expose themselves?"

If they were indeed from the Ziwei Dao Palace Secret Realm, they wouldn't have been so reckless. But from the gathered intel, the two seemed quite surprised upon exposure, apparently not expecting it.

Such reactions don't seem typical of secret realm dwellers but rather checkpoint cultivators from outside.

Yet, which checkpoint cultivators could possess such rich wealth? It's impossible for outsiders.

"Compared to the contents of the storage sack, I'm more interested in this item!" Another elder squeezed the crystal stone-like thing, "What is this? Not a Spiritual Artifact, yet has traces of refinement, triggering spirit force inside it evokes odd reactions."

When Ying Wuji was captured, his items were naturally confiscated. Among those was a crystal stone he carried.

A group of people examined it repeatedly, but no one identified its purpose.

"This is an audio transmission stone."

A sudden unfamiliar voice rang through the hall.

Everyone was stunned, for the voice didn't belong to any of them. Quickly, they directed their gazes to the peculiar crystal stone.

The voice had clearly come from within the crystal stone.

The elder holding the stone trembled, nearly dropping it.

The grand hall fell silent, making even the sound of a pin drop audible, eyes exchanging glances, unable to hide their inner shock.

An audio transmission stone... This item exists only in legend. Before the great change, the Unparalleled Continent had these items, allowing cultivators to communicate over long distances. But after the great change, the refinement technique was lost, and even the three major secret realms couldn't produce them.

Unexpectedly, they witnessed such a legendary item today.

Recalling various information about the audio transmission stone, it became clear to them that someone else must hold the corresponding stone, communicating from somewhere.

Their previous conversation was entirely overheard by the other party when the elder activated the spirit force to the stone.

Everyone was enraged!

Though they hadn't discussed secret matters, being silently eavesdropped on still hurt their pride.

"Are you the intruder of the secret realm?" The elder holding the stone channeled spirit force and questioned.

Others listened closely.

Soon came a response: "It's me."

The elder sneered: "Young and daring, not only intruding into our Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm but also contacting us proactively?"

According to the intel, the two intruders were both young, notably the one who escaped, seemingly at Cloud River Level 8, with decent strength and quick evasion. The dozen cultivators guarding the portal chased him but soon lost track of him.

Lu Ye's voice emerged from the stone: "My companion fell into your hands. I request you to let him go. As for terms... you name them, and if I can meet them, I will!"

"Do you think you can escape? Regardless of where you come from, intruding into our Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm will not end well. If you're sensible, reveal yourself and avoid further suffering. If caught, your fate won't be yours." The elder snorted.

Others remained silent, implicitly agreeing with the elder's words.

From their position, they wouldn't easily release Ying Wuji, and Lu Ye must be captured to uncover their origins and perhaps learn the refinement technique of the audio transmission stone...

If understood, future contact among secret realm cultivators would be much more convenient.

"Understood."

The stone went silent, despite the elder's repeated spirit force inquiries, agitating him so much he nearly crushed the stone.

"A newborn calf doesn't fear tigers!" Someone jested.

Lu Ye's cultivation of Cloud River Level 8 didn't faze them. Though Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm wouldn't venture out against the Corpse Race, their accumulated strength over the years was formidable. Despite his expertise in concealment, he couldn't stir much trouble.

If he dared reveal himself, he'd follow his companion's fate.

Soon, the meeting ended, and everyone dispersed.

In a mansion in the city's east, Wei Wuguang returned.

As the Wei Family head, his cultivation and experience were unparalleled; next decade he would be the master of the secret realm, and he would lead the Wei Family to new heights.

Today's meeting stirred the families, with the elixir pills and the audio transmission stone tempting them. The intruders carrying such enticing items naturally drew attention.

If Wei Family acquired the refinement techniques, they could surpass the other four families, ending the decade rotation rule and leading the secret realm!

Though he knows, even if the intruders knew these techniques, Wei Family might not monopolize them.

The other old foxes must be scheming too, alliances necessary.

Exclude Zhou and Ning families, they're close-knit, partnering with them would mean getting exploited.

Remaining options are Chu and Long families.

Wei Wuguang pondered thus, entering the chamber and sitting down.

After a while, no tea was served, and he frowned, calling: "Anyone?"

Normally prompt maids, didn't respond.

Wei Wuguang's face darkened, these servants are getting unruly, need re-education from the Indoctrination Department!

In that moment, he sensed something amiss.

Turning to the side, he was overwhelmed.

On a nearby chair, a youth sat lazily, legs crossed, a long knife casually on his lap.

When?

Wei Wuguang was startled, had sensed no one before!

As Wei Family's head, despite the sudden change, quickly steadied himself, glanced at Lu Ye and pondered: "Are you the escaped outsider?"

He realized these intruders' concealment techniques were formidable, did not detect him because he was hidden.

Outwardly calm, inwardly furious.

The youth, daring, intruding Wei Family mansion!

"You seem to disagree with my previous proposal!" Lu Ye gazed at Wei Wuguang.

Upon speaking, Lu Ye recognized the elder holding the stone as the one who conversed with him.

What a coincidence.

He waited here merely to capture an important Wei Family figure, not expecting such a big catch.

Chapter 804 You'll Soon Have Company

Ever since they entered Five Prime City, Yiyi had been gathering information in secret, and Lu Ye had come to understand the situation within the city and the status of the Five Great Families.

He needed to rescue Ying Wuji, but the Five Great Families were unwilling to release him and even intended to plot against him.

So, there was only one thing he could do.

Do unto them as they would do unto you.

Capture one person from each of the Five Great Families to exchange for Ying Wuji.

For him, this was not a difficult task.

As for breaking into the dungeon to rescue Ying Wuji... Not to mention he did not know the exact location of the dungeon, it would undoubtedly be heavily guarded inside. Even with his capabilities, it was uncertain if he could make it out.

Such a vast secret realm, able to remain for millennia, surely has its own foundations.

"You came here to capture me and exchange me for your companion?" Wei Wuguang, having lived long enough to be perceptive, saw through Lu Ye's intention even though they had just met.

"Why not?" Lu Ye gently stroked the hilt of his knife.

Wei Wuguang was not angry but instead laughed, "Never thought this old man would be underestimated someday!" His laughter abruptly ceased, and his tone turned icy, "Don't you know how high the heaven is and how deep the earth is, daring to act recklessly at my Wei family!"

As his words fell, the spirit force around him surged turbulently. From his seemingly aged body burst forth an extremely powerful aura, and his blood Qi burned brilliantly like a big sun.

Without any noticeable movements, he lunged towards Lu Ye, extending his hand to grab Lu Ye's head.

Although, from the existing information, he knew that Lu Ye was only at the Cloud River Level 8, yet his strike showed no mercy.

Having lived for so many years, he understood the principle of a lion using its full strength even to catch a rabbit, so he never underestimated an opponent, even one weaker than him in cultivation.

This was the reason he could stand out in the Wei family when he was young and ultimately reach the position of Family Head.

Moreover, the boy in front of him was too significant; initially, he had been contemplating how he could monopolize the benefits. If he could capture him here, he might be able to extract many secrets.

However, the instant he made his move, his heart skipped a beat as an immense feeling of unease rapidly spread through his mind.

Before he could react, a fiery red blade light slashed across in front of him.

"Ah!" Wei Wuguang cried out in shock, his charging figure was suddenly deflected, flying backward like a ragged sack with blood spraying mid-air.

Boom...

He crashed into a nearby screen, fell heavily to the ground, and struggled to get up with a grim expression, staring at Lu Ye who was slowly rising from his chair as if he had seen a ghost.

"You..." Wei Wuguang subconsciously wanted to ask something, but the words stuck in his throat and he did not know what to ask.

This young man... what was going on?

Clearly only at the Cloud River Level 8, how could he possess such abundant spirit force, such powerful strength, and such swift reactions?

His own strength was already top-notch in this realm, yet when the boy stood up, it felt like he was viewing a towering mountain. The seemingly not so tall figure gave him an unforgettable sense of oppression.

The unspoken pressure made his body tense up, involuntarily recalling a past encounter when he served as a Guiding Envoy during his youth.

That time, he encountered an Iron Corpse Commander under a Corpse Fiend. All the cultivators accompanying him were slaughtered, and he barely escaped with his life by triggering a life-saving Spiritual Object.

The long-forgotten memory churned up within him once again, and he felt the taste of fear.

The large hand that initially aimed at Lu Ye trembled violently, and in his palm was a bloodied wound. Had he not reacted quickly, he might have lost that hand.

So, the one who didn't know how high the heaven was and how deep the earth was... turned out to be him!

Numerous thoughts flashed through Wei Wuguang's mind. His body swiftly retreated, aiming to break through the wall and escape.

Despite the brief exchange, he had already sensed the strength of the young man in front of him.

If he was at the same age, he might have had the competitive spirit to challenge him. But now, with age and his high position, he no longer harbored the will to compete.

The older one gets, the less bold they become; so it was.

Upon crashing against an invisible barrier, he was forcefully bounced back.

"Formation?" Wei Wuguang's expression changed drastically. When did this place become set up with a formation?

Suddenly realizing, it was no wonder the Wei family members were not reacting to the commotion here; it was because they had been deceived by the formation.

Watching the young man slowly walk towards him with eyes closed and carrying a blade, Wei Wuguang decisively said, "Stop, young friend. Whatever you want, I will comply."

The old guy was so sensible?

Lu Ye raised an eyebrow and nodded slightly, "Then follow me."

Momentarily, the members of the Wei family saw a shocking scene. A young man with a long knife at his waist walked in front, followed by their Family Head, moving step by step outwards.

Those lower-ranked servants dared not ask questions, only giving respectful salutes to Wei Wuguang.

Many cultivators of the Wei family, even if they wanted to ask something, were dismissed by Wei Wuguang in advance.

Not until they exited the Wei family residence did Wei Wuguang let out a heavy sigh, looking complicatedly at the figure ahead.

The young man had not used any binding methods, and he even turned his back towards him, seeming wholly unconcerned about a potential sneak attack.

The journey out of the Wei residence, Wei Wuguang struggled internally several times but ultimately did not dare to take the risk.

He truthfully had no idea just how powerful the young man was; all he knew was a single casual strike left him almost unable to withstand.

Such unrelenting confidence must either stem from naïve foolishness or trust in his capabilities.

Based on his daring intrusion into the Wei residence and pre-arrangement of the formation, it was clearly not the former.

In other words, he had absolute confidence in his abilities!

If things did escalate, whether he could subdue the young man or not, the Wei family would surely suffer heavy casualties.

As the Family Head, he dared not take the risk.

Out of the Wei residence, he had even less reason to risk it and could only resign himself to the situation.

Luckily, he had read the young man's intent, understanding he merely wanted to rescue someone, and had not sensed any killing intent from him...

This young man... could he be from Mount Sumeru or the Ziwei Dao Palace? Most likely the latter; only the Ziwei Dao Palace could nurture such a talent.

Walking along the way, they soon arrived at a common residence.

Lu Ye opened the door and entered. Although Wei Wuguang was unwilling, he had no choice but to follow.

Upon entering the courtyard, Wei Wuguang felt a tightening around him, as if he had stepped into a Dragon Pond and Tiger's Den...

Clearly, there was no one in the courtyard.

His unease clarified: this courtyard held a formidable big array. Now that he was inside it, his life and death were truly at the mercy of the young man.

"Young friend, the Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm is co-ruled by the Five Great Families. Capturing me alone is futile; someone may take this opportunity to provoke you, using you to achieve some unspeakable goals. Open your eyes wide," Wei Wuguang advised earnestly, fearing Lu Ye might be deceived.

And at this moment, his form of address towards Lu Ye had also softened considerably.

"I know." Lu Ye nodded, giving him a meaningful look. "You'll soon have company."

"Company..." Wei Wuguang's eye twitched, obviously realizing something. Before he could speak further, Lu Ye had already turned and left.

Leaving me alone? Wei Wuguang wanted to be both angry and amused...

Even if an impressive big array was set up, could he just leave without anyone guarding him, treating him as nothing?

As these thoughts ran through his mind, he turned around to find a small snow-white tiger cub perched on a chair, its fur shiny and sleek.

Meeting eyes, Wei Wuguang was taken aback. He could see Amber was no ordinary demon beast.

It wasn't that no one was watching over him, it was just that the young man left a demon beast behind.

But what could a demon beast do?

As he wondered this, the tiger cub picked up an array banner beside it with its paw and gently waved it at him.

"Wait..." Wei Wuguang raised his hand to stop it, but it was too late. The courtyard was engulfed in mist, and killing intent surged, making him wary of any move.

A demon beast that can activate formations!

Amidst the mist, Wu Wuguang was stunned, finding everything surreal. In all his years, he had never seen a demon beast as sentient as this.

Outside the big array, Yiyi appeared silently, holding an array banner as well.

Wei Wuguang thought Lu Ye had only left a demon beast to guard him, unaware that both Amber and Yiyi were left behind.

With the array set by Lu Ye himself, Yiyi and Amber could switch between offense and defense, ensuring their safety regardless of unexpected events. Thus, guarding Wei Wuguang posed no problem.

In the mist, Wei Wuguang didn't dare to move, fearing he might accidentally trigger the formation, so he sat down quietly.

About two hours later, the mist ahead began to stir. Before Wei Wuguang could react, a figure burst through the mist, crashing towards him.

Instinctively thinking he was under attack, Wei Wuguang raised his hand, pushing it forward with surging spirit force.

The palm struck the figure's chest directly.

"Ugh..." The person spat a mist of blood, splattering all over Wei Wuguang's face.

"Hmm?" Recognizing the voice and the face before him, Wei Wuguang's eyelids twitched violently.

"Long You?"

"Wei, you old fool, are you trying to kill me?" Long You, angry to the extreme and heavily injured, was now too weak to even rise, having taken Wei Wuguang's savage blow.

"You..." Wei Wuguang halted, already comprehending what had happened.

This was clearly the companion the young man had captured for him!

Just like him, Long You hadn't escaped the young man's clutches.

What shocked him more was the speed of it all; it had barely been two hours since the young man left.

And this was Long You!

Chapter 805 I Only Discuss This Matter

Among the Five Great Families, the number of strong cultivators is not small, and in the Wei family, his strength as the Family Head is considered the strongest.

But in the Long family, the strongest is not the Long Family Patriarch, but this Long You in front of him.

His strength even surpasses his own by a line. In the entire Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm, he is considered the number one expert.

Just because of his unrestrained and uninhibited nature, he is unwilling to be entangled in mundane matters. Therefore, he does not assume the position of the Family Head, only holding a casual elder position in the family.

But even such a person, who can be called the number one expert in Silver Snake Valley, is now lying in front of him like a dead dog.

Wei Wuguang sized up the scene and clearly saw several knife wounds on Long You's body, instantly understanding that this Long You had suffered a great loss at the hands of that youth!

From the injuries on Long You's body, it seems the opponent made only three strikes...

Wei Wuguang was both horrified and relieved.

Horrified by the youth's strength, which seemed beyond imagination, and relieved that he was wise enough to cooperate early on, seeing the situation was unfavorable. Otherwise, lying on the ground would not only be Long You.

Although the Five Great Families usually engage in open and secret struggles, facing an external enemy now naturally unites them. Wei Wuguang quickly took out a healing pill to help Long You recover from his injuries while explaining their current situation.

Long You listened without any temper... He never thought there would be a day when he would become a prisoner.

Time passed.

The small courtyard inside the big array gradually became lively.

After Wei Wuguang and Long You, Zhou Ding from the Zhou family came, Ning Boran from the Ning family came, and Chu Anhe from the Chu family also came...

One person from each of the Five Great Families, no more, no less, neatly arranged.

All within half a day's time.

And the five captured individuals were all top experts from their respective families.

Except for Long You, who was seriously injured, the others were not severely injured, showing they understood the situation and yielded accordingly.

After exchanging their experiences of being captured, the five fell silent, their hearts heavy.

The youth moved in and out of the residences of the Five Great Families as if no one was there, mastered the Array Path, and possessed overwhelming strength. Such a person, at such a young age, cannot be compared with the most outstanding cultivators of Silver Snake Valley in history.

Fortunately, the five also understood Lu Ye's purpose, so even though they were trapped in the big array, they did not panic much.

Given the youth's strength, if he wanted to kill them, they would have been dead long ago.

Although Lu Ye was cautious, the continuous disappearances of the Five Great Families' experts could not escape their investigation.

He never intended to hide anything anyway...

Now that he had hostages from each of the Five Great Families, it was time to negotiate with them.

In the small courtyard, Lu Ye sat on a Taishi Chair, the Boulder Mountain Saber flying up and down flexibly, carving a crystal stone in his hand.

The serene and peaceful small courtyard was suddenly filled with a killing intent. The sound of clothes rustling resounded, and as spirit force surged, figures stood on all sides of the courtyard's walls, looking down at him with vigilant expressions, each as if facing a great enemy.

The small courtyard's gate was kicked open, and led by an elder, a group of cultivators with billowing auras stepped in.

In an instant, the small courtyard was filled to the brim.

Lu Ye, however, seemed oblivious, still focusing on the crystal stone in his hand, the Boulder Mountain Saber vibrating with tiny movements, with fragments flying off the crystal stone.

"What is this..." The group, which had come with great momentum, brightened their eyes at the sight of the crystal stone in Lu Ye's hand.

Isn't this the audio transmission stone?

Looking at the youth's posture, does it seem that the audio transmission stone was made by him?

In an instant, many people's thoughts turned, and their expressions towards Lu Ye became eager.

The leading elder, after a brief contemplation, slightly restrained his hostility and said, "Little friend, where do you come from and what is your name?"

If Lu Ye were only impressively strong, that would be one thing, but if he could truly refine the audio transmission stone, his value to the Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm would be immense.

At the very least, with this item, communication among Silver Snake Valley's cultivators would become much more convenient in the future.

"Are you the person in charge here?" Without lifting his head, Lu Ye asked casually.

The elder smiled and nodded, "I am Chu Ruoyu, the Chu Family Patriarch, and also this generation's Valley Master of Silver Snake Valley, considered the master of this secret realm."

"You can make decisions here!"

"Yes!"

Only then did Lu Ye look up at him. With a wave of his hand and a surge of spirit force, the mist in the center of the small courtyard quickly dissipated, revealing five figures trapped within the formation.

"Family Head!"

"Elder!"

...

A series of exclamations rang out. Although the members of the Five Great Families had already deduced that their missing experts had been brought here, seeing was still different from speculating.

Moreover, it was evident that the five trapped people were mostly injured, with Long You being the most severely hurt.

Shaken, they looked at Lu Ye with expressions of both hostility and incomprehension.

This youth truly has audacity!

He captured five key figures from the Five Great Families!

And he did it within just half a day!

"What do you want to say, little friend..." Chu Ruoyu stroked his beard, looking at Lu Ye. He had a guess but still had to ask.

"You have my people. I have yours. Let's make a trade. You release my people, and I will release yours."

As expected...

This youth, just for the sake of a companion, dared to break into the Five Great Families' residences and capture critically important experts, showing he is indeed a person of loyalty...

With thoughts swirling in his mind, Chu Ruoyu chuckled, "This can be discussed. But before that..."

Before he finished his words, Lu Ye's supplies box at his waist suddenly buzzed, and a beam of Liu Guang shot out, aiming directly at one of the five people trapped in the array.

No one expected such a sudden change. Only the person being attacked sensed an ominous warning, but before he could react, an overwhelming force descended, immobilizing him as if he were carrying a mountain.

With a light puff, the weapon pierced through his right chest, spurting blood, and then the Liu Guang returned to Lu Ye's supplies box.

After upgrading the Boulder Mountain Saber, Lu Ye had also upgraded his weapon to a magic-artifact class. Though only having three was limited, both its lethality and power were greatly enhanced compared to before.

With the aid of the formation, how could anyone resist his attack?

"Anhe!" someone called out, stepping forward, but then freezing in place. He struggled to shift his gaze to the youth still sitting calmly.

The moment he moved, he felt like a lamb being targeted by a fierce wolf, a massive danger loomed, making him fear he would die instantly if he took another step forward.

In the big array, Chu Anhe groaned, clutching his chest as his face contorted...

Why me?

Why only me?

Among the five captives, why did the youth hurt only him?

Though the wound wasn't fatal, the incident showed the youth's ability to take their lives at any moment!

The peaceful facade in Chu Ruoyu's eyes vanished, replaced with cold severity, understanding the youth's warning.

Because he was from the Chu family, the youth targeted Chu family members.

"I will only discuss this matter, nothing else. I want to see my companion within one incense stick's time!" His tone was decisive, admitting no room for doubt.

Chu Ruoyu squinted slightly, saying, "Little friend, it's best not to push things too far. Leaving some leeway will benefit both you and us."

The supplies box hummed again, and another Liu Guang shot out, piercing Chu Anhe and leaving another hole.

Chu Ruoyu grew angry, stepping forward and shouting, "Though the Five Great Families have long dwelled in the secret realm, we have the resolve to perish with our enemies! You may control their lives, but don't you care about your companion's life?"

Buzz...

The Liu Guang darted out again, then returned as swiftly.

Chu Anhe, now with three holes in his body, looked at Chu Ruoyu, his eyes filled with pleading.

Though the youth had avoided vital spots, the pain was unbearable, and if this continued, he might die...

Internally, he wailed, Family Head, just stop arguing with him. Each word brings me another wound!

"If you want to kill, then kill!" Lu Ye's calm gaze met Chu Ruoyu's, with a hint of challenge, "Do you want to try?"

Chu Ruoyu, although confident in understanding people, was now perplexed by Lu Ye.

First, he thought Lu Ye was a loyal and righteous person, risking everything for his companion. But now he seemed...

... not to care much about his companion's life?

Why then did he go through all this effort?

Indeed, in these chaotic times, understanding people is difficult.

"Valley Master, Anhe is invaluable. We cannot afford to lose him. This person is ruthless, so let's comply first and then plan further." Someone beside Chu Ruoyu advised softly.

After all, it wasn't only Chu Anhe who was a captive; all Five Great Families were involved.

If the youth dared to target Chu Anhe, he wouldn't hesitate to attack the others.

At this point, the Five Great Families needed to stand united, not provoking Lu Ye further.

Otherwise, if someone died, there would be no turning back.

Moreover, Chu Ruoyu needed a way out from the stalemate.

Chapter 806 Heroes Emerge in Youth

"Bring the person over," commanded Chu Ruoyu.

The members of the various families let out a long sigh, and someone immediately volunteered and quickly left.

The small courtyard fell back into silence. Although the numerous strong fighters of the Five Great Families surrounded this place tightly, Wei Wuguang and his four companions were trapped by the big array, their lives under Lu Ye's control, so they dared not act recklessly.

However, from their constantly exchanged glances, it was clear their hearts were far from calm, and they must have some ideas.

The Five Great Family Patriarchs have ruled Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm for nearly a thousand years. Here, they are the sky, the rulers, and no one dares to defy them. They have never been treated with such disrespect.

Not to mention their strong fighters being captured, their lives out of their control.

Even though Lu Ye had been lenient, he had already touched the bottom line of the Five Great Families.

But the ruthless style he displayed earlier undoubtedly made the Five Great Families dread him greatly, so at this moment, no one dared to say anything more to avoid provoking him and causing their family members to suffer.

Within less than the time of one incense stick, no more than a half-tea's time, Ying Wuji, bound by ropes-like spirit artifacts, was brought over.

It was evident that Ying Wuji had suffered quite a bit, not only was he disheveled, but he also had a bruised face...

This is no surprise since Silver Snake Valley had to use some methods to inquire about him and Lu Ye.

Unfortunately, cultivators from the Nine Provinces each had tough bones, especially Ying Wuji, a core disciple from a top big sect. Even though he was opposed to Lu Ye's camp, how could he betray him at this moment?

Thus, despite being humiliated, Silver Snake Valley didn't manage to extract any useful information from Ying Wuji.

Being brought to the small courtyard, seeing Lu Ye sitting there, Ying Wuji's eyes couldn't help but turn wet...

Truly moved!

He had thought he was done for this time and didn't expect Lu Ye to come to rescue him. After all, they were enemies in the Nine Provinces, and Ying Wuji had tried to assassinate Lu Ye before. By reason and sentiment, Lu Ye could completely abandon him.

His capture had nothing to do with Lu Ye; it was entirely his own incompetence and lack of vigilance.

Who would have thought Lu Ye would really come to rescue him, and the grand array in the courtyard indicated that Lu Yiye was confronting the entire Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm alone...

"Are you alright?" Lu Ye glanced at him.

"Not dead yet!" Ying Wuji grinned at him.

Lu Ye nodded, and when he raised his hand, the spirit force of the big array trapping Wei Wuguang and the others surged. Long You, who was severely injured, exclaimed as an invisible force pulled him out and threw him directly.

A quick-witted cultivator from the Long family leaped up, caught Long You, checked him briefly, and found that although Long You's injuries were severe, his life was not in danger, so he nodded slightly to the Long Family Patriarch.

"Release him!" Lu Ye looked at Chu Ruoyu.

Chu Ruoyu frowned, "You mean a one-for-one exchange?"

"Life for life, fair and just!" Lu Ye slowly stood up, resting his hand on his saber.

As he stood, the numerous strong fighters in the courtyard couldn't help but tense up.

When he was seated, they felt nothing, but when he stood, they all felt immense pressure, as if the one standing before them was not a man, but an ancient ferocious beast ready to devour them.

Each one's heart trembled.

"Or, you can choose not to exchange."

As Lu Ye spoke, the supplies box at his waist buzzed, and three weapon control streams of light streaked out, pointing directly at Wei Wuguang and the others' foreheads. His gaze was calm, but anyone could clearly sense his killing intent.

No one doubted that if Chu Ruoyu dared to utter a refusal, someone in the courtyard would die on the spot!

"Young friend, please calm down!"

"Hold your hand!"

A group of people cried out in fear that Lu Ye would really kill Wei Wuguang and the others.

Chu Ruoyu coldly stared at Lu Ye, feeling utterly frustrated. He was an experienced and cunning man, yet since he came to this courtyard and met this young man, he had been led by the nose all along, which was very unsatisfactory.

Even though they surrounded this place tightly, the situation was unfavorable.

The young man's ruthless and decisive style was evident from the three holes he left on Chu Anhe for a minor displeasure earlier. If due to him, the strong fighters of the various families died here, he, the master of the secret realm, might have to step down early...

"Release him!" Chu Ruoyu waved his hand.

With oscillating spirit force, the spirit artifacts binding Ying Wuji were retrieved. Ying Wuji took a quick step beside Lu Ye, spat out blood water, feeling much safer, and confidently said, "Where are my things?"

Though he and Lu Ye had their own storage spaces, and the contents of their storage sacks were not much, he wouldn't let others benefit easily.

"Return them!" Chu Ruoyu commanded again.

Someone immediately took off a storage sack from their waist and threw it to Ying Wuji. After checking briefly, Ying Wuji said, "The audio transmission stone too!"

Chu Ruoyu raised his hand, tossing Ying Wuji's audio transmission stone back.

"Now that's more like it!" Ying Wuji sneered.

"Thunk..." echoed as Lu Ye stuck the Boulder Mountain Saber to the ground before him, resting his hands on its hilt, "Now we can talk about other matters."

Chu Ruoyu guardedly asked, "What do you want to talk about?"

"The method to contact the other two secret realms or the way to find the portals of those secret realms, and we want to leave here!"

Upon hearing this, not only did Chu Ruoyu frown, but other cultivators in the courtyard also looked puzzled.

"Aren't you two from those secret realms?" someone asked.

They had always guessed that Lu Ye and Ying Wuji were from the Mount Sumeru Secret Realm or the Ziwei Dao Palace Secret Realm, but now it seemed otherwise.

If they were from either of those secret realms, why would they want to inquire about those things from Silver Snake Valley?

But such remarkable individuals, if not from those secret realms, where could they be from?

Could outside bases nurture such talents?

This was simply unimaginable.

Chu Ruoyu also found it hard to believe. If they were pretending, there was no need for such pretense.

After pondering, he said solemnly, "Young friend, this is a bit too much. The three human race great secret realms are all extremely hidden, floating in the Void. Even those within the secret realm require specific timing, location, and spiritual objects to open a portal. How could Silver Snake Valley have a way to find the portals of the other two secret realms? If we did, those two couldn't rest easy."

"What about the method to contact them?"

Chu Ruoyu said, "Usually, it's when the guiding envoys from the three great secret realms meet outside that there's some exchange. It's impossible to contact them across secret realms, so your request is beyond our capabilities."

He was not telling the whole truth because the three great secret realms had an agreement to send people annually to a hidden location to exchange information or discuss important matters.

Of course, he didn't need to tell Lu Ye, and even if he did, it was useless because the next meeting of the three secret realms' representatives was more than a year away.

Nonetheless, Silver Snake Valley indeed did not have a way to actively contact the other two secret realms, nor the ability to find their portals.

The other two did not possess such means either.

Lu Ye listened quietly, observing, feeling that the old man was not lying.

Feeling a headache; so many obstacles after just one secret realm. How would he find the other two?

"As for sending you two away, that's not a problem."

Chu Ruoyu paused, "However, I have a request!"

"Speak!"

"Besides releasing those four, I want the method to refine the audio transmission stone!"

Judging from everything before, the young man with the saber could refine audio transmission stones. As for elixir pills, Chu Ruoyu did not mention them. Even if he obtained the method, it depended on the Pill Master's skill and the supply of raw materials, so it might be worthless.

Not to mention, these two might not even know the elixir pill refinement method.

Ying Wuji sneered, "Old man, too much greed is not good."

"Just a small request, hoping young friend will oblige!" Chu Ruoyu ignored him and looked at Lu Ye.

"Sure!"

To the surprise of Chu Ruoyu and the cultivators of the Five Great Families, Lu Ye agreed readily.

After agreeing, he immediately took out a blank jade slip, infused it with spirit force, and inscribed the method to refine the audio transmission stone.

Immediately, he tossed the jade slip to Chu Ruoyu.

So simple?

Chu Ruoyu was momentarily stunned, almost suspecting if Lu Ye was up to something, quickly immersed his spirit to check the jade slip contents. Examining repeatedly, he saw nothing suspicious.

Not well-versed in Artifact Refining, he handed the jade slip to a nearby cultivator for verification.

The cultivator checked for a while and said hesitantly, "It should be fine."

No problem is no problem. Lu Ye didn't withhold anything in the method for refining audio transmission stones. Whether Silver Snake Valley could refine it was not his concern.

Refinement of this was neither entirely difficult nor entirely easy. Lu Ye could refine effortlessly due to his foundation as a spirit runes master.

Besides, it wasn't a precious item, so Lu Ye didn't want to entangle further.

Leaving here to find the other two secret realms was more critical.

"The four of them..." Chu Ruoyu looked at Wei Wuguang and the others trapped in the courtyard.

Lu Ye raised his hand, retrieving the array banners, and the big array in the courtyard was instantly lifted.

Chu Ruoyu's eye twitched slightly, looking significantly at Lu Ye, "Seems like young friend is very confident in his strength!"

Handing over the audio transmission stone's refinement method and releasing the captives so readily, all indicated the youth's fearless attitude.

This left Chu Ruoyu slightly uneasy.

Various dangerous thoughts surged but couldn't decide firmly.

"We just want to leave now. Of course, you can try to stop us," Lu Ye looked calmly at Chu Ruoyu.

Their gazes met, one full of youthful vigor, the other calm and profound.

The courtyard's atmosphere instantly tensed.

After a long moment, Chu Ruoyu sighed deeply, "A young hero indeed!"

Chapter 806 Heroes Emerge in Youth

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This was simply unimaginable.

Chu Ruoyu also found it hard to believe. If they were pretending, there was no need for such pretense.

After pondering, he said solemnly, "Young friend, this is a bit too much. The three human race great secret realms are all extremely hidden, floating in the Void. Even those within the secret realm require specific timing, location, and spiritual objects to open a portal. How could Silver Snake Valley have a way to find the portals of the other two secret realms? If we did, those two couldn't rest easy."

"What about the method to contact them?"

Chu Ruoyu said, "Usually, it's when the guiding envoys from the three great secret realms meet outside that there's some exchange. It's impossible to contact them across secret realms, so your request is beyond our capabilities."

He was not telling the whole truth because the three great secret realms had an agreement to send people annually to a hidden location to exchange information or discuss important matters.

Of course, he didn't need to tell Lu Ye, and even if he did, it was useless because the next meeting of the three secret realms' representatives was more than a year away.

Nonetheless, Silver Snake Valley indeed did not have a way to actively contact the other two secret realms, nor the ability to find their portals.

The other two did not possess such means either.

Lu Ye listened quietly, observing, feeling that the old man was not lying.

Feeling a headache; so many obstacles after just one secret realm. How would he find the other two?

"As for sending you two away, that's not a problem."

Chu Ruoyu paused, "However, I have a request!"

"Speak!"

"Besides releasing those four, I want the method to refine the audio transmission stone!"

Judging from everything before, the young man with the saber could refine audio transmission stones. As for elixir pills, Chu Ruoyu did not mention them. Even if he obtained the method, it depended on the Pill Master's skill and the supply of raw materials, so it might be worthless.

Not to mention, these two might not even know the elixir pill refinement method.

Ying Wuji sneered, "Old man, too much greed is not good."

"Just a small request, hoping young friend will oblige!" Chu Ruoyu ignored him and looked at Lu Ye.

"Sure!"

To the surprise of Chu Ruoyu and the cultivators of the Five Great Families, Lu Ye agreed readily.

After agreeing, he immediately took out a blank jade slip, infused it with spirit force, and inscribed the method to refine the audio transmission stone.

Immediately, he tossed the jade slip to Chu Ruoyu.

So simple?

Chu Ruoyu was momentarily stunned, almost suspecting if Lu Ye was up to something, quickly immersed his spirit to check the jade slip contents. Examining repeatedly, he saw nothing suspicious.

Not well-versed in Artifact Refining, he handed the jade slip to a nearby cultivator for verification.

The cultivator checked for a while and said hesitantly, "It should be fine."

No problem is no problem. Lu Ye didn't withhold anything in the method for refining audio transmission stones. Whether Silver Snake Valley could refine it was not his concern.

Refinement of this was neither entirely difficult nor entirely easy. Lu Ye could refine effortlessly due to his foundation as a spirit runes master.

Besides, it wasn't a precious item, so Lu Ye didn't want to entangle further.

Leaving here to find the other two secret realms was more critical.

"The four of them..." Chu Ruoyu looked at Wei Wuguang and the others trapped in the courtyard.

Lu Ye raised his hand, retrieving the array banners, and the big array in the courtyard was instantly lifted.

Chu Ruoyu's eye twitched slightly, looking significantly at Lu Ye, "Seems like young friend is very confident in his strength!"

Handing over the audio transmission stone's refinement method and releasing the captives so readily, all indicated the youth's fearless attitude.

This left Chu Ruoyu slightly uneasy.

Various dangerous thoughts surged but couldn't decide firmly.

"We just want to leave now. Of course, you can try to stop us," Lu Ye looked calmly at Chu Ruoyu.

Their gazes met, one full of youthful vigor, the other calm and profound.

The courtyard's atmosphere instantly tensed.

After a long moment, Chu Ruoyu sighed deeply, "A young hero indeed!"

Chapter 808 Truly a Monster

The Heaven Reflecting Mirror, an ancient treasure left by powerful cultivators, allows the secret realm's cultivators to observe the outside world.

Typically, before opening the portal, Silver Snake Valley would activate the Heaven Reflecting Mirror to check the outside surroundings and confirm there is no ambush from the Corpse Race.

To avoid any potential exposure this time, they did not activate it in advance.

Lu Ye and Ying Wuji, the two outsiders, were naturally unaware of this.

As Chu Ruoyu finished speaking, the cultivators standing guard joined forces to summon a treasure resembling a bronze mirror, channeling their spirit force into it.

Soon, ripples appeared in the bronze mirror, resembling the rippling effects when stones are thrown into a calm lake.

As the ripples stabilized, a bird's-eye view of the outside world appeared in the mirror.

The group focused their gaze and immediately saw two figures in the scene—Lu Ye and Ying Wuji. Within dozens of miles around them, a massive yellow cloud rolled and surged like a dust storm, forming and sweeping over. Even through the mirror, the cultivators of Silver Snake Valley could feel the overwhelming ferocity within the yellow cloud.

"Lin Xun has indeed been disturbed!" Someone exclaimed with delight, "These two have no chance of survival now!"

"The Valley Master really is clever, solving the matter without shedding blood."

"How dare they venture into our Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm; they truly do not know death!"

"What a pity. These two have decent strength, if only they could be used for our Silver Snake Valley..." the speaker shook his head slowly, considering the unlikely recruits. The strength of the youth with the saber was not merely decent; it was formidable to an inconceivable degree. Even if he were to serve them, they wouldn't dare trust him completely.

On the other side, Lu Ye and Ying Wuji simultaneously turned to look in the direction of the yellow cloud.

Ying Wuji's complexion changed instantly, "That noise... it's the Corpse Horde!"

Having suffered greatly at the hands of the Corpse Horde upon his arrival on the Unparalleled Continent, Ying Wuji harbored a psychological dread, especially given his current weakened state. The scale of this corp cloud appeared grander than his previous encounters, hinting at the formidable nature of this Corpse Horde.

"Run quickly!" He urged Lu Ye, noticing Lu Ye raising his head to gaze at a certain point in the sky, puzzled, "What are you looking at?"

Lu Ye didn't respond. His powerful Mental Consciousness gave him a vague sense of being watched, and while uncertain, he could guess the general situation.

Inside the secret realm, the Silver Snake Valley cultivators were shocked by the profound look in his eyes.

"Has he... noticed it?" Someone was astonished, asking in disbelief. Detecting the Heaven Reflecting Mirror's presence, what sort of enigmatic prowess did this youth possess?

Chu Ruoyu's expression turned serious. He had already tried to overestimate Lu Ye's skill, but now it seemed he had still underestimated it. Sensing the Heaven Reflecting Mirror indicated a level of Mental Consciousness beyond his imagination.

He secretly felt fortunate that the secret realm had not undergone major conflict with him and had mostly accommodated his requests.

More so, he felt proud; regardless of strength, disturbing Lin Xun meant Lu Ye would likely perish without a burial place.

"Can you still run?"

Outside the secret realm, Lu Ye asked calmly in response to Ying Wuji's urging.

"Run or not, I have to try... maybe you could carry me?" Ying Wuji replied helplessly.

Having endured substantial torture in the Five Prime City dungeon, although not severely injured in terms of vital energy, his strength had diminished, making escape uncertain.

Without a word, Lu Ye stepped forward under Ying Wuji's bewildered gaze.

In the next moment, his body surged with spirit force, flowing brilliantly like flaming light and filling the Void, forcing Ying Wuji to squint, unable to look directly.

The surging spirit force seemed alive, forming distinct Yin-Yang Dual Origins that rapidly connected, expanding outward.

Seeing Lu Ye's actions, Ying Wuji's heart jolted with immense dread as he felt a near-death beast breaking free in absolute terror.

The blinding light gradually faded, revealing the scene.

"This is..." Ying Wuji's pupils contracted sharply.

Lu Ye stood surrounded by rapidly flowing spirit force, forming the outline of a divine bird.

The divine bird was not fully formed, only a vague shape, yet the overwhelming pressure made one shudder at the potential once complete.

The bird was huge with a sleek form and long tail feathers.

Countless Yin-Yang Dual Origins rapidly constituted the bird's body, forming flesh to fill the shell.

The spirit force grew more intense and fierce!

"Roar!"

Thirty miles away, the approaching Corpse Horde let out an earth-shaking roar, feeling something. The yellow cloud accelerated, filled with the looming silhouettes of rotting corpses.

"What is this!"

Inside the Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm, the Five Great Families cultivators waiting to watch the show were shocked by the divine bird's appearance, eyes growing wide with disbelief.

Even though separated by space, the divine bird's stature invoked an understanding that it could destroy the heavens and earth.

The youth with the saber possessed such a terrifying technique?

Many were drenched in cold sweat momentarily.

Massive spirit force flowed out, forming Yin-Yang Dual Origins and filling the divine bird's shell, extending realistic feathers on the bird's body.

Standing in the heavens, it radiated endless power, making the divine bird seem alive.

Ying Wuji watched from ten miles back, murmuring in shock, "Fire Phoenix!"

Remembering, as fellow combat cultivators of Bingzhou, he had privately investigated many of Lu Ye's records, including mentions of this technique.

In the hunting grounds, surrounded by countless Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, Lu Ye was forced to activate a Golden Body Token to protect himself and used this technique to kill numerous enemies, gaining fame in the Cloud River battlefield!

Some believed it was a power from an exotic treasure, doubting such a powerful technique could be activated by Lu Yiye at that cultivation level.

From the hunting grounds to today, no one had seen him use this technique again.

Now, as the Fire Phoenix reappeared clearly in Ying Wuji's sight, he realized it wasn't an exotic treasure power, but Lu Yiye's own ability.

However, the technique, though powerful, seemingly took too long to prepare, unsuitable for deadly battles with formidable foes.

Only now, with the enemy distant, could Lu Yiye fully utilize this technique.

Wasn't he a combat cultivator? How did he master such intricate magic?

The numerous complex patterns forming the technique made Ying Wuji dizzy, unable to fathom touching its essence in his lifetime.

Even orthodox magic cultivators at Cloud River Level 8 couldn't perform such techniques, nor could True Lake Realm cultivators sustain such vast Mental Consciousness and precise spirit force control.

Lu Yiye... a true monster!

In that instant, regardless of opposing factions, Ying Wuji felt exhilarated—this was a Nine Provinces cultivator!

Far superior compared to those Silver Snake Valley scoundrels!

"Roar!" Ten miles away, the Corpse Horde roared again, this time with evident fear and urgency.

Realizing the peril, the controlling rotting corpses knew if they didn't kill Lu Yiye before the technique was complete, doom awaited.

Too late.

The massively surging yellow cloud neared Lu Ye within five miles when the Fire Phoenix suddenly stretched its wings, gently flapping once.

It appeared truly alive.

"Coo!"

A piercing cry echoed through the clouds, and the enormous fiery figure soared, crashing into the yellow cloud.

Scorching waves warped the Void, trailing long tail feathers into fiery streaks, dazzlingly beautiful.

Beneath this stunning visage lay torrential death.

The colossal yellow cloud froze and reversed under Ying Wuji's and countless Silver Snake Valley cultivators' shocked gazes.

"It's fleeing..."

Chu Ruoyu staggered, disbelieving his eyes.

That was Lin Xun, one of the strongest under the Corpse Commander, feared by the three major secret realms of the human race. Such strength couldn't withstand the divine bird's might?

Yet fleeing was futile.

The Fire Phoenix's wings flapped slowly but its speed was incredible. The massive figure became a streak of fiery light, catching up to the escaping Corpse Horde in ten breaths.

The fire-red form collided with the yellow cloud, barely causing a ripple, instantly deciding the outcome.

Large chunks of the yellow cloud burned to ashes, including the rotting corpses within.

The fiery light recoiled, exploding to cover vast Void.

A rain of corpses fell...

As the brilliant red light faded, the scene came into view.

No Fire Phoenix, no engulfing yellow cloud, only two figures remained.

A youth wielding a saber, unsheathed, and a charred corpse, its identity obscured, with the saber across its neck, slicing three inches deep.

The corpse raised a hand to grasp the blade, in its final struggle.

Silence enveloped the world.

Slash...

The saber flashed, severing the head.

Chapter 809 Fengyun Brothers

Lu Ye sheathed his blade and raised his eyes to gaze at a certain spot in the sky.

"Quickly, retract the Heaven Reflecting Mirror!"

Chu Ruoyu's mind was in turmoil as he hastily gave the order.

The final slash seemed like it wasn't aimed at Lin Xun but rather at his own neck. Even though separated by a world, he felt a chilling illusion on his neck.

Beside Chu Ruoyu, the cultivators of the Five Great Families were all silent.

It was supposed to be borrowing a knife to kill, but no one expected to witness such a terrifying scene.

Lin Xun, such a powerful figure of the Corpse Race, along with his hordes of corpses, was incinerated clean by a single Dao technique, and even Lin Xun himself was slain.

Such strength...

Such ferocity...

Everyone silently rejoiced that the knife-wielding youth hadn't used that technique in Five Prime City; otherwise, the entire city might have turned into a living hell.

Now it seemed, losing their edge had its advantages. If they hadn't grown complacent during peaceful days, they might indeed have confronted those two intruders.

Although they've now offended those two, as long as they can't find the portal to the secret realm, there's no way they can come in again!

Almost everyone had this thought cross their mind: they never want to encounter that knife-wielding youth ever again!

...

In mid-air, Lu Ye withdrew his gaze and silently stuffed his mouth with a handful of elixir pills. As he turned around, his gaze swept in a certain direction, and he propelled himself towards Ying Wuji.

In that direction, two figures were hidden, their hearts filled with shock that was hard to calm.

Those two weren't there by chance but had been lurking there for days, monitoring Lin Xun, and unexpectedly witnessed such a shocking scene.

"Big brother..." one of them softly spoke.

"Shh..." the other hastily placed a hand by his mouth, signaling to stay silent.

There was a feeling that the knife-wielding youth glanced in their direction while turning. Facing such a formidable figure, how could he dare to be careless?

As Lu Ye's figure moved away, he quickly got up: "Follow him!"

No matter what, they had to figure out the origins of this person, and if they could recruit him, that would be ideal. Solving Lin Xun, such a powerful rotting corpse and his horde, with individual strength like that—it couldn't be overlooked!

Such strength, such terrifying Dao techniques—the likes of which are unheard of.

It's just unclear which family's secret realm he hails from!

After reuniting with Ying Wuji, Lu Ye led him while hastily activating Bestial Gluttony Feast, rapidly refining the elixir pills' efficacy in his stomach, replenishing his spirit force.

There was a time when he needed extensive preparation, even relying on the spirit force stored in his spirit energy-storing ring, to activate the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes.

But now, relying on his own spirit force reserves, he can barely manage to cast this spirit rune.

The time required to charge up has significantly reduced.

Undoubtedly, these are the benefits brought by the improvement in cultivation.

Although the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes are powerful, they aren't suitable for life-and-death battles with strong opponents. Even though charging time is greatly reduced, he wouldn't have the chance to charge at all in front of a peer.

They're only suitable for situations like earlier when a reckless enemy rushed towards him from afar, giving him ample preparation time.

To elaborate, all his major trump cards require charging.

The Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes are like this.

Bloodstain Spirit Runes are like this too.

The Beast Transformation Secret Technique is even more so!

Having finally acquired such powerful cover armor as the Dragon Throne from the Soaring Dragon World, it turns out to be broken and unusable. He doesn't know how his master is faring with the repairs now.

Currently, with Cloud River Level 8 cultivation, he is not far from leaving the Cloud River battlefield. Once he leaves, the environment won't be as serene, and life-and-death dangers could arise anytime.

He needs to have a means to preserve his life!

While thinking this, Ying Wuji's voice reached his ear: "Lu Yiye, I'll repay the life-saving grace someday!"

Upon reflection, this was the second time Lu Ye had saved his life.

The first time was when they first entered the Unparalleled Continent and were being chased by corpse hordes. Lu Ye appeared out of nowhere to save him from peril.

This time, Lu Ye rescued him from the Five Great Families intact.

It would be a lie not to feel grateful, but given their opposing camps and their constrained circumstances, Ying Wuji felt very helpless.

Earlier, he was engrossed in the shock brought by the Fire Phoenix Spirit Runes, unable to recover until now.

Expressing sincere gratitude, his face showed gratitude.

"Just incidental!"

Lu Ye's brief words made Ying Wuji feel like he had swallowed a fly... secretly grumbling, wasn't it unnecessary to say it so bluntly even if it were incidental? Am I face-saving or not?

Upon careful thought, perhaps Lu Yiye did save him in passing.

To leave the Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm, he would inevitably clash with the Five Great Families, capturing their hostage and incidentally swapping it back for him...

Ying Wuji felt bitter; in front of Lu Yiye, his status as the sixteenth in Cloud River meant nothing!

While muttering inwardly, suddenly Lu Ye descended swiftly, and several array banners appeared in his hand, swiftly thrown in all directions.

Setting up an array now?

Ying Wuji realized that the previous Dao technique must have cost Lu Yiye greatly, making it urgent for him to restore himself.

Soon, a vast array enveloping a large area was formed, leaving Ying Wuji in awe. Such array setup speed was simply unparalleled.

"Hide," Lu Ye instructed.

Ying Wuji didn't ask why and immediately activated the concealment method.

Soon after, Lu Ye also disappeared from his view.

About a tea's worth of time passed, the concealed Ying Wuji suddenly sensed something amiss.

It seemed like someone entered the array as stealthily as he and Lu Ye did, acting covertly.

Ying Wuji suddenly realized, Lu Ye set up the array here not to restore through its protection but because he sensed someone was tailing them.

People from Silver Snake Valley? Or someone else?

Just as Ying Wuji was feeling suspicious, sudden shouts broke out, and two figures appeared in his field of vision, seemingly burdened by an invisible mountain, their forms hunched while their spirit force churned violently, expressions strained.

Their appearances were identical, one wearing a green robe, the other a grey robe—they must be twins!

Their individual aura fluctuations matched Cloud River Level 8, but their interwoven spirit force and aura perfectly integrated, making their combined presence stronger than ordinary Level 9!

What kind of secret technique is this? Ying Wuji watched in silent astonishment.

"A formation!"

The man in the green robe's expression changed. Realizing the dire situation, he hurriedly called out: "Brethren Daoists, my brother and I mean no harm. Please show mercy!"

Heart pounding, they had unwittingly fallen into someone else's formation, placing their lives in others' hands.

More surprising was how quickly this formation had been set up, considering the short time.

The man in the grey robe also called out: "We come from the Ziwei Dao Palace Secret Realm, we are not evildoers!"

"Ziwei Dao Palace..."

A voice emerged, and Lu Ye's figure appeared.

This was indeed serendipitous; when he was in Silver Snake Valley, he sought information from Chu Ruoyu on connecting with the other two secret realms and finding their portals, but Chu Ruoyu had no solution.

He was pondering how to locate the other two secret realms, and who would have guessed that stepping out of Silver Snake Valley, he would encounter people from Ziwei Dao Palace!

With a wave of his hand, the pressure enveloping the twins dissipated instantly, and they both breathed a sigh of relief, still distressed.

They were skilled and acted covertly, yet still ended up in someone else's formation. They realized that their previous feelings were accurate—Lu Ye had noticed them early on and set up the formation, waiting for them to fall into the trap.

"You indeed come from Ziwei Dao Palace?" Lu Ye looked at the two before him.

"There's no reason to fake it," the man in the green robe clasped his fists: "Fengyun Qianli from Ziwei Dao Palace, greetings to Fellow Daoist!"

The man in the grey robe followed suit: "Fengyun Wanli, greetings to Fellow Daoist!"

These brothers' names...

Lu Ye's gaze flickered: "Why were you following me?"

Fengyun Qianli gave an embarrassed smile: "We didn't intend to; my brother and I were ordered to monitor Lin Xun's tomb nearby. Seeing Fellow Daoist descend as a deity and effortlessly resolve Lin Xun and his hordes, we were struck with admiration and wished to make acquaintances. If this caused any misunderstanding, we apologize deeply."

Saying this, the brothers bowed deeply.

Though the words weren't entirely true, as following Lu Ye and Ying Wuji was a fact, their desire to engage with Lu Ye was sincere.

"You were ordered to monitor? Orders from Ziwei Dao Palace?" Lu Ye thought aloud.

Yiyi gathered extensive information in Five Prime City, including the operational styles of the three secret realms.

Among the Human Race's three secret realms, Silver Snake Valley is the most cautious, never daring to actively confront the Corpse Race. The Guiding Envoys avoid encounters with the Corpse Race, having long lost the daring and resolve to combat them.

On the contrary, the style of Ziwei Dao Palace is strong and assertive.

For a millennium, Ziwei Dao Palace has unceasingly aimed to eliminate the Corpse Race from the Unparalleled Continent, restoring balance and purity to the world, actively launching attacks against the Corpse Race.

They also attempted to persuade the other two secret realms to join them.

Regrettably, results were minimal. Silver Snake Valley preferred to guard their own territory, even calculating portal openings to avoid strong Corpse Race locations, never proactively confronting or cooperating with Ziwei Dao Palace.

As for the third secret realm, Mount Sumeru, it also evades confrontation, neither agreeing nor rejecting cooperation, adopting an ambiguous stance. However, Mount Sumeru did express willingness to cooperate should Silver Snake Valley agree.

Thus, the current situation in the Unparalleled Continent is somewhat awkward: the proactive hunters of the Corpse Race are solely Ziwei Dao Palace cultivators, Mount Sumeru stands by watching Silver Snake Valley, and Silver Snake Valley upholds their principle of self-preservation.

Chapter 810 Ziwei Dao Palace

The Unparalleled Continent has three major human race secret realms. Lu Ye has already seen what Silver Snake Valley has to offer and knows he can't rely on it, but he has left a backup plan. When the crucial moment arrives, Silver Snake Valley won't be able to remain detached even if they want to.

As for the other two, Lu Ye prefers to ally with the Ziwei Dao Palace.

The cultivators in this secret realm have a resolute style, much like the Nine Provinces cultivators. If he can join forces with them, the situation on the Unparalleled Continent could open up.

Indeed, the appearance of the Fengyun Brothers was perfect for him, like someone delivering a pillow when he was ready to sleep.

With numerous thoughts swirling in his mind, Lu Ye asked, "Inspector Lin Xun's tomb? What is your intent?"

Fengyun Qianli's expression turned somber: "Naturally, to eliminate this barghest."

After his explanation, Lu Ye finally understood. There are many like the Fengyun Brothers scattered around outside the Ziwei Dao Palace, either in charge of tracking the powerful Corpse Race or monitoring their movements. When the time is right, the Ziwei Dao Palace strikes with a Thunderbolt, eliminating the tracked Corpse Race.

Over the years, the number of Corpse Race members killed by the Ziwei Dao Palace cultivators exceeds the other two secret realms by a hundredfold or more.

These people travel outside, occasionally assisting human race outposts. Many human outposts have been blessed by their help, and if a cultivator like those from the Pure Land Organization encounters them, it won't end well for them.

"May I ask, which secret realm are the two Fellow Daoists from?"

The Fengyun Brothers were extremely curious. They confirmed these two were not from the Ziwei Dao Palace. Having been out of the secret realm for only two months, there was no way for such powerful individuals to suddenly emerge from the Ziwei Dao Palace.

But could Silver Snake Valley or Mount Sumeru produce such talents?

"We are not from any secret realm."

The Fengyun Brothers were taken aback.

"If not from a secret realm, then from some outpost?" Fengyun Wanli found it unbelievable.

They could accept that these two were from a secret realm, even Silver Snake Valley, as they were at least secret realm-trained. But an outpost... that was unthinkable.

The humans of the Unparalleled Continent outposts have barely enough to survive; how could such strong individuals come from there?

"Sort of." Lu Ye repeated the story he'd told Yuan Xiang and Zui Shan, leaving the Fengyun Brothers in disbelief.

They held immense respect for Lu Ye and Ying Wuji's supposedly fictitious master.

After all, if these two were so strong, how powerful must their master be?

It turns out, there really are such powerful figures in the world!

"But earlier, I saw a portal..." Fengyun Qianli was puzzled again.

The Silver Snake Valley portal activation is easily observable, which is why it alarmed Lin Xun dozens of miles away.

Because of this, the Fengyun Brothers were almost sure Lu Ye and Ying Wuji came from a secret realm.

"We went to Silver Snake Valley earlier," Lu Ye explained.

Fengyun Qianli understood: "I see."

Then, it dawned on him, and he was filled with indignation: "Those bastards purposely opened the portal near Lin Xun's tomb. They were clearly up to no good, trying to harm you two!"

Ying Wuji realized it as well. He initially thought their previous trouble was just bad luck, but now it seemed like Silver Snake Valley had set them up?

No wonder Lu Ye left hastily before the portal stabilized; he had already noticed this.

So, I'm the only one who was kept in the dark...

"It looks like you had some unpleasant interactions with Silver Snake Valley."

"Just a little misunderstanding."

Fengyun Qianli sensed Lu Ye's attitude, guessed his thoughts, and made a decision. He clasped his hands and said, "Fellow Daoists, if it's not too much trouble, why not come to Ziwei Dao Palace for a while? Not all human secret realms treat guests as Silver Snake Valley does. If you visit Ziwei Dao Palace, the Palace Master will surely be delighted!"

These two strong individuals, new to the world after their master's death, seemed to have sought out a secret realm, only to be mistreated by Silver Snake Valley and nearly harmed.

But Silver Snake Valley hadn't anticipated their immense strength; instead of being harmed, Lin Xun was killed.

The Ziwei Dao Palace would undoubtedly welcome such powerful individuals. If the Fengyun Brothers could win them over, it would be a significant event for the palace.

"Junior Brother, what do you think?" Lu Ye didn't agree immediately but looked at Ying Wuji.

What can I think? Ying Wuji grumbled silently. If you want to accept, just accept it yourself. What's the point of pretending?

But he outwardly complied: "I will follow Senior Brother's decision!"

Lu Ye pondered for a moment.

The Fengyun Brothers watched nervously.

After a while, Lu Ye made his decision: "In that case, shall we go?"

The Fengyun Brothers laughed in unison. Fengyun Qianli said, "Rest assured, Fellow Daoists, the Ziwei Dao Palace will not disappoint you."

Though Fengyun Wanli looked rough, he was meticulous: "You two must have experienced a great battle recently. Rest and recover today; tomorrow, we will set off. I should let you both know, the original plan was to raid Lin Xun's tomb tomorrow. The secret realm's brothers are ready and waiting. With Lin Xun dealt with, it saves us some trouble."

"Indeed, rest today, and tomorrow, we'll guide you to the portal."

Since they said so, Lu Ye agreed.

His spirit force was heavily depleted; despite taking an elixir pill, it needed time to recover. Besides, he was setting up the Formation to capture the Fengyun Brothers.

Ying Wuji's condition was poorer; his injuries needed healing.

The big array wasn't retracted, and Ying Wuji silently moved aside to lick his wounds, while Lu Ye recovered and casually chatted with the Fengyun Brothers to gather information.

Willing to win him over, the Fengyun Brothers concealed nothing. The questions were mostly common knowledge, not involving Ziwei Dao Palace's secrets.

Through this conversation, the Fengyun Brothers were further convinced Lu Ye and Ying Wuji were indeed new to the world, bringing them joy. It felt like luck was on their side, completing a task and finding two strong allies.

One peaceful night later, Lu Ye had fully recovered. Though Ying Wuji's wounds weren't healed, he was much better than before.

When the time was right, the Fengyun Brothers led the way, Lu Ye and Ying Wuji following closely.

They didn't go far, stopping near yesterday's battlefield.

The Ziwei Dao Palace had long set the plan to raid Lin Xun's tomb. When the secret realm drifted close, they would act, with the portal naturally near Lin Xun's tomb.

At the same time.

In the Ziwei Dao Palace secret realm, connected to the outside near the portal.

Many cultivators were ready for battle.

At the forefront was a woman in male attire, exuding a heroic spirit.

Normally, a woman dressed as a man aims to disguise her femininity, but no matter how well disguised, inherent softness can't be hidden.

This woman, though in male attire, did not intend to hide her identity as a woman. Her beauty and fortitude melded perfectly, combining female softness and male strength.

Her eyes were especially striking, bright as stars, sharp like a hawk's.

She looked just over twenty, yet her aura was so profound, not inferior even to the Cloud River Ranking experts.

This woman was Pang Huanyin, the current Palace Master of Ziwei Dao Palace.

In a thousand years, it was rare for a woman to hold the Palace Master position, especially someone so young.

Pang Huanyin's ascent as a young Palace Master was solely due to her immense strength.

She inherited the Ziwei Dao Palace's traditional style. Though a woman, her methods were tougher than many men's, upholding the principle of complete annihilation of the Corpse Race.

Ziwei Dao Palace's actions against powerful Corpse Race members were not new. Lin Xun, though strong, wasn't significant enough to require her presence.

Her presence here was mainly to observe the strength of two guests.

A few days ago, Ziwei Dao Palace cultivators on patrol found two powerful cultivators, admiring their ease in killing the Corpse Race. They introduced them to the palace.

Pang Huanyin didn't care about their origins, whether from other secret realms. To her, as long as they could kill the Corpse Race, the Ziwei Dao Palace would welcome them as their own.

After several days, Pang Huanyin recognized their exceptional strength. What puzzled her was their claim of not being from other secret realms, nor appearing from an outpost.

She sensed an inexpressible pride in their courteous interactions, much like herself!

Such pride often indicates a distinguished background.

Given the current situation on the Unparalleled Continent, if not from the secret realms, how distinguished could they be?

Despite their mysteriousness, Pang Huanyin adhered to the principle of doubting but not dismissing. Her main goal today was to witness their performance.

Those who brought them to Ziwei Dao Palace held their strength in high regard!

"Palace Master, we've reached the location." A middle-aged man approached and bowed, "Shall we activate the Heaven Reflecting Mirror first?"

"No need. Lin Xun is powerful. Activating the Heaven Reflecting Mirror might alert him. Open the portal directly!"

"Yes!" The man bowed and stepped back to handle the portal opening.

The waiting Ziwei Dao Palace cultivators began to silently channel their spirit force.

In front of these cultivators stood a carefree man with a spear, licking his lips, filled with battle intent. Beside him, another man in blue garments, with a focused aura, wore a slight, unbothered smile, even showing anticipation for the upcoming battle.