

## The Heavens 131

Chapter 131: Sneak Attack!

Shang Xia had a feeling that the essence jade in his hand was capable of bringing him straight up to the large completion stage. However, it was no time to enter seclusion!

Perhaps, he could fool the two of them with his Water Repulsion Pearl and the hidden chambers, but once a Martial Intent Realm cultivator arrives, they would be able to sense everything with their divine sense! Nothing could hide from that!

Unless... Unless Shang Xia could learn how to use the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Grand Formation! Even a little bit would be more than enough!

He might have no idea how to utilize formations as complicated as the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Grand Formation, but he obtained the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl and the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram! After playing with them for some time, he discovered some interesting uses.

Of course, he only managed to discover them after the pearl fused with the diagram.

For example, when Shang Xia fully opened the diagram the pearl would hover above it!

Shang Xia quickly discovered something new on the diagram. Previously, he could only see the four red dots and a large yellow dot. Now, there were two other green specks blinking on the diagram.

Those two specks were extremely close to him, and they were basically superimposed on each other.

Without a doubt, those two green flashes represented Murong Danran and Yuwen Changtian.

“Oh shit! This is a livestream!” Shang Xia gasped. However, there wasn't a volume function to this. He had to listen to their conversation across the wall.

Well, that felt better anyway.

After listening to them for some time, Shang Xia started to twist the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl around. Indeed. He discovered that he could change the angle on the diagram! He could even zoom in and out as he wished!

Next, he tried tapping various spots on the diagram. He discovered that as long as he sent some of his inner qi into the diagram, he could view different locations in the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World!

With the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram, there was no such thing as a fog of war to Shang Xia any longer! If only he could reactivate the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Grand Formation. If that happened, wouldn't that mean that he would be able to use it to attack his enemies?

Too bad he could only dream about it for the time being. He had no ability to reactivate the formation.

In fact, not even Murong Danran, a formation master, could activate the formation. At least, not alone.

The formation had been deactivated for more than ten years. It was practically impossible for anyone at their level to revive the formation alone! They would require a ton of help!

Shang Xia pointed at another location on the diagram, and it was where he entered the Coral Forest. It was extremely peaceful and there seemed to be nothing out of the ordinary there, causing a wave of disappointment to wash over him.

If the formation underwater doesn't open up, he wouldn't be able to leave! There was no way to get outside help, and he wouldn't be able to call for backup from the Tongyou Institution!

It seemed as though he would have to face everything alone!

One of the ideas he had was to leave before the Martial Intent Realm expert arrived. After all, the Coral Forest was massive! The Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World was merely one of the four spiritual lands possessed by the Zhu Family!

Despite that, leaving the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World now would mean that Shang Xia would be placed in great danger. Remaining in the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World meant that he could use the diagram to observe his surroundings and prepare for any dangers that might arise.

All of a sudden, Yuwen Changtian's voice caught Shang Xia's attention. "... I was thinking... Brother Ouyang and Brother Dongfang ran into trouble here too... For him to disappear in this area again... Could he be hiding nearby?"

Murong Danran muttered, "That makes sense. But you don't need to worry. He's only at the Martial Extremity Realm. He won't be much stronger than me based on the battle earlier. He only managed to surprise us by hiding underwater. For him to move so easily underwater, he definitely has some sort of treasure that allows him to do so! However, he seems to be injured by Brother Changtian's earlier attack. Otherwise, he would have tried to ambush us already!"

"That is true too. We don't have to stay here to try to look for him. We can search for him elsewhere and when Senior Yuntian comes, we'll dig him out of the ground!" Yuwen Changtian sighed.

Murong Danran shook his head and responded, "That's not a good idea. We're currently in the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World. Even though the restrictions here have been deactivated, it's still a massive maze. It might not be easy for us to return here after we leave. Let's just remain here and wait for my martial uncle..."

Since Murong Danran had a way to contact members of his clan, Yuwen Changtian didn't doubt that they would be able to locate him too. Listening to him wasn't such a bad idea.

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"Murong Yuntian?!" Shang Xia was no stranger to the name. He used to be known as Jia Yuntian back in the Tongyou Peak, and he was a spy for the Rose Party!

"Hmph... Enemies will inevitably cross paths..." Shang Xia growled.

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“... I’m afraid that Senior Yuntian is still injured! I heard that he was attacked and cornered on the Tongyou Peak. When they saved him, he entered seclusion right away! Not that much time has passed and no one knows how much he recovered.” Yuwen Changtian said.

However, Murong Danran seemed extremely confident. “Brother Changtian, rest assured. After Martial Uncle Yuntian was brought over to us, the elders in our clan got him a portion of Meridian Replenishing Powder!”

“Meridian Replenishing Powder?!” Yuwen Changtian was slightly taken aback by the revelation.

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“Meridian Replenishing Powder!” Shang Xia gasped in shock.

“That’s right. Even though the Meridian Replenishing Powder is a rank two medicine and isn’t too useful when it comes to treating injuries, it’s especially useful when it comes to healing his meridians. It’s exceptionally helpful to allow a heavily injured fighter to recover a portion of their strength.” Murong Danran went deeper into the details in order to reassure Yuwen Changtian. He didn’t know that everything he said had been heard by the spy next door.

“Martial Uncle Yuntian’s cultivation was at the peak of the Martial Intent Realm! Even with a portion of his strength, ordinary cultivators who had barely entered the Martial Intent Realm won’t be his match! How is that now? Brother Changtian, do you feel better about the situation now?” Murong Danran continued.

Yuwen Changtian chuckled softly. No longer bringing up the idea of going elsewhere to search for the hidden assassin, he continued to look around him cautiously.

All of a sudden, the feeling of death crept up in his mind as everything in his surroundings started to turn blurry.

“Be careful! He’s about to appear soon! Hurry up and break the illusion!” Yuwen Changtian roared.

“Mother fucker! He dares to attack us when we’re together?” Murong Danran cursed. He took out the liquid he used earlier and dabbed it onto the space between his eyebrows. He didn’t forget to remind Yuwen Changtian, “Stick your back against the wall! Don’t allow anyone to sneak up behind you! Watch me break this shitty illusion...!”

Before he could complete his sentence, a rumbling sound came from behind Murong Danran. His expression twisted immediately.

Even Shang Xia didn’t expect them to react that way! After learning that their backup was about to arrive, Shang Xia could only choose to carry out another round of sneak attacks. Forcefully using

the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl by sending in some void and reality qi, he managed to send out illusions to the two standing on the other side of the wall. He knew that Murong Danran would be able to shatter the illusion quickly, and he launched his stronger attack the moment he opened the secret door.

Who would have thought that Murong Danran would convince his companion to stick his back against the wall? If he still failed to carry out his sneak attack, he would be insulting the great luck the heavens blessed upon him!

With their backs right in front of him, Shang Xia didn't hesitate. His Chaos Essence Lightning Palm appeared instantly as their bodies started to shiver from the electric shock they were given.

Chapter 132: Yuwen Changtian, Die!

One couldn't forget that Shang Xia's Chaos Essence Lightning Palm was comprehended with the heavenly lightning as its foundation.

With life and death at stake, Shang Xia burst forth with a whole new level of power. It exceeded anything he used previously!

Those who had seen how strong his Chaos Essence Lightning Palm was once said that it was comparable to a martial intent comprehended at the Martial Extremity Realm level.

Such an evaluation might have seemed exaggerated previously, but when Shang Xia entered the Martial Extremity Realm, his Chaos Essence Lightning Palm increased in power once again! It might possess enough power to be compared to martial intents comprehended at the Martial Intent Realm!

Who else to better describe the feeling that Yuwen Changtian who was Shang Xia's primary target?

Since the two of them were standing alongside each other, the effects of his strike affected both of them! However, they were both star disciples of their various clans. They definitely had some life-saving treasures they could put to use!

After screaming in pain, Murong Danran's body turned rigid. His body no longer twitched no matter how hard the lightning struck him.

As for Yuwen Changtian, he grunted softly when the lightning hit him. His clothes turned to ash from the powerful lightning bolts and the layer of armor he wore inside was revealed.

Shang Xia wasn't surprised in the slightest. From the moment he made his move, he already took into account their life-saving treasures. He knew that killing them in one strike wouldn't be easy.

Even so, Murong Danran surprised him yet again. It seemed as though that bastard really had a lot of life-saving treasures on him!

Shang Xia's movements didn't stop there. As the lightning bolts started to fade, his sword had already been drawn. His primary target this time changed to Murong Danran!

As he slashed out, a tiny voice in his head caused him to change his mind. He turned his blade towards the frozen Yuwen Changtian!

The inner armor could protect his vital organs, but it couldn't cover his body completely! The lightning web that appeared from his Chaos Essence Lightning Palm struck every inch of his body!

Even though his injuries didn't look too bad, his body was as stiff as a rock after being shocked by so much electricity.

Despite that, Yuwen Changtian was an expert who was about to step into the Martial Intent Realm. He forced himself with the last of his strength to tilt his staff downwards in an attempt to stop Shang Xia's sword.

However, the Delicate Jade River Sword twisted in the air and avoided the staff. It shot straight towards his chest.

"Hah... Your... Sword... Isn't capable of... Piercing through..." Even though he missed, he was confident in the protective abilities of his armor.

His armor might only be a low-grade weapon, but it could absorb his inner qi as it always stuck to his body. He was confident in it blocking a single strike from a mid-grade weapon.

A loud squelch rang through the air as Shang Xia's sword stabbed through the breastplate of the armor, through his chest. It was eventually stopped by the back of his armor, and a huge protrusion could be seen from behind.

"Hmm... It's amazing indeed. I didn't pierce through it completely. Well, it's enough..." Shang Xia retrieved his sword under Yuwen Changtian's complicated gaze. He couldn't help but cough twice when the blood sprayed onto his face.

"This... You... The fusion of two different qi..." Yuwen Changtian fell powerlessly to the ground. However, his strong life force as a cultivator who almost reached the Martial Intent Realm allowed him to live for several more breaths of time. "Who... Who the hell are you... How did you do it?"

Shang Xia's face was slightly pale after he used everything in his last strike, and he chuckled softly, "Why should I tell you?"

"You..." Finally breathing his last, Yuwen Changtian stared at Shang Xia with an unresigned look in his eyes. It seemed as though he wouldn't be getting his answer even in death!

When his inner qi was finally expelled from the blade, a sharp pain shot through his body. Since he had yet to comprehend the Yin Yang Sword Formation, he could only fuse the qi of strength and softness together to utilize the final strike of the Flexible Sword Art! Every time he did it, he would have to endure the backlash that came from the stored power in the blade!

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If that one strike alone caused so much damage to himself, one could only imagine how terrifying the backlash would be after he comprehended the Yin Yang Sword Formation!

Luckily for him, his Yin Yang Essence Qi tempered his body throughout his entire journey of cultivation. If anyone else were to unleash the move he just did, their meridians would be torn to shreds!

Even though fusing the different types of qi would cause such a huge kickback effect on him, he knew that it was the key to comprehending his Yin Yang Sword Formation!

Now, he could only fuse softness and strength qi. Even so, it was enough to cut through low-grade weapons!

Shang Xia could hardly imagine how powerful his sword intent would be after he successfully comprehended it!

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In the split second that passed, so many thoughts ran through Shang Xia's mind. He forced himself to focus on the battle at hand as there was one more person besides the slain Yuwen Changtian!

Since Murong Danran used his life saving method, he became a frozen statue. Shang Xia kept an eye on him as he grabbed everything of value from Yuwen Changtian's corpse.

Raising his head to look at Murong Danran's frozen figure, he didn't dare to venture too close. Waving Yuwen Changtian's silver staff, he summoned a ray of lightning that shot straight towards Murong Danran's chest.

A loud explosion was heard as his figure exploded into a mist of icy qi.

Shang Xia waved his Delicate Jade River Sword in his other hand and blocked off several rays of icy light that emerged after he shattered Murong Danran's 'body'. Picking up several shards that remained where the body once stood, he realized that it was something similar to a bronze mirror.

"Heh... What an insidious bastard..." Shang Xia cursed. The bronze mirror seemed to be some sort of treasure that could replace the carrier to protect them from all sorts of danger.

Murong Danran used it when his body was shaking from the effects of the lightning bolts created by Shang Xia's Chaos Essence Lightning Palm.

The mirror also had another mechanism to shatter into pieces after it was used. It could increase the chances of injuring his enemy after catching them off guard. Too bad for him, Shang Xia was too careful.

If Shang Xia didn't guess wrongly, Murong Danran couldn't have escaped far. He might be watching everything from the side. He might jump out as soon as Shang Xia was injured by the shards of icy qi to deal a finishing blow.

"What a pity. His petty tricks are useless against me..." Shang Xia snorted. He leaped into the air and slashed at one of the surrounding rock formations. A ray of sword qi emerged, blowing it up!

As rocks and debris flew into the air, a shadowy figure leaped out from behind it. Tapping lightly on the water surface below him, he started to run in the other direction.

Shang Xia didn't hesitate to give chase.

In the blink of an eye, the two of them ran for over ten feet. All of a sudden, Murong Danran's figure flashed and he hid behind another rock formation.

When Shang Xia was about to approach, the rock formation seemed to come alive. It turned into a giant that tossed a giant boulder at Shang Xia.

Gasping in shock, he was about to dodge when a thought flashed through his mind. He flung his sleeves and the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl appeared above him. Multi-colored lights illuminated the area around him and destroyed the illusion Murong Danran laid down. The giant disappeared in an instant. Of course, the boulder was real as it was something Murong Danran chucked at him.

Dodging the boulder, Shang Xia ran straight through the 'giant'.

Murong Danran turned to run and he yelled in fright, "How... How can you see through my illusion?!"

Shang Xia's chuckle echoed in his ears. "You actually know quite a lot about the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World! You actually managed to use the illusions within!"

Without even turning back, Murong Danran yelled, "Would you like to work together with me?"

"What do you think?"

"It's a giant waste for you to obtain the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl and the core diagram! However, it's different if I use it! As long as you're willing to work with me, I'm sure to dig out all the resources here! When that happens, we can split it equally! How's that?" Seeing as he wouldn't be able to shake off Shang Xia in a short amount of time, he decided to change his strategy. He hoped that Shang Xia would be greedy enough to accept his offer.

"I knew you were playing for time!" Shang Xia exclaimed when Murong Danran dodged behind another rock formation.

He tried to run away from Shang Xia's pursuit, but with a wave of his hand, Shang Xia unfurled the scroll. He took one glance and discovered Murong Danran's location.

"Today, you won't be able to escape!" Shang Xia pointed casually at one of the rock formations with his Delicate Jade River Sword.

Leaping away, Murong Danran summoned a ball of inner qi to protect himself from the sword strike. However, he didn't expect a bolt of lightning to strike down on him.

"You bastard!" Murong Danran's ball of inner qi managed to lessen the damage slightly. He still crashed into the ground, but he couldn't be bothered with anything else as he turned to run.

All of a sudden, a loud whistle tore through the air. Someone approached them at high speed, and Murong Danran's figure froze all of a sudden. Turning back, a sinister grin appeared on his face.

"It's your turn to run now!"

Staring deeply at Murong Danran, Shang Xia knew there was not enough time to deal with that slippery cockroach. In the next second, he turned around and ran.

Their roles changed as Murong Danran started to chase after him. However, Murong Danran seemed a lot more relaxed than before. As long as Shang Xia didn't leave his line of sight, he wouldn't speed up.

“Hahaha! It's my turn now! This time, you won't get away!” Murong Danran gloated happily as he raced after Shang Xia.

### Chapter 133: Suspended Spear

The reason behind Shang Xia's insistence to kill Murong Danran was simple. He didn't need anyone to learn that he obtained both the core diagram and the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl.

However, the reason behind his escape was simpler. With Murong Danran's cultivation, there was no way to kill him in a short period of time! Once Murong Yuntian arrived, he would be doomed! He was absolutely certain that he couldn't kill Murong Danran before that.

Even if Murong Yuntian was seriously injured, his cultivation base was still at the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm! He could kill Shang Xia with a light slap!

The difference between their base cultivation realms wasn't something that could be ignored even if Murong Yuntian was injured! Much less when there was an annoying cockroach-like Murong Danran at the side!

Luckily, Murong Danran was still harboring some selfish thoughts to obtain the core diagram and the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl. His thought was to control the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World to obtain all the cultivation resources within!

That was also the reason he called his martial uncle instead of other experts! Even though Murong Yuntian was severely injured back on the Tongyou Peak, Murong Danran called him over!

Otherwise, the moment the news of the core diagram was leaked to the outside world, not only Martial Intent Realm experts would vie over it. Martial Extermination Realm experts might get involved too!

When that happened, Shang Xia wouldn't be able to do a thing. Of course, that would also mean that Murong Danran's plan would go up in smoke!

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As Shang Xia escaped with all his might, Murong Danran chased him without letting up.

Behind Shang Xia, Murong Danran constantly provoked the man. He wanted to affect Shang Xia's speed while sending signals to Murong Yuntian.

Murong Yuntian's laughter that came from further behind grew louder and louder, and from the looks of it, Shang Xia had no hope of escaping.

“Hahaha, just stop running now. You won't be able to escape anyway. I'll plead with my uncle to let you live since you killed the four of them! There's no need for unnecessary struggles!” Murong Danran's voice boomed through the air again.

Shang Xia ignored him as he continued to escape.



However, a bone-chilling laughter soon rang in his ears. “Shang Xia, it’s you! I don’t care what you do today! You’re going to die!”

Even without seeing Shang Xia’s face, Murong Yuntian could recognize him. After all, he was the little b\*stard who messed with him on the Kaiyuan Peak the other day!

“Oh no! You actually offended Martial Uncle Yuntian before? Well, too bad for you then! Who would have thought that you would be someone of the four great clans... What a shame! Anyway... How did you get in here?” Murong Danran sneered. “Our experts locked down the surrounding region. Not even your Martial Extermination Realm experts would be able to barge in here! How can a disciple like you enter our encirclement?”

“Unless... There’s a secret path into the Coral Forest!” Murong Danran came to his own conclusion.

Without replying, Shang Xia increased his speed as he rushed away from the both of them. Using his martial intent to boost his speed, he utilized the Irregular Steps to the limit.

“Hehe! Looks like I’m right!” Murong Danran cackled happily. A trace of excitement could also be heard in his voice. “Let me guess again. Is the tunnel under the water?”

“Hey, what a coincidence! You’re running back to where you started! You’re not planning to run away from us! You’re planning to leave the Coral Forest!”

Murong Danran roared with laughter at his own intelligence. “Looks like the secret path is not just under the water... It’s close to where you first appeared! What a pity you won’t be able to escape. You even exposed your secret tunnel into the Coral Forest! Hah! Since you’re the only one who appeared, you probably haven’t told the other members of the Tongyou Institution about it!”

Shang Xia tried ignoring Murong Danran as much as he could, but he would be lying if he said that he wasn’t shocked by the guy’s deduction abilities.

There was only one thing Murong Danran got wrong, and that was Shang Xia’s motive! He wasn’t trying to escape! Even if he was, the damn protection screen wouldn’t open for him!

“There’s no need to waste your breath on that little b\*stard anymore. He’s behind the deaths of Guanchao and the others. Even if they’re not part of our clans, they made a lot of contributions to the attack on the Tongyou Peak! If I don’t kill this little b\*stard today, I won’t be able to calm the rage in my heart!”

By the time his voice rang in Murong Danran’s ears, he had already overtaken him. Murong Yuntian closed the distance between him and Shang Xia with one giant leap.

His abilities made him much faster than a cultivator at the Martial Extremity Realm.

“Martial Uncle, be careful! That guy is extremely cunning!” Murong Danran reminded his uncle, but he was met with a dismissive chuckle.

The difference between an expert at the Martial Intent Realm and the Martial Extremity Realm was like the difference between heaven and earth. How could some petty tricks close the gap?

Realizing that he was in extreme danger, Shang Xia didn't hesitate to dive into the water below.

"He wants to run..." Murong Danran yelled.

"Run? Not with me here!" Murong Yuntian roared and a long halberd appeared in his hand. It stabbed violently towards the water below.

Boom!

A giant halberd formed with heaven and earth qi smashed into the water below, creating a massive crater. It created a path to the bottom!

Shang Xia's figure was instantly revealed, and both of them saw a bubble-like screen bursting around him.

As the energy contained in Murong Yuntian's halberd disappeared, water flooded back to fill the path back up.

Discovering where Shang Xia was, Murong Yuntian didn't hesitate to jump in after him. His inner qi created a barrier around him to push the water away and he sped towards Shang Xia.

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When Shang Xia entered the water earlier, he immediately used the Water Repulsion Pearl to escape. Murong Yuntian's random strike brushed past his body, narrowly missing him. Even so, the protection screen around him popped, and he was immediately pushed down towards the bottom with the huge wave that slammed into him. He crashed heavily into a rock face nearby.

That wasn't all. Murong Yuntian's strike caused a giant hole to form in the protection screen connecting the Coral Forest to the essence qi stone mine Shang Xia came from! The resulting current almost forced him out!

He was jolted awake from his shock when he heard the noise coming from above.

Twisting his body to stabilize himself, he raised his head to lock his gaze with Murong Yuntian who was preparing to dive down.

Using the wall beside him as support, he started to swim towards the sunken stairs that led to the hidden chamber. Without hesitation, he entered the hidden chamber.

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When Murong Yuntian dove into the water, he quickly noticed the black hole in the protection screen where water was gushing out. The resulting current failed to affect him in the slightest. He quickly turned his attention back to Shang Xia who had entered some weird hole beside a sunken staircase. He followed closely behind, and he entered a tunnel with a lot of twists and turns.

Not too long after he entered, he noticed a large opening above his head that emitted some sort of faint light.

He could faintly make out the figure of a human up there, and it was none other than Shang Xia.

Shang Xia never intended to run away! As soon as he caught sight of Murong Yuntian, a ray of cold light flashed through his eyes and he crushed the jade pendant in his hand.

Crack!

Murong Yuntian felt a surge of heaven and earth qi as a massive spear appeared above Shang Xia. The body of the spear was thick, and the tip of the spear pointed straight towards Murong Yuntian. There was nowhere he could run!

That was the rank three talisman Shang Ke sealed his divine sense in for him, the Suspended Spear Talisman!

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A trace of Shang Ke's divine sense was contained in the jade talisman, and the martial intent of the second strongest expert of the Shang Clan wasn't to be taken lightly!

Chapter 134: Byebye, Hidden Snake!

In the essence qi stone mine several miles away from the Coral Forest, a figure emerged from a cultivation cave in one of the walls and the sound of a gushing river could be heard getting closer and closer.

As the sound got louder, the ground below started to shake.

All of a sudden, a massive geyser broke through from the ground below, quickly filling up the essence qi stone mine.

Very quickly, it flooded more than a third of it.

Sun Haiwei stared at the sudden change with her pale face. From the looks of it, she had yet to recover to her peak state.

Staring at the water pouring out from the ground below, a deep frown formed on her face. She felt that it definitely had something to do with Shang Xia, but she just emerged from her cultivation cave and had no idea what was going on. She didn't know where Shang Xia went either.

All of a sudden, a familiar chirp came from the entrance of the mine.

Staring up into the sky, she saw the figure of a bird circling slowly. Raising an eyebrow in surprise, she realized that even the Lightning Bird had no idea where Shang Xia went.

Pausing for a moment, she felt that she had to notify the Shang Clan about what happened. Retrieving a jade green talisman in her hand, she sent her inner qi into it before ripping it. The talisman turned into a streak of light and shot into the horizon.

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After Murong Yuntian was severely injured on the Tongyou Peak, he was saved by the elder of the Yuntian Clan and he entered seclusion in the Coral Forest. He managed to regain a bit of his fighting strength.

Despite that, it was as easy as pie if he wished to kill Shang Xia! However, he was facing the martial intent of Shang Ke! Someone who was stronger than him even if he was at his peak!

If Shang Xia pulled out any other rank three talisman, Murong Yuntian would have scoffed in his face. He might have faced a little difficulty in getting rid of it, but this was Shang Ke's martial intent they were talking about! It contained a full-powered strike from the man himself!

Stuck in the underwater tunnel, there was nowhere for him to run!

The moment the giant spear appeared, Murong Yuntian's first reaction wasn't to run. It wasn't to retreat either! Instead, he wanted to smash the wall beside him to create a small hole to hide! He wanted to avoid the spear by hiding in the crevice he made!

His thoughts were apparently too simple. Along with the crisp pop that rang when he smacked the wall beside him, a soft buzz filled his ear. A shallow dent was all he could make and the underwater path remained completely intact.

It was too late for him to do anything as the spear came crashing down!

The water had long since been forced away by the aura of the spear, and Murong Yuntian desperately tried to raise his defenses! He was too late!

Roaring with all his might, he halberd shot out. It managed to scrape away a little bit of power contained in the Suspended Spear, but the heaven and earth qi it shaved off returned to the body of the spear, making it sturdier than before.

As the spear arrived before him, he screamed manically and raised his hand to stop it. Releasing his inner qi without holding anything back, he managed to weaken the blow. However, his hands were turned to dust from the backlash.

In his last-ditch attempt to survive, he forced out all his inner qi to form a bloodied shield in front of his chest.

As the spear collided with the shield, he was forced into the wall behind from the impact. Vomiting mouthfuls of blood, he stared at the spear that ate away at his inner qi shield. The tip of the spear stabbed deep into his chest.

"Ah!" Murong Yuntian stared at Shang Xia with his bloodshot eyes, unresigned to his fate.

He was an expert at the peak of the Martial Intent Realm! He had a frighteningly strong life force, and even though he was stabbed straight through the chest, he wouldn't die right away!

Even if he had to die, he wanted to drag the little bastard with him!

However, he noticed Shang Xia staring at him cautiously as his life force drained from him.

As his consciousness slowly left his body, Shang Xia finally approached.

Shang Xia didn't hesitate to stab his sword straight through Murong Yuntian's open mouth. It emerged from the back of his brain, pinning his head on the wall. He shattered all of Murong Yuntian's hopes of dragging him into the afterlife!

With an unresigned expression on his face, Murong Yuntian finally died!

Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief. After ensuring his opponent was dead, he slowly retrieved his sword. A line of blood flowed down the wall where Shang Xia's sword pierced his brain.

The death of a cultivator at the Martial Intent Realm would definitely cause the heaven and earth qi in the surrounding to fluctuate. That was because a huge amount of inner qi would be released from the body all at once. Their dantian would be destroyed too, forming the weird phenomenon around them.

Dense heaven and earth qi gathered around him. Along with his death, a huge amount of inner qi emerged from his body.

It was too bad the water returned at just the right moment. Washing away the heaven and earth qi in the surroundings, the phenomenon that was supposed to occur when a Martial Intent Realm expert died failed to appear!

Something caught Shang Xia's attention and he turned to look at the imprint on the wall made by Murong Yuntian when he tried to avoid the Suspended Spear. Faint runes appeared in the tiny dent on the wall.

That wasn't all. Faint lines appeared along the stone walls of the hidden chamber.

Shang Xia finally realized what was going on. The rock formation and the chamber he was in were absorbing all the inner qi released during Murong Yuntian's death!

Retrieving Murong Yuntian's body, Shang Xia brought it back up to the hidden stone chamber. He could see faint runes starting to light up along the walls.

With no idea what was going on, he opened the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram once again. He discovered that the four red dots were starting to glow brighter. At the same time, Shang Xia realized that there seemed to be some sort of faint connection between the four chambers.

The area surrounded by the four chambers looked to be the core of the formation! Could the formation be awakening?!

The Fantasy Spiritual Pearl appeared again, and it looked a lot more solid than before. Shang Xia was quickly attracted to the seven-colored mist swirling inside the pearl. The mist seemed to grow a lot stronger and it seemed to gain some spirituality of its own. Swirling faster and faster in the pearl, it looked as though it was excited about something.

All of a sudden, Shang Xia heard some weird noise coming from outside the hidden chamber.

Lightly blowing on the pearl, the diagram changed once again to show the exact scene outside the hidden chamber at that moment.

"Hehe, this guy is really smart. He even found the way to open the hidden chamber in such a short amount of time!"

...

Outside the hidden chamber, Murong Danran carefully inspected the area around him. He muttered to himself, "This doesn't make sense. There has to be a hidden chamber somewhere! However, there's nothing I can use to open it up from the outside!"

As he circled the rock formation Shang Xia ambushed them three times, he felt some heaven and earth qi fluctuations coming from under the water and he sighed, "Looks like something big is going down!"

Murong Danran never thought that Murong Yuntian would run into any mishap when chasing a cultivator at the Martial Extremity Realm, and he continued to inspect the area around him.

His instincts told him that there was something off about the place. It should be extremely important, and it might be the key to the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Grand Formation!

A huge change occurred suddenly. Heaven and earth qi started to leak out from the huge rock formation that contained the hidden chamber as runes started to appear on its surface.

“So that’s it! It’s here!” Murong Danran quickly traced the runes back to the mechanism used to open the hidden entrance to the chamber. Since it was extremely well hidden, he didn’t discover it previously.

Tapping lightly on the walls, he eventually discovered where the hidden chamber was.

“Looks like I’ll have to move the two rocks to open the entrance. I wonder if I have to push them or pull them... Maybe I’ll have to do both!” Murong Danran started to test his guess. When he pressed down on the two rocks, a soft rumble could be heard as the entrance to the hidden chamber started to open.

“Hah! I was right!” Murong Danran roared with laughter. However, it stopped abruptly when he discovered the figure at the entrance staring back at him.

“You...”

A ray of light flashed past his eyes, and Murong Danran’s expression froze.

“Dumbass...” A soft grunt could be heard leaving Shang Xia’s lips as he followed up with another palm strike. When it landed on Murong Danran’s chest, a soft pop could be heard. Grabbing the corpse, Shang Xia dragged it back into the hidden chamber.

When the entrance closed behind him, it was as though nothing ever happened in the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World!

### Chapter 135: Huge Gains

Out of the many corpses in the hidden chamber, Shang Xia carefully placed Guan Shanyue’s body before tossing Yuwen Changtian, Murong Danran, and Murong Yuntian to the side.

After dealing with the bodies, Shang Xia also tossed Yuwen Changtian’s silver staff on the ground. When he saw Yuwen Changtian using it earlier, Shang Xia felt that it was a low-grade weapon at the very least! Upon closer inspection, he discovered that it was an ordinary staff that had some special material mixed into it. It couldn’t be considered a graded weapon!

He had to admit that Yuwen Changtian really approached weapons creation with a new approach. Other than coating the outside with some better materials, the actual staff itself was crafted out of steel. From the outside, it looks pretty impressive. It could also withstand Shang Xia’s energy when he transmitted some of it into the weapon. As such, it wasn’t completely useless.

However, he suddenly recalled the scene he saw underwater when Yuwen Changtian first brought it out. When he fiddled with it earlier, he discovered the mechanism to separate it into three short

sticks. He couldn't help but laugh when he thought about Yuwen Changtian, a man who always maintained a calm and stern expression, playing with his short sticks.

He chose to deal with the weapon after looking through the spoils.

Shang Xia took out a set of staff techniques he obtained from Yuwen Changtian's body. It was called the Combined Staff Art, and it was a technique meant for cultivators at the Martial Extremity Realm. Skimming through its contents, Shang Xia realized that it was too different from the technique Yuwen Changtian used. The manual should be something he obtained in passing and he barely used it for reference.

A frown formed on Shang Xia's face.

Was that it?! Excuse me? You're a cultivator at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm! Why are you so poor?

From Murong Danran and Yuwen Changtian's conversation earlier, Shang Xia could tell that Yuwen Changtian was on the verge of advancing! He was already starting to collect herbs for his advancement medicine!

Shang Xia's thoughts turned to Yuwen Changtian's advancement recipe. For him to start collecting ingredients for his advancement medicine, he definitely had a complete recipe! Of course, no clan would be dumb enough to let anyone bring the recipe around. All they had to do was to memorize the herbs and ingredients required. There was no point in letting their disciples bring a copy of the recipe everywhere they went! After their disciples memorized the ingredients they needed, their clan would definitely make them swear an oath never to leak it to outsiders.

Whatever the case, Yuwen Changtian seemed like an extremely unlucky fool in Shang Xia's eyes. Not only was his death caused by his teammate, as a cultivator who was about to step into the Martial Extremity Realm, he was as poor as a pauper! Even disciples like Dongfang Mingrui and Ouyang Fengxuan carried around items that caught his eye! Shang Xia didn't know whether he should pity himself for only obtaining a rank two technique or Yuwen Changtian for possessing it.

Disregarding all the treasures he should have, at the very least, he had a huge wallet. Estimating the amount contained in Yuwen Changtian's money pouch, Shang Xia felt that he would have a little more than a hundred pieces of silver essence. Now, he didn't need to worry about paying Sun Haiwei back!

Wait a second... Why on earth would a member of the Rose Party need so much money? Was he planning on going shopping on the Tongyou Peak for his juniors or something?! Where the hell was he going to spend it? My man! A little more than a hundred silver essence is a boatload of money for cultivators at the Martial Extremity Realm, but you won't be able to buy rank three herbs required for your advancement!

Shang Xia sighed before looking at the items he obtained from Murong Danran. He expected much more from this slippery cockroach.

Out of the five disciples of the Rose Party he killed, Murong Danran's cultivation wasn't the highest. However, he was the hardest to deal with!

The man had too many life-saving tactics and he was extremely cunning! Not only was he well versed in the art of formations, but he also seemed to be pretty familiar with Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World!

That raised a few red flags in Shang Xia's heart. There seemed to be something off about how much he knew!

Anyway, it was a pity most of his treasures were used up when Shang Xia chased him earlier. The bronze mirror that saved his life when Shang Xia ambushed him from behind was the thing Shang Xia wanted the most! After all, it could save his life at a crucial moment!

It was a pity the bronze mirror shattered. From the shards, Shang Xia could tell that it wasn't made from some precious treasure. In that case, there could only be one other explanation. It was crafted from some sort of secret art!

Tossing away several other items that didn't catch his eye, Shang Xia locked onto a flying knife that was three inches long.

Playing with it, Shang Xia recalled what happened when he came out to snatch the pearl. Murong Danran threw the knife into the water, it caused a layer of frost to form on the surface!

If Shang Xia moved a little faster, he wouldn't have to take Yuwen Changtian's strike! Well, whatever. It was over now and all of his enemies were dead anyway.

Shang Xia dug around more and discovered that the flying knife was called 'Fleeing Wind', and it was a low-grade weapon!

Hah! Finally! Something good!

Even if Shang Xia knew nothing about how to use hidden weapons like that, it was a graded weapon nonetheless.

One had to know that even Martial Intent Realm experts might not be able to get their hands on a graded weapon!

A smile formed on Shang Xia's face. Indeed... Murong Danran didn't let him down! He had quite a few presents on him! Unfortunately, Shang Xia didn't find any precious herbs on him.

Next came a book he found on Murong Danran. It was completely handwritten, and it was called the Mountain and Sea Recollection.

Shang Xia initially thought that it would contain some poems or stuff like that, and he laughed at Murong Danran for being a pretentious bastard. However, his expression turned solemn when he discovered that it contained knowledge regarding the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World. From the knowledge contained within, Shang Xia felt that it was written by someone who entered the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World before.

Shang Xia quickly looked through the contents within.

The book was written in a first-person perspective and it wrote about the happenings before the collision between the two worlds.

Shang Xia learned that the person entered the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World after entering the Zhu Family. Many of the things recorded were true life experiences and stuff the author



learned from the conversation of other Zhu Family members. Nothing much was recorded about the other special regions though.

There was no way the author wasn't related to the Zhu Family. Even if they weren't a direct descendant, they had to be someone of a branch family in order to know so much.

Shang Xia learned that the author of the book had been sent to assist in the reconstruction of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Grand Formation several years before the Zhu Family's destruction, and that's how they learned many intricate secrets about it.

When the author of the book left the Zhu Family for whatever reason, they probably swore an oath to keep the secret! However, the Zhu Family was destroyed and the oath naturally lost its effect. After so many years, the author recorded the last of their knowledge before death.

Shang Xia didn't know how, but the book eventually landed in Murong Danran's hands.

Even without knowledge of the art of formations, Shang Xia could tell that the book he was holding was of extremely high value to any formation master. Moreover, the Coral Forest was the focus of the Azure Origin World at that moment, and the price of a book that contained the inner workings of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Grand Formation was priceless!

Everything finally clicked. Shang Xia finally knew why Murong Danran was so familiar with the place even though it was his first time there!

That was why he still tried to convince Shang Xia to work with him even after the death of all his fellow disciples! He wasn't willing to notify the higher-ups of the Rose Party, and he called upon the heavily injured Murong Yuntian to assist him!

As it turned out, the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World hid such a huge secret!

Shang Xia took out the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram and he stared at the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl. The look in his eyes changed several times.

Reluctantly tearing his gaze away, he decided to look at Murong Yuntian's items.

Now comes the climax. The belongings of an expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm.

Even though he was injured, that wouldn't affect the wealth he accumulated! Previously, Shang Xia expected his treasures to surpass everyone present!

However, his expectations died a little when he obtained the Mountain and Sea Recollection.

Shang Xia stared at Murong Yuntian's low-grade weapon, the Waning Moon Halberd, with the expression of a dead fish. If anyone else was here, they would probably beat him to death!

A great portion of Martial Intent Realm cultivators would be more than happy to get their hands on a graded weapon. There were even some Martial Extermination Realm experts who were using low-grade weapons!

Now, this little prick at the Martial Extremity Realm was looking down on one!

Of course, none of them would be able to understand Shang Xia's thoughts. After all, Murong Yuntian revealed a high-grade weapon when he was sabotaging the Tongyou Peak's protection formation. Shang Xia expected it to appear among his loot, but reality disappointed him.

The difference between a low-grade weapon and a high-grade weapon was enormous! Naturally, Shang Xia couldn't be happy with Murong Yuntian's Waning Moon Halberd!

In reality, Shang Xia guessed as much. There was no way the Rose Party would allow him to hold on to a high-grade weapon now that his mission was over and he was exposed! They probably lent him the treasure to destroy the formation, and they collected it now that their attempt failed.

The Rose Party had thrown all their marbles into their conquest of the Coral Forest. A high-grade weapon would be passed on to a powerful member to fight back against the pressure of the Tongyou Peak's experts when they came!

Placing the halberd beside Yuwen Changtian's staff, Shang Xia continued to look through his loot. His eyes widened in shock when a tiny little case that was three inches long fell onto the ground before him.

Embroidered Cloud Case!

Chapter 136: Mountain and Sea Qi Convergence Formation

Staring at the case, Shang Xia felt his eyeballs popping out of their sockets.

He might not have his own Embroidered Cloud Case, but his aunt, Shang Xi, had one! He had the experience of using one!

Shang Xia couldn't be more familiar with what possessing an Embroidered Cloud Case represented!

If he managed to get his hands on Shang Xi's Embroidered Cloud Case, he would be able to store a lot more items on him! Today, his dream finally came true!

Shang Xia found too much good stuff in the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World. It was so much he didn't know how to bring it out, and he even thought of hiding a portion of them in the hidden chamber so that he could return for them in the future.

Now, there was no need for all that trouble!

Shang Xia picked the Embroidered Cloud Case up from the ground carefully and he started pouring in his inner qi.

Shang Xi might not have given him her Embroidered Cloud Case, but she taught him all its uses a long time ago! He had to leave his own spiritual imprint on it before he could open the case!

If anyone stole the treasure, he would be able to follow the trail to search for it!

Even if the thief left his detection range and tried to open the Embroidered Cloud Case forcefully, the original owner's spiritual imprint would go berserk and destroy the case! The items inside would definitely be destroyed, and the thief would be injured by the spatial fluctuations.

Murong Yuntian's spiritual imprint might be strong, but he was dead! Without anyone to supplement it with energy, Shang Xia's Yin Yang Essence Qi quickly eroded it. Next, Shang Xia placed his own spiritual imprint on the case.

Once he did, he opened it impatiently. His qi entered the case and retrieved the first thing it came into contact with.

Before Shang Xia entered the Martial Intent Realm, he would have to use his inner qi to take out the items. Only when he developed his divine sense would he be able to take out anything with a single thought.

First things first, he looked at the space the case could contain.

It could actually contain two cubic feet! That meant that the Embroidered Cloud Case was at the mid grade!

The smile on Shang Xia's face didn't fade even after a long time. He was even thinking about how he would celebrate in front of Shang Xi's face.

However, his attention eventually turned to the item he brought out. The shit-eating grin on his face only grew wider.

He wasn't unfamiliar with the jade board he took out. He had seen jade boards like that used to pass down inheritances in the Scripture Depository of the Tongyou Peak.

Of course, inheritances varied greatly. It might be something good, or it might be absolute garbage.

Looking at the Twisting Twin Blades, Shang Xia raised an eyebrow in surprise.

After reading through the technique, a strange look appeared on his face. Wasn't it a technique for the high-grade scissors he used back on the Tongyou Peak?

Shang Xia had seen the power the Golden Devouring Scissors contained! Even though the thick chains connecting the bridges on the Tongyou Peak were protected by restrictions, Murong Yuntian was still able to sever them with the weapon!

A frown appeared on Shang Xia's face. Was he supposed to go look for a pair of giant scissors before he was qualified to learn the technique?

Reading through it a second time, a lightbulb lit up in his mind. What a fool he was for thinking that he could only learn the technique when he used scissors?! It was clearly a set of techniques for dual wielders of the sword!

Using two swords was the basis of the manual. Murong Yuntian only used it as inspiration to use his Golden Devouring Scissors!

The key point was that the technique was suitable for cultivators who cultivated the dao of fire and ice!

Cultivators who hadn't comprehended their martial intent were also eligible to learn the technique, and at the highest level, one could comprehend the martial intent 'Severing Ice and Fire'.

Shang Xia didn't know why Murong Yuntian carried around the jade board with him, but he had his guesses. It might be difficult for Murong Yuntian to meet up with the members of the Rose Party when he was acting as a spy in the Tongyou Institution! However, it could also be because Murong Yuntian was overconfident!

As Shang Xia was lacking a technique for his cultivation in the dao of ice and fire, Murong Yuntian's death came extremely timely!

A trace of fulfillment entered Shang Xia's heart. He managed to obtain two great treasures so far from Murong Yuntian! The Embroidered Cloud Case was definitely the best thing he could have gotten, and the sword manual came a close second.

Of course, there were much more items in the Embroidered Cloud Case. He took everything out, and he discovered that there were several different medicines along with some talismans.

He couldn't recognize most of it, and he didn't dare to try any of them.

The last item that caught his attention was a lacquered wooden box.

There were three jade bottles in the box, and one of them was empty! It was evident that Murong Yuntian had used up one of its contents.

"This... This is the Meridian Replenishing Powder?!" Shang Xia gasped in shock.

The Meridian Replenishing Powder could allow a cultivator to recover a little bit of their fighting strength in a short amount of time, and in order to prevent themselves from growing resistant to the medicinal effects, one would only use a set of Meridian Replenishing Powder after a long time.

"Two bottles of Meridian Replenishing Powder! Hahaha! These should be the medicine they prepared for him to recover! Perfect! I probably need one set to advance, and the last set..." Shang Xia didn't hesitate and poured them into his mouth.

A warm current washed over his body, and he felt his inner qi churning rapidly. It started to recover all the hidden injuries he suffered when he used the final move of the Flexible Sword Art when he fused both types of qi together. He also managed to recover slightly.

"... I'll keep the last set for when I cultivate the Yin Yang Sword Formation! I'll use it with the Tempering Meridian Powder, and the effects will be great!"

Shang Xia also discovered a half-written report inside an exquisite wooden box that he placed on the ground earlier.

He could tell that the contents were probably written by Murong Yuntian, and it contained all his experience as a spy in the Tongyou Institution.

There were secrets of many higher-ups of the institution, and there was a clear description of everyone's relationship with each other. He also wrote about some happenings among the four great clans.

As Shang Xia read through the entire thing, a sentence caught his eye. "... On the fifteenth day of the sixth month, Kou Chongxue returned to the institution. He entered seclusion due to his injuries, and Shang Bo broke through to the Fourth Layer Martial Extermination Realm after some time! Kou Chongxue's injury might have something to do with Shang Bo's breakthrough!"

Other than that, Murong Yuntian had more reports on the institution. He analyzed many things regarding cultivators in the Azure Origin World.

Shang Xia might not understand a huge portion of what Murong Yuntian wrote, but he knew that it contained the secrets of many important people. However, the report similarly contained many secrets of the Rose Party!

“Lucky for us, this sneaky freak is dead and I got my hands on this report. I can’t let this land into the hands of the Rose Party! There are too many secrets contained in this report! Hmm... I shouldn’t keep it either. I should hand it over to the institution to maximize my gains! I might even be rewarded heavily again for this!”

Since he obtained the Embroidered Cloud Case, other than several items that he used often, everything else was thrown into the spatial artifact!

“This feels much lighter!” Shang Xia exclaimed while sweeping his gaze across the various corpses again. Sighing softly, he dove down into the hidden passage towards the sunken staircase.

Alas, his Water Repulsion Pearl had been destroyed by Murong Yuntian earlier! He couldn’t keep himself dry underwater anymore.

If he thought about it earlier, he would have gone to look for the third hidden chamber by land! There was no need to get his clothes wet for nothing!

Since he had the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram, he didn’t have to worry about getting lost! The only thing he was afraid of was that Murong Yuntian’s death might have alerted a Martial Extermination Realm expert of the Rose Party.

Also, he didn’t know when the protection screen would open again since it had already recovered from Murong Yuntian’s strike.

Shang Xia sighed helplessly, “It’s not that I didn’t want to bring you guys in! You can only blame it on your luck...” Naturally, he was referring to the experts on the Tongyou Peak.

“Oh right. The sudden flooding after the protection screen was broken might have alarmed Senior Sister Sun... I wonder how she’s doing...”

As his thoughts ran wild, he quickly navigated towards the third hidden chamber. His speed was much slower than before since he didn’t have the Water Repulsion Pearl.

After some time, he approached the location marked by the third red dot on the diagram.

Luckily for him, the third room was similar to the first. There was an underwater passage leading into it and he didn’t need to look for hidden mechanisms outside.

Shang Xia emerged from the pool in the middle of the third stone chamber and he quickly looked at everything around him.

He could see faint glows on the wall that resonated with the pulsing light from the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl. In fact, the stone chamber seemed like a slumbering beast.

Each of the four hidden chambers contained a part of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Grand Formation, and the part contained in the third hidden chamber was called the Mountain and Sea Qi Convergence Formation. The Zhu Family would reward disciples with a chance to cultivate in the room and the effects were similar to the Polarity Essence Gathering Pool on the Tongyou Peak!

Chapter 137: Large Completion Stage!

All the members of the Rose Party in the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World had already been killed by Shang Xia.

However, he felt that he couldn't remain complacent. He knew that the Rose Party would definitely send more people over if they couldn't get any response from those who had been sent there.

"I need to quicken my pace... I killed Murong Yuntian through pure luck. If another Martial Intent Realm expert comes, I won't be able to deal with them! They might even send more than one!" Shang Xia muttered to himself.

Shang Xia reactivated the formation according to the records in the Mountain and Sea Recollection. Even though the formation hadn't been activated for a long time, it wasn't broken!

Especially after Murong Yuntian's death. His inner qi seemed to be devoured by the formation, allowing it to restore itself to some degree.

As the lines along the wall became brighter, the Mountain and Sea Qi Gathering Formation started to work again. It had the ability to gather heaven and earth qi into the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World!

Shang Xia could feel the density of the heaven and earth qi in the room growing quickly. However, he wasn't in a rush to start his cultivation as he continued to observe the walls.

A moment later, the stone walls started to glow to resemble polished jade. According to the book, Shang Xia took out the Unstable Rock and tossed it into the water where he came from.

"Plop..." The instant it hit the water, strange runes started to appear all around it. Space seemed to twist and the spatial fluctuations expanded to fill the chamber.

The heaven and earth qi that filled the chamber was affected by the sudden change. Shang Xia felt a strange sensation pulling, pushing, and dragging him in all directions.

He felt his body grow lighter all of a sudden, but he would turn as heavy as a rock in the next instant.

The change happened extremely quickly, and the stone chamber seemed to have fallen into chaos.

Thinking back to the time when Liu Qinglan released the liquid that contained the properties of fire and ice, Shang Xia realized that the Unstable Rock he used as a catalyst earlier should be the key to the type of qi in the chamber! The heaven and earth qi in the chamber was probably transformed into light and heavy qi!

His Yin Yang Essence Qi started to transform quickly to complement the type of qi around him.

As he circulated his Yin Yang Mysterious Art, his body turned into a bottomless hole that started to devour the energy around him.

Shang Xia, who was concentrating on the circulation of his Yin Yang Mysterious Art, didn't notice that his body was starting to float in the air. It would sink at times, but it would quickly bounce back up.

...

In the essence qi stone mine outside the Coral Forest...

After receiving Sun Haiwei's report, the higher-ups of the institution immediately sent over several experts, along with members of the Shang Clan.

Looking at the pool of water that flooded the mine, Inner Division Instructor Gu Shou asked Sun Haiwei, "Did you go down to take a look?"

Sun Haiwei nodded. "Yeah! The hole in the ground was dug by a rank three undead corpse and we killed it to secure the mine. The hole seems to connect to a tunnel, but it stretches a long way! It seems to be in the direction of the Coral Forest, and I located a protection screen at the very end of the tunnel! I am unable to cross the protection screen, and I have no idea what lies behind it."

With his stern expression and facial features that made him look a bit older than he actually was, Gu Shou turned to look at the actual elder standing beside him. He asked Shang Ke, "I'm not too familiar with whatever happened here. Senior Shang, do you have any ideas?"

Shang Ke chuckled in amusement, "Whatever the case, we need to head down for ourselves. If she's right and the Coral Forest lies past the protection screen, Instructor Gu should understand what the implications are."

Gu Shou nodded and turned to a young lady standing beside him who looked a little distracted. "Lass, it's up to you!"

"Huh?" Snapping back to attention, a reluctant expression appeared on her face as she looked at the body of water in the mine. "Oh... Alright then... Let's go take a look!"

...

In the stone chamber, everything looked to be really peaceful as Shang Xia hovered in mid air.

He had no idea what happened outside the Coral Forest, and if anyone were to watch him cultivating, they would see that the space around his body was slightly twisted. Something definitely looked off around him, but he gave off a strangely harmonic feeling with the world around him. It was difficult to describe the feeling in words.

The strange energy that surrounded him was precisely what allowed him to remain floating in mid air.

As Shang Xia turned his attention to his dantian, he discovered that the amount of light and heavy qi contained within was starting to reach the saturation point.

In other words, Shang Xia had truly entered the large completion stage of a Martial Extremity Realm cultivator!

Since he cultivated both extremities simultaneously, his speed of cultivation couldn't be compared to other cultivators!

Back in the Polarity Essence Gathering Pool, Shang Xia confirmed that he had already surpassed the small completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm but didn't quite reach the large completion stage.

Now that he found himself unable to take in any more heaven and earth qi, he knew that he had successfully stepped into the large completion stage! The Yin Yang Diagram in his dantian turned a lot more solid than before.

“Hah... I didn’t think that I would progress so quickly...” Thinking back to the time before he entered the battlefield between two worlds where his cultivation was at the grand completion stage of the Martial Realm, a sense of accomplishment filled his heart.

How long has it been since then?

Even though the frequent changes in the battlefield between the two worlds caused timekeeping to be a huge problem, Shang Xia was sure that not much time had passed. At the very least, the two month holiday given by the institution wasn’t over. Otherwise, they would already have received news on the Tongyou Peak.

“Well, whatever.” Shang Xia rotated his Yin Yang Diagram and started to transform the light and heavy qi back into his Yin Yang Essence Qi.

All of a sudden, the blood-red tablet in his sea of consciousness experienced some changes.

Looking at the words on the tablet, he noticed the difference instantly.

Martial Intent: Yin Yang Sword Formation (Can be advanced)

Prerequisite Cultivation Technique: Yin Yang Mysterious Transformation (Large Completion Stage) (Ice and Fire, Softness and Strength, Void and Reality, Light and Heavy)

Prerequisite Martial Art: Flexible Sword Art, Cloud Drizzle Sword Art

Subsequent Martial Art: None

Requirement: Yin Yang Diagram

.

Medicine Required: Meridian Tempering Powder, Meridian Replenishing Powder

Required Item: Yin Yang Sword Talisman

Success Rate: 75%-85%

Compared to when he just obtained the Cloud Drizzle Sword Art, the name of his prerequisite cultivation technique changed from the Yin Yang Mysterious Art to the Yin Yang Mysterious Transformation!

Shang Xia was visibly surprised. He realized that the change might not have anything to do with the tablet! He thought about it during his cultivation process about how his inner qi transformed to possess different attributes, and now it seemed as though it had been reflected in the name of his technique!

“Perhaps... Perhaps the tablet can change based on my thoughts!” Shang Xia muttered to himself before looking at the other changes.

The Vigorous Sword Art and Formless Sword Art were gone. In their place was the Flexible Sword Art. The Cloud Drizzle Sword Art was a new addition.



Shang Xia thought about the reason behind the change, and it might be because he fused strength and softness qi and unleashed the final move of the Flexible Sword Art. After getting his inspiration from the fusion, he managed to incorporate it into every stroke.

That would provide an explanation for why he no longer needed two sword techniques for softness and strength qi respectively.

As for the Cloud Drizzle Art, Shang Xia also fused void and reality qi together when he sneak attacked Sima Like under the water.

The final test he could use to prove his guess was the Twisting Twin Blades.

Enough of sword techniques. Shang Xia looked at the success rate and it returned to its original value.

Since he obtained the Meridian Replenishing Powder from Murong Yuntian, the only medicine left was the Tempering Meridian Powder!

Once he was ready with all his preparations, he would create the Yin Yang Sword Talisman and try to comprehend his Martial Extremity Intent, the Yin Yang Sword Formation!

Shang Xia opened his eyes and nearly yelled out loud. However, he discovered he was floating in the air and his eyes widened in shock. With his mental state disturbed, he fell butt-first into the ground below.

Luckily for him, he was pretty close to the ground.

Crawling to his feet, Shang Xia tried to transform his inner qi into light and heavy qi. He tried to float in the air but to no avail.

It's probably related to the Mountain and Sea Qi Convergence Formation...

Shang Xia quickly came to a conclusion. He only managed to do what he did because he absorbed the qi around him. He formed a miraculous balance with the surrounding qi, allowing him to float in the air. Since he completed his cultivation, he could no longer achieve the state of equilibrium!

Light and heavy qi... Perhaps my movement technique will receive a huge boost thanks to my comprehension this time!

Chapter 138: Formation Master from the Rose Party

“Splash!”

Shang Xia burst out from the surface before drying himself off by circulating his inner qi. “The protection screen is still active...”

As he grumbled softly, Shang Xia retrieved the Twisting Twin Blades from his Embroidered Cloud Case and started to read through it.

After reaching the large completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm thanks to the Mountain and Sea Qi Convergence Formation, Shang Xia remained in the stone chamber to comprehend the sword art. It didn't take long for him to gain some insights.

From time to time, he would dive under to see if the protection screen had opened up so he could leave. Every time he went down, he would return disappointed.

After so many repetitions, he even started practicing the Twisted Twin Blades in the hidden chamber.

The only thing that troubled him was the fact that he needed two swords in order to practice the technique. He only had the Delicate Jade River Sword!

Luckily, he managed to find a sword among the loot he obtained from the members of the Rose Party. It wasn't a graded weapon and neither did its length match the Delicate Jade River Sword, but it was enough for him to make do for now.

After all, he was only trying out some of the moves in the manual. He hadn't started seriously practicing, and the blood-red tablet in his sea of consciousness hadn't changed to signify his comprehension of the Twisting Twin Blades.

...

As one of the rank three formation masters of the Ouyang Family, Bai Luming was extremely displeased with his treatment after they entered the Coral Forest.

“Brother Zhaiyuan, the little brat from the Murong Family is a mere rank two formation master. Why should I be sent to be his assistant? He brought several disciples over to explore the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World, but I'm not allowed to bring anyone. Hmph... He clearly doesn't trust me!”

Ouyang Zhaiyuan stared at his old friend who was about to explode. He could only try his best to comfort him. “Brother Luming, calm down. There's no need to bicker with a member of the younger generation.”

Bai Luming knew he went too far when he said that Murong Danran didn't trust him. He quickly adjusted his words. “Brother Zhaiyuan, please don't misunderstand. I'm not referring to you and I have nothing against your Ouyang Family... The Ouyang Family has never mistreated me. You even allowed me to browse through the formation collection of your family. I am truly thankful for that... Your Ouyang Family might have accepted me, but the other families might not... The Rose Party is made up of five strong families, and I didn't come from any one of them!”

Ouyang Zhaiyuan couldn't hide the awkward expression on his face. Everything Bai Luming said was true, but he didn't wish to see his old friend ostracized by the members of the Rose Party. He sighed, “Brother Luming, no matter what, my Ouyang Family will always have a place for you. However, you should understand that we don't call the shots in the organization...”

“I understand, but we're currently in the Coral Forest! Every single formation here represents the peak level of knowledge in our You Continent! The Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World contains the most complex formations of them all, but a damn brat whose rank is lower than mine got the chance to explore it first! What a joke!” Bai Luming grumbled softly.

“They still chose to send you over eventually to take charge of the situation!” Ouyang Zhaiyuan shook his head helplessly. It was true that the higher-ups have given their

orders. Bai Luming was to enter the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World due to the lack of response from those who entered.

A grunt left Bai Luming's lips, and a smile finally started to form on his face. However, his grumblings didn't stop. "I wonder what happened to the brat after he entered the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World... The grand formation has already been abandoned for a long time. Even if it isn't completely destroyed, what would a rank two formation master know about it?! He's purely messing about! If he fucked it up, wouldn't I have to bear the responsibility eventually?"

Ouyang Zhaiyuan chose to remain silent at his comment.

After so much grumbling, the two of them finally arrived at the entrance to the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World.

"We're finally here..."

Ouyang Zhaiyuan was slightly taken aback at the scene before him. He looked at the giant body of water where countless rock formations were sticking into the air and sucked in a cold breath. The rock formations were connected with wooden bridges, and from the looks of it, the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World was a giant maze!

Thinking about it for a second, Ouyang Zhaiyuan muttered, "Brother Luming, if the kids ran into trouble, please try your best to save them..."

"There's no if. They definitely ran into trouble..." Bai Luming muttered as a frown formed on his face. He stared directly at one of the rock formations in the distance.

"How do you know?" Ouyang Zhaiyuan raised his guard instantly.

"Someone did something there. A portion of the formation has already been reactivated. We need to be careful when traveling around the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World!" Bai Luming explained as he handed Ouyang Zhaiyuan an array flag.

A compass appeared in his hand and he said softly, "Don't lose me!"

Ouyang Zhaiyuan looked at the array flag in his hand and followed closely behind. He didn't forget to ask, "How can you be sure that it's an enemy? What if it's them?"

"Think about it. If they were our guys, they would have appeared the moment we arrived."

Ouyang Zhaiyuan finally realized the problem. His thoughts couldn't help but wander. "Do you think they discovered us yet?"

A complicated expression appeared on Bai Luming's face. He didn't know why Ouyang Zhaiyuan asked so many questions. What were they going to do if the enemy hadn't noticed their presence? Lower their defenses and walk around announcing their presence?! Of course they had to act as if their movements were already compromised!

However, Ouyang Zhaiyuan's simplemindedness was the reason the two of them could become friends in the first place. With Ouyang Zhaiyuan's continuous recommendation and reassurance to his family, Bai Luming managed to obtain a lot of benefits!

He reminded softly, "It's better to be careful. After all, the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World is guarded by its grand formation. There has to be some sort of protection mechanism here. I can feel that we're being watched by something the moment we arrived. The person observing us is too clumsy! There's no way our enemy is a formation master..."

"Why would you say that?" Ouyang Zhaiyuan caught no ball and he continued his line of questioning.

Bai Luming explained defeatedly, "That's because any proper formation master would ensure that I would be unable to detect their observation!"

Lowering his head all of a sudden, a sinister smile appeared on his face. The needle on his compass pointed straight towards one of the rock formations.

"Buzz!"

As the rock formation it pointed to started to tremble, a trace of heaven and earth qi emerged. It extended down into the water and strange fluctuations appeared on the surface. It started to expand slowly.

...

In the third hidden chamber, Shang Xia stared into the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl. He looked at the two figures who just arrived. However, he soon saw a strange smile on one of the newcomer's faces and the image in the pearl started to turn blurry.

"Too bad. I still have the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram!" Shang Xia opened the scroll and saw two yellow dots moving across the diagram. Without thinking too much, he dove into the water again.

He went towards the fourth hidden chamber and according to the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram, it should be in the center of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World.

"They probably haven't discovered me yet. However, I have to play safe. They're experts at the Martial Intent Realm, and the person leading the way is definitely a formation master. Since he was able to disrupt my spying, his skill is definitely above Murong Danran!" Shang Xia muttered to himself.

All of a sudden, both yellow dots disappeared from the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram. Shang Xia's heart thumped loudly and he realized that things were going south real fast. He tried to keep the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram in his Embroidered Cloud Case, but he discovered that the scroll wouldn't enter his spatial artifact! Helpless, he could only roll it up with the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl before stuffing them into his sleeves.

Shang Xia didn't enter the fourth hidden chamber as planned. Instead, he dove all the way down to check on the protection screen. If it was still shut, he would have to think of another way to leave.

After all, the formation master who just entered the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World gave Shang Xia a sense of danger.

Even with the core diagram and the key to the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World in his hands, he knew he wouldn't be a match for the opponent! Moreover, there was another expert following closely behind the formation master. They might be able to discover his presence very soon!

Using his newly transformed heavy qi to increase the weight of his body, he sank quickly towards the bottom.

Just as he traveled tens of feet, a strong wave of qi tore through the body of water and struck heavily at the bottom. A huge empty passage of air was formed through the water body.

Shang Xia stumbled before finally stabilizing his body.

Raising his head, his gaze clashed with the two newcomers who were standing on a bridge nearby.

Bai Luming chuckled happily. "Look. I told you he would escape underwater. Looks like there are a lot of secrets down there!"

Realizing that there was no way of escaping undetected now, Shang Xia increased his speed and dove straight down.

Bai Luming seemed to have anticipated his actions. He signaled to Ouyang Zhaiyuan who sent another column of energy down to obstruct Shang Xia's movements.

"Brat, you better come up and explain what happened to Ouyang Fengxuan. If I'm satisfied with your explanation, I'll spare your life!" Ouyang Zhaiyuan's voice rang in Shang Xia's ears.

Shang Xia's mind started to work in overdrive. There were two Martial Intent Realm experts at the surface waiting for him! How was he going to survive?!

However, his train of thought was disturbed by a tiny burst of light that came from underneath him. Thinking back to how Murong Yuntian's strike tore a hole through the barrier, he realized that the same thing must have happened when the expert up there tried to stop him.

Without a second thought, he continued to head down.

"Hmph. Since you're still delusional and think you can escape from us, go to hell!" Bai Luming sneered and pointed at Shang Xia.

Ouyang Zhaiyuan released a cold snort and he sent a punch in Shang Xia's direction.

Two massive energy currents cleaved a clear passage through the water before slamming heavily into the bottom.

Cracks started to form on the protection screen separating the Coral Forest from the essence qi stone mine, and a tiny gap formed. As water gushed out of the opening, Shang Xia used the opportunity to squirm his way out!

Chapter 139: Formation Master of the Tongyou Institution

Staring at the protection screen at the end of the tunnel, Shang Ke and Gu Shou forced the water away with their inner qi. They cleared out a path for one of the rank three formation masters of the Tongyou Institution, Chu Jia.

“Are we really going to lay down a formation here?!” Chu Jia grumbled, “There’s no need to rush things. From what I see, the protection formation probably ran into some problems. It should open after some time. We can enter when that happens. If I lay down a formation here, I’ll waste a lot of resources!”

Gu Yuan looked at the expressionless Shang Ke and chuckled. “Just do it. Since we already discovered this place, we should go in and take a look. This might be the key to breaking the stalemate in the Coral Forest!”

“Alright...”

Chu Jia sighed dispiritedly and took out an Embroidered Cloud Case. She walked over to the protection screen and observed it carefully. When she looked at the pretty lights flowing on its surface, a trace of obsession appeared in her eyes.

Shang Ke coughed once at the side. “Instructor Chu can rest assured. My Shang Clan will reimburse you for a portion of the materials used!”

However, his words were met with silence, and an awkward atmosphere started building up in the underground tunnel.

“Ahem... Lass Chu... Oi!” Gu Shou smiled apologetically at Shang Ke.

“Huh?! What?! What do you want?” Chu Jia eventually recovered and a look of confusion could be seen on her face. It was clear she didn’t hear anything Shang Ke said.

Gu Shou chuckled dryly. He reminded her softly, “Lay down the formation...”

“Oh right! Yeah! That was what I was doing!” Finally recalling what she had to do, she looked at the protection screen again. “It’s so pretty... The runes along it are so mysterious! It’s definitely created by a super expert!”

Even though she was enthralled by the protection screen again, she didn’t forget what she had to do.

Despite her laziness and unwilling attitude, she took out several materials from her Embroidered Cloud Case. She tossed them to several locations on the protection screen while admiring its beauty.

Gu Shou revealed a bitter smile. “Senior Shang, please forgive her. She might be a little clumsy, but her abilities are real.”

As though she was replying to Gu Shou’s words, she yawned loudly. Her gaze started to turn blurry again.

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Gu Shou didn't need to say anything this time. Shang Ke chuckled in amusement, "Don't worry about it. Instructor Chu's talent in the way of formations is matchless in the city! It'd be better if she moved quicker, but..."

"Of course, of course..."

As the one with the lowest seniority among the four, Sun Haiwei didn't say a word since they entered the tunnel. She was waiting obediently for their orders.

However, she felt that she could understand Instructor Gu's helplessness when faced with a subordinate like Chu Jia.

All of a sudden, a loud thud came from the other side of the protection screen. It trembled slightly, and the rays of light on its surface became a little brighter.

"Hey! Someone is striking the barrier!" Chu Jia exclaimed.

Stepping forward, Shang Ke couldn't act relaxed any longer. "Hurry up and lay down the formation! My grandson might be facing great danger behind the barrier!"

"Oh! It's done! It's done! Don't rush me!" Chu Jia snapped while maintaining her speed. It was as though she didn't hear the anxiety in Shang Ke's voice.

Even though he had heard of Chu Jia's personality, Shang Ke couldn't help but feel a trace of irritation rising in his heart.

Gu Shou quickly stepped between the two of them and muttered, "Senior Shang, please calm down..."

As soon as the words left his lips, Chu Jia's lazy voice rang through the air. "Alright. It's done!"

The other three quickly turned to stare at the protection screen.

Chu Jia walked slowly towards the barrier and explained, "Hmph... this barrier is just several layers of protection formation weaved together. We just have to take apart these layers one by one and the protection screen would be gone. When the protection screen weakens, those inside might be able to break their way out even before the barrier is completely gone!"

Gu Shou's expression turned solemn when he looked at Shang Ke. When their gazes met, they understood what they had to do. The both of them got ready for battle.

Chu Jia didn't notice the three of them behind her as she continued to ramble on about the workings of the formation. She took out a tiny banner from her Embroidered Cloud Case and approached the protection screen. Slapping it on, several streaks of light started to appear where she laid her formation and struck the barrier.

As the light grew brighter and brighter, Sun Haiwei had to squint her eyes slightly. Of course, that was because of her lack of cultivation.

Gu Shou and Shang Ke were able to see everything that was going on.

Like what she said, the protection screen separating them from the Coral Forest was made up of several layers of restrictions. As long as she separated them, she would be able to control the protection screen however she liked.

Of course, separating the layers wasn't easy. Everything was left up to Chu Jia's abilities.

Another loud thud came from the other side of the protection screen before she could try anything.

"Hey! They're getting closer and closer! Oh shit!" Chu Jia seemed to have realized something and she turned around with a panicked expression.

A loud blast echoed through the tunnel all of a sudden and the light that the protection screen emitted disappeared. Her formation sucked up the last of the power, saving her the trouble of chipping away at the protection screen's power. Cracks started to form on the screen's surface and a hole soon appeared. As water poured out of the opening, Chu Jia screamed as she was swept away by the torrential current.

Soon after, Shang Xia's sorry figure was washed out of the Coral Forest.

Luckily for him, he knew what was on the other side. As soon as he crossed the protection screen, he stabilized himself. Getting to his feet, he looked around cautiously. The instant he saw Shang Ke, he heaved a sigh of relief.

"There are two Martial Intent Realm cultivators up there! One of them is a formation master!" That was all he got to say before he was interrupted by sounds of violent coughing.

"Senior Sister Chu!" Sun Haiwei yelled as she held Chu Jia in her arms. She nearly burst out laughing. "You're also at the Martial Intent Realm! If you drown to death, you'll become the joke of the century!"

Chu Jia finally regained consciousness after some time and she circulated her inner qi to expel all the water in her body. She coughed awkwardly, "This... I didn't think the current would be so strong! I was so afraid that I nearly forgot to circulate my inner qi!"

"What do you mean you nearly forgot?! You clearly forgot!" Sun Haiwei was struck speechless.

All of a sudden, voices came from behind the protection screen. "It's the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl! The brat doesn't know how to use formations! He's the one spying on us! Hurry up! The pearl and core diagram has to be on him!"

A surge of energy tore through the water and it smashed into the ground behind Shang Xia.

Even though he wasn't injured by the sudden attack, his expression changed greatly when he heard their voices.

He touched his sleeves and heaved a sigh of relief when he felt that the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram was still there. However, he didn't understand how the formation master managed to see that he was in possession of the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl.

"Ouyang's Third Fist!"

"The other person has to be Bai Luming!"

"It's going to be a difficult battle. Screw it! Let's give them hell!"



Gu Shou and Shang Ke recognized the two of them immediately.

Turning to glance at Sun Haiwei and Chu Jia, Gu Shou frowned slightly. He knew that Ouyang Zhaiyuan wasn't someone easy to deal with and he wanted them to stay behind. Since it was going to be a difficult battle, their victory would lay in the hands of Chu Jia!

Sun Haiwei wasn't a rookie either. She understood what Gu Shou meant when he looked over. She nodded quickly and dragged Chu Jia towards the location where she laid down the formation earlier.

Shang Ke and Gu Shou started moving quickly. Shang Ke approached the gap in the protection screen while Gu Shou hid close by.

As for Shang Xia, he knew what to do. Stumbling about, he ran towards the hidden Gu Shou.

Two figures appeared from the gap in the protection screen and the instant they landed, the two Martial Intent Realm experts from the Tongyou Institution leaped into action.

A black spear with intricate carvings stabbed towards the chest of the first person who emerged.

At the same time, a melon-sized mace appeared in Gu Shou's hand and he smashed it down at the same person.

Ouyang Zhaiyuan never expected that he would be faced with two sneak attacks from Martial Intent Realm experts the moment he emerged.

Roaring with all his might, the entire tunnel trembled.

His body twisted to the side as he punched both weapons!

Brute force! That was how he planned to survive the ambush! He used his hands to block the weapons coming his way!

Boom!

A huge explosion ensued.

Chapter 140: The Listless Instructor Chu

Ouyang Zhaiyuan didn't back down at all! He chose to meet them head-on!

His sudden burst seemed to overwhelm both Shang Ke and Gu Shou. Shang Xia, who witnessed what happened, gasped in fright.

The battle between Martial Intent Realm experts wasn't something Shang Xia could join!

As the blast rang through the tunnel, a huge shockwave swept through every inch. Heaven and earth qi rampaged through the narrow tunnel and it seemed to have gotten a little larger than before.

Shang Xia, who had already retreated several dozen feet, couldn't help but take a few more steps backwards. He turned to look at where he came from and he noticed that a layer of seven-colored lights was in its place. Its appearance was slightly different from the original protection screen, but it managed to block off the water flowing in from the Coral Forest.

Under his shocked gaze, Gu Shou's mace returned to his hand. He stood in the middle of the tunnel as another mace appeared in his other hand.

Shang Xia was hiding right behind him, and he couldn't see the expression on Gu Shou's face. However, he managed to notice that Gu Shou's hand was trembling slightly after catching his mace.

Ouyang Zhaiyuan's burly figure stood on the other side, and a chilly gaze flashed in his eyes.

When Ouyang Zhaiyuan slowly lowered his hand, Shang Xia noticed that one of his hands had a giant gash and fresh blood was dripping all over the ground below. The muscles in his hand squirmed around to stop the bleeding.

The other hand looked a little worse. A chunk could be seen missing from it!

Shang Xia looked around and saw Ouyang Zhaiyuan's severed middle finger lying not too far away!

"Suspended Spear, Shang Ke! Twin Hammer, Gu Shou!" Ouyang Zhaiyuan's gaze landed on the two and he chuckled in amusement. "It's the two of you! No wonder.."

Before he could complete his sentence, he started vomiting blood. His face turned deathly pale and the imposing aura he had started to fade.

However, the chilly look in his eyes remained as he glared at the two of them. He growled, "The two of you are indeed capable of killing me. However, have you thought of who you should bury with me?"

In that instant, Shang Xia really believed that he would be able to do as he said!

Shang Ke and Gu Shou didn't reply, and they started to approach him slowly. There was no doubt about it. They wanted him dead!

If Shang Xia didn't know Shang Ke and Gu Shou's cultivation level, he would have thought that the two of them were at a serious disadvantage from how they were treating the situation!

Hey, wait a second.?

Shang Xia realized that they had forgotten something and he started to look around him!

The third rank formation master who charged out with Ouyang Zhaiyuan earlier was nowhere to be seen!

It was understandable that Shang Ke and Gu Shou didn't see him. But it didn't make sense for Sun Haiwei and Chu Jia to not discover his presence! It was as though the person never existed in the first place!

Hiding his presence and getting ignored by those around him. Shang Xia thought of a familiar example. Jin Guanchao!

That was another one of the spies the Rose Party placed in the Tongyou Institution!

A light flashed in Shang Xia's eyes, and he endured the piercing pain in his eyes to inspect the area around him. He seemed to have caught sight of a blurry figure that was doing something weird at the corner.

Shang Xia no longer tried to look directly at the figure. Now that he knew where the person was, he threw his flying knife towards the position.

The dagger he obtained from Murong Danran previously was covered in red arcs of lightning and it brushed past Gu Shou's ear as it headed straight for the blurry figure at the corner.

No one expected the Martial Extremity Realm disciple to be the one to break the standoff!

What shocked Shang Ke and Gu Shou more was that Ouyang Zhaiyuan turned his back to the both of them in order to stop the flying dagger thrown by a junior! How could the two old experts miss such a great chance? The two of them moved in unison and Shang Ke's black spear tore through the air. He aimed for Ouyang Zhaiyuan's ribs, and Gu Shou's figure appeared beside his target in a flash. He planned to fight Ouyang Zhaiyuan in close combat!

"Clang!"

Shang Xia's dagger was struck by Ouyang Zhaiyuan and it clattered to the ground.

The power of lightning contained in it had been shattered by Ouyang Zhaiyuan's fist, and Shang Xia gasped softly.

One had to know that his Chaos Essence Lightning Palm was comparable to a Martial Extremity Intent! Even so, it was shattered in an instant! Shang Xia didn't expect Ouyang Zhaiyuan to be so strong even after his injury!

Even though Ouyang Zhaiyuan's actions were out of the ordinary, none of them had the ability to consider anything else

Ouyang Zhaiyuan also paid the price for stopping the dagger. He was completely suppressed by the two of them, and he could only use his bare hands to take on their attacks.

"Be careful! There's someone hiding there! It's their rank three formation master!" Shang Xia reminded.

A loud blast rang in his ears when Ouyang Zhaiyuan's fist slammed into their weapons again.

Sun Haiwei heard Shang Xia saying something, and she suddenly realized the problem.

"There's one more! Don't you remember? Two of them came out of the protection screen! Where's the other one?!" Sun Haiwei asked Chu Jia.

"Of course I do. He's over there!" Chu Jia seemed to have seen the hidden person a long time ago. She pointed casually at him. "He's trying to neutralize my formation!"

Sun Haiwei nearly fainted as anger filled her mind. Even though Chu Jia was her senior, she couldn't help but snap at her, "Why didn't you say so earlier?!"

Chu Jia didn't seem to have noticed Sun Haiwei's rage and she muttered to herself. "He's really incredible. He seems to have found a way to break it! He's trying right now, but too bad he's too slow. He doesn't know that I already discovered him!"

"What are you waiting for?! Are you going to watch him break your formation without doing anything?" Sun Haiwei wanted to tear her hair out when she talked to Chu Jia.

"We're fighting right now!" Chu Jia hushed Sun Haiwei while she explained, "When he tries to break my formation, I'm getting a good understanding of how strong he

really is. He's not as good as me, and when he's about to break through the formation, I'll add another layer. His face will be a sight to behold... Don't you think it's funny?"

Funny...

Your shitty sense of humor puts you in a new category, Chu Jia!

Are you really the slightly silly instructor that everyone in the institution liked?!

Well, whatever. As long as she had everything under control.

Sun Haiwei glanced at Chu Jia from the corner of her eye and felt a headache coming. She felt that Chu Jia's way of thinking was really different from the rest!

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She suppressed the urge to slap Chu Jia and warned her seriously, "You better not be messing around. The expert from the Rose Party is really strong. If you don't help them, Instructor Gu and Senior Shang might be seriously injured even if they take him down! We might even alarm other experts of the Rose Party if the battle drags on." Sun Haiwei continued, "Oh right. There should be a super formation behind the protection screen waiting for you to analyze. If someone else beats you to it..."

"Oh right!" Chu Jia snapped back to attention all of a sudden and she said seriously, "The runes on the protection screen earlier are really amazing!"

After she spoke, she waved the short banner in her hand.

Multi-colored lights emerged from the surrounding wall and it revealed a hidden person in the corner of the tunnel. The rays of light wrapped tightly around him, trapping him within.

Yelps of shock escaped Bai Luming's lips. He didn't expect to be captured so easily! It seemed like the formation master on the other side was much stronger than him.

However, he was a Martial Intent Realm expert nonetheless. His inner qi started to move, and he shattered a ring on his finger. A layer of white light emerged from his body, shattering the binds.

He didn't even get to heave a sigh of relief when two silent streaks of light wrapped around his legs.

When he lowered his head to take a look, he discovered a layer of frost growing over his lower body. There was an orange flame that danced gracefully within the ice.