

The Heavens 1171

Chapter 1171: Strange Creatures!

After emerging from the ice caves below, Shang Xia quickly found the tracks of those 2 strange creatures that attacked him in the vast wasteland of ice.

Following their tracks, Shang Xia located where they came from.

He noticed an area with loose snow and he wondered if they had been hiding beneath it the whole time when he arrived.

He wondered if the way he had been digging without inner qi caused enough commotion to attract the 2 beasts over...

If that was truly the case...

Lightly tapping his foot into the region of loose snow, a deep rumble was sent into the ground below even though it looked like he didn't use much energy in the light stomp.

After a dull rumble rang for a second or two, everything returned to its original calm state.

Shang Xia didn't seem like he was planning to move as he stood his ground, waiting for something.

A moment later, the silent world started to tremble and the sound of something rustling seemed to close in from all directions. As it got closer, it started to sound extremely creepy to the point where one would feel their scalps going numb.

The next second, Shang Xia seemed to have a revelation as he turned to stare in a certain direction of the icy wasteland.

Another moment passed, and one of the ice mountains in the distance collapsed. A ray of light emerged and shot at Shang Xia.

Shang Xia still didn't move as he released his divine soul. Due to the energy the Crimson Soul Tablet absorbed earlier, the suppression he felt decreased. The amount of energy he could use increased proportionally.

It didn't take long when another icy hill hundreds of feet away blew up. A strange creature that resembled a spider, and was hundreds of times larger than one, waved its legs that were sharper than blades around and slashed at Shang Xia from different directions.

Raising his eyebrow slightly, Shang Xia wanted to test out how strong the creature was and he formed a seal with his hand before slapping it into the void in front of him. The area was immediately sealed off.

That was the technique behind the inspiration of the True Space Restriction Palm Talisman, the True Space Restriction Palm!

As countless rays of frosty light tore through the air, they were eventually swallowed by the void. It created many ripples, but that was about it.

Shang Xia easily stopped the attack of the beast, and he could feel the presence of dipper qi coming from it. It seemed as though it was comparable to a rank five spirit beast.

Unfortunately, the attack it unleashed was too chaotic and didn't possess the true might of a spirit beast at the fifth rank.

Also... After he stopped the attack from the spider-like creature, Shang Xia could tell that even though the might of the True Space Restriction Palm reached the level of what a True Immortal could unleash, it was barely at that level. Which meant to say that with the suppression of the Essence Ping World's Will, Shang Xia could only unleash the strength of an expert who just entered the Martial Void Realm.

Other than that... Shang Xia estimated that every technique he unleashed would require at least 3 times the inner qi if he were to use it somewhere else.

One had to know that the True Space Restriction Palm might sound extremely impressive, but it was merely an ordinary rank six technique. It couldn't even be mentioned in the same breath as his Six Harmony Rod Technique.

Every single move of his Six Harmony Rod Technique was much stronger than the True Space Restriction Palm, and that would mean that if he wished to use any of them, he would exhaust a lot more energy than before.

When Shang Xia was trying to get a feel of how strong the spider-like creature was, another mound of ice burst behind him and a strange screech rang through the air.

Shang Xia felt as though someone took a hammer and slammed it into his divine soul, and the True Space Restriction Palm he used to lock down space shattered.

Fortunately, his divine soul was much stronger than experts of the same level. He started to cultivate the Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter since the Triple Command Realm, and even with the suppression of the world, his divine soul was very sturdy. He wouldn't lose his concentration because of that.

Of course... He was still surprised by the creature that appeared behind him as it actually knew how to attack his soul.

Soon after, the space behind him was torn apart and illusory tentacles that were created with starlight emerged from the tear. They crashed into his domain and seemed to possess the power to absorb his inner qi.

As soon as he experienced it, Shang Xia was taken aback once again. He had been the only one to burn away other people's inner qi in an attempt to exhaust them, and never the other way around.

Raising an eyebrow in shock, his interest had truly been piqued. He no longer restrained his inner qi, and he even sent streams of it to the tentacles.

Feeling slightly less restrained, Shang Xia turned to look at the creature behind him and noticed that it was something similar to an octopus. Similar because it also had tentacles, but there were also differences. The creature behind him had countless tentacles created from faint starlight.

Looking at it, Shang Xia could tell that it wasn't in the best of states. After absorbing Shang Xia's Six Direction Qi, the starlight condensed tentacles started to break down. It suffered grave injuries.

Eventually, Shang Xia detected yet another change. Somewhere within his domain, flurries of snow started to gather before eventually turning into a giant ice snake.

The snake started to coil around Shang Xia's domain, and its sturdy body constricted to the best of its abilities. With the sound of something cracking, cracks started to appear in his domain.

By then, Shang Xia could tell that the creatures attacking him were working together.

Before he could repair the cracks in his domain, the giant spider had already tilted its body to point its abdomen straight at Shang Xia.

A ray of rainbow web that was covered in starlight shot through the void and it crossed the distance between the creature and Shang Xia in an instant. It tore through the cracks in his domain before going straight for his eyes.

Despite being comparable to a rank five spirit beast, the spider's final attack seemed to have already surpassed the power of a creature at the sixth rank!

Chapter 1172: Many Creatures!

Facing the combined attack of 3 giant beasts, Shang Xia never thought that they would be working together. Also, the final attack from the spider managed to pierce through his domain!

The rainbow colored web that was covered in a layer of starlight crossed the threshold of the Sixth Order. Shang Xia could even feel the remnant energy of the stars contained in it.

It was no wonder...

Facing the web that had already arrived before him, Shang Xia simply reached out and tapped it with his index finger.

Even though he wasn't using his weapon, he unleashed the second move of his Six Harmony Rod Technique, Starry Disorder.

Starry Disorder was a technique that focused on irregularity behind each strike and all Shang Xia wanted to do was to get rid of the energy the web contained before keeping it for himself.

That was because the moment the web emerged, Shang Xia could tell that it was an extraordinary treasure. He couldn't wait to get his hands on it.

As soon as he touched the web, Shang Xia could feel a powerful frost qi other than the power of the stars it seemed to contain. Before he was prepared, it entered his body through his finger and caused a small segment of his index finger to be frozen solid.

However, Shang Xia wasn't flustered in the slightest. He quickly circulated his inner qi through his finger before feeding the power of frost to his Crimson Soul Tablet.

If not for the fact that Shang Xia wanted to keep the web intact, he would have absorbed the power of the stars it contained and destroyed it a long time ago.

Even so... Shang Xia couldn't help but fall deep into contemplation. The web didn't just possess both Seventh Order energies like the spring he had just been to, but both energies also showed signs of merging together.

Shang Xia twisted the web around his finger after getting rid of the energy it contained before pulling it taut. He didn't allow the spider-like creature to pull it back.

Restraining the creature, Shang Xia's Stone Rod appeared in his other hand before smashing it at the creature.

With its Star Web being controlled by the other party, the spider-like creature didn't seem to possess the intelligence rank five spirit beasts had. It simply stood still in shock as Shang Xia's weapon came crashing down on it.

“Snap... Crash...”

Its head was completely crushed by Shang Xia's Stone Rod, and it turned into fragments of ice that scattered all across the icy surface below.

After losing its head, the creature was able to continue struggling desperately as its huge body wriggled violently.

However, because Shang Xia had been holding on to the other end of the web, the creature was unable to wriggle free. Instead, the web grew stronger and stronger until it seemed like there was no longer any left in the spider-like creature before it finally stopped moving.

After the head of the first creature was pulverized, the snake that was coiling around Shang Xia's domain decided to flee. It dove into the snow below, and it seemed to disappear the next moment.

At the same time, the octopus-like creature behind him twisted about before removing all its tentacles at once. It ran in the opposite direction.

As it was flying away, its tentacles seemed to be making some sort of rowing motion and it quickly started moving even faster. Its speed probably doubled when it started to move that way.

Naturally... Shang Xia wasn't going to let them go so easily since he went through all the trouble to summon them.

Compared to the spider-like creature whose head had been smashed to bits, the other creatures seemed a lot smarter.

As Shang Xia had been controlling his domain to stay hundreds of feet around himself, it didn't seem too impressive from the perspective of a True Immortal. However, that was because he wished to prevent wasting energy. That didn't mean that his domain couldn't expand further!

Actually, when he kept it to a size of 300 feet around himself, he was setting up a trap for those who might attack him.

The second he released his domain, it didn't matter how powerful the concealment abilities of the snake were. It was unable to remain hidden in Shang Xia's domain.

His Stone Rod shot out once again, and it slammed into a small hill that was thousands of feet away. With a loud explosion, the body of the giant snake was revealed and it started to struggle desperately.

Unfortunately, it was useless as Shang Xia's weapon was stuck in its neck, 7 inches under its head. Eventually, the creature stopped moving when it lost all vitality.

When that was happening, Shang Xia's figure disappeared from where he once was. He tore through the void, and when he reappeared, he had already closed the distance between himself and the octopus-like creature.

The World's Will of the Essence Ping World caused Shang Xia to find it a lot more difficult to travel through the void, but as long as it happened within the range of his domain, it was slightly easier.

The octopus-like creature wasn't just smarter than the others. Instead, it seemed similar to the Star Beasts Shang Xia ran into in the past.

The only problem was that the Essence Ping World was protected by a powerful spatial barrier, and there was no way Star Beasts could get in.

Shang Xia reached into the air above and made a single gesture, and a strange blurry object seemed to be dragged down from the heavens.

A reddish-gold bolt of lightning ripped through the air the next second and along with a loud rumble, it struck the octopus-like creature and sent it tumbling to the ground below.

Thump...

A low thud was followed by a flurry of snow as it covered the body of the creature.

Due to the explosion that happened in mid air, several other ice hills in the distance also started to collapse. If not for the fact that they weren't too tall, the large amount of snow and ice that fell might have caused a major catastrophe.

Shang Xia disappeared again before appearing where the octopus-like creature landed. However, he discovered that the creature was already gone. The only things left were several charred tentacles used to block the power of Shang Xia's lightning bolt.

Sweeping his gaze across those tentacles, Shang Xia then turned to where the octopus-like creature disappeared.

"What's this?! Did it transform back into the power of the stars?"

Shang Xia could tell that the creature didn't actually escape. Instead, it seemed to fuse into the power of the stars which was everywhere around him.

If he flew into the air and looked at the region where the creature disappeared, Shang Xia would find that the snow in the area shone with greater brilliance than those around it.

He couldn't help but wonder after the creature transformed into the power of the stars, would it continue to live on? Or perhaps, the creature was created from the power of the stars to begin with and was controlled by a power of an even higher-level.

Shang Xia's questions didn't come from nowhere. He had seen how the pillar of starlight gathered at the mouth of the spring in the ice cave underground, and it was something he would never forget.

Chapter 1173: Incoming Attack

Shang Xia also retrieved the charred tentacles that had been left behind.

He might not be able to extract complete Origin Dippers from them, but he could obtain several fate dipper essences.

When he rushed back to where the Stone Rod was, Shang Xia casually pulled it out from the ground. The corpse of the giant ice snake blended into the ice and snow around.

If not for Shang Xia feeling a sense of life from the snake when it first appeared, he might even suspect that the snake wasn't a beast and was a puppet of sorts that had been controlled by someone with some sort of secret art.

Even though it had been killed with its vitals pierced by Shang Xia's Stone Rid, its corpse was relatively intact. Even though it was already starting to turn into a pile of snow and ice, he managed to extract its spine and a complete ice-attributed Origin Dipper.

If the octopus-like creature could be said to be a Star Beast, the giant snake was slightly different and resembled a spiritual beast. The giant spider-like creature he killed at the start didn't possess intelligence like the snake, or the survivability of the octopus. It seemed to be a creature that only relied on its instincts and Shang Xia felt that it was similar to the Ferocious Beasts he ran into in the Battlefield Between the Two Worlds of the past.

Strangely enough, the spider-like creature was the only one that had the power of frost and the power of the stars. They seemed to have reached an initial state of fusion, and it could also be said that it was the strongest of the 3 beasts!

Shang Xia couldn't help but form many guesses. It might be because of the fusion between the different types of energies that the creature lost its mind, and could only follow its instincts like a deranged beast.

Of the 3 creatures, the spider was also where Shang Xia obtained the most valuable treasure.

Looking at the rainbow web that shone with a brilliant luster in his hand, he could tell that it was a high-grade treasure even among fellow rank six spiritual treasures.

Even if it hadn't been tempered or refined, it was able to extend or shrink easily. When pushed to its limit, it could reach a thousand feet long. If he didn't wish to use the treasure, Shang Xia could keep it wrapped around his finger. It was really interesting and amazing.

That wasn't all. The web was extremely durable and Shang Xia tried tearing it apart with his physical body earlier. However, he could tell that only by using his inner qi would he be able to tear it apart.

If the web was placed in the hands of a Blacksmith Grandmaster, they would easily be able to turn it into a divine weapon. It would also likely be a high-grade divine weapon.

It was a shame the spider never left anything other than the web. After it was killed, it even transformed into ice shards before shattering everywhere.

The reason Shang Xia baited the beasts over wasn't just because of some mere treasures. He also wanted to verify his guesses.

At the same time, he also wished to fight against the beasts of the Essence Ping World to understand how creatures of the world utilized heaven and earth qi. It was useful when it came to helping him weaken the suppression of the World's Will and would also be very beneficial when he eventually had to fight.

Unfortunately for him, without actually observing cultivators of the Essence Ping World, it didn't seem possible for him to do something like that.

Maybe the world is undergoing some sort of strange transformation at the moment. Even if I managed to find native cultivators of the Essence Ping World, I might not be able to imitate their use of inner qi and get rid of the suppression completely.

A sudden thought appeared in Shang Xia's mind. At the same time, a chill ran down his back and a sharp pain quickly brought him back to his senses.

Shang Xia swung the Stone Rod in his hand instinctively, and a loud blast could be heard.

Bang!

Sharp rays tore through the void after the explosion, and Shang Xia was nearly unable to react by the time they arrived.

A soft whistle also tore through the air, and Shang Xia quickly determined that it came from a flying sword.

He blocked the strike earlier, but he only heard the whistling of the flying sword at that moment. That wasn't the only thing he was hearing. When he blocked it earlier, the scattered sword intent tore through the air and Shang Xia felt his ears hurting. Also... The whistling of the sword as it tore through the air seemed to possess the ability to affect his divine soul.

With several experiences of his divine soul coming under attack, Shang Xia had long since patched his weakness. He was able to defend against the formless attack without a change in expression.

Despite blocking the strike and the subsequent dispersing sword qi, 2 deep gashes that went straight down to his bones could be seen on his body. Shang Xia's index finger on his left hand was also dripping with blood.

Another chilly ray came from behind, and Shang Xia felt his heart going cold. Pulling the Stone Rod in his right hand back, he twisted it under his arm and held it firmly with his left. He tapped several points in space and swung it in an unpredictable manner.

That was the second move of his Six Harmony Rod Technique, Starry Disorder!

It slammed against the rapidly approaching flying sword, and it easily sent the sword flying.

After suffering an injury from the first exchange due to the sneak attack, Shang Xia was a lot more prepared than before. Facing a fierce burst of sword qi that came from the flying sword, a torrent of energy emerged from his Stone Rod to cancel it out.

Deflecting the blow, the flying sword wobbled unsteadily in the air. It was as though Shang Xia would be able to take it down as long as he followed up with another attack.

However, Shang Xia didn't seem to care about it as he stared at a figure who had appeared on an ice hill several miles away. It was none other than Hua Jianlou, the other third tier True Immortal who entered the Essence Ping World!

As though realizing Shang Xia wouldn't be falling for his trap, the sword stopped wobbling and it shook once before releasing a buzz that could affect one's divine soul before turning into a streak of light that shot through the air to Hua Jianlou's side. It started to circle him slowly.

"Youngster... You seem familiar. Have we met?" Hua Jianlou's interest was piqued and he sounded really interested in getting to know Shang Xia. It was as though he didn't just try killing the man.

A cold snort left Shang Xia's lips, and his attention never turned away from the threat. He kept an eye on Hua Jianlou as he mumbled in a low voice, "I am honored that True Immortal Hua still remembers me. I am Shang Xia from the Spirit Luxuriant World."

"Spirit Luxuriant World?!" Hua Jianlou turned a little serious, but he still looked shocked. He examined Shang Xia carefully before gasping softly, "I remember you now! My attention was drawn to another talented swordsman from your Spirit Luxuriant World back then... I remember that you were merely a first tier True Immortal back then. Oh? Your cultivation has already caught up to me now... Looks like the younger generation will surpass me eventually..."

Shang Xia had observed Hua Jianlou's sword art previously and he had even suffered at the hands of it earlier when he was trying to enter the spatial tunnel. He couldn't help but become even more cautious as he didn't wish to give Hua Jianlou any opening he could take advantage of.

"True Immortal Hua, you're exaggerating. I am not worthy of your praise." Shang Xia said softly.

He clearly remembered how powerless he was when he first entered the Essence Ping World and it was difficult for him to use power at the level of a True Immortal.

However, Hua Jianlou's strike, which was intended to take his life, obviously contained the might of one, and it was also rather powerful.

The reason Shang Xia was able to burst forth with the might of a True Immortal was because of the Crimson Soul Tablet absorbing the energy contained in the Essence Ping World... He couldn't help but wonder what Hua Jianlou was relying on to be able to fight so well.

Chapter 1174: Going All Out

The rejection of the World's Will placed extreme suppression onto foreign cultivators of the Essence Ping World.

Through his personal experience, Shang Xia found it difficult for him to maintain even the abilities of Martial Dipper Realm experts when he arrived.

If not for the fact that the Crimson Soul Tablet absorbed the power of frost and the power of the stars, greatly reducing the suppression he felt, he might be unable to fight those creatures earlier!

Shang Xia might be confident in his abilities while never underestimating his opponents, but he knew that if he felt that way, it would be no different for other experts.

That would mean that Hua Jianlou, who was also a third tier True Immortal like himself, used some sort of secret art in order to maintain his current combat strength.

... What Shang Xia didn't know was that Hua Jianlou, who always wore a confident expression, was feeling endless shock after entering the Essence Ping World.

The Spirit Abundance World wasn't completely clueless about the Essence Ping World. It could even be said that the reason the Frost Wave existed in the Spirit Abundance World for hundreds of years was because the higher-ups of the Spirit Abundance World had been preparing to make their entry.

Hua Jianlou was able to gain the opportunity to enter the Essence Ping World before the rest, but he never would have thought that the preparations they made were barely enough for him to resist a portion of the suppression he was feeling.

How... How is he able to maintain his combat abilities?!

The Spirit Luxuriant World he came from barely ascended for more than 10 years... The time they have been in existence can't even be compared to the time we had been scheming against the Spirit Abundance World.

There has to be something weird about that guy...

Hua Jianlou knew what secret techniques that could allow one to be less restricted by the World's Will of a foreign world meant, and during their short conversation, he had already been thinking of ways to kill Shang Xia.

Shang Xia barely replied when he felt something changed in Hua Jianlou's eyes.

His expression also changed slightly as he leaped into the air.

The second his feet left the ground, sharp ice spikes burst out from the ground below.

What was even more scary was that with the arrival of the power of frost, Shang Xia realized that Hua Jianlou already had the ability to use one of the energies contained in the Essence Ping World.

Since Hua Jianlou decided to make his move, it made no sense to stop when he barely sent out an attack.

As Shang Xia rose into the air, Hua Jianlou grabbed the sword hovering around him. A sword light quickly emerged as he slashed through the air as the resplendent ray of light transformed into a sword domain before descending on Shang Xia.

Shang Xia had seen how Hua Jianlou suppressed Kou Chongxue and Huang Jinghan even when they worked together, and he knew that he couldn't allow Hua Jianlou to do as he wished.

Ignoring the consumption of energy, Shang Xia poured his inner qi into his Stone Rod before unleashing the first move of his Six Harmony Rod Technique, Harmonizing Continent.

Knowing that his opponent had been a third tier True Immortal for a long time and that he might have even touched on the gates to the fourth tier, Shang Xia understood that Hua Jianlou's sword art had definitely reached an incredible level. There was no point in comparing techniques.

As such, he didn't care about his consumption as he dealt with his opponent's domain with brute force! He also summoned his domain to contend directly against Hua Jianlou's sword domain.

He might have been at a disadvantage, but using such a method to fight was basically a form of mutually assured destruction. However, for someone like him who was inherently at a disadvantage, he was able to reduce his losses to the least while making his opponent more cautious.

Hua Jianlou didn't think that Shang Xia would go all out so quickly. They hadn't even been probing each other out when Shang Xia pulled out his strongest attack strength-wise against his domain. He didn't even have time to avoid the collision.

As soon as both domains slammed into each other, the void above the icy wasteland started to contort. Countless ice hills disappeared the next second as flurries of snow rose into the air. Everything 10 miles around them was covered in a layer of white.

The next instant, a patch of snow was forcefully torn open as a ray of sword qi emerged. The space around it was torn to shreds and the snow around it was devoured instantly.

With things progressing up to that point, there was no way for anyone to remain hidden or conceal themselves to run away. However...

Hua Jianlou's expression changed slightly when he discovered that he could no longer feel Shang Xia with his divine soul.

Pulling his sword back to his chest, Hua Jianlou slashed in all directions.

If anyone could observe Hua Jianlou at that moment, they would discover that his domain was filled with sword qi like a porcupine, but they were in a dormant state and didn't explode immediately.

Shang Xia's figure fell out from the void several thousand feet behind Hua Jianlou the next moment. Earlier, he used his Five Element Movement Art which he hadn't perfected since stepping into the Six Direction Realm.

Before he could react, the sword qi in Hua Jianlou's domain was released.

Shang Xia didn't expect Hua Jianlou to react so quickly. Since he wasn't ready to fight back, he could only retreat to open up the distance between them. However, Hua Jianlou didn't stop there. Even though the sword qi he created earlier had already flown at Shang Xia, he turned around and chopped down without mercy.

Shang Xia wasn't willing to compete with Hua Jianlou in terms of technique anymore, and he simply tossed out a True Space Restriction Palm Talisman in an attempt to restrain his opponent for a moment.

One had to know that even as they fought, they were still being suppressed by the World's Will. With the sudden appearance of the True Space Restriction Palm Talisman, Shang Xia would be able to weaken his attack such that it became weaker than what a True Immortal was capable of!

Of course, even though the suppression worked on the abilities they could use, it was only possible as they sent their attacks out over a large distance. With their respective secret arts and treasures, they were able to get rid of the suppression on themselves to a certain degree. Their defenses were maintained at their original level.

If an attack at the level of someone who had just broken through to the Martial Void Realm might not be able to injure them, the moment it was weakened further to the point it fell below the capability of what a True Immortal could unleash, there was no way it could break their defenses.

With the True Space palm, the sword light that came with Hua Jianlou's sudden strike was greatly weakened. Even though it could still tear through space, Shang Xia stopped it with a single tap after it came close.

The power of the talisman wasn't exactly infinite. It was exhausted after it weakened that single strike. The remnant energy it contained was scattered by Hua Jianlou with a single wave.

With Hua Jianlou's offensive failing time and time again, Shang Xia finally managed to find an opening.

His Stone Rod swept through the air as half the space before him seemed to be flipped upside down. Shang Xia displayed the true extent of the power he could muster.

What was even more impressive was that the Holy Artifact fully displayed its power at that very moment.

Hua Jianlou's sword might be extraordinary as it was a weapon that was comparable to Kou Chongxue's Hidden Frost Sword, but facing the horrifyingly powerful Stone Rod which was of an even higher grade, he didn't dare to face it head-on.

A frown appeared on Hua Jianlou's face as he reluctantly moved to the side to avoid the attack.

Naturally, he understood that during a battle between experts at their level, the moment he was forced to retreat, the other side wouldn't let up. They would quickly follow up with a flurry of strikes, not giving him a chance to catch his breath.

As such, even though he was retreating, he disregarded his disadvantage and summoned another sword qi and sent it at Shang Xia not too far away.

Who would have thought that the moment the sword qi flew out, a reddish-gold lightning bolt arrived right above his head?

If Hua Jianlou could realize that Shang Xia would press the attack after gaining momentum of battle, how could Shang Xia not know that Hua Jianlou would try to stop him?

As such, he released his first martial intent, the Chaos Essence Lightning Palm the moment Hua Jianlou moved.

He successfully predicted Hua Jianlou's reaction and managed to gain a firm advantage of the initiative of battle.

A martial intent would be able to grow along with a cultivator's rising cultivation realm, but at his current level, Shang Xia was only able to use his Chaos Essence Lightning Palm as an ordinary attack.

The reason he used it was because it was extremely fast, and it was extremely suited to catch his opponents by surprise.

Hua Jianlou's sword qi that barely left his body was scattered by the lightning bolt when Shang Xia's Stone Rod tore through the void again and pierced into his domain.

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

That was Shang Xia's actual killing move. Even though it had been greatly weakened due to the interference of the Essence Ping World, if Hua Jianlou was struck by it, even if he didn't die immediately, he would probably have to back out from the Essence Ping World. Nothing there would have anything to do with him any longer.

At the critical moment, Hua Jianlou unleashed the true ability of the top swordsman of the Spirit Abundance World.

Facing Shang Xia's powerful strike, Hua Jianlou slashed out 12 times and each stroke landed accurately at the tip of the Stone Rod.

Clang, clang, clang, clang...

Explosions peppered the air and it caused another flurry of snow. The entire region dozens of miles around them were blown to bits.

He managed to stop Void Emptiness, but Hua Jianlou was forced to take 3 steps back in retreat as the blood drained from his face.

Even though their combat abilities had been suppressed to become comparable to a first tier True Immortal, the consumption of their inner qi was terrifyingly high.

It didn't help that Hua Jianlou was only at the third tier of the Martial Void Realm. Even if he had broken through and become a high-level True Immortal, his inner qi wouldn't be able to keep up with his usage.

Naturally, Hua Jianlou wasn't the only one feeling the strain. Shang Xia was also feeling the pressure and he found that it wasn't really worth it to continue fighting.

After all, neither of them was the only threat to each other in the Essence Ping World.

Since their short exchange ended, both of them realized that it wouldn't be possible to defeat the other party quickly. As such, they started to think about how they should stop fighting.

Shang Xia might have had the advantage, but Hua Jianlou was the first to speak. "Let's stop for now. If we continue to fight, I'm afraid all the benefits would have been taken away by others. What's more, the high-level experts of the Essence Hong World and Essence Ming World have entered. Both of us come from subordinate worlds of the Star Origin Dao Field... Why don't we work together?"

With a cold expression, Shang Xia muttered in a low voice, "Why should I trust you now?"

Chapter 1175: Shaky Alliance

Shang Xia understood that Hua Jianlou was difficult to deal with, and he also wasn't willing to waste more time and effort tangling with him.

However... When it came to joining hands...

Shang Xia snorted with disdain. Without mentioning how they tried killing each other just ten fucking seconds ago, the relationship between the Spirit Luxuriant World and the Spirit Abundance World was terrible in the first place. There was absolutely no way they had any trust for each other.

Shang Xia wanted to go his separate way after they stopped earlier. However, he hesitated when he heard Hua Jianlou speak about them being connected to the Star Origin Dao Field.

As a core member of the Spirit Abundance World, Hua Jianlou definitely knew more secrets than what the Spirit Luxuriant World gathered. It was especially so when it related to the other worlds that were connected to the Star Origin Dao Field.

Shang Xia had always thought that Star Origin City chose to work with the worlds connected to it on equal footing, even though the rumored Seventh Order Star Origin Lord was in charge of it. The

mysterious expert seemed to be a figure used to deter the experts of other worlds, but he hadn't appeared in hundreds of years.

However, Hua Jianlou said they were mere subordinates of the Star Origin Dao Field, and that would mean that there was an intrinsic relationship where one side was protected by the other in exchange for some other things.

Shang Xia wouldn't suspect that Hua Jianlou was bullshitting as the Spirit Abundance World had been connected to the Star Origin Dao Field for a long time. What they knew was certainly leagues ahead of what the Spirit Luxuriant World managed to gather.

Since Shang Xia wanted to listen to more secrets regarding the Star Origin Dao Field, he decided to think about an alliance. Even so, he wouldn't fully trust the other party.

He couldn't help but ask slowly, "Why should I believe you?"

Hua Jianlou wasn't surprised by his response. He simply spoke in an unhurried manner, "If we can't stop the high-level True Immortals from the Essence Hong World and the Essence Ming World, or if they actually manage to obtain the Star Origin Lord Robe and do something with it... I'm afraid it won't be long before we face a combined invasion from both Essence Worlds..."

Shang Xia wanted to ask more, but he maintained his composure. "It doesn't matter if you're telling the truth or not. How can you be sure that we will be able to do anything to them?"

Hua Jianlou burst out laughing in response, "Wen Juxiang is already injured, and it seems pretty serious. True Immortal Gao Qin of the Essence Ming World probably has her full combat strength, but there's no way they will work together with such a huge disparity in strength. Also... There's only 1 Star Origin Lord Robe."

"If they truly planned to join hands, there obviously won't be a chance for us to do anything. However, if they move separately... With the strength you displayed earlier, we will most definitely be able to take either one of them down once we work together!" Hua Jianlou concluded.

Shang Xia continued, "What happens next? Like you said... There is only 1 Star Origin Lord Robe."

"The Star Origin Lord Robe might be a key to enter and leave the Essence Ping World, but its true use is to boost the strength of the Guards Commander. The most powerful ability it has is to boost the battle formation of the Star Origin Guards. It can even bring out Seventh Order energy! It won't be too useful to either of us. We should even return it to the Star Origin Guards lest we become an enemy of the Star Origin Dao Field.

Shang Xia snorted coldly, "How can the Star Origin Lord Robe create a spatial tunnel to the Essence Ping World in the first place? From what I know, your Spirit Abundance World should have been observing it for a long time now. Didn't you guys establish Azure Island specifically to resist the Frost Wave coming from the north of your world?"

The smile on Hua Jianlou's face faded after hearing what Shang Xia said and he even seemed slightly surprised by Shang Xia's revelation. "I didn't think that you would understand so much

about my world. I have to reevaluate you from now on... Actually... It seems as though my Spirit Abundance World has been underestimating your Spirit Luxuriant World.”

Shang Xia opened his arms helplessly and sighed with self-ridicule, “From the looks of it, I was overreaching myself...”

Hua Jianlou couldn't be bothered with the supposed mockery Shang Xia was throwing and he slowly added, “It's exactly as you said. Because we have been preparing to launch an expedition here, now that I have arrived, the ability of the Star Origin Lord Robe to enter the Essence Ping World isn't very important to me.”

Shang Xia felt a chill running through his heart and he thought back to what happened when he infiltrated the Spirit Abundance World back then. “Have you guys locked on to this world with your grand formation linking your Elysiums together? Does this mean that as long as you manage to contact them, you will be able to create a spatial tunnel that leads into the Essence Ping World anytime you wish?”

“You even know about that?!” Hua Jianlou was truly surprised this time.

Shang Xia muttered softly, “Looks like I was right then?”

Maintaining his composure the best he could. Hua Jianlou continued, “If we work together and get our hands on the Star Origin Lord Robe, you can have it. However, we will need to use it to establish a spatial tunnel that leads to the outside world before you can bring it away.”

If Hua Jianlou only proposed for them to work together earlier because he recognized Shang Xia's strength and was planning to make use of him as free labor, everything changed after Shang Xia casually revealed the secret plan of the Spirit Abundance World.

Shang Xia met Hua Jianlou's gaze and they remained silent for some time before Shang Xia spoke without a change in expression, “We will join hands and fight them this time. Nothing more.”

Hua Jianlou understood what Shang Xia meant, and he nodded in response. “Nothing more.”

The True Immortals of both worlds who had intense hatred for each other eventually reached a decision to work together.

Shang Xia quickly started asking questions again. “True Immortal Hua, since you entered this world before me, have you already found their tracks?”

Hua Jianlou expected Shang Xia to ask that question and he shook his head and chuckled bitterly, “If I found out where they went, why would I come all the way here to look for you?”

Shang Xia nodded slowly and continued to ask, “How large is this icy wasteland anyway?”

“You'll reach the end if you travel 3000 miles in that direction. Since I ran into you on my way to look for them, this is clearly the wrong direction to be traveling in.” Hua Jianlou pointed to where he came from.

After he was done, he saw that Shang Xia was deep in contemplation and he decided to inquire a little about it. “True Immortal Shang, do you have any idea what we should do next? Why don't you share it with me and we can think about it together?”

Shang Xia arranged his thoughts and spoke again, “When Zhuge Xiang was surrounded earlier, I was too far away. I wonder if you managed to discover what happened to him. Did he really exhaust all his vitality?”

Realizing what Shang Xia might be driving at, Hua Jianlou replied, “We can be sure he’s dead. Zhuge Xiang has most definitely been slain back then.”

Shang Xia finally nodded. “Since his true body has been killed, logically speaking, his clone shouldn’t be able to exist. However, it still managed to live for some time because of the Star Origin Lord Robe...”

Hua Jianlou’s eyes lit up suddenly and he gasped, “True Immortal Shang, you’re really sharp indeed!”

Chapter 1176: Reconstruction?!

Since a clone couldn’t live after its true body was killed, it was a matter of time before Zhuge Xiang’s clone was destroyed.

However, even the weakest clone had the might of a True Immortal. When it died, it would definitely cause a massive disturbance.

It was especially so since they were in the Essence Ping World. Zhuge Xiang’s energy was considered a foreign entity and would clash with the World’s Will. When he died, the disturbance would only be greater.

No matter how vast the Essence Ping World was, Hua Jianlou and Shang Xia were sure they would be able to discover the traces of his death when he stirred up the heaven and earth qi and caused a massive heavenly phenomenon.

With their strength being suppressed by the Essence Ping World’s Will, even if Gao Qin and Wen Juxiang wanted to hide the disturbance, it would be futile.

After hearing Shang Xia’s reminder, Hua Jianlou finally realized that he was being a little too anxious. That was also why he praised Shang Xia at the very end.

Both of them started to move and they ran 3000 more miles in the direction Hua Jianlou came from and managed to reach the end of the icy wasteland.

As they emerged from the icy wasteland, both of them held high-grade essence crystals in their hands as they replenished the energy that had used up during the battle.

Shang Xia was exceptionally concerned when it came to recovery as he suffered some slight injuries from fighting Wen Juxiang even before entering the Essence Ping World and he needed to restore his energy as quickly as he could.

Fortunately, he also had the Crimson Soul Tablet and it purified some of the energy it absorbed for Shang Xia’s use.

If it didn’t, even if Shang Xia exhausted his supply of essence crystals, he wouldn’t be able to recover his lost inner qi, much less recover from his injuries.

Actually, the Crimson Soul Tablet had always been able to purify energy for Shang Xia. However, only after being restored to a certain point was it able to do so. Back in the prison under the Star Observatory of Star Origin City, Shang Xia discovered its ability after it had been absorbing the

pseudo-Seventh Order power of starlight. From then on, he started to actively urge the tablet to take in heaven and earth qi so that it could transform it into Six Direction Qi he could absorb after it was purified.

The distance of 3000 miles didn't take Shang Xia and Hua Jianlou too much time even if they were suppressed by the World's Will.

The only problem after they emerged from the endless icy wasteland was that almost everything else he could see was mainly ice.

Fortunately, he finally saw massive mountain ranges, a Pine Forest that stretched on as far as the eyes could see, and a giant lake that was completely frozen over. There were also stars twinkling in the skies.

Most importantly, the forest, the mountains, and the frozen lake seemed to possess a lot of vitality, unlike the wasteland.

“What secrets does this world hold...?” Shang Xia wondered out loud as he released his divine soul to inspect everything he could. It was a completely different feeling compared to when he was still in the icy wasteland before.

Hua Jianlou clearly didn't care about Shang Xia's question and he simply continued, “Since we can exclude the direction you were in, where do you think we should be searching next?”

Shang Xia shook his head slowly in response. “True Immortal Hua, do you know why the Star Origin Lord Robe could open a spatial tunnel to Essence Ping World and why Zhuge Xiang's clone would try so hard to send it over?”

Glancing at Shang Xia from the corner of his eye, Hua Jianlou mumbled, “Isn't finding that out the reason we're looking for the Star Origin Lord Robe and joining hands to fight the high-level True Immortals of the Essence Ming World and Essence Hong World? Why are you asking me that now?”

Hua Jianlou clearly knew some secrets Shang Xia was not privy to, and his response showed that he wasn't going to share more.

As though reacting to Shang Xia's statement and verifying his guess, intense spatial fluctuations and a powerful burst of energy came from one of the other directions. Howling winds were swept up along with the great disturbance.

Hua Jianlou and Shang Xia turned to look at the same time, and they saw clouds gathering hundreds of miles away. Lightning started to fall in a haphazard manner, and the entire region turned chaotic.

Intense lightning bolts tore through the air as regions of shattered void either swallowed or scattered the clouds. Even though there were lesser clouds in the air, the flashes of lightning became even more intense and from afar, the region resembled a lightning prison.

“How can the death of a clone cause such a massive disturbance?! It looks like it even called upon the wrath of the heavens?!”

Hua Jianlou and Shang Xia glanced at each other, and they could see the confusion in each other's eyes. Both of them seemed to reach the same conclusion.

The situation probably changed...!

Rising into the air in unison, both of them didn't hold back as they raced towards the region of lightning.

Since it was only several hundred miles away, it didn't take long for them to arrive.

Shang Xia didn't know what Hua Jianlou was thinking, but he could clearly feel the power of frost and the power of the stars mixed into the chaotic region. In the past, when he felt the different energies around him, he could already tell that both energies had different properties. Even with the chaotic lightning bolts, Shang Xia could clearly feel that the power of the stars was much more concentrated than the power of frost in the region.

When Shang Xia was still thinking about the strange implications, Hua Jianlou seemed to have discovered something and his expression started to turn ugly.

Even though Shang Xia had been focused on scoping out the energy contained in the region, he was still paying attention to Hua Jianlou. He didn't miss the change in expression.

The next second, a large-scale spatial fluctuation and a loud blast erupted, and a loud roar that didn't seem to be made by a human came from somewhere within the lightning prison.

Shang Xia gasped once before realizing that there were people fighting in the messy rain of lightning below.

When Shang Xia was still trying to make sense of what was happening, an enraged cry came from below. "If the 2 of you aren't planning to make your move now, are you going to wait for Zhuge Xiang's clone to be resurrected to become a vassal for the Star Origin Lord's will and be able to unleash the might of the Seventh Order?!"

Finally understanding what was going on, Shang Xia's eyes widened in shock.

Hua Jianlou, who was also nearby, raised his divine weapon and charged into the region that was raining lightning.

Chapter 1177: Will's Descent

Shang Xia and Hua Jianlou already found the large disturbance extremely strange.

When they approached the region that was filled with lightning, a voice came from within and surprised Shang Xia, but Hua Jianlou didn't hesitate as he raised his weapon and charged into the chaotic region.

Even though the endless lightning disrupted Shang Xia's senses, he could still vaguely see a blurry figure within holding off the falling lightning bolts while suppressing 2 other figures who were weaving their way in and out of the lightning rain.

Even under such circumstances, the power of the stars was gathering rapidly as it entered the blurry figure in the middle. With each passing second, the blurry figure started to grow more solid.

Seeing the figure that resembled Zhuge Xiang, Shang Xia thought that the Guards Commander managed to use some secret technique that allowed his clone to come back to life.

However, his eyes widened in shock after hearing the enraged cry.

Star Origin Lord... Dissipating clone... Restoring itself... Descending of the Star Origin Lord's will... Seventh Order energy...

Shang Xia connected the dots and many things became clear the next moment.

As it turned out, the Star Origin Lord of the legends was right there in the Essence Ping World! He seemed to need Zhuge Xiang's clone in order to contain his will, and it was clear that he was currently stuck in a strange situation where he couldn't personally appear.

Shang Xia felt the power of the stars gathering and felt something click in his mind.

The only thing he didn't quite understand was why Hua Jianlou would help the other 2 without hesitation. Was it just to prevent the descent of the Star Origin Lord's will?

One had to know that when Shang Xia was speaking to Hua Jianlou earlier, Hua Jianlou mentioned confidently that the reason Gao Qin and Wen Juxiang were planning to obtain the Star Origin Lord Robe was so that they could invade the various worlds connected to the Star Origin Dao Field.

Shang Xia was sure Hua Jianlou hadn't lied to him.

At the same time, he could guess that the reason the Essence Hong World and Essence Ming World didn't dare to invade was because of the threat the Star Origin Lord posed.

For Hua Jianlou to rush in to help them showed that he didn't wish to let the Star Origin Lord appear in such a manner. He realized that he couldn't even allow the Star Origin Lord to project his will onto Zhuge Xiang's clone and that his choice might not be his own. It might contain the will of the Spirit Abundance World!

Even Tong Yutang and the other True Immortals of the various worlds who took part in the siege against Zhuge Xiang's true body seemed to have reached a tacit understanding. Not only did they want to prevent the invasion of the Essence Worlds, they had to prevent the Star Origin Lord from reappearing in the world.

When Shang Xia was experiencing his information overload, another change happened on the battlefield below.

With Hua Jianlou joining the battle, Wen Juxiang and Gao Qin managed to catch their breath.

After all, they were also being suppressed by the World's Will of the Essence Ping World at that moment.

Even though they also had some secret art on them that could allow them to maintain their combat abilities in the Martial Void Realm, and they were also stronger than Hua Jianlou and Shang Xia at the moment, they weren't exactly in the best of states. After all, Wen Juxiang had even been seriously injured by Shang Xia before entering the Essence Ping World.

Along with the restoration of Zhuge Xiang's clone, the descent of the Star Origin Lord's will made it even stronger. It was growing by the second and it easily surpassed the limit of what a mere clone was capable of.

Hua Jianlou might have alleviated the pressure slightly, but he was also quickly suppressed, and the situation within didn't really change.

Even though the restoration of the clone seemed to be slowing down, it didn't stop completely. If it continued to drag out, the battle would eventually shift to favor Zhuge Xiang's clone that contained the Star Origin Lord's will.

“Fellow True Immortal, why aren't you making your move yet? Are you really planning to wait for the Star Origin Lord to awaken and devour all your worlds?” Gao Qin yelled when she saw that Shang Xia was still hovering around outside the battlefield.

Her voice was distinct and everyone could recognize that she was a female cultivator, but her way of fighting seemed rather barbaric. She was the main force who took on the brunt of the blows, and even Wen Juxiang and Hua Jianlou were merely assisting her from the side.

The reason Wen Juxiang hadn't said anything was that he was mortal enemies with Shang Xia to begin with. Shang Xia ran away when they fought for the first time, and during their second meeting, he suffered heavy injuries and was forced to run for his life. He clearly wouldn't be inclined to talk to someone like that.

Shang Xia, a new third tier True Immortal of the Spirit Luxuriant World, was already a well-known figure among the many worlds.

Even though they were calling for Shang Xia to take action, Hua Jianlou understood that it wasn't that Shang Xia wasn't willing to make his move. Instead, he probably didn't know why he should interfere!

After Gao Qin yelled at Shang Xia, everyone saw him hesitate slightly and Hua Jianlou couldn't help but continue, “The Star Origin Lord used himself as the medium to try to replace the Essence Ping World's Will. He's stuck in a deadlock at the moment and can't appear in battle personally. However, he plans to raise his cultivation to the peak of the Seventh Order before using the Star Origin Dao Field as the core of his operation and the Essence Ping World as his starting point to devour every single world connected to the Star Origin Dao Field. When that happens, he would be able to step into the Eighth Order!”

After the short explanation, Hua Jianlou couldn't help but urge Shang Xia on again, “The moment the Star Origin Lord awakens from his slumber when contending against the Essence Ping World's Will, he will be able to destroy any world he wishes just by sending a Seventh Order clone. No... Even if it's just a Sixth Order clone, as long as he has the Star Origin Lord Robe, he will be able to sweep away any world connected to the Star Origin Dao Field!”

Hua Jianlou barely completed his sentence when a True Space Restriction Palm entered the lightning prison and slammed directly into Zhuge Xiang's clone.

The clone might have stepped into a level where it could contend with high-level True Immortals with the assistance of the Star Origin Lord's will, but its rate of energy consumption managed to stay slightly below its rate of energy absorption. However... With Shang Xia's True Space Restriction Palm, the flow of energy was greatly disrupted and for the first time, his consumption of energy surpassed his rate of absorption.

“True Immortal Hua, how did you learn of this secret? Don't tell me those 2 of them informed you of it.” Shang Xia maintained his True Space Restriction Palm outside the lightning prison, and he worked with the 3 within to restrain the clone. However, he

didn't rush into the battle directly. Even so, his interference was enough to tilt the tides of battle in their favor.

Shang Xia had a very precise control over how much the battle favored them, and he intentionally kept it that way.

His true goal was to dig out more secrets from the 3 of them and it didn't matter what it was about. It could be about the Star Origin Lord, Star Origin Dao Field, or even the other worlds.

Even though his method wasn't exactly the most honorable, he would rather keep the initiative than to join a messy battle.

Hua Jianlou sent a strand of sword qi to help Gao Qin and he tore a screen of starlight apart before he yelled loudly, "My Spirit Abundance World, the Spirit Mammoth World, and the Spirit Tinkle World had reached the limit of a Spirit World years ago! Even the Spirit Thistle World ascended hundreds of years ago and is closing in to our level... True Immortal Shang, have you ever been curious why there haven't been any high-level True Immortals in our worlds despite our years of heritage?"

Chapter 1178: The Disappearance of High-Level True Immortals

It was true that he had never seen traces of high-level True Immortals in the various worlds.

Ever since the Spirit Luxuriant World ascended, Shang Xia's cultivation soared in recent years. However, the only high-level True Immortal he ever had contact with was Zhuge Xiang of the Star Origin Guards, and Tong Yutang who just broke through. There was also Yan Huayi of the Spirit Faith World, but they weren't connected to the Star Origin Dao Field.

Of course, there were also Wen Juxiang and Gao Qin of the Essence Hong World and Essence Ming World respectively.

Other than Zhuge Xiang, who managed to reach the level of Returning to the Origin to become a fifth tier True Immortal, every other high-level True Immortal was at the fourth tier at best!

There was no need to mention Shang Xia as even the experienced True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World didn't know what was going on.

It wasn't as though the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World didn't plan to look for other ways to probe out reasons behind why that was the case. However, there was too much information and all of them were different.

After gathering everything they could, there was something they could be sure about. Peak-tier Spirit Worlds like the Spirit Abundance World and Spirit Mammoth World weren't lacking high-level True Immortals. It was just that they rarely showed their faces.

With Hua Jianlou's reminder, Shang Xia's desire to know the answer intensified. However, he still maintained his calm demeanor and he asked casually, "Oh? Why is that so?"

Actually, Shang Xia wasn't fully concentrating on the conversation either.

He wasn't focused on helping Hua Jianlou and the others either. Instead, he was staring intently at the clone that was slowly growing stronger earlier with the absorption of the power of the stars.

As he observed the clone, he started to feel the way it was circulating the power of the stars within its body. He was trying to copy it in order to see if he would be able to fool the World's Will and avoid being suppressed.

He had been trying to imitate the experts of the Essence Ping World when he first arrived, but there was no reference and he failed miserably.

Now that Zhuge Xiang's clone had been circulating inner qi with the help of the Star Origin Lord Robe to increase the speed at which he could absorb energy, Shang Xia felt that his chance had come.

According to the information Hua Jianlou revealed, since the Star Origin Lord was trying to replace the World's Will, the clone he was planning to transfer a part of his will to wouldn't be restrained.

Since it was a clone that wasn't made by the Star Origin Lord himself, Shang Xia felt that using it to experiment shouldn't cause too much of a problem. Also, Hua Jianlou, Gao Qin, and Wen Juxiang were taking the brunt of the pressure from the enemy and if he didn't make use of the chance, he would feel sorry for himself.

Naturally, none of the other 3 knew what he was trying to do and they continued to reveal secrets in order to make Shang Xia stay and help them restrain the clone.

"The reason there hasn't been any high-level True Immortal from our worlds running about is that around 200 to 300 years ago, the Star Origin Dao Field went all out to assassinate them. Throughout those years, high-level True Immortals had been running into freak accidents and dying left and right. A gap in power was created and the high-level Free True Immortals of the various worlds were slain. Other than a few high-level Elysium True Immortals the Star Origin Guards allowed to live, there haven't been any high-level Free True Immortals of the various worlds appearing." Hua Jianlou explained.

What Hua Jianlou said truly shocked Shang Xia.

Even though there weren't many high-level True Immortals in the various worlds connected to the Star Origin Dao Field, it was truly unnatural for so many of them to die in a matter of a hundred years considering the fact that the lifespan of a high-level True Immortal was much longer than the average expert.

Shang Xia couldn't help but become distracted for a moment while listening to the explanation. However, it had nothing to do with his shock at his revelation. Instead, he was trying to absorb the energy pouring into the clone with his Crimson Soul Tablet. At the same time, he increased the strength of his True Space Restriction Palm by more than 30 percent.

He didn't forget to ask, "I guess you should have reached a conclusion after running into this matter?"

Hua Jianlou's mastery over his sword art might have reached a perfected state as he continued to speak while suppressing the clone with Wen Juxiang and Gao Qin. "That was the last time the Star Origin Lord showed his face in the city. After everything happened, he disappeared."

Clearly, he was the main suspect when it came to the deaths of the high-level True Immortals of the various worlds.

After all, if the deaths of those True Immortals weren't accidents, only 1 person had the ability to slay them all while keeping it a secret. That was the Star Origin Lord who was a Seventh Order expert.

Of course, based on suspicion alone, they couldn't pin the crime on the Star Origin Lord.

Shang Xia thought for a second before he asked again, "It has already been 200 years, right? Why hasn't there been another high-level True Immortal born in all your worlds?"

"Heh..." Hua Jianlou chuckled under his breath, "The various worlds connected to the Star Origin Dao Field naturally have no lack of talent. There have been several experts who became high-level True Immortals, and the Star Origin Lord has already started his assimilation of the Essence Ping World. Even so, those high-level True Immortals were killed or went missing after a few years."

Shang Xia raised his eyebrows, but he didn't continue to ask. After all, it wouldn't benefit Hua Jianlou to keep that a secret.

Suppressing the clone with his True Space Restriction Palm, Shang Xia decided to switch it up a little. He tried to draw over the lightning falling with his Chaos Essence Lightning Palm to threaten the clone.

Who would have thought that with his interference, those lightning bolts that weren't actually targeting him in the first place were drawn over? Multiple bolts flew straight at him and he was forced to back off slightly, giving the clone a chance to catch its breath.

Fortunately, Hua Jianlou and the others didn't realize that the sudden change was related to Shang Xia. They thought that the clone had the power to target where the lightning fell and became a lot more cautious. They were afraid that the clone would do the same and focus fire on them.

Hua Jianlou spoke again, "After some investigation, the major factions of the various Spirit Worlds discovered that every time a high-level True Immortal from any world disappeared, the Star Origin Guards Commander personally brought an entire camp out under the guise of patrolling the Star Origin Dao Field."

Chapter 1179: Sword Qi With The Power of Frost!

Shang Xia wanted to try a new way to attack, but he didn't think that he would cause such a huge mess. Just by messing around, he drew a third of the lightning in the region to him.

His assistance this time allowed him to learn a lot of secrets from Hua Jianlou.

Most importantly, he learned why there were so few fourth tier True Immortals seen in the worlds connected to the Star Origin Dao Field. That was because the Star Origin Guards killed whoever reached that level.

Even though Shang Xia was absolutely certain that the Spirit Abundance World and Spirit Mammoth World were hiding high-level True Immortals, before they were sure about the Star

Origin Lord's stance or dealt with the Star Origin Guards Commander, they wouldn't easily reveal themselves.

That also seemed to give an acceptable reason why so many True Immortals of the various worlds would be willing to help Tong Yutang kill Zhuge Xiang.

Because Shang Xia drew away a portion of the lightning surrounding the region, he was distracted and failed to suppress the clone. In that instant, it seemed as though it would gain the strength of a fifth tier True Immortal.

The moment it did, there wouldn't be a need to mention Wen Juxiang, Gao Qin, and Hua Jianlou who were suppressed by the World's Will. Even if they were at their peak state, they wouldn't be able to do a thing to the clone!

Hua Jianlou roared, "Fellow cultivators if you are still hiding any trump cards, it's time to use them now! Otherwise, all of us will be buried here!"

Shang Xia was feeling a little embarrassed when he drew away the lightning, causing the clone to grow stronger once again, but after hearing Hua Jianlou's yell, he was greatly taken aback and he raised his guards once again.

What happened next showed Shang Xia that he was still too inexperienced.

As soon as Hua Jianlou spoke, Gao Qin activated a talisman, and a powerful ball of energy fused with her domain.

Gao Qin, who was barely able to unleash the might of a second tier True Immortal earlier, started to grow stronger. Her aura started to rise and she quickly reached the level of strength a peak third tier True Immortal could unleash.

"Rank six talisman?" Shang Xia raised an eyebrow while looking at Gao Qin from where he was.

As a rank six Talisman Grandmaster, Shang Xia was naturally able to determine the level of a talisman when it was activated.

"My Origin Opposing Talisman can only withstand the suppression of a foreign world for the time it takes to steep a pot of tea!" Gao Qin yelled. She didn't hold back either. The moment she could utilize the strength of an expert at the peak of the third tier, she immediately started an even more terrifying offensive against the clone.

Shang Xia's eyes widened in shock. "Origin Opposing Talisman... There is actually such a strange talisman that can allow one to greatly weaken the suppression of the World's Will!"

As a rank six Talisman Grandmaster, Shang Xia naturally knew the importance of such a treasure.

When Gao Qin made her move, Wen Juxiang, who was still suffering from his heavy injuries, didn't remain idle. Even though his expression was dark, he still pulled out an intricate looking pot.

His expression was of endless heartache when he shook the pot in his hand, but he quickly tilted its mouth downwards as a milky-white liquid that glistened under the illumination of the brilliant starlight entered his lips.

Even though Shang Xia was unable to examine the liquid Wen Juxiang was drinking, he was sure it was some sort of extraordinary treasure.

One had to know that even when Wen Juxiang was beaten to an inch of his life against Shang Xia, he didn't take out the pot.

The transformation that happened to Wen Juxiang after drinking the strange liquid seemed different to Gao Qin.

Gao Qin's talisman either allowed her to weaken the suppression of the World's Will or managed to fool the World's Will into thinking that she wasn't a foreign expert. Either way, it allowed her to utilize a lot more power than before.

However, Wen Juxiang's treasure immediately forced the World's Will away from himself, and it even caused the lightning that was falling in the region to avoid him.

If Shang Xia wasn't mistaken, the transformation that happened to Wen Juxiang didn't cause the World's Will's suppression to merely weaken. It directly meddled with its operations.

With a third of the power of lightning no longer affecting him, Wen Juxiang's transformation even surpassed Gao Qin. He regained the fighting strength of a fourth tier True Immortal.

Both high-level True Immortals of the Essence Hong World and Essence Ming World used their trump cards, and the strength difference was immediately closed up.

Shang Xia's gaze soon turned back to Hua Jianlou.

Since the True Immortals of the Essence Hong World and Essence Ming World had their own trump cards that allowed them to erupt with greater fighting capabilities, the Spirit Abundance World, which had been scheming against the Essence Ping World for hundreds of years, would definitely have made their own preparations. Shang Xia refused to believe that Hua Jianlou was helpless.

Indeed... After Gao Qin and Wen Juxiang made their moves, Hua Jianlou also revealed his treasure.

Tossing the divine sword in his hand into the space before him, it started to fuse with his domain to cause a mysterious change in the world around him.

Shang Xia felt the power of frost contained in the world being drawn over by the sword.

The Spirit Abundance World had always been doing something when the Frost Wave arrived, and from the looks of it, they seemed to have some sort of accomplishment. They even managed to utilize the power of frost that existed in the Essence Ping World.

Hua Jianlou not only caught Shang Xia's attention when he made his move. Even Wen Juxiang and Gao Qin, those high-level True Immortals, were intrigued. Shang Xia didn't know if he was mistaken, but he seemed to have seen the clone tilting his head slightly in Hua Jianlou's direction.

"Oh no! The Star Origin Lord's will is about to awaken!"

He wasn't mistaken. Shang Xia wasn't the only one who observed the slight movement as Gao Qin, who had been the main fighting force, reminded the rest with a loud shout.

"So what? The clone only contains a strand of the Star Origin Lord's will. We'll just destroy it again!" Hua Jianlou seemed extremely confident in himself.

Along with the power of frost being drawn to him, a terrifying sword qi that stretched for a thousand miles appeared and tore through the void. It ripped the clouds that had gathered apart before shooting straight for the clone's head.

Chapter 1180: Awaken

Wen Juxiang and Gao Qin came from different Essence Worlds. For their worlds to reach their current state, they naturally weren't lacking experience when it came to battles and expeditions against other worlds. It wasn't strange for either of them to possess trump cards that would allow them to weaken the suppression of foreign Worlds' Will.

Even though Hua Jianlou couldn't be compared to either of them, the Spirit Abundance World had been scheming against the Essence Ping World for so long... How could they not have come up with anything?

In fact... From how all 3 of them dealt with the suppression of the World's Will, Hua Jianlou's method seemed to be the best.

He actually managed to make use of the power of frost, one of the Seventh Order energies the Essence Ping World contained!

That point alone allowed his method to far surpass either Gao Qin or Wen Juxiang.

Perhaps, that was what he was relying on when he wanted to deal with them after entering the Essence Ping World in the first place.

As for Shang Xia... He also managed to force his way into the Essence Ping World, but from how Wen Juxiang, Gao Qin, and Hua Jianlou looked at it, he was merely there by a fluke.

A youngster whose world had barely ascended less than 20 years ago... How could they have known about the existence of the Essence Ping World, or made any preparations to deal with it?

Even if the other party was talented and was able to avoid a portion of the suppression of the World's Will to burst forth with the might of a first tier True Immortal, how could he ever compare to them who had such great methods?!

Not to mention the fact that the Spirit Luxuriant World barely entered its current level, it didn't have much accumulation or foundations that could allow its experts to match up to the mighty Spirit Abundance World, much less the mighty Essence Worlds.

That was also why even though all 3 of them used their trump cards the moment they saw the Star Origin Lord's will was about to awaken, none of them cared about Shang Xia who was assisting them from the side.

They believed that all 3 of them would be enough to suppress the clone, and they also didn't believe that Shang Xia had any secret art that would enable him to burst forth with greater strength like themselves.

Also... They also thought that if Shang Xia knew what was good for him, he would take the chance to escape!

Otherwise, the moment they dealt with the clone, there would be nothing stopping them from taking care of him while they were at it.

One couldn't forget about the grudge the Spirit Abundance World had against the Spirit Luxuriant World, or the hatred between Wen Juxiang and Shang Xia after their many exchanges.

Surprisingly enough, Shang Xia merely distanced himself a little, and he didn't escape.

"Heh... Dumbass... Does he think he can swoop in and fish for benefits after we fight with the clone?" Hua Jianlou snorted inwardly, but he quickly turned his attention back to the battle.

Since he doesn't want to leave, he can't blame us for what happens next.

Gao Qin also continued to fight as she couldn't be bothered with Shang Xia at the moment.

Wen Juxiang, who was beside her, made a seal with his hands before tearing through the domain the clone released.

Hua Jianlou's sword qi took the chance where the gap was created in the domain to fly straight at the clone.

Everything happened so quickly, that they didn't even have to blink.

The 3 True Immortals who came from different worlds, who never came up with a proper plan, worked perfectly with each other at that moment.

Shang Xia, who was observing the battle, didn't plan on being distracted either as he watched everything intently.

He wasn't exactly impressed by their perfect cooperation. Instead, he was observing the transformation of the clone.

He had always been observing the clone since the battle started, and he barely paid any attention to the 3 of them since the battle began.

Since the Star Origin Lord planned to fuse and replace the Essence Ping World's Will, the clone would definitely be circulating energy through his body and using it like a native cultivator of the world, or at the very least, close to it.

If Shang Xia was able to copy what it was doing and transform his inner qi while circulating it in a similar fashion, he would be able to avoid the suppression of the World's Will.

Seeing how the clone would be heavily injured by the 3 of them, the Star Origin Lord clearly wouldn't allow it to be destroyed so easily. With the threat of being destroyed looming over his head, his will started to awaken at a quicker pace.

The next instant, Shang Xia saw the clone's eyelids fluttering slightly as though it would open its eyes very soon.

Unfortunately, it seemed to be a little too slow as it didn't possess the energy to dodge Hua Jianlou's sword qi. In the end, one of its arms was sliced clean off its shoulder.

The Star Origin Lord Robe that was wrapped around its body fluttered rapidly the next moment, and brilliant rays of starlight fell. It transformed into a curtain of starlight that stopped True Immortal Gao Qin from advancing further while also sealing off the gap in the domain Wen Juxiang created. At the same time, the power of the stars gathered and slowly nullified the power of frost contained in Hua Jianlou's sword qi.

The clone looked like it had suffered serious damage, but it also managed to stop all of them the next moment.

At the same time, a powerful frost intent emerged from the depths of the earth as though a terrifying presence was about to descend, causing the expressions on the True Immortals present to change drastically.

Shang Xia, who was the furthest away, managed to notice what happened the most clearly. The second the clone's arm flew into the air, it opened its eyes. It looked like endless starlight was contained in them, and the Star Origin Lord Robe started to flutter behind the clone the next moment.

Just as all 3 True Immortals were stopped, the starlight in the clone's eyes retracted as a pair of expressionless pupils that seemed to look down on everything else in the world was revealed.

It swept its gaze across those present, including Shang Xia, who was the furthest away at the moment. All 4 True Immortals seemed to freeze as the feeling of death crept up on them.

This... This is the Star Origin Lord's gaze, however, those aren't the Star Origin Lord's eyes!

Of the 4 of them, Shang Xia was surprisingly the first to struggle free from the suppression of the gaze.

It wasn't because he was the furthest away, but instead, his soul was much stronger than experts of the same level, and he had a certain treasure in his sea of consciousness.

Even though Shang Xia was the first to awaken, he didn't make any strange movements. Instead, he remained locked in his position.

He didn't need to stay like that for too long as a soft cough broke through the air the next moment. Gao Qin, who managed to shake off a great deal of suppression by the World's Will with her Origin Opposing Talisman, was the next to awaken. She quickly distanced herself from the clone.

Gao Qin's cough quickly brought the others back to attention. However, Wen Juxiang wasn't actually the next person to react. Instead, Hua Jianlou quickly glanced at the clone after he snapped back to reality, afraid the clone would rush at him.

With the Star Origin Lord's will awakening in the body of the clone, the lightning that was falling disappeared.

Perhaps he had just awakened and suffered serious injuries, but the Star Origin Lord's clone didn't immediately attack.

Wen Juxiang also struggled free the next moment before reacting the same way as Gao Qin and Hua Jianlou by distancing himself from the clone.

"You... All of you... All of you deserve to..."