

Humanity 841

Chapter 841 I Have Connections

A great terror rose silently in his heart. Although it was just a severed palm, when Lu Ye gazed at it, it seemed as if he saw the shadow of its owner through it.

That was an existence he couldn't match at this moment, one that even Divine Sea Realm cultivators could only dream of competing with.

His mind was hit by a huge shock. If not for his strong will, Lu Ye might have lost his fighting spirit in an instant.

He dared not delay any longer, stabilized his mind, and channeled all his spirit force into the long saber in his hand, stabbing straight out!

For a long time, the cultivators of the Unparalleled Continent couldn't understand why such a peculiar race like the Corpse Race would be born in this world.

No one knew the reason, but there must be an origin to things. Before the upheaval, there were no such things as the Corpse Race on the Unparalleled Continent.

Now, the cultivators of the Unparalleled Continent only knew one thing - the Corpse Fiends were the original members of the Corpse Race!

He was originally an ordinary disciple of the Huntian Holy Temple. As a member of the human race, he had no dazzling achievements and his cultivation wasn't high. But after the upheaval, he became a member of the Corpse Race, spreading the corpse disaster from the Huntian Holy Temple to the Unparalleled Continent, leading to the current difficult situation for humanity.

On the way to Mount Sumeru with Pang Huanyin, Lu Ye had discussed many things with Pang Huanyin and Veteran Siao, including the reason why the Corpse Fiend transformed into a member of the Corpse Race. No one could explain how he transformed, perhaps only he himself knew.

But at this moment, when Lu Ye saw the severed palm, a sudden understanding arose in his heart.

This severed palm was the Golden Corpse King's last trump card, and perhaps it was also the root of his transformation into a member of the Corpse Race.

But even the Golden Corpse King wouldn't easily bring out this severed palm. It was the source of his transformation into a member of the Corpse Race, but using it imposed an unimaginable burden on him.

His stiff body and the subtle changes in his hair were the most obvious signs.

If he hadn't been forced into a desperate situation by Lu Ye this time, he wouldn't have acted so rashly.

"Die!"

The Golden Corpse King roared, channeling all his strength into the severed palm, but rather than channeling it, it was more like being devoured.

In just a moment, his already dried-up body became increasingly emaciated.

The originally not-too-large severed palm suddenly expanded in Lu Ye's vision, covering the sky and blocking all light in an instant.

In the mystical void, it seemed as if there really was a gigantic hand being gently pressed down from the Nine Heavens by the Golden Corpse King's movement.

Lu Ye felt like he was carrying a mountain, his bones creaking under the pressure.

Yet just before the Golden Corpse King made his move, Lu Ye's Boulder Mountain Saber had already stabbed out.

The Golden Corpse King's expression froze. In a daze, he saw behind Lu Ye a starry sky filled with twinkling starlight, growing brighter and closer, covering the sky as it approached him.

Only at the last moment did he realize that it wasn't starlight, but streaks of saber light!

Tyrannical Saber 1st Movement, Myriad Stars!

This was the strongest saber technique Lu Ye could currently perform. Coupled with his current Beast Transformation state, he had no idea how destructive it could be.

In an instant, both mortal enemies unleashed their final strikes at each other, seemingly resulting in a mutual destruction.

From the spirit mountaintop nearby, Lan Ziyi's heart leapt to her throat, so tense that her nails dug into her flesh without her realizing.

She marveled at the Golden Corpse King's final bizarre attack and was even more amazed by Lu Ye's strength.

A mere Cloud River Realm cultivator had reached such a state of Intent, a height even many True Lake Realm cultivators couldn't achieve.

She didn't understand Lu Ye's current saber technique, but she could tell it was real saber skills, not just simple tricks.

Only real saber skills could produce such a fierce Saber Intent!

Just as she thought Lu Ye was dead for sure, a burly figure suddenly dashed out, standing in front of Lu Ye.

Giant Armor!

While Lu Ye was chasing the Golden Corpse King, he was also chasing, but to no avail. As a physique cultivator, this wasn't his forte.

Seeing Lu Ye in danger, he immediately flashed to his side.

This was his forte.

He roared to the sky, his spirit force and blood Qi erupted, covering Lu Ye behind him, forming an indestructible barrier against all storms and attacks.

In an instant, his spirit force and Qi rapidly shifted, forming an extremely unique shape that enveloped both himself and Lu Ye.

From a distance, Lan Ziyi was stunned. Was that... the Black Tortoise?

In her vision, it seemed as if her two comrades were being protected by a Black Tortoise Sacred Beast formed of blood Qi and spirit force.

The Golden Corpse King's final strike arrived as expected.

The colossal hand descended magnificently, and Giant Armor's expression became strained. His powers surged violently, and the Black Tortoise Sacred Beast, known for its defense, seemed unable to withstand the attack, its form splintering like a shattered mirror.

It wasn't the Sacred Beast's fault but Giant Armor's low cultivation, unable to fully manifest its power.

In just a breath's time, the Sacred Beast's form almost shattered -- if it did, then not only he but also Lu Ye would be in great peril.

Giant Armor opened his mouth, releasing a round object like a demonic pill.

The demonic pill instantly flew to the heart of the Black Tortoise Sacred Beast, releasing waves of spirit force that stabilized the nearly shattered Sacred Beast form.

The giant hand continued to press down, and the Sacred Beast form, carrying Lu Ye and Giant Armor, was smashed into the ruins below. However, the Sacred Beast form enveloping them did not collapse.

Moments later, the giant hand vanished. Dust clouded the ruins, making it impossible to see.

Lan Ziyi watched unblinkingly, almost forgetting to breathe.

Are they dead?

Or are they still alive?

As she wavered, a figure staggered up from the ruins, covered in blood -- it was Lu Ye.

Even with Giant Armor's last-minute save, he bore some pressure and was gravely injured internally, though it didn't show outside.

Alive!

Lan Ziyi sighed in relief.

But she quickly realized -- why worry about him? They weren't even on the same side, and she had often suffered under his hand. His death should have been a cause for celebration.

In the ruins, Lu Ye looked ahead.

The Golden Corpse King was now a dried-up corpse. Though usually emaciated as a member of the Corpse Race, he now looked like a bundle of bones.

His golden eyes flickered like dying candle flames, filled with complex emotions.

"I am unwilling!"

The Golden Corpse King spoke weakly, barely audible.

Then he roared at Lu Ye: "Why!"

He used his last resort, hoping to die together with Lu Ye, yet the other survived.

It was unbelievable, unacceptable.

Lu Ye's supplies box hummed, a streak of light shot out, pinning the Golden Corpse King's forehead.

It caused no great harm but decapitated him with the force of weapon control.

In the Tyrannical Saber 1st Movement, he was dead the moment Lu Ye unleashed Myriad Stars.

Only his strong will kept him standing.

His head rolled away, eyes wide open, body collapsing.

"I have comrades, you have nothing!"

From the ruins, Lu Ye spoke.

Lan Ziyi almost burst out laughing from afar. Why say such things to the dead?

But she knew it was Lu Ye's habit -- in fights, he said little, leaving words for after the kill.

The source of the Unparalleled Continent's turmoil was eradicated, but the strange severed palm remained.

The Golden Corpse King's ultimate strike, channeled through it, was powerful. Yet now it looked unchanged.

Lu Ye cautiously glanced at it, not daring to inspect it closely. The Golden Corpse King's last transformation suggested it was dangerous and needed careful handling.

He turned to look beside him, where Giant Armor lay spread out, pale as paper, skin covered in fine cracks.

The secret technique he used was powerful defensively but came at a great cost. His demonic pill's energy was drained, and his injuries were severe, though his physique ensured he wasn't in mortal danger.

Feeling Lu Ye's gaze, Giant Armor grinned, eyes bright.

After over a year, he could finally fight alongside Lu Ye again, providing strong protection, recalling their battles in the Spirit Stream battlefield.

But since his forced advance to the Cloud River Realm and early arrival at the Cloud River battlefield, such chances were rare.

Giant Armor cherished those days.

He remembered Feng Yuechan's teachings in the spirit ground -- since Lu Ye moved fast, he too needed to cultivate hard for more chances to fight together.

Lan Ziyi floated back, glanced at Giant Armor and Lu Ye, and said, "I've sent word to Hua Ci, she'll be here soon."

Lu Ye nodded, sat beside Giant Armor on a broken stone, like a hen guarding a wounded chick.

Lan Ziyi couldn't help but roll her eyes, looking at the severed palm, asking, "What to do with this thing?"

Lu Ye was checking his battlefield marking.

The battle merit from killing the Golden Corpse King was astonishingly high.

Chapter 842 Passion Overflowing

Earlier, three people killed an Iron Corpse Commander, and Lu Ye received over ten thousand points of battle merit, barely enough to exchange for a gold-hued spirit fortune stick.

Judging from the gains from killing the Iron Corpse Commander, the battle merit earned from killing the Golden Corpse King, even if substantial, should only amount to tens of thousands.

But in truth, this was not the case.

The reward for killing the Golden Corpse King far exceeded expectations.

This must have something to do with the fact that the Golden Corpse King was the origin of the corpse plague on the Unparalleled Continent. Eliminating the Golden Corpse King cleared the biggest obstacle to eradicating the corpse plague, making subsequent tasks much simpler.

The Nine Provinces cultivators, like fierce wolves and tigers, continuously arrived in waves, presumably it wouldn't be long before the entire Unparalleled Continent was purged of the Corpse Race.

The thousand-year wish of the Ziwei Dao Palace could finally be realized.

Upon hearing Lan Ziyi's query, Lu Ye didn't even look up: "If you want it, take it."

Lan Ziyi decisively refused: "No thanks!"

With her eyesight, she naturally could see the extraordinary nature of the severed palm, but though the item was good, one needed the capability to wield it. The final tragic state of the Golden Corpse King was still fresh in her memory; how could she not know that this item was beyond her current ability to control.

The fierce battle here had already attracted many Nine Provinces cultivators nearby to investigate, but until the dust settled, no one dared to approach due to the terrifying aftermath of the fight.

Now that the battle had ended, many people showed up, but only observed from a distance, not daring to come closer.

Lu Ye continued to investigate his battlefield marking, finding several messages remaining within.

Upon a brief inspection, he discovered they were messages from his fourth senior brother.

After some exchange, Lu Ye found out that Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan also arrived on the Unparalleled Continent!

Considering it, it wasn't surprising. The Great Reversal Valley Spirit Ground had Heaven's Augury Pillars, and having them naturally connected to the Unparalleled Continent.

This time on the Cloud River battlefield, nearly all the locations with Heaven's Augury Pillars had their portals to the Unparalleled Continent opened, facilitating Nine Provinces cultivators to enter and eradicate the Corpse Race.

However, Li Baxian currently only knew he was near the Ziwei Dao Palace, but couldn't specify his exact location. He was utterly unfamiliar with the Unparalleled Continent, suddenly arriving here, how could

he know where he was, and it was a prime time to kill the Corpse Race and earn battle merits, leaving little time for intelligence gathering.

Fourth senior brother in the Ziwei Dao Palace? Lu Ye found it curious.

But soon, he thought of something and felt relieved.

While communicating with Li Baxian, a sword cry, like thunder, quickly approached from afar, arriving in the blink of an eye.

As the sword light dissipated, two figures appeared.

One was Muk Qingyun, the other was Hua Ci.

Upon receiving Lan Ziyi's call for help, Hua Ci immediately set out, but as a healing cultivator traveling alone would face many inconveniences, Muk Qingyun took the initiative to escort her. As a sword cultivator, his speed was undoubtedly fast, arriving just in time with Hua Ci.

"Why are you so badly injured again?"

Seeing the disheveled Lu Ye, Hua Ci hurriedly approached to check his wounds.

"Inspect Giant Armor first, I'm not seriously hurt." Lu Ye pointed to Giant Armor lying beside them.

Hua Ci nodded and went to Giant Armor, checking him and channeling spirit force to heal him.

"You guys... killed the Golden Corpse King?" Muk Qingyun glanced at the remnants of the battlefield and the body with severed parts, realizing it belatedly.

Although he didn't personally participate, judging by the injuries of the three and the traces left on the battlefield, it was clear this had been a tough battle.

He couldn't help but feel a bit regretful, missing out on such a grand occasion was a real pity.

But he had been poisoned by Primordial Corpse Poison earlier, urgently needing Hua Ci to detoxify him, which left no alternative, it was simply unfortunate timing.

While they were busy, many Corpse Race members were fleeing in panic inside and outside the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm, relentlessly pursued by Nine Provinces cultivators along with Dao Palace and stronghold cultivators.

Huntian Holy Temple was the Corpse Race's largest stronghold on the Unparalleled Continent, where the Golden Corpse King had long been slumbering, with three major Corpse Commanders constantly by his side.

Now that the Golden Corpse King was slain and the three major Corpse Commanders successively eliminated, although there were still some powerful entities among the remaining ordinary Corpse Race, they were unlikely to make any significant waves and would be hunted down soon enough.

On the battlefield where the Dao Palace was located, a solitary Soaring Dragon Ark hovered in the sky, the weak-breathing Pang Huanyin silently recovering while gazing at the spectacular battlefield below, lost in rapture.

During the previous fierce battle, she had almost drained herself completely, exterminating more Corpse Race members than she had ever killed before.

Now, though she still had the desire to kill more enemies, she lacked the strength, so she could only rest and recover.

Veteran Siao wasn't much better off than she was, the old and young duo watched the battle below, their expressions weary but their eyes brimming with delight.

For they finally saw the day when the corpse plague would be purged, and the millennia of persistence and effort from Ziwei Dao Palace finally bore meaning.

At this moment, there were still scattered Nine Provinces cultivators emerging from various portals, joining the ranks to hunt down the Corpse Race.

Veteran Siao was somewhat curious: "Palace Master, these guests from the Nine Provinces seem to be very enthusiastic about exterminating the Corpse Race. Did they encounter the corpse plague before as well?"

Enthusiastic was an understatement, they were overflowing with passion!

When the Nine Provinces cultivators first stepped into this realm, there had been considerable casualties and deaths, but these setbacks did not diminish their determination and zeal to kill the enemies.

From Siao's perspective, these Nine Provinces cultivators appeared to have a deep-rooted hatred for the Corpse Race, determined to obliterate them completely.

As a result, the main force fighting the enemies now consisted of these visiting guests, while the native Dao Palace and stronghold cultivators became secondary.

If any Corpse Race tried to escape, those Nine Provinces cultivators would relentlessly pursue them far and wide.

"Not really, but apparently, they can earn something called battle merits by killing the Corpse Race," Pang Huanyin explained, having heard this from Hua Ci not long ago.

Observing the battlefield below earlier, Pang Huanyin noticed that despite the significant number of Nine Provinces cultivators, they mostly formed teams of varying sizes, failing to establish a proper army. She worried that this lack of formation might cause their morale to shatter during major setbacks or when facing formidable enemies, leading to disastrous consequences.

But Hua Ci reassured her that even if the Nine Provinces cultivators didn't form a battle array, they wouldn't suffer large-scale retreats when faced with the Corpse Race, driven by the incentive of battle merits, which was the most effective motivation.

"Battle merits?" Veteran Siao queried, puzzled.

"Nine Provinces cultivators seem to be able to exchange battle merits for various cultivation resources. In short, these Corpse Race members are valuable prey to them."

Veteran Siao vaguely understood: "So that's how it is!"

Across the entire Unparalleled Continent, Huntian Holy Temple's vicinity was undoubtedly the busiest. This was the Corpse Race's stronghold, housing large numbers of them, and the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury had opened the most portals here, sending the highest number of cultivators, resulting in a fiercely fought battle.

But the other three human race secret realms were not quiet either.

The four Heaven's Augury Pillars planted by Lu Ye absorbed the Earth Vein's power, standing tall and triggering a depletion of Earth Vein energy, fully exposing the three major human race secret realms that could no longer drift hidden in the Void.

As the portals opened, the cultivators of Silver Snake Valley and Mount Sumeru were in a panic due to the unprecedented event of portals opening in a thousand years.

The secret realm drifting in the Void had been their foundation for stable existence all these years. With the secret realm now manifesting and the portals open, they had lost their former reliance.

One could imagine the ensuing chaos.

The portals' manifestations clearly attracted nearby Corpse Race members, forcing the Silver Snake Valley and Mount Sumeru cultivators to confront the enemies.

As Lu Ye had previously thought, the situation forced both groups to reluctantly join the fight against the Corpse Race eventually.

As for the situation at the Ziwei Dao Palace...

...it was even worse.

Silver Snake Valley and Mount Sumeru had a stable foundation. Facing the Corpse Race attacking from all directions, their cultivators only needed to guard the portals, maintaining significant defensive capabilities.

But on the Ziwei Dao Palace side, it was different.

Earlier, Pang Huanyin had taken all the capable forces of the Dao Palace out, leaving behind only the old, weak, sickly, and ordinary people with no cultivation ability.

How could they withstand such a disaster?

If the Corpse Race broke through, everyone left in the Dao Palace would die.

At this critical moment, portals with flowing light suddenly opened near the Dao Palace secret realm. Although the number of portals was fewer than at Huntian Holy Temple, the cultivators emerging from them were still many.

Each cultivator, upon stepping into this realm, had a message explode deep in their consciousness, filling them with an understanding.

Protect the Ziwei Dao Palace!

Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan were among this batch of people, explaining Li Baxian's mention of the Ziwei Dao Palace to Lu Ye, the only information he currently had about this world.

He considered contacting Lu Ye not because he knew Lu Ye was in the Unparalleled Continent, but thinking that Lu Ye would likely be involved in such a grand event wherever he was.

Little did he know, this grand event was led by none other than Lu Ye and the nine others.

Inside the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm.

Hua Ci finished treating Giant Armor and Lu Ye's wounds, then detoxified Lan Ziyi of the Primordial Corpse Poison, finally concluding her tasks.

Without lingering much longer, she quickly left under Muk Qingyun's protection.

For her, being the sole healer able to cure the Primordial Corpse Poison, her presence had quickly spread among Nine Provinces cultivators.

During the intense battles, many cultivators were infected by the Primordial Corpse Poison, heading to Dao Palace's Soaring Dragon Ark to seek her detoxification services.

For Hua Ci, it was certainly a case of welcoming all comers.

Chapter 843 The Overall Situation is Set

While detoxifying for others, Hua Ci was also cultivating, and furthermore, she could obtain a certain amount of battle merit. Such a good fortune, among all Nine Provinces cultivators, Hua Ci was the only one.

The Nine Provinces cultivators had only arrived at the Unparalleled Mainland for a single day, and the foundation of the Corpse Race in the Divine Heaven Temple was destroyed. Seventy percent of the Corpse Race were killed, the remaining thirty percent fled in disarray, and the Nine Provinces cultivators scattered to hunt them down.

War instantly ignited the entire Unparalleled Mainland. Under the raging flames, the day of Nirvana and rebirth for the Unparalleled Mainland was not far away.

The clamour within the Divine Heaven Temple was no more. Amid the ruins of the battlefield, only Lu Ye and Giant Armor remained.

Lan Ziyi had already left.

She and Lu Ye were not from the same path. Previously, they had cooperated out of necessity, but now that matters had settled, there was no need for her to stay.

Lu Ye and Giant Armor stayed here for two reasons: one was to heal their wounds. Both were heavily injured in the previous great battle with the Golden Corpse King, even with Hua Ci's treatment and their strong physiques, it would not be a matter of one or two days to fully recover.

The second reason was to guard the severed palm.

This object was bizarre and might be the source of the plague of the undead.

To prevent any unwise Nine Provinces cultivators from eyeing it, Lu Ye stayed here. However, he also didn't know how to deal with it.

After pondering, bringing it back to the Nine Provinces and letting the sect master seal it might be the best approach.

This item, only a strong cultivator of the Divine Sea Realm would have the qualification to seal it.

From afar, a familiar aura quickly approached. Lu Ye, who was recuperating, looked up to see a flying spirit artifact resembling a flower basket flying steadily towards them.

Hua Ci leaped down from the basket and collected her flying spirit artifact as she landed.

"How's the injury?" She asked while coming forward to inspect.

After toiling for a day and night, she finally had some free time, yet she did not show any signs of fatigue, appearing spirited and energetic.

After checking Lu Ye, she then examined Giant Armor and nodded slightly, "You young lads are strong and healthy; it's nothing serious anymore, just ensure you rest for a few days."

It was unmistakably the tone of an old lady... This woman was accustomed to acting mischievous, Lu Ye was long used to it.

She continued, "Palace Master Pang asked me to pass a message. There's some issue at Ziwei Dao Palace, she went ahead and once things here are settled, you must go to the Dao Palace; she wants to thank you personally."

"Understood." Lu Ye nodded, he happened to need to go to the Dao Palace too, his Fourth Senior Brother and Feng Yuechan were there, he needed to meet up with them.

Hua Ci smiled wickedly at Lu Ye, "Such a big favor, perhaps she wants to offer herself to you, no wonder your horoscope today shows romance, you're going to be happy soon. Congratulations in advance."

Saying this, she moved to the side.

Lu Ye initially didn't want to pay her any mind, but suddenly realized something amiss and promptly raised his hand, "Wait..."

Before he could finish, he watched in shock as Hua Ci picked up the severed palm from the ground. Hearing Lu Ye's voice, she tilted her head, puzzled, "What?"

"Nothing..." Lu Ye frowned, "Don't you feel anything strange?"

"What strange feeling?" Hua Ci was even more confused.

Lu Ye's eyes fixed on the severed palm in her hand, "This thing should be the source of the plague of the undead in this realm, what do you plan to do with it?"

"Refine it, of course." Hua Ci replied naturally, "I sensed it yesterday when I came over, this item... is a great supplement!"

As she said this, she licked her red lips with her scarlet tongue, exhibiting a sinister yet enticing look.

A chill ran down Lu Ye's spine, his face changing color.

Hua Ci laughed exuberantly, "Don't worry, it's not what you think. This thing contains highly toxic poison, ordinary people might not be able to touch it, but it's very useful for me."

Lu Ye still reminded cautiously, "Be careful, this thing is very strange."

A severed palm can ignite a thousand-year war in this broken Unparalleled Mainland, making it hard to imagine the cultivation of its owner.

"I know." Hua Ci responded and casually stored it in her storage sack.

With Hua Ci taking the severed palm, Lu Ye no longer needed to stay any longer. The battle at the Divine Heaven Temple had settled, there was no trace of the Corpse Race left.

The three immediately set off, leaving the Divine Heaven Temple.

Along the way, they occasionally saw figures of Nine Provinces cultivators flying back and forth or scenes of Corpse Race being chased and killed.

For a thousand years, this broken world had been the domain of the Corpse Race. Even those humans from the three major secret realms dared not to venture outside carelessly, always cautious and fearful. Especially humans in various outposts, many ordinary people had never left their outposts from birth to death, spending their entire lives confined in dark environments.

Even cultivators seeking resources had to bear great risks. It might end in encounters with the Corpse Race and result in no return.

Over the years, the population of humans in the Unparalleled Mainland drastically declined, not even a fraction of what it was a thousand years ago.

Until today, the Corpse Race, which had dominated the realm for a millennium, was fleeing like beaten dogs under the pursuit of Nine Provinces cultivators. Those outpost cultivators who received the news quickly joined the fray. Throughout the domain, the Corpse Race was being chased down everywhere.

The situation looked promising. If this trend continued, the plague of the undead could be completely eradicated soon, and this realm would return to human hands.

The notion of restoring order, clearing the source, and returning the world to its rightful state, which Ziwei Dao Palace longed for, was not far away.

Half a day later, when Lu Ye, Hua Ci, and Giant Armor arrived at the location of the Huntian Holy Temple Secret Realm, they saw the remnants of the great battle outside the secret realm's portal.

Dao Palace cultivators were cleaning up the battlefield and the remains of the Corpse Race.

Upon seeing Lu Ye's figure, they all greeted him.

Among the natives, Dao Palace cultivators were the first to know about the current situation of the Unparalleled Mainland. They also learned about the Nine Provinces, such a mystical domain.

For those Nine Provinces cultivators who assisted in eliminating the plague of the undead in Unparalleled Mainland, Dao Palace cultivators naturally felt admiration and gratitude, especially towards Lu Ye and others. As the senior brother of the Nine Provinces scouting squad, his role in this incident was unparalleled.

"Lu... Senior Brother Lu!"

A timid voice sounded nearby.

Lu Ye turned his head in slight surprise, "You're here too?"

Calling him was Yuan Xiang, the first human cultivator Lu Ye and Ying Wuji contacted upon arriving in this realm.

Previously, when the entire Dao Palace mobilized to distract the Corpse Race for the Nine Provinces squad, the Silver Snake Valley and Mount Sumeru remained inactive, but many outpost cultivators rushed to support.

In that battle, if not for the numerous outpost cultivators risking their lives, Dao Palace alone might not have held out for long.

The outpost Yuan Xiang belonged to sent over a dozen people. After Dao Palace cultivators, led by Palace Master Pang, retreated from the Divine Heaven Temple, most outpost cultivators dispersed, but some followed to the Ziwei Dao Palace to witness the grandeur of the human's three major secret realms.

"Yes." Yuan Xiang nodded heavily, raising her hand to point beside her, "The leader brought us here."

"Young Friend, we meet again." A rough figure, Zui Shan, approached with a smile, looking at Lu Ye. He seemed slightly injured but not seriously.

"Senior Zui Shan." Lu Ye greeted.

Zui Shan quickly supported him, "Young Friend, no need to be so polite. This matter concerning the Unparalleled Mainland is much thanks to you. Without you, we wouldn't know where the Unparalleled human race would end up. To us, you have the grace of rebuilding."

From his words, he evidently knew about Lu Ye and the Nine Provinces cultivators.

"Senior exaggerates. As fellow humans, it's the least we can do."

Zui Shan nodded, "Young Friend should go and rest, your injuries are not minor."

"Thanks, I'll take my leave first."

Watching Lu Ye's departing figure, Yuan Xiang's expression was complex.

Zui Shan seemingly understood something, sighed, and said, "Once the plague is gone, cultivate well. You are from different worlds, don't think too much."

At Yuan Xiang's age, she was at the phase of longing for romance. There weren't many peers in the outpost, and those few lads were not worthy. How could they be a match for her?

Yuan Xiang herself hadn't interacted with many peers.

Seeing someone as outstanding as Lu Ye, it was natural she would be attracted.

Not just Yuan Xiang, even Palace Master Pang probably held similar feelings. Zui Shan remembered clearly that when the news came through the audio transmission stone about Young Friend Lu needing treatment after being injured, Palace Master Pang, who remained calm before the massive Corpse Race, had her face change dramatically.

If not for the dire circumstances, she might have personally gone to check on him.

From Zui Shan's perspective, Lu Ye hailed from the mysterious world of the Nine Provinces, possessing immense talent and power despite his young age. He was like a divine dragon soaring across the Nine Heavens, while Yuan Xiang, with her average aptitude from Unparalleled Mainland, was merely a mudfish in the pond.

There was no chance of achieving anything, and even if his words were cruel, Zui Shan had to say them, cutting off Yuan Xiang's budding thoughts.

"Yes." Yuan Xiang lowered her head, looking a bit despondent.

"I didn't expect you to be so popular." On the flower basket, Hua Ci poked Lu Ye's waist teasingly.

"What now?" Lu Ye responded wearily.

"Hmph!" Hua Ci turned her head away, ignoring him.

Giant Armor observed silently, feeling disheartened. His backup power in the demonic pill was nearly depleted after the battle with the Golden Corpse King. Thankfully, he obtained considerable battle merits, which he could replenish soon.

The Dao Palace was peaceful, with no signs of battle.

When the Dao Palace portal appeared and attracted nearby Corpse Race, some Nine Provinces cultivators had already crossed over. Those Corpse Race members were slaughtered even before entering the Dao Palace.

Chapter 844 The Tiger Smells the Rose

The number of Corpse Race creatures attracted to Ziwei Dao Palace was ultimately not comparable to those at Huntian Holy Temple, not too many, so even though there weren't many Nine Provinces cultivators appearing here, they could still easily resolve the situation.

Lu Ye looked around but didn't find the figures of Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan. He sent a message to inquire and learned that the two had already left the vicinity of the Dao Palace and joined other squads to hunt the Corpse Race.

Informing his Fourth Senior Brother that he and Giant Armor had returned to Ziwei Dao Palace, he then ended the transmission.

Hunting the Corpse Race was the current state of affairs for the Nine Provinces cultivators. Such easy opportunities to earn battle merit were rare, and the cultivators naturally cherished them.

If Lu Ye didn't need to recuperate, he wouldn't have missed this opportunity either.

However, one reason was that his injuries hadn't healed yet, and another was that he had already gained enough benefits and didn't need to scramble for those small profits anymore.

Moreover, with so many cultivators from the Nine Provinces arriving this time, even if he went hunting, he might not gain much. It was better to rest and recover.

Just as he returned to the small courtyard where everyone had previously resided, Pang Huanyin arrived upon hearing the news.

"How are your injuries?" she asked with concern.

Since the start of this action, the Dao Palace cultivators under her command had been acting separately from Lu Ye and his group, and they hadn't had a chance to meet. Originally, she planned to personally check on Lu Ye's injuries once the situation stabilized, but she received news of an incident at Ziwei Dao Palace and rushed back immediately.

"It's nothing serious. Hua Ci has already treated me. I just need to rest for a few days," Lu Ye replied.

Pang Huanyin finally felt relieved and said, "That's good to hear!"

Her expression turned solemn as she stepped back and bowed deeply to Lu Ye. "This time, Unparalleled Continent was saved from disaster thanks to Senior Brother's efforts. Huanyin thanks you on behalf of Ziwei Dao Palace and the Unparalleled human race."

"Palace Master, there's no need for this. We also gained something from this," Lu Ye stated from his and everyone's perspective. Coming to Unparalleled Continent was guided by Heaven's Augury, seen as a journey of training. During this process, they had already gained significant benefits.

As for helping to eliminate the Corpse Race disaster from Unparalleled Continent, it was just part of their training.

Pang Huanyin shook her head. "That's true, but without you all, the Unparalleled human race would never see the light of day. We will remember this kindness, and Ziwei Dao Palace will never forget."

Lu Ye said nothing.

"Please rest and heal, Senior Brother. Once you recover, I'll host a banquet to thank all of you," Pang Huanyin said before leaving quickly, clearly burdened with many mundane affairs.

Lu Ye headed towards his room, with Hua Ci following beside him, speaking softly, "Senior Brother, you must rest well. If you feel any discomfort, remember to call me!"

"I know."

"Also, for the next few days, don't use your spirit force casually. Your body is strong, but you have considerable internal injuries this time. Forcing your spirit force might aggravate your injuries."

"Understood."

"Are you going to rest now? I'll open the door for you!"

Lu Ye paused, raised one hand, and knocked it on her head, then clenched his fist and drilled it into her temple.

"What's your problem!"

She used to call me 'Yiye' and now she's calling me 'Senior Brother.' She never called me those random things before.

"It hurts, it hurts..." Hua Ci dodged, holding her head with both hands, biting her lip. "What, others can call you that, but I can't?"

"Call me that one more time." Lu Ye stepped towards her relentlessly.

Hua Ci kept retreating, her face turning pale.

Giant Armor sighed, took big strides towards his room, and closed the door.

The world turned quiet...

A moment later, in the room, Lu Ye sat cross-legged as laughter and chatter emerged from the room next door. Hua Ci and Yiyi seemed to be chatting about something.

Recently, due to the presence of outsiders around Lu Ye, Yiyi had rarely shown herself.

She never revealed herself easily in front of outsiders, so up until now, only a few of Lu Ye's closest individuals knew of her existence.

This made it easier for her to act in secret. After all, who would expect such a being as a minion spirit to exist and follow Lu Ye closely?

Ignoring the noise, Lu Ye focused his mind on syncing with the Origin of Soaring Dragon World.

In this current situation, returning to the Nine Provinces anytime soon seemed impossible, and hunting the Corpse Race was out of the question. As for cultivation, it could wait. He might as well use this free time to sync with the Origin.

The Origin of Soaring Dragon World was a huge undeveloped treasure trove. Lu Ye had harvested plenty from it, but so far, he still hadn't synced with a master of saber skills as he had hoped.

He couldn't figure out what went wrong.

Under the syncing of the Origin, starlight exploded like Myriad Stars in his mind. Without much thought, he chose one of the brighter stars nearby and immersed his mind in it, witnessing the life of its owner.

The Ziwei Dao Palace had become bustling lately.

Cultivators from the Nine Provinces were arriving from all directions.

For one reason, they all wanted to use the Ziwei Dao Palace as a passage to return to the Nine Provinces.

When these cultivators arrived, they used the portals linked by the Heaven's Augury Pillars from various branches of the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union to Unparalleled Continent. But those portals couldn't be kept open indefinitely as maintaining them consumed Heaven and Earth spirit force over time.

After a short while of the Nine Provinces cultivators arriving at Unparalleled Continent, all the portals vanished simultaneously.

However, the cultivators didn't worry too much because wherever there were Heaven's Augury Pillars, there was a way home.

Moreover, the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury left guidance for almost every cultivator.

Within a specific time frame, they could pass through Ziwei Dao Palace. At that time, the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury would open a portal at the Heaven's Augury Pillar on the other side, allowing these Nine Provinces visitors to return to the Cloud River battlefield.

As time passed, more and more cultivators arrived at Ziwei Dao Palace.

The attitude of the people at Ziwei Dao Palace towards these Nine Provinces arrivals was extremely warm. After all, they had come across worlds to help Unparalleled Continent solve a massive problem, freeing the Unparalleled human race from hiding and surviving in misery.

So, the Ziwei Dao Palace not only didn't limit the Nine Provinces cultivators from entering its secret realm, but even within the secret realm, except for some forbidden lands, the Nine Provinces cultivators could roam freely.

However, troubles soon arose.

The Ziwei Dao Palace soon discovered a situation.

These cultivators from the Nine Provinces... didn't seem to be from the same faction.

They seemed to belong to two opposing camps. Previously, when the Corpse Race was rampant, they ignored each other and focused entirely on dealing with the Corpse Race to earn battle merits.

Now that the Corpse Race on Unparalleled Continent was almost wiped out, the Nine Provinces cultivators were suddenly idle, and conflicts erupted.

Especially since the number of Nine Provinces cultivators arriving at Unparalleled Continent this time was enormous, even if most cultivators could abide by the rules, it only takes one bad apple to cause total chaos. If there could be an organization like the Pure Land in such a harsh environment as Unparalleled Continent, then Nine Provinces was certainly no exception.

The initial cause of the conflict was no longer traceable. It might have started because two cultivators disliked each other. Small conflicts escalated into major ones, and the situation turned increasingly tense.

Each side called for reinforcements, resulting in a massive standoff in front of the gateways of Ziwei Dao Palace. As things progressed to this extent, it resembled a full-blown confrontation between two giant factions. Unchecked, it could lead to extremely tragic casualties.

Never had any secret realm gathered such a large number of Nine Provinces cultivators, nor had there ever been a situation involving so many Cloud River Realm cultivators.

When Pang Huanyin led her people to investigate, she quickly realized that the situation had gone beyond her control.

Not to mention that she wasn't a Nine Provinces cultivator; even if she were, she wouldn't have the authority to handle such matters.

"Quickly, go get Senior Brother Lu!" Pang Huanyin immediately ordered her subordinate.

The cultivator was puzzled for a moment. "Which Senior Brother Lu?"

Hadn't heard you mention any Senior Brother before?

"Lu Yiye!" Pang Huanyin's face blushed slightly.

The cultivator understood and immediately returned to the secret realm.

At this time, on the spirit mountaintop, in the room, Lu Ye opened his eyes, looking dejected.

In a few days, he had made some progress syncing with the Origin, but it seemed like he hadn't achieved much. The master of saber skills he dreamed of still hadn't appeared. Instead, he saw several other cultivators from different factions.

The commotion outside didn't affect this place, as there were always Dao Palace cultivators guarding around the spirit mountaintop. Pang Huanyin had turned this place into a forbidden land.

Any Nine Provinces cultivators approaching would be informed that this was the recuperation spot for Lu Yiye and Hua Ci.

The presence of Lu alone was deterrent enough, not to mention Hua Ci.

In terms of who gained the most benefits during this Unparalleled Continent journey, it had to be Lu Ye, as his battle merits were unparalleled by any others.

But if we talk about who gained the most fame, it had to be Hua Ci.

As the only healing cultivator who could cure the Primordial Corpse Poison on the battlefield, countless Nine Provinces cultivators owed her their lives. Her name spread by word of mouth, and almost all Nine Provinces cultivators had heard of Hua Ci.

These two, one a ruthless killer, the other a healer, had their recuperation spot. Who dared to disturb them?

However, people were intrigued that these two were living on the same spirit mountaintop. Perhaps Lu Yiye had also contracted the Primordial Corpse Poison and was holding Hua Ci there to heal him.

The mere thought of that gentle woman falling into the hands of Lu Yiye... the imagery was unimaginable, like a fierce tiger sniffing at a delicate rose.

Many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators felt heartbroken.

The cultivator sent by Pang Huanyin rushed to the spot, and Hua Ci greeted him. After hearing about the external situation, she frowned.

"Lu Ye should still be recuperating."

She hadn't seen Lu Ye since they returned, so she didn't know how his recovery was going and didn't dare to disturb him rashly.

"What do we do now?" The cultivator was anxious. From the Ziwei Dao Palace's perspective, these Nine Provinces cultivators were the benefactors of Unparalleled Continent. They didn't want clashes over past grudges.

Chapter 845 Stars Surrounding the Moon

The two were conversing when suddenly the door beside them was pushed open, and Lu Ye stepped out from within.

The cultivator was overjoyed and hurriedly went to greet him.

"I understand. I'll go have a look."

As he spoke, Lu Ye soared into the sky and headed towards the portal of the Dao Palace.

Outside the portal, a large number of cultivators had gathered. The two camps were at daggers drawn, clearly divided, and the atmosphere was chilling. The number of cultivators gathered here was already considerable, and more kept arriving from elsewhere to join the standoff.

A group of Ziwei Dao Palace cultivators, led by Pang Huanyin, stood to one side, earnestly trying to persuade the crowd, but to no avail.

Faced with the Corpse Race, these people could remain composed and fearless, but against these cultivators who had just saved the Unparalleled Continent, the Ziwei Dao Palace was at a loss.

Once a confrontation of such scale breaks out, it would be more than just a few casualties; even the entire Ziwei Dao Palace might get involved.

Fortunately, though the guests from the Nine Provinces were arguing fiercely, they still retained basic sanity and had not truly started fighting.

But if not resolved in time, the situation would inevitably escalate into a full-blown fight.

Pang Huanyin kept looking towards the portal, and only when a familiar fiery figure burst out did she breathe a long sigh of relief.

The moment the fiery figure appeared, it swiftly cut through the air and landed right between the two camps of cultivators, revealing itself.

This grand entrance naturally attracted the attention of numerous cultivators. As many looked up and recognized Lu Ye, they fell silent.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, in particular, had serious expressions, some even eager to try their luck.

Compared to the Haotian Alliance, Lu Ye was much more renowned among the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Among Cloud River Realm cultivators, at least five out of ten had seen his image, and even those who hadn't had heard of his name.

In the past year, the most renowned name on the Cloud River battlefield had been Lu Yiye from the Righteous Blood Sect.

He had single-handedly slain two thousand enemies, an unprecedented feat in the history of the Cloud River Realm.

Moreover, he had claimed the top spot in the Cloud River Tournament with just Level 8 cultivation.

The chaotic scene gradually calmed as if an invisible hand had swept away the noise.

All eyes focused on the young man standing in the void, resting his hand on his sword. Though he did not exude any aura, he instantly became the center of attention.

Pang Huanyin's eyes gleamed with admiration.

In the midst of the silence, Lu Ye slowly spoke, "You all must have gained plenty of benefits here. Surely, no one wants to die meaninglessly, right? If you really want to fight, do it back in the Nine Provinces. At least there, you won't end up dying in a foreign land!"

He shifted his gaze towards a spot within the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge camp, "Ying Wuji, what do you say?"

Hidden within the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge camp, Ying Wuji felt as bitter as if he'd swallowed gall.

Since arriving on this Unparalleled Continent, he hadn't been able to escape Lu Yiye. Despite hiding well, he was still spotted. Was Lu Yiye just out to get him?

Though he silently complained, he couldn't show any emotion on the surface. He knew Lu Ye's strength better than anyone. If a battle broke out, he wasn't sure about other Haotian Alliance cultivators, but Lu Yiye would definitely survive, and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side would suffer heavy casualties—including himself.

The fact that Lu Ye called him out first was a clear indication that he wanted him to step forward and help mediate. Having worked with Lu Ye for so long, Ying Wuji understood his intentions.

So he immediately stepped forward, joining Lu Ye's side, and addressed the massive crowd, "Fellow Daoist Lu is right. The grievances between the two camps in the Nine Provinces have built up over a long time. If you need to vent, there's no rush. Please calm your anger and wait until we return to the Nine Provinces. Since we've reaped benefits, we should convert them to our strength! If anyone insists on fighting, whether you're from the Haotian Alliance or the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, I, Ying Wuji, will be the first to oppose it!"

Being the Sixteenth in Cloud River had its weight, especially considering Ying Wuji was a Ghost Cultivator. Being targeted by someone like him was a nightmare.

"Beixuan Sword Sect, Muk Qingyun won't agree either!"

The sound of swords resonated as a flying sword arrived, revealing Muk Qingyun's slender figure. Sharp Sword Intent filled the air, slicing through the void, accompanied by flying swords ready to strike at any moment.

Another tall figure silently joined Lu Ye's side. Her face was stunning, and she wore a fitted purple dress. She said nothing, but the faint smile on her lips made many people's hearts race.

"Cloud River's second rank, Lan Ziyi!" someone exclaimed.

As one of the few female cultivators in the top ten of the Cloud River Tournament, and ranked second, Lan Ziyi's name was well-known. Even if she was previously unknown, the tournament had made her famous throughout the Cloud River battlefield.

"I, Lui Qing, won't agree either." Lui Qing said with a smile, joining Lu Ye's right side.

"And here comes Fong Rulie!" Fong Rulie appeared with a spear over his shoulder, looking down at the crowd with a playful gaze.

Another robust cultivator silently stepped forward, standing next to Fong Rulie. His rough attire couldn't conceal his burly frame, and through the openings in his clothing, one could see the numerous, yet-to-heal wounds on his body.

"Cloud River's first, Lu Yiye of the Righteous Blood Sect."

"Cloud River's second, Lan Ziyi of the Endless Island."

"Muk Qingyun of the Beixuan Sword Sect."

"Lui Qing of the Myriad Magic Pavilion."

"Yang Yuan of the Jingkong Mountain."

"Fong Rulie of the Soaring Cloud Sect."

"Ying Wuji of the Senluo Hall."

Low murmurs spread through the crowd as they realized that six out of the top ten from the Cloud River Tournament were present!

Even though Ying Wuji was not in the top ten, as a Ghost Cultivator, his threat in life-and-death combat could surpass those ranked higher.

So, despite there being only seven figures, their presence brought an unimaginable deterrent and oppression to the Nine Provinces cultivators.

Some keen observers noticed a startling detail: the seven stood in the air, Lu Ye in the center, three on each side.

Neither Muk Qingyun from the Haotian Alliance nor the others from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge stood beside Lu Ye but slightly behind him.

It was clearly a scene where stars revolved around the moon.

Muk Qingyun was from the Haotian Alliance and Bingzhou, so it made sense. But the others were all from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Why give Lu Ye this face?

These people were unparalleled prodigies, representing the pinnacle of this generation's Cloud River Realm. They shouldn't be overshadowed by anyone of their era.

Yet, the scene was precisely this.

Terrifying to think about!

As the seven gathered, the once tense atmosphere vanished completely.

Suddenly, an intense surge of Heaven and Earth spirit force erupted from an unknown source, startling everyone momentarily. But upon identifying the origin, the Nine Provinces cultivators relaxed.

A massive portal was forming gradually as Spiritual Energy gathered around.

This was clearly the Nine Provinces opening the return passage.

The timing seemed a bit ahead of schedule, but it was a welcome relief for the Nine Provinces cultivators.

With the present circumstances, a fight was unlikely. Both sides understood that such a massive standoff would result in significant casualties, so many had been restraining themselves.

Now, with Lu Ye and the others stepping forward and the Nine Provinces opening the portal, they could graciously disengage.

"We're going home!" someone in the crowd shouted and dashed towards the portal, disappearing instantly.

Many others followed, and the large portal consumed them, sending them back to the Nine Provinces.

"I'll go ahead. If fate allows... never mind, better that we don't meet again!" Lui Qing shook his head with a smile, heading towards the portal, intending to leave a polite remark but reconsidered, realizing it might be best never to see Lu Yiye again.

"Wait for me!" Fong Rulie shouted, following closely behind Lui Qing.

Yang Yuan nodded slightly and left third.

"Running away so fast," Ying Wuji muttered while observing cautiously. Seeing Lu Ye had no intention of stopping him, he quickly rushed into the portal.

Finally...

Escaping Lu Yiye felt liberating.

Ying Wuji couldn't help but feel a joyous sense of freedom, reminiscent of his first venture out of his sect years ago.

Lan Ziyi nudged Lu Ye, gesturing towards a direction with her lips, "Someone over there seems to want to talk to you."

She then slipped away, wearing a sly grin.

"Junior Brother Lu, I'm leaving too. Let's meet again if fate wills it," Muk Qingyun said.

"Take care, Senior Brother!"

Left alone in midair, Lu Ye looked around and saw Pang Huanyin gazing at him.

At that moment, the expression of the Dao Palace's master was evidently complex. She knew as a guest from the Nine Provinces, Lu Ye couldn't stay forever and that the Nine Provinces would soon open the portal to take all the cultivators back. Yet, she hadn't expected it to happen so quickly.

Their eyes met, and Pang Huanyin sighed inwardly, but she maintained her composure. She floated over to Lu Ye's side, "Senior Brother, would you walk with me?"

Lu Ye hesitated for a moment, then nodded.

"Thank you." Pang Huanyin smiled.

Chapter 846 Farewell

Walking leisurely within Ziwei Dao Palace, Pang Huanyin spoke softly, mostly to express her gratitude.

The millennia-long Corpse Disaster that plagued the Unparalleled Continent, the persistent efforts and determination of generations of elders within the Dao Palace, had all been resolved upon the arrival of Lu Ye and his companions. As the current Palace Master, Pang Huanyin's gratitude was heartfelt.

Even though she knew that Lu Ye and the others came here primarily as a form of tempering and had gained many benefits, the fact that the Unparalleled Continent had been saved remained unchanged. No matter how much gratitude she expressed, it would never be too much.

"I haven't yet apologized to the Palace Master; the Earth Vein of the Dao Palace is now exhausted and may be difficult to recover."

After placing the Heaven's Augury Pillars within the Four Great Secret Realms, the Earth Veins within these realms were all devoured and exhausted. Now, while these realms still exist, they have lost their ability to float freely in the Void and can only settle in fixed locations.

Lu Ye had not mentioned this to Pang Huanyin beforehand, even though he knew that she wouldn't have stopped him, even if he had explained it.

"It's no matter. With the Corpse Disaster gone, the Unparalleled humans no longer need to hide. However, the Unparalleled humans now face a long journey of revitalization, with heavy responsibilities ahead."

Lu Ye remained silent. He found it difficult to understand Pang Huanyin's mindset of bearing the future of an entire domain's human race upon herself. If it were him, he wouldn't do so. At most, he would only consider the future of his close ones. As for those unfamiliar and unknown to him, he neither had the mood nor the ability to care.

But Pang Huanyin had been taught this way since childhood, so he didn't criticize her.

"Senior Brother." Pang Huanyin stopped and turned to look at him. "Will we meet again in the future?"

Lu Ye thought for a moment and said, "With the Heaven's Augury Pillars now placed here, technically speaking, this place is likely to become a secret realm of the Nine Provinces. In the future, many Nine Provinces cultivators might come here to train. If the Palace Master wants to lead the Unparalleled humans out of their predicament, you could perhaps use the strength of those Nine Provinces cultivators."

"I'm asking about you, Senior Brother!" Pang Huanyin fixed her gaze steadily on Lu Ye.

Lu Ye didn't quite understand why she started calling him Senior Brother, but it wasn't worth correcting her over such a minor issue. He then explained, "Each domain has its capacity limit. Right now, the Unparalleled Continent's limit is the Cloud River Realm. Thus, Unparalleled cultivators can only cultivate to the peak of the Cloud River Realm. The reinforcements sent by the Nine Provinces are also all within the Cloud River Realm. After I return to the Nine Provinces, I will start working on advancing to the True Lake Realm."

Pang Huanyin's gaze dimmed for a moment. "Does that mean you won't be able to come back to the Unparalleled Continent in the future?"

"Probably." Lu Ye nodded.

After a long silence, Pang Huanyin suddenly smiled. "Then I wish you a bright future! Senior Brother, it's time for you to leave now."

"Take care!" Lu Ye said.

"You too, Senior Brother!"

Watching Lu Ye's retreating figure, Pang Huanyin stood at the mountaintop, silently gazing into the distance with her hands behind her back.

An elderly figure emerged nearby; it was Veteran Siao who sighed slightly, "Palace Master, in one's lifetime, many people come and go. Some things cannot be forced. After all, you belong to two different worlds."

Pang Huanyin smiled slyly. "Who said we belong to two different worlds?"

Veteran Siao looked at her in astonishment. He thought his Palace Master was feeling low and had come to comfort her, but now it seemed he had overthought the situation?

However...

"What do you mean by that, Palace Master?"

"You'll understand in a few days. But for our Unparalleled humans, it's good news!"

...

Returning to the entrance of Ziwei Dao Palace, Lu Ye saw that most of the Nine Provinces cultivators gathered there had already left.

At a glance, he spotted Hua Ci, Giant Armor, Li Baxian, and Feng Yuechan waiting nearby.

Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan had returned earlier, having eradicated most of the Corpse Disaster on the Unparalleled Continent. Even if some remnants of the Corpse Race remained, the Unparalleled humans could handle them without issue.

However, as Lu Ye had been healing, Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan didn't disturb him and stayed outside waiting.

They had witnessed Lu Ye intervene to stop the conflict between the two factions, leaving Li Baxian increasingly impressed with how much his little junior brother had grown.

Recalling the first time they met Lu Ye at the Golden Light Peak on the Spirit Stream battlefield, he remembered how Lu Ye needed him and their Senior Sister's combined efforts for protection. Now, Lu Ye had surpassed him on the path of cultivation.

Li Baxian felt genuinely pleased.

"Hey, you're back! They didn't keep you as a live-in son-in-law?" Hua Ci's beautiful eyes glanced over, her words laced with sharpness, clearly having seen the parting scene between Lu Ye and Pang Huanyin.

"Fourth Senior Brother, Senior Sister Feng!" Lu Ye pretended not to hear Hua Ci's words and stepped forward to greet them.

"Little Junior Brother, you were so impressive just now!" Feng Yuechan giggled.

"Please don't laugh at me, Senior Sister."

Li Baxian said, "It's no joke. Your impressive display just now was something even I admired greatly. If only I had achieved a good rank in the Cloud River combat, I could have stood by your side and cheered you on."

After some casual conversation, Li Baxian patted Lu Ye on the shoulder, "Alright, let's go. Have you forgotten anything, Junior Brother?"

"No," Lu Ye shook his head.

Hua Ci gave him a sideways glance. "Are you sure?"

Lu Ye thought for a moment and said, "Yes, I'm sure. Previously, I provided a batch of spiritual artifacts to the Dao Palace here, but now it would be inappropriate to take them back. I'll leave them there."

Those spiritual artifacts were just his spoils of war; for him, they were meant to be exchanged for merit at the Heaven's Augury treasure vault and weren't of great value. Considering the sacrifices made by the Dao Palace to restrain the Corpse Race, he had no qualms about giving them away.

Feng Yuechan, who was standing nearby, chuckled lightly. "Junior Brother, I think you left behind more than just a batch of spiritual artifacts!"

She seemed to know something.

Lu Ye was puzzled. "What else could there be?"

He certainly knew what he had left behind, didn't he?

Full of doubt, the group of several people stepped into the Nine Provinces portal, and the world spun around them.

...

The withdrawal of the Nine Provinces cultivators didn't take long. From the portal's opening to its closing, it took only about four to six hours.

After all, all the cultivators who came to the Unparalleled Continent had been guided by Heaven's Augury, instructed to reach Ziwei Dao Palace at a specific time. Since their return to the Nine Provinces was at stake, none dared to be careless, preferring to be early rather than late.

Once the portal closed, the previously bustling area in front of the Dao Palace was left with only a few native cultivators.

Interestingly, some cultivators from various strongholds tried to mingle with the Nine Provinces cultivators, attempting to use the portal to enter the Nine Provinces.

The idea was good, but it proved impossible to execute.

The Nine Provinces cultivators could easily enter the portal, but the native Unparalleled cultivators couldn't get through. The portal seemed to have the ability to distinguish the identities of the cultivators, stopping all local ones from sneaking in, leaving them sighing in frustration.

The local cultivators naturally longed for the Nine Provinces. Despite the resolution of the Corpse Disaster, the Unparalleled Continent itself was a broken domain with unimpressive Spiritual Energy, scarce cultivation resources, and even a lack of necessary living materials.

In contrast, the Nine Provinces cultivators were well-dressed, equipped with fine spiritual artifacts. Seeing the Nine Provinces cultivators' demeanor, how could the local ones not yearn for the Nine Provinces?

Unfortunately, it was impossible for them to leave...

At that moment, an order was suddenly issued within Ziwei Dao Palace.

Fresh from the recent battle, Ziwei Dao Palace once again began sharpening their weapons and preparing for war.

This time, however, they were not preparing to fight the Corpse Race, but to march on the other two human Secret Realms!

Throughout the millennia of resisting the Corpse Disaster, even the stronghold cultivators had paid a huge price and effort, but Silver Snake Valley and Mount Sumeru had hidden within their Secret Realms, living in seclusion. Occasionally, they only ventured out to bring stronghold humans into their realms to replenish their servants, selecting mostly inexperienced youths and children.

Previously, with the threat of the Corpse Disaster, Ziwei Dao Palace had to ally with any force they could, repeatedly sending messages to the other two Secret Realms seeking alliance, but they had never received any proper response.

Now, with the Corpse Disaster resolved, Ziwei Dao Palace had no more concerns.

This wasn't about settling old scores but about achieving a goal crucial to the Unparalleled Continent's future, which required bringing the other two secret realms under control!

Pang Huanyin needed only her voice to be heard in the Unparalleled Continent!

Her actions were not out of spite or for personal gain, but for the welfare of all humans on the Unparalleled Continent.

Many stronghold humans had not yet dispersed. Upon learning of this, they volunteered to join the crusade.

They had long taken note of the behavior of the three Secret Realms during these years. When the news of the decisive battle against the Corpse Race spread before, numerous stronghold humans had come to support Ziwei Dao Palace from all directions.

Ziwei Dao Palace had a solid reputation, unlike the other two realms, which weren't worth mentioning.

Thus, upon hearing that the Dao Palace was marching against the other two Secret Realms, those who hadn't left willingly joined the cause.

In their view, under the governance of Ziwei Dao Palace, the Unparalleled Continent would surely carve out a bright future for humanity, and they were willing to contribute to this cause.

Previously, seeking out the other two realms would have been challenging for Ziwei Dao Palace. Even if Veteran Siao knew how to deduce and open portals, large-scale deployments were unrealistic.

But now, with the Earth Veins of the three Secret Realms exhausted, there was no way for them to remain hidden in the Void, and locating them was easy.

The takeover proceeded smoothly, with no fierce battles.

The reason? As the portals of the three Secret Realms had appeared earlier, the Dao Palace had many Nine Provinces cultivators helping to protect them, keeping the place secure from Corpse Race attacks.

However, Silver Snake Valley and Mount Sumeru weren't so lucky.

No Nine Provinces cultivators had appeared in those locations.

A large number of Corpse Race flooded in from all directions, and the panicked cultivators of the two Secret Realms were hastily unprepared for the invasion.

Years of living in seclusion had eroded their courage and resolve to fight the Corpse Race, and despite their numbers, they suffered greatly in the conflict.

Chapter 847 Return

In the end, although we exterminated the invading Corpse Race, both Silver Snake Valley and Mount Sumeru suffered heavy casualties and significant losses in their foundations.

Before we had time to handle the aftermath, Pang Huanyin led a large group of cultivators to attack!

Almost without much resistance, the two secret realms bowed in submission.

It was only at this moment that they learned that a large group of cultivators from the Nine Provinces had arrived on the Unparalleled Continent and, with their help, the Corpse calamity was eradicated!

The cultivators of the two secret realms were all dumbfounded.

Pang Huanyin had no intention of incorporating these two secret realms into Ziwei Dao Palace. The Ziwei Dao Palace and these two realms had never been aligned, and forcibly incorporating them would be of no benefit to the Dao Palace. She simply subdued them; she needed these two secret realms to follow orders!

A few days later, at the spirit mountaintop cottage where Lu Ye and others used to stay within the Ziwei Dao Palace, Pang Huanyin stood with her hands behind her back, before the ten-zhang tall Heaven's Augury Pillar, looking up at it. From her expression, it seemed as if she was listening intently to something, yet oddly, there was no one else in sight besides her.

After a moment, she nodded solemnly and spoke, "I understand. I agree. Let's start now!"

As she finished speaking, the Heaven's Augury Pillar in front of her suddenly emitted a soft glow, like a warm sun spreading its light everywhere, enveloping the entire Ziwei Dao Palace and continuing to spread deeper into the world.

Not only did the Heaven's Augury Pillar of the Ziwei Dao Palace exhibit this unusual reaction, but the Heaven's Augury Pillars in the remaining three secret realms also reacted similarly.

In a matter of moments, the entire desolate Unparalleled Continent was shrouded in a layer of gentle light.

No one knew what was happening. As everyone remained puzzled and uncertain, the heavens suddenly hummed.

The world was astounded to see that the once murky and old sun in the sky was rapidly receding.

In that instant, a commanding voice, carried by the gentle light, resounded across every corner of the Unparalleled Continent: "I am Pang Huanyin, the master of Ziwei Dao Palace..."

...

The location at which the Nine Provinces cultivators would return through the enormous portal was not fixed and they would randomly scatter into various Heaven's Augury Mercantile Unions across the Cloud River battlefield.

Thus, it wouldn't appear crowded all of a sudden.

Lu Ye and his group were considered the last batch to return to the Cloud River battlefield.

Stepping back into this familiar world, they couldn't help but take a deep breath.

The Unparalleled Continent, broken and barren, was an oppressive environment, with Spiritual Energy extremely scarce everywhere except in the four great secret realms. The environment of the Cloud River battlefield was undoubtedly much more pleasant for them.

This journey to the Unparalleled Continent had left a deep impact on Lu Ye.

People of the same race, yet some are blessed with extremely favorable cultivation environments from birth, while others struggle for mere survival.

The current cultivation framework of the Nine Provinces is naturally closely connected to the operations of Heaven's Augury.

When he was in the Spirit Stream Realm, there existed the Spirit Stream battlefield for cultivators to train with peace of mind. Although they might encounter some insurmountable strong opponents, all the pressure and the reachable goals within the same realm instead motivated people to strive harder.

In the Cloud River Realm, there was the Cloud River battlefield.

The existence of these two battlefields alone ensured the continuous emergence of a vast number of grassroots cultivators in the Nine Provinces.

Cultivators did not even need to worry about artifact refining and alchemy; as long as they had enough merits, the Heaven's Augury treasure vault had everything one might need.

Any Spiritual Artifact used by a cultivator here would be considered a rare treasure on the Unparalleled Continent, and the elixirs they consumed were what cultivators there could only dream of.

Lu Ye still remembered when he and Ying Wuji encountered Yooi Zhen, who was poisoned by Primordial Corpse Poison. He took out a common Detoxification Pill, yet even in the face of death, Yooi Zhen hesitated to consume it, as such elixirs were extremely precious to them!

Fortunately, the hard work on this trip was ultimately worth it. The vanguard team braved countless difficulties to install four Heaven's Augury Pillars, allowing a large force from the Nine Provinces to arrive and help eradicate the Corpse calamity from the Unparalleled Continent.

As for the future fate of the Unparalleled Continent, whether it would become a secret realm linked to the Nine Provinces, Lu Ye did not know, but it was enough to have come this far.

Without the Corpse calamity, the Unparalleled Continent should only get better and better.

"Little junior brother, shall we rest here for the night or set off immediately?" Li Baxian asked for Lu Ye's opinion, "I just checked the ten-part map. We are on the outskirts of the Great Wilderness Mountain, not far from the Great Reversal Valley Spirit Ground. If we leave now, it will take only a day."

"It's up to you, senior brother!" Lu Ye had no particular opinion.

Li Baxian said, "Then let's set off now. We've gained many benefits from this journey; turning them into actual power as soon as possible is important. Little junior brother, it's time for you to start thinking about advancing to the True Lake Realm."

Lu Ye nodded; he indeed had this in mind. He had also mentioned this to Pang Huanyin when they said their farewells.

Although advancing to the True Lake Realm meant he could no longer stay in the comfortable environment of the Cloud River battlefield and might have to face greater dangers, he couldn't delay his advancement forever.

Moreover, for cultivators, moderate danger and urgency could be beneficial.

"I'm not going with you," Hua Ci said with a smile. "I need to go elsewhere."

Before the journey to the Unparalleled Continent, she had planned to go into solitary cultivation at the Five Poisons Pond. Lu Ye had escorted her there, but midway through, they received guidance from Heaven's Augury and left the Five Poisons Pond one after the other.

The greatest gain Lu Ye had on this trip was battle merit, but Hua Ci's greatest gain was the severed palm left by the Golden Corpse King.

With that severed palm and the unique cultivation environment of the Five Poisons Pond, Hua Ci's cultivation level would undoubtedly improve rapidly in the future.

Everyone has their own path to cultivation. Hua Ci needed to go to the Five Poisons Pond, and it wasn't good to stop her.

"I'll escort you," Lu Ye offered.

"No need, I'll go by myself."

The last time Lu Ye had escorted her, it was mainly because they might not see each other for a long time after parting, so she had displayed a bit of a girlish demeanor.

Given her abilities, why would she ever need an escort?

Even when she was trapped with Lan Ziyi on Mount Sumeru, she remained calm.

In the Cloud River battlefield, anyone who dared to make a move against her would certainly meet a gruesome end and probably wouldn't even know how they had died.

She was a decisive person. Once she made up her mind, she wasted no time in leaving and was the first to depart.

After watching her figure disappear, Lu Ye and others began their journey home.

A day later, the Great Reversal Valley Spirit Ground came into view.

The great array covering the area was intact, and large demon wolves constantly came and went.

Today, the Great Reversal Valley Spirit Ground is somewhat renowned within the entire Cloud River battlefield. It is Lu Ye's spirit ground, enduring several attacks from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators without falling.

Even on the ten-part map, its label had been updated. It wasn't clear what the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union intended, but while other spirit grounds were simply marked, the Great Reversal Valley Spirit Ground was labeled with blood-red characters.

The sight of it gave an eerie sense of impending danger, as if an invisible killing intent was present.

This kind of marking was usually reserved for forbidden lands and territories of Overlord-level Demon Generals.

Many cultivators newly arriving in the Cloud River battlefield would buy a ten-part map from the mercantile union and find the marking on this spirit ground perplexing, often mistaking it for a forbidden land at first glance.

Landing, the group of four strolled leisurely into the spirit ground.

Lu Ye headed straight for the Spiritual Spring, taking out a box from his storage space.

Curious, Li Baxian followed and, with a glance at the box's contents, exclaimed in surprise, "A Spring Spirit?"

He suddenly realized, "Is this the Spring Spirit from the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground?"

The destruction of the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground had caused quite a stir. While it was not the first spirit ground to be destroyed, the fall of such a large spirit ground was rare.

The Sacred Fire Order and the Universe Sect had managed it for hundreds of years, building it to its grand scale. For both sects, it was one of their foundational bases in the Cloud River battlefield.

The sects benefitted greatly from this spirit ground, as it shortened the growing time for Cloud River Realm cultivators, yielding vast rewards over the centuries.

But after being targeted by Lu Ye, it was destroyed, and even the Spring Spirit was plundered, causing severe losses, though not crippling the sects.

Survivors from the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground had spread the tale of how Lu Ye single-handedly shattered the spirit ground.

So, spotting this plump Spring Spirit, Li Baxian knew its origin immediately.

"Indeed, it's from the Sacred Universe Spirit Ground," Lu Ye confirmed. Under Li Baxian's watchful eye, he placed the Spring Spirit into the spring.

"How much do you think the spirit ground will expand?"

The Great Reversal Valley Spirit Ground was already a Class A Spirit Ground. Adding the Spring Spirit wouldn't improve its quality, as Class A was the highest.

But it could expand the spirit ground's area.

The Great Reversal Valley Spirit Ground was small, only accommodating a few cultivators before efficiency declined. Expanding its scale would allow it to accommodate more cultivators.

"The Sacred Universe Spirit Ground was a super-large spirit ground, accommodating two hundred cultivators for training and survival. With some degradation in quality from plundering, it could still expand our spirit ground to a large scale here, likely accommodating a hundred cultivators."

"That's more than enough!" Lu Ye nodded.

His goal in developing the spirit ground was to provide a haven for the junior brothers and sisters of the Righteous Blood Sect, a place for cultivation and refuge.

The Righteous Blood Sect had taken on many disciples over the years. Lu Ye had heard the sect master was unrelenting, continually scouting talent from other major sects, causing distress in the Bingzhou sects. They now ranked him as the most unwelcome Divine Sea Realm cultivator.

But cultivation takes time.

To date, apart from Lu Ye, Giant Armor, and Hua Ci, there were no other Cloud River Realm cultivators in the Righteous Blood Sect.

Chapter 848 Gold Flood Dragon, Silver Flood Dragon

The first batch of disciples should soon be advancing to the Cloud River. Once they arrive at the Cloud River battlefield, they can directly enter the Great Reversal Valley Spirit Ground for cultivation. They should wait until they have gained some self-protection abilities before venturing out to acquire cultivation resources.

Lu Ye had advanced step by step himself, but he had the favor of Heaven's Augury and abundant luck. Other disciples of the Righteous Blood Sect did not have such good fortune.

The current efforts will definitely help future junior brothers and sisters to avoid many detours and enable quicker growth.

As for the scale of a hundred people, it should be sufficient.

Most cultivators rarely stay in one place for long, always needing to go out and temper themselves. Therefore, even if many disciples advance to Cloud River in the future and come to the Cloud River battlefield, the spirit ground here will not have too many people staying at the same time.

The expansion of the spirit ground will take some time, about three to five days to see results.

Li Baxian has already headed to the Heaven's Augury Pillar, apparently to exchange the battle merits he earned this time for a spirit fortune stick for cultivation.

Lu Ye followed behind him, heading forward while immersing his mind to check his battlefield marking.

Name: Lu Yiye.

Identity: Disciple of the Righteous Blood Sect.

Cultivation: Cloud River Level 8.

Location: Cloud River battlefield.

Merit: 116,245 points.

Battle Merit: 186,472 points.

Compared to the last time he checked, the merit points had not changed much since he hadn't used them recently, but the battle merit accumulated was quite shocking.

After redeeming a gold-hued spirit fortune stick from the Hall of Battle Merits last time, he remembered that his battle merit was only 3,232 points. Although he gained some during the Cloud River struggle afterwards, it was at most a few thousand points.

But now, it was over 180,000.

Merely exterminating the Corpse Race wouldn't yield such a massive amount of battle merit. Even a Golden Corpse King, equivalent to a Cloud River Level 9, only represented 60 points of battle merit.

However, killing the Golden Corpse King was extremely significant in solving the Corpse calamity on the Unparalleled Continent, so the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury granted an enormous reward during its assessment.

An Iron Corpse Commander brought Lu Ye over ten thousand points of battle merit, but the Golden Corpse King provided nearly a hundred thousand. The rest came from the large number of Corpse Race members he killed, accumulating the remaining battle merit.

The advanced team from Nine Provinces to the Unparalleled Continent had a total of nine people. Lu Ye didn't know how much battle merit the others received, but he was sure that no one earned more than he did because he was the main force in the final battle, killing the Golden Corpse King.

With over 180,000 battle merit, by the exchange ratios in the Hall of Battle Merits, he could claim more than ten gold-hued spirit fortune sticks.

He already had twenty gold-hued spirit fortune sticks from the Cloud River struggle for the top prize, which he hadn't used yet. With such ample resources, he had more than enough to advance to True Lake Realm.

The benefits from the expedition to the Unparalleled Continent were not limited to the battle merit shown in the battlefield marking.

There was another significant benefit as well.

In comparison, this benefit might be the greatest!

As Lu Ye returned to the Nine Provinces through the gate of Ziwei Dao Palace, a piece of information exploded in his mind.

The contents of that message made him excited and full of anticipation.

"Junior Brother, I am going to cultivate first."

Li Baxian had already exchanged the spirit fortune stick and turned to speak to Lu Ye.

Lu Ye withdrew his mind: "Senior Brother, go ahead."

After Li Baxian left, Lu Ye stepped forward, raised his hand, and pressed it on the Heaven's Augury Pillar. He did not immediately connect to the Hall of Battle Merits but connected to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault instead.

It had become a habit to select some uncanny fire and pill fire from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault every now and then.

However, since he spent a large amount of merit last time to buy out the Earth's Core Fire from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, it had become difficult to purchase it in large quantities anymore.

This time his luck was mediocre, buying a dozen or so portions of various uncanny fire and pill fire, spending almost ten thousand merit points.

These were all resources for his Talent Tree. Due to the lack of resources, there was still one spirit rune on his Talent Tree that had only just begun to take shape and hadn't been fully ignited yet.

Lu Ye was still highly anticipating this rune, as runes requiring many tree leaves to sustain were extremely complex and bound to be highly useful.

The spirit runes he mastered, like Wings and Fire Phoenix, were of this type.

Then he bought some demonic pills for Amber, costing him another ten thousand merit points.

The next part was the highlight and the most anticipated.

Just as he was about to exit the Heaven's Augury treasure vault and connect to the Hall of Battle Merits, Lu Ye seemed to remember something and hastily searched the Heaven's Augury treasure vault again.

He soon found his target.

The flesh and blood of the Red-Eyed Silver-Backed Wolf, five thousand merit points.

The flesh and blood of the Heaven-Devouring Bull Python, eight thousand merit points.

...

He bought four pieces of demon beast meat, spending a total of twenty thousand merit points, incredibly expensive. Lu Ye hadn't even heard of these demon beasts' names before, and looking at the flesh, it was clear they were otherworldly. They contained pure energy and belonged to demon beasts at the True Lake level.

Demon beasts of such level were already of Demon Commander level, not something Lu Ye could handle currently.

Though it pained his wallet, if his idea worked, there would be substantial rewards in the future.

"Hall of Battle Merits!"

Lu Ye silently chanted, and the scenery around him rapidly changed, then settled.

A heavy, ancient-looking door appeared before him, with an aura of ancient desolation. Above the door, a seemingly rusty plaque bore the words "Hall of Battle Merits."

On the door itself were two flood dragon-like creatures, resting with their eyes closed.

Perhaps Lu Ye's arrival disturbed them, and both flood dragons opened their vertical pupils simultaneously.

A fierce, bloody aura emanated, sending chills down his spine.

Lu Ye had experienced this once before and remained calm, even taking the time to examine the two flood dragons on the door.

In his previous hasty visit, he hadn't observed them closely.

This time, Lu Ye noticed they looked almost identical, but there were subtle differences.

The flood dragon on the left had a golden glow at the center of its forehead, while the one on the right had a silver glow.

Golden Flood Dragon? Silver Flood Dragon? Lu Ye pondered inwardly.

"Greetings, seniors!" Lu Ye bowed respectfully.

From his previous visit, he decided never to offend these two flood dragons. They seemed trapped here but were immensely powerful. Lu Ye suspected they were of the Demon King level.

Despite the saying that a fallen Phoenix is inferior to a chicken, they guarded the Hall of Battle Merits.

He was likely to frequent the Hall of Battle Merits in the future and couldn't afford to offend them.

Not only should he avoid offending them, he should cultivate a good relationship with them. These two had guarded the Hall for countless years and surely knew many secrets unknown to ordinary people.

Someday he might need their wisdom.

"This boy is back," the golden flood dragon said, showing an amused expression, its golden vertical pupils assessing Lu Ye.

"Still alive!" The silver flood dragon also spoke. Last time, it commented on whether Lu Ye would survive, as entering the Hall of Battle Merits often foreshadowed a short lifespan.

"And you've grown stronger. Interesting, interesting!" The golden flood dragon extended from the door, circling Lu Ye, its massive head almost touching his, its tongue flickering.

Lu Ye remained composed: "Thanks for your concern, seniors. I have been well and gained some small fortune, thus improving a bit in strength."

"Concern?" The golden flood dragon looked perplexed, then laughed, turning to the silver flood dragon: "He said we were concerned about him!"

The silver flood dragon said: "Strictly speaking, we are concerned about when he'll die!"

The golden flood dragon turned back to Lu Ye: "Don't die too soon. We made a bet on whether you'd live past three years!"

Lu Ye was curious: "Who bet I'd live?"

The golden flood dragon sneered: "It bet you'd surely die within three years, and I bet you'd live past three years!"

Lu Ye nodded: "I see."

No one bet he would live; they all bet on his death, just with different timelines.

"Since you two seniors enjoy betting, may I join?"

"Oh? You want to bet too?"

"I bet I can live ten, twenty, fifty, a hundred years or even longer!"

The silver flood dragon's eyes glinted maliciously: "Boy, if you're to bet, what's your stake?"

"How about these?" Lu Ye said, presenting the four pieces of beast meat he bought from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, "I'll bring you treats every time I visit, as my wager!"

"Mere trinkets..." The golden flood dragon stopped mid-sentence, saliva showing.

Imprisoned for thousands of years, with occasional human visitors, but none brought them food. They'd never beg either; dragons have pride.

Until today...

Thousands of years away from blood scent, they'd forgotten the taste of flesh, especially these rare beast meats, urging them to devour them.

Responding, Lu Ye tossed the meats out. Each dragon took two pieces, chewing, with the golden dragon mumbling: "Don't think you can buy us!"

"Quite delicious, yum... so good!" The silver dragon nodded fervently.

Lu Ye smiled, satisfied watching this scene.

It confirmed they were living creatures, somehow trapped here as guards of the Hall of Battle Merits.

They now lacked their earlier superiority and savagery, looking like starved ghosts, gobbling greedily.

The four pieces vanished quickly, the silver dragon eyeing Lu Ye, signaling for more.

The golden dragon, though subtler, shared the hunger.

Chapter 849 Cloud River 9th Layer Realm and Anomalies

Lu Ye certainly couldn't afford to feed them fully. With the enormous size of the two flood dragons, truly feeding them would require an immense amount of merit points.

This was just the first attempt. He might have to come in regularly in the future. He could afford to spend ten or twenty thousand merits each visit, but spending too much wouldn't be sustainable for him.

"Kid, not bad!" The gold flood dragon spoke, its tone slightly more amiable, perfectly demonstrating the saying 'take someone's food, be soft in speech.'

"Remember to bring more next time. That bit of flesh and blood was just an appetizer," the silver flood dragon instructed.

"Understood," Lu Ye responded.

The gold flood dragon said, "The rules of the Hall of Battle Merits were explained to you last time, correct?"

Lu Ye nodded, "All things within the Battle Merits Hall are for personal use only, and nothing about the hall should be disclosed to anyone else!"

"Good that you remember," the gold flood dragon said, withdrawing. "Head on in."

The two flood dragons coiled around and soon formed a concentric circle. With a cracking sound, the gates of the Hall of Battle Merits opened.

Lu Ye stepped inside.

Various stone platforms immediately came into view, each one holding a rare treasure scarcely seen in the outside world.

Last time he entered, he didn't have much time. He was borrowing the Heaven's Augury Pillar in the mercantile union, with a crowd waiting behind him. He had just taken a quick look without thoroughly exploring. This time, he didn't have such a rush in his own spirit land.

Here was an opportunity for a thorough search.

Passing the areas he had checked last time, Lu Ye walked deeper into the hall, excitement building with each step.

Every item here was incredibly precious and rare, unattainable from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault. For example, the orifice repair pills in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault were almost sold out, yet they were still available here.

There were not only numerous exotic treasures with varying effects but also many high-quality magic artifacts. All the artifacts placed here were the best of the best. Lu Ye even spotted a top-tier magic-artifact-class saber, which he could afford given his current wealth.

However, he only took a glance, as his Boulder Mountain Saber was enough for him. Even if its quality wasn't as high, the one that suited him best was the best.

Going further inside, Lu Ye was surprised to find the stone platforms there covered with a hazy white light, making it impossible for him to see the items clearly.

After a moment of contemplation, Lu Ye suspected that this was due to his insufficient cultivation level, preventing him from perceiving the true nature of the treasures on those platforms.

It seemed that to see more of the good stuff, he needed to work harder on improving his cultivation.

Having roughly browsed through all the treasures he could see, Lu Ye had a clear plan in mind. He quickly approached a stone platform and reached out to grab the treasure on it.

The treasure was in hand, but there was no sign of merit points being deducted. This was an extra reward from his trip to the Unparalleled Continent.

Upon returning to the Cloud River battlefield through the portal, he received guidance from Heaven's Augury, granting him the privilege to freely choose one treasure from the Hall of Battle Merits!

Being able to choose freely naturally disregarded the value of the items. He could take whatever he wanted.

This extra reward was likely Heaven's Augury's acknowledgment of his deeds in the Unparalleled Continent.

Of the four Heaven's Augury Pillars, one was placed in Mount Sumeru by Ying Wuji, while the others were placed by Lu Ye himself. Not to mention finding the secret realms and figuring out ways to enter them, all were challenging tasks.

Additionally, before the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury established a connection with the Unparalleled Continent, Lu Ye had already slain many Corpse Race members. These feats weren't included in his total battle merits.

Heaven's Augury naturally didn't overlook these efforts.

Thus, Lu Ye was granted the freedom to choose one treasure from the Hall of Battle Merits. Whether others received similar rewards was unknown to him.

Even if they did, it was likely just an additional amount of battle merits, unlike his reward.

This extra reward in hand gave Lu Ye a strong sense of security.

He then moved to the stone platform holding the gold-hued spirit tokens and exchanged for ten more tokens.

Including the twenty gold-hued spirit tokens he already had, he now possessed a total of thirty tokens!

With such wealth, he definitely stood as the top in the Cloud River, even compared to those in the True Lake Realm who might not possess this many tokens at once.

Promotion to True Lake, secured.

After the exchange, he only had 46,072 points of battle merits left.

He didn't spend them all, wanting to keep some for emergencies in the future.

Having gotten the rewards and made the exchanges he needed, Lu Ye leisurely walked out of the Hall of Battle Merits. Under the watchful eyes of the two flood dragons, his figure gradually faded.

Dimly, he heard the silver flood dragon telling him to come back soon...

Returning to his wooden hut, Lu Ye first activated his Talent Tree to absorb the uncanny fire and pill fire he had bought. Seeing the leaves on his tree become brighter, though they still didn't ignite, left him a bit disappointed.

He was eagerly anticipating the new spirit rune on the verge of forming on the tree. However, the spirit runes on the Talent Tree required all the leaves to ignite before revealing themselves. The current state was frustrating.

He still had some Earth's Core Fire in reserve, kept for emergencies. In case his Talent Tree ran short of fuel, these could come in handy in a dire situation.

Even if he absorbed the Earth's Core Fire, it seemed it wouldn't be enough to fully ignite the leaves.

That had to wait for another day.

"Cultivation, cultivation!" Lu Ye gathered himself, yelled softly, and took out all thirty gold-hued spirit tokens, placing them before him.

"So many!" Yiyi exclaimed, squinting against the dazzling golden light.

As usual, Lu Ye began setting up the small spirit energy gathering funnels on himself, then picked up a gold-hued spirit token and crushed it.

The golden powder swirled and formed a vortex, from which a surge of pure spiritual power emerged, enveloping Lu Ye completely.

The spirit energy was abundant, inexhaustible, and remained concentrated within three feet around Lu Ye, continuously drawn in by the small funnels, quickly converted into his strength.

Seated cross-legged, Lu Ye sank into meditation, focusing on the remnants of the Soaring Dragon Origin.

He refused to believe he couldn't reflect a strong cultivator with saber skills!

A gold-hued spirit token lasted about a day and a night. When its power depleted and the golden vortex disappeared, Yiyi would take out another one and crush it for him. With the help of the small spirit funnels, Lu Ye didn't need to worry about anything other than his cultivation.

Time passed, and one gold-hued spirit token after another was consumed.

One day, upon opening his eyes, Lu Ye discovered he had unknowingly advanced to Cloud River Level 9.

Moreover, he had only used a dozen or so gold-hued spirit tokens.

Compared to other cultivators, Lu Ye had a significant advantage using the spirit tokens. The duration was the same, around a day and a night, but no one in the same level could benefit as much as he did.

The small spirit funnels continuously absorbed the pure energy from the golden vortex. While a single funnel's effect might be negligible, together in the Circumambulation, the effect was tremendous.

This was the main reason his strength in the Cloud River Realm progressed so rapidly. The benefits he received from each gold-hued spirit token were two, three, or even more times greater than those of other cultivators.

Even with Yiyi and Amber cultivating alongside him, his gains weren't diminished.

Cloud River Level 9, just a step away from True Lake.

Lu Ye remained calm. After confirming that his advancement was secure, he immersed himself back into the Soaring Dragon Origin.

The gold-hued spirit tokens continued to decrease. Lu Ye would wake every few days, ensuring he wouldn't accidentally advance to True Lake and leave the Cloud River battlefield suddenly.

His plan was to stop at the brink of True Lake, as his spirit land's expansion should be complete. The formations he had set up, while extensive, would need adjusting to the expanded spirit land.

Before leaving the Cloud River battlefield, these matters had to be settled.

However, man proposes but Heaven disposes; despite his detailed plans, unforeseen disruptions arose.

A month after returning to his spirit land, while meditating on the Soaring Dragon Origin, mimicking a strong cultivator's insights, his mind was suddenly jolted.

Realizing something was amiss in the outside world, he quickly pulled back his focus and opened his eyes.

Yiyi had also interrupted her cultivation, looking around in confusion.

Lu Ye turned, frowning at the odd sight before him.

This was his wooden hut, simply furnished. But now it seemed the interior overlapped with another blurry scene that kept shifting, making it hard to decipher.

At first glance, it felt as if another space-time had merged with his own.

Moreover, he sensed a familiar repelling force surrounding him.

This sensation was familiar from when he had ascended to the Cloud River on the Spirit Stream battlefield. After his ascension, the repelling force had reached its limit and ejected him from the Spirit Stream battlefield.

Recognizing this feeling made Lu Ye immediately wonder if he was about to advance to True Lake?

Yet, his detailed examination confirmed it wasn't the case. Though close, he wasn't at the breakthrough point yet.

And then... what was this overlapping, time-space-like anomaly?

Chapter 850 Senior Brother Lu, We Meet Again

The noise from outside indicated that Li Baxian and others were also alerted.

Lu Ye quickly got up and pushed the door open to go out.

He saw Li Baxian and others looking up at the sky, their expressions shocked.

Following their gaze, Lu Ye's expression also froze.

The scene in the sky was even more bizarre than inside the wooden cabin. In their view, a massive floating land spanned across the void. Though it was still far from the ground, it already appeared to cover the entire sky, blocking out the scorching sun and casting a huge shadow over the entire Cloud River battlefield.

In that moment, almost everyone in the Cloud River battlefield, upon looking up, could see the grandeur of this floating land.

This floating land seemed incomplete, as if it was part of a more magnificent and vast place.

What was shocking was that this floating land was slowly and steadily pressing toward the Cloud River battlefield.

This phenomenon of overlapping time and space was born from it!

It was hard to imagine how such a colossal floating land could span across the void, and even harder to imagine what kind of natural disaster would ensue if it fell onto the Cloud River battlefield.

"Fourth Senior Brother, what is happening?" Lu Ye asked in a low voice.

"Not sure," Li Baxian shook his head. He hadn't seen any more than Lu Ye. He had also been cultivating, sensing something unusual and coming out to investigate.

"In any case, it's not wise to linger in a dangerous place. Little Junior Brother, get back to the Nine Provinces first." Li Baxian turned to Lu Ye.

Feeling the increasingly strong repulsive force around him, Lu Ye nodded, "In this situation, we have to return to the Nine Provinces."

The repulsive force was clearly the Nine Provinces' Heaven's Augury at work. Not just him, every cultivator in the Cloud River battlefield would likely be expelled. So, even if someone wanted to stay to investigate, they probably couldn't.

The shocking anomaly made the wolf packs in the Great Reversal Valley restless and uneasy. However, while Lu Ye and others could return to the Nine Provinces to evade, these wolves couldn't leave the Cloud River battlefield.

Born in the Cloud River battlefield, most would also die there, unless favored by a cultivator who took them as pet beasts under a pet contract, allowing them to come and go with the cultivator.

If it were just one or two demon wolves, Lu Ye and others could take them back to the Nine Provinces. But with over three hundred wolves gathered in the spirit ground, there was no way to take them all.

As natural guardians of the spirit ground, these demon wolves played an irreplaceable role in protecting it in the future.

Seeing the worry in Lu Ye's eyes, Li Baxian said, "We can't do anything about them. I have a feeling this isn't a natural disaster; Heaven's Augury must have its own way of dealing with it!"

Lu Ye nodded. If this were truly a natural disaster, then besides the cultivators returning to the Nine Provinces, no living beings would be left in the Cloud River battlefield, and even the cities would be annihilated.

As they were speaking, the invisible repulsive force around them suddenly grew much stronger.

Lu Ye's vision spun, realizing he had been expelled from the Cloud River battlefield.

When he regained his senses, he was already in the Heaven's Augury Hall at the Nine Provinces sect headquarters.

Two figures appeared beside him abruptly, one being Giant Armor, and the other Hua Ci, whom he had just parted with not long ago.

Cultivators expelled from the Cloud River battlefield would appear in their respective sect's Heaven's Augury Hall.

Hua Ci was eating something, her cheeks puffed. Suddenly returning to the Nine Provinces, she looked bewildered and quickly swallowed the food. "What happened, Lu Ye?" she asked, confused.

"Not sure."

"Why did you all come back?" asked Shui Yuan, who sensed their presence and came to investigate.

Since advancing to the Cloud River Realm and entering the Cloud River battlefield, only Lu Ye had returned twice. Hua Ci and Giant Armor had remained in the battlefield. Now seeing all three of them together naturally surprised Shui Yuan.

"Second Senior Sister!" The three greeted her respectfully.

"There was an incident in the Cloud River battlefield." Lu Ye explained, detailing the earlier anomaly. "Second Senior Sister, do you know what that floating land is? Why were we expelled from the Cloud River battlefield?"

Shui Yuan was astonished. "Is there such a thing?"

Suddenly thoughtful, she said, "Now that you mention it, I seem to recall the old man mentioning a similar scene before. But he just said it in passing, and I didn't ask further. Maybe we should ask him. He's old and might know something."

Lu Ye nodded. "I'll go see the sect master."

"No rush," Shui Yuan smiled. "The old man has a guest right now. Wait a bit."

Lu Ye felt guilty. "Could the sect master have kidnapped another sect's disciple?"

Having tasted success once, the sect master had repeated such actions over the years. Nowadays, the mere mention of Sect Master Thang Yifeng made all the major sects in Bingzhou shake their heads.

The prestigious image he had painstakingly built over the years in the Bingzhou cultivation world had long since shattered. Now, he could almost be equated with the word "bandit."

Ordinary bandits robbed wealth; Thang Yifeng robbed people!

This had led to the major cultivation sects in Bingzhou conducting their disciple intake in secret, no longer openly announcing it.

The sect master's "bandit hands" had even reached neighboring provinces.

His efforts won the Righteous Blood Sect its current prosperity at the Spirit Stream Realm level, full of highly talented disciples.

Shui Yuan chuckled. "Since being drafted by Madam Yun, the old man hasn't had time to go out."

"That's good!" Lu Ye breathed a sigh of relief.

Turning, he saw Giant Armor with his hand on the Heaven's Augury Pillar, looking worried.

He was likely trying to re-enter the Cloud River battlefield, concerned about the wolf packs left in the spirit ground.

"Fourth Senior Brother said it shouldn't be a natural disaster, so don't worry too much," Lu Ye reassured.

Giant Armor nodded silently, saying nothing.

"The old man's guest should be finished. Let's go," Shui Yuan said, sensing something.

Now a strong cultivator at the Divine Sea Realm, her senses were sharper than Lu Ye's.

They followed Shui Yuan out of the Heaven's Augury Hall and headed to the main hall, waiting outside.

Sect Master Thang's voice came from inside, "You should think carefully. In Bingzhou, my Righteous Blood Sect is weak and unsuitable for your sect to depend on. If you're interested, I can recommend a few top sects. I can do that much."

Another voice replied, "I've thought it through. After arriving in the Nine Provinces, I came straight here. Other sects may be stronger, but my sect only recognizes you. I've explained everything clearly, and you should understand."

The two seemed to have finished talking, walking out as they spoke.

"In that case, let's choose an auspicious day to announce it to Bingzhou."

"Thank you, Sect Master Thang."

Outside, Lu Ye's expression turned strange. The voice from inside sounded familiar.

Beside him, Hua Ci also looked surprised, poking Lu Ye and whispering, "Did I hear wrong?"

"I think the same..."

Shui Yuan was puzzled. "What are you talking about?"

Before Lu Ye could answer, the sect master stepped out, his appearance radiating an aura of wisdom and reliability. When Lu Ye first met the sect master, he felt this old man was trustworthy and sought his help.

Following the sect master was another person.

Confident and poised, dressed as a man but showing feminine grace with a masculine strength, her contradictory aura added a unique charm.

Her gaze met Lu Ye's astonished eyes.

Smiling, she said, "Senior Brother Lu, it's been a while!"

Hua Ci's long eyelashes fluttered in disbelief, unable to imagine seeing this person here.

Lu Ye was equally shocked and momentarily forgot to greet her.

"What? Are you surprised to see me?"

How couldn't he be?

"Palace Master Pang, why are you here?" Lu Ye asked, puzzled.

He had thought the Unparalleled Continent would become a secret realm for Cloud River cultivators to train. He never expected Pang Huanyin to appear in the Nine Provinces, especially at the Righteous Blood Sect.

Thinking carefully, it made sense. With the Heaven's Augury Pillars establishing a connection, people from the Unparalleled Continent could come to the Nine Provinces just as Nine Provinces cultivators could go there.

Smiling, Pang Huanyin explained, "From now on, there is no Unparalleled Continent. We're part of the Nine Provinces now."

"What does that mean?" Lu Ye was confused.

"How to put it..." Pang Huanyin pondered, then said, "After you left, I received guidance from the Nine Provinces Heaven's Augury, asking if I was willing to merge the Unparalleled Continent into the Nine Provinces. I agreed and made some efforts. The entire Unparalleled Continent migrated toward the Nine Provinces. It was a fantastical journey. If you want, I can tell you all about it later."

"Migration?" Lu Ye was bewildered. How could a continent fragment migrate?

But soon, he realized. "The massive floating land in the Cloud River battlefield... is it the Unparalleled Continent?"

Hua Ci also realized. If so, it made sense!

"That's right. Due to the Unparalleled Continent's incomplete origin, it couldn't merge with the Nine Provinces mainland and could only merge with the Cloud River battlefield. Once the fusion is complete, any Cloud River cultivator can freely go to the Unparalleled Continent. I don't know how the fusion will proceed. The Heaven's Augury allowed me to come here first," Pang Huanyin explained.

She had appeared directly in the Righteous Blood Sect's Heaven's Augury Hall, a convenience granted by the Heaven's Augury. Otherwise, how could someone from the Unparalleled Continent find the Righteous Blood Sect so quickly?