

The Heavens 1181

Chapter 1181: Dealing With Other's Problems

Perhaps he had been in slumber for too long, or he couldn't avoid being assimilated by the World's Will while he was trying to replace it... Whatever it was, he seemed a little sluggish when his will awakened.

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

His words seemed like the law and as soon as they left his lips, it brought about a strange transformation in the world around him.

Gao Qin's Origin Opposing Talisman lost its effects immediately as the powerful World's Will descended to suppress her once again. Her combat abilities were greatly restrained and she couldn't even maintain her strength at the second tier Martial Void Realm like before. In fact, she seemed like she would only be able to unleash the might of a Martial Dipper Realm expert soon.

Wen Juxiang was in an even worse spot. He was already injured and he used some sort of external method to forcefully increase his combat abilities earlier. Now that it had been wiped away, he suffered a massive backlash and he was barely able to maintain the strength of a True Immortal.

Of the 3 of them, Hua Jianlou had the lowest cultivation level, but the backlash he received was the weakest.

The Star Origin Lord's clone might be able to control the Essence Ping World's Will to a certain extent, but Hua Jianlou could also control the power of frost, one of the 2 energies contained in the Essence Ping World.

He could gain a small amount of recognition from the world and could mitigate a part of the suppression he felt.

From that point alone, one could tell that the Star Origin Lord had yet to assimilate with the World's Will.

Hua Jianlou was not too affected, and he managed to maintain his abilities at the second tier of the Martial Void Realm. Surprisingly enough, the weakest of the 3 facing the Star Origin Lord clone became the strongest among them!

Since Hua Jianlou was able to barely hold on because of his ability to draw on the power of frost of the Essence Ping World, the power of the stars that was controlled by the Star Origin Lord was slowly eating away at it, and if things dragged out, he wouldn't be able to stay that way for long.

Even though the 3 of them had been greatly suppressed by the Star Origin Lord's clone, none of them chose to run. Instead, they continued to work together and carried on fighting!

The moment the Star Origin Lord's will awakened, the clone temporarily surpassed the fifth tier of the Martial Void Realm. However, the energy contained in the clone started to leak because Hua Jianlou's sword qi severed one of the clone's arms, and it regressed back into the fourth tier. Also, because the clone had drawn on a large amount of energy through the Star Origin Lord Robe in order to control the World's Will, he was barely able to maintain his cultivation at the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm.

Whatever it was, the Essence Ping World could be considered the territory of the Star Origin Lord and despite the heavy injuries it felt, it would continue to recover as the battle dragged on.

That was why Gao Qin, Wen Juxiang, and Hua Jianlou didn't hesitate to go all in. They needed to make full use of their opportunity when the clone hadn't restored his cultivation to beat it down as much as they could. In the best case scenario, they would be able to force it to fall back down into the third tier of the Martial Void Realm. Since the clone lost an arm, there was no way it could fight against the 3 of them easily.

What's more... It wasn't just facing 3 enemies... There were 4 of them!

"True Immortal Shang, this is your best shot at destroying the Star Origin Lord's will!" Hua Jianlou suddenly recalled Shang Xia, whom they had completely ignored earlier after thinking about how he was a fool.

Gao Qin was still valiant in her attacks, but this time, Wen Juxiang actually took the spot of the main fighter against the Star Origin Lord's clone.

The hammer-wielding Wen Juxiang poured all his energy into his weapon and smashed it into the clone's domain.

Bang!

Facing the powerful strike, the clone was finally unable to sustain his cultivation at the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm and fell back into the third tier.

Gao Qin, who was rapidly closing in after Wen Juxiang's heavy blow, was stopped by a curtain of starlight the clone summoned at the very last second.

Hua Jianlou, who was controlling a sword qi made from the power of frost of the world, might be slightly weakened due to the presence of the power of the stars, but he was still threatening enough to deal a decisive blow if it landed.

The stiff expression on the Star Origin Lord's clone also transformed slightly facing the intense pressure from all of them. Unfortunately, he was limited by the ability of his clone and was unable to unleash his full might.

The Star Origin Lord was getting more and more enraged as the battle progressed. If not for the fact that the descent of his will had been stalled out by them earlier, he would have long been able to project a portion of his strength into it and reach the peak of the Martial Void Realm. He might even be able to step into the Seventh Order if everything went smoothly when he utilized the Star Origin Lord robe.

If that happened, he would be able to free himself of the restrictions of the Essence Ping World and deal with most troubles. After all, a Seventh Order clone could do a lot...

Who would have thought that his amazing plan would be interrupted by some random True Immortals who managed to force their way into the Essence Ping World? Not only was he unable to regain the power of the Seventh Order, he was unable to maintain his cultivation as a high-level True Immortal!

Fortunately for him, he was still in the Essence Ping World, and his clone held the home ground advantage when fighting in the region.

When he was about to free up a portion of his energy to deal with Hua Jianlou's sword qi, a powerful seal soared through the void and crashed into him, slowing down his flow of inner qi once again.

Shang Xia, who was the furthest away from the battlefield at the moment, made his move again. He didn't change up the way he was helping as he simply unleashed the True Space Restriction Palm again.

If he used it any other time, it might not be useful in a battle of such a scale, but the Star Origin Lord's clone was pushed to his limit at the moment and had to draw on more energy to deal with Hua Jianlou. With the flow of his inner qi stagnating all of a sudden, the Star Origin Lord's clone had no choice but to use the Star Origin Lord Robe to summon another curtain of starlight to stop the incoming sword qi.

Pffft!

Hua Jianlou's sword qi might not have injured the Star Origin Lord's clone, but it left a large tear in the robe.

As the clone took several steps back in retreat, his expression fluctuated unsteadily. At the same time, along with the damage to the Star Origin Lord Robe, the domain he created was no longer as complete as before.

After the single exchange between them, Wen Juxiang was unable to maintain his cultivation and it finally slipped into the Martial Dipper Realm.

Even though the domain was no longer as perfect as before, Gao Qin still found it difficult to push forward without Wen Juxiang's assistance.

Hua Jianlou might have damaged the Star Origin Lord Robe, but the power of frost he could draw upon was also exhausted and the aura around him quickly dropped back to the first tier of the Martial Void Realm.

Gao Qin and Hua Jianlou grabbed Wen Juxiang and backed off, and they flew towards where Shang Xia was.

At the same time, even though the clone's aura was that of a third tier True Immortal, it seemed to have fallen into a sorry state with the Star Origin Lord Robe being damaged. There was a feeling that the clone's cultivation would fall even further with a single touch.

Watching Hua Jianlou and the others retreat, the clone didn't go in for the kill due to its unstable foundations. However, after thinking for a moment, the clone seemed to have made up his mind, and a mighty roar left his lips. "Expel!"

Gao Qin, and the others, who were retreating to Shang Xia's position, quickly prepared to deal with whatever was coming as they quickly raised their guards.

The void behind them started to crumble as a spatial tunnel that led out of the Essence Ping World appeared. The World's Will also started to stir as a boundless pressure descended to try to push those exhausted True Immortals into the spatial tunnel to chase them away.

Chapter 1182: Turning The Tables

The Star Origin Lord's clone might have been able to maintain its cultivation at the third tier of the Martial Void Realm, but perhaps due to the damage to the Star Origin Lord Robe, its aura started to fluctuate unsteadily and it seemed like it would fall further.

Of the escaping trio, Wen Juxiang's aura might have dropped to that of a Martial Dipper Realm expert, but Gao Qin and Hua Jianlou maintained a certain level of combat power. There was also Shang Xia, whom they had been ignoring since the start of the battle! He might have been ignored since the start of the battle, but at that moment, he was the strongest among them all! Not to mention the fact that hadn't suffered any injuries from the battle that just happened.

Since the Star Origin Lord's clone wasn't confident he could deal with all 4 of them, the only thing he could do was to prevent himself from suffering more.

In his helpless state, he could only draw on the authority of the World's Will to open a spatial tunnel that led to the outside world and force them to leave.

Wen Juxiang, who had the heaviest injuries, had long since intended to flee with things reaching such a point. He turned around and leaped into the spatial tunnel before anyone could stop him.

Gao Qin might feel a little reluctant to leave after coming so far, but she knew that under such circumstances, if she chose to go all out, the Essence Ping World might be her burial ground.

More importantly, they were going to fight with a mere clone! If she died to a clone, she was going to die in a foreign land!

It was a shame they couldn't obtain the Star Origin Lord Robe, as it was the only key to opening up a spatial tunnel to the Essence Ping World they knew.

After all, the Essence Ming World she came from was unable to determine her current location due to the sealed off spatial tunnels connected to the Star Origin Dao Field.

Whatever it was... Even if they failed, it didn't mean that they would no longer have a chance in the future...

Gao Qin followed quickly behind Wen Juxiang and left the Essence Ping World.

With the departure of 2 high-level True Immortals from the Essence Hong World and Essence Ming World, Hua Jianlou felt that there was no longer a point in staying behind. However, he wasn't too disappointed. It seemed as though he had already achieved his goal.

However, he quickly noticed that Shang Xia, who was standing in the distance, didn't seem to have any intention to leave. He continued to resist the power that was expelling him from the Essence Ping World.

Turning to Shang Xia, Hua Jianlou smiled and asked, "True Immortal Shang, what's the matter? Are you not planning to leave? With our departure, I'm afraid you won't be able to do much alone..."

"I plan to give it a shot." Shang Xia chuckled while looking at Hua Jianlou.

Seemingly unable to believe what he just heard, Hua Jianlou gasped in shock. It was as though he heard something completely unbelievable. "What?!"

"Haha... I would like to test my strength against him." Shang Xia chuckled once before releasing his aura completely.

It quickly rose from the Domain level to the level of Inner Fusion, and finally, it reached the level of External Unity!

It was comparable to his true cultivation level!

How... How is this possible?!

Hua Jianlou didn't see Shang Xia unleashing any special arts, and he wasn't using any sort of external help either.

How is he not being suppressed by the World's Will?!

Also... How is the Star Origin Lord's clone ignoring the kid even when he isn't affected by the suppression?

Fuck! This bastard has been playing the pig to eat the tiger the whole time! All of us underestimated him!

All of them severely underestimated the True Immortal from the newly ascended Spirit Luxuriant World who seemed to have weaker foundations than all of them!

They assumed that Shang Xia only managed to enter the Essence Ping World by luck, and he wasn't in the same league as them! However, they discovered that they were the actual clowns as Shang Xia finally showed his fangs.

"You should have..." Hua Jianlou couldn't complete his sentence when he was dragged into the spatial tunnel.

The moment he entered the spatial tunnel, he discovered that Shang Xia's aura was somewhat similar to what the Star Origin Lord's clone was emitting.

Since Shang Xia had revealed his full strength, there was no way he would keep Hua Jianlou in the Essence Ping World with himself. The only thing he found a shame was that the Star Origin Lord's clone locked on to him the moment he unleashed his full strength and he was unable to take the opportunity to kill the weakened Hua Jianlou.

Shang Xia could only force Hua Jianlou out of the Essence Ping World to get rid of the unstable factor.

"... We could have killed the clone if we worked together..."

Hua Jianlou might have disappeared into the spatial tunnel, but his voice continued to ring through the air.

Working together?

Shang Xia didn't have a way to fool the World's Will like them. After all, he had been observing the Star Origin Lord's clone the entire time to copy the energy flowing through his body.

Shang Xia's sudden outburst didn't just shock Hua Jianlou. Even the Star Origin Lord's clone didn't expect it.

"You... Are you a survivor of the Essence Ping World?" The Star Origin Lord's clone also didn't seem to be sure of the changes that happened to Shang Xia. Instead, he

felt that Shang Xia was just a native cultivator who managed to live past the end of the world.

Shang Xia didn't bother responding as he immediately made his move. He understood that the situation wouldn't be able to last for too long as once the Star Origin Lord's will continued to strengthen, it would soon be able to expose his tricks!

Holding the Stone Rod in his hand, Shang Xia swung it hard and unleashed his third move the moment the battle started, Void Emptiness!

The void between them was instantly torn through as the Stone Rod also ripped the weak domain around the Star Origin Lord's clone apart.

A familiar curtain of starlight appeared in front of the clone once again. In the critical moment, the Star Origin Lord's clone couldn't help but activate the damaged Star Origin Lord Robe. It wrapped itself around the Stone Rod as it ate away at Shang Xia's Six Direction Qi.

Even though it was already damaged, it still contained a lot of power.

That wasn't all. The Star Origin Lord's clone also recognized the Stone Rod with a single glance. He planned to get rid of Shang Xia's energy in the weapon before obtaining the Holy Artifact for himself!

That was a Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, and it could also be used as a weapon! In the eyes of the Seventh Order Star Origin Lord, it was still extremely valuable! At the very least, it would be of great use for the clone.

As it continued to eat away at Shang Xia's energy, the clone weakened once again and it fell back into the second tier of the Martial Void Realm.

The Star Origin Lord didn't seem too concerned. Even though he only had a cultivation of the second tier, he was confident he would be able to deal with the ant who had overestimated himself.

That was the Essence Ping World, and it was his territory!

The Star Origin Lord's clone opened both its arms as the world turned dark. Countless specks of light appeared in the distance.

Raising his head instinctively to take a look, Shang Xia noticed that the entire region had turned dark, and was illuminated by a soft glow from the stars flickering in the distance.

As rays of light came from the sparkling stars in the distance, they surrounded the Star Origin Lord ready to be used at any moment.

The Star Origin Lord's cold gaze landed on Shang Xia the next moment. "Suppress!"

This time, a mighty pressure descended again. It didn't just seem to contain the power of the World's Will this time as the power of the world also moved against Shang Xia.

With the boundless might of the world descending on him, Shang Xia was stuck in place, unable to move.

The Star Origin Lord's clone didn't seem to be planning to stop there. He didn't kick Shang Xia out of the world even after suppressing him and instead, he roared again. "Seize!"

The powerful might forced Shang Xia's palm open as the Stone Rod flew towards the clone.

Moving suddenly, the Star Origin Lord's clone appeared close to Shang Xia and he yelled another order. "Seal!"

The boundless power flowed into Shang Xia and it started to seal off his dantian and his inner qi along with it.

"Punish!"

The Star Origin Lord didn't just yell his final command. He reached out for Shang Xia's glabella with his last command, chuckling to himself as he made his move, "The clone I'm using is already half crippled... However, your body is a perfect replacement!"

The Star Origin Lord's clone wanted to exterminate Shang Xia's soul before replacing it with his will. Unfortunately, his finger that barely came into contact with Shang Xia's glabella felt a strong pulse and was pushed away.

Finally, his expression changed into one of shock.

At the same time, Shang Xia, who was supposed to be sealed by the endless power of the stars the Star Origin Lord's clone summoned, opened his eyes. A look of mockery flashed through his eyes.

He didn't give the Star Origin Lord's clone any time to react as the suppression disappeared in an instant. Shang Xia reached out with a tablet in his hand that seemed to be condensed from starlight and he smashed it directly into the clone's chest.

The Star Origin Lord's clone's eyes widened in shock. "You..."

He didn't expect Shang Xia to be able to shake off the power of suppression, and he didn't understand what was going on.

It was a pity he couldn't say a word. His inner qi burst into disarray as a boundless power of the stars emerged from the tablet and spread through his body. It was as though he would explode the very next moment.

With a single gesture, Shang Xia dragged the Stone Rod that was wrapped up by the Star Origin Lord Robe back into his hands. The Star Origin Lord Robe was also pulled back along with it.

At the same time, Shang Xia pulled back slightly, and he tore the Crimson Soul Tablet's projection out of the clone's chest.

A good portion of the clone's inner qi that was in chaos was absorbed by the Crimson Soul Tablet in an instant. However, there was still some left and they went completely out of control.

The change in the flow of battle happened too quickly, and after dealing with the clone, Shang Xia didn't hesitate. He flew over to the spatial tunnel that led out of the Essence Ping World that was never closed up and left.

As soon as he entered the spatial tunnel and emerged from the Essence Ping World, the clone was completely destroyed. The remnant energy erupted, and rays of resplendent starlight shattered the spatial tunnel behind him. The Essence Ping World once again disappeared into the void.

Chapter 1183: Without Assimilating His Excess Energy

When Shang Xia entered the spatial tunnel, the projection of the Crimson Soul Tablet disappeared. He also quickly kept the Star Origin Lord Robe that was wrapped around one end of his Stone Rod into his spatial artifact.

By the time he tumbled out the other side, the robe was nowhere to be seen. He also swung his weapon through the air to cause powerful spatial ripples as a form of warning.

Surprisingly, the ambush that he was expecting to come never happened. He released his divine soul instantly, covering an area of a thousand miles around himself. Without the suppression of the Essence Ping World's Will, his divine soul could reach a lot further than when he was within the world.

Shang Xia quickly discovered 3 different tracks, and he didn't doubt that they belonged to Wen Juxiang, Gao Qin, and Hua Jianlou.

Even though they started to run in different directions after leaving the Essence Ping World, they hadn't fully left Shang Xia's range of detection.

From the obvious traces of their movement in space, Shang Xia determined that it hadn't been long since they made their escape.

Actually... From the time they were forced out of the Essence Ping World to the time Shang Xia destroyed the clone, only a few breaths of time had passed.

As for the reason they didn't wait for Shang Xia outside the Essence Ping World to sneak attack him, Shang Xia knew that they had their own concerns. Not only did all of them harbor their own schemes, but all 3 of them suffered various extents of injuries.

It was especially so for Wen Juxiang. He was injured by Shang Xia way before they entered the Essence Ping World, and he was injured once again by the Star Origin Lord's clone.

Even if he left the Essence Ping World and was no longer restrained by the World's Will, he would be unable to recover in a short amount of time.

Shang Xia didn't care about anyone other than Wen Juxiang. After all, it was his best chance to beat up a weakened enemy.

However, Wen Juxiang was no fool. He probably expected Shang Xia to chase after him the moment they left the Essence Ping World. Actually, he wasn't just afraid of Shang Xia. He was afraid the rest would also target him and he was actually the first to flee.

Shang Xia could tell the general direction Wen Juxiang had made his escape, but from how crafty the fellow was, he definitely knew that he had to take precautions. He probably wouldn't just be changing up the directly he was flying in...

Shang Xia thought about what he could do before a surge of Six Direction Qi came from his dantian. With even more energy coming from the Crimson Soul Tablet after absorbing so much from the clone, Shang Xia knew that it would be best if he entered seclusion that very moment.

He schemed against the Star Origin Lord's clone in the Essence Ping World and obtained a large amount of purified power of the stars. Compared to the spring he absorbed both types of energies from, the energy that came from plunging the Crimson Soul Tablet into the clone's chest was

countless times more and of higher quality. It was like comparing a tiny turbid puddle to a massive lake!

Despite the intense urge to enter seclusion, Shang Xia didn't wish to give up killing Wen Juxiang. That was a high-level True Immortal they were talking about! Moreover, he was from an Essence World. The moment someone like him escaped, Shang Xia might not get the chance to kill him again. He would also have to worry about retaliation from the other party.

To allow him to get away...

Shang Xia suddenly thought of something. Since Wen Juxiang was heavily injured at the moment, he was definitely going to try to run away, but the question was where he would be running to!

From how he didn't hesitate to escape, he was clearly wary of Gao Qin and Hua Jianlou even though he cooperated with them earlier. That would mean that his best bet would be to escape to the Essence Hong World.

However, from what Shang Xia understood from Hua Jianlou, the spatial tunnel in the Star Origin Dao Field that was connected to the other worlds was sealed off at the moment, and it was the only way members of the Essence Hong World could enter that region of space.

In other words, no matter how Wen Juxiang tried to misdirect everyone by traveling in different directions in space, he had no choice but to return to the spatial tunnel near the Star Origin Dao Field.

The only question was if Tong Yutang had already consolidated his power to control the Star Origin Guards and if the Star Origin Dao Field was still in a sealed state.

After thinking about it, Shang Xia didn't care about the consumption of his inner qi and he immediately tore open a spatial tunnel in the void. When he reappeared, he was already tens of thousands of miles away.

In order to use up the excess energy within his body, Shang Xia opened spatial tunnels through the void without a care in the world and his journey was extremely quick.

By the time he arrived at the space outside the Star Origin Dao Field, he felt a lot less bloated than before from the excess energy. His ability to create spatial tunnels also became a lot more intricate than before. It was especially so after he managed to infuse the properties of his Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman into his technique. Not only did it allow him to travel further and create more stable spatial tunnels, it also allowed the spatial tunnels he created to be more resistant to external disturbances and it became even easier to pass through certain levels of protection.

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When Shang Xia stood in the void, he could already see the Land of Star Origin drifting slowly in space. However, it was different from before. The biggest change was that there was a powerful spatial barrier covering it, and Shang Xia also decided it was no longer appropriate to call it the Land of Star Origin. He would refer to it as the Star Origin Dao Field from then on.

In the past, with the exception of Star Origin City, high-level experts were able to travel to the wilderness whenever they liked, However, it seemed impossible now.

There was a massive floating platform that had been intentionally established outside the Star Origin Dao Field, and it was where people could enter the Star Origin Dao Field. The platform was also heavily guarded by the Star Origin Guards.

Even though it didn't affect how people could still travel to and from the Star Origin Dao Field, it was a lot more restrictive compared to the time when high-level experts could descend on the Star Origin Dao Field whenever they wished.

Shang Xia was able to see the Star Origin Dao Field, but he was still quite some distance away. There was no way they would be able to discover his presence yet, and he had a feeling that with his new mastery in creating spatial tunnels, he would be able to pass through the spatial barrier and enter the Star Origin Dao Field directly.

That was perhaps his greatest gain when it came to creating spatial tunnels.

Of course, being able to enter the Star Origin Dao Field was one thing. Doing it was another.

Without the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman, even if he was able to pass through the spatial barrier, he wouldn't be able to avoid being detected. He didn't wish to alert the Star Origin Guards at the moment.

Since the seal around the Star Origin Dao Field had been lifted, Shang Xia had a feeling Kou Chongxue had already returned to the Spirit Luxuriant World. That would mean that a reliable ally was gone, and he would have to search for and kill Wen Juxiang alone.

Fortunately, there was only a single point of exit and entry to the Star Origin Dao Field. If Wen Juxiang couldn't travel as quickly as Shang Xia, that would mean that he would eventually appear in the space around the platform if he wished to return to the Essence Hong World.

What Shang Xia needed to do was to sit by and wait for his target to appear.

He wasn't actually planning on hiding in the void and waiting for Wen Juxiang to arrive. Instead, he created a clone to deal with matters in Star Origin City.

Also, by creating the clone, he could get rid of the overflowing amount of Six Direction Qi in his dantian. He also created a spatial tunnel to the platform and made his way over.

The appearance of a True Immortal quickly attracted the attention of the Star Origin Guards.

Actually, the Star Origin Guards weren't alert enough to discern the appearance of a True Immortal. However, there was a formation in the platform that could detect the level of incoming experts.

Whatever it was, the Star Origin Guards didn't seem to care as they simply swept their gazes over the clone before allowing him to enter the city.

Returning to Star Origin City after being in the Essence Ping World, Shang Xia felt as though everything was the same, but the people he was seeing were slightly different.

Star Origin City was as bustling as before. Other than the platform outside the Star Origin Dao Field where people could arrive, the main traffic still came from the Star Relay that held the many spatial tunnels connected to the various worlds.

Unlike the Star Origin City of the past, the current state of the city seemed a lot cleaner and orderly. However, there was a sense of unease that Shang Xia couldn't shake off no matter what, and the laid-back and casual atmosphere in the city was nowhere to be seen.

Shang Xia immediately connected the reason for the strange happenings to Tong Yutang. Clearly, after the new Guards Commander took on his post and controlled the Star Origin Dao Field, he increased the influence of the Star Origin Guards on the city. Perhaps there were many different reasons included in the change, but Tong Yutang seemed to be far lacking when it came to the confident way Zhuge Xiang had been running the city the entire time.

After sending out a secret transmission, Shang Xia quickly located the secret meeting point the Tongyou Institution established in the city and ran into Feng Ziyong who had already become a Captain of the Fourth Camp.

“Brat, where the hell have you been?! Why did you disappear for such a long time without sending back any news?! If the Spirit Luxuriant World didn’t send back news that your clone was still present in the institution, Kou Chongxue would have thought that you were killed out there!” Feng Ziyong snapped, but he seemed very happy to see Shang Xia again.

Shang Xia chuckled in response, “Oh? Did Patriarch Kou already leave the city? How long was I away?”

“Not too long after the Star Origin Dao Field reappeared, he brought those Formation Masters of the Azure Oddity World and left.” Feng Ziyong shot Shang Xia a strange gaze before he continued, “Why do you need to ask how long you have been away? According to the Spirit Luxuriant Calendar, it’s the end of the 14th year..”

“Oh.” Shang Xia grunted once and sighed softly, “Time passes really quickly indeed... It has already been almost half a year..”

“Where the hell have you been for the last month?” Feng Ziyong snapped again, seeing as Shang Xia hadn’t answered his question.

“I went to an Essence World hidden in the void!” Shang Xia casually replied, shocking Feng Ziyong with the bomb he had thrown out of the blue.

Soon, he described everything that happened after he left the Star Observatory through the secret passage, including how he held many Stargazers hostage. Tong Yutang’s ploy of working together with True Immortals of the Spirit Abundance World, Spirit Mammoth World, and Spirit Tinkle World to kill Zhuge Xiang was also revealed, and at the very end, he spoke about how he entered the Essence Ping World while chasing after the Star Origin Lord Robe. He also talked about how he discovered 2 different types of energies that made up the world origin of the Essence Ping World, and the Star Origin Lord’s plan to assimilate himself and replace the Essence Ping World’s Will, before speaking about how the True Immortals who entered were forced to leave.

By the time he was done speaking, Feng Ziyong was already completely flabbergasted and was in a state of utter confusion by the amazing stories that Shang Xia was telling him.

After seeing how Feng Ziyong still hadn’t recovered from the shock, Shang Xia sighed softly, “Well... Why don’t you talk about what happened in Star Origin City in the time that passed?”

Chapter 1184: Star Origin Lord Manor

Shang Xia didn't expect himself to have spent close to half a year.

After he briefly explained his experience to Feng Ziyang, he couldn't wait to learn what happened in Star Origin City and the changes that happened. He especially wished to know what happened after Zhuge Xiang's death and the implications it had for the Star Origin Guards.

However, Feng Ziyang's reply somewhat disappointed Shang Xia. Even so, he rejoiced a little at the revelation.

He was disappointed that chaos didn't break out within the Star Origin Guards after learning about Zhuge Xiang's death.

After Tong Yutang returned to the Star Origin Dao Field, there was a smooth transition of power as he obtained the ruling rights over from He Yingrui and everything happened without a hitch.

Even Liu Jiuzhen, Zhuge Xiang's most trusted subordinate, didn't seem to have put up any rejection when Tong Yutang consolidated his power. He even successfully became a Camp Commander from his original position as captain.

The only difference was that he wasn't the commander of the First Camp. Instead, he was deployed to the Third Camp, and Hu Linghua who was the original Third Camp Commander was transferred to the Fifth Camp. The rest of the roles were given out accordingly.

The Seventh Camp, which was ranked dead last the whole time Zhuge Xiang was in power, had their status upgraded to the First Camp and Tong Yutang became their Camp Commander. Xing Xingtian, the original Seventh Camp Commander, became the Captain of the Second Squad in the First Camp, and at the same time controlled the Star Observatory with his status as a Grand Stargazer.

After a round of rearrangement, the Star Origin Guards didn't seem to change too much internally. However, the first 4 camps all had True Immortals as their Camp Commanders, and of the 343 remaining Star Guards, there were 6 True Immortals in total. They were the high-level fourth tier True Immortal Tong Yutang, third tier True Immortal He Yingrui, second tier True Immortal Liu Jiuzhen, and first tier True Immortals Tian Moran, Feng Ziyuan, and Xing Xingtian.

What Shang Xia was rejoicing at was the fact that he learned a lot of secrets regarding the Star Origin Guards and the Star Origin Dao Field. He even obtained a bunch of information on the Star Origin Lord. He also knew how important it was for the rest of the worlds connected to the Star Origin Dao Field that large-scale chaos hadn't broken out in Star Origin City.

Tong Yutang quickly obtained power and reorganized the Star Origin Guards, which allowed the Star Origin Dao Field to quickly reappear in space, lifting the seal on the spatial tunnels and leading to the various worlds.

"Of course... There aren't any obvious changes, but as you can see, from how you entered the city, we can't enter and leave the Star Origin Dao Field whenever we want now. We can only arrive at the platform and enter the city under the watchful eyes of the Star Origin Guards." Feng Ziyang sighed before he continued, "Also, the quality of Star Origin Guards in the future will only get higher. Not counting those who are

already in service, any newcomers will have to be in the Martial Dipper Realm or above to be accepted into the Star Origin Guards.”

Shang Xia couldn't help but gasp. “Wouldn't that mean that any squad of the Star Origin Guards will be able to produce the might of a True Immortal once they deploy their battle formation?”

Feng Ziyang nodded in response. “You can see it that way, but in actual combat, it's not going to be likely for an ordinary squad to be able to hold back a True Immortal...”

Shang Xia naturally understood the reason.

No matter how familiar they were with the battle formation, they wouldn't be able to react as quickly or deal with situations with as much flexibility as a True Immortal. Unless they managed to catch a True Immortal off guard, they wouldn't be able to do much against one.

However... There was still one more pressing question in Shang Xia's mind.

“How are things so peaceful after Tong Yutang took over the position as Guards Commander? Did Zhuge Xiang really fail as a leader? Is there really no one loyal to him in his hundred or so years as the Star Origin Guards Commander? Wasn't Liu Jiuzhen imprisoned on the third floor of the main prison beneath the Star Observatory because of his relationship with Zhuge Xiang?” Shang Xia frowned. He really wished to listen to a more detailed explanation from Feng Ziyang.

Shaking his head slowly, Feng Ziyang sighed, “I don't know the specifics. However, from what I know, the first thing Tong Yutang did when he returned was to enter the Star Origin Lord Manor. After he emerged, the True Immortals of the Star Origin Guards quickly acknowledged him as their leader.”

“Star Origin Lord Manor?!” Shang Xia mumbled softly before asking, “Where is the manor located? What do you know about it and have you been to it?”

“The Star Origin Lord Manor is located in the very center of Star Origin City. You have been in the city countless times... Have you noticed it before?” Feng Ziyang replied.

A strange expression appeared on Shang Xia's face. He discovered that he didn't really remember anything related to the Star Origin Lord Manor, and any recollections of it seemed to be shrouded in a layer of fog.

Feng Ziyang continued, “According to the legends, other than the Star Origin Lord, only the Camp Commanders of the Star Origin Guards have the authority to enter. However, only the Guards Commander has the authority to enter the core region located within the manor.”

“After Tong Yutang returned, he immediately left for the manor and entered the core region, which was probably why there wasn't any trouble when he took over the position of the Guards Commander...”

Shang Xia hesitated slightly and muttered in confusion, “But what about the Star Origin Lord Robe? I'm holding the Star Origin Lord Robe and without it...”

Feng Ziyang interrupted Shang Xia before he could finish. “Tong Yutang was definitely clad in Star Robes when he came back. I personally verified the fact.”

To be able to gain everyone’s recognition as the Star Origin Guards Commander, Tong Yutang naturally needed to own his own Star Robes. He would also need to appear in public. After all, it didn’t make sense for the Star Origin Guards under him to be unable to recognize their commander.

Shang Xia quickly followed up with more questions. “Are you sure it isn’t fake?! When Tong Yutang surrounded and killed Zhuge Xiang with other True Immortals, he was wearing a set of imitation Star Robes. Didn’t they say that there were 343 Star robes for everyone in the Star Origin Guards, no more, and no less? If one was destroyed, there would be one less Star Robes! Is that not true?!”

“How can he fake something like that? The moment Tong Yutang returned to take on his position, he deployed the battle formation of the Star Origin Guards with all 343 members. With assistance from the Star Observatory, the Star Origin Dao Field reappeared in the sea of stars. If his Star Robes were fake, or if they were an imitation, even if he was able to hide it from the rest of us, he wouldn’t be able to fool the True Immortals! How would he be able to deploy the battle formation then?” Feng Ziyang shook his head and chuckled.

Shang Xia was tongue-tied for a moment and he didn’t know how to respond. However, he knew that the Star Origin Lord Robe he obtained was no fake.

Feng Ziyang also didn’t think that Shang Xia would lie about anything like that and he quickly thought of another possibility. “Perhaps it’s because Tong Yutang entered the Star Origin Lord Manor. It’s said that there are only 343 Star Robes, but who’s to say that there aren’t more in the Star Origin Lord Manor?”

“Also... There has been a rumor that before Zhuge Xiang became the Star Origin Guards Commander, he was a Camp Commander just like Tong Yutang. They had also been fighting over the position of Guards Commander, and everyone saw Tong Yutang as being more likely to take on the role. However, Zhuge Xiang broke through and entered the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm before Tong Yutang, and managed to obtain the position. Tong Yutang seemed to have suffered a huge blow to his confidence because of that and chose to leave the Star Origin Guards.” Feng Ziyang explained.

Shang Xia seemed to have thought of something and he asked suddenly, “Hey, do you think that there are other True Immortals hidden in the Star Origin Lord Manor? The Star Origin Dao Field has been in existence for more than a thousand years now, and there should be several Star Origin Guards Commanders. Where do you think all of them went?”

Chapter 1185: DIE WEN JUXIANG, DIE!

The Star Origin Guards might be strong, but for the Star Origin Lord to not appear for close to 200 years, and still be able to place pressure on the various worlds such that even the peak-tier Spirit

Worlds like the Spirit Abundance World and Spirit Mammoth World didn't dare to openly scheme against them... There was no way they were merely relying on those 300 or so Star Origin Guards.

Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue once suspected that there were hidden experts in Star Origin City, particularly experts in the Martial Void Realm. They even sent out members of the institution to look for clues and even personally went to verify the existence of such experts.

Other than Tong Yutang that was discovered by Shang Xia, they never saw any unfamiliar True Immortals in the city.

That begged the question... Where did the experts who left the service of the Star Origin Guards go to? Especially those who had already broken through to the Martial Void Realm?

Even though the Star Origin Dao Field was in essence, a massive secret region, and would definitely possess many locations where they could hide themselves, Shang Xia felt that the Star Origin Lord Manor which no one took notice of would be the best place for them to hide.

"Speaking of which..." Feng Ziying looked at Shang Xia and growled in a low voice, "You're not planning on letting me investigate the Star Origin Lord Manor, right?!"

Shang Xia immediately stopped him. "It's best for you not to make any moves right now. Just act like a normal captain for now. As for news regarding the Star Origin Lord Manor... I believe that once you enter the Martial Void Realm, you will gain the qualifications to learn about it."

Feng Ziying was an expert who refined 4 fate dippers, and he was neither near nor far from the Martial Void Realm. However, he could be said to be a good seedling the Star Origin Guards would nurture to become a True Immortal.

More importantly, Feng Ziying was truly living the life at the moment. Not only would he be able to obtain cultivation resources from the Star Origin Guards, he also had the hidden support of the Tongyou Institution.

Without a doubt, the possibility of him breaking through to the Martial Void Realm was really high.

Next, they exchanged a little more information regarding everything going around in the city. Particularly, the Star Robes worn by the Star Origin Guards, the Frost Wave the Spirit Abundance World experienced from time to time, and information regarding the Essence Worlds. Those were stuff Shang Xia was particularly interested in and he asked Feng Ziying to pay special attention to them.

6 hours flew by in the blink of an eye and when Shang Xia was still speaking enthusiastically about the possibility of crafting Star Robes with the secret Formation Talisman he crafted back then, he suddenly sat up straight and his eyes glazed over. However, he quickly recovered.

Feng Ziying could naturally see the strange state he was in and he quickly asked, "What's the matter? Did something happen?"

"Hehe... It's nothing. It's just that the rabbit I've been waiting for has finally appeared!"

...

Shang Xia's true body which had been hidden in the void around the Star Origin Dao Field opened his eyes and he looked in the direction of the void thousands of miles away.

The Star Origin Dao Field's changes also stumped Wen Juxiang, who was rushing over from god knows where.

In the past, the Star Origin Dao Field didn't have a spatial barrier around it, and he was able to enter and leave as he pleased. As long as he managed to enter the city, no one would dare to trouble him as he made his way over to the Star Relay and activated the spatial tunnel that led back to the Essence Hong World.

However, everything was different when he returned. There was only a single platform that wasn't covered in the spatial barrier where he could connect a spatial tunnel to. Under such circumstances, as long as anyone wanted to deal with him, all they needed to do was to intercept him on his way there.

The thought barely flashed through his mind before he ignored the implications. After all, if he wished to return to his world, he needed to enter the city. Moreover, he didn't believe that anyone would be able to rush back faster than him to stand in his way.

After observing the platform for some time and learning that the Star Origin Guards didn't make things difficult for True Immortals, he decided to reveal himself and fly slowly towards it.

The second he revealed himself, he felt the hair on the back of his neck standing. He immediately understood that someone had already set their sights on him.

He was currently in an extremely sorry state, and he suffered multiple heavy injuries. Even if he managed to recover after leaving the Essence Ping World and regained his combat abilities in the Martial Void Realm, he was still a lot weaker than he actually was.

Also, anyone who could set their sights on him at that point was definitely no weakling. He was also in no shape to fight.

Wen Juxiang was a decisive person as the second he discovered the strange feeling, he turned to flee.

Without him running too far away, the void behind him opened up and the end of a Stone Rod emerged. It pierced straight through Wen Juxiang's back.

Shang Xia arrived soon, but he frowned. "It's a clone...?"

Wen Juxiang's clone that had his body turned into a human skewer turned back and revealed a mocking sneer before dissipating into streams of energy.

"Heh, splitting off a clone even after being so heavily injured... How long can you last?" Shang Xia snorted once before releasing his domain. The void around him started to pulsate wildly as powerful ripples started to spread. Every single one of them contained a strand of his divine soul as he looked for traces of Wen Juxiang.

Suddenly, he discovered a strange region of twisted space in the distance and a figure quickly tore through it to continue fleeing.

Shang Xia wasn't surprised at all. Instead, he seemed pretty happy that Wen Juxiang was running away from the Star Origin Dao Field. He smirked as he quickly rushed towards the fleeing figure.

No matter what, they were still in the vicinity of the Star Origin Dao Field. Even though they barely exchanged a single blow with Shang Xia destroying a clone, there had already been 5 True Immortals who released their divine souls in the city, trying to discover what was going on.

If they continued to fight, the Star Origin Guards might just show up the next moment to prevent them from fighting.

However... Wen Juxiang was suffering from heavy injuries and he couldn't be bothered with so much. He simply chose to run from Shang Xia!

His actions fell perfectly in line with Shang Xia's intentions.

After reaching a new level of comprehension when it came to creating spatial tunnels, Shang Xia naturally wasn't worried that Wen Juxiang would be able to flee.

After feeling the remnant spatial fluctuations, he quickly determined the general direction and distance Wen Juxiang was at.

Forming a relatively less complicated seal, Shang Xia opened a spatial gate and stepped into it without hesitation.

Slightly over 10,000 miles away from the Star Origin Dao Field, Wen Juxiang tumbled out from a spatial crack and looked to be in an extremely sorry state as he made his escape.

He didn't dare to be the slightest bit careless. He didn't care about the consumption of his inner qi. Even if his domain was rather incomplete and weak, he prepared to tear another spatial tunnel to run.

Just as he created a spatial tunnel with much difficulty and stepped into it, the void in front of him started to compress and twist. It eventually turned into a region of chaos as he was forced out of the spatial tunnel when he barely traveled 10 or so miles.

By the time he emerged, he looked like shit.

"It's you!" Wen Juxiang stabilized himself as he looked at a familiar figure not too far away.

A cold smirk could be seen on Shang Xia's face as he mumbled, "Are you surprised? You should have expected as much."

"Hmph, even a dog dares to bully a tiger when they are injured..." Wen Juxiang chuckled miserably in response. "If I knew this day would come, I wouldn't have allowed you to leave that time..."

"This is our fifth meeting. In all our exchanges before... Was there really a time you could have killed me for real?" Shang Xia muttered casually.

Wen Juxiang forced a smile and continued, "Since things have come to this, is there a need to run your mouth? If you have the abilities, kill me right here and now!"

Shang Xia laughed softly, "Sure."

Wen Juxiang's expression changed drastically the next moment as a terror he never felt before enveloped him.

Shang Xia's figure that was standing in front of him a moment ago started to turn blurry, and the mocking sneer on his lips could be seen clearly.

That... That's just a clone!

Earlier, he used a clone to distract Shang Xia. Now, his attention was similarly attracted to a mere clone and he didn't detect Shang Xia's true presence.

How...

That would mean his true body...

Wen Juxiang turned his head violently, but he came face to face with the end of a Stone Rod that was quickly growing bigger in size.

The small hammer appeared in his hand again as he wanted to swing it in a desperate attempt to protect himself, but he discovered that something was wrapped around his wrist, preventing him from using his divine weapon.

Thump...

A dull blast could be heard as the Stone Rod slammed straight into Wen Juxiang's forehead, causing it to sink in. It showed no signs of restoring itself.

A cape-like treasure that emitted dense starlight wrapped around the hammer as Wen Juxiang's lifeless body started to crumble. It also grabbed several treasures that were strapped to his waist, along with his spatial artifact before returning to Shang Xia.

Looking at the corpse of the high-level True Immortal, Shang Xia waved his sleeves once and turned the body to dust. The energy that was contained in Wen Juxiang's dantian was also scattered, and just like that, a high-level True Immortal of the Essence Hong World disappeared from the face of the universe.

Chapter 1186: Feng Ziyong's Anticipation

With the death of a high-level True Immortal from an Essence World, Shang Xia felt as though he was living in a dream.

You only saw one clone... You wouldn't know that I would rather split off a lot more of them...

Shang Xia thought to himself as he watched Wen Juxiang's corpse scattered into the vast sea of stars.

Even though Shang Xia knew that Wen Juxiang had been heavily injured after he summoned the projection of the Crimson Soul Tablet, and his bout with the Star Origin Lord's clone, resulting in Wen Juxiang being weakened by close to 70 percent, it didn't matter.

During the battle, Shang Xia didn't use the Crimson Soul Tablet, and neither did he drag the battle out. He didn't attract too much attention and he finished off Wen Juxiang, the high-level True Immortal from the Essence Hong World, who had been giving him a massive headache.

With that, he could also determine that he became even stronger ever since he left the Essence Ping World.

The clone that attracted Wen Juxiang's attention earlier approached Shang Xia and laughed, "The reason you're able to produce so many clones like me is because of your powerful soul. Even though we can absorb energy to replenish our reserves, all of us require a strand of your divine soul in order to possess our own consciousness. Ordinary True Immortals won't be able to do anything like what you did to create 3 different clones at once..."

When Shang Xia left the Spirit Luxuriant World, he left a clone back in the institution.

That was something he and Kou Chongxue had learned the hard way after their Tongyou Elysium was infiltrated back then.

No matter which one of them leaves, they would create a clone to watch over the institution. Even after the rank six grand formation around the institution was created, it might be a habit they would find difficult to get rid of.

Back when he was waiting for Wen Juxiang to appear, he also created another clone to enter Star Origin City to meet up with Feng Ziyang. He didn't retrieve the clone when he started fighting.

The last clone was created during the battle with Wen Juxiang. Even though all of them had combat capabilities in the Martial Void Realm, Shang Xia's true body wasn't affected.

Fortunately, no one knew what happened. Otherwise, they would be completely shocked by what he could do.

Shang Xia was naturally not moved by the praise his clone was giving him. He replied simply, "I can't help it. The Crimson Soul Tablet absorbed too much energy from the Star Origin Lord's clone and even now, it's still pouring more energy into me. I can't use them to cultivate because I have to deal with this, and I can only create more clones or use up the energy while creating spatial tunnels. Otherwise, all the energy would go to waste or would bloat up in my dantian."

The clone chuckled again, "What do you plan to do next?"

Shang Xia couldn't help but roll his eyes at the obvious question. "Do you even need to ask? Since I dealt with the hidden threat that is Wen Juxiang, I'm naturally going to enter secluded cultivation in the Spirit Luxuriant World."

After he spoke, he tossed the Star Origin Lord Robe which had a massive tear on it at the clone.

Instead of wearing the robe, the clone absorbed the robe into its body, and it resulted in his aura gradually growing stronger. It didn't take long for him to grow to the peak of the first tier of the Martial Void Realm, comparable to Huang Jinghan. He even showed signs of reaching the level of a second tier True Immortal.

That was one of the functions of the robe, and it wasn't just effective on the clone. If Shang Xia's true body wore it, the effects might be even more pronounced.

Even so, Shang Xia clearly didn't plan on carrying it on himself. The first reason was that he didn't wish to attract too much attention, especially from the Star Origin Guards. Secondly... He was afraid the Star Origin Lord hid some tricks in it.

Zhuge Xiang's clone was able to live on because of the Star Origin Lord Robe even after his true body had fallen, and it could even enter the Essence Ping World. No matter how he looked at it, Shang Xia felt that it didn't make sense.

Not to mention in the Essence Ping World, Zhuge Xiang's clone also managed to become a vassal for the Star Origin Lord's will. He just saw everything that happened, and he wouldn't keep such a dangerous treasure on himself.

...

In one of the teahouses in Star Origin City... Shang Xia's clone became unnaturally silent after Shang Xia's true body went to hunt down Wen Juxiang.

Even though his clone could still respond to Feng Ziyong, his answers seemed a lot more stiff and he was no longer able to carry on a conversation on his own.

Feng Ziyong could guess that something had happened, but he didn't seem too bothered by it. Instead, he continued to speak to the clone while everything was going on. Throughout their conversation, they even added 2 more pots of tea.

Even though Shang Xia's clone wasn't great at conversing, it was still alright for Feng Ziyong to ask him questions about cultivation.

Feng Ziyong took the chance to ask Shang Xia's clone many questions about his experience in entering the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm and how he broke through to become a True Immortal.

Shang Xia clearly gave the clone that was talking to Feng Ziyong a lot of authority as his clone didn't conceal anything. Instead, it quickly clarified many doubts and questions regarding cultivation Feng Ziyong had.

They didn't know how long had passed, but the clone seemed to regain its conscious mind and become lively again.

Feng Ziyong chuckled softly, "Did you finish things up there?"

Slightly taken aback, Shang Xia's clone eventually smiled, "It went pretty smoothly, but I can't stay here for long. I need to leave."

Feng Ziyong wasn't surprised. After all, the aura of a True Immortal approaching the Star Origin Dao Field was discovered before it disappeared abruptly. The Star Origin Guards would definitely be alerted and if Shang Xia didn't leave soon, the Star Origin Guards might be able to quickly discover he was a clone and might have something to do with it. When that happens, Feng Ziyong's identity might also be exposed.

Seeing how Shang Xia's clone got to his feet, Feng Ziyong asked suddenly, "What are you planning to do next?"

Shang Xia's clone didn't plan to hide his plan from Feng Ziyong. However, he muttered in a strange tone, "I'll be in seclusion for some time... If nothing important happens... I'm afraid I won't be able to leave the Spirit Luxuriant World for the next 3 to 5 years..."

"Hm." Feng Ziyong mumbled once before nodding. "It's good to enter seclusion. That fellow, Kou Chongxue, brought back a group of Formation Masters of the Azure Oddity World and he looked mighty suspicious. According to his plan, it's to prepare for his eventual breakthrough to a high-level True Immortal. Now that your

cultivation has caught up to him, you better not let that old fart leave you behind again.”

Shang Xia could pretty much guess what Kou Chongxue was planning to do. He was also used to the way Feng Ziyong spoke about Kou Chongxue and he simply chuckled softly in response, “If I get lucky... I might be able to surpass Patriarch Kou this time...”

Feng Ziyong’s laughter stopped midway and he stared at Shang Xia in shock. He was only planning to encourage Shang Xia, but he didn’t think that Shang Xia would be able to surpass Kou Chongxue. At the very least, he didn’t think that it would happen so quickly.

Shang Xia might not be sure he was able to do it, but Feng Ziyong managed to hear a trace of confidence.

Even he wasn’t prepared to see Kou Chongxue being surpassed by a disciple of the Tongyou Institution yet...

A moment later, he quickly snapped back to reality and he roared with laughter, “Nice... That’s great! Hahahaha! I can’t wait to see his expression if you really step into the fourth tier before him. I bet it’s going to be really spectacular!”

Chapter 1187: Preparations Before Seclusion

After bidding Feng Ziyong farewell, Shang Xia’s clone went to meet up with the other clone and Shang Xia’s true body. With 2 clones and his true body, all 3 existences who had combat strength in the Martial Void Realm didn’t bother heading to the Star Relay. Instead, they tore through the spatial barrier and left.

Even though Shang Xia had been away for more than half a year, nothing serious seemed to have happened in the Spirit Luxuriant World.

Actually, after the ascension of the Spirit Luxuriant World, many factions were still digesting the gains the world ascension brought, and slightly more than 10 years wasn’t enough.

There wasn’t even a need to mention how they devoured the Azure Flame World and several continents from the Spirit Faith World during that time, strengthening the foundations of the Spirit Luxuriant World Further in the process. They were in a strange state of growth at the moment.

That was also why unless a major accident happened, the various factions were basically focusing on their own growth. Instances of conflicts dropped drastically.

As usual, Shang Xia’s return to the Tongyou Institution didn’t alarm anyone. However, he quickly discovered that Kou Chongxue hadn’t remained in the institution when he was away! In fact, he couldn’t find traces of the patriarch in the You Continent.

Shang Xia quickly recalled the clone he left in the institution, and learning that Kou Chongxue left quickly after coming back from the Star Origin Dao Field, he took his leave.

He heard that Kou Chongxue left for the region around the Spirit Faith World. To be more exact, he was headed to the Ruined World where the Spirit Emptiness World once stood and Shang Xia understood what the patriarch was thinking of.

He quickly found Kou Chongxue’s clone in the institution and he didn’t beat about the bush. He asked directly, “Did the patriarch say anything before leaving?”

Kou Chongxue's clone seemed happy to see Shang Xia and he muttered, "My true body said that you should know what he plans to do and if you don't mind, you should stay in the institution and hold the fort for some time. He also mentioned that after Tong Yutang took over the position of Star Origin Guards Commander and opened up the Dao Field again, he went over to the Spirit Mammoth World and Spirit Abundance World for some secret investigation. The patriarch discovered traces of high-level True Immortals and feels that Tong Yutang replacing Zhuge Xiang as the Guards Commander didn't signal the end of the story. Instead, a larger conspiracy seems to be taking place. Under such circumstances, our Tongyou Institution and our Spirit Luxuriant World needs our own high-level True Immortal."

Shang Xia couldn't help but sigh. Kou Chongxue's instincts had always been sharp and knew what he should do next.

Shang Xia also came to the same conclusion, and he was even more sure that something was amiss. However, that was because he saw what happened to Zhuge Xiang for himself, and personally took part in what happened next.

However, Kou Chongxue could sniff out what happened with so few clues, and he came to a similar conclusion as Shang Xia.

No matter what, Shang Xia couldn't help but admire the old patriarch.

He continued to ask, "Did the patriarch go alone? Or did he bring a bunch of people with him?"

Kou Chongxue's clone replied, "My true body said that he needed to create a secret spatial tunnel that will allow a Star Ship to pass through and he can't let anyone know what is happening. Other than you, no one knows about this."

Shang Xia couldn't help but nod slowly. He understood Kou Chongxue's considerations, and he knew the true reason behind the patriarch's actions.

There was a spatial tunnel leading to the space around the Spirit Faith World, but it was connected to the Star Beast Nest the Spirit Luxuriant World had control of. Even though only 1 True Immortal was stationed there, it was controlled by the great powers of the Spirit Luxuriant World equally.

Since Kou Chongxue had set his sights on the Ruined World where the Spirit Emptiness World once stood and planned to use the secret method Tong Yutang used to enter the fourth tier of the Marital Void Realm, his plan definitely couldn't be leaked to the others.

However... To lay down such a massive formation was going to be a monumental undertaking. It wasn't something he could do if he just brought a few people over with some spatial artifacts.

Of course... If he truly mobilized a huge group and brought a Star Ship... Or even multiple Star Ships for that matter... The various powers would definitely catch wind of what he was doing and start investigating and his secret plan would go up in smoke.

Most importantly, the moment news of what Kou Chongxue was attempting to do spread to Star Origin City, Tong Yutang would definitely connect the dots.

If that happens, other people might not be completely sure what Kou Chongxue would be up to, but Tong Yutang might just mobilize the entirety of the Star Origin Guards to deal with the Tongyou Institution.

Because of their considerations, Kou Chongxue needed to think of a way to create a secret spatial tunnel that led to the Ruined World so as to avoid the prying eyes of the other great powers.

After thinking to himself, Shang Xia asked, “Did he say if he needs anything from me?”

“Nope. However, he said that with the help of a Stargazer, opening the spatial tunnel would be much easier. It would be harder to get lost too...” The clone explained.

Nodding slowly, Shang Xia realized that they didn’t think they were missing anything when the institution lacked Stargazers, but now that there were actual competent Stargazers among them, there were actually a lot of places they could be put into use.

After a short moment of contemplation, Shang Xia said softly, “I will enter seclusion in the institution for some time. I know that even though you’re extremely far away from your true body, you should be able to receive some simple feedback. If anything feels amiss, or if the patriarch faces any danger, you have to inform me right away.”

“My true body said something similar once and I don’t have to act so politely around you all the time!” Kou Chongxue’s clone joked.

Shang Xia burst out laughing and eventually bid the clone farewell. He decided to make preparations to enter seclusion in order to consolidate his gains.

He estimated that he would be in secluded cultivation for a pretty long time, and as such, he had to ensure that he passed down all his instructions clearly and everything was in order before he could disappear.

Instruction his 3 clones to head over to the Talisman Pagoda, the Tongyou Elysium, and the Shang Clan, Shang Xia headed for Hai Min’s courtyard in the city.

Every time after he returned to Tongyou City, he would stay in Hai Min’s courtyard for some time.

Even though Hai Min wasn’t too focused on her cultivation and was inclined to living like a normal person, she managed to enter the Martial Extermination Realm with Shang Xia’s gradual assistance.

Hai Min might have been lazy and refused to train properly, but her daughter, Hai Yuanyuan, was a legendary figure in the later generations nurtured by the institution. Hai Yuanyuan had also entered the Martial Extermination Realm, and she had already surpassed her mother by far.

Shang Xia’s cultivation philosophy had always been open to the 3 divisions of the Tongyou Institution, and there had been many students who attempted to walk down the same path as him by accepting his ideology.

However... Strictly speaking, Hai Yuanyuan was his first official student and only disciple who would receive his full inheritance.

Chapter 1188: Rank Six Grand Formation

Shang Xia barely returned to the institution from Hai Min’s place when he was intercepted by Formation Grandmaster Chu Jia.

“Have you been resting well these few days?!” Chu Jia’s gaze seemed to be hiding something, but when he looked closer, he couldn’t discover anything.

Shang Xia revealed a strange expression and he muttered, "I heard that Patriarch Kou brought back a batch of Formation Masters from the Azure Oddity World. Why hasn't our rank six grand formation been making much progress?"

Chu Jia knew that Shang Xia was changing the topic on purpose, but she still explained, "No matter what, those Formation Masters came from another world. They would be suppressed by our World's Will if they remain here. For now, they have been arranged to stay in the Elysium. They're working with Gu Qing, the Formation Grandmaster, to restore the Essence Refining Void Returning Formation."

Slapping his forehead, Shang Xia realized he had forgotten how sensitive the identities of cultivators from other worlds were. In order to avoid drawing too much trouble to themselves, the institution wouldn't allow them to easily reveal themselves. If they wanted to head out into the Spirit Luxuriant World in the future, they would probably have to change their appearance completely...

Also... Since Chu Jia was in charge of the rank six grand formation that would protect the Tongyou Institution, she could only make use of those she had absolute trust in. After all... The safety of the institution couldn't be compromised.

"So... Our guys in the Formation Hall are the ones working on the grand formation?" Shang Xia raised an eyebrow, but he nodded slowly to indicate his understanding.

However, he quickly got back on track and he looked at her with a look of confusion to ask what he wanted to ask when she first arrived, "Why did you come all the way here to stop me anyway? I don't know how to lay down formations... I can't help you."

"We're basically done with the general outline of our rank six grand formation..." Chu Jia explained.

Even though he knew Chu Jia had more to say, Shang Xia still congratulated her in high spirits before she could continue, "That's great!"

"... But... We only managed to complete the foundations of the grand formation with the help of the Five Element Ring. Right now, we need to activate the formation so that I can verify my ideas will work and look for places we need to work on. There's also the matter of refining several parts of the formation."

Shang Xia blinked once and wondered out loud, "Isn't it just the foundation of the formation? How can you already activate it? Also... Don't you have to ensure your idea will work before starting to lay down the formation?!"

"The foundation of the formation is like its skeleton. The grand formation is basically complete when I say that the foundations have been laid. We should be able to activate it if we try. It's just that it's going to be extremely difficult, and we will need to pay a huge price to do so. Regular Formation Masters won't be able to withstand the consumption, so..." Chu Jia explained, but her voice got softer and softer at the end.

Shang Xia felt a headache coming and he muttered, "But I'm no Formation Master! In fact, I don't know anything about operating one!"

Chu Jia quickly continued, "Just relax. Don't forget, the core of the formation lies in the Formation Divine Artifact now."

"Doesn't the Five Element Ring belong to you already..." Shang Xia wanted to continue making excuses to not help, but it was futile.

"Argh! What the hell, why are you being so annoying right now?! Are you going to help me or not?!" Chu Jia rolled her eyes suddenly and raised her voice.

Lowering his head immediately, Shang Xia mumbled, "Of... Of course I'll help. Since you're not afraid I'll mess things up, why should I care?"

Shang Xia naturally wasn't afraid that helping them would use up a lot of his inner qi. Since it was just the foundation of their rank six grand formation, it would require a lot of energy to activate. Moreover, it would require constant adjustment since the formation wasn't complete and they couldn't use a fixed energy source. That meant that they couldn't draw energy from the World's Will Source, from their Elysium, or use a ton of essence crystals. As such, they could only invite a True Immortal over to assist them.

... That very day they activated the formation, the Tongyou City, and even the cultivators roaming the You Continent, saw a brilliant and majestic scene as 5 pillars of light rose into the skies before tearing through the heavens to arrive at the heavenly screen. A portion of the powerful lights escaped, but the others started to intertwine and interact with each other, eventually turning the skies above into a five colored space.

Even though everything happened so quickly and the five colored lights scattered into the void not too long after it appeared, almost everyone who saw what happened could tell that the Tongyou Institution's rank six grand formation was near completion.

In a secret spot in the Tongyou Institution, Shang Xia couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief. He deactivated the formation but in the short time it had been active, Shang Xia discovered he used up enough energy to create 2 clones. It was no wonder Chu Jia got him to activate the formation.

"How is it? Are there any problems?" Shang Xia asked with some concern.

After thinking for a second, Chu Jia replied, "It's a little better than I expected. The foundation of the grand formation seems alright and we probably completed the most difficult part. All that is left to do is to finish the rest, and that's just a matter of time."

Shang Xia chuckled, "Looks like I have to congratulate you, and your Formation Hall in advance then. Our institution is only able to obtain our rank six grand formation because of all your hard work. The patriarch and I no longer have to be as sneaky as before and ensure no one sees us when we leave the world while also leaving a clone behind."

Pressing her lips together, Chu Jia sighed, "It's still a little too early to celebrate. I estimate that we'll need 3 to 5 years in order to complete the rest of the formation. Moreover, my final goal is to replace the Five Element Ring with something else as the core of the formation without affecting its operations..."

“Why do you want to replace it?” Shang Xia wondered.

Rolling her eyes, Chu Jia sighed, “When I’m able to replace the Five Element Ring with something else and maintain the rank six grand formation... That will be the day I become a rank six Formation Grandmaster!”

...

Several more days passed since Shang Xia left Chu Jia’s place, and when he returned to the Talisman Pagoda, his clones also came back to regroup.

The Talisman Hall was developing normally, and because they had a monstrous existence who reached the Martial Void Realm and subsequently became a rank six Talisman Grandmaster, they were never lacking in resources. Naturally, they would be able to constantly take in talented disciples from the institution without much instruction.

In recent years, the Talisman Hall had grown stricter when it came to choosing disciples. However, there were more and more new Talisman Masters and several good seeds among them.

The only thing Shang Xia found a pity was that a second rank five Talisman Grandmaster hadn’t been produced. Fortunately, they had 7 rank four Talisman Grandmasters...

It was a shame highly experienced rank four Talisman Grandmasters like Fan Yuanhui and Lou Zizhang had already reached the limit of their martial journey or the dao of talismans. Originally, those 2 who had the most potential to become a rank five Talisman Grandmaster had already exhausted their potential. They had already started to turn their attention to nurturing future generations of Talisman Masters.

Chapter 1189: Divine Hammer

With his clones returning, the situation over on their side was also quickly relayed to him.

The clone that had been in charge of staying in the Talisman Hall in his stead informed him about recent happenings within the Talisman Hall, allowing him to better grasp the situation.

As for the clone that went back to the Shang Clan, it also brought back the most recent news. Other than Kou Chongxue, most of the members of the first generation of the Tongyou Institution like Ji Wenlong and Yun Jing had already reached the limit of their martial path. In recent years, they had been fully focused on managing the institution and the You Continent.

Liu Zhiyuan, the youngest deputy patriarch, might be the youngest among them, but his thoughts were too complicated and he didn’t have the sophistication and sense of responsibility like the other deputy patriarchs, and he didn’t have too much prestige in the institution. His cultivation also stagnated after entering the Martial Dipper Realm.

Unlike the other deputy patriarchs who left the role of being their clan’s patriarch to other members so that they could pour all their energy into managing the institution, Liu Zhiyuan was the only one who still maintained his position as the Liu Clan Patriarch. He might be active in the institution and a lot more visible than the other deputy patriarchs, but his reputation wasn’t the best. Many disciples of the institution felt that he was overly biased toward members of the Liu Clan.

As for Shang Bo... He was probably the only person who was still thinking about progressing on the martial path.

He reached the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm several years ago, and even though he had referenced Shang Xia's ideology about balancing his fate dippers based on the five elements, he hadn't been able to refine his fourth fate dipper. Ge Qingzhu and Sun Haiwei had already surpassed him in terms of cultivation.

Actually... A great bottleneck existed between the third and fourth elements of the Martial Dipper Realm. Only those who successfully broke through the bottleneck had the qualifications to step into the gates of the Martial Void Realm.

Of course... They merely had a chance to do so. Nothing was certain.

The Patriarch of the Shang Clan was still Shang Xia's Fifth Grandpa, Shang Ke, but he was getting on in age. His cultivation also stopped in the Marital Extermination Realm for a long time now.

Other than the 2 oldest and most experienced elders of the Shang Clan, there were several promising members of the clan in their second generation members. Shang Jian, Shang Xi, and Shang Pei who had been staying in the Five Mountains Alliance had already entered the Martial Dipper Realm. Of the 4 great clans of the You Continent, the Shang Clan was a unique existence with so many experts.

One could say that even without Shang Bo and Shang Xia, the Shang Clan would still stand tall as the strongest of the 4 great clans. No one else even came close!

Recalling the old times when Kou Chongxue was the only Martial Dipper Realm expert in the institution and basically held the fort down in the You Continent alone, things had changed.

Of course, for the You Continent to reach its current state, other than the efforts put in by Kou Chongxue and the members of the institution, the world ascension was also an important factor. The powerful World's Will greatly lowered the barrier for stepping into the Martial Dipper Realm.

Shang Xia's final clone brought back news from within the Tongyou Elysium.

Xin Lu, who had been brought back from Star Origin City, gave it her all when teaching Yan Ming and Yuan Qiuyuan. She didn't hide anything and taught them to the best of her abilities.

She even reorganized and sorted the inheritance Shang Xia brought back, allowing her to progress further in the ways of a Stargazer. It wasn't completely impossible for her to become a Grand Stargazer in the future.

Yuan Qiuyuan was also preparing to break through to the Martial Extermination Realm

Without a doubt, Yuan Qiuyuan was attempting to break through to the Marital Extermination Realm with the Heaven Observations Sect's inheritance that combined the path of a Stargazer with their martial inheritance. The moment he succeeded, the institution would be able to gain another complete inheritance that could possibly lead to the Seventh Order.

Of course... Having an inheritance that could possibly lead to the Seventh Order didn't mean that they would produce their own Seventh Order expert.

The path of cultivation had never been a smooth one and a complete inheritance could only guide one onto the right path. It would save a lot of effort, and whether or not one would be able to go all the way depended on their talent and hard work.

Before Shang Xia returned, the 3 of them were fully focused on assisting Kou Chongxue build the spatial tunnel to the Ruined Spirit Emptiness World. However, after learning that Yuan Qiuyuan was preparing to break through, Shang Xia's clone instructed them to change their focus on that and to ensure Yuan Qiuyuan became a Stargazer before doing anything else. Even their task to assist Kou Chongxue could be put on hold if required.

The moment Yuan Qiuyuan succeeded, the Tongyou Institution would possess 2 Stargazers and if they worked together, helping Kou Chongxue to open the spatial tunnel would be a lot easier than before.

Shang Xia was the only person who had the authority and courage to override Kou Chongxue's orders in the institution. No one else would dare to go against Kou Chongxue's instructions.

Of course, the most important reason was that Shang Xia was a lot more confident of entering the fourth tier of the Marital Void Realm after returning from the Essence Ping World. It was a shame Kou Chongxue wasn't present as he was still kept in the dark about Shang Xia's progress.

Other than the Star Observatory, Shang Xia's clone that went back to the Tongyou Elysium was to check on the progress of those Formation Masters of the Azure Oddity World who were restoring the Essence Refining Void Returning Formation.

Originally, Shang Xia didn't fully trust them. However, after Chu Jia went over to take charge of matters, he no longer bothered with them.

He was still worried about Chu Jia not being able to cope with handling the restoration of the Essence Refining Void Returning Formation and the rank six grand formation at the same time, but Chu Jia quickly raised her point.

Since the foundation of the grand formation was completed, she could simply hand over the rest of the tasks to the 2 rank four Formation Grandmasters of the institution and the rest as all they had to do was some miscellaneous tasks. It would be a great way to develop the Formation Masters of the Tongyou Institution while they were at it. Other than checking on it from time to time, she could simply direct and delegate tasks to other Formation Grandmasters.

Seeing as she was confident she could handle the restoration of the Essence Refining Void Returning Formation and complete the rank six grand formation around the Tongyou Institution, Shang Xia didn't worry about her any longer.

The deputy patriarchs were taking charge of other matters in the institution and would deal with anything else that would crop up, and Shang Xia didn't doubt their abilities. As such, he could finally rest at ease and enter seclusion.

He didn't choose to enter seclusion in the Tongyou Elysium. Instead, he decided to cultivate in the Talisman Pagoda.

The Tongyou Elysium might possess abundant energy produced by the Elysium, but the Crimson Soul Tablet absorbed too much energy from the Star Origin Lord's clone back then. With the amount of energy still stored in it, Shang Xia didn't need the power of the Elysium in case both types of energy clashed or contaminated each other.

Before entering seclusion, Shang Xia still left a clone outside the Talisman Pagoda in order to ensure he wasn't completely clueless in case anything important happened in the outside world.

He also seemed to have thought of something and he turned around to hand a divine weapon over to his clone to be brought to Deputy Patriarch Yun Jing.

It was the hammer he obtained after killing Wen Juxiang and he originally wanted to give it to the Weapons Hall, but after some thoughts, he felt that it wouldn't be worth it to give them such an amazing treasure.

Chapter 1190: Three Deputy Patriarchs

...

After sending away Shang Xia's clone that handed her the hammer, Yun Jing stared at the hammer and fell deep into thought.

Other than the hammer Shang Xia's clone brought over, there was also a strange pouch-like spatial artifact that was different from the Spatial Pouches experts of the Spirit Luxuriant World usually used.

After looking at them for some time, she called over a member of the Yun Clan who had been standing outside and instructed, "Call the other deputy patriarchs over. I have something I wish to discuss!"

Acknowledging the order respectfully, the Yun Clansman was about to leave when Yun Jing stopped him again.

After some hesitation, she added, "If Deputy Patriarch Shang is still in seclusion, there's no need to disturb him."

She waved to dismiss him before getting others to prepare some tea.

It didn't take long before Liu Zhiyuan arrived. Ji Wenlong came right after.

A moment later, the Yun Clansman who left earlier to carry out her order returned. "Deputy Patriarch Shang is in seclusion and I didn't dare to disturb..."

"I got it." Yun Jing expected as much and waved again to dismiss him.

Ji Wenlong chuckled before sighing softly, "Fourth Brother's desire to grow strong still burns bright in him. It's a lot stronger than mine..."

"Haha! He's more talented than us when it comes to cultivating in the first place. Otherwise, why would the patriarch intentionally nurture him back then? If anything, we should be happy for him." Yun Jing laughed.

Ji Wenlong nodded with a smile on his face, but there was still a slight sense of depression he couldn't shake.

Compared to Shang Bo, who could still grow stronger, those present knew that they had already reached the limits of their cultivation.

Liu Zhiyuan also sighed, "That might be the case, but the rift between the third and fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm is just too wide! If we ignore those 2 monsters... It has been slightly more than 10 years since our world ascended. We have abundant cultivation resources and dense heaven and earth qi. We even have an Elysium in our Tongyou Institution! The difference between

us and our past selves before the world ascension is massive. We produced thousands of cultivators, but only Ge Qingzhu and Sun Haiwei managed to take that step...”

Even though he sounded like he was lamenting the fact that cultivation was difficult, when they read between the lines, they could tell that Liu Zhiyuan had some intentions of criticizing Shang Bo for wasting the institution’s resources while not making much progress...

Since Shang Bo was the only deputy patriarch left of the 4, and with the others stuck in their current cultivation realm, only Liu Zhiyuan knew if his grumbling earlier was because of his jealousy and indignance he wasn’t as talented.

Yun Jing and Ji Wenlong normally wouldn’t care about Liu Zhiyuan’s way of thinking. Instead, Ji Wenlong immediately looked at the items placed on the tablet.

His gaze paused slightly on the hammer before he asked, “So... Why did you call us over?”

“Little Shang’s clone sent these stuff over not too long ago.” Yun Jing explained while pointing to the treasures on the table.

Ji Wenlong was slightly taken aback and he gasped, “He came back?! When did he arrive?”

Unlike Ji Wenlong, Liu Zhiyuan’s expression turned a little unnatural as his body trembled slightly.

Yun Jing continued, “He has probably been back for some time now. He and the patriarch have always been moving around sneakily. If they don’t wish for anyone to discover their tracks, will there be anyone in the institution who can catch them?”

Ji Wenlong let out a huge sigh. “It’s good that he’s back. According to the reports from the Heavenly Star Palace, they discovered a massive battle happening between high-level experts in the void around the Spirit Abundance World. The great powers have been pressuring Little Shang to head over to check it out... Heh, is every other True Immortal in our Spirit Luxuriant World dead? They’re always getting experts from our institution to check out matters happening in the vast sea of stars!”

Yun Jing simply chuckled without saying more.

Liu Zhiyuan snorted inwardly. *There are only 10 True Immortals in our Spirit Luxuriant World... With 5 of them being Elysium True Immortals, they can’t go anyway. Of the 5 Free True Immortals, 3 of them are first tier True Immortals. Only Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia are third tier True Immortals, and they stand high above the rest. If we don’t send them over to check things out, who else are we supposed to send?*

Also... Those 2 monsters weren’t fools. Every time they headed out to check out matters on behalf of the Spirit Luxuriant World, the other True Immortals would have to give up a lot of benefits. Every time they discovered anything good out there, they would also obtain it on behalf of the Tongyou Institution before sharing the leftovers.

Otherwise... How could the Tongyou Institution soar to the position of the strongest great power of the Spirit Luxuriant World in just a few dozen years, standing high above those factions that had close to a thousand years of heritage?

That was right! Even though the Tongyou Institution couldn’t be compared to the other great powers in terms of cultivators all the way up to the Martial Dipper Realm, they had 2 freaks at the

third tier of the Martial Void Realm! Moreover, both of them were Free True Immortals and could leave the Spirit Luxuriant World at will! Both of them led the Spirit Luxuriant World on many expeditions in the vast sea of stars, and a majority of experts had already recognized the Tongyou Institution as the strongest faction!

Of course... Liu Zhiyuan wouldn't dare to say what he had just thought out loud. He would even agree with Ji Wenlong when he was raging at the other great powers. After all, that was the only politically correct answer in the Tongyou Institution and even though he was a scheming bastard, he wouldn't fumble when it came to important matters like agreeing with Ji Wenlong about matters like that.

Yun Jing coughed softly before bringing them back on track. "With the reappearance of Star Origin City, Patriarch Kou brought back news about the Star Origin Guards before rushing off to the Spirit Faith World. Now, Little Shang returned and chose to enter seclusion so suddenly... Don't you guys think that they seem to be pressured by something?"

Liu Zhiyuan sighed helplessly, "But... They refuse to say anything anyway, what can we do? Ever since they entered the Martial Void Realm, they no longer seem to care about internal matters regarding the institution!"

Yun Jing chuckled in response, "At the end of the day, the Martial Void Realm is completely out of our reach. There are things only they have the qualifications to know and if we're not strong enough, learning about things like that will only harm us."

Ji Wenlong and Liu Zhiyuan fell deep into their thoughts.

In recent years, they interacted with Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia a lot less than before. Most of the time, they would only be interacting with their clones. Things those clones said were also usually very cryptic and profound, leaving them a little clueless.

However, with their understanding of Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue, neither was the type to act all high and mighty while showing condescension. As such, Yun Jing's explanation made the most sense.

She quickly pointed at the items on the table and continued, "We might be able to deduce what is happening from these items..."

Glancing at the weapon and pouch, Liu Zhiyuan was the first to ask, "Where did they come from anyway? Could the little hammer be a divine weapon?"

"It is actually a divine artifact. Moreover, it should be a divine hammer that is used for forging." Yun Jing explained.

"Forging? That means it's used to craft artifacts!" Liu Zhiyuan's eyes lit up and he sounded a lot more eager than before. "Should this artifact be granted to the Weapons Hall for the time being?"

Ji Wenlong shot him a glance from the corner of his eye and growled, "I'm afraid the Weapons Hall doesn't have the qualifications to use a treasure like this."

The Tongyou Institution had many Divisions, and the Weapons Hall was one of the many halls under one of them. Speaking of which, the situation regarding the Weapons Hall was a little awkward at the moment.

In recent years, along with the abrupt rise of the Tongyou Institution, the Talisman Hall and Formation Hall grew rapidly. Even though the Medicine Hall was able to progress at a rapid pace. Kou Chongxue kindly invited a rank five Alchemy Grandmaster to take charge of it, and he basically gave it a massive boost. Even the Stargazing Hall which had been prepared in secret managed to establish its foundations in the institution.

The only problem was the Weapons Hall. Originally, the institution had high hopes for it. They received a lot of resources and support, but they never produced satisfactory results.

Even crafting a high-grade artifact was a little difficult for them, and the entire process would keep everyone on edge. Whenever anyone in the institution wanted to craft a good weapon, they would rather request one from the Hundred Weapons Mill. They wouldn't even bother giving the Weapons Hall a chance to craft their weapon.

If not for the fact that the institution didn't wish to see the Weapons Hall crumble, they wouldn't have provided a bunch of resources even when they knew it would go to waste. All they required was for the Weapons Hall to maintain some level of production. Otherwise, everyone in the Tongyou Institution would have long given up on them.