

The Heavens 1141

Chapter 1141: Interior of the Prison

When Shang Xia was being transported back to the Star Origin City, he already completed his brief with Kou Chongxue and Feng Ziying.

After learning that another restriction would be placed on those who were sent to the main prison, they came up with a way to communicate. If he would withstand the power of the restriction and would be able to deal with it, he would open his palm. Otherwise, he would close his fist completely to tell them something was wrong.

If he truly clenched his fists all the way, Kou Chongxue and Feng Ziying would immediately rush over to save him. He would also burst forth with his full strength and none of them would care about their hidden identities any longer.

To put it bluntly, they were taking a huge risk. What Shang Xia was planning to rely on was his true strength which he had hidden from all of them, and his Six Direction Origin. Now that the Crimson Soul Tablet has thrown itself into the mix. It single-handedly dealt with all the risks Shang Xia took.

After Shang Xia was thrown through the gates, he passed through the dark corridor before finally arriving at the actual prison.

It was completely unlike the gloomy dungeon he had expected. Even though it wasn't that bright, it wasn't exactly dark either.

What shocked Shang Xia were the people who proclaimed themselves as jailors when he arrived. Because his divine soul wasn't suppressed much, he could tell that they were actually mortals!

"Please, follow us..." They sounded very polite, and they even gestured for him to walk forward.

Shang Xia didn't bother answering as he simply followed where they were pointing to.

At the same time, a strong pressure came from all directions as it pressed down against him. That was the suppression one would feel when inside the main prison under the Star Observatory.

As soon as it arrived, Shang Xia could feel the Crimson Soul Tablet buzzing with excitement in his mind.

Right before it could swallow the power of starlight, Shang Xia forcefully suppressed it before it could go too crazy.

Fortunately, with the Crimson Soul Tablet slowly being restored to its original state, Shang Xia's connection with it grew stronger. His ability to control it rose proportionally.

Since he had some degree of control over it, he didn't have to allow it to absorb all the power of starlight that fell. He could let it rain down on him so that he could slowly experience its strength. At the same time, with the better understanding he had of it, he understood why the Star Origin Guards were so confident no one would be able to escape.

Before they were thrown into the main prison, the restriction around their dantian would be strengthened by the beam of starlight. When they were in the prison, they would be greatly suppressed by the power of the stars and they would find it difficult to move around.

As for why the jailors were mere mortals...

That was because mortals wouldn't be affected by the power of starlight!

In other words, a powerful cultivator who had been restrained by the power of starlight could be taken down by 3 to 5 ordinary jailors in the main prison under the Star Observatory with their cultivations sealed!

He... They would actually be taken down by mere mortals!

Shang Xia could even imagine those cultivators who saw themselves as people who stood high above the masses feeling sorry for themselves after realizing they were no match for mere mortals in the prison!

Naturally, he could think about random stuff like that because he wasn't a part of them! He had hidden his cultivation, and the seal around him was mere decoration due to the Crimson Soul Tablet. The only question Shang Xia wanted to know the answer to was... If he didn't rely on the Crimson Soul Tablet and relied on his cultivation alone, would he be able to rid himself of the restriction and escape?

As the thought crossed his mind, he couldn't help but look at the dark passage he passed through earlier. He couldn't help but shake his head.

His Six Direction Origin might have the ability to destroy whatever restriction was left around his dantian, but because it was much stronger than the restriction created by Feng Ziyang and the other Star Origin Guards, he would probably only be able to shake free from it for a moment while making his escape.

If he were to do anything, he would need to ensure that he caught everyone by surprise and the Stargazers in the Star Observatory wouldn't be able to react.

No matter what, he felt that he had a small chance to escape with his own power. He was a lot more relieved after his estimations.

Then came the supreme trump card that was the Crimson Soul Tablet! As long as he used it, breaking out would be a piece of cake!

As he started to think about the many implications and play out the many scenarios in his mind, he was brought to a platform that continued to lead deeper into the main prison.

"Huh? Am I supposed to go even deeper?" Shang Xia asked with a cold snort.

The jailors still seemed rather easy to talk to and one of them laughed, "There are 3 levels in the prison and the highest level is responsible for holding Martial Extermination Realm cultivators. The next level is for ordinary Martial Dipper Realm cultivators like yourself. The last floor is reserved for some special beings."

"Are they True Immortals?" Shang Xia probed.

The other jailor chuckled, "Actually, we can't tell even if they are. It's likely there are True Immortals there, but usually, it's for people with special identities."

Oh? Like the members of the First Camp?

Shang Xia thought to himself, but he didn't ask.

After all, these jailors were easy to talk to, but Shang Xia didn't know if there were any hidden means used to watch him and hear what he said. If there were, he didn't wish to draw attention to himself.

When he entered the second floor, he found that the entire area was a lot more organized than he had thought. He was brought directly to a solitary cell.

As he made his way over, he passed 30 or so other cells. At least half of them contained prisoners, but he didn't reach the other end. He could tell that there were 30 or so more cells, but his divine soul was heavily suppressed there and he couldn't tell if there was anyone housed in those cells.

There was no way to push his divine soul deeper into the third floor. The security there seemed a lot stricter, and he couldn't detect anything.

After entering his cell and watching the jailor leave, Shang Xia went to a corner and started to meditate. He wanted to restore the energy he used along the way.

Around a day passed when Shang Xia heard a reminder from outside that it was time to eat. He rose to his feet only to discover that his mental state had pretty much recovered, but his body felt a little weak.

Hastily inspecting his body, he discovered that there his inner qi was leaking.

With a frown, he quickly inspected his current state. After some time, he discovered that the cell actually had the ability to leech off the captive's inner qi, causing them to be weakened while their cultivation bases were sealed off.

Shang Xia didn't notice it before, and that was why he was affected. Now that he knew what was happening, he could easily deal with it. With his Six Direction Origin and his terrifyingly strong physique, he could redirect his inner qi back into his body or stop it from leaking completely.

The food the jailors brought over might not seem great, but it wasn't anything disgusting. Instead, it was equivalent to what ordinary families would eat, maybe when they were going through a harder time, but there was nothing to complain about.

After he was done eating, Shang Xia started to inspect the cell. He heaved a sigh of relief after realizing that the Star Origin Guards didn't leave any hidden inspection methods in his cell.

The only thing left to do next was to work out how to allow the Crimson Soul Tablet to absorb the most benefits without alerting the members of the Star Origin Guards!

It was actually a rare opportunity Shang Xia received to feed the tablet!

His plan with Kou Chongxue and Feng Ziying would have to wait until he nourished the Crimson Soul Tablet!

There was also a need to mention that with the Crimson Soul Tablet's ability to devour the power of starlight used by the Star Observatory, the difficulty of their plan was greatly lowered!

Chapter 1142: Devouring the Power of Starlight, Eavesdropping

After ensuring again that there wasn't anything that might reveal his actions, Shang Xia started to slowly circulate his inner qi to shave away at the restriction around his dantian.

Actually, allowing the Crimson Soul Tablet to absorb it would be a much more efficient method. However, Shang Xia wished to rely on himself to destroy the restriction so that he would be able to better study the power of starlight it contained. He wanted to feel the superior properties of the energy for himself.

He had a strong premonition that the special properties contained in the power of starlight would greatly assist in his cultivation the moment he made sense of it. As such, even if he had to waste a little more time, he had no complaints!

No longer hiding his cultivation, he circulated it through his body without hesitation. Due to his powerful abilities to control it, no one would be able to discover his true cultivation realm unless a high-level expert personally arrived to probe out his real strength.

There was also a need to mention that he still had several Illusion Talismans he could use to hide his cultivation in front of the random Star Origin Guards he might run into.

After ensuring that no accidents would happen, Shang Xia slowly pressed his palm into the ground beneath him.

The floor, which was made up of azure stone, started to crack as Shang Xia's palm that was coated in Six Direction Qi pressed down on it. The cracks slowly webbed outwards as the power of starlight emerged from within. It attempted to stop him from causing more destruction, but the power of starlight was something Shang Xia was looking for.

Maintaining the inner qi in his palm, the Crimson Soul Tablet started to absorb the power of starlight that emerged from the ground to stop him. Starlight flowed into his palm in a strange fashion.

As it continued to steam into him, runes from all over the cell lit up. It started 3 feet around him before the runes continued to light up further and further away. Even the walls started to emit a strange glow.

Shang Xia stopped abruptly the next moment, stopping the Crimson Soul Tablet from absorbing anymore.

Actually, if Shang Xia hadn't been suppressing the Crimson Soul Tablet from the very start, even the runes outside his cell would have lit up from the power that was being drawn from the Star Observatory.

If that were to happen, either the Stargazers of the Star Origin Guards would be alerted to the increased consumption, or the runes would crumble entirely after the power they contained was overdrawn. Either way, the Star Origin Guards in the Star Observatory would be immediately alerted.

Shang Xia didn't wish for them to discover his actions so quickly. He still wished to continue absorbing the power of starlight secretly.

After all, wasn't the best way to prosper keeping a low profile and stealing everything at a steady pace without being noticed?

Maybe it was because he was being extra careful, he wasn't revealed even after 2 whole days of absorbing the power of starlight.

On the third day, he continued to draw on the power of starlight in his cell. However, the runes on the lower half of his cell were fully activated and he continued to devour the power of starlight for an hour.

On the fourth day, other than the ceiling of the cell that hadn't been lit up with runes, starlight was pouring into him from everywhere and it lasted close to 2 hours.

On the fifth day, Shang Xia had only been absorbing the power of starlight for barely an hour before he heard the sounds of hurried footsteps in the distance. He quickly stopped.

Other than the people who were moving about when giving out food, there were several people who had been sent to the other cells recently. There were some who were screaming with rage and others who were begging desperately.

However, for there to be so many footsteps all of a sudden, Shang Xia couldn't help but be alarmed. He was afraid his act of stealing the power of starlight had been discovered.

As the footsteps got closer, Shang Xia had already gathered his energy and was ready to burst out with all his might.

However, the footsteps didn't stop around his cell. Instead, it continued to go deeper and they eventually faded into the distance.

Heaving a sigh of relief, Shang Xia felt fortunate he would be able to continue. He wasn't afraid that he would be discovered. Instead, he would feel a sense of loss if he couldn't allow the Crimson Soul Tablet to absorb the power of starlight.

Soon, he realized where those people were going and he leaped up from where he was sitting. He ran over to the entrance of his cell and carefully extended his divine soul over to where they left.

The barrier leading to the third floor had disappeared, and perhaps it was because those people who rushed over weren't strong enough to detect his divine soul, or their senses were also suppressed, but he managed to observe the situation without anyone noticing.

Voices came from the third floor.

"... Why... Are you really going to... Sit by... Inner conflict..."

"As long as you say the word..."

As Shang Xia's divine soul got closer and closer, the voices became clearer and the sentences weren't as fragmented as before. He seemed to be hearing them talk to a certain person.

Soon after, a voice that wasn't too foreign to him could be heard in the air. "All of you don't need to say anymore. When I was sent here, the inner conflict between our Star Origin Guards had already broken out."

The person who spoke was none other than Liu Jiuzhen! He was the Deputy First Camp Commander, and he was also the captain of the second squad. He was a second tier True Immortal and Shang Xia had seen him on more than 1 occasion. He was someone who personally went to the Spirit Luxuriant World back then.

He was truly imprisoned under the Star Origin. From the way he was talking, it was clear the Star Origin Guards weren't as organized as they seemed.

Soon after, another voice came. “Deputy Camp Commander Liu, actually, undercurrents had been flowing in the Star Origin Guards for a long time. If we are a little careless, it might cause a huge disaster! Actually, we came over because of Camp Commander He. She hopes that you can come out to stabilize the situation with the Star Origin Guards of the First Camp and help her pacify the state of the city. As long as you agree, you, and the members of your First Camp that have been imprisoned here, can leave.”

After a short moment of silence, Liu Jiuzhen spoke again, “Where is Xing Xingtian? Tell him to come talk to me. Actually, you can go get He Yingrui to come personally too.”

The other voice no longer continued to question Liu Jiuzhen about his willingness to do what they proposed. Instead, he continued, “Deputy Camp Commander Liu, have you thought about how our Star Origin City was created by the Star Origin Lord and the Star Origin Guards’ thousand or so years of foundations have been built on our blood, sweat, and tears? The moment anything changes within the city, all our hard work will go to waste! How will we be able to face the Star Origin Lord?”

Liu Jiuzhen didn’t seem to care about what he was saying. Instead, he seemed to notice something he was driving at and he yelled, “Why is Xing Xingtian choosing to avoid me? Where is he now?! Did he really find where the Star Origin Lord entered seclusion? What is he planning to do? Hmph, asshole who’s living off us while helping others... Tian Moran, do you already know? You and Xing Xingtian really played a good hand! Why didn’t He Yingrui stop them? Is she really planning...”

“Liu Jiuzhen!” Tian Moran, whose identity had been revealed, interrupted Liu Jiuzhen and snorted with rage, “Hmph, everything is for the Star Origin Lord! Zhuge Xiang has always been hiding the truth from us! Haven’t you suspected a thing? You are Zhuge Xiang’s closest aide... Have you asked him about it personally? Or are you no longer on the Star Origin Lord’s side and are planning to side with Zhuge Xiang?”

After a lengthy silence, Tian Moran spoke again, “Think about it carefully. I’ll be back in a few days... However... There isn’t much time left!”

Hurried footsteps rang out again, and Shang Xia quickly retracted his divine soul. When it was returning from the third floor, he could vaguely hear Liu Jiuzhen’s enraged cry, “All of you are traitors!”

Shang Xia restrained his aura as the footsteps got closer, and he even held an Illusion Talisman in hand.

However, Tian Moran didn’t seem interested in anything else as he rushed out of the main prison, his footsteps fading away.

Chapter 1143: Deduction and Change

As the footsteps faded away, Shang Xia sent his divine soul out once more. However, the tunnel leading to the third floor had already been sealed. He could only retract it since it couldn’t go any further.

Earlier, Tian Moran and his fellow Star Origin Guards came, but they didn’t raise too many waves in the prison under the Star Observatory. Shang Xia sat quietly in his cell for an hour and only after not noticing anything strange did he reactivate the runes in his cell to absorb the power of starlight.

As he continued to absorb the power of starlight, he seemed to be prompted by a sudden impulse and he absorbed the power of starlight completely around his cell before reaching out with his divine soul before the power of starlight could be replenished.

After passing through 2 feet of earth, he felt as though it was no longer restricted as it appeared in an empty space.

It was also then that the power of starlight returned, interrupting his exploration with his divine soul.

In the split second his divine soul descended, he had a general idea of what was beneath him.

The conditions on the third floor were clearly a lot better than the second. Not only were the rooms larger, there were also several household items within. Those who were held in those cells seemed to be placed under house arrest rather than being thrown in prison. Shang Xia even noticed that the Star Origin Guard who was trapped within still had his Star Robes.

“It really is someone from the Star Origin Guards... It’s a pity it’s not Liu Jiuzhen!” Shang Xia thought to himself while he continued to absorb the power of starlight. At the same time, he couldn’t help but think back to what Tian Moran said to Liu Jiuzhen. He tried his best to analyze all the information he learned.

The first point that he could be sure of was that even though the Star Origin Guards were hovering on the borders of splitting apart, they hadn’t truly broken out in an all-out inner conflict. The 3 squads of the First Camp had been imprisoned, but from the looks of it, they gave themselves up and were willingly captured.

It wasn’t difficult to see that that was the case from how the Star Origin Guard still had his Star Robes.

Also... The cause of their conflict seemed to be the Star Origin Lord. The Star Origin Lord whose whereabouts were unknown... No, Zhuge Xiang and Liu Jiuzhen might know something, but they seemed to have formed their own faction. The other side seemed to think that Zhuge Xiang had intentionally hidden the Star Origin Lord’s location from everyone and might even have something to do with his disappearance. That was also why they caused trouble when Zhuge Xiang was deep in seclusion.

There also seemed to be a third faction in Star Origin City. it was probably the power that concentrated around the Second Camp Commander, He Yingrui. Moreover, they held considerable power and controlled the city for the time being. They were suppressing the inner conflict from breaking out while trying to settle the dispute on both sides.

However, from the looks of how Liu Jiuzhen had been imprisoned, He Yingrui’s ‘neutral’ faction seemed to be siding more with Xing Xingtian. Otherwise, with the strength of the Seventh Camp Commander alone, there was no way they could suppress Liu Jiuzhen! Even with Zhuge Xiang out of the picture, Liu Jiuzhen was still a considerable force!

It was no wonder Liu Jiuzhen had such a nasty tone when speaking to Tian Moran before.

Of course... Shang Xia knew that Tian Moran started to try to persuade Liu Jiuzhen at the moment because all of them were no longer as confident in their decision.

One could say that during their meeting when they imprisoned Liu Jiuzhen back then, Xing Xingtian tore down the paper-thin facade about the situation about the Star Origin Lord's whereabouts. When that happened, the Star Origin Guards seemed to be split. Without their strongest backer, the Star Origin Guards were no longer able to maintain their calm.

The city hid itself in the void, and with how Tian Moran was trying to persuade Liu Jiuzhen to take their side, Shang Xia had no doubt about it. The current position of the Star Origin Guards no longer had the ability to suppress the various worlds!

As such, Shang Xia reached a single conclusion. Be it Zhuge Xiang or Xing Xingtian, neither of them was in the Land of Star Origin at the moment!

Otherwise, with things devolving to such a nasty state, Zhuge Xiang wouldn't have been able to continue cultivating in seclusion.

Also, with Xing Xingtian's attitude, he was clearly hell-bent on stirring up trouble with Zhuge Xiang. If both of them were to come to blows, wouldn't the city be torn to shreds?

Speaking of which... Shang Xia wondered what Xing Xingtian was relying on. How could he be so courageous to confront Zhuge Xiang the moment he stepped into the Martial Void Realm? One had to know that Zhuge Xiang was a monstrous existence who was planning to enter the fifth tier of the Martial Void Realm!

With light flickering his eyes, Shang Xia thought about everything that happened. A bold guess started to form...

The person who's looking to mess with Zhuge Xiang probably isn't Xing Xingtian! Xing Xingtian should be working with Tong Yutang of the Starry Pavilion!

Tong Yutang was very likely the mysterious cultivator who broke through to the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm after sucking the Ruined World dry!

At the same time, the powerful strike across space was also suspected to be a combined attack unleashed by Tong Yutang and several other experts. It might be related to the talismans Shang Xia crafted back then.

Back then, they thought that it was aimed at the continents that were returning. However, now that they carefully analyzed it, it seemed more like a targeted strike at Shang Xia. It felt like they wanted to silence him...

If that was truly the case, the secret Formation Talismans Shang Xia made for Tong Yutang might be truly incredible treasures. After all, the power contained in that strike across space was overwhelming!

Also... Throughout the entire process, the Essence Hong World likely had their hand in the matter.

Shang Xia wouldn't forget how Wen Juxiang of the Essence Hong World had been waiting in the spot the strike originated from to ambush him when he went over to investigate.

If both sides weren't colluding with each other, how could something so coincidental happen?

Shang Xia might have only started to suspect as much and didn't have enough evidence to support his claims, he felt that his conjecture truly made sense.

“Maybe... I can make use of this opportunity to do something!” Shang Xia mumbled to himself.

Since Liu Jiuzhen might have already guessed that Xing Xingtian managed to learn of Zhuge Xiang’s cultivation grounds, he wouldn’t think that Xing Xingtian would be stupid enough to go alone if he wanted to stir up trouble. Liu Jiuzhen definitely knows that he found some helpers, but I wonder if he knows that Tong Yutang has a hand in this, and the Essence Hong World is also involved...

Shang Xia grunted to himself softly as many considerations ran through his mind, “Hmm... The spatial tunnel connecting Star Origin City and the 2 Essence Worlds seemed to be activated several times in recent years. Since Wen Juxiang of the Essence Hong World was involved... Is the Essence Ming World also a part of this?”

When Shang Xia was thinking about how he should make full use of the situation to benefit himself, the power of Starlight rushed into the Crimson Soul Tablet suddenly and caused it to tremble uncontrollably. He felt his mind shaking along with it and his thoughts were thrown into disarray.

It was then that Shang Xia realized that he was holding something in his right hand. Regaining his calm, he inspected himself with his divine soul and turned to look down at what he was holding. He failed to see anything and everything felt like an illusion.

It was also then that he felt that something wasn’t quite right.

Before he could put his finger on it, he heard a constant rumble that was growing in volume with each passing second. There were also loud curses that came along with it and the third floor which had always been quiet started to bustle with activities. It was as though the prison had been thrown into chaos.

Only then did Shang Xia discover what had happened. The suppression he was feeling disappeared!

Chapter 1144: Grand Stargazer

The deafening rumbling and loud curses seemed to turn the prison upside down.

Shang Xia, who was still on the second floor, revealed a face full of shock.

What just happened?! Why did the power of starlight that filled the entire prison disappear all of a sudden?

Shang Xia subconsciously raised his hands and pinched his glabella.

Huh? Why did I just do that?!

His actions flowed so naturally, and it was a habit Shang Xia had developed. He would usually do it when the Crimson Soul Tablet activated on its own after discovering something new or when it started to react without control.

Usually, the Crimson Soul Tablet would show signs of emerging from his sea of consciousness when that happened and he would pinch his glabella to attempt to suppress the feeling.

However... He felt that he shouldn’t be doing that now!

Could it be?!

Shang Xia gathered his divine soul and inspected the Crimson Soul Tablet that existed in his sea of consciousness.

Because it absorbed a ton of power of starlight, it seemed content with itself as it entered a state of drowsiness.

This shouldn't be...

Even though he wasn't fully focused on controlling the Crimson Soul Tablet earlier as he needed to conceal his cultivation realm, the extent at which he could command the tablet had reached a level at which he was confident he would be able to tell if it absorbed too much power of starlight earlier.

However, he failed to discover it crazily devouring the power of starlight earlier...

Even so, he was sure that everything that happened was related to the Crimson Soul Tablet.

So... What the hell happened?

Shang Xia carefully thought about what happened as he recalled everything he might have missed. From the time he started to absorb the power of starlight, to the time the tablet trembled slightly, until he felt something in his hand...

Right! That's it!

He was holding something in his hand, and the feeling was so real that he knew he couldn't have been mistaken! However, he knew that he didn't bring anything with him he could hold...

Back when he agreed to the plan, he gave Kou Chongxue everything he had to prevent the Star Origin Guards from confiscating anything good on him.

As such... What could he possibly be holding in the cell?

Shang Xia turned his attention back to the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness.

Is it you?!

The next second, sounds of orderly footsteps could be heard above the prison and it seemed to originate from the Star Observatory.

"Silence!" A roar came from the highest level of the prison, and it resounded through the prison, silencing the chaos.

Shang Xia could tell that the person who spoke was the square-faced captain who spoke to Feng Ziyang on the day he was brought to the prison.

However, he also noticed that after the suppression disappeared and roars of discontent came from the third floor, no one tried to break out.

He found it strange that no one tried to take the chance to escape.

No... Something was wrong. From the rumbling, it was clear that some people had tried to break out. Unfortunately, it seemed they failed. They didn't even manage to open their cells!

"Fourth Squad, hold the entrance! The third squad will be responsible for the second floor. Second Squad, follow me to the lowest floor!" The square-faced captain spoke again, and the orderly footsteps got closer.

Shang Xia also discovered what happened. The restrictions in the cells of everyone else should still be active despite the powerful suppression disappearing. Their cultivation should be sealed...

Even their physical bodies should have grown weaker after they had been locked in prison for a long time. That was probably why no one succeeded!

Ever since he was locked in the prison, Shang Xia had never been fully suppressed. He even wiped away the restriction with the help of the Crimson Soul Tablet and as such, his physical body wasn't affected by the draining effects of the many restrictions.

Because he wasn't affected, he completely forgot that others weren't like him!

As the footsteps got closer and closer, a portion of them stopped when they arrived on the second floor. The others rushed towards the third.

With a slight intention, Shang Xia also extended his divine soul down to the third floor along with them.

Since the suppression disappeared, the passageway leading to the third floor naturally couldn't hinder Shang Xia.

There weren't any True Immortals among the Star Origin Guards who arrived, and no one would be able to discover Shang Xia's hidden strength. Also, they couldn't detect his divine soul. Nothing was stopping Shang Xia from reaching his divine soul over and he quickly discovered the locations of the 21 Star Origin Guards of the First Camp who were locked up there.

Only then did Shang Xia discover that the square-faced captain was actually the captain of the second squad. Captains of the second squad were usually also Deputy Camp Commanders.

Those people didn't stop after reaching the last floor. Instead, they rushed straight towards the room at the very end. It was clear the person housed within was Liu Jiuzhen.

"I didn't think that you wouldn't try to escape. From the looks of it, this shouldn't be related to matters in the outside world..." The square-faced captain spoke. He looked at Liu Jiuzhen who was sitting quietly in the center of his cell and nodded slowly.

Liu Jiuzhen's voice soon emerged from the room. "Would that mean that even you guys didn't know what happened to cause the suppression to lose its effects?"

"With your current cultivation realm, you should still be able to break through the cell and escape with the might of your physical body alone. Even if your cultivation had been sealed, it shouldn't be difficult to escape." The square-faced captain spoke.

"From how quickly you reacted, doesn't it show that you were prepared to deal with me if I tried?" Liu Jiuzhen mocked. However, he quickly changed the topic, "Is Xing Xingtian no longer in the Dao Field?"

"Yeah..." The square-faced captain saw no point in hiding the whereabouts of his commander. Perhaps he also knew that Liu Jiuzhen expected as much, but he didn't bother concealing the truth.

“He wouldn’t have been able to get far alone. Who else is working with you guys?” Liu Jiuzhen asked. He didn’t waste any time either as he immediately got to the point.

Staying silent for some time, the square-faced captain didn’t reply directly. Instead, he mumbled, “The Camp Commander once said that other than himself, no one in the Star Origin Guards is allowed to take part in it.”

Liu Jiuzhen fell silent at that. He eventually mumbled, “So it was him... I should have thought of it!”

Even more footsteps came from above at the moment and they quickly made their way over.

A moment later, the guards who arrived with the square-faced captain reported, “Captain, Grand Stargazer Xiao Shengyi and Stargazer Xin Lu have come!”

“Please, invite them over.” The square-faced captain muttered.

In his cell on the second floor, Shang Xia was greatly intrigued by what he just heard.

From the Heavenly Star Pavilion, he learned that only those in the fourth rank would be called Stargazers. It seemed as though those who could be called Grand Stargazers were those who had reached the fifth rank or higher!

Chapter 1145: KNOCK KNOCK, OPEN UP

“Grandmaster Xiao, why are you here?” The square-faced captain asked the expert in the lead who had a deep gaze and gray hair. He spoke with great respect, but his gaze also landed on the mature-looking lady behind the Grand Stargazer and nodded slightly.

“Captain Fang, how is the situation in the prison?” Grandmaster Xiao nodded expressionlessly and asked in his hoarse voice.

Shang Xia didn’t expect that the square-faced captain was called Captain Fang, and he was trying really hard to stop himself from laughing. [1]

Captain Fang looked at the cell behind him, and he knew what the Grand Stargazer was really asking. He continued, “The people in the prison have been suppressed by the Star Observatory for a long time and they don’t have much inner qi left. Their physical bodies are also greatly weakened. Even if the seals stopped working, it wouldn’t be easy for them to recover in a short period.”

Feeling Grandmaster Xiao’s boring gaze, Captain Fang continued, “Those with Star Robes here didn’t show any strange movements, and True Immortal Liu wouldn’t lower himself to lying...”

Xiao Shengyi snorted once and he ignored Captain Fang and he entered the cell.

Captain Fang quickly made way for Grandmaster Xiao.

The entrance to Liu Jiuzhen’s cell was shoved open instantly as Xin Lu also followed behind. Captain Fang walked in next, and everyone else stayed outside.

“Liu Jiuzhen, why didn’t you try to escape?” Xiao Shengyi questioned unceremoniously as soon as he walked into the room.

Seeing as the person who came was Xiao Shengyi, Liu Jiuzhen wasn't surprised by the tone he had. He replied frankly, "I can't escape, and I don't wish to damage the Star Observatory anyway."

As he spoke, he didn't bother looking at Xiao Shengyi. He changed the topic and asked, "How did Xing Xingtian find out where the commander was cultivating?"

Raising his chin, Xiao Shengyi sneered, "if I said that the Camp Commander Xing found it after I worked with him, I don't think you would believe it anyway. Anyway, there's no point in lying to you. Tong Yutang sent over several coordinates with suspicious activities and Camp Commander Xing and I looked through them and eventually discovered where Zhuge Xiang went."

It was the first time Shang Xia heard Tong Yutang's name in any conversation in the prison, and he quickly perked his ears up. He felt that the truth was about to be revealed.

"Tong Yutang?! It really is him! I knew that he was a scheming bastard! He lost to the commander back then, and he's still holding a grudge about it!" Liu Jiuzhen gnashed his teeth and spat. However, he quickly became a little more suspicious. "No... Where did he get his hands on those coordinates?"

"That's too many questions at once." Xiao Shengyi snorted placidly.

Liu Jiuzhen continued, "Fine, you can ask your question first!"

Both of them seemed to reach some kind of agreement and both sides would answer each other's question honestly.

Xiao Shengyi was only at the Martial Dipper Realm, but Captain Fang seemed to lower himself greatly when he arrived. From how Xiao Shengyi was speaking to Liu Jiuzhen, their status was about the same, and Liu Jiuzhen also treated Xiao Shengyi with the same amount of respect.

Xiao Shengyi thought for a second before he asked, "Do you know why the suppression disappeared suddenly?"

"Nope." Liu Jiuzhen responded without hesitation.

A frown appeared on Xiao Shengyi's face. "Really? Are you and the members of your First Camp not responsible for this?!"

Liu Jiuzhen chuckled softly in response, "Well, this is also too many questions at once. However, I'll do you a favor and answer this for free. No, we are not."

The frown on Xiao Shengyi's face grew deeper. No one knew if it was because he didn't trust Liu Jiuzhen, or if he was starting to think of other factors.

As Xiao Shengyi and Liu Jiuzhen spoke to each other, Xin Lu, who had taken the chance to inspect the room, returned to Xiao Shengyi's side and shook her head slowly.

The Stargazer clearly didn't feel any trace of anomaly among the restrictions placed in the room.

Liu Jiuzhen didn't seem to care about her and he continued to stare at Xiao Shengyi.

Seemingly having felt his gaze, Xiao Shengyi grunted, "Go ahead."

Nodding, Liu Jiuzhen continued, "What is Tong Yutang relying on to contend against the commander?"

Xiao Shengyi answered in a low voice, “Tong Yutang has already reached the level of Dao Harmony. He’s a fourth tier True Immortal, and he seems to have interacted with the True Immortals of the Essence Hong and Essence Ming Worlds. He promised that he would awaken the Star Origin Lord after he took on the position of Guard Captain. At the same time, he seems to have some sort of trump card that would allow him to obtain victory even if Zhuge Xiang enters the level of Returning to the Origin to reach the fifth tier of the Martial Void Realm. You shouldn’t ask too much about the trump card, after all, even I don’t know anything about it.”

“Impossible!” Liu Jiuzhen growled. “His cultivation is similar to mine at the second tier of the Martial Void Realm! How did he suddenly...”

Liu Jiuzhen stopped suddenly, and he revealed an uneasy expression. He seemed to have realized something and he turned to Xiao Shengyi again. “Xing Xingtian’s cultivation is also supposed to be at the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm at best. He entered the Martial Void Realm suddenly... Both of them had hidden their cultivation realms and from the looks of it... No... The Seventh Camp should also have colluded with them!”

Xiao Shengyi nodded slowly. “You guessed it yourself, and you’re pretty much right...”

No one knew why, but Liu Jiuzhen really didn’t ask about Tong Yutang’s trump card anymore.

However, Shang Xia seemed to make the connection. The trump card might very well be related to the strike across space he experienced back then.

Shang Xia heard from Wen Juxiang that it was an attack unleashed with the combined effort of several high-level experts. Shang Xia guessed that Tong Yutang was the person who led everything, and it probably had something to do with the talismans he made back then.

However... From what he was hearing now, Tong Yutang’s true intention of using the combined attack was to deal with Zhuge Xiang!

Liu Jiuzhen spoke up as Shang Xia was still thinking about the many considerations, “So... That would mean that the Star Ship of the Seventh Camp and the Ruined World...”

Xiao Shengyi muttered, “That’s something the Camp Commander sent out on Tong Yutang’s order. As for those people on it, and why it was destroyed, not even I know what happened. However, because the Star Origin Guards were hell-bent on looking into the matter, Camp Commander Xing was afraid his relationship with Tong Yutang would be revealed. Tong Yutang also came looking for him anxiously after hearing what happened. None of us knew what he discussed, but the Camp Commander revealed his true cultivation level at the Martial Void Realm the next moment and gathered the Camp Commanders and True Immortal Captains for a discussion... Well, you should know the rest.”

Xin Lu, who was standing beside Xiao Shengyi the entire time, took a step forward and spoke suddenly, “Senior Brother Xiao, the suppressive might of the prison is slowly restoring itself.”

Without Xin Lu’s reminder, the Grand Stargazer had already discovered what was happening. He turned to Liu Jiuzhen and muttered, “If you have nothing else to ask, I’m going to leave. I still need to find the reason behind the sudden disappearance of the power of suppression of the Star Observatory on the prison...”

Liu Jiuzhen nodded. “I won’t send you out then.”

When Xiao Shengyi, Xin Lu, and Captain Fang were about to leave, Liu Jiuzhen seemed to have thought of something and he asked, “Actually, did the power of suppression disappear, or did someone damage it?”

Xiao Shengyi hesitated slightly, but he eventually replied, “We can’t be sure at the moment. However, the power of starlight that was drawn over by the Star Observatory had its connection severed from the prison. Even a portion of the power of starlight we gathered in the Star Observatory seemed to have disappeared...”

“So... It’s not that the formation lost its effect, but it’s because it lost the support of the power of starlight?” Liu Jiuzhen wondered out loud.

Xiao Shengyi replied instantly, “That’s probably the reason. I’m going to look for why the connection was severed...”

With a half-mocking smile, Liu Jiuzhen sneered, “Be careful. It can possibly be that there’s a Seventh Order monster trapped in this prison, right?”

Xiao Shengyi snorted in response, “The power of starlight we can draw over isn’t that pure. At the very least, Camp Commander Xing and I aren’t capable of purifying the power of starlight to the point of tempting a Seventh Order expert... True experts at that level won’t bother themselves with us. Otherwise, why would the Star Origin Lord leave the Dao Field?”

Dao Field! They called it a Dao Field again!

That wasn’t Shang Xia’s first time hearing that term. He wondered if that was the reason the Land of Star Origin could be concealed in the void and produce its own spatial barrier...

With his powerful divine soul, Shang Xia could tell that while Xiao Shengyi left Liu Jiuzhen’s cell, the Grand Stargazer and the True Immortal revealed solemn expressions. Both of them seemed to be bogged down with a bunch of complicated thoughts.

It was then that the power of starlight reactivated the grand formation around the prison. The runes activated once again, and the suppressive might returned. Shang Xia’s divine soul couldn’t remain unaffected anymore.

Before it was forced to return, Shang Xia noticed that Xiao Shengyi didn’t bother entering another room. He merely inspected the other cells from the outside with Xin Lu and the other Star Origin Guards.

Shang Xia started to think about many things.

It seemed as though those captured and housed on the third floor had been greatly drained of their inner qi. Even though their cultivation realms could remain the same, they no longer had enough energy flowing through them.

That was probably also why even though the power of suppression disappeared, no one managed to escape!

It wasn’t that they didn’t wish to escape... It was because they didn’t have enough inner qi to raise any waves! They didn’t even have time to recover due to how quickly the Star Origin Guards reacted. Their physical bodies were also greatly weakened...

Whatever it was, the entire matter didn’t seem related to Shang Xia.

Logically speaking, even if the Crimson Soul Tablet had been absorbing the power of starlight, his Six Direction Origin should still be affected by the suppressive might of the prison. However... After so many days had passed, not only was he weakened, he even seemed to be growing stronger! Even the growth of his physical body was going quite smoothly...

Shang Xia didn't bring any essence crystals to recover his inner qi, or any medicine for that matter. The cell didn't seem to restrict the flow of heaven and earth qi, but with the powerful suppression of the prison, cultivators were unable to replenish their energy anyway.

The more he thought about it, Shang Xia could tell that something was off. There was only one possibility for him to still be growing stronger, and that was because of the support of the Crimson Soul Tablet after it absorbed the power of starlight!

With that came another question. Was he able to transform the power of starlight with the Crimson Soul Tablet into something he could absorb? Would he be able to widen its effects such that he could affect the experts held on the third floor of the prison?

Chapter 1146: The Grand Revelation

The Grand Stargazer and Stargazer who came from the Star Observatory inspected the cells on all three floors with astounding speed. Even with Xiao Shengyi not doing anything, they quickly finished their rounds.

Their conclusion was that they failed to find anything.

Xiao Shengyi wasn't too surprised by the fact that they failed to discover anything. Ever since leaving Liu Jiuzhen's cell, he seemed to have confirmed that the problem didn't lie in the grand formation itself. After all, he felt that if Liu Jiuzhen wasn't capable of affecting the grand formation, no one else trapped in the prison could.

As the power of suppression returned to the prison, Xiao Shengyi and Xin Lu, along with the rest of the Star Origin Guards, started to take their leave.

Perhaps they were confident with the power of suppression, but Xiao Shengyi confidently declared the moment he started walking to the exit, "The problem didn't stem from the prison. There is nothing wrong with the Star Observatory either. I suspect that our Dao Field's reserves are starting to deplete and that is causing the problem..."

Xin Lu and Captain Fang glanced at each other in shock as they didn't seem to understand what he meant.

Both of them realized that his words might concern high-level secrets of the Star Origin City they weren't qualified to learn about. After all, Xiao Shengyi was a Grand Stargazer and his status was a lot higher than theirs.

Captain Fang asked cautiously, "Grandmaster Xiao, how can our Dao Field's origins show signs of deficiency?"

Xiao Shengyi glanced at him, and he didn't answer immediately.

Captain Fang immediately chuckled softly to cover his awkwardness, "Oh yeah... I shouldn't have asked."

He didn't expect Xiao Shengyi's reaction as a soft sigh escaped his lips, "Captain Fang, now that Commander Xing isn't present, and you're next in command..."

Xiao Shengyi seemed to be thinking of something as he paused for a moment before skipping what he originally planned to say. In the end, he simply concluded, "Whatever it is, there isn't a True Immortal in the Seventh Camp and the Star Observatory at the moment. As the second in command, you will have to take charge of the situation. As such... I feel that you should know about some things so that you can prepare for it..."

By that time, Captain Fang had already walked a considerable distance away from the guards behind him.

Unbeknownst to them, there was another terrifyingly powerful True Immortal stronger than Liu Jiuzhen in the prison who wasn't restrained at all! He might not be able to extend his divine soul down to the third floor because of the strong suppression, but sending it upwards to the first floor wasn't a problem!

He was silently listening to their conversation.

Captain Fang quickly turned serious and he asked in a low voice, "Grandmaster Xiao, please enlighten me."

Nodding slowly, Xiao Shengyi opened up with a question instead, "Do you know why our Star Origin Dao Field can form a body of its own?"

"Is it not because of the Star Origin Lord?" Captain Fang asked after a moment of hesitation.

Xiao Shengyi chuckled in response. "The Star Origin Lord is naturally our greatest source of confidence. However, it has been hundreds of years since he left. I'm asking if you know the true foundations of our Dao Field, in other words, this secret region."

Captain Fang put on a humble expression and sincerely requested, "Grandmaster, please tell me..."

Grunting once, Xiao Shengyi explained, "Our Dao Field is able to exist in space because of 3 separate points. The first is naturally the fact that the Star Origin Lord created it by using the foundations of several stars. The foundations of the Dao Field is located in the Star Origin Manor at the center of the city. The second is the spatial tunnels that are connected to the various worlds..."

"The Star Relay?" Captain Fang couldn't help but blurt.

He wasn't the only one. Xin Lu was equally shocked at the revelation.

Xiao Shengyi remained passive and he continued slowly, "Exactly. The many spatial tunnels that connect to the various worlds form an excellent medium for us. Also... The spatial tunnels will slowly absorb the world origin, be it wherever it's connected to..."

Captain Fang revealed a look of shock and he gasped, "Grandmaster Xiao, please, say that again! Are you saying that the spatial tunnels we made absorb world origin from the worlds we connect to? How... How can we avoid the experts from their worlds from detecting it?"

"When we first created the Dao Field, the fact wasn't actually concealed from the worlds we connected to. The Star Origin Lord didn't hide that fact anyway. After all,

many worlds that first connected to our Land of Star Origin did so for protection. They couldn't wait to contribute a portion of their world origin to our Dao Field. Also, they wish to use it as a trade to use us as a platform to interact with other worlds..."

Captain Fang was completely stunned by the discovery and he could only mutter softly to himself. "This... What..."

Captain Fang wasn't the only person shocked by the news. Even Xin Lu, the other Stargazer, and Shang Xia, who had been eavesdropping on them the entire time, were dumbfounded at the revelation.

Eventually, Xin Lu couldn't help but ask a question Shang Xia also wanted to know the answer to. "Senior Brother, which are the worlds that were first connected to our Land of Star Origin? Does it mean that the worlds that formed the spatial tunnel with us later have no idea we're stealing their world origin?"

"The Spirit Abundance World, Spirit Mammoth World, and several other Spirit and Azure Worlds were the first to form the connection. Over the course of 1000 years, many things happened. Some worlds continued to grow stronger and lived on, while others were invaded and destroyed. As for how many worlds know of this secret, I have no clue. What I know for sure is that the Spirit Abundance World and Spirit Mammoth World definitely know about the matter of us absorbing world origin..."

Xiao Shengyi sneered and continued, "As for the rest of the worlds... If they formed a connection to our city before the Star Origin Lord disappeared, they would have learned of it. For example, the Spirit Tinkle and Spirit Thistle World that came after... I don't know if they learned about the secret. However, the Spirit Luxuriant World who came last and the other Azure Worlds definitely have no clue."

Seeing as he didn't mind her questions, Xin Lu continued to ask, "Senior Brother, for us to absorb world origin secretly... Won't their experts be able to discover something amiss?"

"Hehe... Actually, they might not be able to. After all, when the Star Origin Lord first established those spatial tunnels, it was used to absorb the world origin that scattered naturally outside the heavenly screen. The ability was unique to the Star Origin Lord and it wouldn't affect the operations of the worlds." Xiao Shengyi chuckled.

He continued, "It's a shame he disappeared back then... For hundreds of years, our city didn't have his support and even though the power of our Dao Field wouldn't drop drastically with the existence of those spatial tunnels, our growth still slowed down a lot. We could only form more connections to other worlds in order to absorb world origin from them."

"Actually, since the previous Star Origin Guards Commander took up his post, every 30 to 50 years, we would secretly increase the absorption of world origin from the worlds. The last time we did something like that was when the Spirit Luxuriant World first formed the connection to us."

“Because the Star Origin Lord was the one who came up with the foundations of those spatial tunnels back then, all we had to do was to connect it to the various worlds. Even if Zhuge Xiang or the previous Guards Commander activated the ability to absorb more world origin, the True Immortals of their worlds wouldn’t be able to discover a thing! Also, all the world origin we took from the various worlds would eventually be accumulated in our Dao Field!” Xiao Shengyi concluded.

Chapter 1147: Shang Xia’s Decision

After hearing how the Star Origin City had been stealing world origin from the various worlds, Shang Xia was completely stunned.

Like what Xiao Shengyi revealed, be it Kou Chongxue, Shang Xia, or the other True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World, none of them discovered a thing!

When Shang Xia first heard Xiao Shengyi’s explanation, he even doubted his words. He was confident in his abilities and thought that it was impossible for anyone to steal world origin from right under his nose! However, after he heard the explanation and thought about the might of the Star Origin Lord, he realized that it was truly possible.

Thinking about how the Star Origin City had been stealing world origin from them, anger started to boil in his heart.

If he had to say that he felt a little guilty for stealing the power of starlight earlier, all that feeling of guilt disappeared in an instant. He felt that it was time to ignore everything and take all he could.

The next second, Shang Xia heard Captain Fang’s voice through his divine soul. “What about now? Our Dao Field has sealed off the spatial tunnels to the various worlds and we hid ourselves in the void. Wouldn’t that mean that we are unable to absorb world origin from them to replenish our reserves?”

Xin Lu was also curious and she asked, “Senior Brother, after all you said, is that the true reason behind the sudden disruption of the grand formation over the prison?”

Captain Fang was shocked, and he turned to look at Xiao Shengyi.

Nodding slowly, he maintained a serious expression on his face. “Exactly. That is because our Star Observatory is the third most important part of our Dao Field! Moreover, with the Star Origin Lord’s disappearance and us sealing off the spatial tunnels, the Star Observatory is the only way for us to replenish our energy!”

“Ah!” Xin Lu gasped, “Are you talking about the power of starlight after it had been absorbed and purified? It's no wonder that once the Camp Commander left, the Stargazers in the Star Observatory turned their focus to gathering the power of starlight. It’s actually used to replenish the energy we’re using! I thought that we threw too many people into the prison and we needed more energy to suppress them...”

Xiao Shengyi nodded slowly and continued, “The power of starlight used to suppress those prisoners are merely stories cooked up to lie to the outsiders. Actually, a good portion of the power of starlight has been gathered straight into our Dao Field!”

“Grandmaster Xiao, are you suspecting that the sudden disruption to the grand formation has something to do with the fact that we overdrew on the power of starlight?” Captain Fang asked.

Xiao Shengyi sighed, “I’m afraid Liu Jiuzhen also understood what was going on...”

Hesitating slightly, Captain Fang mumbled, “He...”

Xiao Shengyi didn’t care about him as he wondered out loud, “Be it Zhuge Xiang or Tong Yutang... No matter what, we need a new Guards Commander to appear! After all, the Guards Commander is the only person who has the qualification to gain a portion of the authority the Star Origin Lord left behind.”

Captain Fang blurted in shock, “Could it be that Commander He Yingrui wouldn’t be able to take the place of the Guards Commander? Her cultivation is the strongest in the city at the moment...”

Xiao Shengyi shook his head in response, “The position of the Guards Commander has always been reserved for someone who has become a high-level True Immortal. It’s not without reason. Even if He Yingrui is willing to take on the position, her cultivation is only at the third tier of the Martial Void Realm. There’s a limit to what she can do.”

Captain Fang and Xin Lu were shocked and speechless.

They had arrived at the exit of the prison as they conversed, and Xiao Shengyi seemed to think of something the next second. He turned to Xin Lu and instructed, “When you get back, recall our Stargazers. I’m afraid we will need to focus all our might on gathering the power of starlight.”

As the Stargazers left with the rest of the Star Origin Guards, the prison returned to its original calm.

In a certain cell on the second floor, a light flashed in Shang Xia’s eyes after he heard the secret of Star Origin City.

He was pissed that they had basically targeted the Spirit Luxuriant World for their schemes, and he was thinking of a way to retaliate. He wanted to teach the Star Origin City a good lesson, but he also needed to be able to split off those who deserved to be punished and those who didn’t. He didn’t wish to harm innocents or to cause destruction to those who didn’t deserve it.

He had been in seclusion in the cell for close to 10 days at that point, and he hadn’t contacted Feng Ziying or Kou Chongxue.

He suspected that neither of them could do anything at the moment with him locked under the Star Observatory, but it wasn’t as though he was wasting his time doing nothing. He was gaining quite a bit from absorbing the power of starlight. Also... If he wanted to leave, nothing was standing in his way.

However, he was clearly not in a rush to leave. From what he heard from Xiao Shengyi, they would be pouring their efforts into absorbing the power of starlight the next moment. It was going to be the best shot he was going to get to feed the Crimson Soul Tablet!

Since they wish to suck world origin from the various worlds to strengthen themselves... They can't blame me for sucking them dry!

Of course, there was another reason Shang Xia was going to continue absorbing the power of starlight from them. It was because he wanted to know what happened earlier for the grand formation to be disrupted completely.

Shang Xia felt that the Crimson Soul Tablet was definitely behind it, but because of the brief interlude by Xiao Shengyi and the Star Origin Guards, he was distracted and too busy to check the tablet.

Now that they were gone and the power of starlight returned, he felt that it was time to get to the bottom of the matter.

With his experience of the past few days, Shang Xia was a lot more adept at absorbing the power of starlight from his cell.

Back then, he caused the runes all around his cell to activate when absorbing the power of starlight. It didn't matter as he was in the prison and no one could see what was happening. However, if he tried to expand his range of absorption, he would most likely be discovered immediately!

What he had to do was to find a way to extend his range of absorption without alerting anyone!

The wider the range, the more power he could absorb.

It was a pity Shang Xia was no Stargazer. He wasn't a Formation Grandmaster either! Even after trying multiple times, he wasn't able to increase the range of the absorption without causing a huge disturbance.

3 days passed in a flash and Shang Xia didn't know what else he could do. Eventually, he chose a time when most people would be resting and silently sneaked out from his room. He carefully headed towards the third floor to look for a formation node that would contain a lot more power of starlight.

Chapter 1148: Best Place for Cultivation

Shang Xia, who had been absorbing the power of starlight with his Crimson Soul Tablet, was sure that the prison could never contain him.

The reason he stayed for so long was because he wanted to absorb more energy while he was at it.

Moreover, he had the experience of disrupting the grand formation around the prison, and right after that, Shang Xia realized his ability to absorb the power of starlight became better and he had some degree of control over it.

Of course, with Shang Xia running into the third floor of the prison, he might not alert the Star Origin Guards and Stargazers in the Star Observatory above, but he would most certainly catch the attention of the prisoners down there.

After his many considerations, Shang Xia felt that he had to continue concealing his true identity when he ran down there. As for the reaction of those down there... He would have to see what they were thinking.

As people who had been imprisoned by the Star Origin Guards, all of them on the third floor probably had very complicated identities. Shang Xia really wished to know if they could remain silent about his appearance when all of them had a common enemy, the Star Origin Guards.

...

Shang Xia might not be a Formation Grandmaster, but he was great when it came to breaking formations!

Even though it sounded very contradictory, that was the truth.

When Shang Xia was in the Triple Command Realm and comprehended his Divine Killing Spear, he discovered that his inner qi had the special properties of destroying everything in its path.

In the Four Constellation Realm, Shang Xia could stir the passage of time, and his Samsara Nether Blade could sunder everything in its way and cause everything it touched to wither.

After advancing into the Five Element Realm, he gained the ability to transform his inner qi any way he liked.

Finally, when he reached the Six Direction Realm, with his gradual advancement and improvement, Shang Xia was able to grind away at any type of formation or restriction. As long as it didn't surpass his actual realm, he was 80 percent sure he would be able to get rid of it... Actually, he was 100 percent sure he could deal with any restriction or formation at the same level. The only reason he would fail would be because he took too long and was discovered.

At that moment, Shang Xia could feel the flow of the power of starlight through the Crimson Soul Tablet. As long as he followed it upstream, he would eventually find where it was more concentrated or the formation nodes!

While hiding from the cultivators on the third floor to the best of his abilities, Shang Xia was able to find 3 to 4 formation nodes. However, they were hidden too deeply and despite being able to feel their presence, he couldn't reach them at all. There was no way but to give up.

Giving up on them for the time being, he decided to head over to the formation nodes that were a little weaker. In the end, he arrived at a cell that contained a small formation node. Thankfully, it was empty at the moment and Shang Xia was free to do whatever he wished.

Even under such circumstances, Shang Xia still split off a clone and hid its cultivation level before sending it back to his cell. After that was done, he sneaked into the cell on the third floor.

He might have been at one of the weaker formation nodes, but the density of the power of starlight was 7 to 8 times stronger than his original cell. His Crimson Soul Tablet started to devour it greedily.

The power of starlight that had been absorbed by the Stargazers in the Star Observatory above after spending a great deal of effort would be silently stolen away by Shang Xia. He would take about 30 percent of the power of starlight that had been channeled to the prison beneath the Star Observatory, and it would become nourishment for the Crimson Soul Tablet.

Throughout the process, as the tablet continued to absorb the power of starlight, it would produce a large amount of energy for Shang Xia. It allowed him to restore the energy he was using to keep up his disguise, and there was even more such that it could be used to solidify his foundations. He

could even feel that his Six Harmony Flawless Rod Technique was slowly reaching a state of completion and he was getting stronger as each day passed.

With so many benefits to be had, Shang Xia even wanted to remain in the prison and continue cultivating! He felt that he could reach the level of Dao Harmony if he remained there, but reality was cruel. There were things he needed to do.

When Shang Xia found a spot where he could steadily absorb the power of starlight, he couldn't help but think back to Feng Ziyong and Kou Chongxue and wonder if they actually forgot about him. After all, he hadn't heard from them in a long time.

Of course... that was nothing but bullshit. Both of them weren't idle in the time Shang Xia had been trapped in the prison beneath the Star Observatory. Because they hadn't been able to reach him, they could only delay their plans to attack the prison with his help. With the massive undercurrents flowing in the city and the intense security placed around the Star Observatory, Kou Chongxue and Feng Ziyong could only turn their attention somewhere else for the moment. In fact, they were silently preparing for something else.

"I was nearly exposed because of a few people! Why the hell are you in such a hurry anyway?! So what if a few Formation Grandmasters of the Azure Oddity World die? After all, you can bring their inheritances back with you and you wouldn't have lost much..." Feng Ziyong spoke casually to Kou Chongxue. In fact, he seemed to be grumbling about the patriarch's actions without a care for his status.

"Don't tell me you're not worried about the kid..." Kou Chongxue snorted in response. There was a trace of mockery in his voice as he spoke.

"What the hell do I have to worry about? That little shit has rather impressive abilities and rather than thinking about him, we better start thinking if I revealed any flaws..." Feng Ziyong snorted once, but he quickly turned his attention back to what he was saying before, "Hey, don't change the subject here. You haven't told me why you wished to protect those Formation Grandmasters from the Azure Oddity World. You better not think that Feng Ziyuan looks easy to hoodwink. She might look a little dumb at times, but she's extremely sharp. How else do you think she is able to keep the Fourth Camp under check?"

A soft sigh escaped Kou Chongxue's lips. "Those Formation Grandmasters were able to escape from the Azure Oddity World back then because the kid helped them. With his life-saving grace and their current predicament, bringing them to our Spirit Luxuriant World wouldn't pose a problem!"

Feng Ziyong wanted to say more but was stopped by Kou Chongxue. "Wait, I'm not done yet. We are lacking in formation inheritances, and especially rank six ones, but at the same time, we also have very few Formation Grandmasters. The rise of our Tongyou Institution happened too quickly and we are far from the other factions in terms of our foundations."

Feng Ziyong turned to Kou Chongxue and asked, "Are you planning to get them to help Young Lady Chu create the rank six formation around the institution?"

“That’s not all. We also need people who have sufficient achievements in the art of formations. Only then will we be able to lay down a massive formation that is related to entering the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm. Actually, only the kid and I knew about this. You’re the third person hearing about our plan...”

Feng Ziyang got to his feet and started walking away the next moment.

Kou Chongxue couldn’t help but yell behind him, “Where are you going?”

“I’ll go see if there’s anything else I need to patch up. Anyway, all those Formation Masters from the Azure Oddity World are of the third rank or higher.”

Chapter 1149: Breaking Out

Shang Xia had been sapping away 30 percent of the power of starlight the Stargazers of the Star Origin City used to power the grand formation of the prison every day.

Because he was hidden deep in the prison beneath the Star Observatory, Shang Xia seemed a lot more unrestrained in his actions. As time passed, even though he didn’t know too much about the art of formations, he was still able to slowly expand the range of which he was absorbing the power of starlight from the formation node he was using.

After 5 or so days passed, Shang Xia reached the limit of what he could absorb without being detected. According to his estimates, he was able to eat away at 50 to 60 percent of the power of starlight used to power the grand formation!

One had to know that the Star Observatory channeled 30 percent of the energy they absorbed to the prison, while the rest were used to replenish the reserves of the Dao Field.

During the entire time Shang Xia had been absorbing the power of starlight to raise his cultivation level, the power of suppression on the first and second floors of the prison was greatly weakened.

Even those in the Star Observatory didn’t know what was happening in the prison!

Without the Star Origin Lord, their Star Origin Guards Commander, and even Xing Xingtian, the Camp Commander responsible for the Star Observatory, things were starting to go south really quickly.

According to Shang Xia’s estimates, the Martial Extermination Realm cultivators captured on the first floor might not be able to feel the difference from the weakening suppression, but those in the Martial Dipper Realm who were housed on the second floor of the prison would definitely be able to feel the effects.

However, there hadn’t been any commotion on either floor of the prison at the moment.

Everyone seemed to have reached a tacit understanding, and they seemed to be waiting for something. A strange atmosphere filled the prison. As the jailors were mere mortals, they were unable to feel the changes happening in the prison.

Those trapped on the third floor of the prison weren’t so lucky. After all, it was where the power of suppression was the greatest. There was also Liu Jiuzhen, and with his cultivation realm, he would have discovered any changes the moment it happened.

Shang Xia could disrupt the power of suppression that affected the prison from his formation node, but he chose not to weaken the suppression on the third floor at the moment. That was because he wasn't sure of the Star Origin Guards' complex relationship at the moment and if Liu Jiuzhen would alarm the Star Origin Guards of the Seventh Camp or those in the Star Observatory the moment he noticed the change.

Several more days passed uneventfully, but suddenly, the Crimson Soul Tablet seemed tired of absorbing the impure power of starlight that filled the prison!

No matter how Shang Xia tried to urge it on, the Crimson Soul Tablet was no longer absorbing the power of starlight as greedily as before.

Due to the poor rate at which the Crimson Soul Tablet was absorbing the power of starlight, the energy that it provided him basically disappeared. Under such circumstances, trying to regain his lost energy was going to be difficult, and cultivating would naturally become a lot more difficult.

Shang Xia knew that the time for him to leave had arrived.

Even though he didn't know why Feng Ziyang and Kou Chongxue hadn't contacted him, from how his actions hadn't caught the attention of those in the Star Observatory, those 2 probably hadn't exposed themselves. They might have run into some other pressing matters and had no choice but to delay the entire operation.

Both sides seemed to be waiting for each other, but Shang Xia was no longer willing to wait for them.

Since he couldn't contact either of them, he decided just to do it himself.

As Shang Xia forced the Crimson Soul Tablet to continue absorbing the power of starlight, some energy was converted and produced by it. However, Shang Xia didn't use them for himself. Instead, he started to send it to the first and second floors of the prison.

The power of suppression was practically non-existent in those floors at the moment. Since the cells didn't really stop the flow of heaven and earth qi, everyone had been slowly recovering the past few days as they tried to restore themselves to their peak state so as to launch a counterattack. With even denser energy pouring into their cells, they would need a lot less time to recover.

...

One day, when the jailors were sending food to the third floor of the prison, a majestic aura descended all of a sudden before they could leave. A loud blast came after as the prison started to tremble along with the mighty Star Observatory above it.

When Liu Jiuzhen and the Star Origin Guards of the First Camp trapped on the third floor were still in shock, a strange roar came from the floors above.

Along with low rumbles as multiple cells were torn open from the floors above, rays of extermination light and dipper qi filled the prison. At the same time, the anger and resentment that had been building up for god knows how long from those who had been trapped in there burst forth as the gates of the prison were blown open.

The Star Origin Guards who were stationed outside the prison reacted quickly, and at least 3 squads rushed over under the leadership of Captain Fang.

What they saw when they arrived caused their hearts to sink.

The gates to the prison had been blown apart, and the tunnel that was filled with runes leading into the prison had been shattered.

A massive hole that was 300 or so feet in length could be seen as those who had been trapped in the prison rushed out. At the same time, they were causing greater destruction and a larger opening to the prison as they escaped. They were also trying to continue to wreak havoc to affect the Star Observatory above.

Despite the might of the squads Captain Fang brought, they were unable to stop the prisoners from escaping. There were just far too many of them, and as soon as they escaped, the prisoners didn't bother grouping up to fight. Instead, they scattered and ran in all directions.

“Deputy Camp Commander, what do we do now?”

Every single squad of the Star Origin Guards had the combat might of an expert at the peak of the Martial Dipper Realm. The squad where Captain Fang was in charge had the strength to challenge a True Immortal, but no one knew what to do when faced with such chaos. After all, there were too many cultivators trying to escape!

Captain Fang growled, “Let's not bother with those who escaped for now. Everyone, follow me and seal off the hole to the prison!”

“Deputy Camp Commander, there are also a lot of them trying to destroy the Star Observatory... Also, from how they are able to cause such destruction in the prison... A True Immortal was definitely behind this!” A captain of the Seventh Camp reminded. It was clear he was warning Captain Fang that Liu Jiuzhen might be the person behind everything that was happening. After all, he was the only True Immortal they knew who had been imprisoned!

As the Dao Field had already hidden itself in the void and created a spatial barrier around itself, there was no way for those who escaped to run away. That was why Captain Fang didn't care about those who escaped for the time being and was more interested in sealing off the prison. After all, if the Star Observatory was really affected, their Dao Field would truly be at risk.

Glaring at the captain, Captain Fang growled, “There are people protecting the Star Observatory and Grandmaster Xiao is taking charge of things there. We don't have to worry. I'll say this once more... Everyone, follow me to seal off the hole to the prison!”

With Captain Fang bringing 3 squads over to seal off the hole, 2 other squads arrived as reinforcements.

Captain Fang roared with rage when he saw them. “Who the hell ordered you to come?! Fuck off and protect the Star Observatory!”

The Star Origin Guards who came to help started to hesitate. One of the captains eventually muttered, “Deputy Camp Commander... Grandmaster Xiao ordered us to come over. He said that only a True Immortal is able to break out from inside the prison, and the only True Immortal in there is Liu Jiuzhen...”

Before Captain Fang could retort, a powerful ray of starlight descended from the sea of stars onto the Star Observatory. A massive phantom that resembled Xiao Shengyi appeared above the Star Observatory the next moment.

Xiao Shengyi's enraged cry also rang through the skies, "Who dares to infiltrate my Star Observatory?!"

Chapter 1150: Stargazer Inheritance

The Star Observatory could increase the strength of Stargazers, and it was something Shang Xia had seen before. In the past, Yin Jingxu of the Heavenly Star Palace also did something similar.

Of course, the degree to which Xiao Shengyi could draw on the power of the stars was greater than Yin Jingxu.

One had to know that Yin Jingxu was able to obtain the strength of a True Immortal with the help of the power of starlight because he had already reached the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm.

When Shang Xia first noticed Xiao Shengyi when he came to the prison, the Grand Stargazer was only a third element Martial Dipper Realm expert. Despite his lower cultivation level, he was able to burst forth with the strength of a True Immortal with the help of the Star Observatory.

It was no wonder Captain Fang didn't bother rushing over to help the Star Observatory and stop anyone from causing trouble there.

However... The implied meaning of Xiao Shengyi's sudden transformation caused Captain Fang's expression to change.

For Xiao Shengyi to draw on the power of starlight to obtain the strength of a True Immortal meant that he discovered a True Immortal in the Star Observatory! However... He sent away 2 squads earlier because he was sure that Liu Jiuzhen was still trapped in the prison!

Captain Fang felt that things weren't what they seemed on the surface. Liu Jiuzhen couldn't have caused that much destruction alone, and he definitely had someone helping him on the outside!

Is it Tian Moran or Feng Ziyuan?!

Captain Fang guessed that it was either of the 2, but he was sure it wouldn't be He Yingrui. After all, she wouldn't have needed to infiltrate the Star Observatory and be caught by Xiao Shengyi. With her position as the Temporary Guards Commander, she would have been able to swagger into the Star Observatory anytime she liked.

Thinking a level deeper, Captain Fang felt that it was unlikely to be either of them. After all, Tian Moran and Feng Ziyuan were both citizens of Star Origin City. They wouldn't use such a method that caused widespread destruction!

A multitude of thoughts ran through his mind and he even suspected that there were other True Immortals hidden in the city who were working with Liu Jiuzhen!

From start to end, Captain Feng never suspected that a True Immortal would have hidden themselves in the prison...

When he was still deep in thought, Xiao Shengyi's giant phantom that was created with the power of starlight crumbled!

There was no need to mention Captain Fang. Even those cultivators who were busy escaping from the prison were shocked by the sudden turn of events and forgot what they were doing for a moment.

Even though Xiao Shengyi had drawn on the power of starlight to obtain the power of a True Immortal, the strength he possessed wasn't a joke! However, it failed to hold out for even a short while and was destroyed instantly!

The ordinary Star Origin Guards were shocked, but Captain Fang was even more so!

“Fourth and Sixth Squads, you stay behind! Everyone else, follow me!” Captain Fang roared and brought everyone away.

He couldn't care less about the prison at the moment or those who were escaping. After all, Xiao Shengyi was the most important person in the Star Observatory at the moment.

What was more... Xiao Shengyi was definitely stationed at the key point of the Star Observatory. If he ran into a problem, that would mean that the enemy had already entered the Star Observatory.

One couldn't see how many cultivators who rushed out from the prison were attacking the Star Observatory crazily. With the protection formation around it, they wouldn't be able to do much to it. However, if the spot where Xiao Shengyi was stationed was affected, the Star Observatory might be completely crippled!

As Captain Fang led the Star Origin Guards out, a pillar of light emerged from the prison and Liu Jiuzhen's voice rang in everyone's ears. “Star Origin Guards, head over to the Star Observatory. Protect it well. Even though I haven't restored my combat strength, you can leave this place to me.”

Captain Fang paused slightly and the other guards turned to stare at him.

Gnashing his teeth, Captain Fang growled, “Everyone, follow me!”

The many squads who rushed to stop the prison break flew in the direction of the Star Observatory the next second.

One of the captains sent a voice transmission over to Captain Fang, “Deputy Camp Commander, why did we just leave? What if those from the First Camp...”

“Everything that happened is too strange right now! Liu Jiuzhen might truly be innocent since the Star Observatory is under attack. It's not time to think about all these at the moment. The most important thing is to ensure the safety of Grand Stargazer Xiao Shengyi and the Star Observatory. Otherwise...”

Captain Fang didn't mention the repercussions, but the guards behind him knew how serious things would be.

...

If Shang Xia had to face Xiao Shengyi before he became a third tier True Immortal, he might have to spare some effort to defeat the Grand Stargazer who could draw on the power of starlight. However, after reaching the level of External Fusion, and after coming up with the third move of his Six Harmony Rod Technique after fighting with Wen Juxiang, Xiao Shengyi was merely trash in front of him.

The reason was simple. Shang Xia's third move in his Six Harmony Rod Technique, Void Emptiness, had the ability to restrain one's domain! Even Wen Juxiang, a fourth tier True Immortal, suffered at the hands of the strike back then. There was no need to mention Xiao Shengyi who barely managed to put up a fake domain with the power of starlight.

Even without his Stone Rod, Shang Xia unleashed a powerful strike without appearing in front of Xiao Shengyi. It was more than enough to shatter the giant phantom that was created.

"Who the hell are you?! Do you know what you're doing?! This is Star Origin City!" Xiao Shengyi looked at the True Immortal who appeared in front of him with his facial features concealed. The strange True Immortal who appeared also looked strangely calm.

Shang Xia glanced at Xiao Shengyi and the dozen or so Stargazers behind him before making a single gesture. A powerful wave of energy emerged, and several thuds could be heard as those Stargazers fell unconscious. At the same time, their dantians were sealed with some strange energy.

"I know that you definitely have some trump card that will allow you to survive because of your status as a Grand Stargazer, but I hope you think about those Stargazers behind you before you try anything stupid," Shang Xia warned. He could feel powerful fluctuations coming from some parts of Xiao Shengyi's body, and it was as though he would release powerful attacks at any moment.

Glancing at those behind him, Xiao Shengyi's expression sank and became slightly unsteady. Eventually, he growled, "What do you want?"

Shang Xia merely raised a finger and he seemed very satisfied with Xiao Shengyi's response. "I want the Stargazer inheritance of your Star Origin City, and I better get the complete inheritance."

Shang Xia couldn't help but emphasize the last part about it being a complete inheritance.

Xiao Shengyi's expression changed slightly, but he eventually forced a reply, "The core inheritance of our Star Origin City is locked in a secret region and it's heavily protected. I won't be able to retrieve it alone."

"Oh? Looks like we have no choice then. There's no need to keep all of them alive." Shang Xia snorted.

Pointing to those behind Xiao Shengyi, Shang Xia acted as though he was about to kill them all.

Xiao Shengyi yelled in fright and he quickly leaped in front of Shang Xia. "Wait! I... I can bring you there! Please, show mercy!"

Shang Xia sneered at his response, "You better hurry up then. Don't bother trying to buy time. Those guards from the Seventh Camp aren't my opponent at all. If He Yingrui and the rest come, you can't blame me for killing them all in a final act of desperation before leaving."

Xiao Shengyi, who was planning to lead Shang Xia away, roared angrily after hearing what Shang Xia planned to do. "You might as well kill me now?! The core inheritance is kept under heavy security and only Commander Zhuge Xiang and Commander Xing know how to retrieve it!"

Even though he was complaining, Xiao Shengyi didn't slow down as he wanted to lead Shang Xia away from the Star Observatory.

Shang Xia wasn't afraid he would play any tricks. He even grabbed the spatial equipment from those unconscious Stargazers before he left. It wasn't because he wanted their treasures, but it was because he had nothing on him at the moment. Actually, the spatial storage equipment was what he was looking for.

It didn't take long before Xiao Shengyi brought Shang Xia to a sealed secret room. He chuckled in a cold voice, "The core Stargazer inheritance isn't the only thing here. Even the experience and notes the city had for nurturing Stargazers have all been kept here. As long as you can break the seal and open this place, you can take everything away!"

Shang Xia snorted coldly and revealed a mocking sneer before casually tapping a few spots on Xiao Shengyi's body to seal off his dantian and lock his movements in place.

When he was done, he started to approach the secret room.

Xiao Shengyi might not be able to move, but he could still see Shang Xia's every action.

The next second, Xiao Shengyi thought that he was seeing things. His worldview came crashing down as he saw how Shang Xia was quickly shattering the restrictions and formations that protected the secret room.

How... How the hell is he doing this?! How is it possible?!

Even though Xiao Shengyi was stuck in place, from the look in his eyes, anyone could see how shocked he was.

It was then that Shang Xia turned around to smile at Xiao Shengyi before casually pushing the entrance to the room open.

Xiao Shengyi, whose eyes were about to pop out of their socket, saw a blinding ray of light. It disappeared the next moment, and it was as though it never existed in the first place.

When Shang Xia pushed open the tightly sealed doors and revealed the collections of items it stored, Xiao Shengyi felt a wave of defeat rushing through him.

He knew that there was a self-destruction mechanism hidden in those doors, and they would activate if anyone tried to force their way in. It was their last layer of defense to prevent others from obtaining their treasures, but it seemed as though the mysterious True Immortal before him managed to get rid of it.

The accumulation and inheritance that Star Origin City gathered for close to 1000 years was fully revealed to Shang Xia!