

The Heavens 1151

Chapter 1151: Secret Bronze Fragments

“Stop... Stop right there!” When Captain Fang and the others closed in on the Star Observatory, he could feel the presence of some sort of barrier created by someone’s domain. Understanding what that meant, he quickly called for everyone to stop, even those rushing in from another direction.

“Deputy Camp Commander...” The captains of the other 3 squads who were charging over from other directions couldn’t help but ask. After all, even if their squads activated their Star Robes, they wouldn’t be able to reach the level of a True Immortal and couldn’t feel the presence of a domain.

“The enemy has already set up a barrier with his domain. Grandmaster Xiao and the other Stargazers should have already been taken hostage and if we force our way in, the results might be disastrous.” Captain Fang growled. Even though his heart was already burning with impatience and he knew that he would most likely lose his post due to his failure to secure the Star Observatory after everything was over, he could only suppress his emotions and command the Star Origin Guards of the Seventh Camp to deal with the current situation.

After a period of silence, one of the captains muttered in a low voice, “Are we just going to stay here and not do anything? How likely are we to succeed if we force our way in?”

Captain Fang sighed softly, “There’s no hope. This is the core region of the Star Observatory and the moment we start fighting here, the Star Observatory is finished. If the Star Observatory is destroyed, no matter how many lives we have, it won’t be able to make up for the losses.”

Another captain cursed, “How the hell can there be other Martial Void Realm experts in the city?! How did the guards from the other camps allow such experts to enter the city?! Weren’t they patrolling the city?”

“What’s the point of mentioning all these now? We better think about what we can do next. If we count Grandmaster Xiao, there should be 11 Stargazers in the Star Observatory. Actually, every single Stargazer in our city should be gathered here, right? If anything happens, the thousand years of Stargazer inheritance of our Star Origin City will be severed forever!”

Another captain spoke, causing everyone’s hearts to run cold. However, he continued to ask, “Deputy Camp Commander, our fellow Star Origin Guards from the other camps should also be in here, and I’m afraid things aren’t looking good for them. What should we do now? Should we try to negotiate with the other side?”

“Wait.” Under everyone’s astonished gaze, Captain Fang continued, “Right now, we don’t hold the initiative anymore. In fact, everything is out of our control. The higher-ups of Star Origin City should already know what happened here, and Temporary

Guards Commander He should arrive. I have also informed Liu Jiuzhen about the situation here, and he should be coming over soon.”

...

In the secret room that contained the inheritance of Star Origin City, Shang Xia didn't have time to properly sort everything out. He simply swept up everything he got his hands on into the spatial artifacts he grabbed earlier.

All of a sudden, his movements froze as he turned to look in the direction of where they came from. He chuckled in a low voice, “Not bad, at least they aren't stupid.”

At that moment, Shang Xia's domain didn't just cover the Stargazers of the Star Observatory. There were also 14 Star Origin Guards whose cultivation had been sealed off by him. He only needed a single thought to kill all of them at the moment.

There was no need to mention the members of the Seventh Camp. Even if the Star Origin Guards sent everyone they had to surround the Star Observatory, they wouldn't dare to do anything for fear of him killing every Stargazer within.

The reason why he could act so unbridled was because he had long since realized the importance of the Star Observatory from what Xiao Shengyi revealed to Captain Fang and Xin Lu back when they were leaving the prison.

Watching how Shang Xia grabbed everything from the secret room, Xiao Shengyi felt an extreme ache in his heart. It was so painful he could feel blood dripping from it.

When Shang Xia was about to emerge from the secret room, he paused slightly before turning back under Xiao Shengyi's curious gaze. The next moment, he glanced at the corners of the room before the space around him started to twist unnaturally.

Xiao Shengyi might not know what was going on exactly, but he knew that Shang Xia was looking for something.

From what Xiao Shengyi knew, there shouldn't be a secret mechanism hidden in the secret room...

However, from how seriously Shang Xia was taking it, Xiao Shengyi also started to become a little doubtful of what he knew. Thinking about it, Xing Xingtian, an ordinary Star Origin Guard back then, received the Stargazer inheritance after himself, but he managed to become a Grand Stargazer with extreme speed. That wasn't all. His mastery of the art was also better than everyone else. Because of his status as a Grand Stargazer, his position in the Star Origin Guard also rose accordingly. With the provision of more cultivation resources by the Star Origin Guards, his cultivation continued to rise and eventually, he became the Seventh Camp Commander and took charge of the Star Observatory.

In the past, Xiao Shengyi thought that Xing Xingtian's rise was related to his talent. However, if there was a secret inheritance he didn't know about in the secret room...

“Hah! There really is a secret compartment!” Shang Xia chuckled to himself, interrupting Xiao Shengyi's train of thought. That was enough to dispel all his doubts.

In the secret room, the twisted space around Shang Xia started to calm down. Next, a screen of light appeared before him before filling the room.

If Xiao Shengyi was still unable to determine Shang Xia's Six Direction Qi when it filled the room earlier while causing the space before him to tremble, the screen of light that appeared was something he couldn't be more familiar with!

The screen of light that appeared before Shang Xia was what the Stargazers had been gathering the entire time! It was the power of the stars!

Xiao Shengyi wasn't even thinking about how the mysterious expert before him had the ability to use the power of the stars! He thought back to the disruption of the grand formation around the prison and how a hole had been blown out of it for the others to escape. He even managed to realize how those experts who had been trapped within managed to recover their strength.

This mysterious expert has to be the person behind all of this! He had been hiding in the prison the entire time, and he had been stealing the power of the stars we had been absorbing!

He finally understood what happened, but it was too late. He was completely defeated, and even if he knew what happened, it was too late.

With Shang Xia urging the Crimson Soul Tablet to devour the power of the stars that was leaking out of the secret room, it was as though some mechanism was activated. Loud rumbles were heard as the floor in the middle of the room opened and a platform slowly emerged.

Xiao Shengyi, who was staring at the tens or so pieces of copper on the platform, gasped in disbelief as his eyes widened in shock.

Narrowing his eyes, Shang Xia looked at those copper pieces and he could tell that they were made from the same material as the Tongyou Institution's Star Map. He turned around and grabbed Xiao Shengyi.

A formless power landed on him, but all Shang Xia heard was a low chuckle coming from the Grand Stargazer. In a horse and pained voice, Xiao Shengyi sneered, "The direct inheritance of the Heaven Observation Sect... This is the Secret Bronze Book that contains the core inheritance of the Heaven Observation Sect! Haha... Looks like I was only an outsider to them!"

Chapter 1152: Discussions

The space outside the Star Observatory was torn open as Second Camp Commander He Yingrui stepped out. Tens of Star Origin Guards arrived along with her.

Without a need for her to give a command, the squads who followed behind quickly split off into their squads and went to hunt down those prisoners who escaped.

Beside He Yingrui stood at least 6 captains whose cultivation was in the Martial Dipper Realm.

As a third tier True Immortal and the Temporary Guards Commander, if she deployed the Star Origin Guards' battle formation with those around her, she would be able to contend against high-level True Immortals!

The Second Camp was made up of 7 full squads, but only 6 of them came with her. The other squad that didn't come was led by Tian Moran, and he was stationed in the city along with Fourth Camp Commander Feng Ziyuan to prevent anyone from causing trouble there.

He Yingrui glanced at the chaos around the Star Observatory and quickly turned to ignore it. She took several steps and arrived before the Star Observatory, and the captains from the other squads also approached.

“What’s going on?! How did this happen?” He Yingrui asked in a solemn tone, but her gaze didn’t land on Captain Fang. Instead, she stared straight at the Star Observatory. She could tell that there was another existence there with cultivation no weaker than her.

How can there be another foreign True Immortal here?!

He Yingrui might have received a report from Captain Fang about the situation beforehand and already gained a basic understanding of the situation, but she couldn’t help but feel her heart thumping when she discovered a foreign True Immortal in the Star Observatory.

The real question was... Was the foreign True Immortal hiding in the Land of Star Origin the entire time? Or did they arrive after?

If it was the former, that would mean that their method of concealment was extremely powerful, but she didn’t know why they would reveal themselves at that moment. After all, the current situation in the city wasn’t exactly clear yet.

If it was the latter... He Yingrui didn’t even dare to think of how serious the problem would be!

“A foreign True Immortal concealed their cultivation realm to be trapped in the prison under the Star Observatory, and took the chance when we failed to react in time to rush to the Star Observatory to take Grandmaster Xiao and the others hostage...” Captain Fang reported the situation to He Yingrui once again, and despite the burning anxiety in his heart, he forced himself to maintain his composure in front of He Yingrui.

Heaving a sigh of relief, He Yingrui thought about the many considerations. Since the foreign True Immortal rushed out from the prison, it was extremely likely they had been hiding in the Land of Star Origin since the beginning. The problem shouldn’t be as serious... However, she maintained a grim look on her face and she growled, “Do we know their identity?”

Captain Fang lowered his head and muttered, “We don’t. The prison has been destroyed and many people have escaped...”

“Enough.” He Yingrui interrupted him unceremoniously and turned her gaze to the bottom of the Star Observatory. “Brother Liu, did you discover anything?”

Captain Fang turned to look and saw Liu Jiuzhen leading the 3 squads of Star Origin Guards of the First Camp over.

Hearing her question, Liu Jiuzhen didn’t immediately rush over to meet her. Instead, he plopped his butt down on a shattered rock beside him without much care of his appearance. “The seal on the third floor of the prison never weakened at all. That would mean that the person was hiding in the upper floors. It would be more difficult to suppress their cultivation to lower levels and I guess that

the person disguised himself as a Martial Dipper Realm cultivator and was locked on the second floor.”

He Yingrui glared at Captain Fang and growled, “You should have released the suppression of the third floor the moment this happened. You could have asked True Immortal Liu and the other squads of the First Camp to assist you so that the situation wouldn’t devolve to this!”

Liu Jiuzhen was starting to circulate his inner qi, and so were the other Star Origin Guards. They hadn’t fully recovered when they rushed out of the prison earlier, but they quickly moved to capture the escaping fugitives.

Hearing He Yingrui scold Captain Fang, Liu Jiuzhen mumbled casually, “I’m afraid you can’t blame him. After all, the person who ordered him to keep an eye on me was Xing Xingtian. He might have suspected that I worked with those outside to break out of prison with the goal of destroying the Star Observatory. He didn’t make any mistake to not release the suppression of the third floor. Also... The battle formation of us Star Origin Guards might be strong, but his cultivation hasn’t reached the Martial Void Realm...”

Captain Fang shot Liu Jiuzhen a grateful gaze, but Liu Jiuzhen couldn’t be bothered with him at the moment.

It was then that Liu Jiuzhen got to his feet and the aura around him started to transform. He walked over to the Star Observatory and mumbled, “At least I managed to recover a little. Let’s go take a look. After all, he took so many Stargazers hostage. As long as he’s not crazy, we should be able to negotiate.”

He Yingrui seemed to be waiting for Liu Jiuzhen to recover, and she nodded in agreement, “The expert in the Star Observatory has cultivation no weaker than myself. Even though we have the battle formation, I would be a lot more assured with Brother Liu’s assistance.”

After she spoke, she indicated for Captain Fang and the rest to join the hunt for the escaping fugitives before heading to the top of the Star Observatory with Liu Jiuzhen.

...

In the city...

The Star Observatory was pretty far from the city, but with such a massive commotion over there, how could the mid to high-level experts of the city not discover what was happening?

However, due to the strict rules set by the Star Origin Guards, even though they could tell that something wrong was going on, no one dared to head over to take a look.

In one of the ordinary courtyards... Kou Chongxue might be half-lying on the bed, but his attention was fully focused on the chaos out there. His fingers were drumming on the tabletop, and he seemed to be getting more and more impatient with each passing minute.

Creak...

The entrance of his courtyard was flung open, and Kou Chongxue immediately sat up straight. He looked at Feng Ziyang who was rushing over and he asked, “What’s going on?! What happened to the Star Observatory?”

Feng Ziyong grabbed a cup of tea on the table and drank it in a single gulp and he wiped his mouth in an unsightly manner. "Something big happened! Someone destroyed the prison under the Star Observatory and those cultivators who were captured started to escape. Everything there is chaotic and He Yingrui has already led 6 squads of the Second Camp over to provide reinforcements. The other Star Origin Guards are on high alert in the city and they are watching every foreign expert. You... No, all of you better not head out. I need to go right now. The Star Origin Guards in my squad are waiting outside."

"No. I have to take a look at what happened. I think the little brat got impatient because he couldn't contact us and decided to take action alone." Kou Chongxue growled.

Feng Ziyong reached out his hand to stop Kou Chongxue. "No! You can't go! I suspect this is a trap! The Star Origin Guards should have already set up an inescapable net to capture any hidden expert in the city."

"The kid is alone right now, and he's probably using this signal to ask for our help!" Kou Chongxue frowned.

Feng Ziyong's low voice quickly came next, "The situation isn't as bad as you think. Since He Yingrui personally led the Second Camp over, that would mean that the little brat actually has a way of holding the others off. I think we should wait for more information before taking action. You can relax. I'll be more worried about the kid than you!"

Seeing as Feng Ziyong was about to leave, Kou Chongxue quickly handed him a Spatial Pouch and a rank six talisman. "This pouch belongs to the kid, and there's another Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman here. If you get the chance, give it to him. If we were able to enter the Land of Star Origin using the talisman, he should be able to leave with it."

...

Within the Star Observatory...

Actually, even without Xiao Shengyi saying anything else, Shang Xia already knew how precious those bronze fragments were. Especially since they were made from a unique material.

Xiao Shengyi's disappointment also confirmed another guess Shang Xia had. The Grand Stargazer was also someone the Star Origin Guards had been guarding against.

Shang Xia didn't stand on ceremony and kept those fragments before strolling out of the secret room. He looked at Xiao Shengyi and asked, "Grandmaster Xiao, do you wish to take a look at the Secret Bronze Book from the Heaven Observation Sect?"

Xiao Shengyi revealed a look of longing, but it quickly faded. He asked in a strange voice, "Are you trying to poach me over to your side?"

"What's the matter? Can't I? A rank five Grand Stargazer... Is there anyone who would refuse to treat them with respect? Moreover, I won't hide the core inheritance from you like the Star Origin Guards." Shang Xia chuckled.

A bitter laugh escaped from Xiao Shengyi's lips, but he remained expressionless as he replied, "Looks like you're really sincere in trying to rope me over, but I can't leave this place unless you drag my corpse away!"

Shang Xia's pupils trembled slightly and he seemed to have understood something. "Looks like the city probably holds some restrictions on you. Alright, I won't force you."

A light flashed in Xiao Shengyi's eyes, but he chose not to say anything else.

Shang Xia's voice came from behind him the next moment. "I'm going to leave soon. Grandmaster Xiao, aren't you planning to send me off?"

Xiao Shengyi discovered that the restrictions on his body disappeared, and even his cultivation base was no longer sealed. Not only could he move, but he was slowly starting to recover.

"You can't escape... The Star Observatory has already been surrounded. With how important the Star Observatory is to our Dao Field, He Yingrui is most definitely outside. If she unleashes the battle formation she will be able to fight a high-level True Immortal."

Xiao Shengyi followed behind Shang Xia but didn't try anything funny. That was because he understood that Shang Xia could decide whether he lived or died with a single thought.

"She doesn't dare to force her way into the Star Observatory because of how important it is, right?" Shang Xia chuckled and spun to look at Xiao Shengyi. Even so, he didn't stop walking. When he turned back around, he muttered, "Actually, I have been thinking about it. Did the Star Origin Dao Field enter the void first, or did Xing Xingtian leave first? If the Star Origin Dao Field hid itself in the void and erected the spatial barrier first, how did Xing Xingtian leave? If Xing Xingtian left... It wouldn't have been easy for you to create the spatial barrier around the Dao Field and hide it in the void alone, right? Is there something else in play? However... If Xing Xingtian had already left, who would be given control of the Star Observatory in his absence?"

After he spoke, he turned to look at Xiao Shengyi with a smile that wasn't quite a smile. "From how surprised you looked when you saw those fragments, I believe they wouldn't have left such an important task to you."

A snort left Xiao Shengyi's lips. "Those aren't fragments. That's the Secret Bronze Book that contains the inheritance of the Heaven Observation Sect."

"Ah, yes, Secret Bronze Book..." Shang Xia naturally wouldn't bicker with Xiao Shengyi because of something like that. Instead, he continued, "Since everything points to the fact that Xing Xingtian left after the Star Origin Dao Field entered the void, that would mean that there's a secret passage leading to the outside world! If I'm not mistaken... It should be located within the Star Observatory, right?"

Shang Xia, who was leading the way, stopped. Only then did Xiao Shengyi realize that they had already arrived at where Shang Xia first appeared. The other Stargazers were still unconscious and lying on the ground.

Carefully glancing at those on the ground, Xiao Shengyi mumbled, "It's exactly as you guessed... Since Xing Xingtian never trusted me, do you think he would have revealed the location of the hidden passage?"

Xiao Shengyi didn't bother denying the existence of the hidden passage. Instead, he mentioned how he didn't know where it was.

With that, Shang Xia was even more sure of its existence.

Just as he was about to say more, he seemed to have detected something with his divine soul. He turned to look outside the Star Observatory.

It was then that a feminine voice rang in his mind. "Fellow cultivator within the Star Observatory, why don't you come out to meet us?"

Shang Xia glanced at Xiao Shengyi beside him and chuckled in response, "Apologies. Since all of you are prepared to deal with me, I feel like I should play it safer. We'll chat from here."

Even though Shang Xia had already concealed his appearance, aura, and even his voice, who knows what type of secret art they might have that would allow them to reveal his identity the moment he appeared?

No matter what, the Tongyou Institution didn't have the ability to fight against the Star Origin City at the moment.

"Fine." He Yingrui's voice came again, and she didn't seem too dissatisfied with his response. Instead, she asked calmly, "Are the Stargazers in there doing alright?"

Chapter 1153: Retreating Unharmful

"Are the Stargazers in there doing alright?"

He Yingrui sounded calm, and she didn't seem to be truly interested in the well-being of those Stargazers.

However, that was just a facade. She was most definitely concerned with the Stargazers. If all of them suffered a mishap, no one knew how long the Star Origin Dao Field would be able to remain hidden in the void.

"They're unconscious, but their lives are not at risk." Shang Xia replied while shooting Xiao Shengyi a profound gaze.

"In that case, what is your purpose of revealing yourself at this moment?" He Yingrui continued, Even though she still sounded calm, a dull green light appeared in her eyes. It was as though she was trying to look at the situation within the Star Observatory.

Peering through the spatial barrier around the Star Observatory, she could see a blurry figure.

The person within seemed to also have discovered something, and he raised his head to stare straight at her.

Before she could fully make out his appearance, she felt as though her divine soul was stabbed by the opponent and she shifted her gaze away. Shutting her eyes, she barely managed to stop blood from pouring out of them.

“Camp Commander He doesn’t seem too sincere...” A soft chuckle came from within the Star Observatory.

Liu Jiuzhen glanced at He Yingrui and knew that she failed to gain the upper hand in that exchange.

His heart sank. It seemed as though the expert in the Star Observatory was someone who was at least as strong as He Yingrui, or stronger. In fact, the mysterious expert within might be even stronger than himself.

How the hell did someone like that hide in the city?! How did no one manage to discover their presence?

If the Guards Commander was still in the city, there was no way something like that would happen!

Also... To be able to secretly enter somewhere protected by a spatial barrier... Why did that sound so familiar?

In the past, something similar happened to the Spirit Luxuriant World as Wen Juxiang of the Essence Hong World infiltrated them without being detected...

As his thoughts ran wild, He Yingrui’s voice rang through the air again. “I failed to act appropriately... Fellow cultivator, what will it take for you to release our Stargazers?”

A reply quickly came. “Actually, I don’t ask for much. I only wish to know how Star Origin City... No, how the Star Origin Dao Field managed to hide itself in the void.”

He Yingrui’s tone sank and she growled, “It’s something related to our Star Origin City. Forgive me, but I won’t be able to tell you anything about that.”

A mocking sneer came from within the next moment, “Don’t tell me it’s because there’s chaos within your city? Right... Why don’t I make a guess? Someone wasn’t very satisfied with Zhuge Xiang and planned to usurp his position as the Star Origin Guards Commander... Am I right?”

“Where did you hear such an absurd rumor?” He Yingrui laughed softly. She seemed to be laughing at his conjecture.

However, another reply soon came. The person within the Star Observatory sounded rather candid as he chuckled, “Oh? Would that mean that Xing Xingtian colluded with Tong Yutang to look for Zhuge Xiang’s cultivation grounds for fun? Is the news of them planning to assassinate him false too?”

He Yingrui sank into silence and she didn’t respond immediately.

The voice continued, “Oh right, I also heard that Tong Yutang managed to secretly learn about a combined battle formation. He seemed to be planning to use it to deal with Zhuge Xiang specifically. The experts of the Essence Hong and Essence Ming worlds are also assisting him with it... Looks like those are all rumors...”

“Combined battle formation?! What combined battle formation?!” He Yingrui wasn’t the person who spoke this time. Instead, it was Liu Jiuzhen who asked.

“Brother Liu, there’s no need to panic. Don’t fall for his tricks!” He Yingrui stopped Liu Jiuzhen from saying more before turning to the Star Observatory. “I don’t know where you heard such rumors, but it’s impossible for the experts of the Essence Hong and Essence Ming worlds to take part in this.”

“Ah... Haha! Would that mean that they have some sort of tacit understanding to work with your city... Hmm... I didn’t say that the experts of the 2 Essence Worlds would personally come though. I only said that they would assist the efforts... For example... Even though Tong Yutang’s combined battle formation might not require the experts of the Essence Worlds to personally take part, the existence of the battle formation itself is pretty interesting, don’t you think? Especially where it originated from.”

The mysterious expert in the Star Observatory seemed to have guessed some things from He Yingrui’s replies, and he seemed to be fishing for something...

He Yingrui didn’t reply directly. Instead, she sent a voice transmission to the captains hunting down the fugitives. “There’s no need to capture them. Kill them all!”

She didn’t hide her order from Liu Jiuzhen, and even after hearing her instructions, he didn’t question her about it.

He Yingrui spoke again, but she seemed to be shifting the topic away. “As long as you release our Stargazers, I’ll promise to allow you to leave the Dao Field safely. What do you think?”

The mysterious expert within didn’t respond immediately.

After a moment, when He Yingrui’s expression was starting to change and she was about to order them to barge into the Star Observatory, a reply arrived. “Sorry for turning down your offer. I won’t require your permission to leave the Dao Field.”

He Yingrui’s expression sank and she seemed to have thought of something. She growled softly, “This is bad. He’s going to escape. Brother Liu, charge in there with me!”

After she spoke, she created a spatial tunnel straight into the Star Observatory. Liu Jiuzhen failed to react as quickly and moved a little later, but he followed closely behind her.

It was then that the domain that shrouded the Star Observatory that threatened the lives of the Stargazers and Star Origin Guards popped like a bubble.

All He Yingrui saw was a blurry figure slowly disappearing, and the energy that remained the moment they forced their way in dissipated quickly.

Liu Jiuzhen arrived next, and his expression was dark. He growled, “It’s just a clone! We were tricked! He already left!”

He Yingrui was slightly pale and she mumbled softly, “The secret tunnel that leads out of the Dao Field... It’s how Xing Xingtian left previously.”

“Who told him about the secret passage?!” Liu Jiuzhen growled and tried to suppress the anger burning in him. He glanced at the unconscious Stargazers on the ground and noticed someone missing.

Liu Jiuzhen stepped forward and wanted to awaken Xiao Shengyi, but he noticed that He Yingrui wasn't in the best state of mind at the moment. He saw that she wasn't only pale, but her body was trembling violently.

“Camp Commander He?” Liu Jiuzhen felt something off and he asked.

He Yingrui's pupils were unfocused and she muttered in a hoarse voice, “They took our Stargazers' core inheritance!”

Liu Jiuzhen frowned. He might not know why she was reacting so strongly, but from the look of it, she probably knew something he didn't because she was a Camp Commander.

Stepping forward, Liu Jiuzhen tapped at the unconscious Xiao Shengyi, waking him up immediately.

Finally regaining his senses, The Martial Dipper Realm Grand Stargazer leaped to his feet and looked around. When he saw He Yingrui and Liu Jiuzhen, he heaved a sigh of relief.

“What happened here?! Grandmaster Xiao, you better give us a proper explanation.” Liu Jiuzhen growled in a low voice.

“Xin Lu betrayed the Star Observatory! She located the hidden tunnel and the mysterious expert grabbed everything before bringing her away!” Xiao Shengyi yelled, and he seemed to be out of breath as he spoke.

“That's not possible, right? When we were knocked unconscious, you were the only one who was awake!” One of the Stargazers mumbled after Liu Jiuzhen woke him up.

Xiao Shengyi glanced at the Stargazer and knew that he was Xing Xingtian's disciple. He grunted coldly, “heh, do you think I would know where the hidden passage was?”

The Stargazer who was rubbing his head grunted, “Grandmaster Xiao, if even you didn't know where the passage was, how can Xin Lu...”

He seemed to have thought of something, and he stopped rubbing his head suddenly.

He Yingrui asked in a low voice, “Why did you stop talking? What's the matter with Stargazer Xin Lu?”

Hesitating slightly, he didn't dare to speak.

Another Stargazer who woke up mumbled softly, “We don't know when Camp Commander Xing left, but if anyone knows, it has to be Xin Lu. After all, she's the closest to him...”

The person who spoke emphasized the relationship between them, and it was clear that the relationship between Xin Lu and Xing Xingtian was something out of the ordinary.

A cold snort left He Yingrui's lips, and she didn't continue asking about the matter. Instead, she turned to Xiao Shengyi and asked, “If you were the only one who wasn't struck unconscious back

then, would that mean that you interacted with the mysterious expert? I wish to know more details about that person. Also, where is that secret passage that leads to the outside world? Is it still open? I need to seal it off immediately!”

Xiao Shengyi sighed softly, as though he had long prepared for He Yingrui’s suspicion. He revealed a helpless look and grunted, “You all might find it hard to believe, but that mysterious expert never thought of killing anyone when he arrived. His main goal was our thousand year inheritance and after I pointed out the secret room to show him how difficult it would be to break into since only Commander Xing and Guards Commander Zhuge knew how to open it, he actually managed to destroy the restrictions and formation without much difficulty. His inner qi seemed to possess the ability to get rid of restrictions!”

“How could that mysterious expert know that Xin Lu knows about the existence of the secret passage? Aren’t you the one who told them?” Liu Jiuzhen asked without turning his gaze away.

Xiao Shengyi replied calmly, “Xin Lu awakened suddenly and told the mysterious expert of the secret passage on her own. She also told the mysterious expert about the way to activate the passage.”

The cultivator who was rubbing his head early shot to his feet and snapped, “You... You... You’re lying! Why would Stargazer Xin Lu betray the Star Observatory? She’s merely at the Martial Extermination Realm. How could she awaken before us?”

A trace of panic flashed across Xiao Shengyi’s eyes, but he continued to explain, “She was wearing a necklace, and both of us know where it comes from. Her awakening earlier is natural. As for why she would betray our Star Observatory and leave with the mysterious expert... Need I say more?”

“Necklace?! Where it came from? The relationship between the Stargazers of your Star Observatory and the Seventh Camp is really messy...” Liu Jiuzhen mocked. “From the looks of it, Camp Commander Xing has been living extremely comfortably...”

He Yingrui might be a middle-aged lady, but she naturally understood what was going on. She mumbled, “Are you saying that even though Xin Lu was favored by Xing Xingtian, she never wanted to be with him? Did Xing Xingtian force her to stay by his side? Is that why she left the Star Observatory with the mysterious outsider when he appeared by exchanging the way to activate the secret passage for freedom?”

The Stargazers who managed to stay alive didn’t say a word, but they seemed to have confirmed her guess.

Xiao Shengyi chuckled bitterly, “Commander Xing’s prestige in the Star Observatory is immense, and Junior Sister Xin has her cultivation sealed off by Commander Xing... He said that the seal made use of the power of the stars, and even Martial Void Realm True Immortals would find it difficult to remove it. However, that mysterious expert did it easily!”

The Star Origin Guards who came with He Yingrui returned after completing their tasks of dealing with the escapees. The Star Origin Guards of the First Camp were also present, and they seemed to confirm that the mysterious expert had strange abilities to get rid of restrictions and formations from how the prison break occurred.

He Yingrui shot Xiao Shengyi a deep gaze and mumbled slowly, "Since the other party escaped, we'll leave this for now. Grandmaster Xiao, the situation is dire and we need you to take control of the Star Observatory. I will get the rest to repair the prison, and you won't have to worry about it. The most important task is to draw on the power of the stars, and you need to focus more effort into it."

She didn't shift her gaze away from Xiao Shengyi as she continued, "Our Dao Field requires a large amount of energy, and I believe you understand how important this is. Only after we ensure that the Dao Field is safe can we talk about anything else. Otherwise..."

He Yingrui didn't complete her sentence, but her threat was clear.

Xiao Shengyi nodded solemnly.

Chapter 1154: Rank Four Stargazer Xin Lu

Anyone could tell that there were too many suspicious points when it came to how easily the Star Observatory was infiltrated. However, due to the needs of the Star Origin Dao Field, Xiao Shengyi was someone they needed to rely on because of his mastery as a Grand Stargazer.

Neither He Yingrui nor Liu Jiuzhen would try to get to the bottom of the matter at that very moment.

Whatever it was, the secret passage from the Star Observatory to the outside world was sealed off and the Star Observatory quickly resumed operations.

The prison was also quickly restored, and a third of the prisoners had been killed. The others were caught and brought back to the prison, and only a small portion remained free in the Land of Star Origin.

When the Star Observatory returned to normal, the Seventh Camp was deployed away and they were replaced by Liu Jiuzhen and the members of the First Camp.

Kou Chongxue, who had been hiding in the city for some time, finally received news from Feng Ziyong.

Even though he was certain Shang Xia was the person who caused the huge ruckus, from how everything calmed down without a huge battle, Kou Chongxue knew that there was no point rushing out to try anything. He might just expose his existence and cause even more trouble. Helpless, he could only remain in his courtyard and wait for more news.

Two days later, when the matters regarding the Star Observatory returned to normal, the Seventh Camp was sent back to the city and Feng Ziyong managed to learn a little of what happened.

...

"So... It's extremely likely the kid managed to escape?" Kou Chongxue muttered softly after hearing Feng Ziyong's explanation.

Unlike Kou Chongxue who was deep in contemplation, Feng Ziyong looked much more relaxed. He laughed, "The Star Origin Guards will definitely keep whatever happened hidden. They claimed that something happened due to the unrest in the prison, but it was quickly suppressed after it was discovered. Everything is said to have returned to normal, but actually, the Star Origin Guards

aren't in complete control. There are several foreign experts who managed to escape and went out hiding in the wilderness, and they have been sending news to their respective factions."

Kou Chongxue revealed a grin and nodded slowly. "From how the Seventh Camp has been deployed back into the city, the chaos in the Star Origin Guards is clear for all to see."

Feng Ziyang grunted once, but he quickly broke out laughing, "The little brat definitely stole a lot of shit from the Star Observatory. I heard from members of the Second Camp who returned that Liu Jiuzhen had been urging the Stargazers to record down everything they knew... Haha! The institution's Stargazer inheritance is going to be completed now!"

Kou Chongxue nodded in response. However, he quickly asked about something else, "From the looks of it, there's a secret passage from the Star Observatory to the outside world... He didn't have any more Six Harmony Teleportation Talismans, and the only way he managed to escape would be through the secret passage."

Feng Ziyang frowned slightly and muttered, "Say... If news of this spreads, the Star Observatory will probably no longer have any peace, right?"

Kou Chongxue sank into thoughts, but he quickly shook his head. "How can the Star Origin Guards not think of that? I'm afraid Liu Jiuzhen isn't the only person stationed in the Star Observatory at the moment. There might be a hidden True Immortal ready to surprise anyone who attempts anything... The moment anyone appears... Do you believe He Yingrui and the others will be waiting for them?"

"It's a trap... Haha, I should have thought of it." Feng Ziyang sighed regretfully. All of a sudden, his pupils trembled and he frowned. "Hey, that little brat left without saying anything. You still have a Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman... When are you going to leave?"

"Heh, what's the matter? Are you trying to chase me away? Too late. I'm no longer in a rush. I'm planning to stay here for some time. After all, I'm going to have to bring those Formation Masters of the Azure Oddity World back safely after this." Kou Chongxue snorted.

Feng Ziyang rolled his eyes in response. "What the fuck? I am more than capable of protecting them in the city. Why do you have to stay?!"

"It's nothing much. I just feel like the Star Origin Dao Field holds too many secrets and this might be our best chance at digging them all out..." Kou Chongxue laughed in a low voice.

In the void nearly 100,000 miles away from the Land of Star Origin, Shang Xia brought Xin Lu, a rank four Stargazer, to an Earth Star.

"I didn't think that the secret passage would lead to this place!" Xin Lu gasped while looking around her. However, she also didn't seem too surprised.

"Do you know where this is?" Shang Xia asked.

Xin Lu nodded slightly. “Xing Xingtian brought me here once. This was where his hometown was.”
“Hometown?” Shang Xia looked around and inspected the Earth Star with his divine soul, failing to notice anything strange.

“This is an Earth Star with mortals... There are no traces of cultivation here!” Xin Lu exclaimed, seemingly predicting what Shang Xia was doing. “Xing Xingtian helped a heavily injured Star Origin Guard who came here once, and he was brought over to the Land of Star Origin...”

Grunting once, Shang Xia mumbled, “From the looks of it, the secret passage leading out of the Star Observatory should be able to shift...”

Xin Lu’s eyes went wide with amazement. “How do you know?!”

“The secret passage existed for more than 300 years, but Xing Xingtian probably took charge of it 300 years ago, right?” Shang Xia laughed.

“So that’s how you knew...” Xin Lu nodded slowly. “Where are you planning to bring me next? What are your arrangements for me?”

Shang Xia smiled and mumbled, “To be honest, I didn’t think that Grandmaster Xiao would tell me to bring you away, and I didn’t think you would agree so easily. I also didn’t think that your relationship with Xing Xingtian would be so... Ahem... So intimate...”

“Senior Brother Xiao probably has his reasons for making that oath, and along with other reasons, he can’t leave the Star Observatory!” Xin Lu explained without a change in expression. Soon, she snorted and tried to provoke Shang Xia with her words, “What’s the matter? Are you feeling some sort of pressure now? Are you regretting your decision?”

Glancing at Xin Lu, Shang Xia chuckled in a hoarse voice, “I flipped the Star Observatory upside down with my actions... The 1000 years of hard work of Star Origin City had basically been wiped away. Compared to what I did, what does kidnapping a rank four Stargazer seem in comparison?”

Xin Lu fell deep into thoughts for a moment before she continued in a placid voice, “Hmm... I’m only curious about your identity now. Not many people have the guts to offend Star Origin City. As for stealing... I mean, taking away the inheritance, means that you’re not a solitary expert roaming the sea of stars. You should have massive backing to try something like this. Of the surrounding worlds... Are you from the Spirit Mammoth World or the Spirit Abundance World? Or are you from the Spirit Tinkle World?”

Shang Xia chuckled in a low voice. “You’ll know soon. However, due to your sensitive identity, you won’t be able to appear for quite some time. Alright. I’ll arrange for you to be hidden in a secret region.”

Xin Lu wasn’t surprised at all. She continued, “As long as I can get away from Xing Xingtian, I’m fine with concealing my identity and going into hiding. However... I’m still a Stargazer at the end of the day. I need a Star Observatory in order to make full use of my abilities...”

“Relax. There’s no need for you to try to test me here. When I bring you back, you’ll naturally learn of my affiliations. You will also know what I need you to do.” Shang Xia snorted softly.

Understanding the hidden meaning in his words, Xin Lu gasped, “Do you really have a Star Observatory?”

Chapter 1155: Small Surprise

In the Star Observatory of the Spirit Luxuriant World...

When Xin Lu entered the Star Observatory which was the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar of the Tongyou Elysium, she looked around with interest.

Not too far away from her, Shang Xia, Yan Ming, and Yuan Qiuyuan quietly observed her actions.

After some time, Xin Lu finally shifted her longing gaze away from the Starry Tree in the corner and revealed an expression as though she couldn’t believe what she was seeing. She was stunned for a good amount of time without being able to speak.

Shang Xia couldn’t help but chuckle, “How is it? Are you satisfied with this Star Observatory?”

Xin Lu snapped back to attention and turned to stare at Shang Xia in shock. “It... It’s actually you, True Immortal Shang Xia of the Tongyou Institution!”

Shang Xia was also surprised by her reaction. He didn’t think that she would notice that she was in the Tongyou Elysium, but it was also then that he realized his disguise had disappeared.

“Oh? I didn’t think that Stargazer Xin would recognize me.” Shang Xia chuckled softly.

Xin Lu revealed a look as though he was insulting her by asking her such a simple question and replied, “There’s no need to even mention your achievements. Your cultivation realm soared to the third tier of the Martial Void Realm in several short years, and you’re a talent rarely seen even in hundreds of years. Of course, many people would have taken notice of you. Moreover, Star Origin City keeps a record of most True Immortals, including their appearances.”

She paused for a second, before sighing softly, “It’s just that I didn’t think that your Spirit Luxuriant World would be behind this! True Immortal Shang, your actions are truly unpredictable. Are you not afraid that by kidnapping me you will draw the ire of Star Origin City by doing this?”

“Young Lady Xin, I was the one who grabbed you. You won’t be the cause even if we draw trouble to ourselves.” Shang Xia smiled.

A soft giggle left Xin Lu’s lips, but she quickly turned serious. “What do you want me to do? Are these the Astronomers your Tongyou Institution has been nurturing? Oh? This...”

Shang Xia followed her gaze, and he saw her staring at Yuan Qiuyuan with a strange look on her face.

“This brat is called Yuan Qiuyuan, and he’s a student who just graduated from the Upper Division of the Tongyou Institution. He’s a rank three Astronomer. Is there something wrong with him?” Shang Xia joked.

With a strange look in her eyes, she seemed a little unsure as she questioned, “Does your Tongyou Institution already have 2 sets of Stargazer inheritance? Both of them seem to be going down different paths!”

Shang Xia exchanged a glance with Yan Ming, and eventually, Yan Ming replied, “Young Lady Xin, how can you tell?”

“I heard Senior Brother Xiao speak of it once, but I can’t be sure. Astronomer Yuan seems to be combining the martial path of being a Stargazer with its inheritance... It’s said that only core disciples of the Heaven Observation Sect can receive an inheritance like that!” Xin Lu mumbled.

Turning to Shang Xia, Xin Lu gasped in shock, “I didn’t think that your Tongyou Institution would also have the inheritance of the Heaven Observation Sect...”

Shang Xia forced a chuckle while shaking his head, “It’s a shame... What we have is merely fragments of the inheritance. The kid was only able to reach his current level because of luck and pure raw talent. The inheritance stopped at his current level, and he’s stuck at the third rank...”

Xin Lu shook her head in response. “Don’t tell me you wish for me to help him restore the rest of the inheritance? That will make things slightly difficult for me. I can’t do it... Even if you took all the records from the Star Observatory in Star Origin City, I won’t be able to do a thing! Otherwise... The Heaven Observation Sect’s inheritance would have long been restored by them!”

Shang Xia broke out laughing. “Actually, there’s something you don’t know. Even Grandmaster Xiao barely learned of it when I left earlier. Star Origin City actually already had a set of scattered inheritance from the Heaven Observation Sect.”

Xin Lu revealed a shocked gaze, but Shang Xia simply continued, “I feel like one of the reasons Grandmaster Xiao wanted me to take you away was because of those bronze fragments that made up the Secret Bronze Book of the Heaven Observation Sect. From his reaction, he clearly didn’t know those things existed before.”

“Secret Bronze Book?! Are you sure that’s what it is?” Xin Lu took a step forward and she looked extremely emotional when she heard what it might be.

She wasn’t the only one who was moved. Even Yan Ming couldn’t help but feel a little passionate. She knew about the existence of the Star Map, and the Secret Bronze Book they were talking about and couldn’t help but shift her thoughts in that direction.

Shang Xia chuckled softly, “I don’t know if it’s the Secret Bronze Book, but Grandmaster Xiao was certain that was what it was when he saw it.”

“There’s no mistaking it then!” Xin Lu sighed. “Senior Brother Xiao’s grudge against Xing Xingtian back then because of Xing Xingtian’s abrupt rise probably came from this!”

With a smile on his face, Shang Xia eventually shifted the topic back on track. “My Tongyou Institution already has a portion of the Heaven Observation Sect’s inheritance, and with the fragments of the Secret Bronze Book, I believe Young Lady Xin will be able to help us piece it together to form a complete inheritance.”

Opening her mouth slightly, Xin Lu glanced at the 3 others on the Star Observatory but didn't speak immediately. She thought for a moment before she mumbled, "I can only do my best. But are you certain you will allow me to look at these fragments however I wish?"

"I wouldn't have given you the task if I were to suspect you. After all, I won't make use of anyone I don't trust. However, what I said before will not change. For the foreseeable future, Young Lady Xin, you will have to remain in the Tongyou Elysium." Shang Xia explained.

Xin Lu chuckled in response, "It's just several years, and maybe a little more... What's more, being able to move freely about an Elysium is better than being someone's slave..."

Shang Xia thought for a moment and continued, "The inheritance of the Heaven Observation Sect has to be restored, but the set of Stargazer inheritance the Star Origin City came up with cannot be lost. Not only would you have to improve your skills, but you will have to guide Junior Sister Yan in the future."

Yan Ming smiled happily in response, "I'll have to learn from Young Lady Xin from now on!"

Xin Lu accepted the praise humbly. After all, even though Yan Ming was a rank three Astronomer, she was still a Martial Dipper Realm expert. Her cultivation realm was increasing rapidly, and be it in terms of cultivation or combat abilities, she was leagues ahead of Xin Lu.

Xin Lu never experienced such respect before. In the Star Observatory of the Star Origin City, there were always people talking bad about her behind her back. Even Xiao Shengyi was wary of Xing Xingtian's might, and he could only take care of her in secret.

Shang Xia spoke again, "Perfecting the inheritance isn't something we can achieve quickly anyway. However, there's something I need you to take special note of and to focus on."

"True Immortal Shang, do tell..." Xin Lu immediately became serious when she heard what he said.

Shang Xia quickly explained, "I need you to quickly bring our Star Observatory up to operational standards."

Xin Lu nodded in response. "That's easy. Even though this Star Observatory is small, it's located in an Elysium. It's also the Heaven Supporting Jade pillar, and operating it would be easy."

Pausing slightly, she continued, "However... After it is activated, are you planning to use it to carry out ordinary observations in the space around, or are you planning to focus on a single region?"

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback at her question.

However, a thought quickly flashed through his mind and he quickly replied, "We'll focus on a single place. Lock on to the northern region outside the Spirit Abundance World. Oh, right... We need the coordinates too!"

"The space north of the Spirit Abundance World? Are you thinking about observing the Void Spatial Tide?" Xin Lu gasped softly. "In that case, we don't need the coordinates. The Star Origin City has been paying attention to that region, and I know it well."

Shang Xia raised his eyebrows in shock, and he quickly asked, “Did Grandmaster Xiao or the others say anything about the Frost Tide the Spirit Abundance World experiences?”

Xin Lu shook her head slowly. “It’s said that there might be a world hidden there, but it has been many years. Be it the Spirit Abundance World or the Star Origin City... Actually, even the Spirit Mammoth World knows about it. No one discovered anything. However, the region has always been under observation, but its importance has just been slowly lowered over the years...”

“There isn’t anywhere else we need to pay special attention to. Other than the space north of the Spirit Abundance World, just carry out ordinary surveillance in the region around our world. The 2 of them can try their hand at it. I will have to trouble you about the rest...” Shang Xia nodded.

Xin Lu chuckled, “Of course. Speaking of which... It’s my first time taking charge of a Star Observatory. Um... If you don’t have anything else, I’ll try to activate it.”

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback. “Do you not need my help?”

Xin Lu glanced at him with a strange gaze before she turned to look at Yan Ming and Yuan Qiuyuan. She seemed to realize something and she released a bout of hoarse laughter, “Why would I? This Star Observatory is small, but it’s exquisite. It’s the best way to replenish the energy of an Elysium, and we won’t need to use the power of the Elysium to activate it.”

Shang Xia looked at Yan Ming and Yan Ming could only shoot him an awkward stare. He turned to look at Yuan Qiuyuan, and he saw that the kid remained completely emotionless.

Helpless, he glanced at Xin Lu and sighed, “I’ve embarrassed myself. We only used this Star Observatory several times before, but it’s always been powered by Patriarch Kou or myself... As for using the Elysium to sustain its operations...”

Xin Lu burst out laughing before he was done. “Who... Who told you to do that? They seem pretty unreliable and they might have some bad intentions... Moreover, don’t you have that?”

Shang Xia and the rest looked at where she was pointing and looked at the Starry Tree.

Xin Lu continued, “The Starry Tree is a divine treasure that has the ability to draw on the power of the stars! Even though it hasn’t matured, it has already gathered condensed Star Essence in the Star Observatory.”

After she spoke, she flicked a drop of Star Essence Liquid before forming hand seals rapidly. The drop of Star Essence Liquid burst into intense starlight that shrouded the Star Observatory.

At the same time, Shang Xia raised his head only to see the vast sea of stars above shifting. He even felt like they were getting closer and closer, such that he would be able to pluck a star by stretching his hand out.

“Both of you, come. We’ll lock on to the Spirit Abundance World next before looking for the position north of it.” Xin Lu’s voice came from the dense starlight.

The next moment, Shagn Xia saw the sea of stars above the Star Observatory shifting rapidly when Xin Lu made another hand seal.

Shang Xia suddenly thought of something and asked, “Young Lady Xin, are you able to refine the power of the stars like what they were doing in Star Origin City?”

Chapter 1156: First Discovery of the Star Observatory

In the blink of an eye, it had been more than a month since Shang Xia left the Star Observatory. The 14th year of the Spirit Luxuriant Calendar had already rolled around.

In the month or so, the first thing Shang Xia did was to tell Ren Huan to send over all the rank six talisman paper he had gathered. He wanted to craft as many Six Harmony Teleportation Talismans as quickly as he could.

After going through so much, Shang Xia knew that the talisman provided him with an absolute advantage when it came to escaping or infiltration.

Also... He might have escaped from Star Origin City, but Kou Chongxue was still squatting in a corner there somewhere. Even though he had another Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman, Shang Xia still needed to prepare for the worst.

Because of the existence of a rank six Talisman Grandmaster like Shang Xia, the Tongyou Institution had been gathering high-level talisman paper, and methods of crafting them.

It was a shame even though more than half a year had passed, Ren Huan failed to find anything no matter how hard he tried. After all, the Star Origin Dao Field was still hidden in the void and its connection to the various worlds was closed. The various worlds didn't have a way to interact with each other, and Ren Huan only managed to get his hands on 2 sheets of rank six talisman paper.

In the end, Shang Xia only managed to craft a single Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman.

Of course, even though he only had 1 Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman, he felt a lot more secure than before.

When he had extra time, he would look for Xin Lu to learn more about the Star Observatory and other matters.

Even though she was only in the Martial Extermination Realm, she was a Stargazer at the end of the day. She also had close ties with Xing Xingtian, and she probably knew a lot of secrets after all the time they spent together.

Perhaps it was because of Shang Xia's great trust in her, which he showed by placing her in a position of great responsibility the moment she was brought to the Tongyou Elysium, but she didn't hide anything during their conversations. She told him everything truthfully, without leaving out a shred of detail.

He might be trying to probe out the secrets of Star Origin City, but Shang Xia still focused fully on his cultivation.

It wasn't that he was in a rush to raise his cultivation level... Instead, he was trying to stabilize his foundation. Back in the prison under the Star Observatory, Shang Xia's cultivation rose due to the energy provided by the Crimson Soul Tablet after it absorbed the power of the stars. He seemed to be in a state of disequilibrium due to the sharp increase.

One had to know that there was a huge bottleneck for one to reach the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm. Once someone entered that level, they would be considered a high-level True Immortal.

Shang Xia once made an estimate. He would still need 20 to 25 years in order to reach the peak of the third tier, to reach a level where he would be able to attempt a breakthrough to become a high-level True Immortal.

Moreover, that was if he wasn't interrupted by anything along his journey.

Anticipating the various changes that would happen in a realistic scenario... It would only take longer than that.

Due to his stint in the prison under the Star Observatory, the rapid progression was something completely unexpected, and it would save him at least 3 years...

If he took into account his cultivation after becoming a third tier True Immortal, he would have barely completed a third of the journey.

Also... The Crimson Soul Tablet seemed to no longer be interested in absorbing the power of the stars. He couldn't use the same way any longer.

Even though he could control the tablet to a greater extent and could urge it to absorb a portion of the power of the stars for him to cultivate, he wouldn't do it in his current situation.

If he continued to raise his cultivation level, he would only cause his foundations to become unsteady and make it more difficult for him to grow stronger in the future.

Of course, Shang Xia still hoped that the Star Observatory would be able to draw over and refine the power of the stars as soon as possible.

His main motive was to produce the same power of suppression that was felt in the prison. After all, he wanted to try to recreate the feeling when the strange mysterious object appeared in his hand.

He had a very strong suspicion that it was the Crimson Soul Tablet itself!

It was a shame everything happened too quickly back then and he didn't pay attention to himself. The feeling disappeared the very next second, and whatever happened next happened.

No matter how he tried to think about it, the Crimson Soul Tablet existed in his sea of consciousness... How could it appear in his hands?

The strange contradiction caused him to be extremely curious.

It wasn't something great for Shang Xia who was trying to strengthen his foundations at the moment to keep thinking about something like that.

As such, he wanted to use the power of the stars to recreate the feeling.

It was a pity... The Tongyou Elysium's Star Observatory might be exquisite, but it was just far too small compared to the majestic observatory the Star Origin City possessed. Also, Xin Lu was merely a rank four Stargazer. She couldn't compare to Xiao Shengyi, a Grand Stargazer. At the same time, the number of Astronomers and Stargazers in Star Origin City far surpassed the Tongyou Institution.

Without affecting their surveillance of the Spirit Abundance World, Xin Lu also had to give Yuan Qiuyuan pointers to advance in the ways of a Stargazer. As such, they could only obtain a small portion of the refined power of the stars every day. The amount couldn't even be compared to Shang Xia absorbing energy himself.

One had to know that Shang Xia had already been absorbing 30 to 40 percent of the power of the stars used to power the grand formation around the prison back in Star Origin City.

...

Speaking of the inheritance, Yan Ming and Yuan Qiuyuan were both rank three Stargazers, but Xin Lu said that even though they looked talented, their foundations were really weak. They didn't have too much basic knowledge about being a Stargazer, and there were even times they knew what something was without understanding the principles behind it.

After noticing it, she started to pour her efforts into helping them patch up their weaknesses. That was also a reason they weren't absorbing as much power of the stars as they could have.

Fortunately, that didn't become a huge problem as she was able to fix the problem without it taking too much time. With the completed inheritance the Tongyou Institution possessed along with Xin Lu's existence, everything slowly returned on the right track.

When Shang Xia heard her evaluation of Yan Ming and Yuan Qiuyuan, he didn't doubt for a second that the Heavenly Star Palace was the one messing about and not passing down a proper inheritance.

He was initially annoyed, but after he thought about it, he realized that he would have done the same if he were in their shoes.

Of course... That might be the case, but Shang Xia still made a mental note of it. In the future, he will return the favor when he gets the chance.

Shang Xia wanted to slowly gather the power of the stars so that he would have enough to recreate the feeling. Throughout the process, he didn't stop communicating with the Crimson Soul Tablet. He had a vague feeling he wouldn't need to use as much power of the stars as what was contained in the prison beneath the Star Observatory of Star Origin City to recreate the feeling. Instead, he felt that he would be able to do so if he consumed his inner qi.

Of course... That didn't mean that it was going to be easy. Even if he used his inner qi to recreate that feeling, the consumption might place an extreme burden on him.

Despite knowing the strain it would put on him, Shang Xia had a pressing urge to try it out. Other than several pieces of high-grade essence crystals, he also brought away a few peak-grade essence crystals that the Tongyou Institution was using to gather Origin Dippers.

Before he could leave the institution, a transmission came from the Tongyou Elysium and stopped him. Its contents caused his expression to sink and he had to change his plans immediately as he raced to the Star Observatory.

"What happened?!" Shang Xia asked the moment he arrived.

Xin Lu didn't seem to be in good shape, and she looked extremely worn out and weak. After hearing Shang Xia's voice, she tried her best to focus again.

With Yan Ming and Yuan Qiuyuan's help, she activated the Star Observatory again and the vast sea of stars in the skies above started to shift.

“This... This is the place you told me to keep a watch on. It’s nearly 1 million miles north of the Spirit Abundance World, and there seems to be a massive battle going on!” Xin Lu pointed to a spot that was barely larger than her fingertips in the vast sea of stars and mumbled.

Shang Xia tried his best to focus on what she was pointing at and eventually managed to make out a blurry region of space that seemed to be filled with spatial fluctuations.

If not for Xin Lu pointing it out, he wouldn’t have discovered anything strange there.

That wasn’t because of his lack of cultivation, as cultivation level had nothing to do with it. It was only possible to notice something like that if one properly learned the ways of a Stargazer.

One couldn’t see that the spot was barely larger than Xin Lu’s fingertips. She magnified it as much as she could, and in reality, the space that was affected by the disturbance might be tens of thousands of miles large.

Shang Xia’s gaze locked onto the region of space, and lights flashed through his eyes rapidly. No one knew what he was thinking about.

“Can you determine anything else from what we’re seeing? For example... The scale of the conflict and the cultivation of those who are fighting?” Shang Xia asked.

Xin Lu seemed to have expected the question and she replied almost instantly, “For a battle of such a massive scale, it would either involve hundreds or even thousands of mid to high-level cultivators, or a high-level True Immortal. From the twisting of space and the powerful lights that appear from time to time, the latter is more likely!”

Shang Xia nodded slowly. “I understand. I plan to secretly head over to take a closer look. You guys continue to observe the situation.”

Once he spoke, he nodded once at all of them before turning to take his leave.

However, Yan Ming stopped him before he could move.

Turning around with a look of confusion, Shang Xia wanted to say something, but Yan Ming quickly explained, “If we’re able to notice the change, the Heavenly Star Palace might also be able to discover what happened.”

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback, but he eventually nodded slowly. He might understand the implications, but he still left the Elysium. Rather... He wasn’t in a rush to head over anymore.

As soon as he emerged, he saw Kou Chongxue’s clone waiting for him.

“Yin Jingxu just sent news. They seem to have discovered something and they’re gathering the True Immortals of our world to discuss what we should do.” Kou Chongxue’s clone frowned the moment he saw Shang Xia.

With a good idea of what was going on, Shang Xia nodded slowly before he spoke to the clone again, “I’ll probably need to leave for some time after this. I will have to trouble you to take care of things here.”

Chapter 1157: The Rapidly Strengthening Heavenly Star Palace.

After Yan Ming's reminder earlier, Shang Xia realized that if Xin Lu was able to notice what happened in the void outside the Spirit Abundance World with so little help and the Tongyou Institution's less mature Star Observatory, the Heavenly Star Palace was very likely to be able to do the same since they had a grander Star Observatory with more experts who had knowledge of the Stargazer inheritance.

As soon as Shang Xia left the Elysium, Kou Chongxue's clone immediately delivered news that Yin Jingxu was gathering the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World.

In the void above the Jiao Continent, Shang Xia's appearance caused the others to shoot him with strange looks.

"True Immortal Little Shang, why are you the only one today? Where's Patriarch Kou?" Yang Taihe asked while chuckling. As usual, he was the spokesperson of everyone present.

What truly surprised him was the fact that the aura Shang Xia was emitting was extremely mysterious, and even he couldn't make sense of it immediately.

It wasn't something that would happen when one intentionally concealed their cultivation realm. Instead, it was something that happened when someone tried to feel out an expert stronger than themselves!

That would mean that Shang Xia's cultivation was no weaker than his own, and it might even have surpassed him completely!

After Yang Taihe asked the question, Zhang Xuansheng also turned to look at Shang Xia. As the other third tier True Immortal, he also quickly noticed the changes to the kid.

How long has it been?!

Shang Xia acted as though he didn't see the quiet exchange between Yang Taihe and Zhang Xuansheng. He laughed softly in response, "The patriarch is in secluded cultivation. He planned to send a clone over, but I stopped him so that he wouldn't be distracted."

After he spoke, he glanced at those present and mumbled, "Everyone is here, except for the person who called the meeting?"

Liu Jingsheng smiled in response. "I'm 80 percent certain the Heavenly Star Palace discovered something... For True Immortal Yin to be so late... It can only prove that what they found wasn't simple!"

After he spoke, he turned to Shang Xia. "From what our disciples mentioned, after True Immortal Yin entered the Martial Void Realm back then, he has been planning to move the Star Observatory to the Yi Continent. True Immortal Little Shang, do you know anything about it?"

"Is that true?! I didn't hear anything about it." Shang Xia frowned while gasping softly.

Everyone showed strange expressions, but no one would show their stance at that moment.

Eventually, Liu Jingsheng laughed and tried to diffuse the situation. "When True Immortal Yin comes later, True Immortal Little Shang, you should ask him about it."

Shang Xia chuckled twice and remained silent. He easily avoided giving a response immediately. He was starting to wonder if the Heavenly Star Palace was truly planning to move the Star Observatory, or if it was mere rumors spread by the others.

The reason the Heavenly Star Palace reconstructed the Star Observatory in the Jiao Continent was that the heavenly screen above the Jiao Continent had been royally fucked by the invasion of the Spirit Abundance World. They had been trying to restore it, but it was difficult to do so.

It was extremely beneficial for them to keep the Star Observatory in the Jiao Continent as it was easy to observe the vast sea of stars.

In the past, the Heavenly Star Palace had intentions of getting closer to the Tongyou Institution, which was also why Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue didn't mess with them too much. Kou Chongxue advanced to the Martial Void Realm with the support of the spirituality of the Jiao Continent, and with his protection, the Heavenly Star Palace's activities in the Jiao Continent naturally went smoothly.

After the Star Observatory was successfully reconstructed, it started to show its worth and it brought numerous benefits to the Jiao Continent.

However... After Yin Jingxu successfully broke through to the Martial Void Realm, the Heavenly Star Palace's relationship with the Tongyou Institution became a little strange.

Actually, it wasn't that both factions were in conflict with each other, but it was because the Star Observatory was located in the Jiao Continent. The Jiao Continent was under the influence of the Tongyou Institution, and it was where Kou Chongxue's soul was branded to the world. For Yin Jingxu to remain there... The Void Origins of both True Immortals would definitely clash even if they didn't intend to do so.

As time passed, both True Immortals wouldn't be able to benefit from it. For Yin Jingxu, whose cultivation level was lower, he could only remain at a disadvantage.

It wasn't difficult to solve their problem. As long as Yin Jingxu left the Star Observatory and returned to the Yi Continent, there would be no problem.

If the Heavenly Star Palace was still planning to take advantage of the situation with the heavenly screen above the Jiao Continent, it would eventually come to an end. After all, with the Spirit Luxuriant World's growth, especially since it absorbed many smaller fragments of land from other worlds, the heavenly screen was showing signs of recovering.

The heavenly screen above the Jiao Continent wouldn't be able to provide the advantage to the Star Observatory for long.

However... In his current state, Yin Jingxu wasn't really able to leave the Star Observatory as he wished. He was in a dilemma and the situation was pretty awkward.

Liu Jingsheng speaking about the Heavenly Star Palace's plan to move the Star Observatory probably contained a shred of truth. It probably wasn't a wild rumor, and he definitely had a purpose for bringing it up.

Everyone continued to chat among themselves for some time, but Yin Jingxu was still nowhere to be seen. All of them couldn't help but feel a little displeased.

If they had to speak about experience of being a True Immortal... Yin Jingxu was the last to break through to his current level.

When everyone was starting to get annoyed, Shang Xia, Yang Taihe, and Zhang Xuansheng turned to stare at a certain spot in the void at the same time.

“Oh? This...” Yang Taihe caught everyone’s attention.

The next moment, in the void tens of thousands of miles away from the heavenly screen, an unassuming spatial gate opened up and 4 Star Ships emerged.

All of them could tell that those Star Ships were responsible for patrolling the region outside their world, and from the looks of it, they weren’t doing too well. It was especially so for the 2 ships at the back. One of them suffered heavy damage to its mast and rudder, and it was basically dragged out of the spatial gate by the other ships. The other suffered damage throughout its hull and it looked as though it had been corroded by something.

However, what those True Immortals were concerned about weren’t the damaged ships. They were looking at the better-preserved ones.

That was because there were 2 massive Star Beasts wrapped up and dragged along the side of each of the ships. From their experience killing Star Beasts during the invasion back then, it was clear all 4 Star Beasts were of the fifth rank.

The True Immortals present knew the value of those Star Beasts. It could be said that any part of a Star Beast was extremely valuable. Capturing 4 of them was more than enough to make up for the damages the 2 ships suffered.

After the Star Ships left the spatial gate, they raced towards the Spirit Luxuriant World.

The True Immortals could tell that even though those ships didn’t seem to be moving too quickly, they seemed to be guided by faint starlight as they went straight to the heavenly screen above the Jiao Continent.

Watching the ships enter the heavenly screen, the True Immortals present seemed to forget their dissatisfaction.

A moment later, Liu Jingsheng raised an eyebrow and wondered out loud, “Why do these Star Beasts look different from the ones we hunted back then?”

“It’s normal... Star Beasts have been roaming the vast sea of stars, and there are different types. I heard people talking about them before, and those they ran into looked different from those that invaded us. Now, these 4 also look different...” Shang Xia explained while chuckling.

Liu Jingsheng glanced at Shang Xia and mumbled, “True Immortal Little Shang, it’s great to be able to roam about the vast sea of stars. All of us are trapped in here and we won’t be lucky enough to get to enjoy the great sights out there...”

Shang Xia didn’t say more. He simply smiled in response. Of the True Immortals present, only himself and Lu Wuzi were Free True Immortals. The others were Elysium True Immortals who were shackled to their Elysiums.

The next moment, Li Jidao spoke suddenly, “From the looks of it, the Star Observatory can not only draw over Star Beasts, but it also has the ability to look for their tracks in the vast sea of stars...”

Shang Xia thought hard about what he said, but his expression didn’t change.

Lu Wuzi started complaining all of a sudden, “The 2 disciples in my Ice Essence Sect I sent to the Heavenly Star Pavilion to learn the ways of being a Stargazer seem completely useless. They said that they needed a Star Observatory to showcase their skills, but my Ice Essence Sect has only been in existence for several years! I don’t have the ability to build one... Even if I did, I wouldn’t know how to!”

Shang Xia quickly nodded along with the rest.

Other than Lu Wuzi, none of the rest knew about the existence of the Star Observatory of the Tongyou Institution. Shang Xia needed to play along if he didn’t wish to reveal the secret.

Also... Lu Wuzi might know about their possession of the Star Observatory, but he didn’t know how much the Tongyou Institution struggled to make use of it when they only had 2 rank three Astronomers. Even if he managed to get his hands on one, it might not be as useful as he had thought.

The other True Immortals forced a laugh, but they didn’t care about his complaints at the moment.

If they were in Yin Jingxu’s shoes, there was no way they would teach others the true essence of being a Stargazer either.

... It was true that a Stargazer needed to use a Star Observatory to showcase all their skills, but it wasn’t true that they were only useful if they had access to one. If they learned the true essence of being a Stargazer, they would be able to put their skills to use one way or another.

In the fragmented inheritance the Tongyou Institution gained back then, they learned 2 secret arts low-ranked Stargazers could use. Now that Xin Lu was brought back, they could restore the inheritance and allow their Stargazers to learn a lot more.

Shang Xia might have brought away the core inheritance of the Heaven Observation Sect, but if he didn’t have Xin Lu to help him make sense of it, Yan Ming and Yuan Qiuyuan might spend countless years trying to grasp a basic understanding of them. There was also a lot of knowledge and hidden secrets only real Stargazers would know and could pass down.

It was then that Shang Xia noticed another strange fluctuation in the void. Finally, Yin Jingxu’s voice rang in their minds.

“Fellow True Immortals, my apologies for being late!” Yin Jingxu appeared and cupped his hands as a show of apology to those present. “I didn’t think that my disciples would send news of them capturing Star Beasts the moment I sent the transmission to call everyone over. That was why I was late...”

Zhang Xuansheng didn’t beat about the bush. “Let’s drop the pleasantries. Why are you looking for us?”

The smile on Yin Jingxu's face faded and he quickly turned serious. "I was in a rush to call everyone over because the Stargazers of my Heavenly Star Pavilion discovered a massive battle happening close to the Spirit Abundance World. There is very likely True Immortals involved, and it's very possible there are more than 2 of them!"

Yin Jingxu's revelation was explosive.

However, to Shang Xia, who already knew about it, his attention wasn't placed on what Yin Jingxu said. Instead, he discovered that even though Yin Jingxu seemed to be the last to enter the Martial Void Realm, his cultivation was rising rapidly and had already surpassed Zhang Jianzi and was closing in on Huang Jinghan's level before they took part in the war of the Spirit Faith World.

Chapter 1158: You Say Something, I Say Something, We Swear This Isn't Planned...

There were 10 True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World at the moment, and even though Yin Jingxu was the last to break through, he had surpassed Lu Wuzi, Zhang Xuansheng, and could be ranked in the same tier as Huang Jinghan...

If things kept up, Yin Jingxu would be able to grow stronger than Huang Jinghan soon and break through to the second tier of the Marital Void Realm before any of them.

Of course... It was extremely difficult to progress in the Martial Void Realm. Be it the opportunities one needed or the lucky encounters one would run into... It wouldn't be a surprise for them to be stuck in their current cultivation realm for ten or twenty years.

Even so... Yin Jingxu's rapid advancement was enough to shock Shang Xia.

He knew the truth. During the expedition to the Spirit Faith World, Yin Jingxu just broke through. His foundations were weak and he couldn't match up to Huang Jinghan if he tried. He didn't receive too much blessing from the Spirit Luxuriant World either due to the limited role he played. He probably only progressed so quickly because of the inheritance he had obtained.

Maybe it was because Shang Xia had been staring at Yin Jingxu for an unnaturally long time, but Yin Jingxu also noticed his gaze and both of them smiled before looking away.

Shang Xia felt that Yin Jingxu's aura started to turn a little blurry the next moment.

Clearly, Yin Jingxu seemed to have noticed Shang Xia's observation and chose to conceal his true strength.

It was then that the other True Immortals also digested the news he revealed.

Yang Taihe was the first to speak. "True Immortal Yin, do you suspect that the disturbance has something to do with the Spirit Abundance World?"

Nodding slowly, Yin Jingxu explained, "Even though the disturbance happened a million miles away from the Spirit Abundance World, it wouldn't make sense for them not to discover anything. I suspect that the True Immortals of the Spirit Abundance World are fighting with other people."

Li Jidao gasped, "Can we be certain?"

Glancing at him from the corner of his eye, Yin Jingxu sighed, "Of course, we can't be sure. However... Because of our grudges with the Spirit Abundance World, we can take advantage of the situation and weaken them anyway."

Everyone nodded instinctively.

Liu Jingsheng mumbled, “If Palace Master Yin managed to discover the disturbance even though we’re so far away, there’s no way the Spirit Mammoth World and Star Origin City failed to sense it.”

Lu Wuzi chuckled softly, “No one knows what happened to Star Origin City, but not only did they seal off their connection to the other worlds, but the Land of Star Origin also disappeared. No one knows if they will react even if they notice the disturbance. As for the Spirit Mammoth World... They might be involved in such a massive disturbance!”

There was no evidence behind whatever he said, but it seemed quite possible!

Of the several worlds that were connected to Star Origin City and had the qualifications to mess with the Spirit Abundance World, the Spirit Mammoth World ranked at the very top. After all, they were the only other peak-tier Spirit World.

However... Zhang Xuansheng shook his head and sighed, “With the current state of their worlds, it’s not likely the Spirit Abundance World will clash with the Spirit Mammoth World. They definitely understand what a huge conflict between them will entail, and the moment they decide to go all out, both sides will suffer considerable damage. When that happens, the other worlds will definitely join in to fish for benefits from both sides. Unless...”

“Unless, they have no choice but to fight!” Yang Taihe completed the sentence for him.

What reason would it take for the peak-tier Spirit Worlds to come to blows?

Everyone revealed looks of contemplation.

Lu Wuzi coughed dryly and muttered, “I was just throwing random guesses around... Why are all of you taking me so seriously? After all, we can’t verify anything now, can we?”

Li Jidao sneered in response, “Oh? True Immortal Lu, why don’t you head over to see what’s going on?”

Lu Wuzi could obviously hear the mockery in Li Jidao’s tone, and he even suspected that the man had bad intentions for suggesting such a thing. He would rather accept the fact that he was weaker than the rest and look bad before everyone else than to take the risk to respond to Lu Wuzi. He quickly burst out laughing, “Haha! I don’t have the ability to find out what’s going on like you said, True Immortal Li. Why don’t you produce a second True Immortal from your Divine Capital Sect before delegating the task to him?”

Liu Jingsheng looked at Shang Xia with a smile that didn’t really seem like a smile and mumbled, “Looks like we will need to trouble you to head over if we want to find out what is going on...”

Shang Xia acted as though he didn’t see the look on Liu Jingsheng’s face, but he already made up his mind to head over. After all, he was about to go before they called for the meeting.

The disturbance that was happening around the Spirit Abundance World might not actually have anything to do with the Spirit Abundance World, surprisingly enough. After all, he knew that there was another barrel of gunpowder ready to blow.

Moreover, that was something that would produce an even larger blast than if the Spirit Abundance World and the Spirit Mammoth World started to fight one another.

It was possible Tong Yutang had started his operation, and it was highly likely the True Immortals of Essence Worlds were a part of it. They might have started their scheme against Guards Commander Zhuge Xiang...

The other True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World were waiting for Shang Xia to say something, but seeing the blank look on his face, none of them knew how they should start.

Yang Taihe couldn't help but look at everyone present before locking onto Yin Jingxu. He suddenly asked, "Palace Master Yin, I wonder if you managed to discover the tracks of the Land of Star Origin? Fellow True Immortals, do you have any way of learning what's happening in Star Origin City right now? Why would they disappear suddenly?"

Yin Jingxu was shocked by the sudden question, but he quickly replied, "Ever since Star Origin City sealed off its connection with the outside world, the members of my Heavenly Star Palace have been trying to look for its tracks around where it was stationed. However, everything happened suddenly and there was no warning at all. Regrettably, we were unable to find any traces of the Land of Star Origin..."

"The Land of Star Origin is pretty massive, and all of us have been there before. Even if we haven't we definitely sent disciples there before and heard stories about it. To be able to make such a massive landmass disappear and not be discovered after such a long time... It's something that cannot be done with a mere formation, secret arts, or even a divine artifact. Not even a Holy Artifact can make something so large disappear. There's no need to consider any individual strength either. From what I know... There's only a single possibility left, even though it's something I've only heard of in legends... The Land of Star Origin might be a Dao Field!"

"Dao Field?" The True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World revealed confused expressions. The only people who didn't look that shocked were Li Jidao and Yang Taihe. As for Shang Xia, he quickly snapped back to reality after hearing the term and stared at Zhang Xuansheng.

"What's a Dao Field?" Liu Jingsheng asked, and a trace of suspicion could be seen in his eyes.

Glancing at him, Zhang Xuansheng mumbled, "You can think of it as a massive secret region that's far larger than any Elysium."

Liu Jingsheng was slightly taken aback, but he quickly followed up with another question. "The Land of Star Origin doesn't seem to be protected by any spatial barrier. Before we set up the spatial tunnel, I even tried to send some disciples over and they weren't obstructed by anything..."

Zhang Xuansheng explained calmly, "That's the difference between a Dao Field and an Elysium. Actually, it doesn't matter if it's an Elysium or a Holy Land. Both are things that cannot leave the confines of the world it was created. To be exact, they can both be classified as secret regions, independent spaces built on the foundation of the world they were founded. A Dao Field is a

completely different concept. They are secret regions that can exist independently in the vast sea of stars! From the looks of it, that's what the Land of Star Origin is!"

Yin Jingxu asked yet another question, "Without the support of a world... What is the Land of Star Origin, or rather, the Star Origin Dao Field, relying on to sustain itself? Especially after it disappeared in the void... Could it actually be hidden somewhere?"

Zhang Xuansheng shook his head and sighed, "I wouldn't know anything about that. After all, that's touching on a much higher concept than I know. However..."

"However?" Yin Jingxu pushed.

"... However, to be able to establish an independent space in the sea of stars... It should only be possible if a Seventh Order expert took action!"

"Seventh Order?!" Yin Jingxu gasped.

Everyone else, including Shang Xia, who already knew that the Land of Star Origin might be a Dao Field, felt their hearts trembling at the possibility that a Seventh Order expert was involved.

For all of them who had reached their current cultivation level, they knew that even though the Seventh Order was just one realm away, it looked to be an insurmountable gap. Even if they added up all the obstacles and difficulties they faced when cultivating, they might not even come close to the complications of breaking through to the Seventh Order.

"Could it be the Star Origin Lord..." Yang Taihe was catching his breath as he continued, "... In that case, the cultivation level of the mysterious Star Origin Lord who established Star Origin City can basically be confirmed. Our guess that the Star Origin Lord is a mere high-level True Immortal, or might have already died, should no longer be valid. He has to be in the Seventh Order, and an expert at that level probably has an extremely long lifespan."

Lu Wuzi muttered instinctively, "In that case, could the disappearance of the Land of Star Origin be related to the Star Origin Lord?"

Zhang Xuansheng shot a cold glance at Lu Wuzi and muttered, "He doesn't have to do that himself. It's a special ability of the secret region."

Yang Taihe added, "What we can be sure of is that the Land of Star Origin. No, we'll refer to it as the Star Origin Dao Field from now on... They definitely ran into some trouble. However, we can be sure that the Star Origin Lord wasn't involved in it. If a Seventh Order expert took action personally, would there be a need to hide the Dao Field? Do you think anyone is stupid enough to mess around in the territory of a Seventh Order expert when they're present?"

He quickly continued, "From what I can infer, the Star Origin Lord, a Seventh Order expert, definitely exists. However, something might have happened to him and it's impossible for him to control the situation at the moment, causing the Star Origin Dao Field to hide itself in the void and cut off all connection to the various worlds."

Shang Xia, who had been silent the entire time, finally spoke, "What does anything all of you are saying now have to do with the disturbance outside the Spirit Abundance World?"

Chapter 1159: Power of the Stars?

Actually, the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World's attitude towards Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue was a little contradictory.

As Free True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World, their growth was just too damn fast. It was so quick that the other True Immortals were unable to keep up.

As such, as long as anything happened in the vast sea of stars, they would have to be deployed to deal with the problem. Since the others couldn't help too much, they would have to yield a portion of benefits to the Tongyou Institution in order to enlist their help.

Also, most of what happened in recent years outside the Spirit Luxuriant World contained massive opportunities. As the people in charge of dealing with things like that, Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue would gain the most. Their cultivation would rise along with it, accelerating their growth even more.

The other Free True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World had combat strength at the peak of the first tier of the Martial Void Realm at best, and even if they wanted to help, they would usually find themselves too weak to face off against their enemies.

It was basically a cycle where Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue would have to be sent out to deal with issues in the vast sea of stars, which would allow them to grow stronger, and be required to deal with even more problems.

A great example would be what was happening at the moment. Just to make Shang Xia head over to the space around the Spirit Abundance World, Yang Taihe and Zhang Xuansheng, the other True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World with superior cultivation levels, had to give Shang Xia some information as a form of payment for his services.

Shang Xia might have gained some knowledge on the Star Origin Dao Field from Xin Lu and some other sources, and might know more than Yang Taihe and Zhang Xuangsheng about certain matters, the heritage of the Eternal Palace and the Northern Sea Mystic Sect wasn't a joke. Xin Lu might know a lot of information, but Shang Xia also managed to learn a lot from the True Immortals of the powerful factions that lasted for close to 1000 years.

Secrets of a Dao Field and information like that would most likely be kept secret by many factions, but they were all revealed at that moment.

Fortunately for them, Shang Xia was truly interested in heading over to take a look. He was distracted earlier when he tried to process the information they revealed that was slightly more advanced than what he learned from Xin Lu, but even if they didn't say so much, he would have agreed to go.

Since Shang Xia had spoken, Yang Taihe, Zhang Xuansheng, and Li Jidao exchanged a look. Li Jidao eventually said, "The Star Origin Dao Field barely hid itself in the void when such a violent exchange happened. It's not possible for there to be no connection between the 2 matters."

Zhang Xuansheng also added, "There was once the matter of the Azure Oddity World being split up by the various worlds, and Star Origin City used to serve as a common ground between the worlds to interact with one another. They provided a balance of power, but with their sudden disappearance and sealing of spatial tunnels, I'm afraid the conflict outside the Spirit Abundance World is merely

the first battle that signals the start of chaos. All our worlds might be drawn into a massive conflict soon, and when that happens, it isn't going to be easy for our Spirit Luxuriant World to stay out of it."

With them putting it like that, Shang Xia naturally didn't have a way to refuse... Not like he was planning to in the first place.

To be honest, when they heard from Yin Jingxu about the scale of the battle that most likely consisted of high-level True Immortals, there wasn't really an option any longer. Huang Jinghan had to continue monitoring the Spirit Faith World and the other worlds in the Star Beast Nest, Yin Jingxu didn't seem willing to take the risk... And there was no need to mention Lu Wuzi. Only Shang Xia had the qualifications to head over.

Before Shang Xia could say anything, a figure shrouded in starlight emerged above the heavenly screen and was quickly noticed by the True Immortals. He was an expert from the Heavenly Star Palace and he fell to his knees the moment he arrived.

Yin Jingxu's expression changed when he saw the person who arrived, and he raced over to help the cultivator up. At the same time, he shielded the member of his Heavenly Star Palace from the aura of the other True Immortals. He quickly asked, "What's going on?"

Yin Jingxu didn't set up any seals around them, and he clearly didn't plan to hide his conversation from the others.

Seeing the starlight around the cultivator who appeared, Shang Xia quickly made the connection with what he learned from Xin Lu about Stargazers. He immediately recognized the person who appeared as a rank four Stargazer!

Hearing Yin Jingxu's question, the cultivator who appeared hesitated slightly before muttering with fear, "Palace Master Yin, the region we have been observing experienced serious changes! Several celestial bodies were affected!"

With his eyes widening in shock, Yin Jingxu gasped, "Even the celestial bodies were affected?! What can cause something like that to happen?!"

The Stargazer who arrived forced a chuckle as he explained, "We suspect that a massive explosion happened there, causing space to fluctuate so much that it distorted what we can see."

Hearing that, Yin Jingxu turned to the rest and muttered, "That would mean that the battle grew even more intense for some reason..."

After Yin Jingxu spoke, a transmission flew over from the You Continent.

Shang Xia read its contents without a change in expression, and he lied without even batting an eyelid, "I informed Patriarch Kou about the situation earlier, but he just sent a transmission to let me know that he wouldn't be able to emerge from seclusion anytime soon as he's at a critical point in his cultivation."

"For True Immortal Kou to be able to progress so quickly, I'll have to congratulate him in advance." Yang Taihe praised. He didn't hide his admiration and envy when he spoke.

Shang Xia chuckled in response, “He probably hasn't reached the next stage yet, but he probably managed to solve a problem or two that had been bugging him...”

The other True Immortals were experienced old men. All of them revealed strange looks, and Lu Wuzi even glanced at Shang Xia suspiciously. After all, he knew that the Tongyou Institution had its own Star Observatory.

Naturally, the transmission Shang Xia received earlier didn't come from Kou Chongxue. Instead, it was something Yan Ming sent on Xin Lu's behalf. The information it contained was pretty much whatever the Heavenly Star Palace's Stargazer said.

After carefully keeping the transmission, Shang Xia looked at Yang Taihe and the others and smiled, “Since that's the case, I'll head out right now.”

Once the words left his lips, he tore through the void in the direction Yin Jingxu pointed out. Even though he seemed to be moving in accordance with the directions Yin Jingxu provided, he had a pretty good idea of where he was headed.

After Shang Xia left, the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World didn't disperse immediately. Instead, they remained above the heavenly screen.

Liu Jingsheng chuckled in a strange voice, “Palace Master Yin, why don't you head over to have a look as well? After all, other than those 2 from the You Continent, you're the only one who can travel across the vast sea of stars freely.”

Liu Jingsheng basically ignored Lu Wuzi's existence entirely. However, Lu Wuzi didn't seem to care at all. He didn't argue either, and it almost seemed like the 2 of them had rehearsed the entire thing.

Yin Jingxu forced a smile in response. “The disturbance is huge, and it looks extremely intense. The people who are observing the situation will definitely not be limited to our Spirit Luxuriant World. Perhaps, countless high-level experts have already rushed over to the region of space... With my weak cultivation, I shall not try to interfere with matters there.”

Liu Jingsheng laughed the next moment, “Palace Master Yin, from your aura, I can tell that your cultivation is comparable to my Junior Brother Huang. How can you say that you have weak cultivation?”

“True Immortal Liu, you're exaggerating...” Yin Jingxu coughed dryly in response.

With a smile on his face, Liu Jingsheng continued, “I'm not kidding... Palace Master Yin, you should know how strong you are... I heard that the Earth Star you relied on to advance to the Martial Void Realm has already been integrated into the Yi Continent. However... It has been a long time since you returned to the Yi Continent, right?”

After he spoke, Liu Jingsheng simply gestured to the other True Immortals that he was leaving before disappearing.

Lu Wuzi also turned around to leave for his Bing Continent.

Zhang Xuansheng and Li Jidao left soon after, and Yang Taihe who was last couldn't help but sigh softly. “Palace Master Yi, I think it's really time for you to head back to your Yi Continent to have a good look.”

After the other True Immortals left, Yin Jingxu stood frozen with a dark expression.

Naturally, Shang Xia didn't know what happened after he left, but even if he did, he might not care too much about it.

Ever since Yin Jingxu's advancement to the Marital Void Realm, things had been strange with the Star Observatory in the Jiao Continent.

As the Jiao Continent was where Kou Chongxue ascended to the Martial Void Realm, the Tongyou Institution had firm control over it. Moreover, with Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia's rapidly rising cultivation, their strength and influence grew along with it. No one would choose to mess with them as long as they could help it. As such, no matter what happened in the Star Observatory or the Heavenly Star Palace, no one would dare to back them up or bargain with the Tongyou Institution on their behalf.

It wasn't too difficult for Shang Xia to head over to the Spirit Abundance World, but if he needed to take a detour to go around it such that he wouldn't be discovered, he would need some time.

No matter what, Shang Xia had a trace of lingering fear in his heart whenever the Spirit Abundance World was involved in something.

After taking several detours in space, Shang Xia finally approached the approximate location where the disturbance was located. The spot was close to where he was ambushed by Wen Juxiang back then, as it was merely several hundred thousand miles away.

When Shang Xia closed in on his target, he could tell that the power of the stars had been drawn over.

The Crimson Soul Tablet thumped heavily in his sea of consciousness, as though trying to give him some sort of indication.

Well... Shang Xia didn't need its reminder. He could also tell that the region of space he was venturing into contained the power of stars he was familiar with!

Perhaps it was because Shang Xia was still far away from the source of the disturbance, but the purity of the power of stars around where he was was still pretty low, and it couldn't be compared to the power of the stars he absorbed when he was in the prison beneath the Star Observatory of Star Origin City.

However, that was more than enough to shock him. Also, because the Crimson Soul Tablet thumped once and stopped, Shang Xia knew that the power of the stars wasn't something it was too interested in. If it reacted even more intensely, he would have thought that an expert in the Seventh Order made a move!

The indication of the Crimson Soul Tablet might have given Shang Xia a good idea that a Seventh Order might not have personally descended to unleash their might, but the remnant energy in the area and what the Stargazers detected back then told Shang Xia that the battle was already of a certain scale.

While observing his surroundings, Shang Xia felt that the energy around him seemed rather familiar. After thinking for a short while, he realized that it was actually the power released when the Star Origin Guards deployed their battle formation!

Carefully examining it a little longer, Shang Xia finally found traces of differences. The battle formation deployed by Star Origin Guards used the power of starlight, but what was around him was actually the power of the stars! There was obviously a difference between the power of starlight and the power of the stars!

A thought popped into Shang Xia's mind when he observed his surroundings. He couldn't help but think back to the secret Formation Talisman he crafted for Tong Yutang.

Whatever it was, with such a huge disturbance, god knew how many experts from the other worlds had already gathered and hidden themselves in the void.

Shang Xia wondered if the disturbance drew over Wen Juxiang and if his appearance had caught the attention of even stronger experts who arrived.

... Without warning, alarm bells started ringing in Shang Xia's mind.

Chapter 1160: Hunter and the Hunted

In the void more than a million miles north of the Spirit Abundance World, the intense battle seemed to have been going on for some time.

When Shang Xia arrived, he could see twisted starlight in the distance and massive spots where space was shattered. He could tell that there were many True Immortals involved, and there were most likely high-level True Immortals involved.

Making his way over earlier, he had already concealed his aura and his presence the best he could.

He could also tell that there were many True Immortals hidden in the void, where he arrived. He could even tell that many of them discovered him.

Even if they could learn of his arrival, Shang Xia felt that there shouldn't be any of them who could tell who he was.

Of course... Life never went as smoothly as one would want it to. There was someone who proved him wrong!

When Shang Xia was staring at the twisted space in front of him while trying to figure out traces of what was happening to confirm what they discovered in the Star Observatory, a bad premonition filled his mind.

Wen Juxiang!

Shang Xia seemed to realize who was causing him to feel a sense of unease, but he wasn't exactly flustered by the discovery.

He already expected that asshole to be in the area, but he also realized that Wen Juxiang might have some sort of strange special art that could allow him to discover Shang Xia as long as they were close to each other.

As the area that was affected was massive, there were many people hiding all around. However, Shang Xia was confident that there wouldn't be anyone who would be able to learn of his identity otherwise, especially with the powerful spatial fluctuations around him.

The closer he got to the center, the more difficult it would be for anyone to discover him.

No wonder he's a high-level True Immortal from an Essence World...

Shang Xia sighed softly to himself, but he didn't turn to run immediately. Instead, he started to travel along the border of the powerful spatial disturbance in the opposite direction he felt Wen Juxiang's killing intent.

Shang Xia made another Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman, and he would be able to use it when escaping, but he used it once against Wen Juxiang. He didn't know if the opponent would have made preparations against it.

After all, Wen Juxiang came from an Essence World... Who knew how many special inheritances or secret arts he had?

Other than trying to probe out Wen Juxiang's attitude, he was also trying to see if the high-level True Immortal would be holding back for fear of being the trigger to the chaos that would erupt.

Of course, Shang Xia also had another goal. He was trying to examine the region around him while closing in on the disturbance. There was a strange feeling about the twisted starlight around him.

Wen Juxiang's killing intent seemed to follow him and it quickly became clear the high-level True Immortal was able to track him down accurately.

Calculating the distance silently in his heart, Shang Xia was in no rush to escape immediately. He simply continued slowly entering the depths of the region that was affected by the disturbance while flying in a huge circle.

If anyone carefully observed Shang Xia as he got closer, they would notice that the starlight around him had formed a vortex that led straight to his body. It was being swallowed endlessly.

Wen Juxiang and Shang Xia's movements were eventually discovered by the rest, and the longer they played around, the more attention they drew.

Even though they had already concealed their identities and appearances, Wen Juxiang's aura at the fourth tier of the Marital Void Realm was eventually discovered.

Shang Xia, who was being pursued by the high-level True Immortal, hid his cultivation better. However, anyone who had the qualifications to be chased down by someone like that couldn't be any ordinary fool. Everyone quickly made the connection and could tell that he was no normal expert.

Even with the cover provided by the power of the stars, and the large-scale spatial disturbance, many cultivators started to pay attention to the duo who were chasing and running.

Wen Juxiang, who originally seemed concerned about the implications, retrieved a conical shaped bamboo hat and placed it on his head. He no longer flew slowly in pursuit of Shang Xia while traveling along the borders of the region of distorted space. Instead, he rushed straight for Shang Xia by cutting through the inner regions.

As he entered the depths of the region of distorted space, the starlight that gathered in the area made way as soon as he passed, and the fluctuating space around him stabilized immediately. The more he flew, the more worn out the bamboo hat became.

The distance between the 2 closed rapidly, and due to how deep he had gotten, Shang Xia could tell that even if he had the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman, activating it was going to be risky.

“Heh... I didn’t think that you would dare to come!” Wen Juxiang chuckled coldly when he noticed Shang Xia changing his trajectory suddenly as he tried to flee.

He still didn’t seem to notice the strangeness with the power of the stars around Shang Xia, and Shang Xia also severed the connection before Wen Juxiang got too close and discovered what he was doing.

Watching how Shang Xia had gotten further and was about to leave the borders of the distorted space and would reach a relatively calmer region of space where he could activate the strange talisman like last time, Wen Juxiang sneered, “Do you really think you will be able to escape again?”

After he spoke, he tossed a blazing golden orb into the void. It ignored the spatial fluctuations and sank into space, disappearing completely.

The next moment, Shang Xia felt the space around him becoming a lot thicker than before, as though he had fallen into a quagmire. Moving became difficult, and he slowed down a lot.

Fortunately, he managed to react quickly. He released his domain and it crashed against the strange space around him, immediately freeing him from the restrictions.

In the short amount of time it took for Shang Xia to counter the strange move Wen Juxiang used, the distance between them shortened again, and they got dangerously close.

“Let’s see where else you can go!” Wen Juxiang ignored the other experts hidden in the void and formed a seal with his hand. He pressed it into the void before him and the entire region around Shang Xia was blown into a chaotic mess by a powerful spatial wind.

Shang Xia’s figure distorted, and a talisman went along with it.

It was an Illusion Talisman, and the Shang Xia that was destroyed was merely an illusion! It wasn’t even a clone he made!

Wen Juxiang didn’t seem too surprised by the outcome, and he snorted coldly, “I knew you would play such tricks...”

After he spoke, he reached into his sleeves. The spatial wind scattered instantly, and it transformed into a massive storm that forced Shang Xia out of the void hundreds of miles away.

With the unnaturally strong disturbance, it stopped Shang Xia from using the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman.

Despite the mighty fluctuations, Wen Juxiang seemed unaffected as he traveled through the void to rush at Shang Xia. A giant seal appeared in the void as it transformed into a huge palm that came crashing down on Shang Xia.

The moment it smashed into Shang Xia, Wen Juxiang was confident he would be able to catch his opponent once and for all.

Of course... Shang Xia wouldn’t stand still and let him do as he wished.

...

The instant the spatial storm forced him out of hiding, he had already released his domain. It contained the power of destruction and it was able to fend off the fluctuations that arrived.

He stood unaffected in the midst of the powerful storm, but the price he had to pay was the consumption of his inner qi.

The situation didn't last for long as Wen Juxiang's palm imprint arrived. Shang Xia swung his Stone Rod without hesitation, releasing his second move of his Six Harmony Rod Technique, Starry Disorder!

What he shattered with it wasn't just the palm print that was crashing down. It also destroyed the spatial seal that the palm brought along with it. The spatial storm that attempted to lock him in place was also blown away.

From how things were looking, Wen Juxiang's objective became a little clearer. His motive for doing all of that might not be to capture Shang Xia. Instead, he was simply causing trouble for Shang Xia in order to waste his energy! After all, with the powerful storm he caused, Shang Xia had to exhaust his inner qi to counter the disturbance while also getting rid of his attack.

Wen Juxiang's fighting style was extremely practical. He had never been overconfident because of his origins from an Essence World. He was treating the battle carefully, and he would much rather exhaust Shang Xia through the use of his treasures than to face the third tier True Immortal!

Because of the lesson he learned when Shang Xia caught him by surprise the previous time, he was a lot more patient when dealing with his opponent!

Wen Juxiang looked like a prudent hunter, and he was admiring his work as his prey struggled slowly in his hands. He was waiting for the best time to deal the final blow after his opponent was exhausted and achieve victory.