

The Heavens 1161

Chapter 1161: It's Here!

Shang Xia looked like he was facing great danger as the space around him started to twist and fracture. It looked like he would be torn to shreds the next moment.

However, Shang Xia was the only one who knew that his situation was a lot less dangerous than it seemed. Other than the protection of his domain, a thin layer of starlight that only he could detect surrounded him.

The power of the stars he absorbed earlier was released after it was processed by the Crimson Soul Tablet, and it was even more useful than his inner qi.

Even though he could only use a tiny portion of it, he could ensure that the spatial fluctuations wouldn't affect him.

Wen Juxiang had the impression that even if Shang Xia managed to deal with everything he had thrown, he would lose a layer of skin even if he wasn't seriously injured. At the very least, he felt that Shang Xia's inner qi would be exhausted. When that happened, he would be able to easily deal with his target, and his scheme would be completed with perfection.

Seeing how Shang Xia was swallowed by the spatial storm he created, Wen Juxiang eventually realized what was happening. Not only was Shang Xia not showing signs of injury or exhaustion, he was traveling further and further.

He's still trying to make use of the situation to escape?!

Wen Juxiang harrumphed coldly and he tapped the bamboo hat on his head. He once again rushed into the spatial fluctuations in pursuit.

Since Wen Juxiang caused such a massive disturbance, the hidden experts in the region had already retreated. As he raced after Shang Xia, he reappeared thousands of miles away after he finally crossed the region of space he stirred up.

With the bamboo hat, Wen Juxiang crossed tens of thousands of miles in the void while chasing after the fleeing Shang Xia.

By the time he closed in again, there were no longer any cultivators nearby. They had also run so far that they couldn't be seen by the others.

"Are you still planning on fleeing?! It's not that easy!" Forming a hand seal with both hands, Wen Juxiang created a giant palm print that came crashing down from above. It attempted to fully suppress Shang Xia again.

At that moment, Shang Xia was still trapped in the spatial storm, and he failed to struggle free.

Naturally, Shang Xia wasn't going to sit still and wait for himself to be killed. He swung his Stone Rod after imbuing it with his inner qi.

Rumble...

A giant wave burst forth from the spatial storm as massive patches of space were crushed. Shang Xia took the chance to race out from behind the wave as he attempted to flee.

He unleashed his third move of his Six Harmony Rod Technique, Void Emptiness!

As someone who had suffered at the hands of the move before, how could Wen Juxiang not be prepared for it?

Along with a soft chuckle, a powerful frost intent arrived.

The moment it came, Shang Xia understood that he had fallen for Wen Juxiang's trap!

No one knew when, but Wen Juxiang was holding a tiny silver-gray hammer. He swung it directly at the incoming attack, and it disappeared into the void before reappearing above Shang Xia.

The hammer was a divine artifact, but it was a high-level divine artifact! Its quality even surpassed Kou Chongxue's Hidden Frost Sword!

The strength of a fourth tier True Immortal who had reached the level of Dao Harmony was completely unleashed. Shang Xia might have reached the level of External Unity, but his domain was shattered instantly by the hammer.

It continued to fall, and without his domain to protect him, Shang Xia knew that if the hammer really landed on his head, it would be crushed into bits!

The giant palm that was created by Wen Juxiang's hand seals were also pressing closer with each passing moment.

Even though they had been pierced by the Stone Rod, the power it contained wasn't really weakened as only a single point had been blown through. It closed up suddenly and locked the Stone Rod in place, forcing him to be unable to pull his weapon back to deal with the hammer.

Shang Xia also wasn't someone who relied on his Stone Rod completely. However, he knew that his other techniques or weapons wouldn't allow him to stop the hammer.

At the very last moment when the hammer was about to land, Shang Xia made an interesting choice. Rather than trying to run in different directions, he descended with great speed!

Swoosh...

He moved so quickly that several spatial waves were created.

The hammer continued to fall and crushed those waves that were created, and very quickly, it started to run into spatial waves that were stained blood red.

At the same time, Wen Juxiang could feel Shang Xia's aura disappearing, and the strength contained in the Stone Rod scattered.

A burst of joy filled Wen Juxiang's heart. From what he could see, Shang Xia definitely suffered heavy injuries. Since the space around him was also extremely chaotic, he felt that it was a matter of time before Shang Xia was swallowed and killed.

Of course, what made him the happiest was that he would be able to obtain the Stone Rod.

That was a Holy Artifact they were talking about!

It was a Heavenly Supporting Jade Pillar and using it as a mere weapon was a colossal waste of resources! Also, even if Wen Juxiang was from an Essence World, a Holy Artifact was equally valuable.

Actually, when Shang Xia escaped from him back then, Wen Juxiang had already been thinking about the weapon. He thought of many plans to get his hands on it, and a good reason he was dealing with Shang Xia was because he wanted it.

Grabbing the Stone Rod, Wen Juxiang sank his Void Origin into it in an attempt to wipe away Shang Xia's soul imprint. However, he caught a glance of faint starlight gathering above him.

Slightly taken aback, he turned to look at the large region of space that experienced the disturbance. He saw dense rays of starlight emerging rapidly.

"The power of the stars is leaking... Did something happen to their encirclement?!" Wen Juxiang frowned. He tried to strengthen his control over the Stone Rod as he emerged from the chaotic space that was created during his battle with Shang Xia.

The starlight around him seemed to be attracted by something, and the rays that came from the depths of the void started to gather under him.

Without panicking, Wen Juxiang continued to focus on the Stone Rod as he wanted to take the Holy Artifact away.

As more and more starlight gathered, they started to turn into a giant vortex that disrupted Wen Juxiang's divine soul.

Could it actually be...

Feeling as though something was amiss, Wen Juxiang finally turned his attention away from the Stone Rod. He retrieved his hammer and tried to scatter the vortex beneath his feet.

However... The moment the hammer entered the vortex, a strange tablet that seemed to be created with starlight appeared and crashed against it.

Bang!

As starlight scattered everywhere, a crisp blast caused everything to come to a standstill.

Chapter 1162: Deciding a Victor

With the successful projection of half a mighty tablet, Wen Juxiang's hammer was stopped and everything around seemed to freeze.

Even the spatial waves that formed were stuck in place, and the only thing that moved was the starlight that scattered from the collision.

Wen Juxiang's thoughts also seemed frozen at the moment, and the Stone Rod he had been trying to suppress and get his hands on also stopped moving.

A short moment had passed, and Wen Juxiang blinked once before everything returned to normal.

The spatial current continued to flow again after freezing initially, and space resumed its motion.

The starlight that emerged dissipated, and the tablet that appeared from the vortex seemed like it never existed in the first place.

When the hammer returned, Wen Juxiang's expression changed drastically. He felt a surge of energy return to his body, causing a massive backlash. He spat blood and he felt a lot more confused.

What in the world happened?!

Instinctively, Wen Juxiang inspected the hammer he just grabbed and noticed that it was covered in cracks.

The high-grade divine weapon was actually damaged!

Before he could feel even more heartache, he spat another mouthful of blood.

However... That wasn't the end. Along with the sound of rapidly rushing water, an arm tore through the spatial current that had formed before grabbing onto the other end of the Stone Rod!

With Wen Juxiang being heavily injured, how could he continue to suppress the Stone Rod? Not to mention the fact that he hadn't even made sense of what just happened...

The unknown was the scariest, and Wen Juxiang was starting to feel frightened.

Giving up on the weapon decisively, he quickly pulled away from it. Making a quick decision, he chose to run away.

Shang Xia regained control of his weapon, and he rose above the spatial current that swallowed him earlier. Despite regaining control of the battle, his pale face and ragged breaths proved that his injuries weren't as light as they seemed, and he was in a pretty sorry state.

Even so... Shang Xia didn't hesitate as he swung the Stone Rod in his hand at the fleeing Wen Juxiang!

He unleashed the third move of his Six Harmony Rod Technique, Void Emptiness!

It was a move that specialized in tearing through a Martial Void Realm expert's domain, but his strike looked completely different from when he used it previously. The surface of the Stone Rod was covered in a layer of faint starlight as it went smashing straight for Wen Juxiang.

"It's you!" Wen Juxiang roared in fright when he saw the layer of starlight around the rod. He made the connection between the starlight he was seeing and how he suffered earlier.

However... He didn't have the energy to think about what just happened, about how Shang Xia was able to make use of starlight, or if the power of the stars was attracted to Shang Xia by itself. Void Emptiness, Shang Xia's third move in his Six Harmony Rod Technique, had arrived!

Wen Juxiang's domain was instantly torn through by the move, and he quickly formed a hand seal before slapping it into the void with him as he poured his inner qi into it frantically. A giant palm condensed around him and pushed against the incoming Stone Rod.

Screech...

A piercing sound that was extremely hard on the ears rang through the space as Wen Juxiang continued to pour his inner qi and the power of his Void Origin into his defense. Even though he suffered heavy injuries from the backlash of his hammer smashing into the unknown item that appeared out of nowhere earlier, he still had enough energy to desperately resist Shang Xia's third move.

Unfortunately, he was unable to stop the Stone Rod's advance.

Seeing as it was about to land on his chest, he could only use the small hammer once again. With no other choice, he swung it at the rod.

Bang!

Another crisp explosion rang through the void, but this time, the power that froze everything didn't emerge.

Wen Juxiang's mind buzzed, and a strong sense of dizziness caused him to tumble through the void.

When he finally regained his senses, he noticed the cracks on the hammer growing longer and wider, and the damage had already affected the artifact spirit.

Fortunately for him, Wen Juxiang's desperate defense stopped Shang Xia's Stone Rod from slamming into his body. Shang Xia had no choice but to pull his weapon back.

However... For him to finally gain the upper hand, how could Shang Xia let a powerful enemy like Wen Juxiang leave as he wished? Even if he wasn't in the best of conditions, he forced himself to struggle free of the spatial current to continue his assault. What better chance to beat up a piece of shit who had been plotting against him, and was a high-level True Immortal to boot?

When Shang Xia freed himself from the annoying spatial current, the region of disrupted space he went to inspect that was initially dark started to emit brilliant rays of light.

Turning around, he noticed starlight filling the region hundreds of thousands of miles from the disrupted space. The power of the stars that was infused in them spread across space and intense spatial fluctuations burst forth!

It seemed as though the region of disrupted space was finally open as the battle between god knew how many True Immortals had finally come to an end.

Even though Shang Xia guessed what was going on, he was hundreds of thousands of miles away and due to the intense twisting of space, he was unable to learn what happened.

His reactions were quick, but they weren't fast enough. By the time he turned back, Wen Juxiang was nowhere to be seen.

Shang Xia knew that even if he was fully engaged in the battle, he might still not be able to slay Wen Juxiang. After all, the man was a high-level True Immortal from an Essence World. However, he was still feeling a little reluctant to let the enemy escape.

Sighing to himself, Shang Xia stared at a certain spot in space before taking his leave.

After the powerful starlight hundreds of thousands of miles away dissipated, the spatial fluctuations didn't disappear along with it. Instead, it started to grow even more intense and Shang Xia who was so far away could clearly feel the disturbance.

When he spread his divine soul around to inspect the space around him, he discovered a spot that was completely calm. Even the most twisted of space couldn't affect it.

Taking several steps, Shagn Xia quickly approached the abnormally calm space. A strange smile appeared on his face as he reached into the void. A tattered bamboo hat emerged from the void with a single pull from Shang Xia.

One couldn't see how tattered and broken the bamboo hat looked. After all, Shang Xia personally witnessed its might! It allowed Wen Juxiang to travel through the void despite the powerful fluctuations all around him as it calmed the space around him no matter how violent it rocked.

... Even though Shang Xia was a little annoyed that he allowed Wen Juxiang to escape, he managed to get his hands on an amazing treasure like the bamboo hat. At the very least, he didn't leave empty-handed.

Chapter 1163: Zhuge Xiang?!

... Back in the region of disrupted space, the situation within was revealed after the starlight dissipated.

Only Shang Xia, who was hundreds of thousands of miles away at the moment, had no clue what was happening yet.

However, he could vaguely feel that what happened within the region of disrupted space was related to the power of the stars he drew over earlier.

Shang Xia couldn't be considered early when he arrived at the region of disrupted space, and he discovered many experts hidden in the void observing the battle when he arrived.

Due to the shroud of starlight around the region of distorted space when he arrived, he couldn't tell who was fighting within. When he tried kiting Wen Juxiang around the region of distorted space earlier, he was trying to absorb the power of the stars with the Crimson Soul Tablet.

Maybe it was because he was too careful earlier, and the energy was too concentrated, but not too much changed despite his absorption.

During the battle between Shang Xia and Wen Juxiang, Wen Juxiang seemed to wish to end the battle quickly when Shang Xia was swallowed by the spatial current. In order to live, Shang Xia no longer held back and he took the risk of activating the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness. Along with its activation, it managed to draw on the power of the stars hundreds of thousands of miles away!

Since he didn't hold anything back, the Crimson Soul Tablet's abilities were pushed to the limits of what Shang Xia could utilize. It drew over the power of the stars, confirming Shang Xia's guess. What happened in the prison beneath the Star Observatory in Star Origin City was probably not an illusion!

With the power of the stars, Shang Xia condensed a projection of half the Crimson Soul Tablet that stopped Wen Juxiang's attack!

Even though it was only half, it was able to not only blow Wen Juxiang's high-grade divine hammer away, it also caused great damage to it! The backlash also severely wounded the high-level True Immortal!

That was a projection of half the tablet!

Shang Xia wondered how powerful it would have been if he managed to create the projection of the entire tablet... Also... If he managed to go one step further and summon the tablet directly, he wondered how strong it would be.

Of course, it was still too soon to think about stuff like that. After all, creating a projection of half the tablet was already a stretch. Shang Xia couldn't gather enough power of the stars to conjure a phantom of the tablet.

... The battle with Wen Juxiang was a mere interlude to what he planned to achieve by exploring the region of distorted space, but with the bamboo hat that had the ability to calm the space around him, he became a little more confident in succeeding in what he was about to do.

Actually, the operation he was planning to do only involved learning about the identity of both parties who were fighting and the reason behind the battle.

Gathering the power of the stars was also one of his objectives, but that was merely a side quest compared to what he wanted to do.

The spatial current that was created from the battle between Wen Juxiang and himself started to fade, but it was still pretty choppy. In the past, Shang Xia wouldn't dare to take the risk of creating a spatial tunnel to rush back to the region of distorted space. However, he just obtained the bamboo hat and despite it being damaged, it would probably be enough to negate a lot of the risk related to his journey back.

As he made his way back, he didn't run into any dangers. The only thing that changed was that the tattered bamboo hat looked a lot more worn out when he was done.

It was an impressive treasure, but Shang Xia found it a shame as he didn't know how many more times he would be able to make use of it.

... His return attracted a lot of attention. After all, Wen Juxiang had been chasing him before, and those who noticed the hunt earlier saw that Wen Juxiang was a high-level True Immortal.

Although they couldn't tell who Shang Xia was, they discovered his true cultivation realm during the battle earlier. A battle between a fourth tier True Immortal and a third tier True Immortal was extremely eye-catching.

The disturbance Shang Xia created when he summoned the projection of half the Crimson Soul Tablet was also massive.

The reappearance of the third tier True Immortal shocked the experts observing the battle. Since the higher-level expert didn't reappear, that would mean that the weaker cultivator managed to gain victory over a stronger opponent, and it was difficult to not notice something like that!

Fortunately, Shang Xia concealed his appearance from start to end. They were able to tell his cultivation level, but they didn't know who he was.

... After getting over their initial shock, everyone quickly turned their attention away. They could no longer be bothered with Shang Xia's identity as those within the region of distorted space were revealed.

"It... It's actually Liu Yunzi from the Spirit Mammoth World! That's a talented third tier True Immortal..."

“That’s Luo Yizi, a second tier True Immortal from the Spirit Mammoth World too!”

“Wait... There’s actually another second tier True Immortal from the Spirit Tinkle World!”

“Hurry and look at that. It’s Xiong Chunyang, the Distant Exertion King from the Spirit Abundance World! He’s also a powerful third tier True Immortal!”

“None of them have a cultivation level below the second tier!”

“No... There’s another person there that seems unfamiliar. Which world is he from? Anyway, his cultivation at the first tier can’t be faked...”

“Haven’t you noticed?! The Star Robes on that first tier True Immortal is different from the others.”

“Star Robes?! They’re actually wearing Star Robes! However, the Star Robes they have on seem different from the Star Origin Guards. Only the Star Robes on the first tier True Immortal look real.”

“Hehehe... The first tier True Immortal should be the newly ascended True Immortal in the Star Origin Guards, Xing Xingtian! Obviously his Star Robes is real!”

“Would that mean that the other Star Robes are created through imitation?”

“Ssssss.... Things are getting complicated. From the looks of it, they’re using the battle formation of the Star Origin Guards, and the 5 True Immortals aren’t nameless nobodies from their worlds! Actually, any one of them there has the qualifications to represent their world...”

“Who the hell can they be teaming up against?”

Actually, the final question was the only thing they were concerned about.

“Oh yeah... Shouldn’t there be 7 people in the battle formation? Why are there only 6 of them?”

Everyone fell silent after hearing the sudden question. They turned to look at the only trace of starlight left in the battle, and the 2 people locked in combat should be the true experts. The second and third tier True Immortals who were revealed seemed to be mere helpers!

That would mean that there were 7 True Immortals who deployed the battle formation, and they were fighting a mysterious expert whose cultivation realm eclipsed them completely!

Who the hell can they be fighting?!

Who has the ability to challenge the battle formation created by 7 True Immortals whose cultivation realm averaged out in the second tier Martial Void Realm?

Even though everyone still seemed confused, Shang Xia seemed to already have an answer.

Chapter 1164: Starfire Refinement

Shang Xia didn't think that his act of activating the Crimson Soul Tablet and drawing over the power of the stars would affect the overall situation to such an extent.

However, after the starlight dissipated and the identities of those fighting within the region of distorted space were revealed, Shang Xia already determined the identities of the last 2 experts shrouded in starlight.

On one side were Xing Xingtian, 5 experts from the Spirit Mammoth World, Spirit Abundance World, and the Spirit Tinkle World, and the last person should be Starry Pavilion Master, Tong Yutang!

There was no doubt they were fighting Zhuge Xiang, the Star Origin Guards Captain! After all, he was the only person Shang Xia knew they would target and would be able to withstand their combined assault.

He could also guess the reason behind the attack. Tong Yutang wanted to replace Zhuge Xiang as the Star Origin Guards Commander.

For Tong Yutang to be able to gather such an impressive force meant that obtaining the position of the Star Origin Guards Captain wasn't the only objective. There had to be even more hidden goals and extensive motivation behind the attack.

Despite all of that, what Shang Xia really wanted to know was the reason behind their daring betrayal despite the creator of the Star Origin Dao Field, a Seventh Order expert!

No matter what, Zhuge Xiang's identity as the Star Origin Guards captain was something the Star Origin Lord supported. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to take up the position in the first place!

Shang Xia was appalled that Tong Yutang and the others would dare to work together to scheme against Zhuge Xiang.

Aren't they afraid of the Star Origin Lord's retaliation?

What Shang Xia didn't know was that his interference caused the starlight shroud around them to disappear and caught everyone involved by surprise. They wanted nothing more than to tear the fucker who exposed their acts to the world to shreds!

What Shang Xia did basically exposed their interference in matters related to the inner workings of the Star Origin Guards! Even if they succeeded, it would be a massive bomb waiting to erupt in the future. There was also the issue of the Star Origin Lord, and despite numerous rumors going around, no one had seen it for themselves.

When the high-level experts hidden in the void were guessing the identities of the final 2, Shang Xia had already started thinking of how he should take advantage of the current situation to gain the greatest benefits for the Tongyou Institution and the Spirit Luxuriant World.

Shang Xia continued to travel around the border of the region of distorted space, and he hid his tracks to the best of his abilities. He changed his position constantly to confuse anyone paying attention to him, and he slowly drew closer to the battle. At the same time, he looked for the best opportunity to join in the clash.

Be it Tong Yutang's party of 7 obtaining the victory or Zhuge Xiang escaping from the encirclement, everything would affect how the Spirit Luxuriant World would deal with the aftermath.

As for Zhuge Xiang turning the tables and killing his opponents... Shang Xia felt that there wasn't even a need to think about that possibility. Unless the Star Origin Lord appeared, there was no way to turn the situation around!

Well... If the Star Origin Lord could appear, none of that would be happening in the first place.

Actually, for Zhuge Xiang to be able to hold out against the battle formation formed with 1 fourth tier True Immortal, 2 third tier True Immortals, 3 second tier True Immortals, and 1 first tier True Immortal, was something Shang Xia didn't expect.

Even when the entire region was shrouded by the power of the stars, none of their combat abilities would be affected. In fact, all of them should have their abilities boosted by 30 percent or so.

At that moment, Shang Xia wasn't the only expert circling the battlefield.

It was impossible for the movements of so many True Immortals to be hidden from those involved. They quickly detected many hidden experts hidden in the void and those 6 True Immortals who had already been exposed started to gather their strength again. Starlight was drawn over and they were quickly covered in it.

At the same time, the starlight that scattered earlier showed signs of returning.

When they were covered in starlight again, those 6 True Immortals rejoined the battlefield.

Since Shang Xia had been approaching the battlefield, he managed to examine the runes around the Star Robes that lit up as they absorbed the starlight that returned. He couldn't be more familiar with them. A good portion of them looked exactly like those he had created in his rank six Secret Formation Talismans for Tong Yutang.

As he examined the other runes that lit up, he noticed how many of them had connections he created.

There was no doubt about it. Of the True Immortals who took part in the battle, other than Xing Xingtian whose Star Robes belonged to the Star Origin Guards, the robes the others wore were treasures that had been replicated with the same effects. In fact, even Tong Yutang might be wearing fake Star Robes.

When Shang Xia was still surprised by his discovery, the battlefield in the distance started to transform once again.

With the help of the 6 who rejoined the battle, the central ball of starlight started to swell. When it reached a certain point, it started to ignite with brilliant Starfire.

Experienced True Immortals in the surroundings couldn't help but yelp in fright, "Starfire Refinement! It's said that when the battle formation of the Star Origin Guards reached the limit, Starfire would be produced. It was said that Starfire possessed the might of the Seventh Order and only the Star Origin Lord had the qualifications to display its might. We haven't seen a real Starfire Refinement in hundreds of years, but who would have thought that we would be able to see it again today?!"

Other True Immortals chuckled with schadenfreude, “The secrets of the Star Origin Guards have actually been displayed by several True Immortals not a part of them... hehehehe, after this battle, I believe the position of the Star Origin Guards is going to shift...”

Even with the various True Immortals conversing with each other, the moment the power of the stars became Starfire, Shang Xia’s Crimson Soul Tablet started to pulse once again. It even seemed like it was about to leap out of his sea of consciousness happily. It only meant one thing, and Shang Xia understood that Starfire was of higher quality than the power of the stars it had absorbed back then.

Squeezing his glabella, Shagn Xia quickly suppressed the tablet that felt like it was about to emerge.

He didn’t continue to advance closer to the battlefield. Instead, he started retreating despite the indication of the Crimson Soul Tablet to move closer. He retreated without hesitation.

What the fuck? Of course I’m not going closer. That’s the energy of the Seventh Order!

At the same time Shang Xia retreated, an enraged roar came from within the ball of flames. Even the restrictions that had been laid down failed to stop the soundwaves from emerging.

“Tong Yutang, you actually leaked the secrets of the Star Origin Guards to outsiders!”

Zhugue Xiang’s voice was recognized by all.

His enraged cry was the first sound to be produced during the battle, and it was a signal that the battle had reached a critical point. Both sides were not able to perfectly control their powers anymore.

From the angry cry that emerged, it seemed as though Zhugue Xiang was angrier that the secrets of the Star Origin Guards had been revealed compared to the betrayal he had received.

Also, Shang Xia’s guess was accurate and Tong Yutang was really the leader of the other group.

“Hmph. As long as the Star Origin Guards maintain control of the Star Robes, and I become the Guards Commander, how can you say that the secret leaked?” Tong Yutang’s voice also rang through the void.

Shang Xia was no stranger to the Pavilion Master’s voice.

“You colluded with outsiders, and the prestige of the Star Origin Guards would take a big hit regardless whether you succeed or not. Hmph, you won’t be able to maintain the reputation and image of the Star Origin Guards in the eyes of the various worlds... Even if you become the Guards Commander, how are you supposed to maintain your position?” Zhugue Xiang growled. Even though he seemed like he was asking the question, Shang Xia could hear the weakness and helplessness in his voice due to his inability to change the outcome of what was happening.

It seemed as though he was an arrow at the end of his flight!

Facing Zhugue Xiang’s question, Tong Yutang didn’t seem too concerned. He sneered nonchalantly, “The prestige of the Star Origin Guards never came from you in the first place. Our Star Origin City never relied on the strength and reputation of the Star Origin Guards to establish our might in the

various worlds. Everything stems from the Star Origin Lord! Zhuge Xiang, you took matters into your own hands and intentionally hid news of the Star Origin Guards and the Dao Field. You also severed the connection between the various worlds... What qualifications do you have to remain as the Guards Commander?"

"You did everything because of this?! Hah... Haha..." Zhuge Xiang's cold laughter rang through the void. "You know nothing... None of you know anything!"

Tong Yutang's enraged cry came next. "Of course we don't! You have been hiding everything from us, even news of the Star Origin Lord. You even tried to steal the lord's strength... Otherwise, how can you enter the level of Returning to the Origin to become a fifth tier True Immortal?!"

"Heh, you really don't know anything..." Zhuge Xiang said the same thing, but everyone could hear that he wasn't in the best of state.

"Zhuge Xiang, you should understand the concept of Starfire Refinement better than anyone else here. Hand over the Star Origin Lord Robe and I'll let you die with dignity." Tong Yutang roared. Even though victory was at hand, Tong Yutang still seemed to be concerned about the Star Origin Lord Robe on Zhuge Xiang.

With that, the saying that all Star Robes were equal seemed to be slightly contradictory.

However, that was also within expectations. After all, that was the robes worn by the Star Origin Lord. It didn't come as a surprise that it was of a higher quality than the rest.

Also, the Land of Star Origin had been established for close to 1000 years. The cultivation of every Guards Commander was in the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm or higher, and all of them would hold their posts for a hundred or so years. Moreover, with few opportunities for them to make a move, even members of the Star Origin Guards wouldn't know much about the special properties of the Star Origin Lord Robes.

"You don't know anything... None of you do!" Zhuge Xiang croaked, but he seemed to have caught a second wind as he regained his clarity the next moment. "I won't allow you to succeed! The Star Origin Lord Robe can never land in your hands!"

Shang Xia's consciousness jolted the next moment, and he seemed to realize that something was about to happen.

"You..." Tong Yutang was interrupted by the sudden change before he could say more.

In the middle of the ball of Starfire, a massive ball of light rushed out before soaring rapidly through the fragmented space while fleeing in a certain direction.

The True Immortals hidden in the void around the battlefield noticed a figure that was slowly turning more and more blurry as he rushed out from the ball of flames. It was the final desperate struggle of a True Immortal who was burning his Void Origin!

Chapter 1165: Star Origin Lord Robe

Paying the price of burning his Void Origin, the Star Origin Guards Commander, Zhuge Xiang, tore through the encirclement.

Because of what he did, everyone knew that his cultivation would be ruined, and his fate was pretty much sealed.

Also, everyone could see that before Zhuge Xiang was defeated by the battle formation comprised of Tong Yutang and the True Immortals of the other worlds, he had already suffered serious damage. He might have been ambushed when he was in seclusion, which led him to everything he said before he fled.

The only reason he was burning his Void Origin and escaping seemed to be fueled by his desire to not let the Star Origin Lord Robe fall into Tong Yutang's hands.

That was also the first time the True Immortals hidden in the void noticed that the robes he wore was a little more special than other Star Robes.

Zhuce Xiang would rather burn his Void Origin and destroy his soul than allow Tong Yutang to obtain the Star Origin Lord Robe, causing the Pavilion Master to feel an extreme sense of exasperation.

As Zhuge Xiang was about to escape, a large arm reached out from the ball of Starfire straight at Zhuge Xiang. When that was happening, the Starfire seemed to weaken as it eventually scattered. Tong Yutang, the Starry Pavilion Master, was revealed to the world for the very first time.

"All of you..." Xing Xingtian, the only other person clad in authentic Star Robes gasped in shock, rather than Tong Yutang.

Even though he was no longer covered in a layer of starlight, Tong Yutang wasn't surprised by the disappearance of the Starfire around him. The giant arm that reached out into the void also started to lose its energy and started to weaken, but Tong Yutang didn't allow it to fully disappear. It managed to catch the ball of light Zhuge Xiang transformed into while escaping.

The ball of light seemed to reach the end of its life... With a slight swipe from Tong Yutang's arm, it shattered and burst like a bubble. At the same time, countless treasures emerged.

At the same instant, a blurry figure emerged from the remains of the slowly scattering light. The figure was clad in robes that sparkled in the dark void, and he vanished into the void. By the time he reappeared, he was tens of thousands of miles away.

Although it escaped, the figure didn't look too good. It looked extremely faint, and it seemed to be Zhuge Xiang's clone.

The giant arm Tong Yutang created reached into the void and grabbed the treasures that scattered around, and he realized that the Star Origin Lord Robe wasn't a part of them. It seemed to have been brought away by the clone.

Failing to obtain the Star Origin Lord Robe, Tong Yutang finally started to hear the bickering of those behind him.

"... Apologies. Camp Commander Xing, regardless if you believe it or not, we have already exhausted our inner qi."

“... God knows how many of them are hiding in the void and watching us right now. Even if we wish to continue helping you, we can’t!”

“... Zhuge Xiang’s Void Origin has already collapsed. Only a mere clone managed to escape. Without his true body, how long do you think he can last?”

Tong Yutang turned around and their conversation ceased immediately.

“Pavilion Master...” Xing Xingtian, who seemed a little unresigned to accept their explanation, was stopped with a single gesture by Tong Yutang before he could say more.

“No matter what, I am extremely grateful for your help.” Tong Yutang cupped his fists towards the other 6.

Liu Yunzi, Xiong Chunyang, and the other True Immortals returned the gesture immediately. They also started to congratulate him for successfully becoming the Star Origin Guards Commander.

After they were done, the 5 True Immortals from the other worlds exchanged a glance before Xiong Chunyang eventually spoke, “Since Zhuge Xiang’s death is certain, Pavilion Master Tong... No, Commander Tong, I believe the promise you made...”

Tong Yutang maintained his composure and replied, “Of course the promise I made will still be effective. However, you will need to wait for me to regain control of Star Origin City before we can do anything.”

Liu Tianyu of the Heaven Embroidery Palace chuckled, “Commander Tong, if I’m being frank, you haven’t obtained the Star Origin Lord Robe. Are you sure you will be able to ensure the Star Origin Guards listen to your command?”

As if on cue, as soon as Liu Tianyu spoke, with the exception of Xing Xingtian, the imitated Star Robes on the others turned to ash and disappeared.

She paused for a second before she continued, “Look at that... They’re completely ruined.”

“If not for you guys...” Xing Xingtian couldn’t help but growl.

Tong Yutang stopped him before he could say more. “I have another Star Robe. Moreover... Since I was able to craft 7 of them, I will be able to make more in the future! As for the Star Origin Lord Robe... It concerns a portion of the secrets related to Star Origin City, but it’s not something I must have. It’s just going to be a little more annoying to deal with what comes next without it.”

Liu Yunzi asked, “That doesn’t seem right. Even if you have another robe, how long do you think you can use it for? We only fought a single battle before it was ruined.”

“True Immortal Liu, even though you’re not wrong, how long do you think it took for us to finally kill Zhuge Xiang? Not to mention the fact that we unleashed Starfire Refinement at the very end. The Star Robes I made are clearly of superior quality.” Tong Yutang laughed.

Liu Yunzi didn’t respond.

Seeing as the time was right, Tong Yutang quickly added, “The moment I take on the position as Guards Commander, how many times do you think I will have to personally take action?”

A moment later, no one knew what conclusion they reached, but the True Immortals of the various worlds who took part in the operation left contented.

After the 5 left, Xing Xingtian asked with a tinge of worry in his voice, “Guards Commander, those assholes clearly gave up at the very end to let Zhuge Xiang’s clone leave!”

Tong Yutang glanced at him with a profound gaze and mumbled, “Do you think I’m a fool? Do you really think I don’t know what they’re scheming?”

“Then...” Xing Xingtian frowned.

“It’s not time to tear off all pretense with them. If we are able to come into contact with the experts of the Essence Hong World and Essence Ming World, so can they!” Tong Yutang muttered.

Xing Xingtian gasped in shock. “How did they do it? All of them are truly sinister... They’re definitely backstabbers and we can’t trust any of them!”

Glancing at him, Tong Yutang sighed, “Do you really think that Liu Yunzi, Xiong Chunyang, and the others were the ones who looked for the True Immortals of the Essence Worlds? Heh, that’s where you’re wrong. The experts of those Essence Worlds probably went to look for them!”

“So that’s why they sound so cocky! They already reached a deal with the experts from the Essence Worlds... It’s just that... The Star Origin Lord Robe...” Xing Xingtian couldn’t help but lament.

Tong Yutang’s expression sank when he heard about the robe again. He arranged his thoughts for a moment before he spoke again, “I didn’t think that even after Zhuge Xiang was ambushed and fought for so many days, he would still be able to create a clone to run away with the Star Origin Lord Robe. It’s not something a fifth tier True Immortal should be able to do... He was probably only able to do it because of some secrets hidden in the robe.”

“Are we... Are we really not going to get it back?” Xing Xingtian quietly probed.

Shaking his head slowly, Tong Yutang sighed, “Relax. Not anyone can wear the Star Origin Lord Robe. It will eventually return to me.”

Xing Xingtian was still confused, but Tong Yutang didn’t bother explaining further. Instead, he quickly changed the topic. “We’re not done yet. There’s something else we need to handle, and we have to return to Star Origin City as soon as possible. The Star Origin Dao Field has been hidden in the void for so long, and even with our reserves, we might not be able to last for long. If we drag things out, we might cause irreversible damage to the Dao Field.”

Xing Xingtian’s expression of confusion changed to one of panic. “The secret passage in the Star Observatory only allows us to leave, we have to think of another way to return to the Dao Field!”

“Haha!” Tong Yutang burst out laughing the next moment. “There’s no need for so much trouble. Do you know what this is?”

He opened his palm to reveal a small cubic seal.

The treasure was something he obtained from the bunch of treasures that scattered in the void after he crushed the ball of light earlier.

A light flashed in Xing Xingtian's eyes. "Is this... Is this the Guards Commander Seal? Can it actually activate a passage that leads us directly into our camp?"

Tong Yutang glanced at Xing Xingtian, and muttered mysteriously, "No... It doesn't lead into the camp. It leads straight into the Star Origin Lord Manor!"

"Star Origin Lord... Manor?!" Xing Xingtian gasped in shock.

Naturally, Tong Yutang ignored his reaction and started to fly in the direction of the Dao Field.

Xing Xingtian was utterly confused. He knew that it had been long since Tong Yutang left the Star Origin Guards, but he couldn't understand how the new Guards Commander knew so much.

How does he already know about the secrets only the Guards Commander should be privy to?! Didn't he just obtain the position?

Tong Yutang clearly wouldn't discuss the problem with him. He had already entered his role as the Guards Commander and there might be some secret method where the knowledge had been transferred to him...

After Tong Yutang and Xing Xingtian left, the commotion in the region of space didn't disappear.

Instead, the True Immortals who had been hiding in the void started to grow rowdy after seeing how Zhuge Xiang sacrificed himself to send the clone away with the Star Origin Lord Robe. All of them raced after the clone, including Shang Xia.

After all, a clone wouldn't be able to last for long after the death of the true body. Zhuge Xiang's clone was no exception.

The clone traversed tens of thousands of miles before turning into a stream of silver light that sped deep into the void.

...

Shang Xia thought that he was the first person who reacted earlier to chase after the clone, but the moment he moved, he discovered 8 other experts within 1000 miles of himself.

All of them seemed to move in unison.

The clone managed to shake off 5 True Immortals after traversing tens of thousands of miles and the 3 remaining pursuers along with Shang Xia were in the second tier of the Marital Void Realm or higher.

When it turned into a streak of silver light that shot into the depths of space, Shang Xia also tore through the void to follow it. However, he felt another 4 foreign auras appearing all of a sudden. Shockingly enough, they were ahead of him and they seemed prepared to intercept the clone during its escape.

Clearly, everything that was happening was a premeditated scheme!

Shang Xia understood that something was wrong and he intentionally slowed down.

Of the 3 other True Immortals who were still giving chase, 2 gave up and turned around the instant they discovered the foreign True Immortals. There was only 1 last True Immortal who still had an interest in the silver streak along with Shang Xia, and both of them were in the third tier Martial Void Realm.

When Shang Xia was pondering whether he should go closer, he suddenly discovered a familiar aura among the foreign True Immortals who made their appearance at the very last second.

Wen Juxiang! It's that asshole again!

Chapter 1166: Hidden World?

Shang Xia was thinking if he should give up chasing the Star Origin Lord Robe, but he didn't think that he would discover Wen Juxiang's presence among those who appeared suddenly.

Wen Juxiang had been heavily injured by the projection of half the Crimson Soul Tablet earlier, and Shang Xia was sure he hadn't fully recovered.

Even under such circumstances, Wen Juxiang was still adamant about obtaining the Star Origin Lord Robe and that was enough to prove how special it was.

All the hesitation he felt disappeared, and Shang Xia made up his mind to obtain the Star Origin Lord Robe.

The reason was simple. Shang Xia and Wen Juxiang's grudge had reached a point where both sides had to kill each other in order to be satisfied, and there was also the matter of Wen Juxiang seeing the Crimson Soul Tablet.

The Crimson Soul Tablet's existence was the greatest secret Shang Xia had. Also... With Wen Juxiang heavily injured, it was Shang Xia's best chance to kill the man.

Due to their differences, after Shang Xia saw that Wen Juxiang was so interested in the Star Origin Lord Robe, there was no way he would allow his enemy to obtain something he desired.

Actually, there was another reason Shang Xia planned to mess with Wen Juxiang and that was because he simply didn't wish to leave yet.

With so many reasons to take action, Shang Xia naturally had to try killing Wen Juxiang.

Since Wen Juxiang had the Essence Hong World behind him, if Shang Xia missed his chance this time, he felt that any opportunity to kill Wen Juxiang in the future would be hard to come by.

After clearing his mind, Shang Xia didn't charge ahead like a fool. Instead, he concealed his aura and started to transform it slightly. He didn't wish to reveal his identity at that point in time.

Actually, of those who were chasing after the Star Origin Lord Robe, most of them did the same and concealed their auras.

As they raced further and further, the distance between the True Immortals got closer and closer. Shang Xia could clearly feel that other than the 2 closest to the Star Origin Lord Robe, the others were third tier True Immortals like himself.

As for those closest to the Star Origin Lord Robe, one of them was naturally Wen Juxiang, and the other was also a high-level True Immortal at the fourth tier. Shang Xia suspected that the other person was an expert from the Essence Ming World.

By that time, Shang Xia could already discover that even though the clone holding the Star Origin Lord Robe was still speeding up, be it Wen Juxiang or the other high-level True Immortal, both of them would be able to stop it if they were willing to make a move.

That was exactly what made him feel a little strange. Both of them didn't seem to have any intentions of stopping the clone, and they simply allowed it to continue flying through the void.

"No... They're not trying to obtain the Star Origin Lord Robe! They seem to be using it to look for something!" Shang Xia gasped to himself. At the moment of realization, he started to slow down.

He wasn't the only one who could tell what they were doing. The others quickly slowed down and there were even several third tier True Immortals who chose to give up rushing over to the clone.

The 6 third tier True Immortals who were flying behind Wen Juxiang and the other unknown high-level True Immortal relaxed their pace in unison.

In the blink of an eye, the group chasing the clone traveled hundreds of thousands of miles.

By that time, Shang Xia had a general gauge of the direction they were traveling and he noticed that they seemed to be flying towards the void north of the Spirit Abundance World.

It was where the frost wave that affected the Spirit Abundance World came from, and it was where a world was suspected to lay.

In an instant, information regarding the frost wave and the region of space filled Shang Xia's mind.

For the Star Origin Lord Robe to fly in that direction... Shang Xia refused to believe that everything was so coincidental.

Hmm... If it's really headed to the north of the Spirit Abundance World, that would mean...

Shang Xia started to circulate his inner qi and compacted the domain around himself. At the same time, a warm energy started to surround him and fill the area within his domain.

Almost the same time he completed his preparation, the space in front of the clone carrying the Star Origin Lord Robe started to transform. It seemed like a giant beast in the void had opened its jaws to swallow them into its pitch-black stomach. A powerful wave of frost energy also swallowed everyone present.

The clone was the first to be affected, but even though it looked extremely illusory like it would be destroyed the very next moment, a faint layer of starlight appeared around it before anyone else could react. It seemed unaffected by the frost wave as it continued to charge deeper into the void.

Wen Juxiang and the other high-level True Immortal flanked the clone and they also seemed to have made preparations for the sudden change.

As soon as the burst of frost energy emerged, Wen Juxiang held an umbrella in front of his body. Streams of frost energy were split apart in front of him, and he wasn't affected in the slightest.

The other fourth tier True Immortal from the Essence Ming World revealed a burning pearl that hovered above his head. With the protection of the light it emitted, he was also protected from the frost wave.

Clearly, both of them were already prepared. Even though they weren't affected by the frost wave, they were still forced to slow down to a certain extent.

Because of that, they were forced to lag behind a little, as the distance between them and Zhuge Xiang's clone increased by close to 100 miles. After all, Zhuge Xiang's clone wasn't affected by the frost wave in the slightest.

4 of the 6 third tier True Immortals who used to be 300 miles behind them were left even further behind because of the arrival of the frost wave.

Shang Xia, who managed to make his preparations, beforehand, managed to maintain his speed, and to his surprise, there was another third tier True Immortal who also made preparations. They flew at the same speed into the region of space.

As for the others... They were clearly caught off guard. The frost wave that emerged froze their domains, and their speed dropped greatly. They were left hundreds of miles behind Shang Xia and the other expert.

The moment it happened, Shang Xia placed his full attention onto the other third tier True Immortal beside him.

Even though the other party also concealed his aura, he released a powerful burst when the frost wave first arrived. It tore through the spatial currents that arrived, but it also allowed Shang Xia to learn of his identity. In fact, Shang Xia had a very deep impression of the other expert.

The burst happened for a split second, but Shang Xia could tell that the other expert belonged to Hua Jianlou of the Spirit Abundance World!

In the past, he was the expert who suppressed Kou Chongxue and Huang Jinghan even with the advantage of fighting close to their worlds. His domain was so powerful that even with Kou Chongxue and Huang Jinghan working hand in hand, they failed to struggle free from it.

Even though Shang Xia had reached a similar cultivation level, when he thought about the powerful sword art Hua Jianlou displayed in the battle above the Spirit Luxuriant World's heavenly screen, he didn't know if he would be able to defeat an expert like that.

It was then that the frost wave increased in intensity.

Since they experienced the effects it brought, the True Immortals who were chasing after the Star Origin Lord Robe reacted quickly.

The high-level True Immortals chasing after the clone managed to shorten the 100 mile distance to the clone once again, and they showed signs of approaching even closer.

Shang Xia could see that they were getting so close that if they wanted to, they could reach out to grab it.

However, that was clearly not a part of their plans. Instead, they followed quietly behind it.

Shang Xia suddenly noticed that if those high-level True Immortals really wanted to track the Star Origin Lord Robe, approaching it so closely might mean that they were about to reach their destination!

Shang Xia couldn't help but increase his speed in order to shorten the distance between them.

He also discovered that Hua Jianlou was thinking the same thing.

The True Immortals behind them might not know what was going on, but seeing how everyone in front of them was accelerating, they started to use everything in their power to speed up.

The next moment, the clone carrying the robe seemed to smash head-first into a pool of still water.

Large spatial ripples appeared in the void without warning, and with the arrival of the clone, a massive vortex seemed to take shape. It eventually turned into a spatial tunnel where boundless frost energy came from the other side.

Beautiful illusions lined the walls of the spatial tunnels and as soon as the clone carrying the robe rushed into it, it disappeared.

Soon after, the tunnel started to close and the beautiful illusions were destroyed by the powerful frost energy on the other side.

The high-level True Immortals from the Essence World who were in the lead, charged into those beautiful illusions without a second thought. Amidst the powerful explosions which sent countless ice shards flying everywhere, they entered the closing spatial tunnel.

Shang Xia didn't know if he was imagining things, but right before Wen Juxiang entered the tunnel, he saw the man shooting him with a look of provocation.

Wen Juxiang seemed to have already noticed him a long time ago.

Raising an eyebrow, Shang Xia continued to charge at the closing spatial tunnel right behind Wen Juxiang.

At almost the same moment, he noticed a powerful sword light rushing at him.

Shocked, he got rid of the void light beneath his feet and he tumbled uncontrollably through space. It took him a breath of time to regain his footing, but the sword light tore through the region of space he was originally in.

If he didn't react quickly enough, he would have been cut in half.

It was also in that short moment when Hua Jianlou passed him and entered the spatial tunnel before he could.

The sword qi continued and slammed into the closing spatial tunnel, and even though Hua Jianlou entered and the spatial tunnel didn't close, the region of space right in front of it was turned into a fragmented mess.

Chapter 1167: Endless World of Frost

Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief he didn't rush over too quickly. Otherwise, he might have fallen for Hua Jianlou's trap.

Also... The sword light summoned by Hua Jianlou was truly impressive. It managed to stir up the space before the spatial tunnel, turning it into a region of chaos. Clearly, he didn't wish for anyone to be able to rush in behind him.

Of course, it didn't matter if it was Wen Juxiang or Hua Jianlou. They both clearly underestimated Shang Xia.

What was more important was that Shang Xia gained yet another reason to continue the pursuit!

After Zhuge Xiang's clone entered the spatial tunnel earlier, the boundless frost energy that came from the other side caused the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness to thump violently.

It was a feeling different from anything he felt before. Instead, he felt a sense of familiarity from the energy coming from the other end of the spatial tunnel.

It wasn't like the power of the stars that was a pseudo-Seventh Order energy, and it wasn't anything like the power of Starfire Refinement. Instead, it was world origin that could excite the Crimson Soul Tablet.

Shang Xia once felt the presence of a spatial barrier when he was escaping from Wen Juxiang in the past with the use of the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman. That seemed to be the source of the world origin he was feeling.

He could tell that what lay on the other end of the spatial tunnel wasn't a mere secret region or anything comparable to that. Instead, it was a hidden world, and it was a world of a higher level than a Spirit World!

Since it had to be a world that surpassed a Spirit World, at the very least...

Information flooded his mind and Shang Xia's thoughts spun. He didn't have any doubts about it any longer. The thing that was hidden in the void north of the Spirit Abundance World that was causing the powerful frost waves had to be an Essence World!

The only question that remained was the relationship between the hidden Essence World and Star Origin City. After all, Zhuge Xiang's clone wouldn't be bringing the Star Origin Lord Robe to the hidden Essence World for nothing.

With the experts of the Essence Ming World and Essence Hong World knowing about the existence of the hidden Essence World... Shang Xia had tons of questions in his mind but no time to think about any of them.

If he continued to hesitate, he would lose his chance to enter the Essence World!

Even though it seemed like he discovered a lot of things in a short moment, it had only been several seconds since he was forced to stumble through the air by Hua Jianlou's sword qi.

The spatial tunnel was still emitting faint traces of light even though the space outside its entrance was affected. The beautiful illusions could still be seen through it, but the power of frost that emerged in the form of the frost wave didn't reduce in the slightest.

When Shang Xia passed through the region of fragmented space, a thick layer of frost appeared at the edge of his domain. Frost energy started to inch closer to him, and his domain showed signs of freezing up.

Having prepared for it a long time ago, Shang Xia started to circulate his inner qi. Warmth filled his domain and quickly forced the frost energy away.

The next second, he brought out the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman he crafted before head over and along with the spatial crack swallowing him up whenever he used it, the hidden Essence World was revealed. Forcing his way through the spatial barrier, he quickly entered the world.

In order to prevent any accidents from happening throughout the process, Shang Xia also wore the tattered bamboo hat.

Above the world that was completely frozen over, a pitch-black tear in space appeared without warning. A figure wearing a bamboo hat tumbled out and Shang Xia started free-falling into the world.

The wind whistled around him as the power of frost continued to reach into his body. It even showed signs that it could freeze his inner qi over.

Shang Xia tried to force the power of frost out of his body, and he also tried to stabilize himself and stop himself from falling. He felt a powerful sense of suppression which forced him to fall faster, and he felt that he was being completely rejected from the world. The inner qi in his body might not have been completely sealed off, but it was becoming difficult to circulate it. Every action he made needed ten times the effort!

Shang Xia was no stranger to the feeling. It was the World's Will suppression to cultivators not of their world.

The only thing was that the world he just arrived at was an Essence World, and everything he felt before was from Azure or Spirit Worlds. The suppression he felt in the past was nothing like what he was experiencing.

Even when Shang Xia stepped into the Spirit Abundance World or Spirit Faith World for the first time, he was able to accurately change his aura to fool the World's Will. He could easily pass himself off as a native cultivator, causing the World's Will suppression to be much weaker.

However, he discovered that his usual method of doing things wouldn't fly in the frozen world.

That was because he couldn't find anyone he could imitate, and as such, he would be unable to fool the World's Will into thinking that he was a part of them.

The whistling around him grew stronger and stronger, and Shang Xia was falling faster and faster. He was also getting closer to the ground rapidly.

What was even worse was that the power of frost was growing stronger and stronger. Not only was his body growing stiffer by the second, his inner qi was also slowing down considerably. Even his thoughts were frozen and his reaction time became a lot worse than before.

If nothing changed, Shang Xia was afraid he was going to crash directly into the ground below.

Even though a True Immortal had a sturdy body and falling from a height of thousands of miles might not be enough to kill him, that was only if he was in his peak condition. He already suffered heavy injuries after fighting with Wen Juxiang previously.

If he really slammed into the ground at the speed he was going, he was afraid his internal organs would shatter.

Fortunately, he never gave up. He forced his inner qi to continue circulating through his body according to the flow he developed through his Six Harmony Flawless Rod Technique and he continued to struggle free of the suppressive frosty qi.

Perhaps it was because it was activated due to Shang Xia's strong desire to prevent himself from falling, but the Crimson Soul Tablet became active once again. It started to thump hard, and Shang Xia felt it pulsating in his glabella. It was as though the tablet would emerge the next moment.

He instinctively raised his hand to punch his glabella, only to realize that he could finally move again!

He quickly adjusted his landing position and discovered that the power of frost that froze his body was gone. His inner qi was no longer moving slowly, and even his thoughts were a lot sharper than before.

He quickly turned his attention to the Crimson Soul Tablet, and it was precisely the strange treasure that absorbed the power of frost completely, allowing him to recover.

His inner qi quickly circulated around his body and his formless domain reemerged. He managed to find his footing and land properly on the surface of the world.

It was then that Shang Xia finally realized that the power of frost that existed everywhere in the world was constantly absorbed by the Crimson Soul Tablet.

The moment he landed, he didn't use his inner qi to support himself and he sank more than a foot into the ground. With the sudden change, he had no choice but to deploy his domain once again to keep the power of frost away from him while giving him the ability to move about in the strange new world.

However, with the activation of his domain, the consumption of inner qi would place a huge burden on him.

Shang Xia couldn't think of a better plan for the time being. Fortunately, with the Crimson Soul Tablet absorbing the power of frost, Shang Xia no longer experienced any part of himself freezing up.

Taking out several high-grade essence crystals from his sleeves to replenish his energy, Shang Xia could finally calm himself down enough to inspect the foreign world he was in.

Without a doubt, he was standing in a world that had frozen over.

Everything in front of him was a desert with nothing but ice. With the exception of several hills made of snow, it was basically a wasteland that stretched out to infinity.

The only issue was that when he tried to fly to look further into the horizon to see if there was anything different, he discovered a layer of strange mirage hovering above the frozen land that was created by strange light rays the earth emitted. It was as though they were twisting and turning across the endless ice.

That wasn't all. When Shang Xia's divine soul came into contact with the brilliant rays that came from the ice below, a sense of familiarity assaulted him. It also re-ignited the Crimson Soul Tablet's desire to devour energy.

"Is this... Is this the power of the stars?!"

No, it's something different!

Shang Xia even wondered if it was the power of Starfire Refinement like what Tong Yutang managed to achieve back then. However, after closer inspection, he discovered that that wasn't the case either.

However, be it the power of the stars or Starfire Refinement, they seemed to originate from the same source as the pretty lights that formed the mirage that hovered above the land.

Chapter 1168: Exposed Ice Layer

With the Crimson Soul Tablet absorbing the power of frost, Shang Xia was able to move about the world of frost however he liked.

Even though he was still feeling a sense of suppression that came from the rejection of the World's Will, he was no longer experiencing what happened when he first entered the world where he was nearly completely frozen over.

Of course, it wasn't exactly as though Shang Xia wouldn't face any problems. Even though the Crimson Soul Tablet was absorbing the power of frost at the moment, his inner qi was still being quickly used up.

That was because even though it was absorbing the power of the frost, it wasn't returning any energy it had devoured to Shang Xia.

Thankfully, Shang Xia seemed to have brought enough essence crystals with him. Even though he used many of them to lay down Five Element Spirit Gathering Formations, he could still last for a good amount of time with his stash.

Of course, he was also starting to think of ideas to get himself out of his current predicament. After all, using up all his resources and waiting to die didn't sound that great of a plan. Not to mention he used his only Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman to enter the world of frost and if he wished to leave, he would need to think of another way.

When he slowly lowered himself back to land, the mirage that he observed seemed to have disappeared.

He was slowly thinking of what he should do next.

The first thing he had to do was to find a way to start using the heaven and earth qi to replenish his reserves. After all, that was the key to him staying a longer time in the world.

Of course, if he could meet native experts of the world, he would be able to transform his inner qi to imitate theirs. That would cause the sense of suppression he felt to weaken greatly, and he would be in a much better position.

Secondly... He needed to look for the Star Origin Lord Robe. Since he entered the world of frost after chasing down the robe, it might be the key to him being able to leave.

As for Zhuge Xiang's clone... After it crashed into the world, everyone assumed that it had already been destroyed.

... When he finally solved both problems, he would be able to start examining the world of frost and learn its secrets.

One had to know that the world of frost was most definitely a world that stood above Spirit Worlds. The benefits and opportunities it might contain were difficult for anyone to judge, and Shang Xia knew that fact clearly. There was no way he would give it up so easily.

If he managed to accomplish everything he set out to do and if the stars continued to align, his final goal would be to also kill Wen Juxiang while he was at it. He also wished to challenge Hua Jianlou and experience his sword art.

He came up with a rough plan of what he wanted to do and he decided to see if there was an end to the endless frost desert.

Before all of that, he decided to dig down slightly to see how deep the layer of frost went. He also wished to see if there was actual earth beneath it.

In order to conserve inner qi the best he could, Shang Xia didn't use any special method. He simply brought out a shovel-like artifact and started to go ham on the ice beneath his feet.

Even without inner qi, the physique of a True Immortal was just too damn terrifying. Digging into the ground wasn't difficult when he started.

The first 3 feet of ice were dug out with ease, but everything below started to feel a little more compact. The deeper it went and the more compact the ice became, the easier it was for Shang Xia to dig out large chunks.

After digging 5 more feet, the ice became even denser. Without using any inner qi, Shang Xia was starting to find it hard to dig.

Brute forcing his way 3 more feet into the ground, the low-grade artifact that resembled the shovel scraped against the ice with a crisp dong and it merely made a mark without going any deeper. Since he wasn't using any inner qi, Shang Xia felt his hands going numb.

Raising the artifact, he noticed that the edge was already bent out of shape.

Standing on the tough ice, Shang Xia gasped in amazement that the ice actually managed to damage a low-grade artifact.

Taking out an even better artifact that resembled an axe, Shang Xia didn't use any inner qi as he slammed it into the ice below. Massive cracks started to form.

Along with several more blows, he managed to go down another foot. The power of frost started to rise slowly through the cracks.

Nearly jumping with excitement, Shang Xia continued to smash his way downwards.

Clang!

The axe eventually rebounded while leaving a huge crack in the ice below.

Ignoring the numbness in his hands, Shang Xia no longer cared about saving energy as he poured his inner qi into the axe before slamming it down again.

Crack...!

The ice that could take the force of the axe earlier was immediately shattered now that Shang Xia was using his inner qi.

Digging another 3 feet, the density of heaven and earth qi that emerged from below became a little denser. It might be related to the density of the layer of ice that grew as it went deeper, but Shang Xia felt that the ice he was digging through at the moment contained some special properties and could be considered a special spiritual treasure.

Even though he dug close to 20 feet into the ground, he showed no signs of giving up. He wanted to continue, and what he wanted most was to see what was contained in the ice below.

No longer saving his energy, Shang Xia's digging efficiency increased. The ice below grew harder and more compact, and every piece he dug out seemed to be of even higher quality. Of course, with the inner qi of a True Immortal imbued in his artifact, no matter how great the quality of the ice, it couldn't slow him down in the slightest.

1 foot... 2 feet... 5 feet... Only after Shang Xia heard a loud scrape again did he notice that even with his inner qi, the artifact he was holding couldn't go any deeper.

A strange look could be seen on his face as he stared at the ice beneath his feet. It was one of shock and confusion at the same time.

Through the light refracted through the layer of ice, Shang Xia could see that there were other rays of light wriggling about beneath his feet, and the tracks they left behind seemed similar to runes in a giant formation.

How can formation runes appear in the layers of ice?!

From how his axe was stopped earlier, Shang Xia could tell that the formations were still active.

His interest was greatly piqued, but he raised his guard at the same time. No matter how careful he wanted to be, he couldn't suppress the curiosity in his heart.

No longer using his axe, he pressed his hand directly on the layer of ice beneath his feet.

The power of frost that came from the ice directly in contact with his skin was much stronger than the power of frost in the air, but with the protection of the Crimson Soul Tablet, they couldn't affect him in the slightest.

Six Direction Qi started to gather in his palm before reaching into the depths of the ice below. Brilliant rays emerged from those runes that could be seen deep below. They started to glow with greater intensity, and they were clearly starting to react to foreign interference.

With Shang Xia's inner qi slowly corroding everything beneath his feet, a massive hole appeared in the formation below.

A burst of energy emerged from his palm once again and without the power of the formation solidifying the ice beneath his feet, it crumbled instantly and Shang Xia fell through several layers in an instant.

When Shang Xia got rid of the formation beneath his feet, he already prepared himself to fall. He quickly composed himself before scanning the vast space he appeared in after falling. The ice above him formed a giant dome and he started to fall into a vast region of hollowed out ice.

The sound of ice cracking when it shattered all over the ground could be heard, and the dense heaven and earth qi formed a white smog that gathered around the hole he created.

He felt powerful winds blowing against him as he descended as they were formed by the dense heaven and earth qi in the air. He started to circulate his Six Harmony Flawless Rod Technique in mid air while devouring all the energy he could to replenish his exhausted reserves.

Even though using heaven and earth qi was a slow process for a third tier True Immortal, the situation was still much better than not being able to recover.

At the very least, Shang Xia no longer had to carefully ration his inner qi for fear that he wouldn't be able to recover without the help of essence crystals.

Releasing his divine soul after stepping into the region of empty space, he was shocked.

There were actually signs of human activity in the giant hollowed out space in the ice below. Quickly regaining his composure, he couldn't wait to interact with them.

After all, as long as he interacted with native cultivators, he would be able to copy their inner qi and shake off the suppression the World's Will placed on him.

Unfortunately, he was disappointed when he landed on the ground below.

There were traces of human activity down there, but there was no trace of life no matter how hard he searched with his divine soul.

That wasn't all. The traces of human activity seemed obvious when he took a look at them, but it was probably because they were well-preserved by the ice that covered the land. Due to the special conditions, those traces of human activity might very well be ancient!

Chapter 1169: Origin Spring, Power of Frost, Power of the Stars

In the past, the giant dome in the ice was probably where a human settlement was. Something probably happened and everything was destroyed... It might even have been exterminated because of some outside force...

The space contained in the dome was massive, and it seemed to be created with the connection of multiple underground ice caves. Every single cave had its own formation that was operating with minimal power by absorbing the heaven and earth qi it could in the ground below.

When Shang Xia first arrived, he discovered that the area was actually a blessed land for cultivation and it wouldn't be too difficult to transform the dome into a Mysterious World for cultivation.

The dome seemed to be the main structure, while the many ice caves connected to it were split up carefully into many different regions. There were spiritual gardens, smeltery, places for cultivation, and others.

When Shang Xia strolled about in the dome, he could feel a faint wind that contained the power of frost. The entire underground structure didn't seem to be completely sealed off, and the wind could originate from a certain spot that contained running water...

Traveling along the source of the wind to attempt to find water, Shang Xia passed through several ice caves before encountering a passage that was blocked by collapsed debris.

As he made his way through the ice caves, Shang Xia noticed a lot of destruction and he couldn't help but deduce that it was the reason the ice cave was abandoned.

Looking at the half-buried passage, Shang Xia was wondering if he should blow it to look for the source of water when he discovered that everything turned unnaturally quiet.

The next moment, two loud thumps filled his ears and when he turned to look in the direction it came from, a trace of shock flashed in his eyes.

No longer caring about whether there would be flowing water past the blocked passage, Shang Xia seemed to have realized he missed something.

Raising his head to look at the dome, he discovered a faint starlight covering the thick layers of ice above.

Comparing the starlight to the mirage he had seen when he just arrived in the world of frost, Shang Xia could tell that the starlight he was looking at seemed a lot more gentle than what he had seen before. The power of frost in the dome contained faint traces of the power of the stars or the energy contained in Starfire Refinement. The only difference was that it was a lot more concealed.

If Shang Xia's attention wasn't drawn to finding the source of the wind, he might not have been able to discover the faint traces of the power of the stars all around him.

Like the power of frost, the power of the stars seemed extremely faint and it wasn't enough to restore all of Shang Xia's energy even if he made the Crimson Soul Tablet absorb it all.

Of course, it wasn't time for Shang Xia to care about all that. The two loud thumps that came from behind him clearly indicated that there was an unknown creature or object moving in his direction.

Is this a type of beast that lives in the world of frost?" Shang Xia mumbled to himself.

Even though he heard the loud thumps earlier that resembled footsteps, he discovered that he wasn't able to easily discover its presence if not for his powerful divine soul.

Just as Shang Xia was about to rush into another ice cave, 2 streams of frosty qi attacked him from 2 different directions from above.

"They have pretty chaotic extermination origins... Are they rank four spirit beasts?" Shang Xia thought to himself. Of course, his thought process didn't affect his ability to react to the sudden attack.

Even though he was feeling strong suppression from the World's Will, and he would only be able to display a portion of the effects with the same amount of effort, those were merely 2 rank four spirit beasts. They were struck by 2 lightning bolts Shang Xia released with a wave of his arm and they crashed into the massive ice walls in the distance. Along with the smell of burnt flesh, they convulsed and were unable to stand again.

Shang Xia looked at them and saw their strange appearance before muttering to himself, "What are they...?"

He frowned and stared at the creatures that looked like dogs but were at least 3 times larger than any dog he knew. There were also many ulcers on their body, and a good portion of their torso was covered in ice. The ice even looked like a strange set of transparent armor.

"Are they living creatures? Why do they look like frozen zombie dogs?" Shang Xia mumbled to himself before walking over to look at the creatures. He kicked the ice on

their body that resembled some sort of armor and discovered there were faint bloodied lines in them.

The layer of ice around their body not only fused with their flesh but it was also connected to their blood vessels or meridians...

Hmm... Blood vessels...

If blood was still flowing through them, Shang Xia felt that it would be a little inappropriate to call them zombie dogs.

He moved too hastily earlier and killed them off. Otherwise, he could examine them to see if their hearts were actually beating.

Well... If blood was flowing through their bodies, their hearts should be beating, right?!

Extermination qi quickly drained from the bodies of the 2 corpses as Shang Xia continued to inspect them.

Not only were the extermination qi that emerged extremely chaotic, but after Shang Xia casually split them apart by their characteristics, he discovered that they could be placed into 2 categories. The first was extermination qi of the frost attribute, while the other contained the power of the stars.

Shang Xia was no stranger to extermination qi that contained the power of the stars. The first time he saw it was when the Tongyou Institution first started cultivating their own Stargazers with the inheritance they obtained.

When Shang Xia first saw the world of frost, he experienced the power of frost it contained. However, he eventually noticed the faint power of the stars it contained, and that probably explained the reason behind the chaotic extermination qi in those strange creatures.

The only thing he didn't know was if the creatures managed to evolve into their current form because of the faint power of the stars or if there were other reasons behind it.

Following their tracks, Shang Xia quickly found where they came from.

He saw claw marks that had been left behind along the surface before looking up at the hole he created in the dome. He seemed to be the reason they came. However... Everything above was an endless wasteland of ice. Shang Xia didn't know where they were hiding when he first arrived.

Seems like the formation around the dome wasn't just to prevent the ice from collapsing above them... It's also to guard against the attacks of those beasts...

Shang Xia thought to himself and he wanted to follow their tracks to see where their nest was in order to gain a better understanding of the world, but just as he was about to leave, he turned to look at the blocked passage.

He wanted to see what was really contained behind it. After all, the collapse seemed to have been created by humans and the region that contained flowing water might contain the reason behind the destruction of the stronghold beneath the ice.

Since he was able to replenish his energy with the heaven and earth qi in the area, he wasn't exactly running on empty despite only being able to replenish a small portion of his reserves. Facing the blocked passage, Shang Xia no longer bothered acting like a mere mortal with a shovel as he forced

a path open with his inner qi. The passage that he opened up was just enough for him to travel through.

After walking several feet into the passage, Shang Xia felt his domain slamming into some sort of obstruction.

Runes flashed on the walls in the distance but because the ice wall at the end wasn't too thick, Shang Xia was able to see through it to see a cave that was sparkling with light.

That wasn't all. The ice wall didn't seem too strong and some spots on it had already been eaten away by some strange energy. The wind Shang Xia was feeling came from behind the wall.

Strangely enough, even though there were many spots on the wall that had been corroded, the formation still maintained its effects. Other than the wind that emerged from it, the formation blocked off everything in the outside world.

Of course, Shang Xia wouldn't let it stop him. He could also guess that there would be dangers hiding behind the wall... Otherwise, it wouldn't have been built.

Shang Xia was curious about the secrets hiding in the ice caves in the first place, and there wasn't even the slightest doubt in his mind that the dangers hiding behind the ice wall could threaten him.

Forcing his domain forward, it quickly ate away at the formation and the ice wall in its way.

It was then that powerful light started to swirl around the walls before forming words that started to line up in front of Shang Xia's vision. They eventually formed 3 complete sentences.

"External invasion and inner conflict... What else can we do?"

"Changes to the Origin Spring... We only hope we can stay alive in the chaos..."

"Members of the future generation, stay away from this place!"

After the sentences hovered in the air for some time, they started to scatter and they transformed back into runes along the ice wall.

Shang Xia narrowed his eyes as he thought about what he had just seen. He wasn't afraid of the implications of those words, but he was trying to deduce what happened for it to be written.

Thinking from the perspective of those who wrote it, they had to be inhabitants of the world of frost.

For them to be able to leave behind a word of warning for those who came later proved that not only did they learn the way of cultivation, but they also had an impressive knowledge of the art of formations.

As for the first sentence that had been left behind... Shang Xia wondered what type of invasion they faced, and what inner conflict they suffered.

Also, he didn't know if the invasion referred to their world being invaded or just their stronghold!

He had to think long and hard about the possibilities, but he was able to reach a conclusion after thinking about everything he experienced since entering the world of frost.

From the second he tumbled out of the spatial tear created by his Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman, Shang Xia detected 2 different types of energy contained in the world. The first was the

power of frost that was everywhere. The second was the power of the stars. Even though the power of the stars wasn't as widespread as it seemed, it still filled every nook and cranny of the world.

As for the second sentence... Shang Xia might not have seen what they meant by the Origin Spring, but he could guess that it experienced some sort of transformation. Which was probably caused by both the foreign invasion and the inner conflict...

Due to the changes in the Origin Spring, the members of the world were no longer able to live on it. From how they deployed a formation to stop the dome from tumbling and how they blocked off the passage, to how they left behind warnings, it was clear that the original inhabitants of the world weren't completely exterminated. A portion of them probably left.

Of course, from how old the tracks were, Shang Xia could tell that everything happened a long time ago. No one knew if those original inhabitants were able to live after leaving their world, and it was truly hard to determine if they were doing alright.

At the very least, Shang Xia didn't seem too optimistic about their fate from how their world looked.

Even though the predecessors had left behind some sort of warning, from the way they did it, Shang Xia was able to roughly tell how strong they used to be.

The change that could wipe out whoever lived in the dome and ice cave truly might not be able to threaten Shang Xia.

The only thing Shang Xia found a pity at that moment was that he couldn't find any living native cultivators or learn about any martial inheritance they left behind. Otherwise, he would be able to transform his aura and attempt to shake off the suppression of the world.

His domain continued to push forward as it quickly got rid of the formation on the ice wall.

Surprisingly, what he expected to happen after he got rid of the formation didn't happen. Other than a burst of heaven and earth qi and some vapor, all he heard was the sound of running water.

Faint starlight that emitted a magnificent flow also filled the region of space after he got rid of the formation on the ice wall.

Shang Xia looked around curiously as he discovered that the ice cave he just opened didn't seem too different from the rest.

From how serious the warnings were, Shang Xia didn't think that it was a prank. However, nothing actually seemed too dangerous.

It was then that Shang Xia's gaze was attracted to a unique pillar of starlight that emerged from the ice walls within. When he looked at where the starlight fell, his scalp started to feel a little numb.

The ice cave he just opened up resembled a giant bowl, and it could be said to be an inverted crater that was carved into the thick layer of ice beneath the surface of the world. The entrance he created for himself was like a tiny crack on its side. It pointed straight into the center of the cave.

The sound of rushing water came from the center of the cave, and it looked to be the source of an underground spring.

Dense heaven and earth qi came from the gushing spring and as Shang Xia approached, he discovered that other than the dense heaven and earth qi, it also contained the power of frost.

That was also where Shang Xia was starting to feel a little strange.

The power of frost covered the world of frost, but it couldn't actually freeze the spring in the middle of the cave. No matter how he looked at it, it didn't make sense, but the truth was displayed right in front of him.

After thinking about it for a moment, Shang Xia seemed to eventually discover the problem. It might be because of the pillar of starlight that fell on it.

Thinking about the power of the stars he had seen since stepping into the world, Shang Xia found it a little strange. The power of the stars he observed before was extremely scattered, but it was concentrated into a beam of light that fell on the mouth of the spring in the ice cave he just entered.

Be it the power of frost that emerged from the spring or the power of the stars in the surroundings, all of them were energies that surpassed the Sixth Order!

Who would be able to control a power like that to create what Shang Xia was seeing? If someone told him that it happened naturally, Shang Xia would rather beat himself to death than believe it. There was no way the power of starlight could be so coincidentally gathered to land directly onto the mouth of the spring that was barely the size of a fist in the ice cave!

It was also impossible for the original inhabitants who left the warning to be the ones to do so. If they truly had the ability to achieve something like that, they wouldn't have abandoned the place.

Shang Xia carefully inspected every part of the ice cave, but he couldn't find any traces of human activity no matter how hard he tried. It was truly as though everything happened naturally.

However... The more it looked as such, the more Shang Xia wouldn't believe it.

Since he couldn't find the reason even after looking multiple times, he decided to place his attention elsewhere first and he turned focus to the mouth of the spring in the middle of the cave.

The power of frost that emerged intersected with the power of the stars, and they seemed to cancel each other out while co-existing in the spring water. That was also why Shang Xia didn't feel any sense of danger after he opened up the cave.

However, that brought another question to Shang Xia's mind. He wondered why the original inhabitants believed that the danger within would be able to threaten their existence.

That would mean that some people ran into trouble there, and it was one they were powerless to solve. That was probably why they left.

From the looks of it now, Shang Xia could only deduce that the balance of power was only achieved after they left their original dwelling.

The only question was what, or who had the ability to affect both energies that surpassed the level of anything Martial Void Realm experts could deal with to reach a state of balance like that?

Shang Xia felt that even true Seventh Order experts wouldn't be able to do it and leave no traces behind.

Could it actually be the World's Will?

If it was truly as he had thought and the world adjusted it to ensure balance, he could chalk it up to the state of the world restoring its balance.

However, the only problem was that Shang Xia could tell the region had only been abandoned for hundreds of years. To be able to balance the 2 Seventh Order powers in a matter of hundreds of years... That would mean that the World's Will's ability to affect the inner workings of the world of frost was too powerful.

If that was truly the case, Shang Xia would be even more shocked than if he ran into an actual Seventh Order expert.

As he entertained the thought in his mind, he even had an urge to run away immediately.

However, he eventually suppressed the feeling. After all, he had already come so far...

Slowly walking to the edge of the mouth of the spring, Shang Xia looked into it with a curious gaze. He could see that a pool of spring water that was close to 4 feet wide had formed around the mouth of the spring, but it didn't continue to expand.

Shang Xia could tell that both energies were merely coexisting in the water, and they hadn't truly fused together. Even so, the Crimson Soul Tablet wasn't reacting much when faced with the Seventh Order energies before his eyes.

That was clearly something strange as one had to know that the Crimson Soul Tablet had been responding to the power of frost and the power of the stars earlier.

Could they have reached a state of equilibrium due to the way they cancel each other out?

If that's the case...

Shang Xia bought out a low-grade essence crystal from his sleeves before sending a bit of Six Direction Qi into it before tossing it into the pool

The second it landed, the water seemed to bubble as white smoke started to rise from the pool. The power of frost burst forth and filled the cave, but boundless starlight also started to sparkle. Hundreds of twinkling spots appeared on the surface of the pool and they seemed to turn to look at Shang Xia in unison. It was a strangely terrifying feeling.

Shang Xia couldn't be bothered about the power of frost and the strange flickering lights that seemed to be staring at him at that moment because the faint figure of the Crimson Soul Tablet leaped out of his glabella and started to devour both types of energies that seemed to have lost control.

Chapter 1170: Essence Ping World

Shang Xia disrupted the balance in the pool and caused the power of frost and the power of the stars to burst forth.

Like a hungry beast, the Crimson Soul Tablet started to devour them all.

The Crimson Soul Tablet seemed different from last time when it started to devour the energy in the air. In the past, when it was absorbing different types of energies, it had to be absorbed into Shang Xia before the tablet could do its thing.

Things were different this time. Half the tablet emerged from Shang Xia's glabella suddenly and with a mere intention, it started absorbing the chaotic energies on its own.

Moreover, it did so extremely rapidly. The more it absorbed, the faster it sucked in both types of energy. The blurry image of half the Crimson Soul Tablet that emerged started to become a lot more solid.

As for Shang Xia himself... As the tablet continued to absorb the energy in the cave, he felt his body growing lighter. The suppression he felt was greatly alleviated.

Even though the power of suppression he felt didn't fully disappear, under such circumstances, Shang Xia felt that it was a lot easier to move around than before, and the efficiency at which he could restore his inner qi also improved.

He might be surprised at first, but he quickly discovered the reason behind it.

The Crimson Soul Tablet might be the one absorbing the energy, but the Crimson Soul Tablet and Shang Xia were one and the same.

That wasn't all. He had a guess ever since he stepped into the world and he was finally able to verify it. World origin that existed into the world of frost actually produced both the power of the stars and the power of frost. Initially, Shang Xia thought that due to them being of an exceptionally high-level, both energies shouldn't coexist in the world. After all, their characteristics were also very different.

From what he knew, world origin was created from world essence and it was something that nourished everything that was produced by the world. Be it the power of frost or the power of the stars, both had distinct characteristics and they shouldn't exist at the same time in lifeforms created from the world.

However, with how the Crimson Soul Tablet was absorbing them both and him feeling the weakened effects of the suppression, he had no choice but to believe that both energies were what made up the world origin.

As he continued to absorb both energies that remained dormant in the spring water, the World's Will eventually descended and imprinted a name in his consciousness.

Essence Ping World!

Shang Xia's suspicion was also cleared at that point. It was true that he had arrived in an Essence World!

From how much energy he was absorbing, Shang Xia started to think that the mouth of the spring was actually connected to the World Origin Source of the Essence Ping World.

No...

From how the pool was disappearing as the Crimson Soul Tablet continued to absorb its energy, Shang Xia made a bold assumption that the pool was actually a separate entity from the World Origin Source, but it was created after balancing the power of frost and the power of the stars.

It could be said to be a World Origin Sea that was similar to the World Origin Source, just way smaller in size.

Even though it accumulated a lot of energy during its dormant years, a good half of it had already been absorbed by the Crimson Soul Tablet.

Only then did the Crimson Soul Tablet show signs that it was starting to get full. It shook slowly before it sank back into Shang Xia's sea of consciousness. It also stopped devouring the energy in the tiny World Origin Sea.

Shang Xia took 2 steps back as he distanced himself from the pool to prevent any accidents from happening.

The power of frost continued to pour out from the mouth of the spring, and the pillar of starlight also fell directly on it. Even though the pillar of starlight was a little dimmer than before, it still held steady.

After some time, the power of frost in the cave was balanced out and it sank back into the pool below. Rays of scattered starlight also gathered back into the pillar of starlight that stood quietly in the middle of the cave.

Even though the power of frost and the power of the stars would emerge from time to time, they seemed to slowly be returning to a state of equilibrium. Of course, it might take a little more time in order to do so.

Shang Xia raised an eyebrow in shock as he closed his palm only to feel an unsteady projection of a long tablet in his hand. It didn't take long before it disappeared again.

Even though it only existed for a split second, Shang Xia had a strange feeling that if he used the chance to activate it, the frozen wasteland that stretched endlessly where he arrived would be flipped upside down, not to mention the cave he was in.

If that happened, a rift of hundreds or even thousands of miles would be carved into the world.

During his battle with Wen Juxiang in the past, his activation of the Crimson Soul Tablet was also what caused the high-level True Immortal to nearly lose his life.

Moreover, that was when Shang Xia didn't control the Crimson Soul Tablet and it was only powered by the pseudo-Seventh Order energy.

Now that the Crimson Soul Tablet had absorbed hundreds of years of accumulated energy, it was a lot more sturdy than before. If Wen Juxiang ran into Shang Xia again, there was no way he would be able to live...

That wasn't all. When Shang Xia disrupted Tong Yutang's plan and concealment when dealing with Zhuge Xiang, exposing all of them to the hidden experts in the surroundings, he only drew over a small portion of the power of the stars. That was enough to summon a weak projection of the tablet, and now that it absorbed so much, Shang Xia had a feeling he would be able to summon it a few more times...

The only consideration he had was if his inner qi reserves would allow him to do so.

After emerging from the ice cave, he thought about it for a second before closing up the passage he opened. Due to the fact that he destroyed the protective formation on it, he needed another way to seal it shut.

Taking a moment to contemplate his next steps, Shang Xia laid down the Five Element Restriction that was unique to the Tongyou Institution.

He didn't know how long it could last under the constant corrosion of both Seventh Order energy, and he decided to throw a second layer of restrictions on top of it.

This time, he chose to use the True Space Restriction Palm Talisman, which was also a type of sealing method.

Returning to where he originally arrived in the system of ice caves, he discovered that the corpses of the creatures he killed had already turned into a pile of rotting meat. It was emitting a foul stench and he simply buried them at the side.

Emerging from the opening he created, he sealed off the entrance of the ice caves beneath the surface before placing down another set of restrictions on it. He also filled the hole he had dug after he made his way out.

That way, others wouldn't be able to find the place easily but he would be able to make use of his unique restrictions to relocate the ice cave whenever he wanted to.

... After the Crimson Soul Tablet had absorbed enough energy, Shang Xia knew that the most effective thing to do at the moment was to enter seclusion and make use of the energy produced by the tablet to grow even stronger. However, it was clearly not the time to do so as he was in a foreign world. He had been chasing the Star Origin Lord Robe and Wen Juxiang in the first place, and he had more important things to do than to cultivate at the moment. He needed to unravel the mystery of the Star Origin Lord Robe and the reason the experts of the Essence Ming World and Essence Hong World followed it all the way there. He knew that he shouldn't stay where he was for long.