

Humanity 811

Chapter 811 Meeting the Eldest Senior Brother

These two individuals are precisely Lui Qing from the Myriad Magic Pavilion and Fong Rulie from the Soaring Cloud Sect.

Their luck was undoubtedly much better than that of Lu Ye and Ying Wuji. Not long after arriving in this Unparalleled Continent, the two met each other.

Both belonging to the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge faction, even if they had no personal ties, there was a natural sense of closeness between them.

After that, they joined hands to explore the circumstances of this realm and inevitably encountered some Corpse Race, engaging in numerous battles.

This activity was noticed by the nearby patrolling cultivators of the Ziwei Dao Palace, who, after a conversation, led them into the Ziwei Dao Palace.

In the past few days, the two gradually figured out the general situation of this realm and had some guesses as to why the Nine Provinces' Heaven's Augury sent those ranked high in the Cloud River Battle Rankings to such a place.

Upon hearing that the Ziwei Dao Palace planned to raid Lin Xun's tomb, they couldn't contain their excitement and volunteered to join.

Coming from top sects of the Nine Provinces and arriving in such a fragmented small realm, even without deliberately showcasing it, their inherent pride was unmistakable.

"Brother Fong, the Palace Master of the Ziwei Dao Palace probably wants to see our strength firsthand. Don't hold back," Lui Qing spoke softly beside Fong Rulie.

Fong Rulie grinned broadly: "Rest assured, I won't let her underestimate us Nine Provinces cultivators."

"However, we must not be careless. I heard that Lin Xun is a type of rotting corpse with a large number of underlings. We should work together. I'll find a way to create an opening, and you kill him."

Fong Rulie nodded, gently stroking his spear, spirit light flickering on it, his eyes cold: "Fong never underestimates any enemy!"

At this moment, a voice called out: "The portal is open!"

Fong Rulie moved instantly, dashing towards the portal with an overwhelming momentum, Lui Qing half a step behind him, following closely.

This scene was witnessed by many cultivators of the Ziwei Dao Palace, who all admired them. Even if their strength wasn't as impressive as rumored, their courage in facing the Corpse Race without fear aligned with the spirit of the Ziwei Dao Palace.

After the two, the well-prepared cultivators of the Ziwei Dao Palace stepped into the portal, rushing out of the secret realm.

"Palace Master."

Beside Pang Huanyin, an elderly man bowed slightly.

"Let's go, and see if our two guests are truly as brave and unparalleled as they claim."

Saying this, she folded her hands behind her back, taking a few steps to the front of the portal and striding through with an impressive posture.

As the view changed, the anticipated battle had not erupted. The cultivators who had rushed out of the secret realm earlier were scattered in mid-air, holding their Spiritual Artifacts in confusion.

"Hmm?" Pang Huanyin's brows furrowed slightly, an uneasy feeling arising in her heart.

Had Lin Xun sensed the danger and fled in advance? Otherwise, why was there no movement here?

More perplexingly, the reactions of the two guests.

At this moment, both were looking in a particular direction, and the innate pride they couldn't hide, even in front of her, the master of the secret realm, was completely gone.

From them, Pang Huanyin even sensed a hint of... anxiety?

What had they seen?

Following their gaze, she saw a pair of twins flying towards them. As they approached, they respectfully clasped their fists: "Fengyun Qianli, Fengyun Wanli, greets the Palace Master!"

Pang Huanyin nodded, recognizing them as her own, responsible for monitoring the movements at Lin Xun's tomb, and asked, "Where did Lin Xun go?"

Fengyun Qianli replied: "Lin Xun has been eliminated!"

Pang Huanyin raised her delicate eyebrows, her beautiful eyes revealing surprise: "Who did it?"

Lin Xun's strength, in the current Unparalleled Continent, was only below that of a few Corpse Commanders. Except for the Ziwei Dao Palace, only two other secret realms had the strength to take him down. But would they really dare to take the initiative against Lin Xun?

Or did some unexpected event force them into conflict with Lin Xun?

"It was Fellow Daoist Lu Yiye over there!" Fengyun Qianli turned and pointed to where Lu Ye was.

Only then did Pang Huanyin notice the aftermath of the battlefield from the previous day. Examining it, she saw a large area full of charred corpse fragments, and not far away, a head with a twisted expression, its flesh rotting—who else could it be but Lin Xun?

Judging by his expression before death, he seemed to have witnessed something extremely terrifying.

The Corpse Race were undead, fearing neither heaven nor earth. What could have scared him?

Behind Pang Huanyin, the elderly man spoke: "You're saying they killed Lin Xun on their own?"

This was unimaginable. Even the Ziwei Dao Palace would need to deploy its elites to deal with Lin Xun, considering his nature as a rotting corpse with a massive army of underlings. Too few people wouldn't suffice.

Fengyun Qianli shook his head: "Veteran Siao, Lin Xun was killed by Fellow Daoist Lu Yiye alone."

The elderly man, despite his vast experience, couldn't help but gasp, looking seriously at Fengyun Qianli, with an expression that clearly said, "Are you joking with me?"

Killing Lin Xun single-handedly? This was beyond his imagination.

Moreover, from the aftermath of the battlefield, it seemed this person not only killed Lin Xun but also annihilated his massive undead army, perhaps using a grand, awe-inspiring fire-type technique.

"Who are these two?" Veteran Siao asked in astonishment.

Fengyun Qianli then relayed the information he knew about Lu Ye and Ying Wuji.

Pang Huanyin's expression changed slightly as she listened, instinctively glancing towards Lui Qing and Fong Rulie, feeling a strong sense of déjà vu.

Not from the secret realm, yet incredibly powerful. These two were just like the previous two...

"Palace Master, could it be that these four..." Veteran Siao hesitated with some conjecture.

Pang Huanyin raised her hand slightly: "It seems so."

Her phoenix eyes narrowed slightly, scrutinizing, but her attention was mostly on Lu Ye. Lui Qing and Fong Rulie's sudden restraint hinted at something to her.

Seeing Lui Qing and Fong Rulie emerge from the Ziwei Dao Palace, Lu Ye was both surprised and not surprised...

The Nine Provinces' Heaven's Augury had sent nine people here; so far, he had only encountered Ying Wuji, with no news of the others.

Among the nine, except for Hua Ci, the others were all incredibly strong and were bound to stir things up in this fragmented small realm.

And the Ziwei Dao Palace was very welcoming towards those who dared to fight the Corpse Race, often extending many invitations. Therefore, once the Nine Provinces cultivators were discovered by the Ziwei Dao Palace, interaction was inevitable.

He and Ying Wuji had connected with the Fengyun Brothers the same way.

So before this, he had guessed that someone might have entered the Ziwei Dao Palace before them.

What slightly disappointed him was that it wasn't Giant Armor or Hua Ci, but Lui Qing and Fong Rulie.

Their eyes met in the air, and Lui Qing and Fong Rulie felt somewhat awkward. They had charged out fiercely, intending to showcase their prowess before the Ziwei Dao Palace's people, only to find that the target had already been dealt with, and Lu Yiye was standing right there.

Even when facing Pang Huanyin, the master of the Dao Palace, they didn't mind much, but no one dared to ignore Lu Yiye!

The atmosphere became peculiar.

It was Ying Wuji who broke the silence. He stood beside Lu Ye, laughing heartily, and shouted at Lui Qing: "Fourth Senior Brother, so you are here!"

Fourth Senior Brother...

Lui Qing's expression became somewhat crestfallen...

Ying Wuji then looked at Fong Rulie: "Sixth Senior Brother is here too, wonderful!"

Fong Rulie felt exasperated but couldn't refute, only responding sullenly.

The two quickly understood that Ying Wuji ranked them based on the Cloud River Battle Ranking.

Lui Qing was fourth on the list, hence the Fourth Senior Brother, and Fong Rulie was sixth, making him the Sixth Senior Brother.

But if this ranking stood, then wouldn't Lu Yiye be...

Just as they thought this, Lu Ye stepped forward, looking at them indifferently without speaking.

Lui Qing and Fong Rulie felt like they had swallowed dead flies.

On the other side, Pang Huanyin glanced between Lui Qing and Fong Rulie, then at Lu Ye and Ying Wuji, feeling that the atmosphere among these senior brothers was... not very harmonious?

However, for people as proud as Lui Qing and Fong Rulie to be so restrained, and with the achievement of killing Lin Xun before him, just how strong was Lu Yiye?

"Are you mute?"

Lu Ye spoke softly.

Behind him, Ying Wuji sweated profusely, realizing he had put them all in an awkward situation. He only wanted to mediate and ease the atmosphere by making up the seniority order, but now sensed something was off.

Had he pushed himself into a fire pit?

In the strange atmosphere, Lui Qing, as if figuring something out, looked relieved, clasped his hands respectfully, and said: "Greetings, First Senior Brother!"

Regardless of Lu Yiye's astounding strength, seeking a conflict here was unwise. Perhaps only Lu Yiye knew the true purpose behind their deployment to this realm.

So no matter what, they couldn't fall out.

Acknowledging someone as the First Senior Brother wasn't a big deal.

Fong Rulie's eye twitched slightly, and with a sigh, he also saluted: "Greetings, First Senior Brother."

His eyes glared viciously at Ying Wuji behind Lu Ye, inwardly cursing.

Traitor! Betrayer!

Ying Wuji read his intent, feeling aggrieved...

Throughout history, the acknowledgment of senior brothers had been warm-hearted, never having seen such an odd atmosphere.

The Fengyun Brothers were both stunned. Lu Ye had mentioned they came from a small base, left it after their master's death, but never said they had a Fourth Senior Brother or a Sixth Senior Brother.

With such ranking, weren't there at least six of them?

Were they all this powerful?

In the odd atmosphere, Pang Huanyin stepped forward, looking at Lu Ye: "Fellow Daoist Lu, exterminating Lin Xun is a great fortune for our human race. Being the master of Fellow Daoist Lui and Fellow Daoist Fong means you are no outsider. Please enter the secret realm for a discussion, so that our Palace Master can extend the hospitality due."

Lu Ye readily agreed: "Then I shall impose!"

Chapter 812 Not Bad in Terms of Strength

Centered around Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm's Five Prime City, the layout of the sixteen cities radiates differently.

Meanwhile, Ziwei Dao Palace continues the structure from a millennium ago.

The spirit mountaintops and their ranges stretch endlessly, and among the mountains, pavilions and towers are scattered like stars in the galaxy, with many cultivators making their appearances.

Looking around, it appears as though one has entered a cultivation sect.

The lineage of Ziwei Dao Palace has remained unbroken and is preserved till today, which is the biggest difference between Ziwei Dao Palace and the other two secret realms.

This continuation from top to bottom, in a millennia-long unity, forms the foundation of the firm and commanding presence of Ziwei Dao Palace.

On the contrary, at Silver Snake Valley, the Five Great Families dominate the Secret Realm with their internal conflicts and power struggles, lacking any concern to handle the Corpse Race. For them, as long as the Corpse Race does not invade the Secret Realm, it is not considered a major issue.

In the spirit mountaintop, there is a hall where hosts and guests are seated. Pang Huanyin personally accompanies a group of Ziwei Dao Palace experts, presenting rare wines and spirit fruits found in the outside world, both as a gratitude for Lu Ye's intervention in eradicating Lin Xun and a welcome for Lu Ye and Ying Wuji.

Pang Huanyin is unsure about the strength of Lui Qing and Fong Rulie, as she has not witnessed it firsthand, and only heard some reports from underlings.

Yet, if it is true as described by the Fengyun Brothers, with Lin Xun being dealt with single-handedly by Lu Yiye, then this person's strength is terrifying.

Moreover, as Veteran Siao predicted earlier, the resolution involved a tremendously powerful fire-type technique. The technique's shape resembles that of the legendary Four Auspicious Sacred Beasts' Fire Phoenix.

After drinking for a while, Veteran Siao spoke up, "Young Friend Lu possesses remarkable strength, which I admire. And with the same sect ties to Young Friends Lui and Fong, may I ask where they have apprenticed?"

As the elder opened his mouth, the hall turned quiet.

If it were only Liu Qing and Fong Rulie, Ziwei Dao Palace wouldn't mind much. Such powerful figures ought to be drawn into providing service to the Dao Palace and rectify the injustices of the world.

However, Lu Ye and Ying Wuji appeared abruptly, and numerous clues suggest that their group includes at least six members.

Ziwei Dao Palace could not ignore this.

Since no one knows what intentions this group harbors, their immense strength could pose a great risk if they were against Ziwei Dao Palace.

But if their origins are confirmed, and if they are willing to fight alongside Ziwei Dao Palace, it would be highly beneficial for the Dao Palace.

Thus, it is imperative to clarify these details.

Lu Ye sat still, untouched by the wine before him, understanding the meaning behind Veteran Siao's words. He turned to Pang Huanyin directly, "We do not know much about our master's origins. We brothers lived with our master in a secluded place from a young age until several months ago when our master passed away, leaving us to venture out."

The so-called master was a fictional figure, and Lu Ye knew he couldn't provide a satisfying answer regarding their origins to the Dao Palace.

Before Veteran Siao could continue questioning, Lu Ye added, "There are nine of us brothers in total, who were separated due to an incident, and today we discovered that our fourth and sixth brothers are in the Dao Palace."

"Nine people..." Veteran Siao raised an eyebrow, the number was more than he anticipated. After a moment of contemplation, he asked, "Are all of Young Friend's brothers as adept as you?"

"Except for our little sister, who does not follow the combat path, the others' prowess is reasonably strong."

Fong Rulie drank silently, being ranked sixth on the Cloud River Tournament list, only Lu Yiye could critique his skill like this. Anyone else would face his dissatisfaction if they dared to belittle his strength.

"Our master departed suddenly without leaving us much instruction, but he told us one important mission."

"What mission?" Pang Huanyin asked.

"Eradicate the Corpse Race and cleanse the world!" Lu Ye responded solemnly.

Lui Qing pondered, suspecting that Lu Yiye had received some guidance from Heaven's Augury before entering the Unparalleled Continent, which aligns with their purpose for coming.

It was close to his prior inference.

Veteran Siao nodded, "Your master cared for the world and nurtured such talented individuals like you. He must have been a remarkable figure."

"After we ventured out, we followed our master's last command completely. Knowing there are three significant secret realms among the human race, I ventured to align with one. Unfortunately, Silver Snake Valley feared confrontation and acted unscrupulously; they not only lacked the intent to combat the Corpse Race, but also obstructed us due to fear of our cultivation levels. Unable to find common ground, I and Old Seven had to leave Silver Snake Valley."

Veteran Siao stroked his beard, "Yet, those scoundrels secretly sent you two near Lin Xun's tomb, intending for him to kill you."

The Fengyun Brothers had reported this truthfully, and thus both Pang Huanyin and Veteran Siao were aware of it.

"Indeed!" Lu Ye nodded, staring intensely at Pang Huanyin, "Although I've heard many rumors about Ziwei Dao Palace before, true validation comes from seeing with one's own eyes. Today, I wish to ask Palace Master Pang, if my brothers intend to eradicate the Corpse Race, will Ziwei Dao Palace support us?"

Lu Ye was aware of Ziwei Dao Palace's quest to uncover their origins, but since this place isn't the Nine Provinces and they, as outsiders, have limited time, he decided to be straightforward.

This would be quicker and more effective.

While Lu Ye hid certain truths, they were challenging to articulate, Ziwei Dao Palace could sense this but it wouldn't be an issue if they share common goals.

As long as these outsiders demonstrated their determination to fight the Corpse Race, Ziwei Dao Palace would lower their guard.

Pang Huanyin's phoenix eyes narrowed slightly, "Since the change in heaven, Ziwei Dao Palace has taken on the mission to exterminate the Corpse Race and has been committed for a millennium without slackening!"

Her voice was resolute and her expression firm.

Lu Ye nodded, "That's good to hear!"

Pang Huanyin then laughed, leaning slightly forward, "Yet, Fellow Daoist Lu, there is one thing you have misunderstood."

"I am willing to listen!"

"Ziwei Dao Palace has upheld our ancestors' will for a thousand years without wavering. Countless have died in this cause. The Corpse Race must be eradicated by us no matter if we get assistance from Fellow Daoist Lu and your companions. If we fail in a thousand years, we will continue for another millennium, or even ten thousand years until the Corpse Race is entirely wiped out. Hence, Fellow Daoist Lu, I sincerely invite you to join Ziwei Dao Palace to contribute to humanity's future and fight together!"

Lu Ye realized the resoluteness in this woman's character.

He mentioned seeking Ziwei Dao Palace's assistance, yet Pang Huanyin wished for them to join the Dao Palace.

The issue boiled down to who would lead.

From the perspective of Ziwei Dao Palace and the Palace Master Pang Huanyin, her actions were entirely justified.

Lu Ye did not argue further, instead stating, "If the Palace Master agrees to my three conditions..."

"Please share them," Pang Huanyin showed interest.

Lu Ye said, "As mentioned to the Palace Master, there are nine brothers, but only four have gathered here, while the other five are missing. I wish for the Palace Master's help in searching for the whereabouts of the other five brothers and sisters."

"That is certainly doable." Pang Huanyin nodded, "What are their characteristics?"

"Their skills are considerably strong."

The Dao Palace cultivators were baffled by this roadside description, as it isn't much help, given none considered themselves weak.

Pang Huanyin chuckled, "Just how strong is 'considerably strong' according to Fellow Daoist Lu?"

Lu Ye turned to Fong Rulie, "Sixth brother, show them."

"Damn..." Fong Rulie nearly cursed; as the core disciple of Soaring Cloud Sect, he wasn't some street performer. But seeing Lu Ye's gaze, he knew refusal wasn't an option.

Otherwise, Lu Ye would surely find a way to trouble him.

Though they arrived at Ziwei Dao Palace first...

Fong Rulie gulped his drink, stepped forward to the center of the hall, wielded his spear, and unleashed his spirit force boldly, "Someone who believes themselves strong, come forward!"

Many Dao Palace cultivators showed determined expressions but refrained from stepping out until Pang Huanyin gave the nod.

Eventually, Veteran Siao signaled to one, "Qi Ping, your turn."

"Yes!" Qi Ping leapt forward, landing before Fong Rulie, smiling eagerly, "I've heard of Fellow Daoist Fong's prowess, and wanted to witness it firsthand since Lin Xun's demise took away that chance. Now, let's see—Fellow Daoist Fong, please enlighten me!"

Fong Rulie dismissively replied, "Go all out!"

"Hmm?" Qi Ping dropped his smile, "Definitely not taking me seriously—"

"Enough chatter!"

"Alright!" Qi Ping yelled, spirit force surging, as he wielded his spiritual artifact—a long staff. With the staff in hand, Qi Ping's aura transformed, with dynamic movements, he fiercely charged at Fong Rulie, striking down with a powerful blow!

His staff was entwined with spirit energy and the body of the staff appeared in layers of shadows.

Though Qi Ping didn't exert his full strength due to the limited space, he felt confident in gauging Fong Rulie's depth with this move.

On the high seat, Veteran Siao nodded slightly, expressing approval of Qi Ping's performance.

Yet the next moment, the hall echoed with gasps.

Fong Rulie, holding his spear with one arm, thrust it precisely through the myriad staff shadows, hitting the actual staff body.

In that instant of clash, spirit force from both poured forth, with Fong Rulie slightly shaken while Qi Ping was flung out of the hall, landing outside.

Pang Huanyin nearly crushed the wine cup she held!

Chapter 813 I'm Ranked Sixth

The entire hall fell silent!

Although Qi Ping's strength was not considered top-tier within the Ziwei Dao Palace, he could still be counted among the powerful.

However, such a powerful individual had been forced back by a single strike from Fong Rulie. Observing Fong Rulie's demeanor, it was clear he was at ease and hadn't fully exerted himself.

Sitting beside Pang Huanyin, Veteran Siao yanked out a strand of his beard.

They didn't know the extent of Fong Rulie's strength. Only the Ziwei Dao Palace cultivators who had brought them into the secret realm had seen it firsthand. Today, they had hoped to get a clear view through Lin Xun's duel, but Lin Xun was eliminated first.

Up until now...

"Bring another one!" Fong Rulie planted his long spear into the ground, yelling with a hint of drunken bravado, radiating high spirits.

Without waiting for Veteran Siao's command, a burly man with a bristling beard stood up, shouting, "I'll go!"

Fong Rulie laughed heartily, twirled his spear, and advanced towards the burly man, striking down with force.

After 5 breaths, the burly figure was sent flying out of the hall.

"Next!" Fong Rulie, in high spirits, propped his spear on his shoulder like a staff, his gaze sweeping over the Ziwei Dao Palace cultivators.

Moments later, a third person was sent flying out of the hall. Throughout, Fong Rulie had only struck three times.

"That's enough, Old Six," Lu Ye's voice sounded.

Fong Rulie shook his head, "I'm not done yet."

His nature was like that, always eager for combat. To him, three bouts were just a warm-up.

"How about I fight you?" Lu Ye looked up.

Fong Rulie felt as if a basin of cold water had been poured over him in the dead of winter. His spirits cooled instantly, sobering up. He quickly retracted his spear, not daring to look at Lu Ye, mumbling as he walked back to his seat, "Drinking is better, drinking is better."

Pang Huanyin's phoenix eyes narrowed slightly.

The Ziwei Dao Palace cultivators also seemed to realize something, their indifferent gazes towards Lu Ye becoming intense.

In the silence, Veteran Siao coughed lightly, "Fong Xiaoyou's strength is indeed impressive!"

Impressive, indeed. In the entire Ziwei Dao Palace, perhaps only Pang Huanyin could match him. No one else could be his opponent.

"Elder, you flatter me," Fong Rulie laughed aloud, continuing to drink.

"I wonder, with such prowess, where does Fong Xiaoyou rank among your senior brothers?"

At these words, everyone's ears perked up.

Fong Rulie casually replied, "Among us senior brothers, we rank by strength. I'm sixth, naturally ranked sixth!"

There were faint sounds of gasping. Pang Huanyin's eyes almost narrowed into slits.

Someone with strength comparable to hers, ranked only sixth?

Then, the five in front must be even stronger. What about the eldest disciple Lu Yiye?

She took a deep breath, calming her complex emotions, and turned to Lu Ye, "Fellow Daoist, continue with your conditions."

"The second condition is that I want to go to the Mount Sumeru Secret Realm. For this, I need the Palace Master's assistance."

Pang Huanyin was puzzled, "Why do you wish to go to Mount Sumeru?"

Lu Ye replied, "It also concerns my missing junior brothers and sisters. Yiye and I previously sought out the Silver Snake Valley, while the Fourth and Sixth joined the Ziwei Dao Palace. There's a chance some of the others might have entered Mount Sumeru. To find them, I must go to Mount Sumeru."

"This won't be easy," Veteran Siao shook his head repeatedly, "Since the Great Change, there has been little communication among the three major secret realms of the human race. Usually, it's only the guiding envoys who interact upon meeting outside, or during specific events at predefined times and places to exchange information. To directly enter a specific secret realm... that's hard, very hard."

Pang Huanyin asked, "What's the third condition?"

Lu Ye slowly shook his head, "If the Ziwei Dao Palace can meet the first two conditions, we can discuss it then. But rest assured, Palace Master, I will not make unreasonable demands. The third condition should align with the Ziwei Dao Palace's philosophy."

"The Dao Palace's philosophy..." Pang Huanyin was thoughtful for a moment before saying, "The first condition is understandable. Seeking your junior brothers and sisters is reasonable. Our Dao Palace will assist as much as possible. As for the second condition, I'll discuss with Veteran Siao to see if there's any feasible solution."

"Then I'll await good news from the Palace Master." Lu Ye nodded slightly.

The banquet soon ended.

Lu Ye and his companions were placed on a secluded mountain peak, with no one else within a ten-mile radius.

In the guest room, Lu Ye was meditating. He frowned, looking at the uninvited Lui Qing and Fong Rulie.

Behind them was the worried Ying Wuji.

He didn't want to come, but couldn't refuse. After all, he was with Ten Thousand Demons Ridge and should stand with Lui Qing and Fong Rulie.

"What is it?" Lu Ye looked up at the three.

Fong Rulie, not wanting to lose momentum, stiffened his neck, "Of course, there's something."

"Speak!"

Fong Rulie said, "We want to know what your third condition is for Ziwei Dao Palace. Also, why do you want to go to Mount Sumeru?"

Lu Ye glanced at him, then shifted his gaze to Lui Qing, "Speak to me directly. No need to use others' mouths."

Lui Qing smiled faintly, "Fellow Daoist Lu, you misunderstand..." He trailed off, unable to continue, as Lu Ye's gaze became sharp and penetrating, as if seeing through him. He quickly changed his tone, "But indeed, I'm curious. Surely it's not just as you explained to Ziwei Dao Palace, right?"

"We came as nine, dispersed everywhere. Since Heaven's Augury gathered us, we should work together. Now four of us are here, and I'm asking Ziwei Dao Palace to search for the other five. What's wrong?"

Lui Qing nodded, "Of course, nothing wrong with that. But if it's just to find them, why go to Mount Sumeru yourself? Asking Ziwei Dao Palace for help is the same. Are you plotting something? Or do you know something we don't?"

"What do you think I know that you don't?" Lu Ye retorted.

He believed he hadn't revealed much, but it seemed Lui Qing had sensed something. As expected, magic cultivators were keener than physique and combat cultivators.

Lui Qing smiled wryly, "If I knew, would I ask you? Fellow Daoist, you just said Heaven's Augury gathered us. We should work together, especially in this Unparalleled Continent. There shouldn't be a divide between Haotian Alliance and Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. In terms of Heaven's Augury's favor, none of us compare to you. So I wonder, before leaving Nine Provinces, did Heaven's Augury give you special guidance?"

"No!" Lu Ye remained calm, "I only know Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury sent us here, likely to deal with the Corpse Race calamity. You must have realized that too."

Chapter 814 Fellow Daoist is a Trustworthy Person

Heaven's Augury sent the nine of them into this realm for a reason, Lui Qing naturally speculated, which was no different from what Lu Ye was saying now.

This was also why he and Fong Rulie readily joined the Ziwei Dao Palace after understanding the situation in the Unparalleled Continent.

Lui Qing also thought of leveraging the power of this secret realm.

But he always felt that Lu Ye had more information than the others, especially after Lu Ye made his request during the day.

This moment of probing, however, did not yield any useful clues, so he had to give up.

He couldn't possibly use force on Lu Ye... his fists weren't bigger than others', and if a real fight broke out, the three of them might not end well.

Gazing deeply at Lu Ye, Lui Qing silently reminded, "I hope it's truly as Fellow Daoist said, but please remember, this place is not the Nine Provinces; it's better if we don't have too many preconceptions."

The three departed.

After sitting for a moment, Lu Ye stood up and stepped out.

The night was deep, the Unparalleled Continent had no moonlight, no starlight, only a hazy big sun during the day, so at night, even cultivators were reluctant to go out easily.

However, in many ancient records, before the great change, the Unparalleled Continent was not like this. This world also had a brilliant big sun, and at night, the sky was filled with myriad stars and moonlight.

But ever since the great change, everything had changed.

Lu Ye's figure moved like the wind, soon arriving at a nearby spirit mountaintop, where a figure was already standing.

Noticing his arrival, that person turned to glance at him and nodded slightly, "Fellow Daoist Lu!"

"Palace Master Pang."

The person standing there was none other than Pang Huanyin. This spirit mountaintop was quite high, and she seemed to be overlooking the scattered lights among the steep mountains below.

"After such a long and tiring journey, Fellow Daoist Lu doesn't go to rest, yet still has the leisure to parade at night in fine attire?"

She was inwardly startled, how did he know she was here? This place was not near the spirit mountaintop where Lu Ye and the others were settled, so there was no reason for her whereabouts to be detected.

"Isn't the Palace Master the same?" Lu Ye came to stand beside her.

Pang Huanyin chuckled but did not respond. She couldn't possibly say that she originally wanted to find Lu Ye, but upon arriving here, she became uncertain, so she stopped.

Unexpectedly, Lu Ye came looking for her actively.

Lu Ye didn't perceive her presence himself. Though his mind was indeed strong, his sense of perception didn't cover such a vast area.

It was Yiyi, hiding in the dark, monitoring the surroundings, who informed him.

Upon learning this, Lu Ye immediately understood Pang Huanyin's intentions. It seemed she wanted to have a private conversation with him but couldn't make up her mind at the last moment, so she stopped here.

It was just right, as Lu Ye also wanted to talk to her privately. Some things were not appropriate to say in front of so many people during the day.

The mountain breeze gently blew, refreshing and pleasant.

After a long silence, Pang Huanyin finally spoke, "Fellow Daoist Lu, actually, I still find it hard to imagine, in today's world, that there are any powerful figures who can train strong cultivators like you and your senior brothers. Moreover, from my observation, it seems your teachings are not from the same lineage."

Even with Lu Ye's earlier explanation, Pang Huanyin still found their origins hard to fathom. She believed her strength was among the top in today's Unparalleled Continent. From a young age, she had many opportunities and encounters, which allowed her to achieve such power at a young age and become the Palace Master as a woman.

But Lu Ye and his senior brothers, even the sixth-ranked among them, almost matched her in strength, which was truly unimaginable.

"Is the Palace Master worried that we might be a threat to the Ziwei Dao Palace?"

Pang Huanyin shook her head, "I don't have that thought. You are all humans, daring to kill the Corpse Race, and capable of killing the Corpse Race, that is enough. Whether you will become a threat to the Ziwei Dao Palace, I haven't considered that. If you truly have the ability to eradicate the Corpse Race, I wouldn't mind giving the Ziwei Dao Palace to you."

"What fortitude the Palace Master has. If that's the case, then why worry about our origins?"

Pang Huanyin turned, her eyelids seemed to blink playfully in the darkness, "Just a whim of curiosity as a woman. But I can be sure of one thing, you are not from the other two secret realms, they don't have this kind of foundation."

Lu Ye remained silent.

"Speaking of which, what I'm most curious about is not your origins," Pang Huanyin shifted the topic.

"What does the Palace Master wish to know?"

Her eyes became sharp, filled with inquiry, "What are you going to do at Mount Sumeru?"

She wasn't a fool; although Lu Ye gave reasonable explanations during the day, how could Pang Huanyin easily believe them? If she were that simple, she wouldn't be the Palace Master.

She could sense that Lu Ye didn't tell the truth.

"Naturally, to find my lost junior brothers and sisters."

Pang Huanyin smiled, "In that case, you don't need to go to Mount Sumeru. I can send someone to inquire for you."

"Without seeing for myself, I cannot believe it."

"Your junior brothers and sisters are strong. If they were at Mount Sumeru, they wouldn't be obscure. Just a little inquiry would reveal the truth, why be so persistent?"

"I still want to go personally."

Pang Huanyin stared at his profile for a long time without turning her head. Lu Ye remained indifferent, treating her as if she didn't exist.

Eventually, Pang Huanyin looked away and sighed heavily, "Fellow Daoist, you may not believe this, but upon our first meeting, a thought surged uncontrollably in my mind, that you are a trustworthy person."

Although she tried hard to suppress these inexplicable thoughts, even intentionally guarding herself against Lu Ye and the others, she was shocked to find that the baseless trust couldn't be dispelled.

This was why she wanted to find Lu Ye tonight. She wanted to figure out if Lu Ye had used some kind of Mysterious Secret Skill to affect her mind.

If that were the case, these outsiders would be too dangerous.

But upon reflection, such a bizarre secret technique would be difficult even for the great cultivators before the upheaval, let alone the current cultivators.

Someone in her position wouldn't easily reveal her true thoughts, but in this casual conversation with Lu Ye, she couldn't help it.

Listening to her, Lu Ye frowned, "Is this trust only for me or my senior brothers as well?"

He didn't think Pang Huanyin was saying this just to get close to him. If she said it, it must be true.

"Only you!" Pang Huanyin responded solemnly.

Lu Ye finally turned to look at her, seeming to sense something.

Immediately, he secretly activated the broken origin of the Soaring Dragon World, and in the next moment, both he and Pang Huanyin felt a resonance.

"Fellow Daoist, you..." Pang Huanyin's expression turned wary, clearly unsure of what happened, she stepped back several feet, her eyes vigilant, "What did you just do?"

In that instant, the inexplicable feeling of trust surged even more strongly, making her feel she could reveal all her secrets without fear of harm.

This feeling was too dangerous!

Lu Ye pondered and said, "For the Palace Master to have such strength at a young age, it must be more than just talent, right? Have there been many opportunities on your cultivation path?"

Pang Huanyin became even more puzzled, "How did you know?"

It wasn't just many opportunities. From her birth, there were anomalies. An ancient tree in front of the Ziwei Dao Palace's main hall, which had withered for three hundred years, blossomed again.

In her teens, she inadvertently found a cave residence left by her ancestors and discovered some long-lost secret techniques of the Ziwei Dao Palace.

Because of these reasons, no one in the Ziwei Dao Palace objected to her becoming Palace Master as a woman; instead, they found it natural.

"No wonder..."

Lu Ye roughly understood what was going on.

This woman should be the Destined One of this realm.

Similar to Ye Liu of the Soaring Dragon World, but the disaster there was too fierce, it was an invasion and erosion of an entire domain, so even though Ye Liu was blessed with fortune and got the Dragon Throne, he couldn't reverse the situation, and he died in the great battle, the Dragon Throne destroyed.

The Unparalleled Continent hadn't reached that degree yet, but perhaps it was not far off.

The more a domain faced the threat of destruction, the more likely a Destined One would be born. It was Heaven and Earth's response to the crisis, a self-rescue attempt.

The Destined One would be stained with the Origin of Heaven and Earth.

And Lu Ye carried a fragment of the Soaring Dragon World's Origin, which gave Pang Huanyin an inexplicable sense of trust, a resonance between two domains' Origins.

At this thought, Lu Ye's heart moved; he thought of another thing.

Pang Huanyin could feel this, but he couldn't, not because the Soaring Dragon World's Origin was inferior, but because the Unparalleled Continent had its own Heaven and Earth's Will!

The Heaven and Earth's Will of the Soaring Dragon World perished with its destruction, and the fragmented Origin, though owned by Lu Ye, gave no guidance.

Pang Huanyin and the Unparalleled Continent were different.

Judging by the current situation, the Heaven and Earth's Will of the Unparalleled Continent, even if it existed, would be in a hazy state.

Perhaps because the world's fragmentation rendered its will incomplete.

Thus, it could only give Pang Huanyin a vague guidance, making her trust certain people.

Lu Ye understood why Heaven's Augury brought them here.

The world was shattered, nearly doomed, unable to save itself. The fragmentary Heaven and Earth's Will of the Unparalleled Continent must have been signaling for help, which Heaven's Augury of the Nine

Provinces detected, leading Heaven's Augury to locate this world and send the nine strongest Cloud River Realm cultivators here.

Chapter 815 Open Heart and Sincerity

Of course, Lu Ye wasn't entirely sure if this was the true situation; it was merely his own deduction.

Perhaps Heaven's Augury of the Nine Provinces had somehow detected the fragmented Unparalleled Continent.

"What exactly have you done?"

Pang Huanyin pressed on. Not understanding this matter left her truly uneasy.

Being responsible for the entire Ziwei Dao Palace, how could she not be wary of developing an inexplicable trust toward a stranger?

From what had just transpired, it was clear that the man before her even possessed some inexplicable means to enhance her trust!

This was hard to comprehend.

Lu Ye pondered in silence, weighing whether to reveal the truth to her. Despite her youth, it was evident she wasn't easily deceived.

Since he intended to borrow the power of Ziwei Dao Palace, honesty might be better than hiding things.

Of course, if she wasn't suspicious, no need to say much; but Pang Huanyin was already doubtful, so it wouldn't be wise to keep hiding.

Besides, if things went smoothly, their identities would be known to her sooner or later...

"What if I say I'm not from this world, would you believe it, Palace Master?" Lu Ye gazed calmly at Pang Huanyin. From her eyes, he saw a fleeting surprise, quickly replaced by understanding. "Palace Master seems to have guessed already?"

Pang Huanyin said, "I did consider the possibility. Ancient records in our Dao Palace mention that long ago, this world had visitors from beyond. Your prowess is so formidable, not hailing from other secret realms or any other place outside. Only one possibility remains—you aren't from this Unparalleled Continent!"

She had thought it, but the notion had quickly passed, seeming too improbable.

Even with old records of such events, who could tell truth from myth in those ages?

Moreover, even if true, how could Lu Ye and his group's cultivation enable them to cross realms?

But now, incredulous as it seemed, it was the truth!

"We come from a domain called the Nine Provinces..."

With the decision to be forthright, no point in hiding anything. Lu Ye's brief account clarified their origins to Pang Huanyin.

She listened quietly without interruption.

One had to admit her composure; no matter how incredible, she could accept it calmly. Whatever her inner thoughts or analyses, Lu Ye could not know.

"In the Nine Provinces, there are many domains that have been destroyed or shattered, forming several large and small secret realms. If Nine Provinces cultivators have the opportunity, they may enter for training."

Pang Huanyin frowned: "So, our Unparalleled Continent is just a training ground for Nine Provinces cultivators?"

Hard for her to accept. After generations of fighting the Corpse Race to clear the skies, it was disheartening to know their home world was merely a practice ground. It made her feel their struggles and sacrifices were a joke.

Lu Ye shook his head: "Unparalleled Continent is different from those secret realms. I've not experienced many, but others have experienced more. Still, for all of us, Unparalleled Continent is special since your domain hasn't perished yet!"

"If those domains you mentioned have perished, what can Nine Provinces cultivators do upon entering?"

"Heaven's Augury of the Nine Provinces has incredible methods. Even if a domain has perished, it can recreate everything and everyone at some point in time—we call it a time-space snapshot. During that snapshot, the domain hasn't perished, allowing Nine Provinces cultivators to act, trying to save that domain," he turned to look at Pang Huanyin, "This is why Heaven's Augury sent us nine here!"

Before Pang Huanyin could speak, Lu Ye continued, "Recently, I entered a time-space snapshot of a domain called the Soaring Dragon World, where I did some things and gained the approval of its Heaven-Earth Origin."

"Heaven-Earth Origin?" Pang Huanyin's brows arched slightly.

"This world also has a Heaven-Earth Origin, perhaps already harboring some faint consciousness. It chose you as the savior of this world; you are this world's Destined One. Surely, you've sensed some things yourself."

Pang Huanyin touched her chest thoughtfully.

After a long pause, she spoke, "So, my trust in you isn't my own but influenced by the will of Unparalleled Continent's consciousness!"

"Exactly!" Lu Ye nodded, "Even with a nascent consciousness, a domain's will can recognize who can help it and who will harm it. So, does the Palace Master understand now?"

Pang Huanyin chuckled and shook her head, "Surreal!"

Had someone else said this, she'd think them mad. But hearing it from Lu Ye, she believed it seventy percent, the remaining thirty percent due to her own cautious nature.

"As for why I insist on entering the Mount Sumeru Secret Realm..."

Lu Ye paused, asking, "If the Palace Master persuades them personally, can you convince Mount Sumeru to join forces against the Corpse Race?"

Pang Huanyin shook her head, "Of the three secret realms, only Ziwei Dao Palace has been actively resolving the Corpse Race scourge for millennia. Silver Snake Valley hides like a turtle, only coveting power. Mount Sumeru superficially claims they'll act if Silver Snake Valley moves, but truly they stay aloof, unwilling to offend our Dao Palace. It's impossible to rely on those two. Were they committed, our Dao Palace wouldn't struggle so much."

Discussing this filled Pang Huanyin with anger and sorrow over their indifference and complacency.

"So, it's nearly impossible to ally with them?"

"Absolutely impossible!"

"Then a visit to Mount Sumeru is necessary." Lu Ye nodded, "If Palace Master can arrange for me to enter Mount Sumeru, I have a way to make them confront the Corpse Race willingly."

"How?" Pang Huanyin's interest peaked, her eyebrows dancing.

"Not convenient to say now." Lu Ye shook his head slowly.

Pang Huanyin stared at Lu Ye until he remained unmoved, then snorted, "Staging a mystery!"

Suddenly feeling off, she quickly adjusted her expression.

Remembering something, Pang Huanyin said, "Fellow Daoist already visited Silver Snake Valley, doesn't that mean..."

"When the time comes, Silver Snake Valley won't focus on power struggles; even unwilling, they'll have to confront the Corpse Race."

"And my Dao Palace? Did Fellow Daoist employ any methods?" Pang Huanyin's eyes narrowed slightly.

"The Dao Palace's situation differs from the other two, no need for such methods."

"I feel you're deceiving me!" Pang Huanyin frowned.

"How could that be!" Lu Ye, righteous-faced, "Already confided sincerely with Palace Master, no reason to deceive you."

Pang Huanyin scrutinized him for a moment, then nodded, "Let's hope so."

A gentle mountain breeze stirred their clothes.

"Tomorrow, join me. I'll take you to Mount Sumeru!" Pang Huanyin suddenly decided.

Lu Ye wasn't surprised by the Dao Palace's means, "Then I must thank the Palace Master."

"If things are as you say, I'm merely saving myself; you should thank us Unparalleled Continent cultivators." Pang Huanyin clasped her hands behind her, tilting her head at Lu Ye, "I agreed to your first two conditions, isn't it time to discuss the third?"

Curiosity drives even the Dao Palace Master!

Lu Ye had tantalized them at the banquet, leaving them wanting more.

"After success, I'll detail it to the Palace Master. I believe you won't refuse."

Pang Huanyin showed disdain, "I despise tedious people like you—so slow and hesitant!

One step took her far away, her voice trailing on the wind: "For this trip to Mount Sumeru, only one companion is allowed."

Watching her departure, Lu Ye smiled.

Things... are sorted!

Returning to his quarters, he gathered Lui Qing and the others, getting straight to the point: "Pang Huanyin agreed to take me to Mount Sumeru tomorrow. Who among you will accompany me?"

"They can enter Mount Sumeru?" Fong Rulie was astonished; at the banquet today, they had said otherwise. Indeed, one couldn't easily trust others, but in hindsight, the Dao Palace had no need to detail everything to them. Who knew what method Lu Yiye used?

Lui Qing frowned slightly, "To reach Mount Sumeru, special means might be required?"

"Unclear, didn't ask." Lu Ye shook his head, "Pang Huanyin said only one companion is allowed."

Ying Wuji shrunk back, trying to be less noticeable.

Lui Qing said, "If so, I recommend Brother Ying."

Sharing a tacit understanding, Lui Qing and Fong Rulie stepped aside, revealing Ying Wuji's sneaky retreat.

Lu Ye's gaze turned to him.

Ying Wuji mentally cursed Lui Qing's ancestors thoroughly.

"We might need to scout; Brother Ying, being a Ghost Cultivator, is more suited for this," Lui Qing justified earnestly.

"Ying Wuji, your thoughts?" Lu Ye asked, "Of course, if unwilling, there's no compulsion. I can go alone."

What could he think? What dared he think?

Stepping forward slightly, Ying Wuji said, "Heaven's Augury sent nine of us here; as the sole Ghost Cultivator, information gathering falls on me. I'll go with you."

A refusal now would certainly earn Lu Yiye's grudge, making life harder later.

Chapter 816 The Mountain Lord Takes a Wife

The murky large sun shone down in all directions, and four figures swept through mid-air.

It was none other than Lu Ye and Pang Huanyin's group.

Lu Ye brought Ying Wuji, while Pang Huanyin brought Veteran Siao. The group headed to Mount Sumeru totaled only four. Pang Huanyin had mentioned last night that too many people would not be good, so she naturally didn't make a large show of it.

The two led in the front, with Ying Wuji and Veteran Siao following behind.

However, unlike Lu Ye and Pang Huanyin, who were chatting and laughing merrily, the two behind were rather sullen and disheartened.

Ying Wuji didn't need to say anything. If he had the choice, he wouldn't want to act with Lu Ye. He could sense that this trip to Mount Sumeru was not going to be a pleasant task.

As for Veteran Siao...

Last night, when Pang Huanyin informed him of this, he had objected strongly.

The Dao Palace possessed calculations and methods for opening the portals to two other secret realms. This was an absolute secret, known only to Pang Huanyin and him within Ziwei Dao Palace, passed down orally through generations.

If this were to be exposed, the other two forces surely wouldn't be able to stay at ease.

Moreover, this time Pang Huanyin was personally leading the team to Mount Sumeru. If anything went wrong, it could provoke hostility between the two human race secret realms. If the other side became suspicious, the efforts of the Dao Palace over the past millennium would be in vain.

Yet, no matter how much he persuaded, Pang Huanyin remained unmoved.

Veteran Siao had no choice but to follow orders.

He could not understand why the Palace Master would act like this. Looking up, he saw the two ahead walking side by side, appearing quite close despite not knowing each other for long.

His heart skipped a beat...

Could it be that the Palace Master is...

But then again, what woman does not yearn for love? The Palace Master was at that very young age, and before, no one had caught her eye. This young man named Lu Yiye undoubtedly stood out more than anyone else. It was not surprising that the Palace Master might admire him.

If this were true, it wouldn't necessarily be a bad thing. At the very least, the Dao Palace would gain a strong ally!

With this thought, Veteran Siao felt somewhat relieved.

They hurried on without stopping.

Until noon the next day when they arrived before a large lake. Pang Huanyin stopped, looked around, and asked, "Veteran Siao, is this the place?"

Veteran Siao calculated silently, then nodded after a while, "This is the place, in two hours!"

"Just in time!" Pang Huanyin said indifferently, "Then let's rest for two hours."

Throughout the journey, everyone was exhausted. There might be some conflicts entering Mount Sumeru, as they were barging in uninvited, and even with Pang Huanyin leading, the Mount Sumeru side wouldn't ignore such an intrusion.

The group found a spot by the lake and began meditating and consuming pills to recover.

Seeing the high-quality elixir pills used by Lu Ye and Ying Wuji, Pang Huanyin felt even more convinced by what Lu Ye had said earlier.

Such elixir pills could not be concocted in the current Unparalleled Continent. In terms of quality and appearance, they were far superior to what the Unparalleled Continent could produce.

She couldn't help but feel a sense of yearning and envy. What kind of world was this Nine Provinces?

Unfortunately, she probably wouldn't have the chance to visit that world in her lifetime.

Soon, two hours passed, and the four of them came to the surface of the lake once more.

Veteran Siao looked at Pang Huanyin for the final confirmation, "Palace Master, if we act like this, the Mount Sumeru side might not let it slide."

Pang Huanyin clasped her hands behind her back, saying indifferently, "So what? I bet Liu Zhenguan would not dare to tear his face with me!"

These words sounded quite domineering. However, since Veteran Siao knew the Palace Master's thoughts, he said no more and took out an artifact resembling a round ring.

It looked like a bracelet, glittering with golden light.

Veteran Siao activated his spirit force, flicking lightly, causing a continuous, crisp ringing sound. He then tossed the golden ring onto the lake surface.

The ring spun rapidly as it landed. Instead of sinking, it sent out ripples of golden light, and in the blink of an eye, the ring seemed to enlarge significantly.

The spirit force vibrations caused incessant ringing.

At the same time, at the Mount Sumeru Secret Realm portal.

Many cultivators were gathered.

Contrary to the usual solemn atmosphere, today, it was quite festive, as if something joyous was about to happen.

Indeed, something joyous was afoot. In three days, their mountain lord was getting married—a piece of news that spread the day before, shaking the entire Mount Sumeru Secret Realm.

It wasn't because of anything else. Despite having many women around him over the years, their mountain lord never showed any inclination to marry anyone.

The mountain lord had even boasted that he would never marry unless Pang Huanyin of Ziwei Dao Palace was willing to marry him. Otherwise, no one could catch his eye.

But everyone knew this was impossible. After all, Pang Huanyin was the Palace Master of Ziwei Dao Palace. How could she be willing to come to Mount Sumeru, not to mention that her strength was overwhelmingly powerful? Even if she did marry over, the mountain lord might not be able to handle her.

So when news of the mountain lord's wedding came out, many were happy, and others found it unbelievable. They wondered what kind of woman had made the mountain lord give up on his obsession with Pang Huanyin.

"I saw that woman once before. She is indeed a rare beauty," a cultivator said during casual conversation.

"Oh? Brother Zhao has seen our future mountain lady? Do tell, which family's daughter is it?" someone asked.

The situation at Mount Sumeru was similar to Silver Snake Valley. Its legacy had been broken for a long time, not organized as a sect but controlled by various families.

Unlike Silver Snake Valley, however, there weren't five great families. Only one family, the Liu family, held the greatest power.

For many years, the Liu family had controlled Mount Sumeru. Liu Zhenguan, whom Pang Huanyin mentioned, was the current family head and the mountain lord of Mount Sumeru.

If Liu Zhenguan wanted to marry, he would surely choose from other families, using marriage to consolidate his power—an old Liu family strategy.

So everyone speculated about which family's daughter it was. However, high-ranking members kept it a tight secret, with no clear information leaking out.

Brother Zhao shook his head, "She isn't from any particular family. She came from outside, one of the two women who were brought into our secret realm recently. Brother Shih also saw them when we were on guard duty here the other day."

Beside him was a sturdily-built man, Cultivator Shih. He looked at Cultivator Zhao, "Two women were brought in that day. Which one is the mountain lord going to marry?"

Cultivator Zhao replied, "The gentle, serene one, from what I know."

Someone asked in confusion, "How extraordinary is she that the mountain lord wants to marry her?"

Cultivator Zhao shook his head, looking wise, "If she were just a beauty, the mountain lord wouldn't act this way. His side has always been full of beauties." He seemed to have information others didn't, knowing more.

He glanced around warily, then lowered his voice, "Brothers, this is just between us. Don't spread it around."

The cultivators gathered showed great interest.

Someone urged, "Brother Zhao, we trust each other. No one will gossip. Who would dare? We'd never let it happen."

"Indeed, indeed."

Cultivator Zhao continued, "I heard from my elder that the woman has an extraordinary ability in detoxification!"

The group was stunned.

Someone laughed, "That's no big deal."

Another pondered and asked, "Brother Zhao, what kind of toxins does she detoxify?"

Cultivator Zhao said solemnly, one word at a time, "Primordial Corpse Poison!"

Everyone fell silent, the only sound being the wind howling.

All eyes incredulously turned to Cultivator Zhao.

"Brother Zhao... you must be joking, right?" someone said, unsure.

Cultivator Zhao shook his head, "I thought it was impossible too. Everyone knows Primordial Corpse Poison is incurable. Once infected, people are transformed into corpse race. So whenever one of our brothers is infected, we must end our lives immediately and secure the body. But this seems to be true!"

"How is that possible?" someone doubted. With no solution for so long, even the Ziwei Dao Palace was helpless. How could an outsider woman solve this problem?

"Do you know why those two women were brought into our secret realm?" Cultivator Zhao continued, "Because one of our people was infected with Primordial Corpse Poison outside and saved by that woman. They then brought them here! The mountain lord ordered more corpse poison for testing, confirming the woman's ability. Without that, the mountain lord wouldn't consider marriage. We lost many due to Primordial Corpse Poison over the years as it's incurable. But if there's a solution, we'd be less cautious against the corpse race."

"If so, the mountain lord marrying her makes sense," someone mused.

Rare talent like this couldn't be missed. To keep her loyalty to Mount Sumeru, marrying her would bind their interests. Besides, she's a beauty, naturally attractive to the mountain lord.

"So, the mountain lord's marriage isn't just personal but for Mount Sumeru's good.

"Exactly."

While chatting, the mountain lord's marriage was seen as a strategic move for Mount Sumeru's future, earning respect and curiosity about the future wife.

Fortunately, the wedding was in three days, and they would soon find out more.

Chapter 817 This is a Forced Entry

"What sound is that?" Suddenly, someone tilted their ear to listen.

Everyone immediately fell silent.

"What sound? Maybe you heard wrong?"

"No, listen carefully..."

As the words fell, everyone's expressions turned uncertain because a soft 'ding' was indeed heard beside their ears, as if someone was flicking a metallic object.

Initially, the sound was light and infrequent, but it quickly grew louder, and the 'ding ding' sound became continuous.

"Where is that sound coming from?"

The crowd's faces changed color. At this point, the sound appeared right next to their ears as if someone was causing a commotion, but they couldn't see anything!

The next moment, a valiant voice suddenly sounded beside their ears, shocking everyone.

"Pang Huanyin of Ziwei Dao Palace here to pay respects. Please open the gates!"

"Ziwei Dao Palace..."

"Pang Huanyin?"

The group of guarding cultivators were dumbfounded.

This name was undoubtedly familiar to them, as they had just been discussing this woman. What amazed them was how her voice could reach their ears!

So close, yet they couldn't see a single figure.

In the crowd, an elderly guarding cultivator seemed to realize something and spoke, "Quick, activate the Heaven Reflecting Mirror to see outside!"

"You mean..."

"No time for questions, quickly activate the Heaven Reflecting Mirror!" The elder urged urgently.

Almost immediately, the group of guarding cultivators activated the power of the Heaven Reflecting Mirror, and they were all startled by the reflection in the bronze mirror.

Reflected in the mirror were several figures. At the forefront was a woman dressed in men's attire, hands behind her back, exuding heroism. Even if one hadn't met her, just one look would confirm her identity.

"Pang Huanyin!"

"She's outside!"

As they spoke, Pang Huanyin seemed to become aware and lifted her gaze, meeting the eyes of the guarding cultivators, as if they were looking at each other through the void.

Her sharp gaze made the group involuntarily step back a few steps.

"She... she... she can calculate the location of our Mount Sumeru's gate?" Someone turned pale with shock.

The three Great Secret Realms of the human race drifted in the Void. Each had their own method for calculating the gate's position. Without knowing the method, it was impossible to pinpoint the gate's location at any time.

For Pang Huanyin to wait outside the secret realm now, she must have found a way to calculate the position of the gate.

This was simply unbelievable.

What was more shocking was what means she used to transmit her voice inside.

"Report to the mountain lord quickly!" The elder, Chiang, urgently ordered.

Someone immediately complied and sped towards Mount Sumeru.

"Veteran Chiang, what should we do now that she's outside?"

Elder Chiang replied calmly, "What are you afraid of? Even if she calculated the gate's position, she can't break in! But this is important; we must inform the mountain lord immediately."

The group snapped out of it. Yes, as long as they didn't open the gate, Pang Huanyin couldn't break in. There was nothing to worry about.

As they sighed in relief, the void in front of them suddenly fluctuated with unusual spirit force. A large area of golden light spread, outlining the shape of a gate.

"What the..." Veteran Chiang couldn't help but retreat several feet, his face full of shock.

He had just said Pang Huanyin couldn't break into Mount Sumeru, but now the gate showed signs of opening.

It was certain that the gate was not being opened by any of the guarding cultivators.

Pang Huanyin, unexpectedly, had some mystic method to forcibly open Mount Sumeru's gate!

Elder Chiang was deeply horrified.

"Close the gate quickly!" Someone shouted.

The guarding cultivators scrambled into action.

If a gate could be opened, it could also be closed. Whatever strange means Pang Huanyin used, she must not be allowed in.

Allowing her to break in would be a dereliction of duty for the guarding cultivators.

At that moment, a large hand suddenly reached through the golden gate, grasping the edge. The gate, formed from spirit force, seemed solidified.

Everyone's eyes were drawn to that large hand, and a deep sense of dread welled up, as if the hand were a claw of a ferocious beast rather than a human hand.

And from within that gate, it seemed a ferocious beast was about to emerge.

The large hand grasped the gate's edge forcefully, and a figure leaped out, standing before the gate like a door deity.

The crowd looked up and saw a young man, barely twenty, in tattered clothes, drenched in blood, standing there. Through the shredded gaps in his clothes, they could faintly see his gory wounds.

These were not the marks of battle but the price of breaking through before the gate fully stabilized, being cut by the Void.

Yet, he remained unfazed, standing quietly, eyes slightly lowered, black hair casting a shadow over his face, hiding his expression.

A long sword was at his waist, one hand on the sheath, the other on the hilt, fingers lightly gripping.

No one dared to act rashly because the moment he appeared, everyone felt a sharp aura locking onto them, any movement might bring devastating consequences.

The atmosphere was instantly tense, and some cultivators nervously broke out in a sweat.

The golden gate quickly stabilized, and another figure emerged, spirit force roiling, radiant light shining as if counteracting something. It was Pang Huanyin.

As her light faded, everyone noticed she was not alone; an elderly man followed closely behind.

Having entered Mount Sumeru, she smiled lightly at the on-guard but unmoving cultivators. "Thank you for the trouble."

All the guarding cultivators' faces twitched involuntarily.

What trouble? How could this be trouble? This was clearly a forced entry, and wasn't as if we had opened the gate for you!

It was the first time knowing that the master of Ziwei Dao Palace had a knack for turning black into white.

She then turned to Lu Ye, who had rushed in first, frowning with concern, "Are you alright?"

Forcing open someone else's gate wasn't easy. They would certainly try to resist, which would only alert the enemy.

Therefore, after opening the gate, there couldn't be any delays. Someone had to enter first to restrain the guarding cultivators.

But crossing before the gate completely stabilized was very risky.

Lu Ye's wounds were the price of this action.

This forced intrusion was different from when they left Silver Snake Valley last time. Although the gate there hadn't fully stabilized, it was better prepared. Lu Ye and Ying Wuji were only slightly disoriented, uninjured.

At this moment, the wounds on Lu Ye's body would be considered severe for any cultivator.

What amazed Pang Huanyin was that Lu Ye showed no signs of weakening, seemingly unaffected by his injuries.

"I'm fine," Lu Ye replied, finally moving his right hand from the sword hilt.

The sense of horror gripping the guarding cultivators also dissipated. Elder Chiang, full of apprehension, looked at Lu Ye before bowing to Pang Huanyin, "Palace Master Pang, we have sent someone to notify the mountain lord. Please wait a moment. The mountain lord will be delighted to hear of your arrival."

Being seasoned, he did not begin by accusing Pang Huanyin of forcefully opening the gate. The situation had already occurred, and blame was pointless. Moreover, having entered Mount Sumeru, how this would be resolved was up to the higher-ups. The guarding cultivators would pretend ignorance.

Thus, his task was simple: detain Pang Huanyin.

"Very well, I shall await your mountain lord then," Pang Huanyin replied.

Having already broken in, she would now adhere to their rules. Attempting to leave forcibly would only provoke conflict.

The guarding cultivators' willingness to turn a blind eye suited her.

She turned and said, "Veteran Siao, please recover first, Yiye, tend to your wounds."

In front of others, it was inappropriate to address him as Fellow Daoist Lu. She simply called him by name.

As for Veteran Siao... opening someone else's gate forcibly was no easy task, even with a treasure from the Dao Palace ancestors; his spirit force was severely depleted.

Lu Ye and Veteran Siao both nodded. One went aside to meditate and recover, while the other removed his tattered clothes, cleansing his wounds with clear water.

The guarding cultivators watched intently. Lu Ye's numerous wounds had stopped bleeding, and the flesh around them had tightly closed, leaving them in awe.

Pang Huanyin merely stood quietly, spreading her awareness to perceive something.

But soon she gave up.

Because she detected nothing.

Secretly impressed, the Path of Concealment of Ying Wuji, the cultivator, was nearly divine.

In forcing the gate, Lu Ye had moved first to distract the guarding cultivators. Pang Huanyin followed quickly, deliberately causing a commotion with spirit force and radiance to cover Ying Wuji.

Ying Wuji followed closely behind her, vanished upon entering, and then disappeared.

At this moment, Ying Wuji's whereabouts were unknown.

This scenario had been part of the plan, so she wasn't worried.

Pang Huanyin couldn't understand why Lu Ye insisted on coming to Mount Sumeru or what means he had to compel Mount Sumeru to join the alliance against the Corpse Race.

If Mount Sumeru and Silver Snake Valley truly intended to resist the Corpse Race actively, they would have done so already, rather than delay until now.

If the three Great Secret Realms of the human race cooperated sincerely and fought together, they might indeed defeat the Corpse Race. Alas, despite Ziwei Dao Palace's efforts over millennia, they had achieved no success.

Thus, she looked forward to Lu Ye's assurances with some skepticism, waiting to see what he intended.

Chapter 818 Congratulatory Gift

This trip to Mount Sumeru Secret Realm, Pang Huanyin did not merely come to fulfill the second condition promised to Lu Ye but also wanted to sit down and have a thorough discussion about forming an alliance with Mount Sumeru.

Although the chances are slim, effort makes things possible. If you do not strive to try, many things will never be accomplished.

Beside the portal, Pang Huanyin stood silently, Veteran Siao quietly recuperated, and Lu Ye changed into new clothes.

In the distance, near the Mount Sumeru range, several figures rushed forward. The leading one was a burly figure with broad shoulders and a thick waist, his face covered with a full beard, exuding an innate heroic aura.

This person was precisely the current master of the Mount Sumeru Secret Realm, Liu Zhenguan.

At this moment, his face was as calm as water, obviously, he was not in a good mood.

It's no wonder that someone trespassed into his territory without permission, forcing their way in, who could be in a good mood in such a situation?

Turns out the elders' old warnings were true!

The Ziwei Dao Palace indeed had methods to deduce the portals' locations of other secret realms, and even possess means to forcibly open portals.

He had previously found it implausible, but today's events left him no choice but to believe it, no matter how much he didn't want to.

What does that woman intend to do?

Compared to the anger in his heart, he was more puzzled.

That woman must know that such actions would offend others. Yet, despite knowing this, she exposed herself. What is her purpose?

Is she planning to completely tear face with Mount Sumeru?

Not quite. Although he had only interacted with Pang Huanyin once, he knew she was not someone who would act recklessly. On the contrary, despite her youth, she was more rational than most elders.

"Mountain Lord, shall we bring more people?" A Mount Sumeru cultivator tightly followed behind and asked.

"What use would bringing so many people serve?" Liu Zhenguan snorted coldly.

"In case a fight breaks out..." the speaker showed an apprehensive expression, "I heard that the woman is very strong, bringing more people might be convenient."

Liu Zhenguan's voice was like thunder, muttering angrily, "Damn it, this is Mount Sumeru, I am the Mountain Lord. Since she has entered, she shall not stir up any trouble. Bringing that many people would only undermine my own momentum!"

"Mountain Lord means... to take her by force?"

Liu Zhenguan turned his head, looking at the speaker like an idiot, "And then? Wait for the retaliation from Ziwei Dao Palace? You've been with me for so many years and you are still this stupid?"

He may appear rough and straightforward, but his mind was exceptionally meticulous. He knew that although Ziwei Dao Palace had crossed their taboo, Mount Sumeru couldn't afford to do much unless they were willing to tear face with Ziwei Dao Palace.

This was likely Pang Huanyin's confidence in daring to take such a risk.

If Pang Huanyin were harmed, Ziwei Dao Palace would inevitably come seeking retribution, and Mount Sumeru might not be able to withstand it.

Knowing this, he found it difficult to dissipate the pent-up frustration in his heart.

From afar, he saw the group of vigilant cultivators and the quietly standing figure.

The many displeased and angry expressions on Liu Zhenguan's face instantly collected, replaced with a cheerful smile. As he approached, he began to laugh loudly: "I had a hunch this morning, feeling that something good would happen. It turns out it's the esteemed Palace Master Pang visiting. Liu is here to welcome you!"

When he finished speaking, he had already come near Pang Huanyin, his face full of a warm smile, as if extremely delighted by her arrival.

With a sidelong glance, he saw Veteran Siao and Lu Ye.

He recognized Veteran Siao, knowing him as Pang Huanyin's protector, having seen him before.

But he had no impression of Lu Ye, though he paid a bit more attention. Anyone brought by Pang Huanyin at such a time couldn't be ordinary.

"Mountain Lord Liu, long time no see. Apologies for the unannounced visit; I hope you won't mind." Pang Huanyin slightly nodded, smiling lightly.

"Not at all, not at all. Liu invites esteemed guests like Palace Master Pang all the time but cannot get them to come. Your visit today is Mount Sumeru's honor. If you are willing, why not stay for a few days and share a cup of my wedding wine?"

Pang Huanyin was astonished: "Mountain Lord Liu... is getting married?"

This guy had previously boasted that no woman in the world but herself could catch his eye, and that he would take no wife unless she deigned to marry him.

His standard was evident, and his side was never short of women. He had no plans to marry for years, so how could he suddenly decide to marry?

It was indeed an odd occurrence.

Pang Huanyin was inevitably curious, wondering what kind of woman had made Liu Zhenguan have such thoughts.

But it was merely a slight curiosity. Whether Liu Zhenguan married or not, or whom he married had nothing to do with her. She had her own agenda for coming here.

Liu Zhenguan scratched his head and laughed loudly: "Sorry for making you laugh, Palace Master."

A group of vigilant cultivators watched from the side, astonished. They thought given their Mountain Lord's temperament, knowing that the portal had been forced open, he would surely be furious and might bring a batch of strong cultivators, intending to fight. Who knew he wouldn't even bring up the forced entry and would converse happily with Pang Huanyin as if they were old friends not seen for many years.

"Then the wedding wine is a must-drink."

"This is not a place to talk. Please enter the mountain first, Palace Master Pang." Liu Zhenguan said this, extending his hand courteously, eyes smiling.

Pang Huanyin nodded: "Well then, I will respect your invitation!"

Liu Zhenguan's expression remained unchanged, but his eyelids twitched slightly. Pang Huanyin's forthright acceptance of his invitation, acting as if undeterred by any potential dangers ahead, clearly indicated her confidence that Mount Sumeru wouldn't do anything to her.

This woman... has quite some guts!

Pang Huanyin and Liu Zhenguan led the way, while Lu Ye and others followed behind, flying onward. The two in front chatted happily, while those in the rear remained silent and wary of each other, creating a strange atmosphere.

After entering the Mount Sumeru range, Liu Zhenguan said, "The Palace Master has come from afar and should first rest for half a day. I will arrange a banquet, and we can have a joyous time in the evening!"

"Very well!" Pang Huanyin agreed, adhering to the host's customs.

Immediately, Liu Zhenguan commanded to have Pang Huanyin, Lu Ye, and others directed to a nearby spirit mountaintop to settle.

The spirit mountaintop was not large, with only three to five halls, seemingly uninhabited regularly. Upon arriving, Lu Ye and the others were arranged to rest by the Mount Sumeru cultivators.

In the side room, Lu Ye sat cross-legged, his injuries not fully healed but not serious, only some flesh wounds. Considering the powerful vitality within him, such injuries needed no special attention and would heal within two to three days.

His mind opened, sensing the hidden presence of cultivators nearby, evidently left by Mount Sumeru to monitor them.

This was within expectation, so Lu Ye did not mind.

Meanwhile, in a secluded valley somewhere in the Mount Sumeru range, a shadowy figure emerged like a specter—it was Ying Wuji, who had been missing since entering the secret realm.

With his skills as a ghost cultivator and Pang Huanyin providing cover, the on-duty cultivators by the portal had no chance of detecting his presence.

For him, entering the secret realm was akin to a tiger entering the forest or a dragon swimming in the sea; unless he chose, no one from Mount Sumeru could find him.

Confirmed being alone, he took out a wooden box from his bosom.

This item was handed to him by Lu Ye; its contents were unknown to him. Lu Ye had instructed him along the way to open the box only after entering Mount Sumeru, and subsequently to place its contents in some hidden spot.

"What mischief is Lu Yiye up to?" Ying Wuji was full of doubt.

He opened the wooden box lightly, and its contents came into view.

It was an object resembling a crystal stone, with something seemingly sealed inside.

Ying Wuji fixed his gaze, his pupils contracting sharply: "This is..."

It seemed he had seen something utterly incredible, his eyes and face filled with astonishment.

He quickly gathered his composure.

Turns out that Lui Qing was right; Lu Yiye indeed possessed intelligence unknown to others, surely having received special guidance from Heaven's Augury. Otherwise, how could he have such an improbable item?

If not for his inconvenience in acting this time, he would likely not have entrusted this to him!

Thinking of his days spent serving Lu Yiye diligently yet receiving little trust, Ying Wuji felt disheartened.

...

"Yiye." The knock on the door was accompanied by Pang Huanyin's voice.

Sitting cross-legged in the room, Lu Ye opened his eyes and responded softly: "Come in by yourself."

Pang Huanyin then pushed the door and entered.

"What's the matter?" Lu Ye asked.

"Our timing is not ideal. With Liu Zhenguan's grand occasion, we should present a congratulatory gift. But you know, Veteran Siao and I traveled light and didn't carry presents of worth. Could you lend me something?"

Lu Ye thought for a moment and casually took out a bottle of high-quality healing pills.

Pang Huanyin quickly raised her hand to stop him: "Not elixir pills. Your side's alchemical skills far surpass ours. If such items are presented, Liu Zhenguan might entertain untoward thoughts."

Lu Ye then took out some Spiritual Artifacts.

"These won't do either..."

"Then what do you want?" Lu Ye looked up at her.

Pang Huanyin was at a loss: "I don't know either."

She had never given congratulatory gifts before, having no experience in this matter. She felt it was indeed a profound knowledge; if the gift was too expensive, it would be heart-wrenching, but if too light, it would seem stingy. Balancing this seemed more difficult than cultivation itself.

"Do you have anything suitable for a woman?" She suddenly had a spark of inspiration.

Someone like Liu Zhenguan having thoughts of marriage indicated the woman held significant weight in his heart. So if they were to present a gift, aiming at the woman might be more effective than targeting Liu Zhenguan himself.

If Liu Zhenguan's resentment could be eased, then she could discuss the alliance with him.

Lu Ye casually pulled out a delicate handkerchief.

This item naturally was a war trophy, not of high quality, just a mid-grade spirit artifact, also a flying spirit artifact of sorts. Where it came from was unclear.

He had many such items he found useless, piled up in his storage space.

Chapter 819 I Am Just a Healing Cultivator

"This thing..." Pang Huanyin picked up the handkerchief-like Spiritual Artifact, inspected it briefly, and nodded, "This item is quite fitting."

Although its crafting method slightly differs from those on the Unparalleled Continent, it appears quite exquisite, but ultimately, it is just a Flying Spirit Artifact and useless in combat.

Its quality isn't too high, but it should be very popular with women.

"Who would have thought!" Pang Huanyin glanced at Lu Ye teasingly, clearly misunderstanding something.

Lu Ye was too lazy to explain.

"I will accept this as a loan from you," Pang Huanyin put away the handkerchief, her expression growing serious as she said, "Liu Zhenguan appears very forthright, but in reality, he is quite shrewd. He did not mention anything about us forcibly intruding earlier, which suggests he might cause trouble later."

"Don't worry, I'll protect you."

Pang Huanyin's expression turned peculiar. Since childhood, no one had ever spoken to her like that. In Mount Sumeru, and even the entire Unparalleled Continent, she was the strongest cultivator. It had always been her protecting others; no one had ever had the qualifications to say they would protect her.

"What I mean is, whatever you need to do, do it quickly. You might not get another chance later!"

Lu Ye nodded.

He had already given the items to Ying Wuji in advance, so he had no need to do anything. He trusted that Ying Wuji would handle it well.

Pang Huanyin soon departed.

By evening, a cultivator from Mount Sumeru came to invite them, saying that Liu Zhenguan had prepared a banquet to welcome the three guests.

Pang Huanyin agreed without hesitation, leading Lu Ye and Veteran Siao as they followed the cultivator to another spirit mountaintop.

Moments later, Liu Zhenguan stood to greet them in the Spirit Mountaintop Great Hall, followed by numerous Mount Sumeru experts.

After exchanging greetings, the hosts and guests appeared harmonious.

But with Lu Ye's strong sense, he could naturally detect the various hidden presences around the hall. He knew Pang Huanyin was right; Mount Sumeru was not going to let their earlier intrusion slide. This great hall was practically a dragon pond and tiger's lair.

Everyone entered the hall and took their seats.

Regardless of Liu Zhenguan's true character, at least on the surface, he was extremely warm and welcoming, easily giving a sense of closeness.

With his loud toasts, everyone exchanged cups and the atmosphere was lively.

After three rounds of drinks, Pang Huanyin smiled and said, "I came in a rush and did not know about Mountain Lord Liu's impending joy. I didn't prepare anything, but here's a little token; I hope Mountain Lord Liu will not mind."

With that, she gestured slightly.

Sitting lower, Veteran Siao stood up, holding a delicate box and stepping forward.

Liu Zhenguan laughed loudly, "Palace Master Pang is thoughtful. What a coincidence! Just as I am about to marry, Palace Master Pang arrives. This is truly a double celebration! Hahaha!"

He laughed heartily, and the Mount Sumeru cultivators naturally laughed along, creating a seemingly harmonious atmosphere.

"What is in this box?" Liu Zhenguan asked casually.

Pang Huanyin replied, "Mountain Lord Liu, as the master of a mountain, surely lacks nothing. So, the item in this box isn't for you, but for your future missus. As for what it is... just something for ladies. Let the missus see for herself; I believe she will like it."

Slightly surprised, Liu Zhenguan gestured, "If that's the case, then send it to the inner chamber."

"Yes!" A female cultivator, looking like a maid, stepped forward, received the box from Veteran Siao, and left the hall, flying away.

Several tens of miles away from the spirit mountaintop, on another mountaintop stood a secluded palace.

In the depth of the night, inside the quietest room in the palace, there were two female figures.

One was tall and beautiful; the other had a curvaceous figure and a serene demeanor.

In the dim candlelight, the serene woman sat at the table, casually poking at the lamp wick, looking rather bored.

The tall woman opposite her looked at her helplessly, "In three days, Liu Zhenguan will come to marry you, and you aren't worried at all?"

The two hadn't known each other long and were not close, but since they both came from the Nine Provinces and were sent here together by Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury, with no sign of others, they stuck together, sharing weal and woe.

So, from any standpoint, she didn't want to see her companion really marry someone from the Unparalleled Continent.

"What good would worrying do?" The serene woman smiled gently, "Are you planning to take me with you and break out?"

Her companion shook her head, "Don't count on that. I may be confident in escaping alone, but bringing you along is absolutely impossible."

"So, there's no use worrying. Let's wait and see."

"If I had known, I wouldn't have come to Mount Sumeru." The tall woman sighed.

After arriving on the Unparalleled Continent, the two stuck together. The other woman was a healing cultivator, so even with lower cultivation, she protected her well, knowing she might need her help at any time.

Together, they gathered a lot of information about this realm, ultimately focusing on secret realms of the three major human factions, thinking others might have the same idea. To find others, they thought they must use the secret realms.

As fate would have it, just when they were troubled about finding a secret realm entrance, they encountered some cultivators about to be killed by the Corpse Race. The tall woman saved them, while the serene woman cured them of Primordial Corpse Poison.

The cultivators were astounded by her miraculous healing, as there had been no cure for Primordial Corpse Poison for a thousand years. So, they recognized her immense value and invited them to Mount Sumeru.

The two women already had that intention, so they went along with it.

However, getting in was easy; leaving was not.

Especially with Liu Zhenguan, who intended to tie her down with marriage, keeping her to serve Mount Sumeru and hoping she would spread the cure for Primordial Corpse Poison. If he succeeded, Mount Sumeru would never again need to fear the poison.

How else would Liu Zhenguan act like this if his intentions were merely for beauty? There was no shortage of beauties in Mount Sumeru.

"I get the feeling you're planning something. Tell me, what is it?" The tall woman scrutinized her counterpart.

Women are always perceptive. Despite her seemingly harmless healing persona, she sensed there was more to her companion.

"I am just a healing cultivator; what could I be planning?" The serene woman smiled.

A moth suddenly flew toward the candle and was instantly burned to ashes.

The serene woman's eyebrows lifted as she looked at her companion, "Why don't you marry in my place?"

The tall woman snorted, "In your dreams! But don't say I didn't warn you. If you have a plan, tell me early so I can cooperate."

"I have no plan..."

"Someone's coming!"

The two instantly fell silent.

Moments later, there was a knock on the door.

The serene woman got up and opened the door. A female cultivator stood outside, hands holding a delicate box.

"What is this?" She looked down.

"A few distinguished guests have arrived at the mountain today. This is a gift for the missus from the guests."

"Distinguished guests?" The serene woman was surprised. Given the current situation on the Unparalleled Continent, most secret realms are closed off. How could there be distinguished guests?

And for Mount Sumeru, those who could be called distinguished guests were probably only important figures from the other two secret realms.

"Who are these guests?" the serene woman asked.

The female cultivator hesitated, unsure whether to speak.

"If you don't tell me, take it back!" The tall woman snorted coldly, her expression stern.

The female cultivator sighed and said truthfully, "Palace Master Pang Huanyin of Ziwei Dao Palace has arrived."

As expected, it was one of the leaders from another secret realm, and indeed, the master of Ziwei Dao Palace!

The serene woman accepted the gift and asked no more, the female cultivator withdrew.

After she left, the tall woman suddenly suggested, "Should I find a way to meet that Palace Master Pang and ask her to rescue you?"

"This is Mount Sumeru. Ziwei Dao Palace people must follow the rules here and won't offend Mount Sumeru for my sake."

"Others might not be worth Ziwei Dao Palace's effort, but you are different. If they knew you could cure Primordial Corpse Poison, they might be tempted!"

The serene woman shook her head, "Even if tempted, the palace master is unlikely to act recklessly."

Reluctantly, the tall woman agreed. Even a mighty dragon cannot crush a local snake. Rationally, Ziwei Dao Palace wouldn't act against their wishes.

They hardly knew each other and had no special connection.

"Aren't you curious about what's in the box?" the tall woman asked, looking at the delicate box on the table.

"If you want to see, go ahead. It's probably nothing valuable."

She had just finished speaking when the tall woman opened the box and took something out.

"Huh?" She looked at the gift in her hand with surprise, "This is..."

Puzzled by her reaction, the serene woman looked up, expecting something extraordinary, but she saw only a handkerchief-like Spiritual Artifact.

She froze; it looked familiar!

"Let me see!" She reached out.

The tall woman handed her the handkerchief.

The serene woman examined it closely, her beautiful eyes puzzled, "Is this... the Flying Cloud Handkerchief?"

Among Nine Provinces cultivators, many styles of flying artifacts existed. Common ones were spirit arks, easy to use.

Female cultivators had other choices: the flower basket-like Flying Sky Basket and the handkerchief-like Flying Cloud Handkerchief.

When choosing her flying artifact, she deliberated between the Flying Sky Basket and the Flying Cloud Handkerchief, eventually selecting the former.

But the Flying Cloud Handkerchief was not unfamiliar to her.

So, she instantly recognized it came from the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury treasure vault!

Chapter 820 Unstoppable

Inside the great hall, numerous cultivators sat upright with solemn expressions, the once light-hearted atmosphere of feasting and merrymaking now replaced by a tense gravity.

In the vast hall, only Pang Huanyin's steady voice echoed continuously.

This journey was not just to fulfill Lu Ye's request, but more importantly, Pang Huanyin wanted to take this opportunity to have a heartfelt conversation with Liu Zhenguan, to discuss the possibility of their two secret realms forming an alliance against the Corpse Race.

Reflecting on the past and considering the present, she analyzed the current situation on the Unparalleled Continent, described the tragic fate of the human race at external outposts, and speculated on the possible future scenarios.

Some silently drank, some watched coldly, and others scoffed...

Even though Liu Zhenguan's dismissive attitude as he sat there was evident, offering no direct response, Pang Huanyin was not discouraged and continued to persuade relentlessly.

Because as long as there was even the slightest possibility, she did not want to miss this chance.

"Mountain Lord Liu, the three great human secret realms do indeed float within the Void, remaining elusive, but how long can this continue? A thousand years ago, the human race on the Unparalleled Continent thrived, but look at us now. If the day ever comes when the humans at the external outposts are all eradicated, can the three great secret realms truly remain untouched? The secret realms and the external outpost humans share the same origin and should advance and retreat together. Mountain Lord Liu, please consider carefully!"

Pang Huanyin's words were earnest, her gaze sincere, her demeanor dignified.

She finally added, "If Mount Sumeru is willing to ally with our Ziwei Dao Palace, our palace is willing to be the errand runner, and see if we can purge this world of its monsters and demons after a thousand years!"

At the head position above, Liu Zhenguan put down his wine cup, exhaled deeply, and nodded, "Palace Master Pang's words make sense, but this matter is of great importance. I cannot make the decision alone; I need to gather the elders of the mountain to discuss it together. If Palace Master wants an immediate answer, I am quite troubled."

Pang Huanyin replied, "It's enough that the Mountain Lord has such a commitment, which is also the fortune of the human race on our Unparalleled Continent."

"However..." Liu Zhenguan narrowed his eyes slightly, fixing his gaze on Pang Huanyin, "I have one thing I don't understand and need Palace Master Pang to clarify."

Pang Huanyin said, "Please speak, Mountain Lord Liu."

"The methods to calculate the portals to the three great human secret realms are all confidential. How did Palace Master Pang learn the method to infer the location of Mount Sumeru's portal? And what means were used to open our Mount Sumeru's portal?"

As Pang Huanyin had previously told Lu Ye, Liu Zhenguan appeared straightforward on the surface but was, in fact, deeply scheming. He had not mentioned a word about their forceful intrusion in the daytime, yet he would inevitably raise the issue when the time came.

Forcefully intruding into someone's portal was indeed a taboo.

If everyone did this, the secret realms would no longer be safe.

Tonight's welcoming feast had numerous strong cultivators from Mount Sumeru both openly and covertly watching, obviously prepared for any eventuality.

Pang Huanyin knew that if she could not provide a satisfactory answer, not only would the already slim chance of an alliance vanish, but whether they could even leave safely was uncertain.

Of course, it was unlikely that Mount Sumeru would kill them, as Liu Zhenguan would not want to offend Ziwei Dao Palace.

"Veteran Siao!" Pang Huanyin called.

Veteran Siao stood up, stepped forward, took out a treasure shaped like a golden ring, and presented it with both hands, "Mount Sumeru's inheritance was broken, and many records are lost. Mountain Lord may not know that when the Mount Sumeru Secret Realm was created, our Ziwei Dao Palace's ancestors contributed a part of the effort, so they left this item and the derivation method, so that if Mount Sumeru ever encountered an unforeseen event, our Ziwei Dao Palace could provide timely assistance."

The specific purpose for which the ancestors of Ziwei Dao Palace left this golden ring treasure could no longer be verified, but it was certainly not as Veteran Siao claimed.

While he spoke, a cultivator from Mount Sumeru took the golden ring from him and presented it to Liu Zhenguan. Liu Zhenguan examined it thoroughly, but found nothing special.

Veteran Siao continued, "Our intrusion into Mount Sumeru was out of necessity, but please rest assured, Mountain Lord. This treasure is the only one our palace's ancestors left, and only I know the method to derive the location of Mount Sumeru's portal. Now, this item is presented, and no one will be able to forcefully enter Mount Sumeru again."

Liu Zhenguan nodded slightly, "Ziwei Dao Palace's ancestors were truly remarkable. This item is mysterious, but I couldn't figure it out. As for what Veteran Siao said, I believe you, but... "

He looked up at Veteran Siao, "Mount Sumeru will accept this item. Even if no one can intrude upon our portal again, how are we to secure the derivation method? Please teach us, Veteran Siao!"

Veteran Siao said, "I shall keep my mouth sealed, and will not pass this method to anyone."

Liu Zhenguan shook his head slowly, "This matter is too significant to tolerate any mistakes."

"What does the Mountain Lord suggest?"

Liu Zhenguan's chubby face quivered slightly, his voice growing cold, "Only the dead can keep secrets."

Pang Huanyin's phoenix eyes darkened sharply.

Veteran Siao nodded, "Mountain Lord is right, only the dead can keep secrets. If Mountain Lord agrees to my Palace Master's request, I will gladly sacrifice my life for Mount Sumeru."

"Veteran Siao!" Pang Huanyin called in a low, firm voice.

Veteran Siao did not look at her but shook his head slowly, staring at Liu Zhenguan, "Mountain Lord, I am old and will not live much longer. I do not fear death. But you are in your prime, with a long life ahead and descendants to consider. Will you not plan for your lineage? Will they remain holed up in this secret realm forever? The world outside was once ours; now we hide and cower. With the human race's outposts in constant peril, life and death uncertain, the three great secret realms have the capacity but only care for themselves, not daring to lead. Such behavior... dishonors the title of a cultivator of the secret realms. My Palace Master is a woman yet has the ambition to bring order to the world. Are you, a man, less than her?"

"Silence!"

"How dare you!"

"You old fool, do you seek death?"

...

When Veteran Siao finished, the Mount Sumeru cultivators were instantly outraged. The hall was filled with swirling spirit force, and the scene became chaotic.

But Veteran Siao did not stop, stepping forward with an imposing presence, "Today's events are our Dao Palace's fault. If the Mountain Lord wants my life to end this trouble, I have no objection. But I only hope that the Mountain Lord can see the situation clearly and agree to join forces with our Dao Palace. If so, I will die content!"

Faced with Veteran Siao's aggressive stance, Liu Zhenguan's face quivered more intensely.

He did not expect that a matter of addressing the method to derive Mount Sumeru's portal would be escalated to such a crucial decision point by this old man's righteous words.

He secretly admired the cunning of the elder, realizing that if he killed Veteran Siao, he would have to agree to ally with the Dao Palace. Otherwise, Pang Huanyin would not remain silent, and to maintain harmony between the two secret realms, she could not vent her hatred either.

But if he didn't kill Veteran Siao, it would be seen as his acknowledgment that today's events should be forgiven, with no more mention of the derivation method.

The elder's seemingly passionate speech, professing willing sacrifice for the human race, was actually pushing him to make a statement.

Liu Zhenguan felt angry but couldn't show it. Just then, a female cultivator hurriedly entered.

Liu Zhenguan stood up abruptly and shouted, "What is it?"

This female cultivator was obviously someone he had stationed at the spirit mountaintop where the two women resided. Could there be an unexpected incident?

This thought shocked Liu Zhenguan, as nothing must happen to one of those two women.

His exaggerated reaction also made Pang Huanyin and Veteran Siao secretly suspicious.

The female cultivator quickly reported, "Mountain Lord, that girl is very pleased with the gift from today's guests and wants to thank them personally!"

Liu Zhenguan let out a long breath, relieved that there was no unexpected incident on that side. As for expressing thanks personally...

"That is not necessary," Liu Zhenguan waved his hand. "Tell them to rest assured."

He was already trying hard to keep that girl hidden. How could he let Pang Huanyin and the others see her before the grand wedding? If Pang Huanyin knew about her capabilities, Ziwei Dao Palace might get greedy ideas.

Historically, among the three great secret realms, it was Ziwei Dao Palace that suffered the most deaths at the hands of the Corpse Race, including those who committed suicide due to the Primordial Corpse Poison.

If Pang Huanyin knew that this girl could cure the Primordial Corpse Poison, she would certainly not let her go.

Thus, Liu Zhenguan would never let Pang Huanyin see the girl easily.

He was also curious about the gift from Ziwei Dao Palace that pleased her so much, making her want to express her thanks personally.

"Mountain Lord, the sisters could not stop her..." The female cultivator looked fearful, reporting honestly despite guests being present.

"What do you mean, couldn't stop..." Liu Zhenguan's voice trailed off as he realized what was happening. The turbulent spirit force outside the hall and the faint sounds of clashing weapons indicated that someone was breaking through while fighting.

Pang Huanyin looked surprised and signaled Veteran Xiao, who quickly retreated.

She was about to whisper instructions to Lu Ye, but he was already looking towards the hall entrance, appearing thoughtful.

"Yiye, what is it?" Pang Huanyin asked.

Lu Ye suddenly smiled, "Nothing."

Pang Huanyin was stunned. Since meeting Lu Ye, this was the first time she saw him smile. She had thought him to be a cold person, but now she realized he could smile too.

Yet this smile seemed to hold deeper meaning?

As she pondered, two figures burst into the hall, followed closely by a group of female cultivators, all looking disheveled and clearly unsuccessful.

These women had tried to stop someone, but to no avail, as the one they tried to stop was extraordinarily powerful. Liu Zhenguan's seemingly perfect plan crumbled before the double-bladed woman's unrivaled strength.