

Humanity 821

Chapter 821 You Must Stand Up for Me

The sudden entry of the two women caused an odd atmosphere in the grand hall.

Pang Huanyin and Veteran Siao were clearly oblivious to what had happened, both filled with shock and suspicion.

Liu Zhenguan's face suddenly fell, the scene he most dreaded had still occurred.

How did they manage to barge in? A bunch of useless guards, couldn't even stop two people!

He glared fiercely at the group of female cultivators who had rushed in after them, then quickly walked down from his seat with a smile on his face, heading towards the two women who had entered the hall: "Why have you come here, if there's anything you need, just let someone inform me, no need to come in person."

Determined to keep Pang Huanyin from knowing the abilities of that gentle woman.

While speaking, he gave a signal to the female cultivators who had followed, and they retreated, each still visibly shaken. They could tell that in the brief confrontation earlier, the woman wielding the twin blades had held back, otherwise many of them might have died.

"Who is Palace Master Pang Huanyin?" asked the gentle and serene woman in a soft voice.

Though she inquired, her gaze quickly fell on Pang Huanyin, with a seemingly intentional or unintentional glance at Lu Ye beside Pang Huanyin, eyes gleaming with a smile.

At this point, stopping anything was no longer realistic. Liu Zhenguan, harboring a bit of wariness, said, "It seems the gift from Palace Master Pang is indeed extraordinary, come, let me introduce you!"

Growing increasingly curious about what kind of gift warranted a personal thank you visit. Although the overall strength of Ziwei Dao Palace did surpass the other two secret realms, in terms of wealth, it might not even match his own. What could Pang Huanyin have brought?

Under his guidance, the two women came before Pang Huanyin.

Liu Zhenguan said, "This is the head of the Ziwei Dao Palace, Palace Master Pang Huanyin."

Yet he did not introduce the two women's identities to Pang Huanyin, intending to send them away right after they expressed their thanks.

Pang Huanyin sat still, smiling and nodding: "A modest gift, just a token of respect, as long as madam likes it." She paused and asked, "May I know madam's name?"

She thought to herself that the woman was indeed a beauty, with the kind of temperament that men favor, but her cultivation didn't seem very high. She wondered what special abilities she possessed to make Liu Zhenguan propose marriage.

Compared to this gentle woman, the tall woman behind her caught Pang Huanyin's attention more, as she sensed this woman was not someone easy to deal with.

"Hua Ci!" the gentle woman replied with a smile, then introduced the woman behind her: "This is my senior sister, Lan Ziyi."

Lan Ziyi remained silent, but kept staring at Lu Ye, her lips carrying a faint, almost imperceptible smile. With her around, things would go smoother.

Lu Ye sat still, eyes slightly lowered.

This strange scene caught Pang Huanyin's eye, suddenly making her aware of something, her heart couldn't help but jolt.

"Alright, it's late, now that the thanks have been given, let's go back and rest," Liu Zhenguan urged.

But Hua Ci seemed as if she didn't hear him, her gaze crossed over Pang Huanyin and looked towards Lu Ye.

Lu Ye lifted his eyes and met hers, feeling somewhat amused, yet also helpless and annoyed: "Are you really going to marry?"

Hua Ci pouted: "I never agreed to anything, it's just their one-sided wish."

Lu Ye nodded: "Then it's deceiving and bullying."

"Exactly!" Hua Ci's expression was serious, even throwing in a coquettish tone: "You have to stand up for me!"

Behind her, Lan Ziyi's expression grew suspicious, looking back and forth between Hua Ci and Lu Ye. How come the tone between these two sounded so familiar?

In her understanding, these two should not know each other, but now it seemed that was not the case.

Lu Yiye and Hua Ci must have known each other for a long time, only pretending not to in the Nine Provinces before...

And judging by this, their relationship was definitely more than just acquaintances!

This was going to be an interesting show!

However, Lu Yiye turned out to be really cunning, deliberately hiding his relationship with Hua Ci, what was he up to?

Lan Ziyi quietly retreated two steps, as powerful as Lu Yiye was, facing such a situation, he couldn't possibly remain passive, better not to get splattered with blood when the fight began.

"Yiye, what is going on here?" Though Pang Huanyin had her suspicions, she couldn't help but want confirmation.

As soon as she spoke, she felt a pair of sharp eyes glaring at her...

"Yiye..." Hua Ci's voice was melancholic, looking like she was about to cry: "No wonder you've ignored me these days, you have a new love now. Truly, only the new laugh, while the old weep."

As she said this, she made a show of wiping her eyes with her sleeve.

Lu Ye's head felt like it was going to explode!

Lan Ziyi secretly praised the fine drama!

Though Pang Huanyin did not know exactly what happened, she could vaguely perceive something and quickly tried to clarify: "Miss Hua Ci, it's not what you think! Between Yiye and I..."

"Hua Ci! What is going on here!" Liu Zhenguan's face turned green.

Since Lan Ziyi brought Hua Ci here, the situation had spun out of control, and the scene before him looked very much like reunited star-crossed lovers, filling him with both rage and frustration.

"Who gave you the right to call her Hua Ci?"

Lu Ye suddenly lifted his head, his gaze as sharp as saber light towards Liu Zhenguan.

For a moment, Liu Zhenguan's heart pounded with fear, feeling like a sheep stared down by a fierce tiger. Instantly, his whole body turned cold.

"How dare you!"

"Impudence!"

Someone shouted.

Lu Ye had already leaped from his seat, grabbing Hua Ci and tossing her to Pang Huanyin, his figure moving like the wind towards Liu Zhenguan.

Clang...

A long blade was unsheathed, fiery red saber light flashed.

As soon as he saw Hua Ci and Lan Ziyi, Lu Ye knew today's matter could not end peacefully, hence, he decided to strike first!

Reasoning wouldn't work, powerful strength is the greatest argument.

"Impressive!" Liu Zhenguan roared in anger, as spirit force and blood qi surged around him. He raised his hand, summoning an exceptionally heavy broadsword, clashing with the fiery red saber light.

The cultivators of Mount Sumeru, while lacking the same determination to fight the Corpse Race to the death as those of Ziwei Dao Palace, were not lacking in cultivation. In the instant Lu Ye attacked, they all sprung into action. The grand hall was filled with the surge of spirit force, chaos ensued.

Pang Huanyin's face changed dramatically, never expecting things to escalate this way.

She understood that in coming here, Mount Sumeru was bound to make things difficult, but it shouldn't result in a fight. Mount Sumeru had reservations, so as long as things were handled properly, they could retreat safely.

But now, the situation had gone completely out of control. All she could do was to protect Hua Ci as best as she could.

Before attacking, Lu Ye had thrown Hua Ci to her, clearly with this in mind.

Realizing this, she quickly pulled Hua Ci behind her, then looked up, her eyes stunned.

Because before her, Liu Zhenguan's body flew high with a massive wound on his abdomen, bleeding profusely, his rugged face full of shock, as if he couldn't believe he was severely injured with one blow!

This was the first time Pang Huanyin had seen Lu Ye attack, and her inner shock was no less than Liu Zhenguan's.

Previously, at Ziwei Dao Palace, Fong Rulie displayed his strength, declaring that the nine senior brothers are ranked by strength, thus indicating Lu Ye, as the eldest, must be the strongest.

But exactly how strong this "strongest" was, Pang Huanyin couldn't be certain. She did have some guesses, but now it seemed she had completely underestimated Lu Ye's abilities.

Liu Zhenguan wasn't as strong as herself, but the gap was marginal. Otherwise, he wouldn't hold his position as the mountain lord of Mount Sumeru. Yet such a strong figure was severely wounded by Lu Ye in one strike.

It seemed Lu Ye had held back; otherwise, Liu Zhenguan's survival wouldn't be certain.

Though there was an element of surprise, it still highlighted Lu Ye's strength.

On another side, Lan Ziyi's performance also left Pang Huanyin astonished. This tall woman, wielding her twin blades, single-handedly fended off all the Mount Sumeru cultivators rushing towards Lu Ye. Though it looked precarious, Pang Huanyin knew she couldn't do the same.

In other words, Lan Ziyi's strength...was above her own!

After severely injuring Liu Zhenguan with one strike, Lu Ye didn't press the attack but stood quietly with his blade in hand.

As Liu Zhenguan landed and struggled to get up, he suddenly froze, paralyzed as if struck by lightning.

Because he felt a stabbing pain at his back, a sharp weapon piercing into his body, just an inch away from his heart.

There was someone behind him!

Liu Zhenguan felt a chill down his spine, realizing that he hadn't noticed anyone approaching.

Was it?

He glanced around and saw Pang Huanyin and Veteran Xiao, saw Lu Yiye, Hua Ci, and Lan Ziyi...

All recent outsiders were here, who would stab him from behind?

Could there be a traitor within Mount Sumeru?

"Everyone, stop!"

A stranger's voice echoed in his ears, not loud but enough to quiet the grand hall.

The cultivators of Mount Sumeru, raging with anger, stared at Liu Zhenguan, who was now being held hostage by Ying Wuji, their eyes filled with fury.

They were also profoundly puzzled, wondering where this guy came from, as they had never seen him before.

Pang Huanyin and Veteran Siao could only sigh in astonishment, unable to detect Ying Wuji's presence until he acted. They hadn't even realized he was hiding in the hall!

Such stealth and assassination skills were truly terrifying!

Though being held and severely injured, Liu Zhenguan showed no fear, staring at Pang Huanyin with gritted teeth: "Pang, well done, this was your plan all along!"

Chapter 822 Switch to Someone Who Can Call the Shots

From Liu Zhenguan's standpoint, everything happening now is clearly part of Ziwei Dao Palace's plans, and Pang Huanyin, as the Palace Master, is the main culprit.

However, he truly did not expect Pang Huanyin to be so audacious, to forcefully invade his domain was one thing, but to dare attack without any prior signs was another.

That guy named Lu Yiye, his power is terrifying. If he hadn't heavily injured me with one strike, I wouldn't have been captured so easily.

Pang Huanyin sighed, "Mountain Lord Liu, you misunderstand..."

At this stage, explanations seemed pointless, she was quite helpless.

Liu Zhenguan snorted coldly, "Don't think that by capturing me, you can do as you please! Don't forget, this is Mount Sumeru!" He suddenly shouted, "All disciples of Mount Sumeru, heed my command. Do not care for my life or death, capture these people for me. If I die, they'll accompany me in death!"

Ying Wuji thrust his long blade forward, his voice low, "If you wish to die, I can fulfill your wish right now!"

"Do it!" Even with his life in others' hands, Liu Zhenguan showed no signs of retreat, instead provoking, "If you have the guts, just kill me!" Seeing the people of Mount Sumeru hesitate, afraid to act rashly, he shouted angrily again, "What are you waiting for! Make your move!"

Pang Huanyin's expression turned cold, "If the Mountain Lord could be as tough against the Corpse Race, that would be great. Unfortunately, your toughness and persistence are misplaced!"

Originally, after today's upheaval, she felt quite sorry for Mount Sumeru, but seeing Liu Zhenguan's posture, she couldn't help but get angry.

With such courage and boldness to face life and death, why not use it to fight against the Corpse Race? Facing one's fellow humans with such arrogance, what's the point?

A person like this only knows how to bully their own kind.

"Enough nonsense!"

At this moment, Hua Ci stepped out from behind Pang Huanyin, looking at Liu Zhenguan with a gentle smile, "Mountain Lord Liu, how about I offer you a deal?"

Liu Zhenguan, though appearing furious and overwhelmed by anger, was merely disguising his true intentions. Hearing Hua Ci's words, he frowned, "What kind of deal?"

Hua Ci spoke unhurriedly, "Using the lives of all the cultivators in this hall of Mount Sumeru, in exchange for letting us leave peacefully, do you think this deal can be made?"

Liu Zhenguan's face darkened, "What do you mean by this?"

"Perhaps my words are not clear enough, why don't you see for yourself?" As Hua Ci spoke, she gently lifted her slender fingers, and with a wave of spirit force, pointed towards a cultivator in the crowd.

An unbelievable scene unfolded.

With her point, that cultivator suddenly groaned, his spirit force instantly becoming chaotic, and a layer of emerald green mist rapidly surfaced on his body.

The mist was clearly not a good thing, it erupted without any sign, enveloping the cultivator tightly within a few breaths, no matter how he tried to expel it, to no avail, with signs of becoming more intense!

The surrounding cultivators hurriedly scattered, each filled with uncertainty and alarm.

"I've been poisoned!" the cultivator screamed in terror, clearly feeling his spirit force becoming sluggish and dull, rapidly losing strength.

The crowd was in shock.

Lan Ziyi's scalp tingled...

All these days, she had been inseparable from Hua Ci, yet she never saw her use any methods on anyone from Mount Sumeru. On the surface, this healing cultivator seemed gentle and harmless, but who could have expected her to have such unfathomable abilities!

There was no way that cultivator could get poisoned for no reason, Hua Ci must have used some secret technique.

No wonder Hua Ci hadn't been anxious all this time, even when faced with a forceful marriage, she appeared calm—she was well-prepared.

It now seemed that even if Lu Yiye and the others hadn't come to Mount Sumeru, Hua Ci could have safely left with her methods.

Indeed, those chosen by Heaven's Augury are extraordinary. It's laughable that I once thought she was just a healing cultivator.

Inside the grand hall, Hua Ci, standing in front of Pang Huanyin, still smiled harmlessly, "Mountain Lord, if you didn't see clearly, you can look at others too!"

With these words, the cultivators of Mount Sumeru were even more frightened, unsure if they had already been secretly poisoned.

Liu Zhenguan's face twitched violently, and his eyes kept flickering. At this moment, he finally realized that he had misjudged. Among the two women, it was this gentle-tempered one who was truly unfathomable.

It was laughable how he always thought he could easily control her...

In a deep voice, Liu Zhenguan said, "Since you two entered Mount Sumeru, I have treated you well..."

Hua Ci immediately interrupted, "We entered Mount Sumeru after saving your cultivators. Mount Sumeru has not shown any gratitude for saving your people, and yet the Mountain Lord disregarded my wishes and wanted to forcefully marry me. Is this what you call 'well treatment'? Mountain Lord, ask yourself, is this what a man should do? Such behavior is a disgrace to all men!"

The smile on her face disappeared, her gaze cold.

Concerning her own situation, how could she remain indifferent?

She saved those people out of goodwill, who would've thought Liu Zhenguan would value her skills in such a way. Value her if you must, but if they had cooperated well, Hua Ci might not have declined. But Liu Zhenguan wanted more.

All these days, Lan Ziyi thought she was calm and adaptable, but in reality, she was secretly preparing her own moves, waiting for the right moment to strike decisively.

When the time came, with her hidden preparations and Lan Ziyi's formidable strength, escaping from here wouldn't be difficult.

Today's arrival of Lu Ye and others just advanced her plans.

Embarrassed by Hua Ci's words and now captured, with his life no longer under his control, Liu Zhenguan, furious, shouted, "You vile woman, how dare you deceive me!"

Clang...

The sound of a blade rang out, and everyone in the grand hall looked in stunned disbelief at Lu Ye, who swung his sword.

Liu Zhenguan's eyes were filled with shock as he couldn't believe someone would dare try to kill him here in Mount Sumeru!

He had been shouting so aggressively because he knew that Ziwei Dao Palace wouldn't truly kill him. Ziwei Dao Palace had always sought to ally with them to fight against the Corpse Race; killing him would make them mortal enemies, quashing any alliance.

Pang Huanyin, although young, is shrewd and wouldn't overlook this.

Hence, his confidence!

Yet this confidence was shattered by a single stroke.

"You..." Liu Zhenguan stared at Lu Ye, unable to comprehend why he acted without Pang Huanyin's order or any sign.

Had he wanted to kill him, he could've done so earlier. Why act now?

Thunk...

A large head was ejected by a spurt of blood from the neck, and Ying Wuji, who stood behind Liu Zhenguan, hastily backed away, looking at Lu Ye with a resentful face.

If you're going to act, at least say something first. You almost got me covered in blood!

"If he can't make decisions, then find someone who can!"

Lu Ye flicked the blood off his sword and looked at the furious and stunned Mount Sumeru cultivators, raising his blade towards them, "Or we'll fight our way out!"

Seeing his resolute stance, Hua Ci felt a warmth in her heart.

She could tell that Lu Ye hadn't intended to kill Liu Zhenguan before; otherwise, he wouldn't have left it to Ying Wuji to capture him.

The sudden kill was because Liu Zhenguan insulted her.

A casual insult led Lu Ye to decisively take his life. Liu Zhenguan, if aware in the afterlife, would surely regret his rash words.

Now that the situation had escalated to this point, Hua Ci no longer held back. Calling forth her spirit force, a wave of green mist spread out.

The next moment, seven or eight out of ten Mount Sumeru cultivators within the hall had their faces change, enveloped in swirling green mist, their spirit force disrupted.

Before, witnessing Hua Ci's abilities, they still hoped it was a bluff. Now, no one dared to think so.

No one realized when this gentle-seeming woman had poisoned them, many hadn't even met her before.

"If I can cure poison, I can also use it. My senior brother here has a bad temper, Mount Sumeru cultivators, think carefully before answering, or this place will be filled with rivers of blood, hard to clean up." Hua Ci calmly warned.

Even without her warning, under these circumstances, who would dare to act rashly?

With Liu Zhenguan dead, Mount Sumeru's reputation suffered, but their foundation remained. If everyone here died, Mount Sumeru would fall into chaos, causing all Mount Sumeru experts to stiffen.

Pang Huanyin and Veteran Siao watched with astonishment.

From the moment Hua Ci and Lan Ziyi arrived, within a matter of dozens of breaths, the sequence of events left everyone unprepared.

With Liu Zhenguan dead, and Mount Sumeru experts restrained, Lu Ye and the others, just four in number, had completely seized control of the situation.

Such prowess, even the Ziwei Dao Palace couldn't compare.

With a sigh, an elderly man walked forward, bowing respectfully to Pang Huanyin, "Palace Master Pang, this old man believes he can represent Mount Sumeru."

Until now, they thought Pang Huanyin was the leader, acting under her orders or hints.

Pang Huanyin was helpless, today she and Veteran Siao were mere observers.

"If the old gentleman has anything to say, speak to Yiye." Pang Huanyin said.

The old man paused, then looked at the ready-to-kill Lu Ye, speaking directly, "Today's events are unexpected. Setting aside rights and wrongs, Mount Sumeru can agree to Miss Hua Ci's proposal, ensuring your safe departure, provided you agree to one condition. If not, Mount Sumeru will use all its might to keep you here!"

Chapter 823 Yiye

This statement was a mix of threats and persuasion, clearly expressing Mount Sumeru's attitude, and no one else had any intention of questioning it.

The main reason is that it couldn't be questioned; too many lives were at stake.

Originally, it was thought that with such words, everyone could sit down and negotiate properly, but Lu Ye just stared coldly at the elder: "You can try!"

Murderous intent rose, as if no one else mattered!

Alarm bells went off in Ying Wuji's heart; he almost couldn't help but stick close to the wall.

He had recently been very close to Lu Ye and had faced him several times before, considering himself somewhat knowledgeable about him.

But he had never seen Lu Ye's face full of rage like this, and even when the other party had yielded, he was unwilling to give a way out, seemingly truly intending to slaughter everyone present.

He did not doubt Lu Ye's ability, especially since most of Mount Sumeru's cultivators were already poisoned, but if a fight broke out, this ghost cultivator might not fare well.

With thoughts swirling in his mind, Ying Wuji looked at Hua Ci standing beside Pang Huanyin, finally understanding that this healing cultivator was extremely important to Lu Ye.

Earlier, he didn't know about Mount Sumeru's situation; now that he did, naturally, he had to unleash his thunderous anger.

At this thought, Ying Wuji gasped, glancing at Lu Ye, silently thinking how sinister he was!

That Giant Armor had a profound relationship with him, secretly concealing things was one thing, but now he had another Hua Ci!

Of the nine people sent by Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury, these three were already a small team.

He warned himself to be more cautious in the future, lest he be sold by Lu Yiye and still count money for him.

The elder of Mount Sumeru felt a bit humiliated with his warm response met by indifference. Normally, he would have been furious, but considering Liu Zhenguan's past example, no matter how great his anger, he had to suppress it.

Pang Huanyin sighed, "Yiye, they are after all part of the human race. Over the millennia, many Corpse Race members have died at their hands."

She was clearly stepping forward to mediate; she hated seeing people of the same race slaying each other, engaging in internal strife. As fellow humans, they should die fighting the Corpse Race, not waste their strength in internal conflicts.

Liu Zhenguan... died somewhat regrettably.

Standing beside her, Hua Ci just pouted...

Only then did Lu Ye withdraw his murderous intent and lower his blade.

"Speak, let's hear it."

The elder took a deep breath, gratefully glanced at Pang Huanyin, and after a slight consideration, said, "I must ask Hua Ci to detoxify the poisons in us."

This was expected; given the current situation, he dared not say anything excessive, but earlier Lu Ye's anger nearly embarrassed him.

Hua Ci directly tossed out a jade vial, "This is the Detoxification Pill!"

The elder reached out to receive it, gazing calmly, "I want to test the medicine's efficacy. Hua Ci, you won't mind, will you?"

"Of course not!"

The elder nodded slightly, poured out an elixir pill from the vial, and ingested it, sitting to refine it.

Behind him, a group of Mount Sumeru cultivators watched nervously.

The Detoxification Pill's effect was swift; within thirty breaths, the green mist enveloping the elder began to dissipate, and he felt the stagnated spirit force within him gradually return to normal.

Moments later, he was fully recovered.

After confirming the pill's efficacy, the elder rose and slightly nodded to Hua Ci, "You honor your words. Mount Sumeru is not without honor. Will you leave now, or rest for the night?"

Pang Huanyin laughed, "If we stay to rest, neither of us will be at ease. Let's leave now to avoid mutual displeasure!"

"Then... please!" The elder gestured, handing the Detoxification Pills to nearby cultivators.

A moment later, several streams of light flew out from the Spirit Mountaintop Great Hall, heading straight for the portal.

Accompanying Lu Ye and the others was no one but the elder, showing Mount Sumeru's sincerity in sending them off.

No words were spoken along the way.

Upon reaching the portal, at the elder's command, the guarding cultivators activated it.

Taking advantage of the downtime, Pang Huanyin spoke, "If the Corpse Race calamity isn't eradicated in Unparalleled Continent, humans will struggle to find a place to stand. Mount Sumeru should consider this carefully. If there's a decision, inform my Ziwei Dao Palace early."

The elder said indifferently, "I appreciate Palace Master Pang's concern."

Pang Huanyin sighed, knowing he didn't take it to heart, so she stopped speaking, glanced at the now-open portal, and turned to Lu Ye, "Yiye, you go first."

Lu Ye didn't waste words, grabbed Hua Ci by the arm, activated spirit force to shield her, and moved towards the portal, instructing Ziyi, "Second Junior Sister, you stay behind to cover!"

Lan Ziyi listened, bewildered.

Second Junior Sister?

Who's Second Junior Sister?

Mount Sumeru had no intention of making things difficult; not only had Lu Ye and the others shown considerable strength, but with Liu Zhenguan dead, they had a big mess to handle, eager to send Lu Ye and the others away quickly. At such a moment, why complicate things further?

When Second Junior Sister stepped out of the portal, looking exasperated, Mount Sumeru's portal quickly closed.

"Is the task completed?" Pang Huanyin looked at Lu Ye.

Lu Ye looked at Ying Wuji.

Ying Wuji was momentarily confused, but then nodded, "It's done."

Such a simple task, if he messed it up, he wouldn't dare face Lu Ye.

Lan Ziyi frowned, "What are you scheming?"

What's done? She felt there was something secretive between Lu Ye and Ying Wuji, but it wasn't appropriate to ask here.

"Veteran Siao is deducing the Dao Palace's portal location, everyone wait a while." Pang Huanyin glanced at Veteran Siao, then spoke, curiously looking at Hua Ci and Lan Ziyi, "Yiye, aren't you going to introduce them?"

Lu Ye casually pointed at Lan Ziyi, "This is my Second Junior Sister, Lan Ziyi."

Lan Ziyi's eyes widened, finally realizing she was the Second Junior Sister just mentioned!

"This is Little Junior Sister Hua Ci!" Lu Ye pointed at Hua Ci, introducing Hua Ci and Lan Ziyi to Pang Huanyin.

Lan Ziyi nodded slightly, while Hua Ci gave a graceful bow.

Pang Huanyin returned the bow, her gaze sweeping over the four, feeling impressed, "Truly you are all exceptional individuals!"

The Nine Provinces, what kind of magical world is this, producing so many outstanding talents? If Unparalleled Continent had such foundations, why fear the Corpse Race calamity?

She felt a pang of sourness.

"Alright, let's go." Veteran Siao had deduced the direction of Ziwei Dao Palace's portal, leading the way.

Everyone spurred their forms or Flying Spirit Artifacts, closely following.

Halfway, Lan Ziyi looked at Hua Ci sitting on Lu Ye's spirit ark, almost nestling completely in his arms, and snorted lightly. Humans, truly forgetting old loves when finding new ones, she mused. Previously, the sisters protected each other, enjoying their time together, but now with a man, all sisterly bonds were sidelined.

She accelerated towards Ying Wuji, needing to discuss the current situation and the whereabouts of others, most importantly, understanding their relationship with Ziwei Dao Palace.

"Yiye, this doesn't seem like Nine Provinces; our battlefield marking has no reaction at all."

"I know." Lu Ye frowned slightly.

"Yiye, did you find Giant Armor? Earlier I wanted Mount Sumeru to help track you, but Liu Zhenguan was untrustworthy, so I gave up."

"No clues about Giant Armor, don't worry about him." Lu Ye frowned even more.

"Actually, had you not come, I had a way to escape. Seeing that Flying Cloud Handkerchief, Lan Ziyi and I knew someone from Nine Provinces must be here. Yiye, did you specifically use Flying Cloud Handkerchief as a hint for us?"

"Thump."

Lu Ye couldn't help himself, knocked Hua Ci's head, gritting his teeth, "Act normal!"

Calling him Yiye repeatedly was so awkward!

Hua Ci didn't get angry, just rubbed her head where it was hit, teasing, "Why, others can call you that, I can't?"

Her expression playful, glancing ahead, she met Pang Huanyin's gaze briefly, who smiled and turned back, continuing the journey.

"I can't control what others call me; I'm here as Pang Huanyin's follower, she wouldn't call me Fellow Daoist."

Lu Ye explained.

"Fair point!" Hua Ci relaxed, "Alright, I won't bother you." She smiled, clearly pleased.

"What about Second Junior Sister and Little Junior Sister?" Hua Ci recalled.

"It's how we explain to people here. I'm the senior brother, Ying Wuji is the seventh junior brother, so Lan Ziyi is Second Junior Sister, and you're the youngest."

"Got it." Hua Ci understood, "How did you end up with Palace Master Pang? Is she trustworthy?"

Having suffered from Liu Zhenguan's deceit, Hua Ci had a poor impression of this place's secret realm cultivators, thinking they were a bunch of powerless people trapped in a cage, shivering at external chaos.

"This woman differs from Liu Zhenguan, Ziwei Dao Palace differs from other secret realms. If we need support, only Ziwei Dao Palace can help; the other two are unreliable."

"You have a plan?" Hua Ci sensed the implied meaning.

"It's mostly in place; the rest depends on Ziwei Dao Palace's determination. If they're resolute, there won't be major obstacles."

Hua Ci's eyes sparkled, "So, we're the ones asking for their help!"

"It's mutual need, benefiting both. This is their domain; we're just visitors."

"What do I need to do?"

"Use your healing cultivator skills; things might get busy."

When the battle begins, many will be injured and poisoned, making Hua Ci's role crucial—likely why Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury chose her as the squad's healing cultivator.

Chapter 824 Investigation

"How did you enter Mount Sumeru?" Lu Ye asked.

Hua Ci briefly recounted the process of her and Lan Ziyi entering Mount Sumeru.

When she mentioned helping the cultivators from Mount Sumeru poison by Primordial Corpse Poison, Pang Huanyin, who was flying ahead, suddenly turned around with an incredulous expression: "Junior Sister can cure Primordial Corpse Poison?"

Hua Ci silently nodded.

Initially, she didn't think this ability would be so valued, but she gained insight after entering Mount Sumeru, though it was already too late then.

Now, with Lu Ye by her side, she didn't need to hide anything.

"I see!" Pang Huanyin understood.

People like Liu Zhenguan, contemplating marriage, wouldn't normally do so. It turns out Junior Sister Yiye possesses such an ability!

In Unparalleled Continent, for a thousand years, Primordial Corpse Poison remains incurable. Countless cultivators have lost their lives to it, especially within Ziwei Dao Palace, which faces the most intense conflict with the Corpse Race.

If someone had the ability to cure earlier, Ziwei Dao Palace wouldn't have lost so many people over the years.

Liu Zhenguan, upon learning of this, naturally coveted. From his perspective, how could he miss such talent? His method to retain people was wrong, leading to an unhappy end.

They hurried on quickly and, by dawn, under Veteran Siao's guidance, arrived at a mountain peak.

According to Veteran Siao's calculations, Ziwei Dao Palace would be nearby in a day, allowing them to open a portal and return to the Dao Palace.

On their journey, everyone was exhausted and took a meditation break while Lu Ye set up a formation to prevent disturbances from the Corpse Race.

Compared to others, he recovered quickly by consuming multiple elixir pills.

Looking up, he saw Pang Huanyin, responsible for vigilance, standing nearby with her hands behind her back, gazing into the distance.

Lu Ye got up and walked to her side, following her gaze but seeing nothing.

Pang Huanyin softly spoke, "A thousand years ago, what was Unparalleled Continent like? Now, we can only find sparse records in ancestral texts. Unparalleled is broken, plagued by corpses, and the future of the human race remains uncertain."

Her heart was filled with worry.

Lu Ye listened silently without interjecting.

Pang Huanyin sighed, "Huntian Holy Temple was a top human force, now occupied by the Corpse Race. Its secret realm has become a corpse breeding ground—how tragic. We've never clearly understood the strength of the Golden Corpse King Corpse Fiend within."

"No one has fought him?" Lu Ye asked.

Pang Huanyin replied, "Four hundred years ago, the Palace Master from Dao Palace led an attack on Huntian Holy Temple but barely escaped with few survivors. They died soon after from their injuries."

She turned to Lu Ye, "Yiye, I don't know your plan. I just want to ask, how confident are you?"

"If I can infiltrate the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm, I'm completely confident!"

Pang Huanyin's eyes narrowed.

Usually, such definitive statements are unreliable, as the future is unpredictable.

But coming from Lu Ye, Pang Huanyin didn't doubt him at all.

"So you must enter the Huntian Secret Realm!"

Lu Ye nodded.

"It's difficult!" Pang Huanyin shook her head, gesturing ahead, "That area is densely populated with the Corpse Race. The Golden Corpse King commands three formidable Corpse Commanders—countless corpses swarm there."

"Huntian Holy Temple is there?" Lu Ye interrupted, sensing something in Pang Huanyin's gesture.

Pang Huanyin paused, nodded, "About five thousand miles from here, we're already on the outer fringes of Huntian Holy Temple."

Lu Ye fell into deep thought, then suddenly spoke, "Perhaps we don't need to engage the Corpse Race directly. I'll check it out."

With that, he soared into the sky, heading in that direction decisively.

"..."

Pang Huanyin watched his departing figure with helplessness.

The commotion alerted the others resting, but no one questioned it, including Hua Ci, who quickly resumed her meditation.

Move-Like-The-Wind and Wings boosted Lu Ye's speed, turning him into a fiery streak.

To avoid exposure, he flew high.

Before departing, the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union handed him four sealed Heaven's Augury Pillars. In Unparalleled Continent, there are precisely Four Great Secret Realms.

The human race controls three, the Corpse Race one.

This was no coincidence.

The four Heaven's Augury Pillars were meant for the Four Great Secret Realms.

Three Heaven's Augury Pillars were already placed in the human-controlled Secret Realms, leaving only the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm.

He needed to place the last Heaven's Augury Pillar in the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm to fulfill his mission!

Therefore, entering Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm was imperative for Lu Ye.

Finding out it's nearby, he had to investigate. With luck, he could infiltrate directly.

The Huntian Secret Realm differs from the human-controlled secret realms, which drift in the void, elusive. Huntian Secret Realm is fixed within the Huntian Holy Temple.

This was good news for Lu Ye.

Through the clouds, he saw the ground below. Pang Huanyin was right; they were already at the outskirts of Huntian Holy Temple.

The deeper one went, the more evident the Corpse Race's presence, with clusters of yellow clouds marking rotting corpse breeding grounds.

Zombies were less conspicuous, wandering alone.

In less than four hours, Lu Ye halted, gathered spirit force in his eyes, and focused down.

From a distance, he saw a massive portal.

That was the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm's portal!

Unlike the other secret realms, Huntian Holy Temple's portal was tangible, a square breach in space where celestial light flowed, connecting two worlds.

Corpse Race members continuously entered and exited, bustling with activity.

Near the portal, countless corpses gathered and rested.

Lu Ye frowned; infiltration seemed difficult without risk of exposure.

Even Ying Wuji, the ghost cultivator, wouldn't have a high success chance.

After a brief contemplation, Lu Ye activated Concealment and Breath-concealing, minimizing his presence, and floated down cautiously.

Unlike ghost cultivators' unique concealment method, he used spirit runes' power, which had its own advantages.

Many corpses didn't expect anyone to be so audacious as to infiltrate solo, and Lu Ye's careful approach allowed him to reach the portal undetected despite their numbers.

This was a good start, but the real test began now.

With his Silver Snake Valley Secret Realm experience, Lu Ye knew his presence would be exposed once he entered the portal.

But he needed only ten breaths to evade the Corpse Race if he quickly lost himself during the initial chaos!

Taking a deep breath, Lu Ye gripped his hilt and stepped in.

His vision spun; when he regained his senses, he was inside the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm.

He frowned.

Everywhere he looked, corpses densely packed, countless pairs of dull eyes fixed on him in astonishment.

Despite thinking the outer corpses were numerous, they were nothing compared to those inside!

Over the years, Unparalleled Continent birthed many humans who, apart from natural death, were transformed into corpses or refined into part of the rotting hordes.

Those encountered in the wild were sparse because most corpses gathered at Huntian Holy Temple.

This gathering made the sheer number of corpses overwhelming.

When many eyes turned to him, even Lu Ye felt immense pressure due to strong auras among them!

Retreat!

Lu Ye immediately thought.

With such circumstances, placing the Heaven's Augury Pillar was out of the question; retreating required luck.

As this thought emerged, deep within the secret realm, a great malevolence suddenly revived, enveloping Lu Ye from afar, causing pain and heightened alert.

Unmistakably, he knew the Golden Corpse King Corpse Fiend was watching him!

Only the Golden Corpse King could exert such pressure now.

Overlord level!

Lu Ye estimated the Golden Corpse King's power—definitely overlord level, likely beyond typical overlords!

In Fox Fairy Valley, the Fox Demon's two hundred fought the overlord Berserk Giant Ape, supported by Lu Ye's formation, with over half lost.

The Berserk Giant Ape was a demon beast despite overlord strength, lacking high spiritual intelligence, otherwise wouldn't fall to Lu Ye's formation.

The Golden Corpse King was stronger and tougher than the Berserk Giant Ape.

Had the Fox Fairy Valley group hunted the Golden Corpse King, no formations would prevent their annihilation.

"Roar!"

The Corpse Race roared. After brief surprise, they surged at Lu Ye.

Lu Ye rapidly retreated, stepped out of the secret realm, abandoning concealment.

Outside corpses were alarmed.

Chapter 825 Things Are Somewhat Difficult

Action failed!

Lu Ye's mind remained tranquil, without the slightest bit of frustration. This was merely an attempt. If he had succeeded, naturally everything would have been perfect, and he could have easily laid down the last Heaven's Augury Pillar without a hitch.

Although the action failed at the moment, there were no losses, so there was nothing to regret.

However, it was time to leave quickly.

Having just breached the Huntian Secret Realm, he had already alerted the Golden Corpse King. Now that his whereabouts were exposed and he was deep within enemy territory, it was wise to retreat first.

So the moment he exited the secret realm, he immediately activated his spirit force. Fiery-red spirit force flowed and wriggled behind him, forming a pair of wings. With a step on the ground, he soared to the sky.

Coming in stealthily, leaving like a thunderbolt.

"Roar!" The Corpse Race roared in pursuit, but Lu Ye's flying speed was such that even the elite Ninth Grade cultivators of Nine Provinces could hardly keep up, let alone these Corpse Races.

The only trouble was the continuous interception from the Corpse Race ahead. Zombies and rotting corpses hidden within the yellow mist, commanding groups of corpses.

The Boulder Mountain Saber was unsheathed, and Lu Ye hurriedly escaped along the way. Where he passed, blood rain followed, and even a large horde of corpses couldn't stop him in the slightest.

"Zing..." Suddenly, the clear sound of a sword's cry came from another direction.

Hearing the commotion, Lu Ye immediately turned his head to look, raising his eyebrows.

From that direction, a whirl of flying swords spinning, sword light emitting high into the sky, as if a sword dragon was charging from there, quickly approaching his direction.

Among the sword dragon's encasement, a figure stood like a sword.

Muk Qingyun!

Nine people came from Nine Provinces, he and Ying Wuji were the first to meet, then they found Lui Qing and Fong Rulie in the Ziwei Dao Palace, and brought Lan Ziyi and Hua Ci out from Mount Sumeru.

The remaining three were unknown whereabouts.

But Lu Ye was not worried about their safety. Those three, whoever they were, each had substantial abilities, self-preservation was certainly not an issue. Ziwei Dao Palace had also started searching for their whereabouts, and soon there would be clues.

Unexpectedly, he encountered Muk Qingyun here.

As the contemporary Sword Heir of Beixuan Sword Sect, and inheritor of Muk Suifeng's true teachings, his strength was naturally extraordinary.

In this generation's Cloud River Realm, if it weren't for Lu Ye and Lan Ziyi emerging out of nowhere, he would undoubtedly be the top of the Cloud River Contenders list.

Strictly speaking, Muk Qingyun represents the pinnacle of Nine Provinces' Cloud River Realm's true strength.

While both Lu Ye and Lan Ziyi, due to each of their circumstances, have exceeded this normal standard.

Muk Qingyun's sudden appearance at this moment was clearly not a coincidence. Lu Ye guessed he had long been hiding nearby. Detecting the commotion from Lu Ye, he appeared to join him.

Though the two didn't communicate, they tacitly fought side by side, moving towards each other.

Moments later, the two had converged.

This added wings to the tiger, with the sword dragon tumbling and the blade gleaming fiercely, the Corpse Races intercepting ahead fell like straw, broken corpses drifting down one after another.

Not until an hour later did the Corpse Races gradually give up pursuit, unable to keep up.

At the portal of Huntian Holy Temple, amidst many hordes of corpses, three Corpse Races with skin color of silver, bronze, and iron roared to the sky, filled with unwillingness.

After fleeing to a safe distance, Muk Qingyun retracted his sword light, standing on his flying sword alongside Lu Ye.

Lu Ye also withdrew his Wings, summoning his spirit ark.

Only then the two had the time to greet each other.

"Junior Brother Lu, it's been a long time!" Muk Qingyun beamed with a smile.

At the assembly in Nine Provinces, they had no time for small talk and were sent here immediately, having had no prior interactions. However, due to their connection through Li Baxian, and both being from the Haotian Alliance, they naturally felt close.

"Senior Brother Muk!" Lu Ye replied, "Why are you here, Senior Brother?"

Muk Qingyun said, "Sent to this domain, my battlefield marking lost its response. I had been searching all over for you all, then came here. I thought regardless of where you are, you would surely come here to deal with the Corpse Race eventually. So I waited, it seems Junior Brother's thoughts aligned with mine."

Seeing Lu Ye come alone, Muk Qingyun assumed Lu Ye shared the same idea.

"I came to investigate the situation," Lu Ye casually explained, "Unexpectedly bumped into Senior Brother."

"Have you seen others?"

"Other than Yang Yuan and Giant Armor, everyone else has joined."

"Oh?" Muk Qingyun raised an eyebrow, "That's indeed good."

After a pause, he asked, "Junior Brother, I don't know much about this domain and am unclear about what to do next. Could you advise me?"

Lu Ye pondered for a moment, honestly saying, "Actually, before arriving here, there were people from Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union waiting on the spirit mountaintop where we gathered. I was the first to arrive, and that person gave me something..."

This matter wasn't particularly confidential, but he was reluctant to explain to Ying Wuji and others. However, facing Muk Qingyun, he found no need to conceal, and shared with him.

Listening to Lu Ye, Muk Qingyun pondered, "Four sealed Heaven's Augury Pillars and four great secret realms... Though the numbers match, how do you confirm that the Heaven's Augury Pillars must be placed in the secret realms? Heaven's Augury doesn't provide clear instructions."

"As Senior Brother hasn't been to the secret realms, naturally you don't know. This Unparalleled Continent is fractured, its nature's spiritual energy exists but is extremely thin. On the contrary, within the secret realms, the spiritual energy is rich and has sustained for years, undoubtedly signifying that there's a Spirit Vein within. Moreover, the Spirit Vein's scale must be considerable."

Though the Unparalleled Continent may seem poor now, it is still a fragment from a domain, harboring deep foundations.

Muk Qingyun lightly nodded.

Being an Cloud River Realm cultivator himself, he naturally wasn't unfamiliar with Spirit Veins.

"To teleport Heaven's Augury Pillars requires consuming spirit force, but while in Nine Provinces, we didn't notice that. To utilize the Heaven's Augury Pillars, they must be placed where nature's spiritual energy is dense, and the four great secret realms are the best, and indeed the only choice."

Muk Qingyun pondered, "Once the Heaven's Augury Pillars are placed, what will happen?"

Lu Ye shook his head, "Not sure, but I think perhaps Nine Provinces' Heaven's Augury could use these four Heaven's Augury Pillars to fully connect with Unparalleled Continent. By then, not only will our battlefield marking resume functionality, Nine Provinces might even send reinforcements through teleportation via the Heaven's Augury Pillars!"

Muk Qingyun's eyes gradually brightened, "So our role is roughly equivalent to a vanguard, mainly establishing the connection between Unparalleled Continent and Nine Provinces!"

"That's what I think; we'll find out soon enough if it's right."

"It should be precisely that! If so, wouldn't Unparalleled Continent become a secret realm for Nine Provinces? Then, everyone from Cloud River battlefield could come here?"

If such a scenario occurs, the corpse crisis here will be insignificant.

How numerous are the Cloud River Realm cultivators from Nine Provinces? The Corpse Race here, no matter how abundant, would barely withstand their hunting.

Furthermore, to motivate the cultivators' enthusiasm, killing the Corpse Race might likely yield merit or battle merit.

Unlike Lu Ye and his group now, fighting without any gain.

By then, this place would become a treasure ground for Nine Provinces cultivators to train themselves, perhaps requiring certain conditions or costs to enter.

Thinking this, Muk Qingyun couldn't help but have a bizarre notion; maybe many of Nine Provinces' secret realms originated this way?

Without delving too much, it was pointless for him to ponder.

But he finally understood why Lu Ye would break into Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm; though judging by Lu Ye's behavior earlier, it seemed he hadn't succeeded.

"Junior Brother, how many places have you set?"

"Only Huntian Holy Temple remains, yet the situation here... is quite tricky."

Muk Qingyun nodded, "Among the Corpse Race, there are several powerful entities. Earlier I encountered one with bronze-colored skin, quite strong. After briefly fighting, not daring to prolong, I fled."

Muk Qingyun, ranked third in Cloud River Realm, undeniably strong. His evaluation indicated the Corpse Race's strength wasn't far off.

"That should be the Copper Corpse Commander under Golden Corpse King."

Muk Qingyun smiled, "Seems Junior Brother knows much more than I do."

At least, he had no knowledge of the Copper Corpse Commander...

"I'll explain it all to Senior Brother slowly."

They conversed while flying, and after more than four hours, returned to the previous place.

Seeing him return from afar, Pang Huanyin stood to greet, noticing Muk Qingyun beside Lu Ye, she couldn't help but be surprised, "Yiye, this is..."

"This is the third junior brother Muk Qingyun." Lu Ye introduced casually.

On the way back, Muk Qingyun had learned about their ranking, so he wasn't surprised, clasping his fists in salute, "Greetings, Palace Master Pang!"

Pang Huanyin returned the salute, "Before leaving, I had people tracking your brothers' whereabouts, unexpectedly, Yiye found one first, a delightful surprise indeed."

Turning to Lu Ye, she asked, "How was it?"

Lu Ye shook his head, "Large number of Corpse Race, many strong ones, it's quite difficult."

Ultimately, they needed to leverage Ziwei Dao Palace's strength. Otherwise, relying solely on the few from Nine Provinces, it would likely be tough.

"A thousand years have passed, no need to rush." Pang Huanyin comforted, "Let's return to Dao Palace for a rest first."

After waiting another two to four hours, Veteran Siao activated the portal, and everyone returned to Dao Palace.

Ying Wuji led the group to rest at their spirit mountaintop, while Lu Ye stayed behind to converse with Pang Huanyin.

The situation was now very clear. To resolve this issue and achieve the mission's goals, they had to penetrate Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm.

But such actions would undoubtedly carry significant risks.

Even though Pang Huanyin was willing to trust Lu Ye, without doubting his words, making such a decision wasn't easy as a Palace Master.

This was originally the third condition Lu Ye prepared to propose to Pang Huanyin.

However, after revealing his identity as a Nine Provinces cultivator, the conditions were no longer necessary.

Upon parting, Pang Huanyin sighed, "Give me one night, I'll respond tomorrow."

Lu Ye nodded, "Alright."

Chapter 826 Who Approves, Who Opposes?

The Ziwei Dao Palace is the only place they can rely on. If even Ziwei Dao Palace does not make up its mind, then the situation on the Unparalleled Continent truly cannot be resolved.

There's no way to expect the nine of them to slowly cut away the strength of the Corpse Race. Who knows how long that would take.

Upon returning to the spirit mountaintop at Ziwei Dao Palace, Lu Ye sensed something unusual as soon as he set foot on it.

As expected!

Descending from mid-air, he looked ahead and saw that with Lu Qing in the lead, Lan Ziyi, Fong Rulie, and Ying Wuji stood together, seemingly waiting for his return.

On the other side, stood Muk Qingyun and Hua Ci.

Two camps, clearly distinct.

"Is something the matter?" Lu Ye swept his gaze across the four from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Lu Qing took a step forward and said, "Lu Yiye, now that things have come to this, isn't it time you told us everything in detail?"

Lu Ye glanced at Ying Wuji and said flatly, "Don't you already know?"

He had never intended to deliberately conceal the matter of the Heaven's Augury Pillar. If he had, he wouldn't have brought Ying Wuji along, nor entrusted him with the task.

He had just been reluctant to say too much to others, only revealing everything to Muk Qingyun upon returning.

Ying Wuji, having accompanied him, would surely be questioned by Lu Qing and Fong Rulie upon return. Being from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, he wouldn't withhold information from them.

So this scene was something Lu Ye had anticipated.

Ying Wuji couldn't help but shrink back under his gaze.

Lu Qing shook his head, "While we do know a few things, it's still quite unclear! Lu Yiye, no matter the intention behind Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury sending us nine here, we should set aside our camp differences. In this domain, there is no Haotian Alliance, no Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. It doesn't matter whether it's you or me, we are all Nine Provinces cultivators!"

Fong Rulie nodded vigorously beside him, "Yes, indeed!"

Lu Qing continued, "You are the strongest and assume the role of senior brother, we have no objection. But as senior brother, shouldn't you take care of your junior brothers and sisters? Let's not even talk about other things, in terms of intelligence sharing, you as senior brother are quite unqualified."

In fact, even today, they only knew they came to the Unparalleled Continent to solve the corpse crisis. But as to how to solve it, they had no clue.

But through what Ying Wuji had experienced with Lu Ye, it was evident that Lu Ye was systematically and strategically working on many things.

All present were prodigies within their respective sects and top of the Cloud River Realm within the Nine Provinces. Usually, they were the decision-makers among their own junior brothers and sisters. But here, they were completely kept in the dark, and that feeling of having no direction was rather unpleasant.

So before Lu Ye returned, they agreed that they had to probe some information from him tonight, no matter what.

They didn't press too hard, only appealing to emotions and reason, mainly because Lu Yiye was too strong and rupturing their relationship wouldn't benefit them at all.

"I intended to tell you anyway. No need to put up this show."

Lu Ye replied calmly.

The plan had reached its final stage. Regardless of what decision Ziwei Dao Palace made, they had to break into the Huntian Holy Temple, and the participation of all nine was indispensable. Facing these core disciples from top sects, concealing too much would only breed distrust.

So in any case, he should explain everything clearly to them.

Lu Qing's expression softened, and he smiled slightly, "That would be best, we were too rude."

Lu Ye then repeated what he had explained to Muk Qingyun on their way back.

Everyone listened quietly, with no one interrupting.

"That is all I know. Now, the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm must be breached, and the last Heaven's Augury Pillar must be placed there. Who agrees, and who disagrees?"

Lu Ye grasped the hilt of his sword at his waist with one hand and swept his gaze across everyone present.

No one spoke.

"So no one disagrees!"

Lu Qing said, "I have something to say."

Lu Ye looked at him.

Lu Qing continued, "Fellow Daoist has deduced that the Four Great Secret Realms correspond to the four Heaven's Augury Pillars. I agree with that. Now, three Heaven's Augury Pillars have been set up, only the Huntian Holy Temple remains!"

In his heart, he grumbled. Earlier, he had asked Lu Ye if he had received any special guidance from Heaven's Augury. Lu Ye had clearly said he hadn't.

But now, it seemed this guy not only received such guidance but even had the crucial four Heaven's Augury Pillars before setting off, and no one else knew about it.

Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury...is just too biased.

"Indeed!"

"Fellow Daoist has personally investigated the Huntian Secret Realm. Do you think we have the strength to succeed?"

"No!"

Lu Qing understood, "So no matter what, we need the strength of Ziwei Dao Palace! Fellow Daoist, was this what you discussed with Pang Huanyin just now?"

Lu Ye remained silent, tacitly acknowledging it.

"What is Ziwei Dao Palace's stance? Has Pang Huanyin given any response?"

"This is of great importance. She needs a night to decide. She'll give a response tomorrow." Lu Ye replied.

"If they agree, it's best for both sides to join forces. But if not?" Lu Qing frowned, "Things have developed to this point, we can't place all our hope on someone else."

"Do you have a solution?"

Lu Qing shook his head, "What solution could I have? Perhaps when the time comes, Fellow Daoist can speak with Palace Master Pang...properly?"

The last four words became cold and meaningful, suggesting his intent very clearly.

Lu Ye gave him a glance before stepping towards his room, voice drifting softly, "Don't worry, she'll agree!"

Despite being a woman, Pang Huanyin wasn't weak. Shouldering the responsibility of the entire Ziwei Dao Palace meant she wasn't someone to act indecisively. Though their interactions had been few, Lu Ye could sense her willingness to cooperate with him and the others.

As the Palace Master, her considerations naturally extended far beyond that.

Meanwhile, on another spirit mountaintop, in the Palace Master's sleeping quarters, Pang Huanyin stood with her hands behind her back. Veteran Siao quietly stood nearby, though his expression was evidently unsettled.

All of Pang Huanyin's words earlier seemed somewhat unbelievable to him.

"Nine Provinces... Is it true that there are other domains in this world?"

"If they weren't from another domain, how could these people have been so obscure before, and then suddenly appear together? The other two secret realms couldn't cultivate such people, let alone the outposts outside."

"So the Palace Master believes what Young Friend Lu said?" Veteran Siao asked.

"Not daring to believe, but have to believe! You saw that slash he used to kill Liu Zhenguan, didn't you? He's just in Cloud River Level 8, yet with such power, it's impossible for someone like him to be born in today's Unparalleled Continent. And each of them has their strengths; although they look similar to our Unparalleled Continent cultivators on the surface, there are significant differences."

"So what's the Palace Master's decision..."

"I don't know." Pang Huanyin smiled bitterly.

As Lu Ye thought, she wasn't an indecisive person—always being swift and decisive. But this decision was too momentous, almost relating to the life and death of Ziwei Dao Palace, so she had to consider it carefully.

Veteran Siao couldn't help but sigh.

He was Pang Huanyin's protector and had watched her grow since childhood. How could he not know what was on her mind now?

"For a thousand years, generations of Ziwei Dao Palace have adhered to the predecessors' will to resist the Corpse Race. However, to this day, the human race's situation hasn't improved much." Veteran Siao sighed softly, "If we continue this way, what will change even if another thousand years pass? The situation could just get worse."

Pang Huanyin's eyes brightened, "So you mean...we should seek change now?"

"If what Young Friend Lu said is true, then they are the variables for this domain! The Dao Palace hasn't had such an opportunity before, but now we do. Why not try?"

"But..."

"Palace Master, no Dao Palace cultivator fears death! The question is whether the death has value! So many disciples have died at the hands of the Corpse Race over the years. You, as Palace Master, should consider their lives, but even if you asked them to choose, they wouldn't let you down. You've always been wise. Why can't you see this?"

Veteran Siao stroked his beard and continued, "Even if the Dao Palace is wiped out, so what? At least we die a worthy death. But what if we succeed?"

"If we succeed..." Pang Huanyin fell into deep thought, her eyes growing brighter.

"I'm old and don't have long to live. I haven't pursued much in my life, but my final wish is to achieve the predecessors' ambition before I die! Since they are from Nine Provinces and have such courage, as native Unparalleled Continent cultivators, how can we lag behind? Palace Master, when outsiders are risking their lives, we can't just watch. That would be shameful!"

Pang Huanyin took a deep breath and bowed deeply to Veteran Siao, "Thank you for your guidance!"

She stood up, her eyes filled with determination, clearly having made up her mind.

Veteran Siao brushed his beard and smiled, "Good!"

As dawn broke, Pang Huanyin descended directly into the Spirit Mountaintop Courtyard without concealing her presence.

From the cabins, cultivators from Nine Provinces emerged one by one.

Meeting their eyes, Lu Ye nodded slightly.

Pang Huanyin bowed deeply to each of them, then spoke solemnly, "I, Pang Huanyin of Ziwei Dao Palace, humbly request your help in eliminating the Corpse Race calamity!"

Lu Ye replied, "Palace Master Pang, rest assured. That is precisely why we are here!"

Pang Huanyin smiled, "Then we should sit down and discuss properly."

"Let's discuss here." Lu Ye stepped forward and instructed casually, "Seventh Junior Brother, bring some chairs."

Ying Wuji almost couldn't hold back his cursing. Seriously, every task had to fall on him? Where's the justice?

Let's resolve these matters quickly and return to Nine Provinces. He had enough of this Seventh Junior Brother nonsense!

Chapter 827 The Squad Gathers Together

Two hours later, a Palace Master's Order spread throughout the Ziwei Dao Palace.

In ten days, the Dao Palace will fully attack the Huntian Sacred Hall, both inside and outside the secret realm. All Dao Palace cultivators, regardless of their level of cultivation, gender, age, must follow the order. Those who resist or flee in battle will be expelled from the Dao Palace!

With the issuance of the Palace Master's Order, the entire Dao Palace boiled in a very short time.

At first, many people were confused and puzzled because this order was issued so suddenly, without any prior signs. Moreover, although the Ziwei Dao Palace has often taken actions against the Corpse Race, actively attacking the Huntian Sacred Hall has only happened three times in its history.

The first two times were not long after the Celestial Change, nearly a thousand years ago.

Even the most recent third time was several hundred years ago.

In the past few hundred years, the Dao Palace has not taken any major actions.

The Dao Palace's current foundation is far inferior to its past self. The previous three times ended in failure, with heavy losses. What foundation does it have this time to attack the Huntian Sacred Hall?

But even in confusion and puzzlement, when this Palace Master's Order spread, most Dao Palace cultivators couldn't help but feel excited and expectant.

As Veteran Siao had previously said, Dao Palace cultivators are not afraid of death; they are only afraid of dying without value. For many years, they have been fighting against the Corpse Race. Countless ancestors have sacrificed themselves, and the conflict between the Dao Palace and the Corpse Race has long reached a mutual-exclusivity level.

No matter the Palace Master's considerations for issuing this order, the deep-seated hatred accumulated between the ancestors and the Corpse Race makes them only able to follow the order, and they will follow it.

Soon, another encouraging news spread.

The Dao Palace found a medical cultivator who can neutralize the Primordial Corpse Poison...

This is the most commonly used method to boost morale before a great battle. For cultivators on the Unparalleled Continent, nothing is more encouraging than this, especially for the Ziwei Dao Palace, which has the highest casualty rate among the three secret realms of the human race.

Over the years, countless Dao Palace cultivators have chosen death due to the Primordial Corpse Poison.

The Dao Palace has tried various means to find a way to neutralize the Primordial Corpse Poison but never succeeded.

Until this moment!

Therefore, when the news spread, the excitement among all Dao Palace cultivators became even stronger. This way, they would have less to worry about when fighting the Corpse Race and could unleash their full strength.

Sharp Dao Palace cultivators also noticed something.

Recently, the Dao Palace has gained a batch of high-quality, well-crafted spiritual artifacts, each cultivator receiving at least one.

This has undeniably raised the Dao Palace's overall strength, albeit by not much, at least by ten percent.

These spiritual artifacts were naturally provided by Lu Ye.

If you want the horse to run, you have to feed it grass.

The Unparalleled Continent's artifact refining standards are not high. The cultivators' cultivation limits and the scarcity of refining materials prevent them from producing good spiritual artifacts.

The Nine Provinces are different. The spiritual artifacts in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault are of incomparable quality to those on the Unparalleled Continent.

Lu Ye had abundant stock and could provide a batch to the Dao Palace without any problem.

When he took out this enormous number of spiritual artifacts and handed them to Pang Huanyin at the Spirit Mountaintop Courtyard, not only was Pang Huanyin dumbfounded, but even the Nine Provinces cultivators present had their eyelids twitching.

Pang Huanyin wasn't too clear about what such a large number and variety of spiritual artifacts represented, but Lui Qing and others were fully aware.

Every single spiritual artifact represents a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator's life!

Beneath that mountain-like pile of spiritual artifacts flows an invisible Blood River.

Lu Yiye... is truly merciless in killing!

And when Pang Huanyin brought these spiritual artifacts back to Veteran Siao, his doubts were completely dispelled.

Previously, he had been skeptical when Pang Huanyin said Lu Ye claimed to come from a realm called the Nine Provinces because it seemed too incredible. But if he didn't come from the Nine Provinces, where else would such fine spiritual artifacts come from?

The other two secret realms couldn't possibly have such abundant foundations!

The entire Dao Palace was gearing up, as if bracing for an impending storm.

Hua Ci was busy refining elixir pills, assisted by many alchemy cultivators from the Dao Palace.

Although she has the ability to neutralize the Primordial Corpse Poison, once the battle begins, the scene will inevitably be chaotic. As a medical cultivator without much combat prowess, she cannot go to battle.

She needs to stay back with other medical cultivators, ready to treat the injured.

Thus, she cannot neutralize the Primordial Corpse Poison immediately.

So, she has to refine an elixir pill to temporarily suppress the outbreak of the Primordial Corpse Poison, at least until the poisoned cultivator can return for treatment.

Lu Ye and Ying Wuji were also busy.

To prepare for this battle, the Dao Palace was going all out, even mobilizing three Flying Dragon Ships left behind by their ancestors.

The Flying Dragon Ship is akin to the Flying Dragon Ark of the Nine Provinces, specialized artillery used for siege. With the current artifact refining standards on the Unparalleled Continent, they can't produce such large-scale spiritual artifacts anymore.

These three were ancient relics, preserved as treasures of the Dao Palace.

Both Lu Ye and Ying Wuji possessed Formation skills, and they led a group of array cultivators to inspect the formations on the Flying Dragon Ships, repairing or rearranging them.

They also equipped the Flying Dragon Ships with numerous combat artifacts, turning the three ships into fierce weapons of war.

As for Lan Ziyi and others, they temporarily acted as instructors, guiding Dao Palace cultivators according to their expertise in enemy-killing skills!

Though time was tight and the results might not be significant, learning even a bit could potentially save lives on the battlefield.

Everyone was busy, intently preparing.

Time flowed by, and the deadline for the fight to the death against the Corpse Race finally arrived!

In front of the Dao Palace secret realm portal, cultivators gathered, numbering around ten thousand.

Pang Huanyin stood in the Void, her voice steady, recounting the ancestors' deeds, without much fervor or motivational speech.

But when she finished speaking, the earth-shaking roar of united voices echoed.

"Fight!"

"Fight!"

"Fight!"

The cultivators' breaths seemed to unite at this moment, causing even the winds and clouds to change color.

The unity of hearts showed the overall cohesion of the Dao Palace and Pang Huanyin's status in their hearts.

Pang Huanyin smiled, eyes showing satisfaction, and softly said, "Follow me, the Palace Master, and engage in a fight to the death with the Corpse Race!"

"Kill!"

"Kill!"

"Kill!"

Pang Huanyin turned and looked at Lu Ye and others waiting at the portal, and solemnly cautioned, "Be careful!"

Lu Ye nodded, "Take care of my junior sister!"

Since Hua Ci couldn't follow them, she had to stay behind with the Dao Palace.

"Rest assured, I'll protect her even if I die!"

Veteran Siao shouted, "Open the portal!"

With the efforts of the guarding cultivators, the portal quickly opened. Lu Ye turned to enter first, followed closely by Lan Ziyi, Lui Qing, and others.

One step through, the scenery changed, and they appeared in a barren wilderness.

Looking back, the open portal had already closed and disappeared.

Without needing instructions, Ying Wuji immediately concealed himself, and others quickly took up guard positions.

Lu Ye glanced at the sun, recognized the direction slightly, and led the group in a specific direction.

After a short distance, they stopped.

From nearby hidden spots, four figures emerged one after another.

The leading two were the Fengyun Brothers, Fengyun Qianli and Fengyun Wanli, who had initially brought Lu Ye and Ying Wuji into the Ziwei Dao Palace.

Following them were two burly figures, stepping like two iron towers tilting forward.

Both wore simple linen clothes, exposing their muscular arms, legs, and chest, imbued with a sense of explosive strength.

"Fengyun Brothers, greetings Fellow Daoists," Fengyun Qianli cupped his fists.

"Thank you," Lu Ye nodded slightly, looking at the two behind them.

Yang Yuan, Giant Armor!

Before heading to Mount Sumeru, Lu Ye had asked Pang Huanyin to find his lost juniors.

Pang Huanyin agreed and had been observing their whereabouts.

Three days ago, Yang Yuan and Giant Armor were found and had been waiting here for the reunion.

Actually, Yang Yuan and Giant Armor hadn't intended to hide, nor had the thought occurred to them. The Dao Palace's manpower outside was limited, making them hard to find.

They had been together since arriving on the Unparalleled Continent, sharing a common language as physique cultivators.

Initially, Yang Yuan looked down on Giant Armor due to his lower cultivation level. But after spending time together, he recognized Giant Armor's skills.

They had been fighting and killing all sorts of Corpse Race members, indifferent to how many fell under their hands.

They encountered many struggling human strongholds, but rejected all offers to join.

If not for the timely arrival of the Fengyun Brothers, they would have likely headed to the Huntian Sacred Hall to confront the Golden Corpse King Corpse Fiend!

This was why the Fengyun Brothers had brought them here, close to the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm.

Upon hearing Pang Huanyin's message, Lu Ye was silent for a long time, merely sighing that physique cultivators were quite simple-minded.

The jokes and teasing among Nine Provinces cultivators had roots in truth.

The simplicity of physique cultivators and the stubbornness of combat cultivators were well-known.

After revealing themselves, Yang Yuan and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators exchanged formal greetings, while Giant Armor merely nodded, portraying a cold and distant stance.

"No need to pretend; they probably know," Lu Ye glanced at Ying Wuji.

Initially fearing Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators wouldn't align with him, he hid his ties with Hua Ci and Giant Armor. But now, all must cooperate genuinely, no need for secrecy.

Hearing this, Giant Armor immediately flashed a silly grin at Lu Ye, showcasing his wide molars.

Chapter 828 A War With Everything at Stake

At this point, the members of the Nine Provinces squad reunited once again!

Aside from Yang Yuan and Giant Armor who had just joined them, the rest of the team clearly understood the task ahead, so there was no need for further explanation.

Though the Fengyun Brothers wished to help, they were aware of their lacking abilities. Following Lu Ye would likely result in them being a burden rather than assistance.

"Wishing all Fellow Daoists a safe journey and invincibility!" The Fengyun Brothers said solemnly, clasping their fists in salute.

Lu Ye nodded, "You may leave now."

"Take care!" The Fengyun Brothers said, taking to the sky.

Lu Ye turned, gazing toward the direction of the Huntian Holy Temple, and spoke softly, "No one will falter at this crucial moment, right?"

Fong Rulie sneered, "What are you talking about, we'll just kill!"

Lui Qing added, "Lu Yiye, although your strength is formidable, don't underestimate us. We may not match you in a fight, but we can certainly handle the Corpse Race."

"Excellent!" Lu Ye nodded, "Then... let's go!"

As he spoke, his figure transformed into a fiery light and sped towards the Huntian Holy Temple. The others followed closely.

At the same time, within about 30 miles of the Huntian Holy Temple, numerous Corpse Race members were scattered nearby, either in a state of corpse nourishment or solitary cultivation. Among them, a zombie with iron-colored skin stood out, exuding the most powerful aura.

This was none other than one of the three major Corpse Commanders under the Corpse Fiend, the Iron Corpse Commander Zhou Yun.

The Corpse Race also originated from the human race. Zhou Yun came from a human base. As a human, he had no significant achievements, and his cultivation was mediocre, but after becoming part of the

Corpse Race, his rise was meteoric, quickly becoming one of the three major Corpse Commanders, a nightmare for humans across the Unparalleled Continent for the past few centuries.

Over ten days ago, some humans had intruded into the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm, enraging the Corpse Fiend. Since then, the defenses around the Huntian Holy Temple had been extremely tight to prevent any other audacious humans from disturbing the Golden Corpse King's slumber.

The three major Corpse Commanders frequently patrolled near the Huntian Holy Temple.

Being a zombie, Zhou Yun's strength was formidable, unlike the rotting corpses that depended on corpse hordes. Wherever he passed, other Corpse Race members quickly avoided him.

Suddenly, he sensed something, turning his head to look in a certain direction, his dark yellow eyes filled with uncertainty and suspicion.

Soon, his pupils contracted slightly, as he saw an evident golden glow forming the shape of a portal in the direction he was looking.

A portal to a secret realm!

Zhou Yun immediately understood what it was.

Since the changes in the heavens, the Corpse Race had captured numerous human secret realms. However, three major secret realms remained elusive, as they roamed within the Void without a fixed location, and their portals opened with extreme caution, rarely allowing the Corpse Race to discover them.

Unexpectedly, a portal appeared near the Huntian Holy Temple today!

Which secret realm was so careless?

Without further thought, Zhou Yun charged towards the portal with ferocious intent.

No matter which secret realm's portal it was, for him, it was a heaven-sent opportunity, something elusive now appearing right before him. How could Zhou Yun miss it?

Had he still been human, he'd never act so rashly because his solitary incursion into any human secret realm would certainly end disastrously, even with his strength.

But now, as part of the Corpse Race, his spiritual intelligence seemed less rational. All he saw was a rare opportunity, ignoring the potential danger.

In a flash, he reached the portal.

Before he could charge in, a delicate jade hand extended from the portal, with spirit force surging in its palm.

With a roar, Zhou Yun punched out.

When fist and palm collided, violent spirit force erupted, visible to the naked eye.

Zhou Yun was sent flying over a hundred meters.

This wasn't because his strength was inferior to the jade hand's owner, but because one was prepared and the other caught off guard, giving the former the advantage.

Stabilizing himself and raising his eyes, he saw several strong figures now standing at the portal's entrance, led by a woman dressed in masculine attire.

"Pang Huanyin!"

Zhou Yun immediately recognized her, though they had never met. He had heard her name.

He realized that the portal belonged to the Ziwei Dao Palace!

"Proceed according to plan!" Pang Huanyin commanded, attacking Zhou Yun alongside Veteran Siao from both sides.

Using the Heaven Reflecting Mirror inside the secret realm, the Ziwei Dao Palace had spotted Zhou Yun. The renowned Iron Corpse Commander was well-known.

Pang Huanyin instantly decided she and Veteran Siao would restrain him, while the others would emerge from the secret realm and form a battle array.

Only this way could they gain a foothold and fight the Corpse Race.

Their mission was simple: cause as much commotion as possible and draw the Corpse Race's attention.

This would facilitate Lu Ye's plan.

This strategy had been prearranged with Lu Ye.

The portal continued to expand, and from the radiant gateway, cultivators emerged, gathering into prearranged squads, forming a large battle array.

A multitude of Corpse Race members were alarmed and rushed to attack, igniting a fierce conflict between the humans and the Corpse Race!

Spirit force surged wildly, and colorful lights intertwined, continuously knocking attacking Corpse Race members to the ground.

Following the Dao Palace cultivators, a massive and fearsome Soaring Dragon Ark emerged slowly from the portal, hovering in the Void.

A second ark followed.

And then a third!

The three Soaring Dragon Arks quickly formed a triangular formation in the air, shielding the Dao Palace cultivators within.

Buzzing sounds filled the air, and formations on the Soaring Dragon Arks hummed. Huge beams of light, like roaming Thunder Dragons, crashed into the densest parts of the Corpse Race's ranks, creating vacuum zones.

The buzzing continued, and numerous Corpse Race members turned to dust before they could get close, while those who managed to approach were ruthlessly slain by the Dao Palace cultivators.

No one rejoiced at their temporary gains, for looking towards the Huntian Holy Temple, they saw countless Corpse Race members swarming like a landslide, heading their way.

Even more Corpse Race members emerged from the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm upon hearing the commotion.

Every Dao Palace cultivator felt tense yet fervent with fighting spirit.

They all knew this was a battle with everything on the line. A victory here meant peace for the world, but a loss would signify the end of the Ziwei Dao Palace.

This was a do-or-die battle for everyone!

On the battlefield's other side, Pang Huanyin and Veteran Siao efficiently held off the Iron Corpse Commander.

Though the Iron Corpse Commander was powerful, Pang Huanyin wasn't to be underestimated, and with Veteran Siao's support, they managed the battle with relative ease.

Even during the fight, Pang Huanyin had the composure to assess the situation.

Scanning the surroundings, she couldn't see any sign of cultivators from the other two secret realms, feeling slightly disappointed.

After deciding to ally with Lu Ye, she had sent word to the other two realms, informing them of Ziwei Dao Palace's actions today.

If they were willing, they should surely come to aid.

But now, it seemed hoping for their support was futile; those two secret realms were corrupt at their core.

Just as she thought this, she suddenly spotted some figures flying from afar through the air...

"Is that..." Pang Huanyin paused, thinking she might have misjudged them, but upon closer inspection, those rushing from afar were not from the other two realms.

They were cultivators from various human bases!

Groups of a few to dozens sped in from all directions. At first, there weren't many, but soon, more and more figures appeared.

Converging as they closed in, like small streams merging into a river, growing stronger and forming an undeniable force.

While informing the other two realms of today's actions, the Dao Palace had also divulged information to certain human bases. Though not many bases had received the message, it seemed the word had spread among them.

Now, numerous base cultivators were rushing in from all sides, witnessing Dao Palace's advance and quickly arriving to support.

More base cultivators were likely on their way, though those from distant bases wouldn't arrive in time.

Pang Huanyin couldn't help but smile, feeling that the Dao Palace's years of perseverance and every effort were meaningful.

Despite the corruption of the other two secret realms, there were still many worth saving!

"Palace Master!" called Veteran Siao, his voice brimming with excitement.

Given the limited strength of Dao Palace alone, their resistance against the Corpse Race was barely sufficient, as they couldn't field many cultivators.

The formation of the three Soaring Dragon Arks provided temporary defense, but sustaining it was challenging.

Now, with such extensive support, prospects brightened significantly.

"Hmm." Pang Huanyin nodded, regaining focus, her eyes gleaming with murderous intent, and she spat out a cold word, "Kill!"

The battle was fierce from the beginning. The Soaring Dragon Arks roared incessantly, while the Dao Palace cultivators adhered to their plan, maintaining their positions instead of advancing, aiming to divert as many Corpse Race members as possible.

The attacking Corpse Race members were shattered continuously.

From a distance, it seemed like a rain of corpses fell from the sky. The ground was increasingly littered with rotting flesh, emitting a nauseating stench.

Despite the heavy casualties, the Corpse Race showed no fear, relentlessly attacking the Dao Palace's defense line, nearly breaking through at times.

The arriving base cultivators' assistance barely held the line.

Chapter 829 Eight as One

As the Dao Palace exerted its strength and attracted significant attention from the Corpse Race, from another direction, several streaks of light swiftly approached from the sky, led by a fire-red figure, resembling a meteor falling from the heavens.

It was the members of the Nine Provinces squad rushing to the scene.

At this moment, when they looked up, they saw the distant battlefield engulfed in flames. The countless Corpse Race creatures surged like waves, their figures filling both the sky and the ground, nearly overwhelming the Dao Palace's battle array several times, causing unease to anyone witnessing this scene.

No one concealed their presence as they arrived because it wasn't necessary.

This time, they intended to forcefully break into the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm.

Such a grand display naturally drew the attention of the Corpse Race, and immediately, members of the Corpse Race rushed to intercept, colliding with them in an instant.

Yang Yuan's towering figure surpassed that of Lu Ye, charging at the front. Both men roared, their spirit force surging, their blood Qi vigorous, appearing like two small burning suns.

Facing the many Corpse Race creatures intercepting them, the two were unafraid, recklessly fighting their way into the midst of the enemy with their flesh and blood.

They were like tigers entering a herd of sheep, invincible in their path!

Following closely behind them were Lu Ye and Fong Rulie, their blades flashing fiercely, their spears flashing as they slaughtered the Corpse Race.

Lui Qing's powerful spells were unleashed at will, picking off the stragglers with precision.

And the continuous humming of swords signaled Muk Qingyun's agile movements, using sword control to weave in and out, leaving nothing alive where his flying sword passed by.

At the rear, Lan Ziyi seemed idle, but her cold eyes constantly scanned the surroundings, ready to strike with thunderbolt precision at any moment.

Ying Wuji had vanished without a trace. Apart from the keenly aware Lu Ye, no one knew where he was hiding, yet whenever he appeared, it spelled doom for the Corpse Race.

Despite their different affiliations and this being their first time working together, their coordination was seamless, as if they had practiced countless times. Everyone played their role perfectly, the collective strength far surpassing the sum of their individual powers.

No matter the number or strength of the Corpse Race they encountered, nothing could stop the squad's advance.

At this moment, everyone couldn't help but feel a sense of ease and confidence.

In such a scenario, even a True Lake Realm expert would have limited impact if they were alone. However, a group of Cloud River Realm cultivators, working in tandem, could achieve substantial results without exerting much effort.

Like breaking dry twigs, the Nine Provinces squad quickly advanced towards the portal of the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm!

From afar, the Dao Palace cultivators in the battle array clearly witnessed this scene, each one shaken to the core.

Only by being here could they understand the strength and relentlessness of the Corpse Race. They couldn't imagine that a small squad could so easily break through the Corpse Race's defenses and penetrate deep into their territory.

Such an awe-inspiring scene boosted the Dao Palace cultivators' confidence, urging them to unleash even more power.

The reinforcement cultivators arriving from various strongholds were critical at this moment. Without their support, the Ziwei Dao Palace alone wouldn't have lasted long. Although they couldn't defeat the Corpse Race, their presence extended the time they could hold out.

All the Dao Palace needed to do was delay and distract.

The commotion near the Huntian Secret Realm portal alarmed the three Corpse Commanders. Following the appearance of Iron Corpse Commander Zhou Yun, the other two Corpse Commanders also emerged one after another, increasing the pressure on the Dao Palace.

At this moment, Copper Corpse Commander turned to look from within the vast corpse horde and saw the Nine Provinces squad's indomitable advance, instantly enraged.

A yellow cloud rolled, and Copper Corpse Commander immediately left his original battlefield, heading straight for the portal.

No matter what those humans intended to do in the secret realm, they couldn't succeed.

As one of the three major Corpse Commanders under the Golden Corpse King's command, Copper Corpse Commander controlled the rotting corpse type and had a massive horde under him, dismissing the handful of humans.

Pang Huanyin, who had retreated to the battle array, saw this and wished to intervene but was powerless.

She and Veteran Siao could easily restrain one Iron Corpse Commander together, but in such a chaotic battlefield, they couldn't move freely as before. All the Dao Palace and stronghold cultivators stayed firm in their positions, using the three Soaring Dragon Arks as shields. Leaving this protective range would risk even her life at any moment.

As Copper Corpse Commander charged, a yellow cloud swirled, enveloping more Corpse Race members. By the time he reached the portal, the horde's numbers were terrifying.

Many zombies were hidden among them, ready to strike.

From a distance, the vast numbers formed a stark contrast with the small Nine Provinces squad, creating the illusion that the squad was like ants trying to shake a tree.

Despite this scene, the Nine Provinces squad showed no intention of retreating. Yang Yuan and Giant Armor at the forefront seemed oblivious to the danger ahead, leading the group headlong into the horde.

It was as if a beast had opened its mouth wide, swallowing the Nine Provinces squad whole!

Yellow clouds spread out, only the violent fluctuations of spirit force and multicolored lights flickering within as if thunderbolts were traveling through the clouds. The Nine Provinces squad was no longer visible.

Seeing this from afar, Pang Huanyin's heart nearly jumped out of her chest.

But after just ten breaths, her eyes widened as the yellow cloud showed signs of collapse!

This indicated that Copper Corpse Commander, controlling the horde, had been severely wounded, unable to maintain control.

Amidst the countless corpses, how did they precisely find Copper Corpse Commander? The rotting corpses' trouble wasn't their strength but the horde concealing them. Ordinary cultivators couldn't

locate them, and Paralleled Continent's cultivators, when encountering a rotting corpse and its horde, would die without a trace.

So Pang Huanyin couldn't understand how Lu Ye and his team severely injured Copper Corpse Commander!

Just as this thought arose, the yellow cloud completely collapsed, and corpses fell from the sky uncontrollably, all from Copper Corpse Commander's horde.

The Nine Provinces squad members reappeared, unscathed, showing no signs of a near-death battle.

A figure fled from the collapsing yellow cloud, akin to a dog that has lost its home.

It was Copper Corpse Commander! At this moment, his eyes trembled violently, clearly shaken.

Without the horde's cover, his strength was no better than some zombies.

Now, he felt a sharp killing intent locking onto him, so he ran without looking back.

"Do you think you can escape?"

A cold voice echoed, and a clear sword hum followed. A sharp sword light, like thunder and lightning, sliced through the Void, passing by Copper Corpse Commander's figure.

Copper Corpse Commander froze in mid-air!

The sword light returned, landing near Lu Ye, revealing Muk Qingyun's figure.

In the air, Copper Corpse Commander's body suddenly split, pungent corpse blood spraying across the sky.

One of the three major Corpse Commanders, Copper Corpse Commander, attempted to single-handedly stop the Nine Provinces squad and was slain on the spot in just ten breaths.

Watching from afar, the Dao Palace and stronghold cultivators cheered together, their voices shaking the skies.

The Silver Corpse Commander and Iron Corpse Commander, still tangled in battle, were both shaken, knowing Copper Corpse Commander's strength. Even they might struggle against him. But he was killed within ten breaths!

Since the Corpse Race appeared in the Paralleled Continent millennia ago, nothing this preposterous had ever happened.

The two Corpse Commanders were flooded with rare fear, trying to figure out who these terrifying individuals were.

"They crumble at the touch! Hahaha, all crumble at the touch!"

Fong Rulie laughed heartily, his spear moving like a dragon, fighting with frenzy.

Since entering the Paralleled Continent, he hadn't had a proper fight, deeply torturing for someone who loved combat.

Now, every moment felt like a feast for him.

Working with the others, he felt he could unleash his full strength, overwhelming any worries.

If he felt this, so did the others.

The eight moved as one, clearly defined yet interconnected. This teamwork gave them immense confidence; even facing gods or demons, the eight together could surely slay them!

Lui Qing sighed in his heart, knowing such formations wouldn't last. Here and now, they stood united, but back in the Nine Provinces, they might be enemies again.

This filled him with sadness and helplessness.

The portal was close, and even with more Corpse Race interceptors, if Copper Corpse Commander couldn't stop them for ten breaths, what could these scattered foes do?

Moments later, Yang Yuan and Giant Armor reached the portal first. Glancing at each other, they charged in without hesitation.

Clearing dangerous paths was always the task for tough physique cultivators; they stepped up willingly.

Lu Ye and the others followed them into the portal.

Seeing this from afar, Pang Huanyin exhaled deeply.

The toughest part was over!

Lu Ye had said, once they entered the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm, the situation would stabilize and no longer involve the Dao Palace.

From her perspective, after the Nine Provinces squad entered the Secret Realm, the Dao Palace could move freely. But she didn't order a retreat, staying to ease Lu Ye and his team's burden.

Until this settled, the Dao Palace would not retreat, nor would Pang Huanyin leave!

This was their land, and if the Nine Provinces cultivators risked their lives, the local cultivators had no excuse not to!

Chapter 830 Need a Little Time

However, a scene that made Pang Huanyin's face change quickly appeared.

At the same time the Nine Provinces squad broke into the Huntian Holy Temple's secret realm portal, many Corpse Race members turned around and surged towards the portal.

Even the Silver Corpse Commander and Iron Corpse Commander, who had been entangled in battle with them, abandoned their positions and hurried towards the portal.

Although the Corpse Race did not know the purpose of the Nine Provinces squad, with Lu Ye's earlier forceful entry into the secret realm portal and today's high-profile charge by the Nine Provinces squad, it was clear they had a scheme.

So no matter what, they couldn't be allowed to succeed.

Even with the Copper Corpse Commander's demise within ten breaths as a precedent, the Silver Corpse Commander and Iron Corpse Commander didn't dare to sit idly by.

"Stop them!"

Pang Huanyin urgently ordered, stepping in to intercept the two Corpse Commanders, but it was futile.

The Soaring Dragon Ark's array buzzed, a huge light beam shot out towards the two Corpse Commanders, but they evaded it with ease.

With the two Corpse Commanders and numerous Corpse Race members retreating to reinforce their positions, the pressure on the Dao Palace side suddenly dropped.

However, Pang Huanyin's face darkened. She would rather the Dao Palace withstand more pressure than allow the Nine Provinces squad to face unexpected obstacles.

At this moment, the Dao Palace and the cultivators at the stronghold, using the three Soaring Dragon Arks as a barrier, could only hold their ground or retreat. Any thoughts of taking the offensive were merely wishful thinking.

Gazing towards the portal, Pang Huanyin silently prayed for everything to go smoothly, spitting out cold words, "Kill!"

Now, all they could do was kill more Corpse Race members, which would be the best help for the Nine Provinces squad.

Inside the secret realm portal, the squad of eight had just charged in, only to feel even greater pressure than before.

Because the number of Corpse Race members here was far greater than outside, and they had obviously received news from outside and were moving outwards.

When the Nine Provinces squad charged in, they collided head-on with the massive Corpse horde.

Like an indomitable blade, the squad of eight carved a bloody path through the wave-like horde of corpses.

A great malice and ferocious aura revived from deep within the secret realm, and despite the distance, the sharp aura locked onto the squad like a leech.

Each of the eight felt their skin tighten, their expressions solemn.

Though they had easily killed the Copper Corpse Commander together, making them feel that the Corpse Race's elites were not so formidable, this mass of strong presence, nearly solid, clearly belonged to the hidden Golden Corpse King Corpse Fiend!

Judging from the distant aura alone, they knew this entity was as powerful as an Overlord-level Demon General, but how strong it really was could only be known through combat.

The Corpse Fiend's aura alone had not manifested; his numerous underlings made it unnecessary for him to take risks.

The Nine Provinces squad fought their way up to a spirit mountaintop, with Yang Yuan and Giant Armor suddenly halting in their charge.

By the time they fought up to this point, their upper garments had been torn away, revealing their muscular flesh, their breath steaming, blood Qi surging.

Yang Yuan shouted, "Lu Yiye, is this place viable?"

The positioning of the Heaven's Augury Pillar was not random but had certain requirements.

Lu Ye speculated that Nine Provinces cultivators used the Heaven's Augury Pillar to teleport, consuming spirit force, but in the abundant spiritual environment of the Nine Provinces, nobody usually noticed this, so it was overlooked.

But this was the Unparalleled Continent.

Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury needed four Heaven's Augury Pillars to locate the Unparalleled Continent, so the pillars had to be placed in spots with dense Spiritual Energy.

The Four Great Secret Realms were the best choices.

Within the secret realm, the key place was where Earth Veins converged, where Spiritual Energy was most concentrated.

In the Silver Snake Valley, Five Prime City was the center of the secret realm, the station of the Five Great Families, naturally the convergence of Earth Veins.

In Mount Sumeru, the spot Ying Wuji found was the same.

In the Huntian Holy Temple, the core where the Earth Veins converged would be the lair of the Golden Corpse King but breaking into that place wasn't feasible, so they had to settle for the next best thing.

This spot was quite suitable.

"Hold it steady!"

Lu Ye instructed, immediately retrieving the sealed Heaven's Augury Pillar from his storage space, wielding his long blade to dig a hole, and tossing the pillar inside.

As he made this move, countless Corpse Race members swarmed from all directions, in the sky and on the ground, as far as the eye could see.

The Nine Provinces squad instantly felt pressure as heavy as a mountain!

Previously, as the squad moved and attacked, the pressure, though significant, was bearable since the Corpse Race members they faced at any moment were limited, allowing them to manage easily.

But now that they stopped and held their ground, the pressure they bore was incomparable to before.

Fortunately, each member was a top-tier elite chosen by Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury, the strongest among the Nine Provinces' Cloud River Realm cultivators, so even in dire circumstances, they could hold out for a while.

"Lu Yiye, what's happening!" Lui Qing unleashed tremendous magical spells, decimating hordes of Corpse Race members in front of him, without reservation of his spirit force. Seeing no response from Lu Ye, he couldn't help but ask.

Lu Ye didn't respond, nervously keeping his focus on where he had buried the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

Why was there no reaction?

According to his guess, all four Heaven's Augury Pillars needed to be placed in the Four Great Secret Realms. Once the last pillar was set, there should be some reaction.

But in his observation, there was no response from the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

Could he have been wrong?

If so, it would be troublesome.

Just as this thought crossed his mind, a peculiar resonance suddenly emanated from the spot where he had buried the Heaven's Augury Pillar.

In the chaotic environment, had Lu Ye not been focused on the pillar, he might have missed it.

His spirit surged; he realized he had been correct. The Heaven's Augury Pillar needed to be placed in the Four Great Secret Realms, and the response indicated it required... some time!

Another peculiar resonance emanated from the pillar, unnoticed by all, piercing the Void, radiating throughout the Unparalleled Continent, and even into the Void.

At that moment, Silver Snake Valley's Five Prime City, Mount Sumeru's spirit mountaintop where Ying Wuji once stood, and Ziwei Dao Palace's former location where Lu Ye and others resided, all emitted a concealed peculiar resonance.

The immaterial resonance spread like ripples, radiating in all directions, like four resuscitating hearts, birthing something, resonating with each other.

"Hold the line!"

Lu Ye gripped his blade, turned, and charged to fortify the defense.

As his words fell, everyone steeled their resolve. Even though they were exceptional individuals, it wasn't easy to hold this small piece of land in this situation.

Currently, only ordinary Corpse Race members were charging, but the Golden Corpse King's presence still lingered, always lurking, which was the most dangerous threat.

Nobody knew when he would strike, but once he did, it would surely be a thunderous blow.

The initial defensive perimeter of about a hundred feet contracted as time went on, with everyone gradually stepping back, facing a mountain of Corpse Race bodies and the stench of decay permeating the air.

Such brutal combat—instead of Fong Rulie or Ying Wuji—even Lu Ye could not last long. Yang Yuan and Giant Armor's towering bodies trembled under constant attacks, their blood Qi churning.

The Silver and Iron Corpse Commanders had already joined the fray. Knowing the strength of Lu Ye and the others, they avoided direct confrontation, hiding within the corpse horde, striking quickly before retreating, causing great trouble for the Nine Provinces squad.

The resonance from underground continued, unhurriedly, contrasting starkly with the Nine Provinces squad's life-or-death crisis.

Until a certain moment when the resonance suddenly intensified, and as it emerged, the surrounding spiritual energy began to flow backward toward the buried Heaven's Augury Pillar, creating an invisible vortex that voraciously devoured the dense Spiritual Energy of the secret realm.

Meanwhile,

In Silver Snake Valley's Five Prime City, the Five Great Families' strongmen, led by Chu Ruoyu, arrived at the small courtyard where Lu Ye had once stayed.

The abnormality puzzled them; nobody knew what was happening. They only knew that from some time ago, peculiar movements had emanated from here, and now, it was even more exaggerated, as if the entire secret realm's Spiritual Energy was converging and being devoured.

Feeling the massive spiritual drain, the cultivators of the Five Great Families turned pale.

Recalling the immense trouble caused by the foreign guest, an ominous feeling surged in everyone's hearts.

It seemed too coincidental.

This small courtyard was where the foreign guest had stayed. No other place had anomalies, only here.

Although they had sent him away, he had surely left some contingencies behind.

"Do you know what it is?" Chu Ruoyu asked gravely.

Such a clear sign implied that the foreign guest's contingency was extraordinary. Chu Ruoyu, with his experienced insight, sensed extreme unease.

"No idea." Long You of the Long family shook his head.

"Dig it up and we shall see." Wei Family Patriarch Wei Wuguang intervened. Having been captured by Lu Ye was his greatest humiliation, yet Lu Ye's strength terrified him, so he didn't dare to underestimate any contingencies left by him.

Soon, under Chu Ruoyu's order, the area where the abnormality originated was unearthed, revealing a tiny, bizarrely constructed pillar.

Its surface was covered with complex patterns. Although the cultivators present were top-tier members of the Five Great Families, they could only feel that the patterns were extremely intricate, giving a sense of inscrutability.