

The Heavens 1131

Chapter 1131: You Owe Me!

No matter what, the Tongyou Institution was one of the 5 great Elysiums of the Spirit Luxuriant World. However... Other than Chu Jia, they only had 2 other rank four Formation Grandmasters. The institution was counting on them to lay down the rank six formation with Chu Jia, and it was clear how much pressure Chu Jia was facing with the amount of help she could receive.

It was no wonder she was so excited after hearing that they found another rank four Formation Grandmaster. Even if Gu Qing's identity couldn't be easily revealed, she couldn't be bothered with small matters like that.

In the Tongyou Elysium, Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue joined hands to create a special space and placed the remnants of the formation platform and the tools they brought back there. It was also where they stationed Gu Qing.

Also... Within the Tongyou Elysium, the suppression of the World's Will would be reduced greatly such that Gu Qing wouldn't feel uncomfortable.

After he introduced Gu Qing to Chu Jia, he received a sudden transmission. Shocked, he quickly found an excuse to bid them farewell before leaving the Tongyou Elysium.

Shang Xia first ran to meet Kou Chongxue and saw the serious expression on his face. Kou Chongxue didn't beat about the bush either. He spoke the moment Shang Xia arrived. "The Heavenly Star Palace sent news... With the help of the Star Observatory, their Stargazers managed to deduce the accurate position the powerful strike originated from!"

They quickly rose above the heavenly screen to meet with the other True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World. After all, they seemed to have reached an agreement that the spot would serve as their gathering point.

Along the way, Shang Xia wondered, "What are their views on the matter?"

Kou Chongxue sneered, "What else can they do? They're pondering whether they should go, and who they should send over. Heh, This damn matter is definitely going to land on our heads anyway. Do you really think those old men will send their clones over? Or do you think Lu Wuzi and Yi Jingxu would agree to head over even though they are only at the first tier?"

Huang Jinghan was similarly a first tier True Immortal, but he had the task of protecting the Star Beast Nest and couldn't return.

Shang Xia thought about him suddenly and asked, "Wait... After we devoured 4 continents from the Spirit Faith World, did no one breakthrough other than you, Zhang Xuansheng, and I? Huang Jinghan should have received a good portion of the benefits. He took part in the battle of the Spirit Faith World..."

Kou Chongxue thought for a moment before he mumbled, "Huang Jinghan should be close to reaching the level of Inner Fusion. Unfortunately, he might have reached a bottleneck... Without devouring the continents of another world, he might need tens of years of accumulations in order to break through."

“As for Lu Wuzi... Never mind, let’s not talk about his cultivation. Anyway, he’s been focused on his sect at the moment and the Ice Essence Sect has been rising rapidly under his leadership.”

“As for the others... Li Jidao should have reached the peak of the second tier. It would be more difficult for him to break through the bottleneck and enter the third tier compared to Huang Jinghan’s obstacle of entering the second tier... As for Yang Taihe and Liu Jingsheng, they definitely made some progress in their cultivation, but they are far from reaching the next level. Zhang Jianzi has been keeping an extremely low profile in Zhang Xuansheng’s shadow and it might be because he’s the other Elysium True Immortal of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect and is facing some suppression from Zhang Xuansheng’s overwhelmingly powerful Void Origin. Yi Jingxu just entered the Martial Void Realm not too long ago and he would only be able to stabilize his foundations after receiving the blessing of the World’s Will this time around.” Kou Chongxue concluded.

After a short moment of contemplation, Shang Xia asked, “Do the other sects have strong candidates they are nurturing to enter the Martial Void Realm?”

...

Shang Xia knew that the Tongyou Institution had chosen to focus on a few Martial Dipper Realm members. They were Ge Qingzhu, Sun Haiwei, Tian Mengzi, Yan Ming, Dou Zhong, and Chu Jia. Other than Ge Qingzhu, the others could be said to be a second generation disciple of the Tongyou Institution, the others could be considered third generation disciples of the institution just like Shang Xia.

Strictly speaking, Chu Jia would actually be considered a second generation disciple of the institution. However, due to how close she was with a certain someone and the way she was acting... Everyone decided to lump her in with Sun Haiwei and the others.

Among the 6 of them, Ge Qingzhu and Sun Haiwei had the highest cultivation level. Even though Shang Xia was more optimistic about Sun Haiwei, but from a certain perspective, Ge Qingzhu was the only source of pride for the members of the second generation and Kou Chongxue’s support for either of them wouldn’t differ by too much.

As for the deputy patriarchs of the institution who made up the first generation members...

Yun Jing had already exhausted all her potential after entering the Martial Dipper Realm and her cultivation didn’t improve much in recent years.

Ji Wenlong might have refined his second fate dipper, but he relied on the Holy Land back then to reach his current level and his potential was limited. Actually, if not for the fact that the Tongyou Institution was lacking high-level combatants back then, he wouldn’t have risked his life to refine his second fate dipper.

As for Shang Bo... He was the most talented out of them, but his cultivation stagnated after he reached the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm.

The few deputy patriarchs knew their conditions well. In recent years, along with the expansion and strengthening of the Tongyou Institution, all of them slowly diverted their attention to the management of their faction. That allowed Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia to focus more on external matters.

As for Liu Zhiyuan, the last deputy patriarch... It didn't matter whether they mentioned him or not.

...

After hearing Shang Xia's question, Kou Chongxue arranged his thoughts before replying, "Those with the greatest potential to nurture another Martial Void Realm True Immortal would be the Northern Sea Mystic Sect, Eternal Palace, and the Divine Capital Sect. Their foundations are solid and they have a lot of resources. They have at least 2 members in the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm or higher. Also, all 3 of them are desperately hoping to produce a Free True Immortal."

After all, they were the factions that existed for the longest time and had the strongest foundations. At the same time, they were also the strongest powers present in the Spirit Luxuriant World.

Unfortunately, they failed to produce another Free True Immortal even with the growth of the Spirit Luxuriant World. They were quickly overtaken by the Tongyou Institution and even the Yuanchen Sect that rose to power after them.

Shang Xia couldn't help but sigh, "Everyone is trying to improve... Looks like we can't be complacent and lag behind..."

As soon as the words left his lips, Kou Chongxue shot him a strange gaze.

"What's with that look on your face?" Shang Xia raised an eyebrow and grumbled when he saw the way Kou Chongxue was staring at him.

Slowly looking away, Kou Chongxue mumbled slowly, "It's nothing... Why don't you repeat that later to the others? It's a shame I was the only one who heard it... You should tell that to Zhang Xuansheng, Yang Taihe, Li Jidao, and the others!"

Shang Xia quickly wussed out and waved modestly, "There's no need for that at all!"

Kou Chongxue really wanted to roll his eyes at Shang Xia, who kept pretending to be a harmless junior in front of the other True Immortals. However, after thinking about how he would be lowering his status to bicker with the youngster, he forced himself to hold it in.

Fortunately, their gathering point wasn't too far away and they soon arrived. Kou Chongxue could also see that some others had already arrived.

It was Shang Xia's first meeting with the others after he became a third tier True Immortal. Everyone stared at him with strange looks, and it made him feel extremely uncomfortable.

However, all of them clearly didn't dare to look Shang Xia in the eyes. They turned their gazes away when he tried to look at them.

"So... What's going on?" Kou Chongxue asked.

Unlike the other Elysium True Immortals, Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue had been running around outside. They weren't too involved with matters within the Spirit Luxuriant World.

Yi Jingxu explained, “Our Stargazer managed to determine the exact location the attack was launched...”

Looking at the others, Kou Chongxue frowned and continued to ask, “Didn’t we already find it a long time ago?”

“We only knew its approximate location back then and the sea of stars is vast. Looking around in that area would take a long time, but now, we finally narrowed it down to the exact coordinates.” Yi Jingxu explained.

Kou Chongxue didn’t quite understand the implications. “So what? The person who launched that attack left a long time ago. Even if he remains in place, will anyone here dare to go investigate the matter after seeing how powerful that strike was?”

“Ahem... No matter what, we need to look for the truth behind the strike back then. That person is hiding in the shadows and we can’t possibly allow such a terrifying figure to be observing us in the dark while we remain completely clueless about their identity.” Yang Taihe muttered.

Kou Chongxue snorted casually, “Alright, then we’ll send someone to go take a look. Just gather a few Martial Dipper Realm and Martial Extermination Realm juniors and we’ll open a spatial gate near the coordinates we discovered. If that’s not enough, we’ll put them on a Star Ship and send that over to investigate. For the culprit to hide himself so well even when launching the attack... With their terrifying cultivation realm, they wouldn’t make things difficult for those juniors even if they ran into each other.”

Shang Xia nearly burst out laughing at his suggestion.

The other True Immortals stared at each other helplessly. Eventually, Yang Taihe sighed softly, “It’s still a little dangerous to send juniors into the depths of space. We’re afraid that we will have to trouble either you or True Immortal Little Shang to head over...”

“Hehe...” Kou Chongxue laughed dryly and didn’t say more.

Li Jidao continued, “After all, this concerns the safety of our world. You guys are the best choice we have.”

A look of disdain appeared on Kou Chongxue’s face as he snorted lightly twice.

Zhang Xuansheng added, “In recent years, my Northern Sea Mystic Sect has been a little too isolated and we apologize for not socializing more. I heard that the Tongyou Institution’s Talisman Hall is a holy land for knowledge related to the dao of talismans in our Spirit Luxuriant World and we are willing to share our thousand years of inheritance with you.”

Li Jidao’s expression wasn’t too nice either, but he forced the words out his lips, “My Divine Capital Sect will no longer contest for the Bing Continent.”

Yang Taihe’s tone was the best so far and he said amicably, “My Eternal Palace has some achievements in the dao of formations. We are also pretty good at making Formation Artifacts. We will increase our support to the You Continent.”

It was then that Liu Jingsheng burst out laughing. “My Yuanchen Sect already had great relations with your Tongyou Institution. I heard that you were planning to expand into the arts of beast taming. I believe my Yuanchen Sect can assist you in that.”

Hearing how the great powers had given the Tongyou Institution some concession or agreed to provide direct compensation, Yi Jingxu couldn't help but mutter with embarrassment, “My Heavenly Star Palace isn't as rich or knowledgeable as the great factions and all we have is our Stargazer inheritance. I will pass down the order to reserve a spot for the Stargazers of the Tongyou Institution in the Star Observatory so that you can use it anytime you wish.”

Other than Lu Wuzi, everyone promised to provide the Tongyou Institution with some benefits. Kou Chongxue didn't seem like he was making things difficult for Lu Wuzi either. Before Lu Wuzi could say anything, Kou Chongxue chuckled under his breath and muttered, “How can I possibly accept?! Well, since you insist, I don't mind. Many thanks, fellow True Immortals!”

The other True Immortals pretended not to see the shit-eating grin on Kou Chongxue's face and they simply stared at the shameless duo from the Tongyou Institution placidly. They awaited their response.

Helpless, Shang Xia shook his head and took a step forward. “Seniors, rest assured. I'll head over and take a look at the situation.”

Chapter 1132: The Fourth Page

After getting the coordinates from Yi Jingxu, Shang Xia didn't head over immediately. Instead, he returned to the Tongyou Elysium and went to their Star Observatory which also happened to be their Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar.

Even though the spatial barrier around the Elysium separated the Star Observatory from the outside world, it didn't block the Star Observatory from being able to peer into the vast sea of stars.

If there were high-level experts present, they would be able to see that the faint starlight pouring down from the depths of space was gathered on a small tree that was several feet tall somewhere in the Star Observatory. The faint starlight caused the small tree to possess a faint ethereal aura.

Looking at the Starry Tree that was swaying slowly even in the absence of wind, Kou Chongxue sighed, “This... This will be the foundation of our institution!”

Shang Xia looked at the tiny tree and chuckled bitterly, “Who knows how many years it will take for the Starry Tree to start bearing fruits?”

Kou Chongxue laughed softly and he didn't seem to mind too much.

It was then that both rank three Astronomers of the Tongyou Institution hurried over after receiving orders from Kou Chongxue.

Handing the coordinates to Yan Ming, Kou Chongxue smiled, “Take a look at this place in the void. See if you can discover anything.”

Receiving the coordinates from Kou Chongxue, Yan Ming handed it directly over to Yuan Qiuyuan.

A light flashed in the eyes of Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia, but they didn't say anything.

Due to it being bathed in the power of the Elysium, Kou Chongxue quickly activated the Star Observatory so the Astronomers could do their thing.

The True Immortals stood at the side as they watched the Astronomers complete the verification. Surprisingly, Yuan Qiuyuan, the Martial Intent Realm disciple, took the lead while the Martial Dipper Realm Yan Ming stood at the side to assist him.

Yuan Qiuyuan was a student in the Upper Division of the Tongyou Institution, but he was soon discovered because of his talent in the ways of a Stargazer. He received huge support from the institution and his cultivation soared to the peak of the Martial Intent Realm. Unfortunately, he was stuck and hadn't broken through to the Martial Extermination Realm.

Shang Xia observed their movements and could see the twisting starlight landed on the Star Observatory. It produced a pretty, mirage-like scene, and other than that, he failed to notice the intricacies behind their methods.

After the time it took to steep a pot of tea, the beautiful scene was nowhere to be seen as starlight started to scatter. Shang Xia felt a sense of regret at the loss.

It was then that Yan Ming and Yuan Qiuyuan started to approach.

"How is it? Did we find anything?" Kou Chongxue asked while laughing.

Yan Ming didn't respond immediately. Instead, she indicated for Yuan Qiuyuan to explain.

Yuan Qiuyuan might have been heavily nurtured by the institution such that his cultivation realm soared quickly and his status in the institution rose sharply, he was an introvert and wasn't the best when it came to speaking to others.

Now that Yan Ming gave him a chance to present himself to Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia, the True Immortals of the Tongyou Institution, he was too terrified to speak. If not for the encouraging look on her face, he wouldn't have been able to continue.

"This... It's nothing much... Actually... Everything seems normal there!" Yuan Qiuyuan mumbled. After noticing that the True Immortals didn't look impatient, he heaved a sigh of relief.

Glancing at Yan Ming for support, he felt a lot more reassured and he muttered, "This... I mean to say that there isn't anything around the coordinates that was given. The region of space looks all clear to me."

Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia didn't seem to react much until Yuan Qiuyuan spoke the second time. Frowns started to form on their faces as they looked at each other.

Yuan Qiuyuan didn't know what was going on, but Yan Ming seemed to discover something from their abnormal expressions. She couldn't help but ask, "Patriarch Kou, Brother Shang, is something the matter?"

Shang Xia glanced at her, but he eventually turned to address Yuan Qiuyuan. "Relax. There's no need to panic here. What do you mean by the region of space looks all clear? Also, are the coordinates close to your calculations back then?"

Yuan Qiuyuan glanced at Yan Ming before nodding slowly. "The coordinates are located within the region of space we calculated back then, and we have been observing it all this time. We didn't discover anything amiss and we can be sure this is the location."

After he was done, Yuan Qiuyuan looked at Yan Ming once more as though hoping she would back him up.

However, Yan Ming seemed to fall deep into thought and started to shake her head, Yuan Qiuyuan didn't know what was going on.

Seeing how confused Yuan Qiuyuan was, Shang Xia couldn't help but ask, "Is something else the matter?"

Yuan Qiuyuan shook his head after thinking for some time. However, he also asked, "Anything else? I don't think so. Other than the fact that the location is somewhat close to the Spirit Abundance World, there shouldn't be anything else..."

Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia's eyes widened slowly at his explanation. Yan Ming's expression turned ugly after hearing the way he spoke and she pinched her glabella helplessly.

She couldn't hold herself back and she growled the next moment, "Why didn't you say that first?! Are you really sure that is the case? Anyway, there are chaotic streams in space and we can't be sure the location is truly as close to the Spirit Abundance World as we think."

Since the Tongyou Institution nurtured disciples in the arts of Stargazers, Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue provided the coordinates of the worlds they knew. They also instructed the Astronomers to pay attention to those worlds from time to time.

Yuan Qiuyuan nodded in affirmation and confirmed, "There is no mistake about this. Did you forget that Instructor Shang informed us to take note of space outside the Spirit Abundance World whenever we can? It's said that there might be a huge secret region hidden there. I once looked around the Spirit Abundance World to find it and realized I've seen this place before..."

Shang Xia looked at Kou Chongxue, but he saw the patriarch shaking his head slightly.

Shang Xia quickly broke out into a smile and praised, "You've done well. In the future, you will need to continue paying attention to the Spirit Abundance World."

Soon after, the Star Observatory started to deactivate. Yan Ming brought Yuan Qiuyuan away.

Only then did Kou Chongxue speak again. "Yan Ming said that Yuan Qiuyuan reached the limit of what an Astronomer can achieve. His abilities have already surpassed hers. However, we don't have an inheritance for a Stargazer..."

"What about his cultivation?" Shang Xia asked.

Kou Chongxue continued, "That kid is already standing at the border of the Martial Extermination Realm. From what the Heavenly Star Palace revealed today, the remnant inheritance from the Heaven Observation Sect they obtained most likely contains a way to advance. That is why that kid isn't planning to refine his extermination origin immediately and is planning to wait to see if we can get our hands on it."

"Do we have a general plan on how to proceed?" Shang Xia asked.

Kou Chongxue shook his head while sighing. "We have to try every method available, but it doesn't seem hopeful we will be able to get our hands on it. After all, every faction places great importance on the Stargazer Inheritance."

Shang Xia wasn't surprised at all. Instead, he continued, "An inheritance that can allow one to find other worlds in the vast sea of stars will definitely be well protected. The Star Observatory that the Heavenly Star Palace has revealed to the world is an exception because they have no way of hiding it, and they have no way of restoring it themselves either if not for our help. The Star Observatory the Star Origin City chooses to reveal is because they have sufficient strength to protect it."

Kou Chongxue continued, "However, we have to admit that Yi Jingxu made the correct bets. Even though he compromised back then and allowed a portion of the inheritance to leak, he quickly entered the Martial Void Realm and took charge of the Heavenly Star Palace. Now, they are an indispensable part of our Spirit Luxuriant World and no one will touch them easily."

Shang Xia chuckled in response, "After saying all these... Other than verifying the coordinates they have given us, you have something else you wish to tell me, right?"

Kou Chongxue smiled and slowly walked over to the Starry Tree that was taller than him, albeit slightly. He casually tapped the void as a bronze book appeared from the puddle of Star Essence Liquid below.

Kou Chongxue chuckled and pushed the book over to Shang Xia. "Try it. See if you can open another page."

"Haven't you tried?" Shang Xia replied with an amused chuckle.

"I did, but I failed to open the next page. However, I can't be sure you will fail too." Kou Chongxue sighed helplessly.

Casually flipping through the first 3 pages, Shang Xia slowly poured his inner qi into the bronze book when he arrived at the fourth page. Eventually, the book that seemed to be made of a giant block of bronze started to separate as the fourth page slowly revealed itself.

The bronze book was most likely the famed Star Map that was created by the Heaven Observation Sect. Just like that, Shang Xia managed to flip open the fourth page.

Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia stared in unison as they wanted to see its contents.

Like the third page, there were similar markings on it. The only difference was that the space it seemed to describe was a lot larger than the region of space depicted on the third page. There were a lot more stars and it was clear there were several special ones marked out on it.

To Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue who had no idea what they were looking at, confusion filled their minds.

There were several special carvings on the page and the location of those stars seemed really strange. Even though they were all inscribed on the same page, it gave off a feeling that the positions marked were actually very different from each other.

Both True Immortals felt utterly bamboozled when looking at it and they could only retract their gazes helplessly.

Shang Xia eventually mumbled, "Should we show the information to Yan Ming and Yuan Qiuyuan?"

Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia had long since thought about it. In order to unravel the mysteries of the bronze book, they would eventually have to give it to their Stargazers.

However, because the first three pages were too easy to understand, they didn't think that it was necessary. That was also why only a secret number of people knew about its existence in the institution.

However... From the fourth page onwards, it seemed as though they needed to get help.

Kou Chongxue seemed to have his considerations and he rejected the idea. "We're in no rush to decipher the information on the fourth page. At the very least, we don't have to do it now. We can wait."

Chapter 1133: Fourth-Tier True Immortal, Wen Juxiang

After the Astronomers of the Tongyou Institution verified the coordinates they were given, they were fully certain it was located not too far away from the Spirit Abundance World.

When Shang Xia went to check the place out, he discovered that what they meant by the spot being not too far away from the Spirit Abundance World was that it was tens of millions of miles away.

As they were investigating the matter secretly, Shang Xia didn't pass through Star Origin City. Even though he would need to travel across a larger distance, which would take him longer and make his journey a little more risky, no one would be able to catch his tracks.

Even so... When Shang Xia was several tens of thousands of miles away from the coordinates they provided, he still concealed his presence to the best of his abilities. He suppressed his aura and even transformed his appearance a little.

He was in the midst of a large asteroid belt at the moment and he carefully avoided the large chunks that would crash into each other. Eventually, he arrived at the spot that was completely empty.

Shang Xia didn't rush into the region of empty space. That was because he noticed several huge space dust mounds in the distance. It was as though multiple asteroids were turned to dust from a powerful strike.

Everything he was seeing was proof of the spot where the strike originated from.

Shang Xia could also think of reasons why the entire region was empty. He was afraid that even if he wanted to learn the reason, he would have to head over to the dust mounds after traveling through the region of empty space.

However... Without the cover of the asteroid belt, the empty region of space seemed like a massive trap!

It was different from the Ruined World he had Kou Chongxue had been to earlier. That space was vast, but there were at least giant chunks for cover.

In order to get some clues of what happened the other day, Shang Xia knew that he had to take the risk!

Because he was afraid that he would disturb the region of empty space and alarm anyone if they were watching, he didn't dare to create any spatial tunnels. He obediently flew through the sea of stars towards the center of the empty region.

It was a shame he didn't have any sort of secret art that enabled him to seek out the remnant qi in the region. Otherwise, he might have been able to look for traces of the culprit.

Shang Xia couldn't help but think back to the Tracking Compass the Spirit Faith World provided. It was a shame the treasure was rare even in the Spirit Faith World and their production method was kept secret. He couldn't learn anything!

He didn't fly extremely quickly, and he would stop from time to time. He looked like he was slowly scouting the region to see if there were any abnormalities.

Only when he arrived at the central region did he feel slight fluctuations in the void around him!

Not only did the fluctuations appear without warning, they were also extremely strange. Shang Xia could clearly feel that his inner qi was slightly scattered when the fluctuations blasted against him.

"I thought of trying my luck here after completing the task... Haha, who would have thought that someone would really fall for it?" Along with a soft chuckle, a familiar figure appeared in the void before Shang Xia.

"It's you!" Shang Xia gasped. He was so surprised he even forgot to circulate his qi for a moment. He gasped, "Were you the culprit who carried out the sneak attack the other day?"

The person who appeared was the fourth tier True Immortal of the Essence Hong World who infiltrated the Spirit Luxuriant World back then, Wen Juxiang!

Wen Juxiang chuckled in response. He didn't answer, but asked a question of his own, "You've been stopping so often... Didn't you discover anything?"

"Fellow cultivator, you are a fourth tier True Immortal. I don't believe you have the ability to send out that strike. However, you come from the Essence Hong World and you will definitely possess some special technique we never heard of. Actually... Even that doesn't make sense. Whatever. What I don't understand is that if you had such powerful methods and wanted to deal with our Spirit Luxuriant World, why do it from so far away? Also, for you to do so in such a secluded region and create such a massive empty patch of space..."

Wen Juxiang looked at Shang Xia who was gathering his energy and chose not to care about his actions. The mocking smile on his face grew wider and he sneered with disdain, "Oh? Looks like you know quite a bit. What do you think?"

Shang Xia didn't mind the disrespectful attitude Wen Juxiang was showing. He started to mutter to himself, "You might be able to unleash that level of strength, but it's highly unlikely you were the one who did it. However, you should know who the culprit was."

Wen Juxiang laughed softly without saying a word.

Shang Xia didn't seem to count on the fact that Wen Juxiang would speak the truth even if he did, and he continued to guess, "To release such a powerful strike and turn this entire region into empty space, I'll make a bold guess and say that it wasn't done by a single expert. There might be many

experts involved in this. Moreover, to be able to release an attack of that level, they would have to practice working together. They probably destroyed this entire region because they messed up.”

Wen Juxiang started to clap at Shang Xia’s analysis. “What an accurate guess! You’re really close to the truth. It’s just that... Do you really think you will be able to leave this place and tell this to the other True Immortals back in your Spirit Luxuriant World?”

Shang Xia also revealed a wide grin. He seemed to know that it would be difficult for him to leave, but he even gave up on storing more energy. His body started trembling slightly under the suppression of Wen Juxiang’s domain, but he continued, “I’m not begging you to give me an answer anyway. There’s just one more thing I’m interested in. Why did you infiltrate the Tongyou Elysium back then?”

A look of ridicule appeared on Wen Juxiang’s face again. “Do you really think I’ll tell you? Do you think you’re qualified to learn any of this?”

“Why not? It’s not like I can run away from you now that we’re standing face to face...” Shang Xia asked.

Shang Xia, who had been suppressed by Wen Juxiang’s domain, discovered that the space around him was also sealed. From the looks of it, it would be difficult for him to escape.

However, Wen Juxiang’s expression started to flicker unsteadily the next moment.

Seeing his reaction, Shang Xia pressed, “Is it because of the Heaven Observation Sect?! What are you really after? You...”

Before Shang Xia could complete his sentence, Wen Juxiang roared, “No! You’re just a clone! However, your cultivation level is at the second tier of the Martial Void Realm... How...”

Realizing that he couldn’t keep his act up any longer, a strange smile formed on Shang Xia’s face.

Wen Juxiang’s expression was also ugly. He waved his sleeves and caused a massive void storm to rip through the area.

Shang Xia’s clone was battered by the void storm, and his figure started to turn blurry.

“A clone that can deceive my senses... How did you do it?” Wen Juxiang looked like he could destroy the clone any time he wished, but he wanted to get more information before doing anything.

Naturally, Shang Xia wouldn’t give him a chance to do so. Along with his clone slowly turning to bits, a strand of his divine soul remained. At the same time, an Illusion Talisman was burned to ash.

The Illusion Talisman was able to allow one to hide their cultivation level, and the talismans Shang Xia made could even allow one to pretend to be a True Immortal!

If lower-leveled cultivators were to use it, they would be able to pretend to be a first tier True Immortal at most. However, if he was the person using it, he was able to freely alter his cultivation realm as long as it was below the third tier of the Martial Void Realm.

If Wen Juxiang had attacked the moment he appeared, he would have discovered that the person standing before him was a mere clone!

Fortunately, the fourth tier True Immortal seemed to like gloating over his victory and toying with a weaker cultivator and failed to notice the strange situation.

“Hmph... Do you think you can escape?” Wen Juxiang growled. He also knew that there was no way a mere clone like that would be able to travel such a huge distance through the vast sea of stars.

That would mean that Shang Xia’s true body was close, and it was likely to be in the vicinity!

The fourth tier True Immortal quickly turned to stare at where Shang Xia’s clone first appeared and he reached out to capture the rapidly dissipating aura of the clone. He formed several hand seals before pressing them into the void, releasing a wisp of smoke that quickly pointed in a certain direction.

The direction in which the smoke pointed was clearly different from where Shang Xia’s clone came from.

“Hmph, trivial tricks. Do you really think you can run away?” Wen Juxiang disappeared from his spot as he transformed into a powerful rush of wind that charged at Shang Xia.

The void was turned into a sieve wherever he passed through. Thousands of miles away, at the boundary between the asteroid belt and the region of empty space, a powerful gust shoved everything away. Wen Juxiang appeared in the cleared-out region after.

Wen Juxiang’s movement ability was exceptionally powerful, and it seemed to possess the ability to ignore spatial turbulence to some extent. It not only forced the space around him apart, but it also had the special property of being able to smoothen the void around him.

As soon as his figure reappeared, the asteroids around him started to rush at him.

Those large chunks in front of him weren’t the only ones that started to move. Even those deep within the asteroid belt seemed to be pushed by some fitness energy. They accelerated before rushing at Wen Juxiang.

“Do you think you can stop me with this?! How naive.” Wen Juxiang roared before slapping a hand seal into the space before him. Everything froze, and when he separated his palm, a massive passage opened up for him to pass through.

With a loud sneer, he rushed through the channel.

The distance of hundreds of miles was nothing to him!

Just as the powerful rush of wind he transformed into passed through the walls of asteroids, a massive pillar appeared on the other end and flew right at him!

The pillar seemed to be able to expand at will, and it filled the channel the moment it appeared. It smashed into the powerful wind that was generated.

In an instant, the asteroids surrounding them blew up into countless fragments. The shockwaves annihilated everything within a 100 mile radius from the collision, and it continued to push the chunks of rocks away and emptied a 1000 mile radius.

In the center of the blank space, Wen Juxiang, who had been charging forward fearlessly, was forced to stop. His face was flushed but he turned pale the next moment. He clearly didn't gain the upper hand in the exchange!

"Holy... Holy Artifact! You... You reached the level of External Unity!" Wen Juxiang gritted his teeth while glaring in the direction of the Stone Rod.

He lost Shang Xia's track because of the sudden strike, and he knew that Shang Xia had already run away...

More importantly, he realized he had underestimated Shang Xia's cultivation level, actual combat strength, and how smart he was when it came to fighting!

The factors combined were like a loud slap to the fourth tier True Immortal of the Essence Hong World!

Chapter 1134: Crimson Soul Tablet's Reaction

Spatial fluctuations appeared in the asteroid belt hundreds of thousands of miles away from where Wen Juxiang destroyed Shang Xia's clone. A spatial gate started to take shape as a sorry figure tumbled out from within.

"Blegh..." Shang Xia stabilized his body before spitting out a mouthful of blood.

Due to the exertion earlier, his blood seemed to flow in reverse and after spitting out the mouthful of blood, even though he was looking a little pale, he felt a lot more energetic than before. In fact, there was a trace of excitement in his eyes.

It wasn't Shang Xia's first time crossing paths with a fourth tier True Immortal, but it was his first time fighting one head-on!

Actually, it was his second time crossing paths with Wen Juxiang. However, the first time was when the fourth tier True Immortal was hiding in the Spirit Luxuriant World and was greatly restrained by the World's Will. Also, he was surrounded by the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World and he was trying to escape. Shang Xia didn't manage to exchange blows with him. That was his first run-in with a fourth tier True Immortal.

The second time was against Yan Huayi of the Spirit Faith World, but he had Kou Chongxue's assistance back then. Yan Huayi was also greatly worn out by Yun Hu and the others, and his Void Origin was affected by the Spirit Emptiness World's Will... His combat strength wasn't too much stronger than Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue when they joined hands.

Because of those experiences, Shang Xia seemed to forget who he was dealing with and the strength of a fourth tier True Immortal. He thought that after entering the third tier, he would be able to retreat safely even if he couldn't defeat them.

That was why Shang Xia didn't run away immediately after splitting off his clone. He wanted to try launching a sneak attack.

It was a shame he couldn't do anything to Wen Juxiang who was at his peak state. He showed off the true might of an expert at that level!

In several short exchanges, Shang Xia held the initiative of battle, but he failed to gain the slightest advantage. He was even injured in the last clash and had to flee!

Wen Juxiang, a fourth tier Free True Immortal from the Essence Hong World, was actually as strong as Yan Huayi who drew upon the power of his world and the power of his Elysium!

In the end, Shang Xia chose to run.

After getting away, he started to reflect on what he just did. He didn't downplay his abilities and instead, he started to objectively assess the difference in strength between himself and a fourth tier True Immortal!

He carved a cave in the giant asteroid he appeared on that was comparable in size to an Earth Star. As he started to recover and restore his lost energy, he was certain that even if he ran into Wen Juxiang again and got into another fight, he would fare a lot better. At the very least, he was confident he could escape unscathed.

That was because during the final exchange earlier, he managed to test out the strike he had come up with since reaching the level of External Unity.

Even though the technique wasn't perfect yet, it basically took shape. He even came up with a name for it a long time ago. He decided to name his third move in his Six Harmony Rod Technique Void Emptiness!

During the final clash, Shang Xia actually pierced through Wen Juxiang's domain with brute force!

That was also the reason Wen Juxiang didn't manage to react immediately to continue chasing after Shang Xia.

Being distracted by his final strike was one thing, but the power contained in Shang Xia's third move was something that already struck fear into his heart!

Of course, the rank six Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman was also another reason why he failed to catch Shang Xia's tracks at the very end. As soon as it was activated, Shang Xia traveled hundreds of thousands of miles away.

When he activated the talisman earlier, perhaps it had something to do with its properties that allowed him to pass through space easily, but he managed to sense the presence of a massive spatial barrier in the void somewhere far away.

As soon as he felt its presence, the Crimson Soul Tablet started to thump in his sea of consciousness.

With his past experience of using the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman, he could tell that the presence of the spatial barrier actually pointed to the fact that there was another world nearby. After all, the spatial barrier around an Elysium wasn't as large or sturdy as the one he discovered.

Due to his injuries and need to get away from Wen Juxiang, Shang Xia wasn't able to properly explore the void and get a better feel for the spatial barrier. Back then, he gave it a hasty evaluation as he ran and thought that it belonged to the Spirit Abundance World.

After finally emerging from the spatial tunnel and carving out a space in the asteroid to recover, Shang Xia started to arrange his thoughts. He discovered that he had been mistaken. He had been to the Spirit Abundance World in the past, and he even pretended to be a native expert there to avoid

the suppression of the World's Will. He should be familiar with the aura of a spatial barrier belonging to the Spirit Abundance World, but he didn't feel any resonance with the spatial barrier he just discovered.

More importantly, the Crimson Soul Tablet didn't show much reaction when Shang Xia entered the Spirit Abundance World in the past.

One had to know that after the ascension of the Azure Ascension World back then to the Spirit Luxuriant World, the Crimson Soul Tablet absorbed a large amount of world origin and turned dormant. There wasn't much that could cause it to react.

Even with Shang Xia's many adventures and expeditions to attack other worlds, he discovered that the Crimson Soul Tablet would barely bother to absorb world origin from foreign worlds and it only did so because it belonged to a new place.

Shang Xia was even starting to suspect that after the Crimson Soul Tablet recovered to its current state, world origin from a Spirit World was no longer able to help it much.

That was precisely why Shang Xia felt a lot more interested after he realized the Crimson Soul Tablet was starting to react.

If it isn't the Spirit Abundance World... And the spatial barrier is so close to it... Where else can it be?

Shang Xia couldn't help but think back to the frost wave that originated from the north of the Spirit Abundance World when he was causing trouble back then. He heard from the cultivators of the Spirit Abundance World that a world of ice might exist in the depths of space beyond the Spirit Abundance World.

With how things were looking... It seemed as though those rumors weren't baseless!

The more he thought about it, the more tempted he became. He couldn't help but want to head over to the spatial barrier to start his investigations immediately.

Of course, he was no fool. He knew recovering was his top priority, and he also needed to quickly relay the news of Wen Juxiang being the culprit, or a part of them, back to the Spirit Luxuriant World. He quickly focused on restoring himself to his peak state and planned to work on the third move of his Six Harmony Rod Technique while he was at it.

Chapter 1135: Targeted Attack

When Shang Xia was still tending to his injuries in the void somewhere close to the Spirit Abundance World, he didn't know that the disturbance he caused during the battle accelerated the undercurrents in Star Origin City and the worlds connected to it.

10 or so days after the massive battle between Shang Xia and Wen Juxiang, Kou Chongxue received news from Feng Ziying that Xing Xingtian, the Seventh Camp Commander, who had been heavily criticized for letting the Star Ships of his camp move around unchecked, reappeared. When he came back, he already entered the Martial Void Realm and became a True Immortal. The revelation caused a huge stir within the Star Origin Guards.

When he returned, Xing Xingtian also used his identity as the Seventh Camp Commander to gather the other commanders. Captains in other camps who were True Immortals were also called over by him.

No outsider knew what happened during their discussion, but after everyone left, the Star Origin Guards immediately prepared themselves and they seemed to be ready to take action.

The situation in Star Origin City became tense because of their preparations.

Captains and deputy captains who didn't take part in the discussion tried to find out what happened from their Camp Commanders, but they were harshly rebuked and told to do as they were ordered.

Very quickly, an even more serious problem was discovered. After the Camp Commanders and True Immortals of the Star Origin Guards left the main hall that day, Liu Jiuzhen, a second tier True Immortal and the captain of the second squad in the First Camp was nowhere to be seen!

That wasn't all. The situation wasn't actually contained in the city and its effects were starting to spread.

When Feng Ziyong's second report finally reached Kou Chongxue, the Star Relay had been sealed off!

The news quickly reached the other True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World. They gathered above the heavenly screen above the Jiao Continent for a discussion of their own.

"The Star Relay has been sealed off... Did anyone receive any news?" Yang Taihe was the first to speak. Usually, when all of them met, he would be the one to open up their meeting. Everyone had already silently agreed that he was their main representative at that point.

Zhang Xuansheng spoke next. "No one knew what happened, but the situation in Star Origin City is a lot stranger than expected. It seems like something happened in the Star Origin Guards."

Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue's adventure to the Ruined World was something they didn't know about.

Li Jidao added, "Actually, the problem seems to be related to the Seventh Camp."

He glanced at Yi Jingxu after he spoke and he continued, "The Seventh Camp has always been focused on the Stargazer inheritance..."

Nodding slightly, Yi Jingxu indicated that he already knew as much.

After Liu Jingsheng thought for a second, he quickly provided an analysis, "Actually, every single camp of the Star Origin Guards has formed their own power in the city. They might only have 200 or so members, but they have the city under their control. With their strength and influence, they have already planted their feet deep within every aspect of the city."

Everyone turned to him the next moment and he quickly carried on with his explanation, "Every other power in the city seemed to have received orders to look for a certain person or hidden faction. In fact, everything points to the fact that they're looking for someone..."

Liu Jingsheng didn't say anything about where his news came from, but the Yuanchen Sect seemed to have obtained a pretty good footing in the city.

Kou Chongxue raised an eyebrow and asked, "Did they find anything yet?"

"No..." Liu Jingsheng shook his head and sighed, "Even the powers related to the various camps are confused and don't know what they're looking for..."

Lu Wuzi snorted, "Heh... It's strange then. There isn't smoke without a fire anyway. Did something really happen to the Star Origin Guards?"

Yang Taihe looked at Kou Chongxue and didn't bother beating about the bush. He simply asked, "Does the Tongyou Institution have any news of what is happening?"

Naturally, the Tongyou Institution had other sources of information other than Feng Ziyang. However, even if they added all their information sources together, they wouldn't be as useful as the reports Feng Ziyang had been sending as a spy hidden in the Star Origin Guards!

Shaking his head, everyone thought that Kou Chongxue was about to say that he didn't know anything when he muttered, "I heard that Xing Xingtian entered the Martial Void Realm... I don't know how true that is."

Yang Taihe frowned in response, and Li Jidao added from the side, "I don't think that's possible, right? Xing Xingtian's cultivation is supposed to be at the third or fourth element of the Martial Void Realm. How can he become a True Immortal so quickly?"

"It's just something I heard... Maybe he has been hiding his cultivation all along?" Kou Chongxue frowned.

Li Jidao wanted to say more, but Yang Taihe beat him to it. "It's a shame other than the spatial tunnel we connected to Star Origin City, we have no other way of communicating with our members there. Otherwise, we might be able to learn more about what is happening right now."

To be honest, even though the Spirit Luxuriant World had been interacting with the other worlds after they connected the spatial tunnel to Star Origin City, their relationship with the other worlds wasn't actually good.

A reason was because of the grudge they had with the Spirit Abundance World a long time ago. The Spirit Abundance World was one of the strongest Spirit Worlds connected to Star Origin City and their attitude could naturally affect how the other worlds viewed the Spirit Luxuriant World.

The other reason was because the Spirit Luxuriant World rose too rapidly. In less than 20 years since they completed their ascension, they bared their fangs and showed off their strength by invading many worlds to maintain their speed of growth. Many worlds were afraid of them and didn't dare to get too close.

The True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World were guessing the implications of the Star Origin Guards, and as they started to come up with ways to deal with it, Yang Taihe asked Kou Chongxue, "Has there been news from Little Shang?"

Kou Chongxue shook his head and sighed, "Not yet. He didn't pass through Star Origin City when he left for the spot we discovered the attacker and he has been rushing through the void. He should be able to arrive in 10 days or so..."

Yi Jingxu's expression turned weird after Kou Chongxue spoke.

Everyone there had impressive cultivation levels, and Yi Jingxu's reaction was seen by all.

“True Immortal Yi, is something the matter?” Yang Taihe asked.

Yi Jingxu fell silent for a moment before turning to Kou Chongxue. “Patriarch Kou, around 10 days ago, the Stargazers of my Heavenly Star Palace noticed a chance in the spot we discovered. It's extremely likely a battle between True Immortals took place...”

Kou Chongxue's expression changed instantly and he roared with rage, “Why didn't you say anything?!”

How powerful was Kou Chongxue at the moment?

With the aura of a third tier True Immortal filling the space around them, even Yang Taihe and Zhang Xuansheng felt a heavy weight descending on their shoulders.

Yi Jingxu barely entered the Martial Void Realm a few years ago. How could he possibly stand against Kou Chongxue's aura?

“Patriarch Kou, please calm down. I believe True Immortal Yi didn't have bad intentions.” Yang Taihe muttered at the side.

Kou Chongxue knew that showing off his might and suppressing Yi Jingxu was useless. After all, the Heavenly Star Palace's Stargazer inheritance was a valuable asset to the Spirit Luxuriant World. However, he wanted to teach the other party a lesson at the very least. He only grunted softly and dispersed his aura after hearing Yang Taihe.

From the very start, the other True Immortals never intended to take part in the exchange. They seem to be happy to watch Kou Chongxue pop off and even Yang Taihe didn't lift a finger to help Yi Jingxu. The only thing he did was to gently persuade Kou Chongxue. It seemed as though all of them knew what they had to do.

Yi Jingxu felt a wave of discomfort as his expression soured. He also turned pale after being forced to endure the pressure from Kou Chongxue's aura. However, he quickly suppressed his emotions and he muttered, “My apologies... The skills of our Stargazers aren't good enough yet and we only detected a small change due to the large distance between us. However, we didn't say anything as we were afraid we were mistaken.”

Snorting once, Kou Chongxue turned to look at the others and muttered, “Fellow True Immortals, I shall head over to take a look. I'll bring the youngster back while I'm at it.”

“No!” Yang Taihe stopped him as soon as he spoke. Seeing Kou Chongxue's expression sinking by the second, Yang Taihe quickly explained, “Let's not talk about whether or not True Immortal Little Shang ran into enemies... If the observations of the Heavenly Star Palace are right, it will be too late even if you head over now. Moreover...”

“Moreover, now that the situation is extremely unstable in the Star Origin City, the balance between the various powers has been broken. Our growth in recent years has been too fast. If I'm afraid that we have already attracted the ire of many worlds. Patriarch Kou, you, and True Immortal Little Share are the top-tier combatants of our

world who can actually head out to fight. We cannot suffer more losses now." Yang Taihe concluded.

Kou Chongxue frowned, and he didn't know how to decide.

Above the heavenly screen, the other True Immortals also had solemn expressions, but no one said anything else.

It was then that spatial fluctuations appeared thousands of miles away from the heavenly screen and alerted everyone.

A light flashed in Kou Chongxue's eye as he gestured to the origin of the spatial fluctuations. A secret transmission flew over the next moment.

The True Immortals gathered there widened their eyes in shock. They wondered if the transmission came from Shang Xia or his sources in Star Origin City.

Releasing the seal, Kou Chongxue quickly read the information contained within.

"Hah! This brat actually located the place and fought Wen Juxiang, the fourth tier True Immortal from the Essence Hong World who was waiting to ambush anyone who went over. The kid managed to escape without taking too many losses!" Kou Chongxue read out loud. However, he shook the transmission around in his hand at the others and didn't have any intentions of passing it to any of them.

Yang Taihe's expression changed as he asked, "Was Wen Juxiang behind that strike the other time?"

Everyone who heard what happened couldn't even be bothered that Shang Xia managed to escape from a fourth tier True Immortal at the moment.

Kou Chongxue shook his head and explained, "Wen Juxiang told him that he wasn't able to unleash the strike alone. No matter how we look at it, that wasn't something a fourth tier True Immortal could unleash anyway. He admitted that it was a combined attack with several True Immortals working together."

"Combined attack?" Zhang Xuansheng revealed a doubtful expression.

"Yes." Kou Chongxue waved the transmission around again and muttered, "The kid deduced that there were many True Immortals who made use of some powerful combined strike and we had been targeted by all of them some time ago and were used as a test subject..."

Suddenly, Kou Chongxue thought back to the secret Formation Talisman Shang Xia had crafted for Tong Yutang.

Chapter 1136: Infiltrating the Land of Star Origin

Above the heavenly screen above the Jiao Continent, the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World might have come up with many conjectures about what happened to the Star Origin Guards; they couldn't verify anything due to their lack of information channels. They were only guessing around, and they could only promise to support each other in case anything happened before returning to their respective factions.

When Kou Chongxue returned to the institution, he summoned the various deputy patriarchs and gave them some instructions before heading off to meet his clone.

After he was done, he entered the Tongyou Elysium to cultivate in seclusion.

As soon as he locked himself in, he sneaked out of the world and rushed to the location Shang Xia indicated in the transmission.

Obviously, the transmission didn't just contain information on Wen Juxiang and the combined strike.

He made a bold guess at the end about what happened and told Kou Chongxue that he would need to infiltrate the Star Origin City in order to verify his guesses.

Since Kou Chongxue could connect the dots when he wasn't even a part of what happened, as someone who actively participated in the cause, Shang Xia had a pretty good guess about what happened.

The reason he told Kou Chongxue to meet up with him was because he wanted to prevent any accidents from happening when he infiltrated Star Origin City.

Right... At the same time, there was something else. Shang Xia used up a Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman during the battle and he wanted to ask Kou Chongxue for his in order to prepare for any unexpected surprises.

At Shang Xia's current level, there were actually very few experts out there who could threaten him. Unless he ran into a high-level True Immortal, there would be no need to escape desperately. In the case he ran into one, using the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman would be the best way to run!

That was something he learned after he encountered Wen Juxiang.

Also... Other than the escaping functionality of the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman, it would allow him to silently infiltrate any place protected by a spatial barrier.

As for why Kou Chongxue seemed to be in a rush to look for Shang Xia... He learned that Shang Xia was still recovering from the battle with Wen Juxiang and was afraid that the youngster hadn't discovered the changes within Star Origin City!

Kou Chongxue felt that if Shang Xia were to infiltrate the city that very moment, he would be walking straight into a trap!

Shang Xia managed to recover a lot earlier than expected because of the portable Five Element Spirit Gathering Formation Chu Jia made for him. As long as he threw a bunch of high-grade essence crystals into it, he would be able to create a space with heaven and earth qi and world origin as dense as an Elysium.

...

When they finally met, Shang Xia was surprised Kou Chongxue arrived so early. However, he soon learned the news from the patriarch.

"Star Origin City sealed off all connection to the other worlds and they might have also locked down the city. I tried personally to enter the Star Relay through our

spatial tunnel but to no avail. It's as though the coordinates of Star Origin City had disappeared..." Kou Chongxue relayed the news as soon as they met.

He wasn't done. He also handed Feng Ziyang's last report to Shang Xia which described everything that happened.

Shang Xia's guess was pretty much spot on...

The next moment, Shang Xia couldn't help but sigh softly and felt as though a long time had passed since he left to investigate the matter.

Only after some time did he snap back to reality. "Patriarch Kou, do you think Wen Juxiang has anything to do with the changes that happened to Star Origin City?"

"Hmm..." Kou Chongxue mumbled in a soft voice, "It's not impossible. Especially considering how it was a joint attack sent out by multiple True Immortals. If we also consider the secret Formation Talisman you crafted for Tong Yutang..."

Shang Xia nodded slowly. "The strike that came for us seemed to be an experiment they were doing. However, it might also be used to silence someone. After all, I could tell that the attack wasn't actually aimed at the four continents of the Spirit Faith World. Instead, it was aimed at me!"

Kou Chongxue followed his line of reasoning and continued, "Since they failed to kill you the first time with their combined strike, Wen Juxiang hid at the location where it originated from to try to kill you again. However, they failed because they underestimated your strength. After it happened twice, even if you were stupid, you should have connected the dots. They probably locked down the city in order to prevent news of it from leaking!"

"Wen Juxiang is a True Immortal from the Essence Hong World. There seems to be someone pulling the strings from behind and we need to know who they are..."

Was there anyone else in the city that was worth Tong Yutang colluding with an expert from an Essence World?

Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia weren't fools. With things in their current state, they could tell that the situation in Star Origin City had exceeded everyone's expectations. The outcome would very well be catastrophic!

Be it Shang Xia or Kou Chongxue, neither would sit still and wait for death to come. Rather than wait for the situation to clear up, they would rather take the initiative and launch their own countermeasures.

Shang Xia chuckled in response, "Patriarch Kou, not only did you fail to persuade me not to do anything stupid after rushing all the way here... You only made me more determined to head over to the Land of Star Origin."

"You inexperienced fool. Let me do this!" Kou Chongxue chuckled in response.

However, he was quickly met with a round of laughter. "Patriarch Kou, if we're talking about the ability to conceal ourselves and escape... You're not my match!"

Kou Chongxue snorted instantly, "How much do you think you can do alone?!"

Slightly taken aback, Shang Xia quickly heard Kou Chongxue adding, “We should head over together.”

“What about the institution?” Shang Xia gasped.

As the only True Immortals of the Tongyou Institution, they always had a tacit understanding that one of them would remain in the institution in case anything happened. No matter what, they would be able to possess the strength of a True Immortal.

Of course, the operation to the Ruined World was an exception...

Kou Chongxue chuckled, “You better just start worrying if your Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman would be enough to locate the Land of Star Origin...”

Both of them had an experience of infiltrating the Land of Star Origin, but that was when its coordinates were known and it was revealed in the vast sea of stars.

Now that the Land of Star Origin had hidden itself in the void, they obviously erected a spatial barrier. Under such circumstances, they could only enter the Land of Star Origin through their classic sneaky methods.

Of course, everything relied on the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman being able to get them in.

As they traveled through the void, they eventually arrived at a spot close to the original location of the Land of Star Origin.

After confirming their rendezvous spot in the city, they activated their Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman in unison.

The next instant, they seemed to discover a secret region that possessed a spatial barrier far stronger than any Elysium.

“I didn’t think that the Land of Star Origin would actually be a complete secret region and isn’t just hidden by some strange formation!” Shang Xia mumbled to himself. The pitch-black spatial gate soon formed behind him to swallow him whole.

The same thing happened to Kou Chongxue, and they disappeared into the void at the same time.

...

The sea of stars above the Land of Star Origin seemed slightly illusory, and starlight that fell would be slightly twisted. A dark crack in the void opened up and the space around it started to bend unnaturally. The next second, a figure started to emerge.

Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief after emerging as he looked at the spatial crack behind him disappearing slowly.

Even though the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman was special, every time he used it, he would feel as though there was an urge in him to remain in the void, merging himself with the space around him. It even left a trace of lingering fear in his heart.

Shang Xia eventually understood that the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman could only be used by True Immortals or above. If weaker cultivators were to use the talisman, something bad might happen to them.

Anyway... Tossing all the irrelevant thoughts out of his mind, Shang Xia determined his current location and knew that he had arrived on the Land of Star Origin.

However... With the starlight falling from above...

He couldn't help but raise his head to look but realized that everything above seemed similar to when he was in the Star Observatory in the Tongyou Elysium.

Back there, he had to be inside the Star Observatory if he wished to see such a clear view of the sea of stars. However, it was everywhere above him now, even if he was only in the wilderness.

He could clearly feel that Star Essence was falling from above, and it might not be as concentrated as that in the Star Observatory, but it could still be used to cultivate.

One had to know that when a Star Observatory was activated, it would use up the power contained in the Elysium. However, the Star Essence landing in the wilderness was actually supplementing the heaven and earth qi there.

Shang Xia could be sure that the Land of Star Origin was definitely no Elysium. It wasn't just because it was many times larger than one. It was also because it wasn't connected to a world and it was a mere secret region in the vast sea of stars...

However... He wanted to know what was sustaining the massive Land of Star Origin in that case!

Feeling a slight tremor somewhere in the range of his divine soul, Shang Xia knew that his appearance actually alerted the Star Origin City. He stowed his thoughts away and quickly concealed his presence. He avoided the experts who came to check the spot he appeared in and took a massive detour while heading to the city.

Chapter 1137: Discovered?!

Not too long after Shang Xia left, a small Star Ship appeared on the horizon. It descended on the spot where Shang Xia appeared in the blink of an eye.

A formless ripple started to spread and it only weakened after traveling close to 100 miles.

After it disappeared, several figures appeared on the ship.

"Captain, we didn't discover anything." A Star Origin Guard clad in Star Robes made a report.

Their captain nodded slowly and muttered, "Alright, I understand. We'll continue to patrol the area and tell everyone that we need to be a lot more careful. This is a special period of time and we need to be ready for anything."

"Yes!" His subordinate replied but revealed a look of hesitation soon after. "Captain, when do we return to the city?"

"Return to the city?" Turning around, the captain stared straight at him. A short burst of laughter quickly left his lips, "Did the others tell you to ask that?"

Laughing along, the Star Origin Guard muttered, "Guess I can't hide anything from you. However... Everyone is waiting for things to clear up in the city, but you're interested in a strange occurrence outside the city... No one knows what is up and they told me to ask..."

Snorting cold, the captain's tone changed as he continued, "Are we really thinking of returning to the city now? 3 of the 7 squads in the First Camp have been captured and their Deputy Camp Commander, Liu Jiuzhen, is nowhere to be seen. No one knows what happened to him and the situation in the city is extremely tense. The Star Origin Guards might be turned inside out if we are a little careless. Are you crazy? Are you tired of wearing your Star Robes? If we return now, your Star Robe might change hands..."

The Star Origin Guards who asked the question gasped in shock and his expression turned into one of shock. He couldn't help but ask, "Captain, I don't think it's that serious, right?"

The captain's expression was ugly beyond comparison at that point and he sighed softly, "It's better you guys don't know..."

With a strange expression, the Star Origin Guard wanted to continue asking but his captain clearly didn't give him a chance. The captain continued, "Tell the others... Even though we came out here to escape from the troublesome situation in the city, we cannot let down our guards. Even if the Star Origin Dao Field has been hidden in the void, we cannot be careless!"

Taking his leave after acknowledging the order, the Star Origin Guard went to relay the message. The captain was the only one left on the bow of the ship as he muttered to himself, "I'm afraid those other worlds will be trying their best to learn about what happened here... I hope the worst-case scenario doesn't happen... Did the Star Origin Guard Commander really..."

Shaking his head slowly, the captain knew something others didn't. He knew what happened when the Camp Commanders and every Martial Void Realm Captain was called into the meeting, and how the Deputy First Camp Commander was locked up. Because of that, the First Camp started to cause trouble and at least 3 squads were suppressed by other members of the Star Origin Guards. There were some deaths during the process... In order to prevent things from going out of hand, the other 4 squads were stripped of their Star Robes.

The situation in Star Origin City might seem peaceful, but undercurrents were raging. Everyone was jittery.

His common sense told him that the worlds connected to their Star Origin City wouldn't sit still. They would definitely move everything in their power to try to send news back to their respective factions.

No matter how tense the situation in the Star Origin City was, with the interference of the Star Origin Guards, those spies and information agents planted by the various worlds were unable to do their thing. They would have to make their reports to relay the current state of things, and they would try everything in their power to do so.

The higher-ups of the Star Origin Guards were confident in the spatial barrier around their Star Origin Dao Field, but the captain wanted to take things one step further. He even suggested to the higher-ups that they should clear out the hidden chess pieces in the city. That was also why he managed to gain the approval from his Camp Commander to head out to deal with things like that.

...

Shang Xia naturally wouldn't know what happened after he left. He took a huge detour around the wilderness before approaching the city carefully.

After he was nearly discovered in the wilderness, Shang Xia realized that even though they covered the entire region in a spatial barrier and hidden themselves in the void, they didn't let down their guards.

He ran into 2 massive battles as he was making his way to the city. When he approached, he saw that the Star Origin Guards or the powers affiliated with them were hunting down some unassuming cultivators.

Obviously, Shang Xia knew that those unassuming cultivators were the hidden chess pieces planted by the various worlds.

Clearly, after the Star Origin City cut off all contact with the worlds, those hidden chess pieces couldn't sit still. They wanted to contact their respective worlds by running out to the wilderness to unleash some secret technique, but they fell straight into the hands of the waiting Star Origin Guards.

They might not know that the Star Origin City didn't merely cut off all contact with the various worlds or activate their grand formation. Instead, they created a spatial barrier around the Land of Star Origin and turned the place into a massive secret region-like existence!

Unless they had the ability to tear through the spatial barrier, or if they had a talisman like what Shang Xia possessed, they wouldn't be able to do a thing!

Shang Xia knew that he needed to quickly locate the Tongyou Institution's gathering point and gain contact with Kou Chongxue and Feng Ziyang before anything else.

Because he didn't dare to create a spatial tunnel, and he needed to avoid those hiding in the wilderness, he couldn't travel quickly despite being a True Immortal.

That was also why it took him 6 whole hours before he caught sight of the Star Origin City.

He was forced to stop suddenly, as he noticed that even though everything seemed normal, he could tell that the city was actually covered in a protection formation.

"Heh, they're only allowing people to leave and not enter!" Shang Xia muttered to himself. He saw people leaving the city, but no one was entering.

"I didn't think that the Star Origin City would have activated their grand formation even after hiding the Land of Star Origin! The person in charge seems extremely careful and this also proves that the problem is a lot more serious than we imagined..." Shang Xia sighed softly.

Under such circumstances, forcing his way in wasn't an option. Fortunately, they came up with countermeasures in case they ran into something like that. They designated 2 gathering spots outside the city.

Shang Xia headed straight to the first, which was in the wilderness 100 miles or so northwest of the city. He didn't see Kou Chongxue after waiting for 2 hours, and went to the second gathering point in a forest 200 miles north of the city.

He waited for 4 more hours, but he failed to see Kou Chongxue.

Shang Xia started to feel a little uneasy.

With Kou Chongxue's current capabilities, he should have arrived long ago... Unless... Unless he failed to enter the Land of Star Origin!

Did the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman fail?!

Shang Xia started to panic as he thought of the many implications that would arise. The next second, a Star Ship entered the range of his divine soul and rushed straight at him.

Shang Xia immediately prepared for battle!

Chapter 1138: Star Origin Guards' Battle Formation

"It's me! Hide your cultivation and lower your weapon!"

When Shang Xia felt that a massive and messy battle was inevitable, a transmission caused him to freeze.

"Hurry up! Pretend you have been captured. I'm on the Star Ship headed your way!"

The transmission rang in his mind once again, and Shang Xia was sure of it. Kou Chongxue was speaking to him!

With no time to think how Kou Chongxue managed to sneak his way onto a Star Ship controlled by the Star Origin Guards, he knew what he had to do. He maintained his posture to fight, but he seemed to realize that he couldn't escape. His cultivation transformed into that of a third element Martial Dipper Realm expert and he prepared to face the Star Ship.

The ship moved quickly. It arrived in the air above Shang Xia the next moment and 7 figures that were shrouded in starlight rushed out to surround Shang Xia.

"Oh? Third element of the Martial Dipper Realm? It's just a small fish!" The captain released a strange laughter, and he seemed to be mocking the cultivation level of the rat they found.

"Deputy Captain Feng, this person's cultivation level is the highest among everyone we ran into in the wilderness! Only the leaders of those hidden chess pieces of the various worlds would have a cultivation level like this! This isn't a small fish! Looks like we might have lucked out this time!" One of the Star Origin Guards chuckled in response.

Deputy Captain Feng waved his hands impatiently and snorted, "Shut up! Look at how happy you are! It's just a third element Martial Dipper Realm cultivator. Hmph, my goal is to fight a True Immortal this time!"

The other Star Origin Guards laughed in response, "Deputy Captain, a True Immortal isn't someone we can run into easily. Even if we have the ability to fight with one, that doesn't mean that we can win anyway! If we really get into a conflict with a True Immortal, we might be the ones who can't last the entire battle. Moreover, we don't have any experience fighting one either..."

The others quickly agreed, "That's right, that's right! Deputy Captain, you are strong and talented, but we don't wish to fight a True Immortal..."

After they spoke, everyone burst into laughter.

Deputy Captain Feng also chuckled with them and he muttered in response, “All of you are a bunch of fools who aren’t interested in growing stronger! Hehe! At least I know now...”

It was clear his relationship with his teammates were good, and he didn’t seem to care about them laughing at him.

As they joked with each other, they seemed to have ‘enraged’ the surrounded Shang Xia.

“You can kill me, but you can’t humiliate me!” Shang Xia roared with rage when he saw how they were disregarding him. It was as though he suffered huge shame as he reached into his sleeves to draw a sword, ready to fight.

“Hey, hey, look at that! He’s starting to get anxious!” The Star Origin Guard who started to joke around with their deputy captain was the first to speak. However, he didn’t seem like he was planning to help his deputy captain. Whatever it was, he looked like he just wanted to watch the world burn.

Out of the other Star Origin Guards, 2 young members seemed to want to help, but they were stopped by those around them.

“Relax. Deputy Captain Feng is already a fourth element Martial Dipper Realm expert. That person is no match for him.”

“Yeah... Deputy Captain Feng, you need to establish your prestige here! The captain has plans on retiring soon and his excuse of being injured might just be enough to get him out. Even though your cultivation realm is similar to the captain's, shouldn’t you show us how strong you really are so that we can support you to take over his position?”

The bunch of them started laughing to themselves. Despite none of them showing signs that they would come to help, they already got into position to surround Shang Xia.

There were many people who poked their heads out from the Star Ship in the air above as they eagerly anticipated the battle that was about to break out.

All of them were members of the subordinate powers of the Star Origin Guards, and they were usually the henchmen who listened to instructions on patrol.

Feng Ziyong thrust his spear out thrice and forced Shang Xia back. Seeing as his companions were still unwilling to assist, he finally yelled, “Hey, you bunch of assholes, He might not be my opponent, but he’s cornered now and he might risk his life to fight me! Are you really just going to stand at the side and watch?”

Even though he was scolding them, his spear didn’t slow down as he quickly suppressed Shang Xia.

However, with Shang Xia ‘struggling for his life’, Feng Ziyong wasn’t able to take him down immediately. The other Star Origin Guards also realized that the situation seemed a little risky.

“Alright, alright, everyone, let’s move together. We’ll take this guy down and we can head back into the city to take a break.”

Amidst the laughter, the Star Origin Guards standing around also made their move. Despite their tomfoolery, they moved decisively.

When they made their move, they coordinated well and the Star Robes on them seemed to come to life. It connected all of them and they managed to completely suppress Shang Xia!

Shang Xia had long heard of the famed battle formation of the Star Origin Guards. It was the first time he was seeing it for himself, and it was also in such a strange situation.

He had to admit that the battle formation deserved its reputation. When the 7 Star Origin Guards fully activated it, Shang Xia felt a lot more pressure than before with his cultivation suppressed to the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm.

If not for the fact that he had a lot of combat experience and an amazing sword art, he might have been defeated already.

From the looks of it, their battle formation possessed the ability to contend against a True Immortal. However, the combat strength they revealed wasn't actually enough to defeat one. In Shang Xia's eyes, their limit would be fighting someone at the level of himself when he was at the grand completion stage of the Five Element Realm back then.

Feng Ziyang could see the doubts in Shang Xia's eyes. Seeing as Shang Xia could still withstand their might, he yelled, "He's a strong one! We shouldn't drag this out any longer! We have to use our full strength!"

As soon as he spoke, Shang Xia felt everything in front of him turn blurry for a moment. The space beneath the Star Origin Guards became illusory as the starlight around them glowed even brighter.

He soon noticed what happened. Their robes weren't producing starlight but instead, it was gathering the starlight from above.

When they attacked again, they seemed to be able to draw on the power of the world to form a weird domain!

That was the true power and intricacies of the Star Origin Guards battle formation!

With Shang Xia keeping his cultivation level at the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm, he knew that he had to allow them to capture him now that they had unleashed their ultimate technique!

Chapter 1139: Power of the Seventh Order?

Even though the Star Origin Guards were clamoring about heading back to the city for a break after capturing Shang Xia, Feng Ziyang still took his duties responsibly. They made a huge turn around the wilderness before returning to the city.

Throughout the process, they placed several seals on Shang Xia before interrogating him and leading him into the prison at the bottom of the Star Ship.

As he was being led there, Shang Xia discovered that he not only managed to fumble his way into the Star Ship. He was also part of the pair of experts responsible for guarding prisoners.

Shang Xia glared at Kou Chongxue who looked like he was taking his job very seriously, and a foot quickly landed on his ass.

“Fuck! What the hell are you looking at?! Being captured by the mighty Star Origin Guards is your honor! Hmph, just wait! You’re going to be sent away into the prison under the Star Observatory for a long time where you can repent on your actions!” Kou Chongxue growled. His identity as a vicious guard was played perfectly.

The other guard shot him a weird grin and muttered, “Old Kou, is there a need to waste your breath with these people? Just lock them up and be done with it. There will be people to mess with him when the time comes.”

Both of them joked around and pushed him deeper and deeper into the ship. When they finally arrived, Kou Chongxue gave him a strong boot to his ass to send him flying into the cell.

Shang Xia couldn’t help but wonder if Kou Chongxue was doing it on purpose. However, he couldn’t say anything at that moment, and could only endure the treatment silently.

“Old Kou, don’t judge this cell just because it’s small. Every single bar is made up of Frost Metal, a rank four spiritual treasure. There are countless runes carved into them and it’s a miniature sealed space within. Not only can it block off all traces of heaven and earth qi, it can also suppress the inner qi of its captive.” The other guard was clearly someone who had a lot of experience and he couldn’t help but reveal his sense of superiority when speaking to the newbie guard beside him.

Kou Chongxue immediately put on an expression of shock and gasped, “Oh my! Is that really so?! Even the bars are made of rank four spiritual treasure... Isn’t this just a small prison on the Star Ships we have? What would the real prison under the Star Observatory look like?”

Hearing how his fellow newbie guard was humbly requesting his guidance, he looked mighty pleased with himself and he couldn’t help but explain, “Old Kou, you might not know, but not everyone has the qualifications to enter the main prison. The people there are vicious characters who harmed the city, and anyone who can do that has an impressive cultivation level...”

Kou Chongxue raised his eyebrows in confusion. “Since they’re so powerful and have caused harm to the city, why don’t they just kill those criminals? There won’t be a need to be afraid of them escaping in that case...”

“This...” The old guard coughed once to hide his awkwardness. Clearly, Kou Chongxue’s question was something he had no answer to. He didn’t answer the question and instead, focused on something else. “Escape? Escaping is impossible! Do you know what contains them? They are actually being suppressed by the Star Observatory!”

“According to the rumors, the Star Observatory was something left behind by the Star Origin Lord back then. After those people are suppressed by it, it’s the end of them. It was said that there was once someone who tried to break out with outside help, but those working on the outside were captured and thrown in as well. Oh yeah, the reason the Star Origin Guards captured them is because they wish to bait

out their companions. Yeah, that's it!" The older guard concluded and yelled in excitement as though he had it figured out.

Both of them were walking away from the cell that held Shang Xia, and neither of them hid their conversation. Shang Xia heard both of them clearly.

"So that's it..." Kou Chongxue pretended to fall deep in thought and he continued, "It was actually something left behind by the Star Origin Lord... It's said that he's an existence who surpassed the Martial Void Realm! I really wish to meet him..."

The older guard roared with laughter. "Those people who have the qualifications to meet him are probably all locked up in the main prison! Old Kou, are you sure you wish to meet with him?"

Kou Chongxue shook his head in fright at the sound of that.

The older guard merely burst into even louder laughter.

Taking the chance, Kou Chongxue continued to ask, "Brother, I'm new here and I don't know much... Can you tell me more about the Star Origin Lord?"

"The Star Origin Lord hasn't shown himself in the past hundreds of years... What can I know about him? Even if I know anything, I wouldn't dare to reveal it randomly!" The older guard sighed.

"How can you say that you're revealing it randomly?" Kou Chongxue smiled and led him away, "Let's go, I still have a jar of rank three Monkey Wine! Since we're on our way back after our patrol, we should finish it!"

The older guard gasped in shock, "Old Kou, you actually have such good stuff on you? It's said that Monkey Wine originates from the Spirit Luxuriant World and it's hard to get any because of how little is produced! It's kind of famous in the city... After we sealed off the spatial tunnels, this thing became even more rare... I didn't think you would be able to get your hands on stuff like that!"

Kou Chongxue sighed with slight embarrassment, "Hahaha, you're overestimating me. How can I possess such great connections? I only managed to get my hands on this because I helped the deputy captain out from time to time... Ahem. Let's not talk about this. Here, let's drink!"

The tinkling of cups rang through the air the next moment and satisfied grunts could be heard. The older guard eventually started talking again, and this time, his tone was filled with admiration, "I didn't think that you would have friendly relations with the deputy captain... I was rude earlier! Even though Deputy Captain Feng is only the deputy captain for now, everyone knows that the old captain is about to retire. The position of captain will belong to Deputy Captain Feng anyway. When that happens, your position will definitely grow along with it and I will need to rely on you when that happens..."

Kou Chongxue seemed to choke as he sputtered in fright, "No, no... What do you mean by friendly relations with Deputy Captain Feng, I'm just an errand boy at best! Ever since I came on board, you have been taking care of me and I can't thank you enough!"

In the tiny prison, Shang Xia couldn't help but snort derisively. It was the first time he was seeing how Kou Chongxue acted while acting as a spy for the other side and he couldn't help but feel a range of complex emotions.

Perhaps it had something to do with the rank three Monkey Wine, or Kou Chongxue's 'accidental' revelation that he had good relations with Feng Ziyong, but the older guard was no longer as guarded against him. Both of them seemed to become the best of friends.

As Shang Xia listened in on the conversation between them, he could summarize everything into 3 main points. The first was that the prison under the Star Observatory contained high-level experts who once brought harm to the Star Origin City. It was also extremely likely it was where Liu Jiuzhen was. Secondly, the reason behind the chaos might have something to do with the disappearance of the Star Origin Lord. Seventh Camp Commander, Xing Xingtian, suspected that Zhuge Xiang, the Guards Commander, had been intentionally hiding the fact that the Star Origin Lord had gone missing. He even suspects that Zhuge Xiang might have something to do with the disappearance. The third was that Feng Ziyong's captain was planning to retire soon because he had exhausted his talent. However, there was also a hidden reason why he wished to hide from the storm that was happening and the troubles it might bring.

As Shang Xia listened in on their conversation, he tried to undo the seals on him.

Because he hid his cultivation at the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm, they placed 3 different types of restriction on him to seal his strength. If it was merely shaking free of them, it was nothing but a single thought for the third tier True Immortal... However, getting rid of the restrictions without being discovered was a challenge. Especially if he had to make it look like it was still restraining him if they checked it.

How could Shang Xia still not understand the plan with things having gone that far? The scheme Kou Chongxue and Feng Ziyong had cooked up involved him being thrown into the main prison under the Star Observatory!

As for what he needed to do after he was sent there... When he heard that Liu Jiuzhen was likely imprisoned there, he could guess what their plan was.

The reason behind him being the one to enter the main prison was also simple. Both Kou Chongxue and Feng Ziyong knew that Shang Xia's inner qi was extremely special. It was the best when it came to getting rid of formations and restrictions.

Indeed... 2 of the 3 restrictions that sealed off his strength were merely decorations in front of Shang Xia. He didn't need to break through them forcefully and if he simply continued to circulate his inner qi, they would disappear after some time.

It was a shame that in order to prevent anyone else from noticing the abnormality, he had to consciously maintain those restrictions in him!

As for the third... Shang Xia actually ran into a bit of a problem when dealing with it.

The third seal was something created with the joint effort of all 7 members of the Star Origin Guards. It used the power of starlight that formed a formless barrier around his dantian.

As he circulated his inner qi, he discovered that the power of starlight wasn't being instantly eroded by his Six Direction Inner Qi!

“Interesting...” Shang Xia didn’t show his emotions, but he felt a little intrigued.

That was because he could tell that the starlight barrier around his dantain possessed a strange property and its quality vaguely surpassed the inner qi produced by his Six Element Origin!

It seemed really incredible...

The power of starlight... Star essence, and the power of the stars...

The restriction was special, but that didn’t stop him from messing around with it with his inner qi.

Despite it being of high quality, it was just too weak when compared to the third tier True Immortal that was Shang Xia. Even if it could hold out for the time being, with Shang Xia consciously smashing his inner qi into it, the seal would eventually be broken.

Thinking about the restriction, Shang Xia still had his concerns. One had to know that the restriction had been placed by 7 ordinary Star Origin Guards. When they worked together, they would be comparable to a True Immortal who just broke through. What if a True Immortal from the Star Origin Guards reinforced the seal with others before he was thrown into the main prison under the Star Observatory?

Would he be capable of destroying the restriction in that case?

Also if the Star Observatory was able to draw on the power of the stars, what was he supposed to do when locked up in there?

When Shang Xia was thinking about the many considerations, he heard footsteps approaching his cell.

Only then did he realize that 4 hours had passed. Kou Chongxue and the older guard were nowhere to be seen as they had finished the jar of Monkey Wine a long time ago.

Surprisingly, Kou Chongxue appeared the next moment and he stood right outside the cell.

Before Kou Chongxue could say anything, Shang Xia asked curiously, “I find it a little strange... Rather than asking that weird fellow, why not ask Feng Ziyong what you want to know? Even if Feng Ziyong doesn’t know, he would be able to ask his Camp Commander. The other guard can’t possibly know more than a deputy captain in the Star Origin Guards, right?”

Seeing how Shang Xia was speaking so casually, Kou Chongxue knew that Shang Xia had already gotten rid of the restrictions. He was most likely able to tell that there wasn’t anyone else around.

Kou Chongxue snorted, “What do you know? The other guard was called Jia Ji and he had been someone working under the captain for a long time. He might not be in the Star Origin Guards, but he has a lot of experience working with the captain. He knows quite a lot of secrets, and he has a good grasp of the captain’s relationships. The moment the captain retires and Feng Ziyong takes his spot, Jia Ji will have to find another backer. I have good relations with Feng Ziyong and Jia Ji is more than happy to reveal some information to me to get on my good side.”

Shang Xia gasped in shock, “I didn’t think that braggart would actually be someone of some importance...”

Kou Chongxue burst out laughing, but he turned to Shang Xia and asked seriously, “How about it? Are you confident of succeeding?”

Shang Xia knew that Kou Chongxue was asking if he thought it would be possible to get rid of the seal before he was thrown in the main prison without being discovered.

Shaking his head, Shang Xia mumbled, "I am able to get rid of the restriction on me without any problems, but the situation in the main prison is unknown and I don't dare to say for sure. Moreover..."

"Moreover?" Kou Chongxue frowned.

"... Moreover, I suspect that the restriction created by the combination of the Star Origin Guards is something that has touched upon the power of the Seventh Order..." Shang Xia continued.

Kou Chongxue was slightly taken aback, but he quickly turned serious. "Are you sure? How do you know it's the power of the Seventh Order?"

Shang Xia grunted once and blinked twice before he explained, "The power of the starlight contains a special property and even if I wish to erode it with my Six Direction Qi, it will be slightly difficult. I can tell that the quality of the restriction should be slightly higher than my inner qi. However, the feeling of the restriction they placed is too weak and I managed to destroy it with brute force."

Kou Chongxue's attention was no longer on Shang Xia's words actually and he zoomed in on the other point Shang Xia brought up. "Do you mean to say that the path to the Seventh Order of the Primary Realm lies in the power of stars?"

"I... I think so?" Shang Xia stuttered softly.

Chapter 1140: Prison?! Land of Great Blessing!

Shang Xia wasn't trying to make things mysterious on purpose, but he really wasn't sure if he could successfully complete the mission.

According to his cultivation, when he advanced further down the path, he would naturally name it the Seven Stars Realm. From the name itself, it clearly had something to do with the power of the stars.

That was also why after Shang Xia discovered the strange power in his body, he could be sure that it could be considered a pseudo seventh order energy.

Actually, that point alone was not enough to prove that the battle formation unleashed by the Star Origin Guards touched on the power of the Seventh Order. After all, others might not agree with his reasoning just because he said so.

However, Kou Chongxue didn't doubt Shang Xia when it came to evaluations like that. He frowned, "From what I heard and what I learned from Feng Ziying, when you are thrown into the main prison under the Star Observatory, they would strengthen the seal on you once again. The main prison is also extremely secure and if it truly is related to the power of a Seventh Order, you might not be able to get rid of the restriction completely..."

Shang Xia thought for a moment before he muttered, "That might not be true... After all, I was captured and I suppressed by strength to the Martial Dipper Realm. As long as no one discovers my

true strength, I might be able to get through without too much scrutiny. After all... There is no way they will spend as much effort to seal a Martial Dipper Realm cultivator compared to a Martial Void Realm True Immortal, right?"

Hesitating slightly, Kou Chongxue eventually nodded. "Alright... As long as the Seventh Camp takes over and fails to discover your true cultivation level, it should be alright. If we're exposed, we can only go all out and fight our way out. A bloody battle would be inevitable."

Pausing slightly, Kou Chongxue continued, "Remember... You cannot force yourself and take unnecessary risks!"

Shang Xia chuckled in response, "Patriarch Kou, rest assured. I know what I can do. Feng Ziyong's identity is extremely special at the moment and it will be for the best if we don't give it up easily."

A strange smile appeared on Kou Chongxue's face and he muttered, "If it comes to that... Even I won't be able to stop him from exposing himself."

Shang Xia clearly misunderstood him and thought about Feng Ziyong's many considerations. He nodded cluelessly.

However, when Kou Chongxue turned around and prepared to leave, Shang Xia seemed to have recalled something and he asked, "Right, how is the situation in the city right now? Is Xing Xingtian personally taking charge of things over at the Star Observatory?"

"If he really is there... Oh, and Xing Xingtian has already become a Grand Stargazer... Anyway, do you really think Feng Ziyong will send you over if a True Immortal is really present to hold the fort?" Kou Chongxue snorted without even turning back.

Shang Xia pressed his face against the bars and yelled as Kou Chongxue got further, "Where did Xing Xingtian go?!"

"No clue!" Kou Chongxue finally spun around when he was some distance away.

"Back then when Liu Jiuzhen was captured during their meeting and thrown into the main prison, Xing Xingtian disappeared soon after. At the very least, no one other than those present during the meeting that day knew where he went."

Shang Xia continued to ask, "Who's the person in charge of the city now?"

"Second Camp Commander He Yingrui and Fourth Camp Commander Feng Ziyuan have taken charge of things in the city. Right now, Feng Ziyong is a deputy captain in the Fourth Camp, but he should be able to take over the position of captain soon." Kou Chongxue explained.

Indeed... Star Origin City was still controlled by True Immortals. Otherwise, they would have been thrown into chaos the moment they sealed off the connection with the various worlds.

It was said that He Yingrui was a third tier True Immortal. Even though He Yingrui's cultivation was similar to Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia's they would be fighting in their home grounds. They would hold a lot more advantage in battles there!

Shang Xia even suspected that in the case where He Yingrui could draw on the power of the Star Origin City, they would be suppressed easily.

No one knows what the fabled Star Origin Lord who established the Land of Star Origin left behind. It was extremely likely the Star Origin Lord was an existence at the Seventh Order, and no one could be sure what an existence of that level was capable of.

At the very least, it wasn't something the current Shang Xia could understand.

After Feng Ziyang patrolled a little more in the wilderness north of the city, he eventually brought the Star Ship back to the Star Observatory which was also located within the northern region of the city.

As they made their way back, Shang Xia could hear at least two other experts being thrown into other cells around him.

When the Star Ship finally came to a stop, Kou Chongxue and Jia Ji reappeared after the time it took to burn a stick of incense. They inspected the restrictions on Shang Xia before grabbing him from the cell.

When he was brought out, Shang Xia discovered that there were a total of 5 of them who were caught.

However, he couldn't be bothered to look at them. That was because the giant golden pyramid that was the Star Observatory of the Star Origin City was just too majestic!

The Star Ship they were brought in looked like a tiny carriage at the foot of a mountain compared to the awe-inspiring structure!

Shang Xia had seen 3 Star Observatories in his time, but be it the tattered Star Observatory in the Celestial Remains above the Azure Origin World back then that had been restored by the Heavenly Star Palace in the Jiao Continent, or the Star Observatory that existed in the Tongyou Elysium, they paled in comparison to what he was seeing.

Also, the Star Observatory he was looking at wasn't just large. There was no doubt that it was covered from top to bottom in powerful restrictions!

Raising his head to look at the falling starlight that covered the structure, Shang Xia knew that the Star Origin City had already developed their Star Observatory to an extreme level.

Not too far away were several Star Origin Guards who were exchanging pleasantries.

One of the 2 was Feng Ziyang.

"Deputy Captain Feng, you actually caught 4 of them! Your harvest is pretty good... If you go out a few more times, we might not have any space left in the main prison!"

A Martial Dipper Realm expert who had a square face and a large forehead joked with a hint of sarcasm.

Feng Ziyang didn't seem to mind his tone as he laughed along, "I was lucky! I was also entrusted with this task by the captain. If I don't work a little harder, he won't allow me to take over his position!"

The square-faced Martial Dipper Realm expert was also a captain of the Star Origin Guards and he grunted before sighing wistfully, “The old captain is really great at finding the best timings. His choice to retire now is actually amazing... It’s a shame we’re just starting out and we aren’t able to enjoy our life like him...”

Slightly taken aback, Feng Ziyang mumbled, “Oh? Has there been news in the city? I have been out for some time capturing fugitives and I haven’t been keeping up with the news here...”

As he spoke, he stuffed an intricate jade bottle into the hands of the captain before him.

Shang Xia could see what was happening clearly. He could also tell that the jade bottle contained rank four Monkey Wine produced by the Tongyou Institution. It has great effects when it comes to stoking the spirit and it can be considered an amazing treasure.

The captain’s eyes lit up after receiving the bottle. He shook the bottle slightly before raising it to his mouth. Taking a swig, he revealed an expression of extreme comfort. When he was done, he mumbled, “Hehe... Little Feng, you are really resourceful. You can even find wine of such quality! Actually... It’s nothing much. I heard that there has been unrest among the other squads in the First Camp. I believe you know about it as well. Deputy Camp Commander Tian Moran of the Second Camp has always been friendly with our Camp Commander. Members of the First Camp have been paying Tian Moran frequent visits recently.”

Feng Ziyang sucked in a cold breath and gasped, “Brother, Deputy Camp Commander Tian is a True Immortal! This...”

The captain from the Seventh Camp was clearly someone who enjoyed good wine. He instinctively wanted to take another swig while hearing Feng Ziyang speak, but he forced himself to stop every time. His gaze lingered on the bottle while listening. When Feng Ziyang was done, the square-faced captain replied in a daze, “The Guard Commander has gone missing, and the First Camp won’t be able to raise any waves without Liu Jiuzhen. As for Tian Moran... Hehe... Even Camp Commander He won’t dare to appear near the Star Observatory!”

Shang Xia analyzed everything he was hearing and his attention was placed on how the captain said Zhuge Xiang was missing.

Sweeping his gaze across those present, Shang Xia could also see that Kou Chongxue had fallen deep into thought. It was clear he also noticed what happened.

Feng Ziyang put on an expression of disbelief and yelled, “Brother, aren’t you exaggerating? Commander He is a third tier True Immortal! Camp Commander Xing shouldn’t be here, right?”

The captain couldn’t hold back any longer and raised the bottle to his lips again. He took a huge gulp before shooting Feng Ziyang a look. “Hehe... You are truly a newbie in the Star Origin Guards... Our Seventh Camp has been operating this Star Observatory for a long time... After the commander entered the Martial Void Realm, it’s even more... Hehehe... This is really good wine indeed!”

Knowing that the captain was no longer willing to speak after how he shifted the topic away at the last moment, Feng Ziyang chuckled and said, “If I find better wine in the future, I won’t forget you!”

The square-faced captain roared with laughter and slapped Feng Ziyong's shoulders. He turned to the rest of the Star Origin Guards and yelled, "What are you waiting for? Hurry and throw those people into the prison. Don't forget to inspect the restrictions on them. We cannot afford any slip-ups!"

He continued to address Feng Ziyong the next moment, "My friend... I hope you understand... We have to take extraordinary measures because of the current situation."

Feng Ziyong narrowed his eyes, but he still smiled softly, "You are truly meticulous. If I mess up anywhere, I can count on you to catch it..."

The square-faced captain was slightly taken aback, but after seeing Feng Ziyong's deferential attitude, he laughed, "Brother Feng, you really know how to make me feel better. When the other captains came back recently, they always showed me a nasty attitude!"

As Shang Xia and the others were brought over, Shang Xia was fourth in line and he could clearly see how they were inspecting the restrictions on their prisoners. First, 2 guards would see if the prisoner tried struggling free of it. After that, they would drag the prisoner over to a gate that had been opened under the Star Observatory. They would shove the prisoner onto a dusty gray platform there where a ray of starlight would descend to strike the target.

As soon as the first prisoner was sent to the platform and the beam of starlight descended, they revealed a twisted expression while trembling violently. They opened their mouth to scream, but no sound came out. Anyone could see how much they were suffering.

A moment later, the starlight would fade and the expert whose cultivation level was at the third or fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm would fall to the ground. They would then be tossed into the gate.

Looking at the second prisoner dragged over, Feng Ziyong mumbled, "It said that a Star Restriction would be placed on everyone sent into the prison. Those who have been sealed will have no possibility of escaping. Haha... I have finally seen the whole process today..."

The square-faced captain laughed, "Unless their cultivation is crippled, there is no such thing as a complete seal on their strength. Even though the Star Restriction is powerful, the process will need to be done on the prisoners after some time. The stronger one is, the shorter the time between each seal. Well... Even if someone broke the restriction, they wouldn't be able to escape. Not even a True Immortal would be able to force their way out of the Star Observatory!"

The captain sounded so sure of himself.

Feng Ziyong stoked his ego even further, but he couldn't help but shoot Kou Chongxue a glance.

By that time, the third prisoner had already been brought to the platform and Kou Chongxue and Jia Ji were responsible for handing them over.

Kou Chongxue saw the look in Feng Ziyong's eyes, and even Shang Xia noticed it.

However, Shang Xia didn't make any signals to them. Instead, he allowed himself to be led to the platform to await his fate.

As the Star Origin Guards inspected him, they didn't notice any weakened restriction on him or any signs of struggling free.

Shang Xia showed them that he was willing to follow through with the plan.

What no one noticed was that Kou Chongxue intentionally lingered around the platform when Shang Xia was thrown over, and even Feng Ziyong took 2 steps closer.

When they glanced at Shang Xia, they saw that his right hand was half clenched, and when the beam of starlight fell, his body trembled slightly but his gesture didn't change. He never closed his fist completely, indicating that there was no need for them to make any unnecessary moves.

Kou Chongxue and Feng Ziyong immediately shifted their gaze away, and Kou Chongxue returned to bring the last prisoner over. When he handed the final prisoner to the Star Origin Guards, he exchanged pleasantries with the deputy captain with a face full of smiles.

Shang Xia's body started to tremble even more violently, and he didn't raise his head during the entire process. No one could see his expression. They could only see that his hand had been slowly stretched out and he was holding out for a long time under the starlight. He didn't seem anxious at all, and his fingers were completely stretched out.

Surprised by the indication, Kou Chongxue and Feng Ziyong were shocked by the message he was sending. They even thought they were mistaken, but they quickly hid the look in their eyes.

The square-faced captain that had been speaking to Feng Ziyong earlier enjoyed his wine while staring curiously at Shang Xia. "Hey? This guy is pretty special. He seems to be able to hold out against the starlight!"

Feng Ziyong couldn't help but look at Shang Xia while mumbling, "It might be because his cultivation is higher than the rest. He's at the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm and he isn't weak at all. He is able to fight back even after we deploy our battle formation."

The square-faced captain laughed, "Hmm... Brother Feng, you're about to take over the position of captain... You should familiarize yourself with the battle formation a little more."

As soon as the words left his lips, the starlight around Shang Xia dispersed, and one of the guards threw him into the depths of the prison.

When Shang Xia landed, the look on his face was hidden by the darkness in the prison. If anyone could see him, they would be able to see the strange look on his face.

A good half of the power of starlight that fell on his dantian was devoured by the Crimson Soul Tablet that appeared out of nowhere!

If not for the fact that he reacted quickly and stopped the Crimson Soul Tablet from absorbing anymore, the layer of restriction it was supposed to place on him might have failed to form!

Even so, Shang Xia knew that despite it only being a thin layer, the restriction was extraordinary. At the very least, it was much stronger than the restriction placed by Feng Ziyong and his squad.

However, Shang Xia's attention wasn't on the Star Restriction on his dantian. Instead, he was focused on the Crimson Soul Tablet that devoured a good portion of it.

That was the second time the Crimson Soul Tablet had reacted. The first was when he noticed the spatial barrier in the strange region. The second was when the beam of starlight fell on him, and it was a lot stronger this time.

Moreover, Shang Xia could tell that the power of starlight was actually very useful when it came to restoring the Crimson Soul Tablet.

The more he thought about it, the more curious he became. Looking around, Shagn Xia looked at the prison and noticed that everywhere around him was the power of starlight that originated from the Star Observatory. To be more exact, it was Star Essence that had been gathered by the Star Observatory.

The prison under the Star Observatory might be an endless hell for others, severing their hopes of ever escaping, but in Shang Xia's eyes, it was as though he had been locked in a treasure chest! It was a great land of blessing!