The Heavens 1001

Chapter 1001: Mysterious Competitor

"Are you suspecting that Lu Wuzi didn't just defect because Zhang Xuansheng wanted to devour him to enter the third tier Martial Void Realm? Do you think that Zhang Xuansheng would also want to devour him to increase his lifespan?" Kou Chongxue understood what Shang Xia was thinking of.

Shang Xia nodded in acknowledgment. "Yes. if both reasons are valid... That would be for the best."

Yu Duhe added suddenly, "What's the difference if both solutions involve devouring Lu Wuzi's Void Origin?"

Kou Chongxue's projection and Shang Xia ignored Yu Duhe, and so did the other deputy patriarchs.

The reason why Yun Jing recruited Yu Duhe into the Outreach Division wasn't because he was exceptionally skilled at gathering intelligence. It was because he had the unique ability to tame spiritual birds required for the transmission of information! It was especially so after Shang Xia tamed the Lightning Bird and moved the entire flock of Mutated Rain Swallows to the Tongyou Institution. Yu Duhe basically became their caretaker. He would also be in charge of the communication between the members of the Outreach Division on their missions.

As soon as the words left his lips, Yu Duhe realized that the question he had asked wasn't a good one and he quickly lowered his gaze without speaking further.

Kou Chongxue's projection finally explained, "If nothing goes wrong, a True Immortal should be able to live for more than 200 years. There are even some rumors stating that True Immortals can easily live up to 300 years... However, unless one's cultivation reaches the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm, it would be difficult for them to live past 300 years old..."

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Naturally, Kou Chongxue learned about that information from somewhere else. However, the only thing Shang Xia could think of at that moment was the Star Origin City Lord.

There were many rumors concerning the Star Origin City Lord, but there was no doubt about it. He was the sole creator of Star Origin City. Even though it had already been thousands of years since it was established, the Star Origin City Lord never changed...

What would that represent?

That meant that the Star Origin City Lord was an existence whose lifespan surpassed the 1000 year mark!

When Shang Xia first entered the city, he heard many guesses related to the Star Origin City Lord's cultivation level. However, almost every single one of them confirmed that he was a Martial Void Realm expert.

However... Now that Shang Xia was hearing about the lifespans of those in the Martial Void Realm, the truth seemed a little too far-fetched...

Even if anyone in the fourth tier Martial Void Realm could be considered at the peak of their level, it wouldn't be realistic for them to possess 3 times the lifespan of an ordinary Martial Void Realm expert.

Unless... Unless the Star Origin City Lord already transformed their origin... That would mean that they already entered the Seventh Order of the Primary Realm!

Without a doubt, the Star Origin City Lord had already reached the next level of cultivation!

In fact, the Star Origin City Lord might even be a special existence among experts of that level.

Otherwise, how could the Star Origin City form a connection to 2 Essence Worlds?

Of course, the original question remained and they had to wonder why the Star Origin City Lord hadn't shown their face in the past hundreds of years. The Star Origin Guards might have mentioned the Star Origin City Lord being in seclusion, but it was just far too long...

Fortunately, the Star Origin Guards were powerful enough and none of the worlds dared to cause too much trouble.

Of course, even though the Essence Worlds formed a connection to the Star Origin City, their spatial tunnels hadn't been activated for hundreds of years...

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When Shang Xia was still immersed in his thoughts, he felt someone nudging him slightly. He turned to see Chu Jia shooting him several strange glances.

Hastily turning back, he saw Kou Chongxue's projection already sitting down while staring at him with a smile that didn't really seem like a smile. Now that Shang Xia's attention had returned, he asked, "So... What are you thinking about?"

Coughing twice to cover up the awkwardness he was feeling, Shang Xia mumbled, "Actually, if we want to know how long Zhang Xuansheng has left to live, why don't we just head over to the Bing Continent and ask Lu Wuzi?"

Shang Xia noticed many people suppressing their laughter at his suggestion, but no one would mention what was actually going on.

Of course, Chu Jia was an exception. Her soft laughter rang in his ears, "Of course someone thought of something like that already. Someone already asked if that was possible while you were still dreaming..."

Forcing a laugh, Shang Xia felt slightly embarrassed as he addressed the others. "Apologies... I got a little distracted earlier."

Chu Jia continued, "While you were spacing out, we were saying how Haiwei had already headed up north to take revenge on behalf of Instructor Liu."

"Who?! Senior Sister Haiwei did what?!" Shang Xia yelled. However, he quickly recalled what happened during their trip to the Azure Flame World.

When Shang Xia was rushing to meet up with Kou Chongxue back then, they ran into some trouble and Han Mo fought with them over the Star Map. In the end, Liu Qinglan injured her foundations in order to protect her disciples, destroying all hope of her ever entering the Martial Dipper Realm. After they returned from the Azure Flame World, it didn't matter if it was the Martial Extermination Realm cultivators of the Tongyou Institution who took part in the adventure. Shang Xia and even Kou Chongxue thought about killing Han Mo.

However, that slippery bastard not only actively avoided the members of the institution, he even chose to hide in the Northern Sea Mystic Sect. Back then, Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue couldn't do a thing for fear of causing too much damage.

During the second invasion, their world underwent a transformation and they had to join forces to face the Spirit Abundance World. They couldn't do anything to Han Mo under such circumstances.

After the world ascension and after Kou Chongxue entered the Martial Void Realm, Shang Xia entered seclusion and spent a lot of time in other worlds. He completely forgot about the matter.

Now that Chu Jia brought it up again, Shang Xia felt a little worried for Sun Haiwei.

"Han Mo is at the second element of the Martial Dipper Realm and he's a famous cultivator in the north. We don't know how much he improved since throwing in his lot with the Northern Sea Mystic Sect... How long has it been since Senior Sister Sun entered the Martial Dipper Realm?! Isn't she acting a little too recklessly by rushing over to try to take revenge?" Shang Xia mumbled.

Actually Shang Xia could tell that with Sun Haiwei's personality, she should be pretty confident if she had the guts to head over to try to kill him. Moreover, the Tongyou Institution was backing her. There was no way they would have sent her over without extra preparations.

Even so... He was still worried for her. After all, weapons and fists were thrown blindly in a battle. Even with sufficient preparation, one might be caught off guard and injured.

Not to mention the fact that if Han Mo had entered the Northern Sea Mystic Sect, Sun Haiwei would need to care about the relationship between the Northern Sea Mystic Sect and their Tongyou Institution before making her move.

"Right, Han Mo chose to follow Lu Wuzi. He's part of the Ice Essence Sect now." Chu Jia secretly sent Shang Xia a voice transmission.

"So?" Shang Xia was slightly taken aback. Actually, he felt that the Ice Essence Sect was even trickier to deal with than the Northern Sea Mystic Sect.

After all, during *that incident*, Kou Chongxue personally stepped in to prevent Zhang Xuansheng from killing Lu Wuzi after his ascension. No matter what, the Tongyou Institution could be said to have friendly relations with the Ice Essence Sect.

If Sun Haiwei wanted to deal with Han Mo, she would definitely cause a rift in the relationship...

Even though on the surface, Lu Wuzi owed Kou Chonxue big time, if they used the favor from a True Immortal to take revenge on a mere Han Mo... It would be a waste!

"That's exactly why everyone feels that you should head over with her!" Chu Jia finally dropped the bomb on him.

Strictly speaking, Lu Wuzi owed Kou Chongxue big time for saving his life. However... Shang Xia also did him a favor by smashing the domain cage open.

Which meant to say that other than the life-saving grace Kou Chongxue had shown him, Lu Wuzi needed to repay Shang Xia for the favor of freeing him! Even if they killed Han Mo, as long as Shang Xia was present, the layer of connection with Lu Wuzi and Kou Chongxue would still remain. There shouldn't be too large of a misunderstanding created between the Ice Essence Sect and the Tongyou Institution.

Shang Xia nodded slightly. It seemed as though protecting Sun Haiwei in secret was the best option.

After things were settled, the atmosphere in the hall lightened up. After chatting a little about several other matters, the topic soon returned to the Northern Sea Mystic Sect and the Ice Essence Sect.

The only thing Shang Xia was confused about at the moment was how the topic changed from Zhang Xuansheng's lifespan to Sun Haiwei going to take revenge on Han Mo.

"Lu Wuzi's betrayal brought away many Martial Dipper Realm and Martial Extermination Realm experts. The Northern Sea Mystic Sect will definitely suffer heavy losses. If Patriarch Kou and Little Shang's conjecture is right, that would mean that the moment Zhang Xuansheng's lifespan nears its end, the Northern Sea Mystic Sect would no longer be able to maintain its status as the strongest faction in the Spirit Luxuriant World. Hmm... Do you think that Lu Wuzi would wait for that day to come before returning to take over the Northern Sea Mystic Sect?"

Someone threw out a pretty good guess.

Ji Wenlong grunted, "If that really happens, it might not be a good thing for our Spirit Luxuriant World."

Shang Bo turned to look at Yun Jing while muttering, "Does the Outreach Division have any intelligence on the matter?"

Yun Jing shook her head and sighed, "With the exception of the Yuanchen Sect, the other Elysiums existed for far too long. They have hundreds of years of accumulation, and we are unable to learn of them. The only thing we can be sure of is that all 3 Elysiums sent a batch of elite disciples to the Star Origin City during the second invasion. A portion of those elite disciples returned, but we have no idea if they're hiding anything other than that. From what we can deduce, unless Zhang Xuansheng dies soon, even with Lu Wuzi's betrayal, the Northern Sea Mystic Sect's inheritance will continue to live on."

Shang Xia agreed. "Back when I met Lu Wuzi and the rest in Star Origin City to connect the spatial tunnel, I heard that there was another peak-tier Martial Dipper Realm expert competing with Lu Wuzi for the chance to ascend. However, from how hasty Lu Wuzi was acting, it seems as though the other candidate stood a far better chance..."

Yun Jing's expression changed slightly and she added, "If that really is the case, could there be another reason behind Lu Wuzi's ascension?"

"Could Lu Wuzi have stolen the advancement medicine meant for the other candidate?" Ji Wenlong frowned.

A bitter chuckle left Shang Xia's lips. "Why does this seem to get more complicated?"

"Hey, are you planning to look for the other candidate?" Kou Chongxue's projection asked Shang Xia suddenly.

"If Zhang Xuansheng hadn't gotten his hands on that person, he would probably be starting to panic... After all, Lu Wuzi successfully left the Northern Sea Mystic Sect and that candidate would become Zhang Xuansheng's only hope..."

Chapter 1002: Lu Wuzi's Scheme

The Bing Continent was located west of the North Sea, north of the Xing Continent, and northeast of the Ye Continent.

The entire region was desolate to begin with. Resources were bare and even in the Azure Spiritual World, not many people bothered stepping foot into the Bing Continent.

Some changes happened to it after the Spirit Luxuriant World completed its transformation.

After the world ascension, there were slight transformations to the Bing Continent. After the world expanded greatly, every aspect of the Spirit Luxuriant World received a great boost. Several specific regions were specially taken care of by the World's Will, and the desolate Bing Continent was one of the lucky ones.

Not only did the density of heaven and earth in the Bing Continent increase, there were also many areas that showed signs of developing special treasures.

Of course, there were other continents that experienced the same thing. Compared to those larger continents with much more resources available, the transformation to the Bing Continent seemed a little underwhelming.

Even so, Lu Wuzi had long since turned his gaze to the continent that hadn't been the focus of too much attention. With the strength he accumulated in the Northern Sea Mystic Sect, he had already sent his trusted subordinates to monitor and keep track of the transformations to the Bing Continent while searching for suitable locations.

Their hard work paid off and eventually, a hidden frost vein underground was located.

As soon as it was, Lu Wuzi concealed its presence while sending his trusted subordinates over to develop the place. In just several short years, Lu Wuzi managed to break off from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect and establish his Ice Essence Sect before immediately creating a Mysterious World where the frost vein was.

With the Mysterious World as the core of the Ice Essence Sect, he brought members of his newfound sect over and laid down a massive protection formation that wasn't weaker than those that belonged to great powers out there.

The presence of the frost vein wasn't the only reason he was able to create such a powerful protection formation. After all, he had been stealing a lot of resources from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect during his time here and sending them all to the Bing Continent.

From that point alone, one could see how much planning went into Lu Wuzi's defection.

After finally establishing the Ice Essence Sect, Lu Wuzi returned to the Mysterious World and handed everything over to those junior brothers he brought along before entering seclusion.

It would be highly likely for Lu Wuzi's Void Origin to never be able to improve again due to the battle with Zhang Xuansheng. The chances of restoring it were slim to none, but that wasn't why he entered seclusion. He suffered heavy injuries during the fight and he had to recover as soon as possible!

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Above the heavenly screen, Shang Xia stared straight down and seemed to be able to see what was happening on the surface below.

A moment later, a light flashed in his eyes. As he turned to look beside him, a ball of light emitting slightly cooling rays of light appeared.

Raising an eyebrow in surprise, Shang Xia muttered, "I didn't think that you would come personally. I'm truly honored..."

Lu Wuzi's beaten voice came from the ball of light. "The Tongyou Institution is about to birth its second True Immortal... My Ice Essence Sect isn't exactly in an extremely stable situation right now. Of course I have to show our young friend Shang some proper respect."

Shang Xia didn't care for the flattery Lu Wuzi showed and a frown appeared on his face. "How can the Ice Essence Sect not have a stable position with you at the helm?"

The rays of cooling light scattered as Lu Wuzi's figure emerged from within. He fully restrained his Void Origin to prevent any energy from leaving his body.

What he didn't know was that with Shang Xia's foundations and strength, even if Lu Wuzi fully released his domain, he wouldn't be able to harm Shang Xia in the slightest! Naturally, Shang Xia wouldn't go around boasting about it.

"It won't be long before the Northern Sea Mystic Sect will also produce their second living True Immortal..." Lu Wuzi muttered, confirming the Tongyou Institution's guess.

After thinking for a short while, Shang Xia muttered, "The Northern Sea Mystic Sect's foundations and accumulated strength far surpass the Eternal Palace and Divine Capital Sect. Even though it's a little surprising they would be able to produce a second True Immortal, it's not actually unbelievable..."

Shooting Shang Xia a profound gaze, Lu Wuzi mumbled, "Looks like all of you expected as much..."

Shang Xia didn't deny anything. Instead, he continued along his line of questioning. "Since you broke off and established your own faction, how can the Northern Sea Mystic Sect produce their second True Immortal so quickly? Did Zhang Xuansheng already solve his lifespan problem?"

With his eyes widening in shock, Lu Wuzi gasped, "How do you guys also know about that?"

Earlier, Shang Xia was throwing random questions out hoping that he would hit the nail on the head. From Lu Wuzi's reaction, it seemed as though his guess was correct.

That begged the next question. Since Lu Wuzi successfully escaped, Zhang Xuansheng would have to devour the next True Immortal in order to extend his lifespan.

"The person in line to become the next True Immortal of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect is Zhang Xuansheng's descendant. It was possible for him to nurture disciples in the sect to devour when his lifespan was about to end, but it's not really likely for him to devour members of his bloodline. Moreover, the disciple with the potential to reach the Martial Void Realm is one of his most favored descendant..." Lu Wuzi explained.

Shang Xia might not completely disagree with Lu Wuzi, but it wasn't as though he was 100 percent sure Zhang Xuansheng wouldn't devour his descendant.

Back in the Heavenly Lake Elysium, Shang Xia witnessed how True Immortal Chong Shang devoured Lou Yi even though they came from the same family. To extend their own lifespan, it seemed as though there was nothing a True Immortal wouldn't do.

Actually, the effects might even be stronger because they share the same bloodline!

Lu Wuzi shot Shang Xia another glance and muttered, "When the time comes and his descendant breaks through... They will definitely come for me. The moment Zhang Xuansheng and another True Immortal join hands, I'll most definitely be defeated. When the time comes, I'm afraid my Void Origin will be devoured by that old man..."

The next second, both of them discovered a powerful shockwave coming from the Bing Continent below. From the power it contained, it was clear it was produced from the battle of at least 2 Martial Dipper Realm experts. Moreover, it seemed as though those experts were locked in a life-or-death battle.

Their gazes turned to the Bing Continent below and it seemed as though they were able to see past the heavenly screen to watch the battle.

Neither said anything about the battle. It was as though everything that happened below had nothing to do with them.

Retracting his gaze, Shang Xia continued to speak, "Senior Lu, you're not constrained to an Elysium and you can enter and leave our Spirit Luxuriant World however you like. Even if they came to mess with you, you can just run away..."

Lu Wuzi's Void Origin might be damaged which would greatly affect his combat abilities, but a True Immortal was a True Immortal at the end of the day. Unless someone had been plotting against them for a long time, they wouldn't be able to stop him from leaving the world! As long as he had the intention to run away, no one in the Spirit Luxuriant World would be able to stop him!

Lu Wuzi forced a chuckle and pointed at the Ice Essence Sect below. "Young friend… Don't you know that my Ice Essence Sect has already been labeled as a traitor of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect? If I leave... You can probably imagine what will happen to all of them..."

He paused slightly before he continued, "Look at Han Mo who chose to enter my Ice Essence Sect... He offended your Tongyou Institution in the past and now that I chose not to protect him, he's destined to become a stepping stone for your institution's up-and-coming Martial Dipper Realm experts."

The Ice Essence Sect was created by Lu Wuzi who defected from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect. He had formidable strength and could deal with most problems, but the moment he left, their experts would definitely suffer intense retaliation from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect.

They might have gathered under a new banner, but that didn't change the fact that those who defected from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect with Lu Wuzi were traitors. Under such circumstances, if the Northern Sea Mystic Sect decides to go all out and exterminate the Ice Essence Sect on the pretext of 'hunting traitors', the other Elysiums and the Tongyou Institution wouldn't be able to do anything to stop them.

After all... Kou Chongxue might have saved Lu Wuzi because his strength would benefit the Spirit Luxuriant World, but no one would be able to use the same excuse for the other disciples of the Ice Essence Sect. No one would be able to forgive those who betrayed their faction easily.

Even if Lu Wuzi used the reasoning that Zhang Xuansheng would devour his Void Origin to try to convince others why he chose to leave, it wouldn't be that convincing. After all, he could say that Zhang Xuansheng was determined to devour his Void Origin, but there was no concrete proof of that!

At the very least, Zhang Xuansheng hadn't tried anything like that before he decided to take the initiative to make the first move.

... Whatever it was, Shang Xia understood the hidden meaning behind what Lu Wuzi was saying to him. "Senior Lu, it seems like you already have a foolproof plan..."

Lu Wuzi seemed satisfied with how fast Shang Xia understood his intentions and he laughed, "I wouldn't say it's foolproof. Instead, I'm going to have to take another risk. In fact... I'm going to need the help of True Immortal Kou's Stellar Cauldron..."

Having thought of something, Shang Xia turned to the battle below. "Is that why you personally came up here to talk to me?"

Lu Wuzi didn't deny his intentions. "Before coming here, I told the members of my Ice Essence Sect that Han Mo infiltrated our sect on Zhang Jianzi's orders. No one will interfere in the battle below. Anyway, I have to thank Instructor Sun of your Tongyou Institution for helping me to clear out a rat in my sect..."

It was without question that 'Zhang Jianzi' was Zhang Xuansheng's descendant who was preparing to enter the Martial Void Realm.

As though trying to agree with what Lu Wuzi was saying, a massive blast came from the skies above the Bing Continents. The shockwave was so powerful that Shang Xia and Lu Wuzi could feel it from above the heavenly screen.

"I am truly in awe of your methods... However, what are you talking about when you say you're taking another risk? How sure are you that my Tongyou Institution... No. How can you be sure Patriarch Kou will help you?" Shang Xia sighed softly. "Well, he's helping me, but your institution will be the one to benefit the most!" Lu Wuzi muttered.

Seeing the hesitant look on Shang Xia's face, Lu Wuzi no longer hid his intentions. A name that hadn't come up in a long time emerged from his lips.

"I'm talking about the Azure Flame World."

Raising his head to stare at Lu Wuzi, a light flashed in Lu Wuzi's eyes as he continued, "Even though the various Elysiums might have already obtained the coordinates to the Azure Flame World, the only person who can travel freely from our Spirit Luxuriant World to the Azure Flame World is Patriarch Kou!"

Shang Xia's eyes narrowed slightly and his focus shifted away from the battle happening below.

The next second, Lu Wuzi's voice rang in his mind again. This time, it contained a trace of urgency. "The Azure Flame World has already birthed its first True Immortal. He might be shackled to his Elysium, but Kou Chongxue wouldn't be able to defeat their expert alone. Even if I joined forces with Patriarch Kou, we might not be able to fully suppress him in the Azure Flame World. However... What if 3 True Immortals joined hands?"

A flash of cold light crossed Shang Xia's eyes and he growled, "Where are you going to get the Third True Immortal from? True Immortal Lu, will you be able to get another expert at the same level to join the expedition?"

"Haha!" Lu Wuzi chuckled as a profound light flashed in his eyes. "Young friend Shang, you're the third True Immortal!"

Chapter 1003: Betrayal and Praise

Anyone who took part in their expedition against the Azure Flame World back then understood that with the successful formation of the Spirit Luxuriant World, the Azure Flame World was something they had to conquer eventually.

Even if the Azure Flame World had a True Immortal who could draw on the power of the world to protect them for the time being, the difference between the Spirit Luxuriant World and the Azure Flame World was a massive rift. As time passes, the difference between them will only grow larger.

One could say that the moment the Azure Flame World's coordinates were discovered by Kou Chongxue, their fate was sealed!

If not for the fact that Kou Chongxue was the only True Immortal back then who could travel across the sea of stars freely, the Azure Flame World would have already been completely devoured by the likes of Zhang Xuansheng, Yang Taihe, Li Jidao, and Liu Jingsheng.

However, after what happened to Dugu Yuansheng during the Spirit Abundance World's second invasion, the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World realized how difficult it was to overcome the advantage native True Immortals had with the boost from their world. That was also why even though the Azure Flame World might seem like a fat juicy piece of meat Kou Chongxue could obtain alone, he was in no rush to start an expedition. He was waiting for other True Immortals to be born in the Spirit Luxuriant World before plotting against the Azure Flame World. Of course... He would have to split the profits with the other True Immortals, but that wasn't something that could be avoided. After all, Kou Chongxue couldn't head over to the Azure Flame World to kill Yuancang Ming alone.

Kou Chongxue might be anxious, but the other factions were equally worried that Kou Chongxue would leave them behind and obtain all the benefits from the Azure Flame World alone.

After all, he had the coordinates of the Azure Flame World. Even though the True Immortals from the other Elysiums managed to gather some information from their disciples who went there in the past, they weren't completely sure how they would attack the Azure Flame World.

Also... Kou Chongxue wasn't shackled to an Elysium! He held all the cards!

He would be able to head there whenever he liked, with whoever he liked!

There was one thing the True Immortals were sure of. The earlier they joined Kou Chongxue in the expedition, the more benefits they would gain.

Lu Wuzi seemed to have already made plans to cooperate with Kou Chongxue, and Shang Xia was starting to suspect if that was what Kou Chongxue had in mind when he moved to save Lu Wuzi back then.

As soon as Lu Wuzi mentioned the Azure Flame World, Shang Xia understood why he had been sent to the Bing Continent to 'assist' Sun Haiwei.

However... Both Kou Chongxue and Lu Wuzi were first tier Martial Void Realm experts. With Lu Wuzi's broken foundations, Shang Xia truly wondered if they were capable of killing a True Immortal who has the backing of the world and his Elysium.

Lu Wuzi's statement dispelled all of Shang Xia's suspicions.

"Young friend Shang, you're the third True Immortal!"

He made up his mind the moment he heard that statement. However, he still waved his hands modestly and denied, "No, no, no. I am far from reaching the next level. Senior Lu, you're exaggerating."

Naturally, Lu Wuzi wouldn't fall for any of that. "Young friend Shang, is there a need to act so humble? For Patriarch Kou to send you here... He definitely thought it through."

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback. Even he had no idea when he would be able to enter the Six Directions Realm. How could anyone else know how long he would take?

However...

If the operation truly consisted of Kou Chongxue, Lu Wuzi, and himself after he had broken through, it would highly likely they would be able to beat Yuancang Ming back even if he had the assistance of the Azure Flame World and his Elysium.

In that case...

The 3 True Immortals would be able to divvy up the Azure Flame World, and the Tongyou Institution would definitely gain the most. If that happened, the situation couldn't be better!

Even though they had no idea how much impact they would have on the Spirit Luxuriant World if they devoured an Azure World, there shouldn't be a problem to push the Tongyou Paradise into the Tongyou Elysium.

As his thoughts started to run wild, Lu Wuzi's voice rang in his mind once again. "... That is why... Young friend Shang, you need to enter the Martial Void Realm as soon as possible!"

When Shang Xia turned to look at him again, Lu Wuzi didn't forget to stir even more shit. "Don't blame me for not reminding you... We're not the only ones who have our sights set on the Azure Flame World. If not for the fact that the other True Immortals can't leave, they would have split up the Azure Flame World a long time ago!"

"So..." Shang Xia mumbled, but he was quickly cut off.

"So, with the exception of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect, think about the other factions. Yifeng from the Eternal Palace, Jiu Du from the Divine Capital Sect, and Huang Jinghan from the Yuanchen Sect. All 3 of them are trying their best to enter the Martial Void Realm. After all, they wouldn't want Patriarch Kou to obtain all the benefits..."

Seeing the look of contemplation on Shang Xia's face, Lu Wuzi knew that he probably achieved what he wanted to.

However... Faint fluctuations came from beneath the heavenly screen once again and attracted their attention...

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On the eastern corner of the Bing Continent, above the Hoar Frost Ocean, Sun Haiwei and Han Mo's battle was about to come to an end.

Because of a mission from the sect, Han Mo left for the Hoar Frost Ocean to look for something called the 'Frost Crystal'.

The Ice Essence Sect might seem like they obtained a batch of high-level experts the moment they were established and possessed considerable strength, but that was merely on the surface. The current Ice Essence Sect wasn't made up of people who were united. They were merely gathered under the banner and leadership of a True Immortal powerhouse, Lu Wuzi.

The true foundations of a sect lay in its inheritance, and only if they could replenish their strength constantly and nurture new batches of experts would they be able to maintain their presence.

Maintaining the inheritance and foundation of a sect naturally came down to having enough resources. The Frost Crystal that Han Mo was tasked to gather was actually a treasure required to craft rank four advancement medicine!

The moment he found a spot that could produce Frost Crystals constantly, he would solve a huge problem for the Ice Essence Sect!

Never in his wildest imagination would he have expected to be unlucky enough to run into Sun Haiwei who came to seek revenge!

In fact... After offending the institution in the celestial remains back then, he had been doing a good job at hiding from their attempts at revenge.

The Tongyou Institution had been growing rapidly in recent years with Kou Chongxue entering the Martial Void Realm and with several experts entering the Martial Dipper Realm, causing Han Mo to seriously regret his actions, but there was no way to turn back time. He could only hug the largest thigh he could find and endure whatever treatment he was given in order to survive.

It didn't matter if it was the Northern Sea Mystic Sect back then or the Ice Essence Sect he ran off to currently. His reputation wasn't too bad in either of them. After all, no Martial Dipper Realm expert would be like him and willingly run around to obtain resources for the faction.

Even so... He discovered that he had likely been betrayed after fighting with Sun Haiwei for some time.

He cursed his bad luck when he first ran into her, and he quickly sent a request for help to the Ice Essence Sect at the start of the battle.

However... Reinforcements never came.

Han Mo might not have had the opportunity to refine his third fate dipper in the years that passed, but that didn't mean that he didn't improve. He was definitely stronger than before.

He felt that even though Sun Haiwei was also a second element Martial Dipper Realm expert like himself, he would be able to come out on top with his wealth of experience and strong foundations.

However... He realized how wrong he was after a single exchange.

If he felt that he had already gotten extremely familiar with the use of his fate dippers and would be able to use them with great coordination, the unreasonably young female cultivator before him was able to freely transform her dipper qi!

If the limit of Han Mo's ability was the second element of the Martial Dipper Realm... His limit would actually be the lower bound of where Sun Haiwei's abilities began.

It was especially so when Sun Haiwei walked down the path of frost when she was in the Martial Extermination Realm. The fate dippers she refined so far were related to the Yin Water and Yin Metal elements. Rather than refining a Yin Wood Fate Dipper that was more closely related to the Yin Water Fate Dipper, she chose one with the strongest offensive property!

Sun Haiwei was also wielding 2 pretty impressive weapons. She had a bunch of powerful talismans that could be used to defend and recover any injuries she might sustain, and she also had medicine to restore her exhausted inner qi. It was definitely possible for her to kill an expert at the same level!

Sun Haiwei wouldn't easily pass up an opportunity like that!

That was also the difference between an expert who came from a great power and a wandering cultivator!

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Above the heavenly screen, Lu Wuzi watched Han Mo's final struggle and sighed with a trace of envy, "Patriarch Kou is truly a genius... he actually managed to develop an inheritance that merges the properties of different elements. Even at the second element of the Martial Dipper Realm, members of your institution can freely transform their dipper qi. It's something the Northern Sea Mystic Sect couldn't do even with their thousand year inheritance... The other Elysiums can't do better than the Northern Sea Mystic Sect... It's no wonder Patriarch Kou and yourself could comprehend your martial intents so quickly and enter the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm!"

"Huh?" Shang Xia gasped once. A strange feeling came over him.

Chapter 1004: Spirituality of the Twelve Months and Six Directions

Anyone who could reach the Martial Dipper Realm was a seasoned expert.

With more and more experts of the Tongyou Institution following Shang Xia's philosophy of the five elements in the Martial Dipper Realm, they discovered that the risks of causing a disequilibrium of their fate dippers had been greatly lowered. It didn't matter if they understood the true principles behind the five elements, but they could tell that circulating their fate dipper qi became a lot smoother if they followed the same method as the seniors of the institution.

From the tyrannical strength Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia were displaying, it was difficult for the Tongyou Institution not to attract the attention of other experts.

What Shang Xia didn't expect was the fact that everyone seemed to think that Kou Chongxue was the one who created the Tongyou Institution's rank five inheritance that related to the five elements.

When he heard Lu Wuzi's admiration for Kou Chongxue to be able to do something like that, a strange feeling filled his heart.

Of course, to everyone else who didn't know the intricacies of the matter, it only made sense that the one and only True Immortal of the Tongyou Institution was the one who came up with it.

No one would believe that Shang Xia, a junior of the Tongyou Institution, would be able to fully comprehend the principles behind the mutual restraint and propagation of the five elements back then.

Even among the higher-ups of the institution, a good portion of them felt that Shang Xia was merely testing out Kou Chongxue's conjecture when it came to his cultivation. They thought that Shang Xia's simultaneous refinement of his extermination origins and his principles of the five elements were created by the patriarch!

Shang Xia didn't seem to care too much about the misunderstanding. After all, the reputation as someone who developed the martial philosophy didn't interest him at all. To him, reputation couldn't increase his combat skills or cultivation. Not to mention the fact that whatever he came up with didn't belong to him in the first place...

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With their conversation concluded, Lu Wuzi took his leave. Shang Xia quickly met up with Sun Haiwei who was making her way back to the Tongyou Institution.

Seeing as Shang Xia had come, Sun Haiwei heaved a sigh of relief as she felt a lot safer than before.

The battle above the Hoar Frost Ocean saw the death of Han Mo, but because of his final stand, Sun Haiwei exhausted a lot of inner qi. She was barely able to maintain 20 percent of her strength as she made her way back to the institution. Any random Martial Dipper Realm expert would be able to take her down.

"Will this really not affect the institution?" Sun Haiwei couldn't help but ask. Even though she had Kou Chongxue's personal guarantee that killing Han Mo wouldn't impact the institution in the slightest, she was still uncertain about the whole situation.

Bursting with laughter, Shang Xia replied, "Senior Sister, there's nothing to worry about. I was observing the entire battle with True Immortal Lu Wuzi earlier as we spoke about some matters above the heavenly screen."

"Oh... I see!" Sun Haiwei instantly felt her nerves loosening up. However, a strange feeling soon filled her heart.

The first time she met the fellow flying beside her was when he was still a youngster barely 18 years old... He respectfully addressed her as his senior sister earlier, but there he was protecting her as she made her way back to the institution. He had already grown to a point where he was able to chat with a True Immortal on equal grounds...

"What are you planning to do next?" Sun Haiwei suppressed the strange emotions in her heart while questioning Shang Xia.

Glancing at her, he seemed to understand what the true intention behind her question was and he chuckled. "It's not up to me. Time is of the essence and it's time for me to break through..."

Sun Haiwei nodded as though she expected as much. "What happens next? Why are you in such a rush to break through?"

Realizing there was no need to hide their plans from Sun Haiwei, he muttered, "The Azure Flame World!"

"Do you need me to do anything when the time comes?" Sun Haiwei mumbled softly.

After thinking for a bit, Shang Xia responded, "Not for the time being. However, if we really manage to subdue the Azure Flame World, it will be a good opportunity for you to grow even more..."

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After returning from the Bing Continent, Shang Xia gave Kou Chongxue a detailed report about everything Lu Wuzi mentioned.

Kou Chongxue wasn't surprised by Lu Wuzi's request. It seemed as though Lu Wuzi had seen through Kou Chongxue's intentions to act against the Azure Flame World.

"I handed all the stuff related to building large-scale flying ships that can travel through the sea of stars you and Huang Yu obtained from the Spirit Abundance World to Chu Jia. Recently, she had been working on developing them and our institution's resources have been funneled to the Formations Hall and Artifacts Hall for their construction needs..." Kou Chongxue explained. It seemed as though he had long since been plotting against the Azure Flame World. Large-scale flying ships played an extremely important role when it came to conquering other worlds.

Shang Xia thought for a moment before he continued, "There is no way we can hide our actions from the Elysiums. Even though you're the only one who has the method to initiate the Spatial Transfer to the Azure Flame World, they won't sit by and let us be the only ones to reap the benefits of conquering the Azure Flame World."

Even if Kou Chongxue and the others subdued the Azure Flame World, they would have to return to the Spirit Luxuriant World in order to devour the world origin of the Azure Flame World. When that happened...

Kou Chongxue asked suddenly, "What do you think of Lu Wuzi's plan? Do you think it's viable?"

"Disciple isn't sure when Yifeng, Jiu Du, Huang Jinghan, or even Zhang Jianzi of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect will attempt their breakthrough to the Martial Void Realm..." Shang Xia mumbled.

As he made his way back to the Tongyou Institution, Shang Xia understood that even if he managed to enter the Six Directions Realm and carry out the expedition to the Azure Flame World with Lu Wuzi and Kou Chongxue, what would happen when they returned? What if the other Elysiums managed to produce a second True Immortal?

After all, there was no way of avoiding the Elysiums when they came back! If those Elysiums stood in their way and requested for a portion of the benefits of conquering the Azure Flame World, what would happen then?

If they agreed, wouldn't Kou Chongxue and the others be clowns who did all the dirty work for the others for free?!

If they refused... They might not even be able to obtain the benefits they fought hard for!

Seeing how Kou Chongxue had fallen into thought, Shang Xia also thought about the possible outcomes before he answered, "With Lu Wuzi's example, do you think the other Elysiums already produced their second True Immortal?"

"Even if they tried to break through in their Elysium, what their current Ancestors can do is to ensure their safety. They might be able to hide the initial fluctuations, but there is no way they can prevent anyone from discovering the fluctuations to the World Origin Source." Kou Chongxue replied. Pausing for a moment, he then continued, "Unless the 4 Elysiums use the foundations of their Elysiums to provide the astronomical amount of world origin required for the breakthrough, none of them would be able to hide the birth of a second True Immortal. It doesn't make sense for them to try something like that as it would greatly deplete their foundations. More than a hundred years of accumulated world origin would be wasted if they tried something like that..."

Shang Xia nodded in understanding before he continued, "Which means... Other than Lu Wuzi, there haven't been any attempts to break through from the 4 Elysiums, right?"

Kou Chongxue sighed softly, "Your guesses aren't exactly unfounded. They might be waiting for us to head over to the Azure Flame World before attempting to advance to the Martial Void Realm, but..."

Shang Xia looked at Kou Chongxue with slight uncertainty. However, Kou Chongxue quickly continued, "... Whether or not they succeed... They might still be shackled to their Elysiums..."

"It doesn't matter. As long as they can stop us from coming back, it's enough!" Shang Xia frowned.

"You don't have to worry about this for now. All you need to care about is to hurry up and enter the Martial Void Realm! If you fail to enter the next level before they do... What's the point of coming up with so many assumptions?!" Kou Chongxue snorted once.

Shang Xia burst out laughing the next moment. "Isn't it better to have 2 minds to think of the possibilities instead of 1? We'll be able to come up with more comprehensive plans that way!"

"You? Coming up with more comprehensive plans with me? Heh." Kou Chongxue sneered once.

Shang Xia didn't stay for much longer and he quickly turned into a streak of light that left the hall to deal with his matters.

Not too long later, Yun Jing entered the hall. Kou Chongxue seemed to have noticed her presence long ago and he asked without raising his head, "How's the progress with the Heavenly Star Palace?"

"Everything is going well for now. We should be able to complete the construction of the Star Observator in a few more years. Fourth Brother Shang has been stationed in the south for some time and he has been the one negotiating with them." Yun Jing gave him a quick update on the progress as she walked into the hall.

Kou Chongxue sighed in a deep voice. "It's still too slow. Tell Fourth Brother Shang that he's allowed to share the Stargazer inheritance with the Heavenly Star Palace in order to get them to hurry up. Also... Tell them that not only will we allow the Heavenly Star Palace to take part in the expedition to the Azure Flame World, but we are also willing to assist them in restoring their Martial Void Realm inheritance!"

Yun Jing was greatly taken aback. "Why... Why are we going so far? Our Spirit Luxuriant World has limited resources! The birth of every new True Immortal will complicate the situation even further. Not to mention the Heavenly Star Palace has already fully restored their Stargazer inheritance and it won't mean much for us to share what we have..."

Kou Chongxue shook his head in response. "We need to set our sights further. Compared to the other Spirit Worlds, our foundations are far too shallow. The True Immortals we have are far too few and weak! Moreover... Our coordinates in the vast sea of stars have already been revealed. They might form an alliance and catch us off guard..."

Yun Jing's expression changed slightly.

After returning from the Bing Continent, Shang Xia finally returned to the Shang Clan to celebrate the new year.

The Shang Clan was getting more prosperous by the day, but in his eyes, it became increasingly foreign. In front of a super-expert like Shang Xia, the members of the Shang Clan would maintain a respectful attitude, with traces of fear whenever they interacted with him.

Everything caused him to gradually feel estranged from all of them.

The only people in the Shang Clan he was familiar with were his Fifth Grandfather, Shang Ke, his aunt, Shang Xi, and several uncles like Shang Quan, Yan Qi, and the rest.

After staying for 3 days in the Shang Clan, Shang Xia left the city.

In the following year, Shang Xia needed to obtain the Spirituality of the Twelve Months and Six Directions of a Continent from the You Continent.

Even though the twelve months was in the name of the secondary medicine he required, it didn't mean that the spirituality had to come from the same year. However, like the Four Extremity Spirituality, Shang Xia felt that it would be best if he obtained it in the same year.

When the Crimson Soul Tablet came up with his rank six advancement medicine, the Six Direction Heaven Restoration, Shang Xia made the connection between the Spirituality of the Twelve Months and Six Directions of a Continent and the Four Extremity Spirituality.

It might be intuitive to Shang Xia that the Four Extremity Spirituality was related to the four directions, but the Spirituality of the Twelve Months and Six Directions of a Continent wasn't as obvious. All the Crimson Soul Tablet provided was a general guide, and looking for them might prove to be a little difficult. According to Shang Xia's knowledge, the Spirituality of the Twelve Months and Six Directions of a Continent would be of lower quality than that since they were the secondary medicine, and it would be much easier than obtaining the Four Extremity Spirituality.

Chapter 1005: Spirituality of the Twelve Months and Six Directions Pt.2

"How would the treasures containing the Spirituality of the Six Directions be ranked?!" Shang Xia wondered to himself.

However, he had the experience of looking for the Four Extremity Spirituality back then and he could use it as a reference for how he would go about obtaining the Spirituality of the Six Directions.

It was the first month of the lunar year, and the You Continent was experiencing the end of Winter. Nothing stopped Shang Xia from deploying a portion of disciples of the Tongyou Institution to scour the You Continent for spiritual treasures related to the Spirit of the Moon.

That was the benefit of belonging to a great power. The Tongyou Institution could be said to be the fifth strongest power in the Spirit Abundance World, and they were only second to the Elysiums. Not only did they secure their control over the You Continent, they were starting to expand their influence outwards.

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The number of disciples in the Outer, Inner, and Upper Divisions of the institution reached a terrifying number. Adding those who already graduated and had taken up positions in the institution, hundreds of disciples responded to Shang Xia's order to look for treasures.

Because he gave the order to look for treasures, he had no choice but to head back to the Talisman Hall to craft a bunch of lower-leveled rank three and four talismans to act as rewards for them.

Even though he had to give out rank three and rank four talismans, everything was worth it.

In less than half a month, resources poured in from all corners of the institution as their disciples returned after making great gains. Spiritual treasures of all grades gathered in the city, and 4 massive warehouses belonging to the Talisman Hall were stocked full of resources.

Ren Huan, who had been promoted to the manager of the resources of the Talisman Hall, stared at the piles of resources that returned and he felt his head hurt. Moreover, there were more coming by the day.

As the amount of resources brought back by their disciples concerned their rewards, Ren Huan had to record everything they brought back and where it came from along with their individual details.

Moreover, he had no idea what Shang Xia was looking for among the piles upon piles of resources.

Helpless, he could only invite Shang Xia over to sort out the resources in the warehouse.

"You're only looking for a single treasure, but there are thousands upon thousands of herbs, branches, leaves, flowers, rocks, jade... and a lot more nonsense. The number is growing by the day! How long will you need to filter the treasure you need from these?! Haven't you thought of narrowing the scope of your search for the Spirit of the Moon?!" Ren Huan threw open the doors of one of the warehouses and grumbled.

Shang Xia shook his head and chuckled bitterly. He walked into the warehouse before releasing his divine will to allow the Crimson Soul Tablet to do its thing.

The next second, Shang Xia's figure trembled slightly as a formless wave filled the warehouse.

"No way... Don't tell me you found it already... Are you really that lucky?!" Ren Huan gasped at the side when he saw how strange Shang Xia was acting. After he spoke, he looked at a dried-up vine in Shang Xia's hand.

Casually tossing the vine in his hand that was probably a rank one treasure away, Shang Xia snorted, "Of course not! Do you really think I'm that lucky?! It's just... I thought of a way to narrow the scope of the search!"

Ren Huan nearly jumped in joy. "What idea did you think of?! Hurry up and tell us! At least we won't have to run around like aimless flies to look for treasures... Can't you see that our Talisman Hall can't hold any more treasures?"

Shang Xia turned around and muttered, "I can't say much about those who are looking for treasures outside, but I'll have to look at the treasures in here before making a decision."

Ren Huan stared at the warehouse before running after Shang Xia. "Hey! Aren't you going to inspect the treasures in this warehouse?!"

"Nah. There's nothing in here I need..." Shang Xia muttered without turning back.

Seeing how Shang Xia was headed for the next warehouse, Ren Huan ran after him and yelled, "So what idea did you think of?! Weren't there thousands of treasures in there?! How did you already browse them all?!"

Shang Xia naturally wouldn't say anything about the Crimson Soul Tablet. Instead, he chuckled and explained to Ren Huan, "I have a secret method to find the presence of the Spirit of the Moon among the treasures as long as they're gathered together."

Ren Huan continued to pester Shang Xia. "Can't you use your secret method to narrow the type of treasures we need to look for or the general position of the Spirit of the Moon?! We can save a lot of effort running around the You Continent that way! Also... You're looking for the Spirit of the Moon for the entire year, and it will only appear once a month..."

Shang Xia passed the second warehouse and approached the third when he turned around to gesture towards the warehouse while chuckling softly, "I can't help it. Brother Ren, I can only trouble you to look out for it. Anyway, it will only be for a year."

Ren Huan was surprised that Shang Xia stopped suddenly. "Are you… Are you sure the Spirit of the Moon you're looking for is in this warehouse?!"

Shang Xia nodded slightly. "If I'm not mistaken..."

Entering the third warehouse, Shang Xia looked through the thousands of treasures that had piled up before finding a willow branch that looked slightly out of place due to its fresh appearance in a pile of withered leaves.

"Is that it?" Ren Huan looked at the willow leaf that was barely 3 inches and explained, "That's the branch of the Spring Beginning Willow. The entire tree can be considered a rank three treasure, but the branch is probably a rank two treasure. Are you sure that's the Spirit of the Moon?"

Shang Xia looked at the treasure in his hand and replied with a smile, "That's exactly what I'm looking for. To be exact, I'm not looking for a branch. The treasure giving it life is the true Spirit of the Moon, allowing it to stand out from the rest of the withered branches and leaves..."

Ren Huan couldn't help but look at the pile of branches Shang Xia retrieved the treasure from and made the comparison.

Following Ren Huan's glance, Shang Xia laughed, "This is the only special treasure among them. The others are normal branches from the Spring Beginning Willow."

Ren Huan couldn't help but sigh. However, he understood that something Shang Xia was finding couldn't be something that easy to find. There wouldn't be a bunch of them lying around.

"So... What's next?"

"You can get them to stop for the time being. All the treasures they send back can be exchanged for essence crystals or talismans of corresponding value. The disciple who located this branch can obtain another rank four talisman or essence crystals equivalent to a rank four talisman." Shang Xia knew that he would only be able to motivate the disciples of the institution to continue looking for the treasures he needed by giving them enough benefits.

Even though it seemed like a lot, Shang Xia felt that it was worth it.

He might be deploying the disciples of the institution and making use of the institution's influence, but everything was worth it if they could produce another True Immortal.

Not to mention the fact that the entire operation wasn't worthless. The Talisman Hall might not be able to use a lot of treasures their disciples obtained, but a portion of those treasures had been picked out by the Artifacts Hall, Formation Hall, and even the Medicine Hall. As for those that were completely useless... They could just take it as a chance for them to widen their disciples' horizons.

With the experience of locating the first Spirit of the Moon, the disciples of the institution moved quickly the moment the second month started. Batches of spiritual treasures started to gather back in the institution.

Ren Huan, who was prepared, quickly arranged for disciples of the Talisman Hall to sort out the treasures as soon as they arrived.

Shang Xia tried to use the Crimson Soul Tablet to look for the Spirit of the Moon during the second month, but he quickly gave up on it.

The Crimson Soul Tablet could only tell when the treasure was within a certain range. It wasn't as effective as locating the Four Extremity Spirituality.

Because of that, Shang Xia's efficiency in finding the Spirit of the Moon would never match up to batches of disciples combing through the You Continent.

That also proved that the Spirituality of the Six Directions wasn't as valuable as the Four Extremity Spirituality.

Actually... The Spirit of the Moon wasn't exactly the Spirituality of the Six Directions. Shang Xia needed to combine them properly after getting his hands on all 12. Perhaps then, they would be comparable to the Four Extremity Spirituality in value.

Half the month passed when Shang Xia located a gourd of spiritual liquid among the treasures that had been sent back. The Spirit of the Moon of the second month was located in a single drop of spiritual liquid it continued.

The Spirit of the Moon of the third month wasn't as easy to find. After more than 20 days after the start of the third month, the Talisman Hall failed to locate it. Only on the twenty-second day did Shang Xia suddenly discover its presence when he was messing around in the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range. Surprisingly, it was located on the feather on a random swallow that was flying north...

Finally entering the fourth month, the Tongyou Institution's actions of gathering all sorts of treasures caught the attention of the other powers. All of them started to guess the Tongyou Institution's true intentions. However... They knew jack shit by observing the low to mid-level disciples of the Tongyou Institution running all over the continent grabbing treasures. They had no

system, and there was no pattern they could learn. Also... The various powers didn't try to interfere with whatever the institution was doing.

The Spirit of the Moon of the fourth month was found a lot more smoothly than the others. After a massive storm that happened at the start of the month, a disciple who ventured out of the institution discovered a rock that had shattered from a lightning bolt. He felt that it contained a trace of lightning energy and decided to send all the pieces he gathered to the Talisman Hall.

Shang Xia was talking to Ren Huan about crafting high-level talisman paper when the rock arrived, and he felt a reaction from the Crimson Soul Tablet. He simply threw the rank three talisman seal he crafted over to the inner disciple who discovered the rock.

Ren Huan was extremely displeased with how Shang Xia rewarded the disciple who brought back the rock. Watching the disciple leave happily with the talisman seal, he held off till the disciple was out of sight before grumbling, "A rank three talisman seal is too valuable! It's way more important than a rank four talisman! Can you give out something like that so easily?"

Shang Xia chuckled in amusement before handing the shattered rock to Ren Huan. "Take a closer look."

Grabbing the bag of shattered rocks, Ren Huan inspected it with his divine perception. Eventually, he gasped, "Is that... A Lightning Extermination Origin?"

"Exactly! Not only was the rock shattered by a lightning bolt, but it contained a Lightning Extermination Origin. It should be considered a peak-grade treasure of the fourth rank. Not to mention it also contains the Spirit of the Moon of the fourth month!" Shang Xia explained.

A sigh escaped Ren Huan's lips. "It's a shame the kid is only at the Martial Extremity Realm. Otherwise, we could help him to extract the Lightning Extermination Origin and create another Martial Extermination Realm expert for the institution..."

Shang Xia chuckled softly, "Anyway, with the fourth Spirit of the Moon, I came up with a bold guess about how we should go about finding them in the future..."

Chapter 1006: Spirituality of the Twelve Months and Six Directions Pt.3

"You found a way to search for them?" Ren Huan felt a trace of excitement.

Because it was the first time they were tasked to find the Spirit of the Moon, they had no idea what it was and Shang Xia could only personally screen through the treasures that were brought back. The disciples of the Tongyou Institution could be said to be looking around blind and sending whatever treasure they thought felt special to the Talisman Hall. Ren Huan and the others had been worked to the bone dealing with the treasures that had been brought back.

If Shang Xia was truly able to notice a pattern and streamline the process of finding the Spirit of the Moon, not only would it become a lot easier, Ren Huan and the others would also be able to heave a sigh of relief. They would also be able to point out a proper path for those who wanted to break through to the Martial Void Realm in the future and wanted to collect the Spirit of the Moon!

Looking at how excited Ren Huan was getting, Shang Xia felt a little embarrassed. He chuckled softly, "I'm afraid I'm going to have to disappoint you. All I'm saying is... The treasure that contains the Spirit of the Moon will only appear when the full moon is out..."

Blinking in disbelief, Ren Huan muttered softly, "Is that it?!"

Shang Xia could only laugh helplessly. Retrieving the treasures that contained the Spirit of the Moon, he explained, "The willow branch contains signs of life because of the First Moon, and the spring water contains the Spirit of the Second Moon. It will dry up on the appearance of the ninth full moon of the year... As for the feather... Those swallows would pass through the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range on the third month of every year to head up north. They happened to fly past our You Continent to absorb the Spirit of the Moon when it was a full moon. As for the rocks that contain the power of lightning and the Spirit of the Fourth Moon, it happened because of a lightning storm that..."

Ren Huan roared with laughter and interrupted Shang Xia. "Regardless, we at least have a guide to follow. I'll get them to take more notice of treasures or herbs that appear on a full moon..."

Shang Xia thought for a second before speaking again, albeit a little less confident than before. "Also, I seem to have discovered something else…"

Ren Huan's eyes lit up again. "What, what is it?!"

"This... Actually, it's nothing much..." Shang Xia couldn't help but mock Ren Huan after seeing his excited expression again.

However, he decided to no longer mess around and he pointed at the treasures before him. "Look at them. Of the first 3 spirits we obtained, all of them were attached to something that was living!"

"Which means to say... If we're unlucky and fail to find the treasure within the month, it doesn't mean that we'll lose the chance to obtain the Spirit of the Moon for that specific month! It might be hiding in a creature or lifeform somewhere, waiting to be located!" Shang Xia continued, much to the dismay of Ren Huan.

Finally, Ren Huan lost it. "We found 4 of them so far! When you start to get unlucky and fail to find the Spirit of the Moon that month, you can head out yourself to look for it!"

"I'm just saying!" Shang Xia muttered.

Ren Huan turned to leave while muttering, "If there's nothing else you learned, I'm going to pause the search for the month. I need to go to the other halls to get them to handle the resources that piled up and prepare for next month's search."

Shang Xia hesitated slightly and mumbled, "There's something else..."

Ren Huan simply stared at him, waiting for him to continue.

As an expert at the grand completion stage of the Five Element Realm, an existence who could speak to True Immortals on equal grounds, Shang Xia actually felt his hair standing from the look Ren Huan was shooting at him. He quickly took out 2 pieces of the rock that contained the Spirit of the Fourth Moon and said, "These pieces should contain traces of the Spirit of the Moon. That would mean that there might be more than a single treasure each month that contains the Spirit of the Moon..."

Ren Huan didn't bother turning around as he entered the warehouse. His voice eventually came from within, "What good does that do? Will we be able to find the Spirit of the Moon at a quicker pace because of that?"

Shang Xia's discovery might not be groundbreaking, but Ren Huan relayed the findings nonetheless.

As the fifth month rolled about, the Tongyou Institution's operation began again.

Maybe they managed to narrow down the scope slightly, but the discovery of the Spirit of the Fifth Moon was quickly found. It was in a bunch of leaves that was retrieved.

The Spirit of the Sixth Moon was contained in a fresh batch of lotus Ge Qingzhu delivered to Shang Xia.

Ge Qingzhu had a spirit pond that was used to nurture spirit herbs, and the lotus he grew had the ability to purify one's inner qi. As such, everyone in the institution set their sights on the lotus he grew.

Ge Qingzhu's relationship with Shang Xia wasn't bad to begin with. Initially, he planned to give Shang Xia a batch as a gift, and he didn't expect it to contain the Spirit of the Sixth Moon.

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Entering the seventh month of the year, Shang Xia already gathered half of what he required. At the very least, there wasn't a situation where they failed to find it.

Of course, things wouldn't go as planned. The seventh month passed in a flash and there were only 4 days left till the month passed, but Shang Xia hadn't found traces of the Spirit of the Seventh Moon!

He personally left to look for it, but he seemed down on his luck.

Utterly dejected, Shang Xia knew that even though the Spirit of the Moon wouldn't disappear even if he didn't find it in that exact month, that would mean that he would be missing a single spirit of the year. If he truly failed to find it, their efforts would go down the drain!

On the second last day of the month, when Shang Xia was flying around aimlessly around the You Continent and losing all hope, a spatial fluctuation appeared in the distance and scattered the clouds in the distance.

Powerful winds blew all around him and Shang Xia discovered a familiar presence.

"Is that the power of wind? Or is that something related to the clouds?" Shang Xia muttered to himself before disappearing into the void.

As soon as he disappeared, a five colored light emerged from the void beside him. It turned into a five colored spatial gate as Chu Jia stepped out from it.

Seeing as there was no one nearby, the look of joy on Chu Jia's face froze. Drawing on the power of the Five Element Ring, she returned to the massive flying ship that appeared behind her before she rushed to Tongyou City, fuming at the missed opportunity.

The Institution was able to finally build a massive flying ship capable of flying through the vast sea of stars, and the moment it appeared in the skies above the city, cheers could be heard throughout the city. A thousand miles away, Shang Xia stared at a wisp of mist while revealing a look of joy.

He finally found what he was looking for 2 days before the end of the month! It actually existed in a random mist formed in the middle of nowhere!

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As the eighth month of the year arrived, Shang Xia quickly located 2 treasures that contained what he was looking for. That once again confirmed his guess that there could be more than one medium that contained the Spirit of the Moon.

Of the treasures he obtained, one of them was a rank five spiritual fruit and the other was a drop of dew.

Choosing to keep the dew drop, the rank five spiritual fruit went to the medicine hall as one of the Alchemy Grandmasters requested it.

After Grandmaster Ge Muchen's lifespan came to an end, Kou Chongxue managed to get another Alchemy Grandmaster from somewhere else to take Ge Muchen's place in the Medicine Hall.

If Shang Xia wasn't mistaken, the Alchemy Grandmaster also wanted to use the Spirit of the Moon contained in the fruit.

That would mean that the Alchemy Grandmaster knew about the uses of the Spirit of the Moon, and that could only mean one thing. That person gained the trust of Kou Chongxue and was let in on some secrets of the institution!

From the looks of it, Shang Xia decided that he would have to find a chance to interact with Lu Chuan, the new Alchemy Grandmaster of the Medicine Hall.

Entering the ninth month of the year, Shang Xia found a Golden Chrysanthemum in the medicinal fields of the institution that contained what he needed.

In the tenth month, the weather started to turn chilly. Kou Chongxue emerged from the depths of the Tongyou Paradise to gift Shang Xia with a high-grade essence crystal that was covered in frost.

With a trace of shock, Shang Xia carefully scraped the frost off the crystal before keeping it carefully in a sealed spiritual case.

As for the high-grade essence crystal... There was no doubt about it! He wasn't giving it back to Kou Chongxue.

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The Spirit of the Eleventh Moon came from a fist-sized salted ice from the sea along the You Continent.

Shang Xia verified it time and time again to ensure that the spirit was considered to come from the You Continent. The Crimson Soul Tablet showed no abnormal signs, and there seemed to be no problems.

The last month of the year quickly rolled about. With the continent covered in a layer of white frost, it was the first time Shang Xia felt a clear response from the Crimson Soul Tablet pointing him in the direction of the last spirit.

It wasn't part of the snow that stretched for thousands of miles. Instead, it was located in a strand of earth qi deep underground.

Shang Xia casually retrieved it with his abilities, and on the second day, a massive crater existed where it was.

Finally, Shang Xia gathered the Spirit of the Moon that represented the Spirituality of the Twelve Months which he could fuse to form the Spirituality of the Six Directions!

Before Ren Huan could catch his breath, the higher-ups of the institution passed down another order. It seemed as though every hall should be looking out and gathering Spirit of the Moon when they were hunting for resources and it was said that the order came from Kou Chongxue himself.

Unlike Shang Xia who required the Spirit of the Moon in a single year, the institution didn't request that of the various halls. It was said that they were only interested in the spirit and wanted to experiment on it.

It was a shame that the Spirit of the Moon only had a specific use for Shang Xia at the moment, the various halls didn't know how they should make use of it.

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In the Tongyou Paradise, Shang Xia ran into Alchemy Grandmaster Lu Chuan when he went to look for Kou Chongxue.

"You gathered the Spirituality of the Twelve Months. You should be preparing to fuse them to form your Spirituality of the Six Directions, right?" Kou Chongxue muttered while opening a spatial tunnel. On the other side was the Origin Holy Artifact, the Stellar Cauldron.

Shang Xia nodded once in Lu Chuan's direction as a sign of greeting before chuckling, "That's exactly why I came to bother you today."

Chapter 1007: Six Direction Heaven Restoration

"This is Alchemy Grandmaster, Mister Lu Chuan. After Grandmaster Ge left us... He took over the Medicine Hall. I believe you should have already heard about it." Kou Chongxue introduced.

Shang Xia smiled and cupped his fists towards Lu Chuan. "Disciple had long since heard of the Alchemist Grandmaster's resounding reputation!"

An awkward smile hung on Lu Chuan's face as he replied hastily, "That's a praise I wouldn't dare accept. Hall Master Shang, you're the true face of our Tongyou Institution."

Kou Chongxue couldn't take it anymore and he interrupted, "Grandmaster Lu is one of the few rank five Alchemy Grandmasters in our Spirit Luxuriant World. He was already a master when I was still making a name for myself. You better treat him respectfully in the future..."

Without missing a beat, Shang Xia grinned, "Patriarch Kou, there's no need for such reminders! I have always been cared for and taught by the institution and yourself. Would I not know anything about respecting my elders?"

Lu Chuan also muttered at the side, "Patriarch Kou, you're exaggerating..."

Kou Chongxue waved his hand to stop both of them from speaking further and he turned to Shang Xia. "If you need to borrow the Origin Holy Artifact to complete your Spirituality of the Six Directions before completing your rank six advancement medicine, Mister Lu wishes to observe how you do it..."

Shang Xia looked at Kou Chongxue before turning to Lu Chuan who had a hopeful expression on his face. He laughed, "Mister Lu, since you entered the institution, you're one of us. I can't ask for more since an Alchemy Grandmaster wishes to be there for the creation of my advancement medicine."

A look of approval flashed in Kou Chongxue's eyes. He quickly muttered, "Alright, let Mister Lu help you then. We'll talk about the rest of the matters after you complete the fusion of your Spirituality of the Six Directions."

It wasn't too difficult to fuse the spirits to form the Spirituality of the Six Directions for someone like Shang Xia who had the massive cheat code that was the Crimson Soul Tablet.

According to the Crimson Soul Tablet, the first thing Shang Xia had to do was to combine the Spirit of the First Moon and the Spirit of the Seventh Moon in the Stellar Cauldron.

With the world origin it contained, he would use the Crimson Soul Tablet to induce the fusion process. Everything went exceedingly smoothly.

Kou Chongxue observed at the side and grunted softly, "Oh? Looks like the moment the Spirituality of the Six Directions is formed, it increased greatly in quality. It's close to a rank six treasure by now..."

Without Kou Chongxue's reminder, Shang Xia knew when the process was complete. The Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness trembled slightly, and the reaction was close to what he felt when he looked for the Four Extremity Spirituality back then.

Successfully forming one of the Spirituality of the Six Directions, Shang Xia immediately started on the second.

With the guidance of the Crimson Soul Tablet, Shang Xia faced no difficulty and he circulated his Five Element Origin to fuse the Spirit of the Second Moon and the Spirit of the Eighth Moon to obtain the second Spirituality of the Six Directions.

All of a sudden, Lu Chuan who had been watching silently at the side, spoke up, "Hall Master Little Shang, you should be using other types of secret skills during the fusion process, right? Without your special ability, I'm afraid it wouldn't be so easy for you to complete the fusion process."

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback, but he nodded eventually. "Indeed. However, this is something unique to myself and other people will not be able to learn it. As such, I'm afraid I will have to trouble Mister Lu to find another method to complete the fusion process..."

Lu Chuang stared at Kou Chongxue and saw that the patriarch wasn't surprised in the slightest. Even though he was a little confused and reluctant to accept that as a response, he didn't say anything. He simply pressed his lips together and muttered, "I'll try my best…"

Shang Xia could tell that Lu Chuan wasn't fully satisfied with his response, but he didn't bother too much about it. He didn't even look at Kou Chongxue before he continued, "I'm going to start the fusion of the third Spirituality of the Six Directions now..."

With the world origin that was pouring out from the Stellar Cauldron, no accidents happened throughout the fusion process. Shang Xia soon gathered the Spirituality of the Six Directions.

With that, Shang Xia gathered everything he needed to craft the advancement medicine. The only thing left was to actually put it together.

Of course, he needed the assistance of the Origin Holy Artifact in order to make it happen.

Grandmaster Lu Chuan seemed to understand what was going to happen next, and the look on his face showed how excited he was. In fact, he looked even more emotional than Shang Xia.

Looking at Kou Chongxue with a raised eyebrow, all he got in response was a chuckle from the patriarch.

Seeing as how Kou Chongxue hadn't chased Lu Chuan away, Shang Xia understood that they probably had an agreement with each other. There should be some sort of hidden relationship between them such that Kou Chongxue could trust the Alchemy Grandmaster who entered the Tongyou Institution for several short years...

No longer hesitating, Shang Xia decided to begin. It wasn't that he trusted the new Alchemy Grandmaster. Instead, it was because he had unconditional trust that Kou Chongxue wouldn't allow anything to mess him up.

He might have prepared everything, but before he could move on to creating his Six Direction Heaven Restoration, Shang Xia couldn't help but ask, "Mister Lu, do you know how a rank six advancement medicine is created?"

A burning light shone in Lu Chuan's eyes as he stared at the spiritual treasures Shang Xia had prepared. He didn't even raise his head as his breathing became a little hurried. "I know that the end product will be some sort of paste, but I have no idea the process that takes place to make it happen."

"Looks like Hall Master Lu will be able to see it happen for yourself." Shang Xia chuckled in response.

Lu Chuan was slightly taken aback at Shang Xia's sudden change when addressing himself. Earlier, Shang Xia had been calling him 'Mister Lu', which showed his respect, but there still existed some distance between them. He changed his way of address to 'Hall Master Lu', which showed that Shang Xia had finally accepted him as a trusted peer.

The next moment, Shang Xia handed a jade slip to Lu Chuan that contained the ingredients required to craft the Six Direction Heaven Restoration.

Lu Chuan was a rank five Alchemy Grandmaster, and he had his fair share of crafting rank five advancement medicines, but it was his first time coming into contact with the recipe for a rank six advancement medicine.

That was one of the conditions Kou Chongxue had given him to pull him over to the Tongyou Institution, and Shang Xia had fulfilled it.

As one of the very few Alchemy Grandmasters, Lu Chuan understood the value of the jade slip Shang Xia had given him. As he received it, his hands were trembling uncontrollably.

It was then that Kou Chongxue's voice rang in his mind. "The Stellar Cauldron has the ability to create rank six advancement medicine, but it's not a long-term solution. With the assistance of a rank five Alchemy Grandmaster like yourself, we can lower the possibility of anything going wrong. You can also use the chance to quickly grasp the ability to craft the rank six advancement medicine on your own."

Lu Chuan understood that chances like that weren't easy to come by and he quickly showed his respect and thanked the 2.

The Stellar Cauldron has the ability to create rank six advancement medicine, but it's not a long-term solution...

Shang Xia seemed to have heard the hidden meaning behind his words, and he couldn't help but ask, "Patriarch Kou, are you planning to make use of the Azure Flame World to lay the foundations for us to become the Tongyou Elysium?"

Once the Tongyou Paradise became the Tongyou Elysium, the Stellar Cauldron would most definitely become the Origin Holy Artifact of the Elysium and they wouldn't be able to use it to craft advancement medicines any longer.

That was one of the main reasons Kou Chongxue invited Lu Chuan to the institution. He even seemed a little impatient to get Lu Chuan to start producing rank six advancement medicines.

Crafting advancement medicine wasn't actually related to one's rank as an Alchemy Grandmaster. As a rank five Alchemy Grandmaster, Lu Chuan had his fair share of experience crafting rank four and five advancement medicines, but what qualified him to become a rank five Alchemy Grandmaster was the fact that he would be able to modify an advancement formula to better suit the person using it.

Like the time Shang Xia crafted his rank four advancement medicine, he only needed several rank three Alchemy Masters to do it. As long as they had the recipe, lower-leveled Alchemists would be able to craft an advancement medicine with a certain chance for success.

Now that Shang Xia had provided Lu Chuan with the recipe for the advancement medicine, there was no need for him to modify anything. Lu Chuan could just follow the steps recorded and refine the medicine with the help of the Stellar Cauldron...

"Heavenly Screen Cloud, Earth Essence Milk, Four Extremity Spirituality..." Looking at the content, Lu Chuan seemed to lose himself in it.

Shang Xia slowly left the cauldron and went over to Kou Chongxue's side.

"Patriarch, where did you find him anyway? A rank five Alchemy Grandmaster... How could he not have been forced into another great power's service?" Shang Xia asked in a low voice.

Raising his eyebrow, Kou Chongxue glanced at Shang Xia. "How do you know he wasn't forced into the service of a great power? How the hell do you think he ended up as a hall master of our Medicine Hall?"

Something clicked in Shang Xia's mind. Kou Chongxue was right... In the eyes of many experts, the Tongyou Institution was a great power. Wouldn't that mean...

Slowly turning to Kou Chongxue, Shang Xia snorted in fright, "Patriarch Kou, did you... Did you force him to come here to work for you?"

Narrowing his gaze and physically looking down on Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue sneered, "Do you think this granddaddy here really managed to form some amazing connection with a rank five Alchemy Grandmaster and get him to willingly work for our institution while being bound to the rules of the institution. Do you also think I'll give him a rank six advancement formula for nothing?"

Shang Xia thought for a second and muttered, "Hall Master Lu is at the Martial Dipper Realm anyway... Did you make him swear an oath or something?"

"Heh!" Kou Chongxue snorted in response. "I left a strand of sword qi in his sea of consciousness. If he follows the oath he made, he would be one of us. If he doesn't... Hehehe..."

Shang Xia instantly broke out into praise. "Patriarch Kou, you really thought of all angles! You're amazing..."

"Enough of that shit. You better think of a time to break through after your advancement medicine is complete." Kou Chongxue brushed him off immediately.

With the Origin Holy Artifact and a rank five Alchemy Grandmaster to ensure nothing went wrong during the crafting process, Shang Xia's Six Direction Heaven Restoration was completed after slightly more than a month.

The time that passed was naturally inconsequential to Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia. However, it seemed to completely exhaust Lu Chuan, whose attention was fully focused on the crafting process. The moment the medicine was complete, a disheveled monster staggered away from the Stellar Cauldron.

If anyone else saw the unkempt and exhausted person walking around with a massive grin on his face after the completion of the rank six advancement medicine, they would think that a lunatic was on the loose.

Whatever the case, Shang Xia's Six Direction Heaven Restoration was complete and the only thing left was when he would attempt to break through to the Six Direction Realm!

Chapter 1008: Kou Chongxue's Request and the Secret of the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm

"When do you plan to break through?" Kou Chongxue questioned.

"Since the advancement medicine is complete, I'll advance as soon as possible..." Shang Xia muttered as if it was a matter of fact he would succeed.

A frown appeared on Kou Chongxue's face. "Don't you need to prepare?"

A chuckle left Shang Xia's lips. "Disciple has been making the preparations since stepping into the grand completion stage of my Five Element Realm..."

"Heh, you seem really confident!"

Shang Xia chuckled in response, "Well, I only have 1 set of advancement medicine anyway. If I doubt myself, my chances of success will be lowered!"

Kou Chongxue nodded slightly and muttered, "In that case, there's something else I need to tell you."

"Is there anything that I still don't know about?" Shang Xia gasped.

With his expression sinking, Kou Chongxue growled. "There's a lot of shit you don't know about. Do you know that with the current state of our Spirit Luxuriant World, a single continent can only withstand the growth of a single True Immortal?"

Shang Xia nearly jumped in fright. "That's impossible! In the Spirit Abundance World, they have at least 2 True Immortals in each great power!"

Kou Chongxue wasn't surprised by his reaction. He explained calmly, "That's the meaning of possessing an Elysium. It can allow 2 or more True Immortals to be born in the same place."

"What do you mean?" Shang Xia gasped.

"Our Spirit Luxuriant World has 15 continents in total, and that would mean that theoretically speaking, our world can hold a total of 15 True Immortals!" Kou Chongxue started his explanation.

"Wait a second, hold up..." Shang Xia unceremoniously interrupted Kou Chongxue. "Patriarch, this doesn't add up, right? Our Azure Origin World had 13 continents, while the Azure Spiritual World had 11 continents. After the fusion of our worlds, we are supposed to have 24 continents! That would mean that our world should be able to support a total of 24 True Immortals. What do you mean by we only have 15 continents?"

Kou Chongxue expected Shang Xia to bring it up and he explained, "A single continent in our Spiritu Luxuriant World is only able to support the birth of a single True Immortal. Have you thought about the existing True Immortals?"

Shang Xia's eyes narrowed slightly and thought back to what Kou Chongxue mentioned. "Are you talking about how an Elysium stole the spirituality of other continents like the border continents?"

Kou Chongxue nodded. "Exactly. When the Divine Capital Sect and the Eternal Palace established their Elysium, the Yong Continent couldn't provide enough for both of them. The Eternal Palace used half the spirituality of the Yong Continent while plundering the spirituality of the Liang and

Shu Continents. The Divine Capital Sect used the other half of the spirituality of the Yong Continent while stealing the spirituality of the Bing and You Continents..."

"As for the Xiangyang Elysium of the Yuanchen Sect, they set their sights on the Jiao Continent."

"About the Northern Sea Elysium... They would have plundered the spiritualities of even more continents! With the exception of the Northern Sea Continent of the original Azure Spiritual World, they would have plundered the spirituality of at least 3 other continents..."

Shang Xia interrupted Kou Chongxue during his explanation. "Patriarch Kou, didn't you enter the Martial Void Realm in the Jiao Continent back then?"

Realizing what Shang Xia was worried about, Kou Chongxue reassured him, "Relax, the world was ascending then and the World Origin Source hadn't completed its transformation. The spirituality of the Jiao Continent was restored after my ascension and their control over the Jiao Continent didn't affect me."

Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief.

However, Kou Chongxue didn't stop there as he continued, "Actually, during my ascension, Liu Jingsheng physically cut off their connection to the Jiao Continent's spirituality. The reason was that we were joining forces to deal with Dugu Yuanshan and Liu Jingsheng needed me to advance properly in order to ensure a chance of success. Also... After our world's ascension, a single continent would be enough to support the birth of an Elysium. After the ascension, they no longer required the spirituality of the Jiao Continent."

Shang Xia nodded in understanding. However, a new question surfaced in his mind. "A single continent can support the birth of an Elysium... Is that related to how many True Immortals we can produce?"

"I knew you would ask something like that! Right..." Kou Chongxue fell silent for a moment as he arranged his thoughts. "An Elysium is connected to a world, but it can also be said to be a world of its own. The source of an Elysium is connected to the World Origin Source, but it's slightly different. You can think of it as a massive continent that is a part of our world, but is also separated from it."

"So, that would mean that a True Immortal that is shackled to an Elysium..." Shang Xia gasped.

Kou Chongxue nodded slightly. "That would mean that even though an Elysium would be able to hold more than 1 True Immortal, only 1 of them would be able to advance with the help of the Elysium. If they wish to produce another True Immortal, they can't rely on it..."

"That would mean that Lu Wuzi, Zhang Jianzi, Yifeng, Jiu Du, and Huang Jinghan would have to..." Shang Xia mumbled.

Before he could finish, Kou Chongxue added, "They have to attempt the breakthrough without relying on an Elysium. They won't be shackled to one if they succeed. Since True Immortal Zhang

and the rest have already fused their Void Origin to their Elysiums, unless something happens to them..."

Shang Xia interrupted once again, "That would mean that Lu Wuzi's breakthrough to the Martial Void Realm wasn't as easy as it seemed..."

"Lu Wuzi broke through in the Northern Sea Continent. If the Northern Sea Mystic Sect wishes to nurture another True Immortal, they would have to look for another continent to do so. That is also why Zhang Xuansheng went berserk that day..." Kou Chongxue explained.

Another question formed in Shang Xia's mind. "Would the size and foundations of the continent affect the breakthrough?"

"Of course it would." Kou Chongxue replied immediately. "The Liang and Bing Continents that had their spirituality obtained by the Eternal Palace and Divine Capital Sect might have received the blessing of our world after its ascension, but that doesn't mean that their spiritualities have been fully restored. As such, those continents are unable to support the birth of another True Immortal. The Shu and Qing Continents possess stronger foundations, and even though their spiritualities had been plundered, it's possible for them to recover. On the other hand, the Yan Continent is far too small and weak. It wouldn't be able to support the birth of a True Immortal."

"What about our You Continent?" Shang Xia asked.

"Right, I was getting there." Kou Chongxue sighed. "Originally, our You Continent suffered the heaviest damage among the border continents that had their spiritualities stolen. However, due to the efforts of our institution, we managed to restore a good portion of the continent. The spirituality of the continent has been slowly recovering. With the portion of the Manyu Continent we brought back, the Azure Ascension World's Will gave us a larger blessing back then. When we came back from the Azure Flame World back then, I gave a portion of the world origin in the Stellar Cauldron to the world and the spirituality of our continent is much stronger than the Yan Continent. We should be able to support the birth of a single True Immortal."

"Do you wish for me to use the foundations of our You Continent to break through?" Shang Xia asked.

Kou Chongxue nodded slightly. "Even though our foundations aren't exceptionally solid, it should be more than enough to ensure your smooth advancement. Also, it's not impossible for us to continue strengthening our foundations in the future..."

Shang Xia understood what Kou Chongxue meant. "Do you mean that we can strengthen our continent by hunting other worlds and obtaining their world origin?"

"Exactly! Actually, I was planning to do that in the first place, but the situation with the Spirit Abundance World was too pressing and I had no choice but to break through with the spirituality of the Jiao Continent..." Kou Chongxue sighed. "However... I still hope that you can break through using the spirituality of our You Continent. In the future, I, and the entire institution, will fully assist you in strengthening the foundations of our continent."

After he spoke, Kou Chongxue even started to cup his fists in Shang Xia's direction.

Hastily retreating to the side, Shang Xia yelled, "Stop, stop! Patriarch Kou, there's no need for that! Actually, I would have benefited greatly by using the spirituality of our You Continent to advance!"

The You Continent was the foundation of the Tongyou Institution in the first place, and Kou Chongxue spent his heart and soul into it...

The institution wished to strengthen the foundation of their continent, Kou Chongxue wished to restore the spirituality of the You Continent, and Shang Xia needed to use the spirituality of the You Continent to break through so that he could elevate the martial dao of the You Continent to a whole new level. Their actions wouldn't harm each other's plans, and they would be able to carry it out simultaneously!

Of course, breaking through to the Six Direction Realm in the You Continent had its limitations. If Shang Xia wanted to go further along the path of cultivation, he would have to continuously strengthen the spirituality of the You Continent.

The Tongyou Institution would have to establish the Tongyou Elysium in the future, and they would affect the spirituality of the You Continent in the future. With the creation of the Tongyou Elysium, they would further strengthen the spirituality of the You Continent, which might clash with Shang Xia in the future.

With the successful formation of the Tongyou Elysium in the future, they would also be able to nurture another True Immortal. Even though that expert wouldn't be able to leave their world and would only be seen as a gatekeeper, one had to admit that experts who were shackled to their Elysiums possessed extraordinary combat strength if they were fighting in their world. They would most likely be stronger than experts of the same level.

They would definitely be given the important task of ensuring their faction wouldn't be suppressed by any other powers.

Once Shang Xia truly entered the Six Direction Realm, he would most likely affect the True Immortal nurtured by the Tongyou Elysium in the future...

Fuck it! At worst, we'll just swallow the rest of the Bing Continent's spirituality when the time comes...

That was the solution Kou Chongxue had come up with. Actually, to prevent any accidents from happening to Shang Xia's breakthrough, he was already prepared to shift the spirituality of the Bing Continent.

After thinking for some time, Kou Chongxue asked, "Alright. Now, it all comes down to the most important decision. When do you plan to break through?"

The best place for seclusion in the You Continent was naturally the Tongyou Paradise. It was connected to the World Origin Source of the Spirit Luxuriant World and it could provide enough world origin Shang Xia needed.

However, Shang Xia had no reason for that. He made his preparations a long time ago. He stored an astronomical amount of world origin in the Heavenly Lake Elysium back then.

When Lou Yi was attempting to advance to the Martial Void Realm, the Heavenly Lake Elysium shrank by a third! Lou Yi wasn't the person causing the change in the Heavenly Lake Elysium, Shang Xia was!

After a moment of contemplation, Shang Xia muttered, "I'll do it in the central region of the You Continent. It's where our continent is connected to the battlefield between the two worlds that existed back then and a portion of the land from the Manyu Continent. I can use the chance to further solidify the foundations of our world."

Kou Chongxue nodded slightly. "I will protect you from above the heavenly screen. Even though no one will try to mess with you at this point in time, we can't be too careful."

Several days later, on a hill thousands of miles east of Tongyou City, Shang Xia lowered his gaze and no longer stared at the star twinkling in the sky. Making precise calculations of the time, he ingested the first of six portions of his Six Direction Heaven Restoration!

The next second, resplendent rays of five colored light stained the ground beneath him!

Chapter 1009: Six Directions and the You Continent

Shang Xia's advancement medicine was split into 6 portions and he had to take them at a certain time.

When he ingested the first portion at midnight, he discovered that his Five Element Origin was starting to transform.

As his Five Element Origin started to absorb the advancement medicine, Shang Xia could tell that it was starting to transform into something like a Void Origin. He knew that the change was just taking shape and it was what happened when he would be able to start using his domain. What he didn't expect was that when he tried to release his domain, it managed to cover the You Continent.

He felt that the size of his domain was greatly exaggerated, and it seemed to have already surpassed the range of his divine will! He discovered that it was one of the fundamental transformations of entering the next level.

His divine will also started growing stronger, as if not to lose out to the range of his domain, and he soon discovered it surpassed the 1000 miles mark. The Tongyou City and its surroundings were easily encompassed by his divine soul that was taking shape and it continued to grow.

Very quickly, he also managed to cover the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range in his divine soul and it continued to stretch to the edges of the continent.

Soon, the range of his divine soul surpassed a 2000 mile radius, covering most of the You Continent. He could faintly feel Ji Wenlong's aura in the west as he stationed himself between the

borders of the You, Bing, and Yi Continents. To the north, his divine soul reached the edges of the land where the battlefield between the two worlds used to be and closed in on the Liao Continent. To the east, his divine soul reached the sea where he could feel powerful streams of water element qi crashing against the land.

At the same time, the experts in the You Continent who were in the Martial Dipper Realm and were not hiding in the depths of the Tongyou Paradise could feel the change that was happening.

Shang Xia could sense several familiar auras more clearly than the rest and he felt Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo rushing into the air while turning to look at their surroundings. He could also see the trace of confusion in their eyes.

Even though they felt the change that was happening, they didn't seem to be able to know where it was coming from.

As for Yun Jing who had taken up the task of staying in Tongyou City... She sent a transmission to Kou Chongxue, but she didn't receive a response.

Sun Haiwei, Tian Mengzi, Dou Zhong, Yan Ming, and Chu Jia were experts who had been to the Azure Flame World back then and gained a lot of experience. All of them had already stepped into the Martial Dipper Realm in the years that passed, and they had been stationed in different parts of the You Continent.

As Shang Xia's divine soul started to grow stronger, he gradually started to detect their presences.

Dou Zhong and Yan Ming had the slowest reactions among the 5. Perhaps it was because they were stationed in the islands off the coast of the You Continent and the sea inhibited the senses, they couldn't really tell the changes to the World Origin Source of the You Continent.

When Shang Xia was still feeling the changes the first portion of his advancement medicine brought, 4 hours passed. Shang Xia, who already had the experience of eating the first portion of his advancement medicine, threw the second portion into his mouth without hesitation.

The changes to his dantian became even more intense. His domain also became a lot more obvious.

That wasn't all. Shang Xia discovered a faint five colored light emerging from the extreme east of the You Continent, on one of the islands. It rushed towards the heavenly screen and formed a light curtain that blocked off everything east of the You Continent.

As the faint light grew in intensity, the resplendent light curtain quickly attracted the attention of many Martial Extermination Realm and Martial Dipper Realm experts of the You, Liao, and Ji Continents. They went over to inspect what happened.

The higher one went along the light curtain, the fainter it became. Eventually, it turned into something formless and one could only discover its presence by using their divine will.

The experts of those continents quickly discovered that even though the light curtain existed, it didn't form any sort of obstruction between both sides.

Water, fishes, boars, clouds, and even people would be able to travel across the curtain of light.

It started to grow so faint that unless one was in the Martial Dipper Realm and possessed divine will, they wouldn't be able to detect its presence.

What all of them didn't know was that Shang Xia's attention was also on the screen of light that appeared. It seemed useless and unable to block any physical creatures, but it had the ability to contain heaven and earth energy

After Shang Xia ate the second portion of his advancement medicine, he could clearly feel the energy contained in the heavens and earth, or to be more exact, the power of the world!

To be even more exact... He could feel the power of the world contained in the You Continent.

The presence of the light screen actually indicated the range of which Shang Xia could feel and draw on the power of the world contained in the You Continent. It also signified the eastern border of the You Continent!

However... Shang Xia quickly realized that even though he could feel the power of the world, he was unable to draw upon it and use it for himself.

As 4 more hours passed, Shang Xia prepared to eat the third portion of his advancement medicine.

A light screen emerged from the south of the You Continent before connecting to the light screen that existed in the east. The light screen went along the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range and it also passed through the border of the You, Bing, and Ji Continents Ji Wenlong had been personally defending.

The spiritual beasts in the mountain range were quickly alerted to the change. Compared to the high-level experts who relied on their divine perceptions or divine wills to notice the change, the beasts relied on their instincts.

Even though Shang Xia hadn't fully completed his breakthrough, the beasts could already feel a change happening to the You Continent.

Surprisingly, Shang Xia discovered something strange with the light screen that appeared to the south. In the past, they agreed that the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range would act as the barrier between the You and Ji Continents, and their border would be in the middle of the mountain range.

The light screen seemed to signify otherwise as it encompassed the entire mountain range, indicating that the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range belonged to the You Continent.

Yun Jing, whose nerves had been taut the entire time since she discovered the anomaly because she hadn't received a response from Kou Chongxue, seemed to realize what was happening. She heaved a sigh of relief and no longer worried herself.

Several secret transmissions flew out from Tongyou City the next moment and arrived in different parts of the You Continent. Undercurrents that had been surging since the change happened started to calm down.

With everything that went on, dawn eventually broke. As the sun rose into the skies, the changes to the east and south of the You Continent reached the powers of those in the surrounding continents. Great powers located further from the You Continent might also have already learned of what happened.

At the intersection of the next time period, Shang Xia ate the fourth portion of his advancement medicine and the five colored light screen appeared on the western border of the You Continent.

Kou Chongxue, who was hugging his Hidden Frost Sword above the heavenly screen, opened his eyes abruptly as he stared in the southwestern direction of the You Continent.

Li Jidao's projection appeared close to the heavenly screen above the You Continent at an unknown time.

Of course, he showed no signs of doing anything. He ignored the chilly gaze in Kou Chongxue's eyes and stared straight at the You Continent below. Raising an eyebrow in surprise, he wondered out loud, "Is Young Friend Shang entering the Martial Void Realm?"

Li Jidao's attitude caused Kou Chongxue's nerves to lighten up a lot. However, he didn't dare to be careless as he maintained his vigilance. Not budging from his spot, he muttered, "Exactly."

Li Jidao shook his head and sighed, "It's the first time I've seen anyone break through this way. It truly is an amazing sight..."

He no longer spoke after speaking. Instead, he remained where he was as if he was waiting for the outcome of Shang Xia's attempted breakthrough.

A frosty wave emerged from the northwest as it rushed towards the You Continent.

"Zhang Xuansheng!" Kou Chongxue's nerves went taut once again and his gaze flickered between Li Jidao and the incoming frost wave.

He didn't know if they reached an agreement before showing up, but if they acted in unison, Kou Chongxue knew that he would only be able to stop 1 of them!

"Kou Chongxue, that kid doesn't seem to be breaking through the same way as you!" Zhang Xuansheng's frosty voice arrived. A layer of frost appeared above the heavenly screen as a frost wave passed through the light screen in the west that just appeared to crash into the You Continent.

Kou Chongxue's expression sank. The Hidden Frost Sword in his embrace seemed eager to emerge as a powerful sword intent shot into the north before the sword could be drawn.

However... The frost wave failed to affect the You Continent in the slightest. Neither did it affect the five colored light screen.

Li Jidao, who was standing in the southwest, didn't seem like he was going to act to back Zhang Xuansheng up. Instead, he observed the frost wave that entered the You Continent before raising his head in shock. "Void Origin ?! Is he planning to control the power of the world contained in the You Continent?! Hmm... He is truly fearless..."

Zhang Xuansheng's projection above the heavenly screen snorted once. "Hmph, he's overestimating himself. How can he control the power of the world contained in the entire continent at his current level? Even if the You Continent is a crippled continent and doesn't contain extraordinary power of the world, that doesn't mean he can do whatever he wants. Hehe... What an arrogant child... Stepping into the Martial Void Realm is going to be a pipe dream for him!"

Zhang Xuansheng's words barely left his lips when another frosty light appeared above the heavenly screen. Lu Wuzi appeared and he coughed once before nodding slightly towards Kou Chongxue. "Apologies for being a little late..."

Kou Chongxue nodded in response to indicate his understanding. Lu Wuzi might be the newest Martial Void Realm True Immortal of the Spirit Luxuriant World and was the weakest among them, he was still a True Immortal. He was also located the furthest away from the You Continent, but from how quickly he rushed over, his sincerity was clear to Kou Chongxue.

Lu Wuzi obviously came over to support Kou Chongxue. Even though his cultivation was the lowest among the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World, his arrival allowed Kou Chongxue to heave a sigh of relief.

However... Lu Wuzi's attention also quickly shifted to the You Continent below. He couldn't help but gasp softly, "Brother Kou, Young Friend Shang seems to be taking a different route from you..."

Chapter 1010: Six Directions and the You Continent Pt.2

"Looks like the method Young Friend Shang is using to enter the Martial Void Realm is truly different from Patriarch Kou..." Another person arrived soon after Lu Wuzi.

Liu Jingsheng stared at the You Continent with a look of interest. He suppressed Dugu Yuanshan with Kou Chongxue's help in the past, and he was there for Kou Chongxue's entire breakthrough process. He could clearly tell that there was almost nothing similar in the way Kou Chongxue had broken through and how Shang Xia was currently making the advancement.

As for why they were certain Shang Xia was the one who was attempting the advancement to the next level... He was just too eye-catching! A little more than a year ago, all of them also witnessed his strength when he smashed his Stone Rod into Zhang Xuansheng's domain cage. His strength and cultivation were exposed for all of them to see.

Kou Chongxue muttered softly, "My Tongyou Institution hasn't been around for too long and our foundations cannot be compared to all of you. I was able to enter the Martial Void Realm because of the world ascension back then, and the kid has to rely on himself..."

Even with the temperament that they had cultivated over more than 100 years, the other True Immortals stared at Kou Chongxue with strange looks on their faces.

In the past, they didn't even dare to imagine how Kou Chongxue managed to break through without a proper inheritance!

Not only did he succeed... He even managed to come up with a rank six inheritance during the process.

Now that Shang Xia was trying to enter the Martial Void Realm, everyone told them that he managed to work on the rank six advancement formula and came up with something new on his own!

How long has it been since the rise of the Tongyou Institution?!

They even managed to obtain a proper rank six inheritance in such a short amount of time! How would the other Elysiums that existed for hundreds of years feel?!

Not to mention the fact that the Tongyou Institution, a faction that didn't even follow the traditional naming conventions of the martial world, managed to produce their second True Immortal ahead of the 4 great Elysiums of the Spirit Luxuriant World!

Weren't they supposed to have the weakest foundations?!

Thinking about the Tongyou Institution and their second True Immortal, everyone couldn't help but look at Zhang Xuansheng and Lu Wuzi.

If not for the fact that they fell out with each other and Lu Wuzi left to establish the Ice Essence Sect, the Northern Sea Mystic Sect should be the first Elysium in the Spirit Luxuriant World to possess 2 True Immortals!

They might have hidden themselves well, but how could Zhang Xuansheng and Lu Wuzi not know what the others were thinking about?

"Is Young Friend Shang really planning to encompass the You Continent with his domain projection?" Another voice rang through the air and the final True Immortal of the Spirit Luxuriant World arrived.

Yang Taihe of the Eternal Palace finally made his appearance.

Seemingly having already felt the strange atmosphere in the air, Yang Taihe ignored it completely. Instead, he walked between them all and stared at the situation in the You Continent.

Raising an eyebrow, he turned to look at Kou Chongxue. "Patriarch Kou, aren't you afraid that he's overestimating himself?"

A smile appeared on Kou Chongxue's face. "True Immortal Yang, don't you know? The spirituality of my You Continent is fractured..."

"Oh..." Yang Taihe grunted once before shaking his head. He no longer spoke.

A strange light flashed in Li Jidao's eyes and he seemed to fall into contemplation.

The spirituality of the You Continent recovered due to the world ascension. If it was before the Spirit Luxuriant World formed, the spirituality of the You Continent was greatly damaged. Even with Kou Chongxue's efforts along with the help of the institution, the spirituality was far from what it used to be.

The Divine Capital Sect, Eternal Palace, and the Northern Sea Mystic Sect that discovered the method to devour the spirituality of other continents to become an Elysium were the masterminds behind everything! Or to be more exact, Yang Taihe, Li Jidao, and Zhang Xuansheng were the ones behind it!

"The past is the past. Now, many things have changed after the successful formation of our Spirit Luxuriant World. Let us quietly await Young Friend Shang's ascension..." Liu Jingsheng spoke suddenly, dissolving the awkward air that formed.

The True Immortals who have gathered above the heavenly screen turned to stare at the You Continent in unison and no longer spoke.

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Shang Xia didn't hesitate to eat the fifth portion of his advancement medicine as soon as the time arrived.

His dantian continued to transform, and a five colored light curtain appeared from the northern border of the You Continent. It started to fade as it stretched towards the heavenly screen, but there was no hiding its existence.

"That's the fourth light curtain he created... Young Friend Shang is truly courageous. He really plans to encompass the You Continent in his domain the moment he ascends!" Yang Taihe sighed indifferently and no one could tell what he was truly feeling at the moment.

Kou Chongxue shot Yang Taihe a calm gaze. He naturally wouldn't tell the rest that before the first curtain of light appeared, Shang Xia had already covered the earth below with his Five Element Origin.

After thinking about everything that happened, Kou Chongxue made the connection. A trace of shock filled his heart. He heard about the Six Directions from Shang Xia in the past and learned that the Six Directions consisted of the 4 main directions, and the heavens and earth!

There were 4 curtains of light around the You Continent, and that basically represented the 4 main directions. Considering how the first stream of five colored light covered the earth... That would mean that the only thing Shang Xia was lacking was the heavens!

When Kou Chongxue was thinking about the meaning of the six directions, Li Jidao, who was the first to arrive, muttered, "Young Friend Shang seems to be producing these heavenly phenomena at regular intervals."

He turned to look at Kou Chongxue before he continued, "With the exception of Patriarch Kou, I was the first to arrive. When that happened, the light curtain in the east was already present. 4 hours passed when the next light curtain appeared in the south. After 4 more hours, the light curtain appeared in the west... If we count backward, the first curtain of light should have appeared at 4am. Patriarch Kou, am I right?"

Zhang Xuansheng and the rest turned to look at Kou Chongxue. However, Kou Chongxue seemed to be deep in thought as his brows were locked together. It was as though he hadn't heard the question.

Even so, the others were basically convinced that Li Jidao was right.

Zhang Xuansheng started to ponder to himself. "In that case, Young Friend Shang's advancement process would follow some sort of rhythm. That would mean that he already completed his advancement formula and already determined the exact time he would need to take his advancement medicine..."

Yang Taihe couldn't help but continue, "Will his method be able to lower the risks of entering the Martial Void Realm and increase the success rate?"

No one else spoke after Yang Taihe, but all of them found it difficult to conceal their complicated emotions.

Liu Jingsheng sighed softly to break the silence and he cupped his hands towards Kou Chongxue. "Brother Kou, congratulations!" Naturally, his congratulations had nothing to do with Shang Xia's advancement. Instead, he referred to the Tongyou Institution gaining a complete rank six inheritance.

To that, Kou Chongxue could only shake his head slowly while muttering, "The ascension process isn't complete... It's too early to congratulate me. Let's wait for the outcome before anything else..."

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By the time their conversation concluded, they weren't the only ones above the heavenly screen. Any Martial Dipper Realm expert who received the news had already rushed over to the heavenly screen above the You Continent. Of course, they could only stare at the commotion from afar as the True Immortals were gathered above the source of everything. There were even a few who entered the You Continent directly to observe the situation.

Regardless of what they did, those Martial Dipper Realm experts wouldn't be able to observe the entire process of Shang Xia's ascension.

No longer speaking to each other, the True Immortals who gathered above the You Continent started to explain what was going on to the disciples of their factions. Kou Chongxue was no exception.

It didn't matter if Shang Xia would succeed. The phenomena he caused around the You Continent were a great opportunity for the Martial Dipper Realm cultivators who arrived.

As time slowly passed, the 4 hour mark was about to arrive and the True Immortals turned their attention back to the You Continent. They no longer explained what was going on as they wanted to verify whatever Li Jidao said.

Indeed... Amidst their soft sighs, another curtain of five colored light appeared above the You Continent.

This time, the curtain of light didn't appear at any of the borders. Instead, it emerged from the center of the continent before rising into the air. Unlike the curtains of light that faded as they rose towards the heavenly screen, this new stream of light grew in intensity and eventually covered the skies above the You Continent!

In the eyes of the True Immortals, the light seemed to connect the rest of the light curtains to turn into a massive blanket that covered the continent.

Yang Taihe raised an eyebrow and muttered to himself with a little uncertainty. "Is that the fifth one?"

Li Jidao hesitated slightly and shot a curious gaze at Kou Chongxue.

Naturally, he received no response. Kou Chongxue simply stared at what was happening below.

Lu Wuzi chuckled softly at the side suddenly. "Looks like Young Friend Shang is really crazy... It actually looks possible for him to control the power of the world in the You Continent!"

Clearly, his words were to jibe Zhang Xuansheng who laughed at Shang Xia for overestimating himself when he first arrived.

With things reaching its current state, everyone could tell that it was highly likely he would succeed.

There was no need to mention how ugly Zhang Xuansheng's expression was after he was mocked. Not to mention the fact that the person who mocked him used to be a disciple of his faction.

Li Jidao glanced at Lu Wuzi before sneering softly, "Young Friend Shang might have formed his Void Origin, but he still needs to consolidate his foundations. It's too early to be celebrating yet."

Colorful expressions appeared on their faces at that comment.

When they were still waiting for Shang Xia to complete his breakthrough, the World Origin Source started to bubble and a new Void Origin entered at a speed that left all of them flabbergasted as it branded itself into the world.