

The Heavens 1211

Chapter 1211: Super Long Range Five Element Teleportation Formation

She immediately caught the attention of the experts of the Tongyou Institution.

After all, other than Shang Xia, erasing their tracks was something the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World couldn't do. No one expected Chu Jia to say that they would actually be able to achieve it.

Compared to the surprised gazes she was getting, Shang Xia's clone seemed to have fallen deep into thought as he thought of something.

Liu Zhiyuan frowned and immediately started to question her, "You can do it? How will you do it?"

Compared to the way she spoke to Ji Wenlong or Yun Jing, Chu Jia was far from respectful when she spoke to Liu Zhiyuan. However, Yun Jing and Ji Wenlong were present and she couldn't snap at him for interrupting her before she explained further. She simply snorted, "We can use the Five Element Teleportation Formation!"

Chu Jia's idea shocked everyone else present and many of them glanced at Shang Xia's clone who was sitting right before the deputy patriarchs.

Almost everyone knew how Chu Jia came up with the Five Element Formation series. It was built on Shang Xia's Five Element ideology and his Five Element Ring was also remodeled into a Formation Divine Artifact she relied on to break through eventually.

None of them were strangers to the Five Element Teleportation Formation either.

That was because in recent years, even though Chu Jia placed all her attention on the rank six grand formation around the institution, she would still pay attention to the establishment of the Five Element Teleportation Formation from time to time and modify it for the better.

To high-level experts of the institution, the Five Element Teleportation Talisman might not save them much time as they were able to travel quickly around the continent. Not to mention the fact that they still had to operate it with essence crystals.

When the Five Element Teleportation Formation extended its reach out of the continent, it became a lot more useful. However, the high-level experts were able to travel above the heavenly screen as a great shortcut and no one really used it.

High-level experts might not think the formation was useful, but things were completely different for weaker cultivators. They didn't need the help of high-level experts to travel around, and they could travel across continents in a safe and quick manner. The only part which pained them was the consumption of essence crystals. The amount required would be a burden to low-level cultivators.

One couldn't see how Chu Jia opened up the formation to the eastern region of the You Continent and Changfeng City in the south because of her authority as the Formation Hall Master... She also made 3 different points of transfer in the north and even the Bing Continent, but all of them were created with the support of mountains of essence crystals!

3 of the Teleportation Formations within the You Continent had always been bleeding essence crystals, and only the formation that led to the Tianya Pavilion and Bing Continent managed to

break even in terms of essence crystals consumption. However... If they counted the resources used to build those formations, the Tongyou Institution would still be losing money.

That was why Liu Zhiyuan would question her the moment she spoke. Because of how much resources she had been burning through, his first thought when she mentioned that the Formation Hall would be able to erase all tracks of the Star Beast Nest. Instead, he instinctively thought about how much resources they would use.

“Our great grandma... We can’t afford to waste any more resources!” Liu Zhiyuan lamented.

What he said truly embarrassed him as a deputy patriarch of the Tongyou Institution, but no one was actually paying attention to him at the moment.

Zhang Haogu, who hadn’t said anything since the very start, finally asked, “Are you really sure you will be able to get rid of our tracks completely?”

Hesitating slightly, Chu Jia seemed to fall deep into thought. She turned to look at Shang Xia’s clone suddenly and saw the look of interest in his eyes before reaching her conclusion. “The Five Element Teleportation Formation is slightly different from other types of formations that will allow one to pass through space. There is no need to establish a fixed spatial tunnel, and there is no way for them to track us!”

“Have we verified this? This isn’t something people will believe just because you say so... Especially the True Immortals of the other factions...” Zhang Haogu mumbled.

Chu Jia responded decisively, “The Five Element Teleportation Talisman to the Jiao Continent that is about to be complete is slightly different from the ones we built initially and it’s not only the one with the longest range, it even passes through the Ji, Yan, Xu, and Yang Continents. Whether or not it can be detected... I believe they will know as soon as they test it out.”

Liu Zhiyuan also regained his composure as he continued to ask, “The formation is able to connect our You Continent to the Jiao Continent, but that distance is nothing compared to our world and the Star Beast Nest! If we take a step back and assume it’s possible to lay down the formation, you won’t be able to do it in 1 try, right? It’s alright if you manage to deploy the formation in several more tries, but if you fail 10 times, it will cost an ungodly amount of resources! Even if the other great powers agree to share the cost, they’ll definitely go back on their word!”

Chu Jia snorted coldly in response, “Heh, in less than 2 years, our rank six grand formation will be complete. When the time comes, I should also be able to retrieve the Five Element Ring from it. With the Formation Divine Artifact, I should be able to lay down the Five Element Teleportation Formation to the Star Beast Nest. Don’t forget... I took part in the expeditions against the Azure Flame World and Spirit Faith World... I’m no stranger to long range spatial transfers... I’ll be able to put the Five Element Ring to good use too!”

“Since that’s the case, we’ll talk about it after the Five Element Teleportation Formation to the Jiao Continent is complete. If no traces are left behind, we’ll try to set up a Five Element Teleportation Talisman to the Star Beast Nest!” Shang Xia’s clone concluded before Liu Zhiyuan could say more. No matter how reluctant Liu Zhiyuan was to accept the decision, he managed to suppress his emotions.

After hearing Chu Jia's suggestion, Lou Zizhang of the Talisman Hall also seemed to have received inspiration.

He, who could be considered half a rank five Talisman Grandmaster, leaped to his feet in excitement and he yelled, "If we're able to establish a Five Element Teleportation Formation to the Star Beast Nest, we might be able to solve the problem of gathering everyone in the event trouble breaks out!"

Before anyone could question him, Lou Zizhang looked at Shang Xia's clone and continued, "Hall Master, we might be able to create more Five Element Escape Formations and make some sort of connection between those talismans and the platform that holds the Five Element Teleportation Formation. Not only can we maximize the use of the Five Element Escape Talisman, but our members should also be able to immediately enter the formation and be sent back to our Spirit Luxuriant World. We won't have to worry about the pursuit of the other party."

Lou Zizhang spat everything out in 1 breath, and it might be because he was too excited, but he sounded out of breath. Whatever it was, he stared at Shang Xia expectantly, waiting for his reply.

Everyone who had gathered was shocked by his idea, and no one said a word.

Eventually, Shang Xia's clone burst out laughing. "There is a possibility of making that a reality. However, we have to ensure that the Five Element Formation can be successfully established."

He might not have received confirmation from Shang Xia that it was possible, but he was still extremely excited.

If they truly achieved it, they wouldn't need rank five Teleportation Talismans! Even Martial Extermination Realm cultivators would be able to easily pass through the Star Beast Nest to return!

Also... Escape Talismans were much easier to craft than other talismans of the same rank.

If what Lou Zizhang said was made into reality, the Talisman Hall would once again usher in a period of progress! When that happens, they might gain another batch of rank four Talisman Grandmasters!

Since they reached a conclusion for the main issues at hand, they would have to deal with the rest of the problems that didn't have much impact. After all, there were still a lot of things to work out.

Of course, they quickly reached a conclusion for those, and with that, they basically achieved their goal of their meeting.

Before Yun Jing could dismiss everyone, they burst out laughing. "Since we came up with a solution to everything, why do we need the help of the other great powers to develop the Star Beast Nest? We can just do it ourselves!"

Even though it was a joke, that was truly a question everyone wanted to ask.

The Star Beast pack was basically soloed by the Tongyou Institution and they discovered the Star Beast Nest alone. If they were to say that they had no grievances that they had to share with the rest, they would be lying to themselves.

However, their sense of reasoning told them that it was impossible for the Tongyou Institution to develop the Star Beast Nest alone.

The Tongyou Institution couldn't reject the help of the other great powers yet, and they would also need the others to share the risk of developing the Star Beast Nest.

There wasn't a need to talk about anything else. Just stationing a True Immortal there all the time was a problem for them! They might be able to fake having a high-level True Immortal with the use of an Illusion Talisman, but the Tongyou Institution only had 2 True Immortals, and one of them was missing!

Chapter 1212: Essence Xing World

After ending the discussion, Shang Xia's clone handed a batch of high-level resources to the deputy patriarchs.

Other than the Star Core Essence and the skin of the Star Beast that was about to reach the sixth rank, he actually handed over 2 Origin Dippers and 20 odd strands of fate dipper essence.

There were 5 complete extermination origins, and the amount of extermination qi he gathered filled countless bags.

Not counting treasures for cultivation, he managed to obtain 2 types of rank six spiritual treasures, 7 to 8 types of rank five spiritual treasures, and more than 20 variations of rank four spiritual treasures.

One had to know that those were what Shang Xia obtained after a haphazard collection. No one knew how many treasures he had yet to find.

"I have to trouble you guys to organize and allocate these treasures..." Shang Xia nodded respectfully.

The Tongyou Institution's system for contributions and rewards had already matured, and the deputy patriarchs were in charge of everything. Shang Xia didn't need to worry about it, and there was no need to mention Kou Chongxue. He left everything in the institution to the deputy patriarchs... There was no way he would care about trivial matters like allocation of cultivation resources.

"Do you have to go back to the Star Beast Nest now?" Yun Jing asked after casually glancing at the treasures he had given her. She was sure that if everything went smoothly, the Tongyou Institution would be able to nurture at least 3 other Martial Dipper Realm experts. After all, there were more than enough experts at the peak of the Martial Extermination Realm waiting to advance.

Naturally... That was if nothing went wrong.

Shang Xia's clone chuckled in response. "Of course. I have to inform my true body everything that happened back here and the decision we made so that he can prepare himself. There are also some things I need my true body to decide."

"Alright, you have to ensure your safety above all else... The moment you feel threatened, even if we have to risk exposing the Spirit Luxuriant World, you have to come back safely." Yun Jing reminded him again.

Shang Xia's clone chuckled, "There is no need to worry... My true body is confident of retreating unharmed."

Right before Shang Xia's clone could leave, Ji Wenlong asked hesitantly, "Do we... Do we really not need him to contact the patriarch?"

Turning to Ji Wenlong, Shang Xia's clone smiled, "Aren't all of you more familiar with the patriarch's temperament than me? Moreover... I'm afraid it won't be easy to contact him with what he's doing right now... If we really need to contact him, we will need my true body to return."

Ji Wenlong nodded, but he sighed softly before shaking his head suddenly. After that, he no longer spoke.

Shang Xia's clone eventually left and headed for the Talisman Hall.

Outside the Talisman Pagoda, Lou Zizhang and Ren Huan, along with the other rank four Talisman Grandmasters of the institution, were waiting for him.

"Let's talk inside." Shang Xia's clone muttered before entering the pagoda. Everyone followed closely behind.

When everyone had finally seated, Lou Zizhang stood up to speak but was stopped by Shang Xia's clone before he could start. Instead, Shang Xia's clone was the first to ask, "You're not too far away from the Martial Dipper Realm. Have you thought of when you would try to break through?"

Lou Zizhang was caught by surprise by the question. He felt a little trepidation, but there was also a sense of anticipation as several thoughts flew through his mind. He didn't know how to respond, and he simply stuttered, "I... I... This..."

Shang Xia's clone understood what he was feeling and he indicated for Lou Zizhang to calm down before he continued, "I'll let the deputy patriarchs know to leave an Origin Dipper for you. However, you will need to think of a way to gather your advancement medicine yourself."

Lou Zizhang immediately gave Shang Xia's clone a deep bow. As for the other Talisman Masters behind him, they revealed envious gazes.

Originally, Lou Zizhang couldn't be considered someone nurtured by the institution. He was a Talisman Master Liu Zhiyuan invited to the Talisman Hall and only had an ordinary relationship with Shang Xia.

However, they had to admit that he was extremely talented. In recent years, regardless if it was operations related to the Talisman Hall or crafting talismans... Even when it came to cultivation itself, he wasn't lacking in any aspect.

For a talent like him, Shang Xia couldn't help but take him more seriously. He even fought for a chance for Lou Zizhang to advance into the Martial Dipper Realm.

It wasn't an intentional method to win him over. After all, Shang Xia had no need to intentionally draw a rank four Talisman Grandmaster who had yet to reach the Martial Dipper Realm to his side. He merely lent a helping hand because he admired Lou Zizhang's talent.

"I will still need you to handle matters in the Talisman Hall. After all, you have been doing a good job these years..." Shang Xia's clone expressed his admiration for Lou

Zizhang for his hard work before he continued, "You joined the meeting earlier and the idea you brought up is actually very possible... Why don't we start to produce rank four Escape Talismans? We can even try to create a batch of rank five Escape Talismans... Of course, there's no need to delay your breakthrough for this."

Lou Zizhang, who had just calmed down, stared at Shang Xia with a solemn gaze and promised, "Hall Master, you can rest assured. I will make the suitable arrangements."

Nodding, Shang Xia's clone turned to Ren Huan and chuckled, "Right. I was planning to ask you earlier... Were you injured because of the battle against the Star Beast pack?"

"How many Martial Dipper Realm cultivators are there in our You Continent? Of course I had to participate! However... I went a little too far and I actually planned to attack a rank five Star Beast with 2 other Martial Dipper Realm experts. We didn't think that it would be so strong and it nearly managed to escape. In the end, we only managed to kill it after 2 other experts joined us." Ren Huan sighed.

Shang Xia's clone nodded and muttered, "A Star Beast is able to roam the sea of stars because of its tyrannical strength and strong vitality. It would be able to fight 5 experts of the same level, and sometimes, even 7... For the 3 of you to force it into escaping before joining hands with 2 more experts to kill it... You guys can be considered above average in terms of combat abilities."

Ren Huan forced a chuckle while shaking his head.

The members of the Talisman Hall might not know, but Ren Huan knew very clearly how strong their Hall Master was. A Star Beast might be strong enough to fight several experts of the same level, but their Hall Master was a monster even more terrifying than a Star Beast. He was able to fight them 1 on 1, or even 1 on 2! No... He was a freak who killed 2 Star Beasts alone!

The tyrannical aspect of a Star Beast is nothing compared to Shang Xia!

"I planned to take all the rank six talisman paper we have away, and even a batch of rank five talisman paper..." Shang Xia's clone went straight to the point.

Lou Zizhang had an idea of what Shang Xia would do with the rank five talisman paper, but he didn't say much.

Ren Huan nodded in response. "I'll send someone to the warehouse now to bring all the resources over."

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At the second Star Beast Nest...

Shang Xia, who just completed his inspection of the Star Beast Nest, left at the exit that led to the chaotic space outside. His clone that had been standing guard quickly fused back into him.

"Since you have already come, why don't you show yourself?" Shang Xia muttered as spatial ripples started to form in the distance.

A moment later, a figure with a somewhat aged expression and an unflustered aura appeared. He looked really young, and he stood not too far away from Shang Xia.

Shang Xia glanced at the other party before his gaze stopped in the void beside him. “For your friend to continue hiding in the void... Is there something else you are here for?”

The young cultivator’s expression changed slightly, and he seemed to be pretty annoyed as he glanced beside him. “True Immortal Lin, you actually followed me all the way here...”

After he spoke, the female cultivator who was nearly killed by Shang Xia earlier emerged from the void. There was a look of resentment in her eyes as she stared at Shang Xia, but there was also a trace of lingering fear.

Shang Xia looked at both of them before chuckling softly, “Both of you came over uninvited... Shouldn’t you guys introduce yourself?”

Before the young man could speak, True Immortal Lin, the other fourth tier True Immortal, sneered, “We came over uninvited? Aren’t you the one with malicious intentions? We had been observing the Star Beast Nest for a long time...”

“Oh? Could it really be such a coincidence? What a shame I was the one who took control of the Star Beast Nest... If you don’t introduce yourself soon, I don’t think there is a need to waste any of our time. After all... I’m not the one standing in a region of chaotic space.” Shang Xia snorted before turning to leave.

He controlled the Star Beast Nest and he had the geographical advantage no matter what. He wasn’t afraid of whatever they would try to pull.

“Please wait!” The young man yelled, and when he saw Shang Xia turning around again, he finally cupped his fists in greeting. “I am Gong Zhuo of the Wanyun Association in the Essence Xing World. This is True Immortal Lin Jingya of the Lingqing Palace...”

Shang Xia also cupped his fists in greeting. “Well met.”

Hearing Shang Xia’s perfunctory tone, Lin Jingya snorted, “Who the hell are you?”

“Heh...” Shang Xia snickered softly, and he quickly thought of something. “I am Shang Qi of the Essence Ping World!”

“Essence Ping World? Looks like we ran out of luck... We actually ran into another Essence World!” Gong Zhuo mumbled to himself before looking at Lin Jingya.

Lin Jingya stared at Shang Xia with fire in her eyes and she spat coldly, “I never heard of the Essence Ping World before. Are you just making it up?”

Shang Qi didn’t sound like a real name anyway, and Lin Jingya clearly thought that the other party was messing with her.

Shang Xia revealed a cold smile and muttered, “I apologize. I interacted with many high-level True Immortals of Essence Worlds before, and I never heard of the Essence Xing World either.”

“The sea of stars is vast, and there are countless worlds out there... It’s normal for you not to have heard of us...” Gong Zhuo tried to ease the tension as he continued,

“True Immortal Shang... Is it possible for you to return the Tribulation Pearl you stole earlier?”

“Is that why you’re here?” Shang Xia flipped his wrist and an orb that was sealed by his Six Direction Qi appeared in his palm. He couldn’t help but ask, “When did you guys start to plot against this Star Beast Nest anyway?”

Gong Zhuo laughed softly, “A Star Beast Nest is just a way for us to interact with other worlds... I believe you’re no stranger to using Star Beasts either. Since you already took control of this nest, we’ll just give it to you as a show of apology for what we did. However... The Tribulation Pearl is True Immortal Lin’s Junior Brother’s beloved treasure, and it’s a divine artifact bestowed by their seniors... We cannot lose it no matter what. True Immortal Shang, can you return it to us?”

Chapter 1213: You Want It?! Fuck You, It’s Gonna Cost More Now!

Making use of Star Beasts...

That was the only thing Shang Xia took note of.

As it turned out, they had been rearing those Star Beasts in order to locate other worlds in the vast sea of stars.

From Gong Zhuo’s tone, Shang Xia could also tell that if a lower-leveled world was noticed by their Star Beasts, their end would be pretty gruesome. However... If they were to discover a high-level world or a world that had the ability to protect itself, both sides could use the Star Beast Nest as a platform for interaction.

Of course, there was no way that was the only goal of rearing Star Beasts. Shang Xia just didn’t know what they were for the time being.

Whatever it was, the Spirit Luxuriant World was the one who attracted the Star Beasts after drawing on the power of starlight.

“True Immortal Shang?” Seeing as Shang Xia was zoning out, Gong Zhuo couldn’t help but ask again.

“He’s not listening to whatever you’re saying!” Lin Jingya sneered, Gong Zhuo’s expression also started to sink.

Clearly, he had warned Shang Xia that if the Tribulation Pearl wasn’t returned, he would incur the wrath of the higher-ups of the Lingqing Palace.

Shang Xia was too distracted by how Essence Worlds had been making use of Star Beasts, but that didn’t mean that he hadn’t heard Gong Zhuo.

With a soft smile on his face, Shang Xia spoke casually, “The 3 of you attacked me without reason, and I only allowed True Immortal Lin to live because I didn’t wish to go too far. Let’s just take this Tribulation Pearl as my compensation.”

Lin Jingya’s gaze was filled with killing intent when he mentioned how he let her off earlier.

Gong Zhuo muttered in response, “True Immortal Shang, that was a misunderstanding...”

Shang Xia raised his hand to stop Gong Zhuo's bullshit. "Please. Whether or not it's a misunderstanding, I believe we all know what that was. What's the point in lying? If you wish to retrieve the pearl, it's not impossible. After all, I have more divine artifacts than I require. I'm willing to sell this to you and all you need to do is to come up with a reasonable price."

"Don't go too far! Do you really think I'm afraid of you?" Lin Jingya roared with anger, and she created a hand seal before anyone noticed. She slammed it directly into the Star Beast Nest behind Shang Xia.

Due to the chaotic space that disrupted one's senses and domain, Shang Xia couldn't notice the energy fluctuations around Lin Jingya until she attacked.

The moment she did, Gong Yuan wanted to stop her, but he seemed to be a step too late.

Seeing as she had already launched her seal, he quickly followed up with great coordination.

Even though Shang Xia didn't notice the energy fluctuations, how could he have not made any preparations?

Seeing as they actually made a move, Shang Xia quickly took a step back. He seemed to fuse with the Star Beast Nest as his Six Direction Qi burst forth, crashing straight into Lin Jingya's seal.

Even though they came to blows back then, their exchange happened too quickly and both sides only had a rough estimate of each other's strength. They didn't really know too much about the extent of the other side's true abilities.

It was especially so for Lin Jingya. When she was discovered to be hiding in the void by Shang Xia, he swung his Stone Rod straight at her. She was forced out of hiding and hadn't been able to reveal much of her abilities when he unleashed Void Seal, locking her in the void. She couldn't be more indignant at the way she lost.

The palm seal she formed was called the Upheaval Seal, and it could cause strange patterns of spatial tears to form in the void to kill her enemy.

It was especially effective in the chaotic region of space as it was at least 30 percent stronger. That was also why she hid in the void at the start. She wanted to catch Shang Xia off guard and sneak attack him. Now that she had initiated the attack, she was confident she would be able to damage the Star Beast Nest no matter how sturdy it was. Even if Shang Xia controlled it personally, she was sure that once she used the third form of her Upheaval Seal, she would be able to shatter the Star Beast Nest.

The next second, a strange glow surrounded the Star Beast Nest and when her Upheaval Seal landed, it started to eat away at the strange glow.

Of course, the energy in her Upheaval Seal was also weakened and even though it landed on the Star Beast Nest, it barely caused a little damage.

Without exaggeration, she was completely useless and seemed even weaker than when Shang Xia forced her out from the void when fighting with Gong Zhuo during their first meeting.

Lin Jingya found it hard to accept the fact and because of her embarrassment, she launched another 2 Upheaval Seals on the nest.

That was even after Gong Zhuo decided to rush into battle to take the main offensive position. He managed to attract Shang Xia's attention. Otherwise, with Lin Jingya's shitty ass performance and mental state, their enemy might have capitalized on their weakness and killed her.

"How does it feel to be teammates with such an idiot?" Shang Xia asked Gong Zhuo casually while holding both of them off.

As the words left his lips, a short dagger stabbed into Shang Xia's domain. A figure split off from it as it rushed at Shang Xia from the other direction, forming a good pincer move.

Feeling slightly surprised, Shang Xia swung his Stone Rod and sent the dagger flying. His divine soul also tried to lock on to the phantom of the dagger that was coming from another direction.

Unfortunately, no matter how hard he tried to look for it, Shang Xia's divine soul was unable to feel the presence of the phantom dagger.

"Is it really just an illusion?" Shang Xia wondered, but alarm bells were going off in his head as he could tell that danger was rapidly approaching.

Shang Xia had no other way to dodge as the Star Beast Nest was right behind him. Unless he wished to move the Star Beast Nest while making his move, there was no avoiding it.

Helpless, Shang Xia couldn't move to the side and could only take a step back, leaving a clone behind.

The phantom dagger sank into his clone the second it was created and Shang Xia felt a strong buzz in his mind. He couldn't help but stagger slightly before regaining his composure.

His clone was destroyed by the phantom dagger, and so was the dagger.

Along with the destruction of the phantom dagger, Gong Zhuo grunted once before spitting out a mouthful of blood.

From the looks of it, the strange art he used caused him to suffer a heavy backlash.

Of course, Gong Zhuo reacted extremely quickly. Seeing how his trump card only managed to take out a clone, he quickly rushed back to Lin Jingya to drag her back into the chaotic space.

Shang Xia watched them leave and didn't make any rash moves. Only after they were gone for some time did he allow himself to reveal his true condition. The blood drained from his face as his shoulders sagged.

"You look like shit." A figure emerged from the void, and Shang Xia's clone that came back from the Spirit Luxuriant World appeared.

Shang Xia forced a smile and mumbled, "You came at the perfect time."

Without saying more, Shang Xia's clone fused back into his true body.

With the replenishment of energy, Shang Xia felt himself growing more alert. He recovered a good portion of the energy he used up when fighting the 2 of them.

That wasn't all. He also learned about what happened in the Spirit Luxuriant World.

“So... That’s it!” Shang Xia carefully looked into the memories of his clone and understood that the most important thing he had to do was to verify the true reason behind the disappearance of high-level True Immortals from those Spirit Worlds. He needed to know if Hua Jianlou was a stupid shit-stirrer or not.

From what he was experiencing, it seemed that Xing Xingtian wasn’t lying...

All of a sudden, Shang Xia turned to stare at a spot in the void before getting ready to battle again. It was as though a mighty enemy had returned.

Looking at Gong Zhuo who reappeared, Shang Xia sneered, “What’s the matter? True Immortal Gong, are you planning to go another round?”

Gong Zhuo waved his hand immediately and mumbled, “I only wish to know if you’re still open to selling the Tribulation Pearl...”

“What the fuck is your brains made of?” Shang Xia snorted, “Do you really think it’s possible after the shit you guys pulled earlier? I gave you the chance to buy the pearl back. You guys stomped on my offer and took a shit on it... Now, you want another chance?”

“Heh... If you really want the pearl... It’s going to cost you more!”

Chapter 1214: New and Improved Illusion Talisman

Shang Xia could easily try to prevent his relationship with Gong Zhuo and Lin Jingya from worsening in order to prevent clashing with the Essence Xing World behind them, but Shang Xia was clear. If he wanted them to take him seriously and to treat him as an equal, only a massive battle would do the trick. He had to display his true might in order to scare them into restraining themselves.

He even suspected that the other side was probing him intentionally. Lin Jingya’s random attempts at picking a fight with him might be a trick the Essence Xing World was employing to test him.

Otherwise, Gong Zhuo wouldn’t have appeared before him again and tried to buy the Tribulation Pearl.

Hearing how Shang Xia wanted more, Gong Zhuo was slightly shocked but he quickly composed himself. He even felt lucky that their negotiations could continue and he mumbled, “Dare I ask... What do you want, True Immortal Shang?”

Shang Xia immediately revealed a wide grin and answered, “It’s not what I want... What can you provide me?”

Gong Zhuo thought for a moment before he responded, “At the very least, you need to give me an estimate.”

Shang Xia didn’t wish to continue the deadlock and felt that he at least had to show some sincerity and sighed, “At least take out a divine weapon of the same level and 2 high-grade weapons.”

High-grade weapons were things that Shang Xia barely used even in the Martial Extermination Realm. However, in the Spirit Luxuriant World, even Martial Dipper Realm experts might not be

able to wield one... It was especially so for the Tongyou Institution, who produced a great number of Martial Dipper Realm experts...

“Since that is the case... I’ll get back to you after some discussion!” Gong Zhuo cupped his fists towards Shang Xia before turning around to fly into the region of chaotic space.

When Gong Zhuo had left, Shang Xia’s expression sank before inspecting the Tribulation Pearl he had sealed with his Six Direction Qi.

Even after inspecting it multiple times, he couldn’t understand what was so important about it.

Could it be that it was exactly as they said and the pearl was only important because it had been bestowed by their elder and couldn’t be lost easily?

Shang Xia shook his head and kept the pearl, no longer thinking about it. Instead, he continued to comb through the memories his clone brought back.

“Combining the Five Element Escape Talisman and the Five Element Teleportation Formation?! That’s an amazing idea! However... How I didn’t think that the Five Element Teleportation Talisman would be able to avoid leaving traces in the void. No... I need to send another clone back to the Spirit Luxuriant World to personally oversee the construction of the Five Element Teleportation Formation to the Jiao Continent...” Shang Xia muttered to himself. He was clear about the implications if the Five Element Teleportation Formation was truly able to leave no traces while traveling through space.

“But... I need to wait a few more days before making a decision.” Shang Xia sighed.

He had just been through a massive battle and he needed some time to recover. He might also strike a deal with Gong Zhuo, and he had to maintain a portion of his abilities. As such, he couldn’t create another clone to be sent back immediately...

Naturally, there was also something he needed to do after scanning through the memories of his clone. He had to verify if an ordinary True Immortal could pretend to be a high-level True Immortal with the Illusion Talisman, and if their disguise would be easily seen through.

There were examples of experts pretending to be experts stronger than they actually were, with Tian Mengzi acting as a True Immortal while only being at the Martial Dipper Realm in their meeting with the Spirit Faith World, causing them to become even more wary of the Spirit Luxuriant World.

However, Tian Mengzi didn’t dare to leave the Star Beast Nest back then and appear before high-level True Immortals. Otherwise, they would have noticed that Tian Mengzi was only a Martial Dipper Realm cultivator.

Shang Xia’s clone brought him a batch of resources required to craft talismans now that he returned, and Shang Xia naturally had to improve on his Illusion Talisman. He needed to create one that could be used on True Immortals, and for its effects to be so great that it couldn’t be seen through by high-level True Immortals.

Actually, he had a perfect chance to test it out if he actually made anything.

The Illusion Talisman was just a rank five talisman, and it was nothing too difficult for a rank six Talisman Grandmaster like himself.

Leaving a clone at the entrance of the Star Beast Nest to act as the first line of defense in case anything happened, he quickly created a quiet spot in the Star Beast Nest. He would attempt to craft an Illusion Talisman while restoring his inner qi.

The talisman might be of the fifth rank, but with Shang Xia, a True Immortal, crafting it, it contained Sixth Order energy and could allow a Martial Dipper Realm cultivator to act as a Martial Void Realm expert... He didn't know if it would be effective on True Immortals, and there was only one way to really find out.

He crafted an Illusion Talisman and quickly slapped it on himself.

However... With his cultivation at the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm, the talisman was naturally unable to show its effects.

A precious rank five talisman was just wasted in Shang Xia's hands.

However, Shang Xia quickly crafted another. This time, he slapped it on his clone that was standing guard outside.

As his clone was only supposed to act as his early warning system, Shang Xia didn't bother splitting off such a large part of his divine soul. It only had the ability of a True Immortal who barely advanced.

The Illusion Talisman was useful to some extent when it was stuck on his body, and his clone managed to act as a True Immortal who had reached the peak of the first tier. Unfortunately, someone at Shang Xia's level was able to see through his disguise immediately.

The limitations of his Illusion Talisman were as clear as day, and there was no way he could use it as it was.

Throughout the process of improving the Illusion Talisman, Shang Xia continued to pour his Six Direction Qi into the talisman in an attempt to make the talisman last longer and allow one to seem a lot stronger than they would be.

The idea was good, but the execution... Not so much. He failed to craft the talisman and it clearly blasted into smithereens during the process of absorbing his Six Direction Qi.

Only then did he realize that he did something extremely foolish.

How can a sheet of rank five talisman paper absorb so much Sixth Order energy?

Not to mention Shang Xia was pouring his Six Direction Qi that contained extremely powerful corrosive energy.

"Do I really need to use rank six talisman paper?" Shang Xia couldn't help but hesitate.

He once thought of making a rank six Illusion Talisman, but the price he had to pay to carry out the research and tests was too damn large!

One had to know that he had slightly less than 10 sheets of rank six talisman paper, and he couldn't support the research and creation of a new rank six talisman!

Helpless, Shang Xia could only continue to work on rank five Illusion Talismans. However... He no longer tried to pour his Six Direction Qi into it this time. Instead, he continued to strengthen the concealment properties of his talisman.

In other words, he was working on making it less detectable!

The ability was based on the support of one's divine soul, and the easiest solution was for Shang Xia to separate a greater portion of his divine soul to be made into the talisman.

The recovery of the divine soul was much more difficult than inner qi... Even experts like Shang Xia with an extremely powerful soul couldn't do it too much!

One could only imagine how difficult it would be for ordinary rank five Talisman Grandmasters if they wished to use the same method as him.

Thankfully, the talisman he was modifying was to be used in that specific situation and wouldn't be mass-produced. As such, he only had to make a few of them, and he could easily afford the expenditure.

With the same strain on his divine soul as it took to make a clone, Shang Xia successfully created his first strengthened version of the Illusion Talisman.

Not only was it able to raise his clone's cultivation to the peak of the first tier, Shang Xia couldn't easily see through his disguise unless he got really close.

Since he could hide the cultivation realm from himself, it would most definitely fool most high-level True Immortals. At the very least, there wouldn't be a chance for fourth tier True Immortals to see through the disguise.

Shang Xia was still confident in his divine soul's superiority compared to experts at the same level.

After several more days passed, Shang Xia's anticipated event happened. Strange fluctuations appeared in the void outside the Star Beast Nest as True Immortal Gong Zhuo appeared.

When he noticed the clone Shang Xia stationed outside, his expression changed to one of shock before he quickly restrained himself.

He cupped his fists at Shang Xia's clone that was at the peak of the first tier before speaking respectfully, "Please inform True Immortal Shang that I have come to meet him..."

Shang Xia's clone chuckled in response, "True Immortal Gong, please wait for a moment. He has already been notified and is coming over as we speak!"

Gong Zhuo nodded and no longer spoke. However, his gaze lingered on Shang Xia's clone. In order to prevent any misunderstandings, he didn't dare to probe the clone with his divine soul.

He could only remain doubtful about the strange presence of a clone at the peak of the first tier. At the same time, Shang Xia became even more mysterious and powerful in his eyes.

Chapter 1215: Soul Nourishing Art

Shang Xia might not know that Gong Zhou felt that he was an unfathomable expert due to his simple act of testing his talisman, but from the looks of it, he felt that the effects of his new and improved Illusion Talisman were pretty good!

“True Immortal Gong, we meet again.” Shang Xia chuckled and cupped his hands in greeting as he flew over.

After Gong Zhuo bowed slightly, he quickly praised, “I didn’t think that True Immortal Shang would have such amazing skills... You even managed to raise the cultivation realm of your clone...”

“Haha...” Shang Xia smiled, “These are just some small tricks. There is no need to make it seem so exaggerated. I embarrassed myself here.”

“This isn’t just some small trick...” Gong Zhuo muttered to himself, but he quickly turned to look at Shang Xia’s clone again. Eventually, he mumbled, “I am here for the Tribulation Pearl.”

Shang Xia laughed in response. “Since you have come again, I believe that you found my offer acceptable. However, what I wish to know is that the Tribulation Pearl seems completely unrelated to you. You’re from the Wanyun Association, while True Immortal Lin’s junior brother is from the Qingling Palace. You’re from different factions anyway... Why are you so interested in getting it back? Also... Why haven’t either of them appeared?”

Gong Zhuo was slightly taken aback by Shang Xia’s question, but his expression quickly darkened and he growled, “True Immortal Shang, does our deal consist of you trying to dig into our private matters?”

“Haha...” Shang Xia quickly continued, “True Immortal Gong, I hope you don’t misunderstand. It’s just a casual question. Since you’re not willing to tell, let’s just work on the deal with the Tribulation Pearl. Of course, if you’re willing to introduce the situation in your world, I’m not opposed to lowering the price. I’ll reduce the price by a high-grade weapon, how’s that?”

A strange smile appeared on Gong Zhuo’s face and he snorted softly, “You wish to obtain information about my world with the price of a high-grade weapon? That’s an impressive plan... If I didn’t know any better, I would think that you seem to be in a hurry to learn more about my Essence Xing World.”

Shang Xia smirked casually, “We should learn more about others the best we can. Even though I don’t hope that our worlds form a grudge where either of us has to destroy each other, it’s important to understand the other side. At the very least, when I head back to make a report to my elders, I’ll be able to produce some results, right?”

“Haha... True Immortal Shang, looks like you play a pretty influential role in your world...” Gong Zhuo smiled.

Shang Xia sighed with a playful grin, “Sorry to disappoint... I might be important, but I don’t call the shots. There are many other greater powers I have to convince if I wish to do something.”

“Even though a high-grade weapon is nothing to me, it’s fine. I am willing to share the names of famous experts of my world and the general power structure. I’ll take this as a chance to make a friend...” Gong Zhuo eventually chuckled.

Shang Xia didn't show any emotions as he spoke casually, "I'll be honored to make a friend then."

"Alright, business first." Gong Zhuo's smile disappeared and he turned serious all of a sudden. He waved his hand, and 5 weapons, a sealed jade bottle, a strange wooden chest that looked like a spatial artifact, and 3 other sealed spiritual cases appeared in front of him.

Pointing at 2 of the 5 weapons, he introduced, "These are the divine weapons, and the whip is called the Aperture Node, and the dagger... You can call it the Spirit Intent Annihilator."

Pausing slightly, a trace of reluctance flashed in his eyes but he managed to suppress his emotions before pointing at the other weapons. "These are high-grade weapons!"

After he was done, he saw that Shang Xia was staring at the sealed spirit bottle with a look of interest and he quickly introduced, "A rank six advancement is contained in here, and it's called the Golden Scale Silver Wing Paste. True Immortal Shang, are you interested in it?"

Shang Xia simply chuckled. There was no way he would not be interested in it. With a rank six advancement medicine, it was extremely likely they would be able to produce another True Immortal!

However, he didn't know where the advancement medicine came from, and even if he did, the Golden Scale Silver Wing Paste wasn't produced by their alchemists. He wouldn't allow other people to use it...

Shaking his head, Shang Xia turned to look at the wooden chest.

Gong Zhuo opened it after he noticed Shang Xia's gaze and there were high-grade essence crystals neatly arranged in it. Shang Xia could tell there were more than a hundred of them with a single glance, and he knew that it was a considerable sum even as a True Immortal.

Because of Shang Xia's lack of reaction, Gong Zhuo felt that he was waiting for the introduction of every other treasure and he simply opened the cases left. "There are 2 types of rank six spiritual herbs and a rank six spiritual treasure contained in them. There is a bundle of Nebula Yarn, a piece of Chaos Stone, and a Cloud Frost Lotus."

Seeing how Shang Xia was still not saying anything, Gong Zhuo muttered in a cold voice, "As long as the value is comparable to the Tribulation Pearl, you can choose whatever you want. I believe you can tell my sincerity from these treasures."

Shang Xia glanced at the treasures before asking without raising his head, "Were these the treasures all 3 of you gathered?"

Gong Zhuo suddenly burst out laughing, "It has only been a while since I left. These are all we could gather."

Shang Xia nodded before grabbing the dagger under Gong Zhuo's gaze. He couldn't help but chuckle, "It's no wonder you even put your divine weapon up for trade... However... If I have to choose something suitable for me, I can only choose this dagger!"

Gong Zhuo sighed with exasperation. "True Immortal Shang, have you really decided to take my weapon?"

Looking at Gong Zhuo's stubborn gaze on the dagger, Shang Xia asked, "Is this divine weapon really important to you?"

Gong Zhuo coughed once before forcing a smile. However, he didn't respond.

Shang Xia seemed to have made his decision. He spoke in a low voice, "True Immortal Gong, even though I don't know the reason you are so desperate to retrieve the Tribulation Pearl that you are willing to put your personal weapon up for trade, I can tell how important the Spirit Intent Annihilator is to you."

"What are you trying to say?" Gong Zhuo muttered in a strangely calm tone.

Shang Xia's grin widened. "I actually have another small request. If you are willing to promise me, not only will I give up on taking this dagger. I won't take any of these..."

Gong Zhuo wasn't happy at the sudden proposition, and he became even more serious. "What do you want?"

Becoming a little more solemn, Shang Xia finally revealed his true intentions. "I wish to obtain your secret art. How did you create the phantom of the dagger after you broke through my domain?"

Gong Zhuo was taken aback by the sudden request and he blurted, "So you're aiming for the Soul Nourishing Art!"

Chapter 1216: Talisman Grandmaster

"So you're aiming for the Soul Nourishing Art!"

Shang Xia blinked once and asked, "I wonder if you think this secret art is worth your divine weapon and everything else?"

"Is that really a question?" Gong Zhuo quickly shook his head as he continued, "The Soul Nourishing Art is a secret art developed by the Blacksmith Grandmasters of our world in order to hasten the process of awakening an artifact spirit. It's just that several seniors developed it into a soul attacking technique that could be used with their divine weapons."

Gong Zhuo seemed to have realized something and he gasped, "I managed to destroy your clone back then, but you created another one so quickly... You even managed to make a clone at the peak of the first tier of the Marital Void Realm... Your soul is definitely stronger than cultivators of the same level. The Soul Nourishing Art is truly suitable for you..."

Shang Xia actually decided that he had to get his hands on the Soul Nourishing Art when Gong Zhuo mentioned the reason it was first developed.

His expression didn't change as he continued, "From the looks of it, the secret art isn't worth as much as your divine weapon..."

After a short moment of contemplation, Gong Zhuo muttered, "Even in our world, the Soul Nourishing Art is something that is only passed down among several high-level experts. However, it's far from comparable to the worth of a divine weapon. Its worth is completely different if your world doesn't have a secret art like that. If that's the case..."

“Hehe.” Shang Xia didn’t let him finish and simply concluded the conversation. “Looks like we have an agreement.”

After he spoke, he retrieved the Tribulation Pearl from his sleeves and got rid of the seal he placed on it.

Gong Zhuo also pulled out a jade slip before tossing it at Shang Xia. At the same time, he said, “Even so... With our agreement from before, you can still choose a treasure other than the divine weapons.”

Shang Xia received the jade slip before sending the pearl to Gong Zhuo. He simply pointed at one of the high-grade weapons and muttered, “That seems pretty good. I can use it to test out the Soul Nourishing Art.”

Gong Zhuo heaved a sigh of relief after retrieving the Tribulation Pearl. After hearing Shang Xia, he gasped, “So... You wanted the Soul Nourishing Art for its ability to nurture artifact spirits!”

Shang Xia’s movements stiffened slightly, but it recovered almost instantly. His expression changed slightly, “What’s the matter? Is there a flaw in the secret art that you haven’t told me about?”

Gong Zhuo looked at Shang Xia with a serious gaze and after realizing his true intentions of getting his hands on the Soul Nourishing Art, he explained seriously, “The true principle behind this secret art is to use one’s divine soul as a guide. It is able to greatly reduce the time taken to nurture an artifact spirit, but because this is a shortcut, it makes the artifact spirit a lot weaker than usual. Usually, after 2 to 3 great battles, or even 1 intense battle would cause the artifact spirit to break down and the weapon to regress into a high-grade artifact...”

“Also... Perhaps it has something to do with how one’s divine soul was used to nurture the artifact spirit, the moment it crumbles, the user would feel some discomfort... As such, this technique has been somewhat at the bottom of the rankings of our world...”

“However, there were powerful experts who modified it and it was no longer used to just nurture artifact spirits. Instead, it allowed one to place a trace of their divine souls into the weapon and allow it to be nurtured into an offensive technique by the artifact spirit, turning into a powerful trump card!”

“This allows one to hide a powerful attack in one’s divine artifact, and is able to catch their opponents off guard, enabling them to bring about the best effects in combat.”

When Gong Zhuo was done, he couldn’t help but look at Shang Xia again before adding, “I have to admit... True Immortal Shang’s soul is truly powerful. Just a single clone you created is able to take on my final strike and get rid of all the energy it contained... It’s truly something I never thought I’ll see...”

Shang Xia chuckled in amusement before asking another question, “Earlier, you said that it wasted all the energy in your final attack... Is this secret art a one-time use technique?”

Gong Zhuo shook his head slowly, “It’s not that I can’t use it again, but I will have to nurture the trace of divine soul in the weapon all over again. I will need several years before I will be able to

display the full might of the attack. From that point alone, I have to thank you for not choosing my Spirit Intent Annihilator. Otherwise, it won't be easy for me to find another weapon that suits me... After all, only a suitable weapon would allow me to unleash the greatest might of this secret art."

Shang Xia couldn't help but nod. "So that's it... Even though the requirements are quite high, since it's able to be used again and again, the worth of this secret art to me is comparable to a divine weapon!"

"Now that our deal is complete, I shall take my leave... I hope that we do not become enemies..." Gong Zhuo retrieved the rest of the treasures he laid out and turned to leave.

As soon as Gong Zhuo kept the treasures, Shang Xia felt a strange sense of loss. He quickly yelled, "Please, wait."

Gong Zhuo turned around, but he stared at Shang Xia with a look of wariness while preparing to enter the region of chaotic space in case anything happened.

"True Immortal Gong, please do not misunderstand." Shang Xia quickly explained the reason for his request, "Because of how smoothly we conducted the trade, I feel a need to establish friendly relations so that we can continue dealing with each other in the future."

After a short pause, Shang Xia added, "I won't hide it from you. I am a rank six Talisman Grandmaster and my skills are pretty good. If you or your friends have any need for talismans, I am always ready to craft them for you. Of course, the price to craft a talisman would be 3 sheets of talisman paper."

"Oh?! True Immortal Shang, you're actually a Talisman Grandmaster!" Gong Zhuo immediately acted a lot more respectful and he quickly cupped his fists in Shang Xia's direction. "I apologize for the disrespect! May I know what type of talismans you can craft?"

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback by the sudden question but he quickly answered, "I can craft 4 types of rank six talismans at the moment, but 2 of them concern the secret of my faction and I can't share them with others. I can freely produce the True Space Restriction Palm Talisman and Abyss Prison Emptiness Talisman."

Gong Zhuo immediately became a lot more serious while looking at Shang Xia. "I didn't think that True Immortal Shang would be so accomplished in the dao of talismans that you already mastered 4 types of rank six talismans. From what I know, the higher one's rank, the more difficult it would be to craft many different types of talismans. Normally, high-level Talisman Grandmasters would focus on creating 1 or 2 types of talismans. Only a few talented masters are able to craft 3 types of talismans."

Shang Xia chuckled humbly. Actually with his current success rate, charging 3 sheets of talisman paper for a single talisman was still profitable. But actually, anyone who would request high-level talismans was more than prepared to pay more. Even if he were to charge 4 sheets of talisman paper or even 5 sheets, there would still be people who came to commission him to craft talismans.

Gong Zhuo then spoke again, "True Immortal Shang, dare I ask... What about rank four and five talismans?"

"Oh?" Shang Xia answered casually, "I know how to craft 10 or so rank five talismans and I haven't counted the number of rank four talismans I can craft."

As Shang Xia was trying to think of all the talismans he could craft, he didn't notice how Gong Zhuo's expression had changed.

"I didn't think that True Immortal Shang would be able to craft so many types of talismans..."

Chapter 1217: Rank Six Illusion Talisman

When Shang Xia finally sent Gong Zhuo whose emotions were complicated away, he left his disguised clone outside the Star Beast Nest before rushing back to continue modifying his Illusion Talisman.

With so many things to do, the Soul Nourishing Art he obtained from Gong Zhuo was thrown to the back of his mind. He still had some time because he would meet with the other True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World, and he had to complete the modification of his Illusion Talisman then.

The other thing that Shang Xia completely forgot about was the information he received in the form of a jade slip from Gong Zhuo. Whatever it was, he would just send the secret art and information slip back to the Spirit Luxuriant World when the time came.

Since he achieved some accomplishments in the modification of his Illusion Talisman, he decided to test it out with rank six talisman paper.

Turning a rank five talisman into a rank six talisman wasn't as easy as changing the rank of talisman paper used. Shang Xia still had to improve the talismans, but he didn't expect that the moment he started, he would run into huge problems.

After wasting 2 sheets of rank six talisman paper, Shang Xia eventually managed to determine how much of his divine soul it could hold. He was also confident he would be able to maintain a delicate balance between his inner qi, his divine soul, and other types of energy contained in the talisman.

Despite that, his third attempt ended in failure. However, with the progress he made and how he failed because of a small mistake made, he felt that he was on the right track. Improving the Illusion Talisman to a rank six talisman was possible!

Finally, on his fourth attempt, he managed to successfully develop a rank six Illusion Talisman. Unfortunately, when he tested it on his clone, it failed to exude the aura of a higher-level expert. However, the effects of the talisman would last a much longer time.

As long as it didn't go into combat, there was no need to worry that his disguise would be seen through.

Even though the effects weren't satisfactory as if failed to allow his clone to show off a higher level of cultivation, Shang Xia still saw hope in his progress.

With another round of research and reflection, Shang Xia was able to determine a point where the effects of his talisman would be in much closer equilibrium to his inner qi and divine soul.

Not wasting a second more, he crafted another rank six Illusion Talisman.

Using it on his clone, Shang Xia could feel his clone's aura rising greatly. It quickly reached the peak of the first tier, and under his expectant gaze, it entered the second tier.

Before Shang Xia could heave a sigh of relief, his clone's aura started to fluctuate unsteadily before falling back to the peak of the first tier.

Shang Xia felt exasperated at the outcome of using the talisman and he wanted to remove the talisman when he felt his clone's aura rising once again. However... It didn't stay long as it eventually fell back to the peak of the first tier.

Such fluctuations happened 5 more times before it finally stabilized, but after it did, Shang Xia's clone still looked to be at the peak of the first tier of the Martial Void Realm.

He looked a lot more composed after observing what happened. After observing the change, he understood where the problem lay.

With only 2 days left until the meeting of True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World, Shang Xia wasn't able to sustain his repeated talisman crafting even after reaching the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm.

Even so, he still used half a day to calm himself and restore his exhausted inner qi and divine soul before completing another rank six Illusion Talisman.

This time, he didn't have to test the talisman to know that it would be able to show his desired effects. Actually, the final talisman he made was the only one that could be called a rank six talisman... The rest were all pseudo-rank six talismans at best.

As the time for their gathering grew close, Shang Xia sent his new and improved talisman back to the Spirit Luxuriant World along with the inheritance of the Soul Nourishing Art and the information he gathered about the Essence Xing World.

After sending away his only clone, Shang Xia didn't split off another one due to how much energy he exhausted crafting talismans recently.

Since he took control of the Star Beast Nest, he wasn't afraid that anyone would be able to enter without being detected. The reason he placed his clone at the entrance of the Star Beast Nest back then was to welcome True Immortal Gong anyway.

...

Shang Xia's clone quickly arrived at the Star Observatory in the Tongyou Elysium.

After greeting Yuan Qiuyuan and Xin Lu, he left.

Since the last battle, Yan Ming had been able to gather enough fate dipper essences and were refining them in seclusion at the moment.

The difference between a third and fourth element Martial Dipper Realm expert was a massive rift. After reaching the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm, one would reach a bottleneck and be limited by both their divine will and their fate dippers. If they fail to control it well, they might just lose control and suffer from cultivation deviation. In serious cases, they might be crippled and die.

Even Kou Chongxue back then was stumped when he reached that level.

If any cultivator wished to continue progressing on their path of cultivation, they wouldn't dare to treat a breakthrough from the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm to the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm carelessly.

After leaving the Tongyou Elysium, Shang Xia's clone concealed his aura, and other than Martial Dipper Realm experts, no one would be able to discern his presence.

Shang Xia's clone first went to look for Yun Jing, Ji Wenlong, and Liu Zhiyuan, who received news of his return, quickly rushed over as well.

Mentioning what happened in the Star Beast Nest recently, Shang Xia's clone also related Shang Xia's suggestions to them. Finally, he handed 2 jade slips over to the deputy patriarchs. The first contained the Soul Nourishing Art and the second contained information regarding the Essence Xing World.

"Is the Soul Nourishing Art really able to hasten the awakening of an artifact spirit so that it can become a divine weapon?" Liu Zhiyuan held the jade slip in his hand as though it was the most precious treasure he had ever gotten his hands on.

Glancing at him, Shang Xia's clone explained, "It might be a method to hasten the awakening of the artifact spirit, but there is a massive flaw. You will need 3 to 5 years to nurture the artifact spirit but it will crumble after several intense battles. It will fall back to the level of a high-grade weapon after that happens, and you will need 3 to 5 more years in order to nurture the artifact spirit again. It will also place a huge pressure on one's soul..."

Liu Zhiyuan mumbled in response, "It's still worth it... Having a divine weapon in a battle is a completely different concept from not having one. It concerns our life and death and 3 to 5 years is nothing in exchange..."

Chapter 1218: 3 Great Dynasties, 12 Elysiums

Shang Xia also concurred with Liu Zhiyuan's evaluation of the Soul Nourishing Art, and that was why he didn't hesitate to exchange it with Gong Zhuo. However, he still had to properly explain the flaws it contained. "The secret art is able to allow one to quickly nurture an artifact spirit, but it has also been modified to become an offensive ability that uses one's soul. As such, it has high requirements, and cultivators under the Martial Dipper Realm cannot utilize it."

Liu Zhiyuan replied quickly, "Of course. Those under the Martial Dipper Realm won't be able to use it anyway. Other than you, who managed to use a divine weapon in the Martial Extermination Realm, even several Martial Dipper Realm experts of our institution don't have high-grade weapons. There are even fewer high-grade weapons in the institution that can be brought to the level of a divine weapon!"

Liu Zhiyuan's excitement wasn't unfounded. After all, the lack of progress by the Weapons Hall brought endless desperation to the high-level experts of the institution. Now that they gained a way to upgrade their high-level weapons into divine weapons... Anyone would jump for joy.

After Yun Jing and Ji Wenlong heard Shang Xia's introduction to the Soul Nourishing Art, they were also happy that the standard of artifacts in the Tongyou Institution would be able to reach a new level. However, they were more focused on the information regarding the Essence Xing World.

“Dynasty? The Essence Xing World actually possesses 3 Dynasties!” Ji Wenlong gasped and continued, “Many great Elysiums are under the jurisdiction of a Dynasty...”

It was difficult for them to believe that for a world that was as powerful as the Essence Xing World, their Elysiums would still bow down to other powers.

Yun Jing muttered softly, “Unless the Dynasty possesses terrifying strength, there is no way for this to happen...”

“This is an Essence World! Do you think that there are Seventh Order existences backing up the 3 great Dynasties? That is the only way for this to happen...” Ji Wenlong mumbled in shock.

From the information Gong Zhuo provided, he didn’t mention Seventh Order existences. It might be due to some sort of restriction that stopped him from talking about it, or he didn’t wish to tell Shang Xia and the rest in the first place.

Whatever it was, the Tongyou Institution wasn’t as clueless as they once were. They easily made the connections between a Dynasty and a Seventh Order expert.

The only question they had was if an Essence World could support the presence of 3 existences at the Seventh Order, or if there was more.

In that case, how long Seventh Order experts would the Essence Hong World and Essence Ming World possess?

Liu Zhiyuan was still stuck in a daze due to the Soul Nourishment Art, and hearing Ji Wenlong and Yun Jing’s doubts, he didn’t think too much and muttered, “Doesn’t the Spirit Abundance World also have the Dajun Dynasty? The Royal Xiong Family that controls the Dajun Dynasty worked with the members of the Mi and Xiang bloodlines to control 5 continents south of the Spirit Abundance World. They are said to be the strongest faction there... Do they also have a Seventh Order expert?”

“The limit of a Spirit World is the Martial Void Realm, and it’s impossible for the Dajun Dynasty to possess a Seventh Order expert. However, it doesn’t mean they don’t have experts at the peak of the Martial Void Realm...” Shang Xia muttered,

Yun Jing carefully read through the information regarding the 3 Dynasties of the Essence Xing World and grunted once before she summarized, “On the surface, the strongest experts in those dynasties are fifth tier True Immortals who have reached the level of Extreme Harmonization. However, those dynasties are also split into different levels. The Dachen Dynasty which controls the largest territory has the longest-standing True Immortal who reached the level of Extreme Harmonization. They have 2 other fifth tier True Immortals at the level of Returning to the Origin. One of them is Chen Di, and the other is True Immortal Wang.”

“As for the other Dynasties, they are comparable in strength, and other than their ancestor who reached the level of Extreme Harmonization, only their emperors have reached the level of Returning to the Origin.” Yun Jing concluded.

Ji Wenlong seemed to be in deep contemplation and he muttered, “What about the Spirit Abundance World, do they also have experts at the level of Returning to the Origin?”

Before anyone could respond, Liu Zhiyuan continued to ask, “Other than the 3 great Dynasties, how many great powers with True Immortals do they have?”

Looking through the information again, Yun Jing replied without raising her head, “An Essence World can hold 36 continents, but the Essence Xing World only holds 33 continents at the moment. Of the 3 great Dynasties, they control 6, 7, and 9 continents respectively, making them control a collective 22 continents. As They have 12 Elysiums, and of those, 11 of them belong to great powers. 6 of those Elysiums have also fallen under the control of the Dynasties. Of the other 5 that belong to great powers, 2 of them are located in distant and desolate continents and 3 of them are out at sea. Those Elysiums do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Dynasties and control a total of 7 continents. Even though they are not controlled by the dynasties, they would offer tribute to them. Hm... The Wanyun Association Little Shang came into contact with, controls an Elysium and is a vassal of the Dachen Dynasty. The Qingling Palace controls an Elysium in the Northwestern Snowy Peaks...”

Yun Jing handed a portion of the information to Ji Wenlong and Liu Zhiyuan as she spoke.

Ji Wenlong was in no rush to read through the information and he simply looked at Shang Xia’s clone to ask, “Are you planning to share the information you brought back with the other Elysiums?”

“We can’t possibly maintain the Star Beast Nest alone. Since we need their help, we have to show some sincerity...” Shang Xia’s clone chuckled.

Yun Jing frowned and asked with concern, “You can’t possibly stay in the Star Beast Nest forever, and without Patriarch Kou, our Spirit Luxuriant World doesn’t even have a second tier True Immortal... How can we properly defend the Star Beast Nest?”

Shang Xia’s clone smiled. “My true body thought of a plan, and he sent me back to help set everyone’s mind at ease. Also, my true body will remain there for a few years and we’ll still have more time to work on things here...”

“Do we really not need to report this to Patriarch Kou?” Ji Wenlong asked with concern.

Shang Xia’s clone sighed, “My true body’s intention is not to disturb Patriarch Kou. Of course, we should still tell his clone what is going on...”

...

After half a month of brainstorming, the True Immortals of the various factions finally gathered above the heavenly screen above the Jiao Continent again.

Among them, Yin Jingxu was usually the first to arrive due to where he was situated.

Li Jidao was the next to arrive and he quickly greeted, “True Immortal Yin, have you thought of an idea of how we should deal with the Star Beast Nest?”

Yin Jingxu sighed softly in response, “My Heavenly Star Palace has shallow foundations and we don’t have much to contribute. All we can do is to listen to what ideas all of you may have and provide manpower where necessary...”

“True Immortal Yin, you’re too humble... Every time your Heavenly Star Palace comes up with something, it never fails to shock us. From the Star Observatory, to producing Stargazers, to a unique rank six inheritance...” Li Jidao smirked.

Yin Jingxu wanted to say more, but Yang Taihe and Zhang Xuansheng, the 2 third tier Elysium True Immortals made their appearance.

Glancing at the rest, Yang Taihe smiled and asked, “What’s the matter? Where’s the Tongyou Institution?”

“Apologies, because of your concerns, I had to report something to the deputy patriarchs of the institution and came a little late. Please don’t take offense.” A voice rang in their ears as they were wondering where Shang Xia was.

The next second, a figure appeared in the distance before he started to take a few steps. Every step he took crossed thousands of miles and he appeared before them in the next second.

“This...” Zhang Xuansheng had a strange look on his face when he saw Shang Xia’s clone.

Yang Taihe was similarly shocked, but he quickly regained his composure. He couldn’t help but sigh, “In the past, True Immortal Little Shang’s clone was only at the peak of the first tier... It has only been half a month and it reached the second tier!”

“I’ve embarrassed myself... I’m just an empty husk in the second tier. I can only be considered extremely weak in the second tier of the Martial Void Realm...” Shang Xia’s clone chuckled.

Shang Xia left a clone in the institution when his true body left for the first time, like what Kou Chongxue did. After the clone he sent back merged with the clone in the institution, it reached the second tier of the Martial Void Realm.

The expressions of the True Immortals above the heavenly screen were pretty unsightly at the moment. One had to know that among the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World, there weren’t many experts who surpassed the second tier of the Martial Void Realm.

However, a mere clone from Shang Xia already reached that level...

A dry cough came from Yang Taihe to draw everyone’s attention back to him before he continued, “Everyone, let’s talk about how we should manage the Star Beast Nest first. Since we aren’t willing to give it up so easily, I believe all of us should have already come up with an idea of how to deal with it.”

Right after the words left his lips, Shang Xia’s clone spoke before anyone else. “Fellow True Immortals, my true body has already received some information regarding the Essence Xing World. Let me share what we have learned in order to give everyone a better understanding of them so we can make our preparations lest you feel like I’m hiding something after we make our decision.”

After he spoke, he handed the information he had recorded to the other True Immortals.

“33 continents with all of them larger than 10,000 miles... 3 Dynasties, 12 Elysiums, and more than 50 True Immortals... They have at least 14 experts at the level of Dao Union or higher...”

Almost everything they learned caused them to suck in a cold breath.

They not only took control of a Star Beast Nest under the nose of such a terrifying existence, but they even wanted to operate it and pretend to be an Essence World of equal strength to the Essence Xing World to establish relations with them!

Chapter 1219: Shock

Above the heavenly screen...

Lu Wuzi held the Illusion Talisman Shang Xia's clone handed to him and looked at the other True Immortals hesitantly.

Shang Xia's clone chuckled at the side, “True Immortal Lu, feel free to use it. Do you think I'll harm you under the careful gazes of everyone present?”

“Haha... Of course not...” Lu Wuzi muttered with unease before slowly activating the talisman.

A mighty aura emerged from Lu Wuzi the next moment, and he, who was just a True Immortal at the first tier, seemed to have reached the peak of the first tier. The sudden rise started to slow down, but it seemed like it was merely gathering up some energy before pushing on to the next level. Under everyone's surprised gaze, his aura rose once again, turning him into a second tier True Immortal.

If not for the fact that they saw how it happened, they would have suspected that Lu Wuzi had grown stronger without them knowing.

“True Immortal Little Shang has truly impressive methods!” Zhang Xuansheng spoke first, and he quickly continued, “It's a shame all of this is fake.”

Clearly, Zhang Xuansheng wasn't directing the second part of his sentence to Shang Xia's clone. Instead, he seemed to be mocking Lu Wuzi who was still stuck in a state of amazement.

Yang Taihe continued, “True Immortal Little Shang, are you planning to disguise True Immortals of our world as higher-level experts to deter the members of the Essence Xing World from making any rash decisions? However... Lu Wuzi is only able to act as a second tier True Immortal... It's not easy to become a high-level True Immortal. I'm afraid the only person who can take over your spot in the Star Beast Nest is Patriarch Kou...”

Yang Taihe and Zhang Xuansheng might be third tier True Immortals, but they couldn't leave the Spirit Luxuriant World!

Shang Xia's clone chuckled softly, “My true body completed the most difficult part of the modification of the talisman and it will only get easier. I believe it won't be long before the Illusion Talisman that can make you look even stronger will be produced.”

Nodding slowly, Yang Taihe praised, “True Immortal Little Shang, you’re the rank six Talisman Grandmaster. Since you’re confident you can achieve it, we shall trust you.”

Liu Jingsheng glanced at Lu Wuzi before turning to look at Shang Xia’s clone. “How long can this disguise last? Are there any restrictions?”

Shang Xia’s clone quickly provided a response, “If you supply it with enough energy, it should be able to last for 3 months or so. You won’t be exposed if you move about normally. The only thing you can’t do is to get in a fight.”

Li Jidao glanced at Lu Wuzi before looking at Shang Xia’s clone. He gasped suddenly, “True Immortal Little Shang, is your clone also using an Illusion Talisman?”

No matter what, a clone at the second tier of the Martial Void Realm was too amazing.

The others quickly looked at Shang Xia with a look of interest while waiting for an explanation.

Shang Xia’s clone revealed a soft smile before casually pointing at Lu Wuzi to send out a stream of his energy.

Lu Wuzi was surprised, but he knew that Shang Xia’s clone had no ill intentions. As such, he flicked his finger once to release a strand of his inner qi.

Both strands of inner qi clashed in mid air, but Lu Wuzi’s aura suddenly became unstable and the aura around him quickly returned to its original level.

During their exchange, everyone saw clearly how Shang Xia’s clone maintained the strength of a second tier True Immortal.

One could fake their aura and cultivation, but there was no way to hide their combat abilities. That also meant to say that Shang Xia’s clone truly had the ability of a second tier True Immortal. Even if he could barely match up to one, they couldn’t deny that he was strangely powerful.

“Alright, no matter what, a disguise is a mere disguise! The Star Beast Nest is located around the Essence Xing World and the moment we make the slightest mistake, our Spirit Luxuriant World might be facing our end!” Yin Jingxu didn’t seem too interested in the Star Beast Nest as he quickly voiced his concerns.

Shang Xia’s clone continued, “But we really require a platform to interact with other worlds. The Star Beast Nest is a great opportunity! We might be at risk of exposing ourselves, but we can just think of ways to lower it as much as possible.”

Yin Jingxu merely shook his head after hearing Shang Xia’s response, but he no longer raised any objections.

With Shang Xia’s demonstration of his Illusion Talisman over, he turned their attention to the Five Element Teleportation. He displayed how it was able to leave no tracks during the transfer.

Just like that, the Tongyou Institution solved the biggest headache they felt. The True Immortals of the other great powers quickly gathered around to reach an agreement. It was especially so for the development of a rank six grand formation in the Star Beast Nest. The Northern Sea Mystic Sect, Eternal Palace, and Divine Capital Sect would provide massive support for their efforts.

Once again, Shang Xia witnessed the horrifyingly strong foundations of the 3 oldest factions in their world.

The other True Immortals also had many suggestions, and with the Star Beast Nest as its core, everyone decided on how to establish a complete defensive system.

After nearly 8 hours of discussion, they basically nailed down most of the details. They were about to leave when they were stopped by Yin Jingxu.

“Everyone... Please hear me out.” Yin Jingxu looked at everyone who was staring at him with confused expressions after he stopped them. He then muttered in a low voice, “My Heavenly Star Palace is preparing to head back to the Yi Continent.”

Everyone was shocked that he would bring that up during their gathering, but they weren't exactly surprised by his decision.

Liu Jingsheng was the first to speak, “True Immortal Yin, are you saying that your Heavenly Star Palace will completely back out from the Jiao Continent?”

Yin Jingxu nodded with affirmation. “Yes.”

“What about the Star Observatory?” Liu Jingsheng followed up immediately.

Strictly speaking, the Star Observatory was manned by the Heavenly Star Palace in the Jiao Continent, but the other great powers had been the ones providing all the resources they required.

Yin Jingxu replied calmly, “My Heavenly Star Palace has already nurtured Stargazers for all of you and revealed a portion of the inheritance. We don't owe anyone anything and naturally, we will be taking the Star Observatory with us.”

As if on cue, everyone turned to look at Shang Xia's clone.

Shang Xia's clone understood what they meant and he had to show his stance now that things have reached that point.

“The Heavenly Star Palace requested Patriarch Kou's help back then and only managed to rebuild the Star Observatory in the Jiao Continent because of his agreement. Now that you wish to leave, shouldn't you get his agreement? At the very least, you should inform him of your decision. Actually... For you to leave at this moment... Why does it look like you're fucking with all of us on purpose?”

Yin Jingxu expected Shang Xia to say as much and he quickly replied, “When the Star Observatory was established in the Jiao Continent, it benefited our world. My Heavenly Star Palace wasn't trying to profit off all of you during our time of desperation.”

Shang Xia's clone shook his head and muttered, “Yeah, yeah, yeah. If not for the fact that we had no other choice, would all of you have the guts to establish a Star Observatory? How would you be able to step into the Martial Void Realm otherwise? If you built the observatory in your Yi Continent, you wouldn't have been able to guide the Earth Star all the way here, right?”

“You...” Yin Jingxu's expression twisted as he didn't expect Shang Xia to know so much about the secrets of his Heavenly Star Pavilion.

From the looks of it, the Tongyou Institution probably had their own Star Observatory and Stargazers for far longer than anyone expected.

For them to know about how Yin Jingxu and the Heavenly Star Palace guided the Earth Star over... That would mean that they were the ones who allowed him to step into the Martial Void Realm! After all, with Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue's abilities, they would have been able to stop him easily!

With his eyes widening in shock, he turned to look at Shang Xia's clone before cupping his fists to give him a deep bow. His tone quickly became a lot more harmonious as he asked, "Dare I ask... True Immortal Little Shang, what will it take for us to leave the Jiao Continent?"

"Wait another 2 years. When Patriarch Kou emerges from seclusion, we'll come back to this!" Shang Xia's clone chuckled.

Chapter 1220: Golden Crow Blood, Emperor Flow Liquid

The situation in the worlds around the Star Origin Dao Field was extremely colorful at the moment, and with everything they found out, the Spirit Luxuriant World wouldn't dare to fight among themselves at the current moment.

Shang Xia didn't wish to make things difficult for the Heavenly Star Palace. However, Yin Jingxu had clearly chosen to try leaving the Jiao Continent when Kou Chongxue wasn't present and Shang Xia's true body being at the Star Beast Nest because of his strange plans.

What he didn't count on was that even though Shang Xia sent a clone, his clone would be a second tier True Immortal. He was more than capable of suppressing Yin Jingxu who was only at the peak of the first tier of the Martial Void Realm.

After discussing their plans for the Star Beast Nest and how to approach the Essence Xing World, the great powers started to allocate their tasks.

This time, they weren't planning to let the other factions of the Spirit Luxuriant World take part in the operation. In fact, they didn't even expose the existence.

It wasn't that they wanted to keep the information for themselves. Because Shang Xia had already contacted the Essence Xing World under the guise of being a high-level True Immortal from the Essence Ping World, in order to prevent exposing themselves, the fewer people involved the better.

In the blink of an eye, slightly more than half a year passed and the 16th year of the Spirit Luxuriant Calendar arrived.

The great powers completed their first stage of preparation to set up the Star Beast Nest, and the only thing left to do was to see if the Tongyou Institution's Five Element Teleportation Formation was like what they said and wouldn't leave behind traces during the transfer.

During the time Shang Xia's clone had been waiting diligently for the Sun to rise each day and the full Moon of every month. Only when the sun was up could he collect Golden Crow Blood, and only during the full moon would there be Emperor Flow Liquid.

Unlike the worlds that revolved around a star, the Sun and Moon each day was more of a representation of the World's Will. As long as the world remained and the World's Will was intact, the Sun and Moon would appear high in the skies.

As the strongest existence in the Spirit Luxuriant World, even though Shang Xia only sent a clone to collect those resources, he was able to get close enough to gather whatever he required.

Of course, he could only approach them to a certain extent. After he got too close, his clone would feel the urge to fuse and merge into them to become part of the world.

Shang Xia was no stranger to the feeling. When he first entered the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm and sunk his consciousness into the You Continent, he was almost assimilated by the World Origin Source.

Golden Crow Blood could only be collected when sunlight was the most intense at noon. However, it wasn't as though the most intense sunlight would be striking down on the You Continent every single day so Shang Xia had to be running through the various continents all the time.

He could only rely on his luck and continue to persevere in order to collect any.

After all the hard work, Shang Xia managed to collect 8 drops of Golden Crow Blood that contained the essence of the Sun.

Collecting Emperor Flow Liquid was a little easier. Even though there were only 7 times he encountered the full moon, he might be able to gather Emperor Flow Liquid on the 14th, 15th, or 16th of the month.

More importantly, Golden Crow Blood would appear for a short time and if it wasn't contained properly, it would dissipate.

Emperor Flow Liquid was different. It could come into contact with the earth and if it wasn't collected in time, it would simply fuse into whatever it came into contact with and nurture the plants around it into spiritual herbs.

Shang Xia's clone had to gather Golden Crow Blood personally, but he could send out members of the institution to gather Emperor Flow Liquid.

It was easy for Shang Xia to store Golden Crow Blood if he was present, but the same couldn't be said for Emperor Flow Liquid. The other members of the institution could collect it, but it wasn't easy for them to store it properly. As such, they would inform Shang Xia's clone the moment they found any and he would rush over immediately. He would have to bring it back to the Star Observatory before tossing it into the pool of Star Essence Liquid under the Starry Tree.

When Shang Xia brought back his 8 drops of Golden Crow Blood to the Star Observatory, he looked at the pool of Star Essence Liquid that was sparkling with faint light.

“The Golden Crow Blood that contains the essence of the Sun, and the Emperor Flow Liquid that contains the essence of the Moon... Along with the Star Essence Liquid that contains the essence of the Stars... If you are really able to fuse them together... You can call it the Three Light Water...” Shang Xia thought for a moment before speaking. What he learned back then was that the combination of the different essences would create the Three Light Divine Water, but he decided to leave a word out.

“Three Light Water?” Yuan Qiuyuan retrieved the bottle of Emperor Crow Blood from Shang Xia, he thought for a moment before mumbling, “Let’s call it that then.”

Shang Xia’s clone nodded and continued, “Try your best to fuse them together. Don’t be afraid of failure. Even if you use up these Essence Crow Blood, I can always gather more.”

After leaving behind a few more instructions for Yuan Qiuyuan and Xin Lu, Shang Xia’s clone wanted to leave. However, he was stopped by Xin Lu at the very last second.

Seeing her hesitant expression, Shang Xia’s clone could guess what she wanted to talk about and he asked, “Is this going to be related to Grandmaster Xiao Shengyi?”

Xin Lu let out a soft sigh after hearing how Shang Xia had already guessed it and mumbled, “Even though we managed to hoodwink them using the Heavenly Star Palace as a disguise, there is no way Xing Xingtian wouldn’t suspect Senior Brother Xiao having a hand in this. He might even extend that suspicion to me. If that happens, he would be able to connect the dots and link you to the person who was responsible for infiltrating the Star Observatory back then...”

Shang Xia’s clone chuckled in response, “Do you really think Xing Xingtian is still suspecting that I’m the one behind this? He’s probably sure I was the one responsible. The Star Origin Dao Field might not be big, but how many people can leave so easily after causing so much trouble? They lost a Stargazer and we immediately located another Star Beast Nest... How can there be so many coincidences in the world?”

“This... Wouldn’t they try to take revenge?” Xin Lu gasped.

Shang Xia’s clone nearly burst out laughing. “Heh, no matter what, they don’t have any hard evidence that I was the one behind this. Moreover, if they try to take any action now, they will definitely disrupt the peace between the worlds.”

Xin Lu suddenly asked again, “Is this... Is this also because you became a high-level True Immortal?”

“Not entirely. However, you can rest assured that I’ll tell you anything I learn about the Star Observatory in the Star Origin Dao Field once I learn anything.” Shang Xia’s clone muttered softly.

When he was done, he left for the separate space that had been carved out in the Tongyou Elysium for the restoration of the Essence Refining Void Returning Formation. He noticed that other than Gu Qing and several other lonely souls, there wasn’t anyone else present.

“Formation Master Gu, where is everyone?” Shang Xia asked.

His sudden appearance shocked Gu Qing who was explaining the dao of formations to the other weaker Formation Masters in the institution.

Jumping in fright, Gu Qing took some time to compose himself before he asked, “True Immortal Shang, have you not heard?”

Shang Xia’s clone was taken aback by his question and raised an eyebrow in slight confusion.

“What haven’t I heard?”

“The Five Element Teleportation Formation that leads to the Jiao Continent is about to be established. Hall Master Chu brought nearly everyone over to do up the finishing touches. If not because I had something to do here, I would also like to take a look at the formation that uses a slightly different principle from spatial transfer..”

Gu Qing was a rank four Formation Grandmaster Shang Xia saved back when the Azure Oddity World was being destroyed. Because he was restoring the Essence Refining Void Returning Formation Tong Yutang used to enter the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm, he hadn't stepped out of the Tongyou Elysium.

“Oh right, that... Shit, I almost forgot.” Shang Xia's clone slapped his forehead before nodding once to Gu Qing and disappearing from the Tongyou Elysium.

Gu Qing couldn't help but shake his head slowly. He turned around, only to see the Formation Masters looking at Shang Xia's original spot. Immediately getting annoyed, he snapped at them, “What are you still looking at? You guys better be a little more humble and not think of flying before you can walk. If you're able to reach a high enough level in the dao of formations, spatial travel like what he did would be a snap of your fingers away!”

One of the students who were listening to him yelled suddenly, “Instructor Gu, wouldn't that mean that you should be able to travel through the void as easily as True Immortal Shang?”

“...”

...

Above the heavenly screen above the Jiao Continent, the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World gathered once again. The Elysium True Immortals who could create clones merely sent a clone over. Yin Jingxu and Lu Wuzi came with their true bodies.

Seeing Shang Xia's clone appear, Lu Wuzi chuckled, “I thought you wouldn't be coming!”

An awkward smile appeared on Shang Xia's clone's face and he mumbled, “Sorry, I was busy collecting some things recently and if not for a sudden reminder, I would have forgotten about this...”

“True Immortal Little Shang, you have been rushing about the various continents, chasing after the sun and moon... Did you manage to get what you were looking for?” Yang Taihe's clone asked.

Naturally, his actions hadn't gone unnoticed by the other True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World.

He didn't intend to hide anything from them and he coughed once and continued, “I gained a little, but it's far from what I need...”

Zhang Xuansheng's clone asked suddenly, “In the months that passed, I noticed the Tongyou Institution's teleportation formation to the Bing Continent and to the other territories. Like what True Immortal Little Shang said, they didn't leave behind any spatial fluctuations. The only issue is that the activation of the formation will cause pretty significant disturbance in the void and it's something that isn't as good as opening a long-range spatial tunnel.”

Shang Xia's clone chuckled in response, "The Five Element Teleportation Formation was created by Formation Grandmaster Chu Jia of my institution and she has been working on it ever since it was created. It's not too difficult to reduce the disturbance during the activation of the formation. The only thing we need to do is to use a little more essence crystals and it's not really worth it for us to do it in our Spirit Luxuriant World. After all, there is no need for us to hide our tracks when carrying out transfers to our own territories."

Zhang Xuansheng's clone nodded slowly after hearing Shang Xia's explanation. "That is true..."