

The Heavens 1311

Chapter 1311: The Meeting

Kou Chongxue's attitude was clear. The Spirit Luxuriant World had to take part in the matter with the Essence Ping World no matter what!

Everyone fell silent as soon as he had spoken.

After a good minute, Yang Taihe chuckled helplessly, "I believe all of us here know the reason behind why we have to take part. The Spirit Abundance World and Spirit Mammoth World have always been a step away from reaching an Essence World and the Star Origin Guards Commander at the grand completion stage of the Martial Void Realm has one foot in the Martial Emptiness Realm. If we fail to take part in his operation and if they reach some sort of alliance, we'll definitely face annihilation."

Yang Taihe paused for a second, and everyone else nodded in agreement.

"However..." Yang Taihe's expression didn't change as he looked at Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue as he chuckled bitterly, "Only Free True Immortals of our world can take part in the operation to the Essence Ping World, and of our 9 Free True Immortals, the gap in strength is exceptionally massive. Other than True Immortal Kou and True Immortal Shang who are high-level True Immortals, Huang Jinghan, who is the next in line, is merely at the second tier of the Martial Void Realm. Palace Master Yin, you should have only entered the second tier of the Martial Void Realm for less than a year, right?"

"Close to half a year..." Yin Jingxu shook his head helplessly and sighed.

Yang Taihe opened his arms with his palm facing the sky and mumbled, "I'm afraid they won't be of too much help. They might even become burdens to you guys, and they might be targeted by the enemy and become our weakness!"

The Free True Immortals who heard what he said didn't feel too comfortable, but they had to admit he was right. Things might really progress that way.

However, Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue had already gone through what might come up during their meeting and they weren't exactly unprepared for what Yang Taihe brought up.

However, before Kou Chongxue could say anything, Zhang Xuansheng spoke first. "There's another problem, and that is that the Star Origin Dao Field joined the attack on the Essence Ping World because of many concerns. Other than the fact that the Essence Ping World and the Star Origin Dao Field have some sort of strange connection, Zhuo Gudao, the former Star Origin Guards Commander, has already obtained some sort of method to control Seventh Order energy. True Immortal Kou, True Immortal Shang, and True Immortal Yin should have experienced it during the War of the Spirit Tinkle World. Moreover... I have a feeling he doesn't just control 1 type of Seventh Order energy!"

He didn't stop there. "As for the Spirit Mammoth World and Spirit Abundance World, they most definitely can bring out Seventh Order energy. After all, they have been standing at the peak of what is achievable for a Spirit World for a very long time now."

He turned to Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia as he continued once again, "True Immortals, I have no desire to douse your enthusiasm, but in my opinion, if we are unable to control Seventh Order energy or something capable of resisting it, it would be best not to take part in the operation. Otherwise, if anything happens to either of you... That would also spell the end of our world!"

If what Yang Taihe said merely caused the others to hesitate, Zhang Xuansheng's warning caused everyone to give up thinking about the Essence Ping World.

Everyone looked at Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia.

To that, Kou Chongxue simply smiled. He spoke casually, "Everyone, please rest assured. No one will become a burden. As for the problem True Immortal Zhang brought up... Everyone, please do not forget. We will not be the only ones taking part. We will receive the support of the True Immortals of the Spirit Tinkle World and Spirit Thistle World."

Lu Jidao didn't seem convinced as he interjected, "The Spirit Thistle World has 3 high-level True Immortals at best. Moreover, one of them is an Elysium True Immortal and can only remain in his world. As for the Spirit Tinkle World... There's no need to mention them at all. The only high-level True Immortal can't leave his world. Now that True Immortal Shang has entered the level of Returning to the Origin, he's the strongest among all the high-level True Immortals our worlds possess!"

The Spirit Luxuriant World catching up with the other Spirit Worlds in terms of strength was grounds for celebration, but it would really be a little awkward to celebrate on the basis that their allies were garbage...

"I'm afraid all of you have underestimated the foundations of the Spirit Tinkle World and Spirit Thistle World... They have hundreds of years of history, and even with the Spirit Tinkle World suffering a massive defeat, a third tier True Immortal has already entered the fourth tier, becoming a high-level True Immortal. I believe some of you might not have heard it yet, but..." Kou Chongxue revealed.

Liu Jingsheng couldn't help but ask, "Is it really that easy to become a high-level True Immortal?"

Kou Chongxue shook his head and sighed, "From what I know, True Immortal Ban, the only high-level Elysium True Immortal of the Spirit Tinkle World, used a portion of his Elysium Source to help nurture the high-level True Immortal. He only left enough for his Elysium to operate, and so did the other Elysiums of the Spirit Tinkle World. They gathered a good portion of energy and bestowed it onto the third tier True Immortal, allowing him to succeed. Of course, there might be some secret art unique to them involved, but that's not something we know about for now."

"Heh..." Lu Wuzi, who usually never spoke in meetings like that, couldn't help but mock, "Sacrificial decisions like these are probably something someone here will never be able to do."

An awkward silence descended as soon as he spoke.

Only after some time did Shang Xia break the strange atmosphere. “Perhaps, our Spirit Luxuriant World also possesses a way to resist Seventh Order energies...”

Everyone stared at him in shock, not believing what they just heard. Zhang Xuansheng, Yang Taihe, Li Jidao, and those who had deep foundations looked at each other with a strange light in their eyes. No one knew if they were hoping for Shang Xia to be able to back his words up, or if they were waiting to see him make a fool of himself.

Kou Chongxue also seemed to realize something and wanted to stop Shang Xia, but he decided not to.

“Of course, we don’t have it now. I still need some time to prepare the method with my secret art.” Shang Xia seemed to disappoint them a little, but he quickly changed his tune. “Of course, even without it, I still have a way to ensure my safety when faced with Seventh Order energy.”

“For real?!” Huang Jinghan gasped. He didn’t seem to be in disbelief. Instead, he sounded more like he wanted Shang Xia to confirm it.

After all, he was the next strongest Free True Immortal after Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue. He had a desire to take part in the operation of the Essence Ping World.

Liu Jingsheng shot his usually serious junior brother a complicated gaze, and he could feel Huang Jinghan’s determination to go. After all, he already knew that Huang Jinghan was someone who desired nothing more than to continue walking down the path of cultivation.

Shang Xia had a profound light in his eyes as he looked at Huang Jinghan before nodding solemnly. “I have a complicated fusion rank six talisman that comes from the Essence Xing World. When activated, it has the ability to greatly reduce the impact of any Seventh Order energy and help the user escape.”

“Of course, if an expert at the Martial Emptiness Realm were to make the move, the talisman wouldn’t be enough. However, the Spirit Mammoth World, Spirit Abundance World, and Star Origin Dao Field definitely don’t have an existence at that level.” Shang Xia concluded. Even though he didn’t fully explain what was going on and only mentioned how the Myriad Tinted Cloud Talisman could reduce the might of an attack containing Seventh Order energy, it greatly convinced the others.

Zhang Xuansheng muttered in a low voice, “If that’s the case, I’m very interested in your secret art that will allow you to help others resist Seventh Order energy.”

Grinning, Shang Xia agreed, “So am I.”

Chapter 1312: Song Zhen’s Revelation of the Heaven Observation Field

Ever since the latest meeting above the heavenly screen above the Jiao Continent, the great powers of the Spirit Luxuriant World quickly arranged for the Spirit Luxuriant Hall to be built. It would serve as the meeting point for discussions among True Immortals in the future.

After Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue left, they headed straight to the Spirit World Ark.

Ever since Shang Xia brought it back to the Spirit Luxuriant World it had been hovering in the air above the Jiao Continent.

Song Zhen might suffer from serious suppression from the World's Will, but without Shang Xia's order, he could only remain in the ark without revealing himself.

The first thing they did when they arrived was for Kou Chongxue to grab Chu Jia who was immersed in studying the formations on the Spirit World Ark. She was reluctantly dragged out by the patriarch of the Tongyou Institution and could only pout to herself as she was personally escorted over to the Spirit Thistle World to complete the teleportation formation.

The matter regarding the teleportation formation caused the high-level True Immortals of other worlds to come asking, and there was no way they could drag it out any longer. Moreover, Kou Chongxue decided to make a trip over personally to better discuss the terms of their alliance regarding the operation to the Essence Ping World.

After Kou Chongxue left, Song Zhen's first words after being released by Shang Xia greatly shocked him. "Lord, is this the legendary Heaven Observation Field that every world is looking for?!"

Shang Xia looked Song Zhen up and down before growling in a deep voice, "What do you mean Heaven Observation Field?! Explain yourself!"

Song Zhen felt his scalp going numb by the way Shang Xia was looking at him and he quickly responded, "Lord, don't you know? The Heaven Observation Sect swept across the sea of stars back then, and their presence could be seen in many great worlds. Slightly more than a thousand years ago, the Heaven Observation Sect was annihilated by the alliance of many different powers and worlds, and with their destruction, the various powers split up everything they once had."

"According to the rumors, a peak-tier expert of the Heaven Observation Sect managed to escape the pursuit of the various powers. He brought the last of the Heaven Observation Sect's inheritance and established a Heaven Observation Field in a hidden region of space. Moreover, he used some sort of supreme power to conceal it from the rest of the sea of stars..."

"... For more than a thousand years, everyone has been looking for the Heaven Observation Field. The bounty for finding it has always been active in the Chaotic Sea of Stars, It wasn't as though no one mistakenly barged into the Heaven Observation Field. However, every time they wanted to try returning, they would get lost in the void. There were even some who were killed by the chaotic streams, never to be found again."

"There were rumors going around the Chaotic Sea of Stars originating from Martial Emptiness Realm experts that the expert from the Heaven Observation Sect might have used some sort of formless barrier recorded in the Heaven Observation inheritance to hide the Heaven Observation Field from the outside world, preventing them from being discovered by anyone else." Song Zhen concluded.

Shang Xia listened quietly to Song Zhen's introduction of the Heaven Observation Field and eventually asked, "How did you determine this is the Heaven Observation Field? Don't forget... You were brought over from the chaotic space around the Essence Xing World. If the formless barrier separates it from the rest of the sea of stars, how did we return?"

Song Zhen seemed to be expecting the question and he quickly explained, "Even the strongest barriers won't be able to withstand the flow of time. Not to mention the formless barrier has already stood for more than a thousand years. It's already a shocking achievement... As for why you were able to enter and leave, that is because the barrier has already weakened greatly, forming many points of weakness. Lord, why don't you try to think about it. In recent years... No, in the recent dozens of years, have there been more activity of Star Pirates or foreign experts in this region of space?"

"As for why I am able to determine this is the Heaven Observation Field... This..."
Song Zhen started to hesitate slightly.

Shang Xia glanced at him and growled, "Hurry up and speak!"

Song Zhen sighed softly in response. "When I first met you, I already discovered that even though you were a high-level True Immortal, you didn't know much about information that isn't really considered a secret..."

Carefully looking at Shang Xia, Song Zhen noticed that he wasn't angry and he quickly relaxed while continuing his explanation, "Among the great worlds, high-level True Immortals are rarely uninformed about such matters while cultivating. For a powerful high-level True Immortal like yourself, you shouldn't be a nameless expert among the various worlds. However, you didn't know so much... Anyway, when I was following you over in the Spirit World Ark, I discovered that this region of space is really special. Even though there are Star Ships patrolling the space around your world and defensive systems have been set up, those Star Ships look pristine, as though they had never been through a battle. Those operating the ships seem to be alert, but they don't seem to be ready to fight to the death at a moment's notice. This shows that this region of space rarely faces threats..."

"After entering your world, everything made sense. Humans reign supreme here, and there are practically no spiritual beast aura at all. That would mean that Star Beasts rarely appear in this region and I dared to make the guess that this place is one of the worlds inside the Heaven Observation Field." Song Zhen explained.

Shang Xia didn't lack experience when it came to fighting, and the Spirit Luxuriant World's battle preparations never slackened off. He felt that even if the Spirit Luxuriant World couldn't be considered a powerful force ready to take action at any time, they would still have their guards up, ready to deal with any intrusions.

He didn't expect the defensive systems of the Spirit Luxuriant World described by Song Zhen to be so laid back and relaxed. If Song Zhen wasn't lying to him... That would mean that the situation in the sea of stars outside the Heaven Observation Field would be hundreds of times more dangerous than he thought.

After a moment of silence, Shang Xia asked, "Is the sea of stars outside the Heaven Observation Field really so dangerous? Is everything really so cruel out there?"

Nodding slowly, Song Zhen sighed, "It is cruel. Only the strong have the ability to survive. Weaklings can only rely on those who are strong, or form sturdy alliances that can resist the great powers. They can also choose to hide in a region that can't be found..."

Song Zhen seemed to be referring to the Heaven Observation Field, or rather, in his eyes, the Spirit Luxuriant World belonged to the weaklings in the sea of stars!

Song Zhen felt some trepidation when he spoke about Shang Xia's world that way, but the reaction he received was much better than he expected.

"I don't know whether the Heaven Observation Field you speak of is where we are, but from your description, it seems to be the case." Shang Xia revealed a strange smile when he spoke.

After thinking for a moment, Song Zhen silently thought about how his fate was controlled by Shang Xia and because of the matter regarding the Spirit World Ark, there was no way he could return. Otherwise, he would definitely be hunted down by the others. He wouldn't even get a chance to explain himself. As such, he knew that there was only 1 path he could take and that was to serve the powerful high-level True Immortal before him.

Having long since realized the fact, Song Zhen asked carefully, "Lord, do you have any arrangements for me?"

Glancing at him, Shang Xia muttered softly, "Anchor the ark above the You Continent. The World's Will suppression is very strong on you here and you should head to Star Beast Nest No.1 to recuperate before thinking of anything else."

Song Zhen was hunted down by 2 second tier True Immortals of the Essence Xing World back then. If not for the fact that he ran into Shang Xia, it would be unlikely for him to stay alive. He was still exhausted from running and his inner qi had yet to recover fully. If he didn't rest, he wouldn't be able to reveal the true extent of his strength.

No matter what, he was a second tier True Immortal. The Spirit Luxuriant World wasn't strong enough such that they could completely ignore an expert at that level.

After dealing with Song Zhen, Shang Xia returned to the institution and back to the Tongyou Elysium.

Ge Qingzhu, who had ascended not long ago, had been waiting for him for some time.

"Instructor Ge, did something happen?" Shang Xia asked the moment he returned.

Ge Qingzhu looked in the direction of the Star Observatory and mumbled, "After the kid helped you to return from the Essence Xing World, his cultivation experienced a sharp increase due to the World's Will blessing from the expansion of the You Continent. His stargazing art also improved rapidly and he stepped into the Martial Dipper Realm easily. After that, you saved me by pulling my soul back from the World Origin Source connected to the Bing Continent. I broke through with the support of the Elysium next, and I realized I would be able to greatly assist him after controlling the Elysium. However... He seemed to have seen something and he screamed before passing out. He has been listless ever since he awakened and even his cultivation is showing signs of regressing."

Shang Xia's expression sank after hearing Ge Qingzhu's description and he had a guess as to what happened. However, he didn't dare to be sure.

A moment later, they arrived at the Star Observatory.

Yan Ming and Xin Lu brought the disciples they were nurturing to greet the True Immortals.

Shang Xia didn't care too much about the formalities and he quickly asked Xin Lu, "Do you know what is going on? When Xing Xingtian and Grandmaster Xiao became rank five Grand Stargazers, did something similar happen?"

Shang Xia didn't think that a Martial Dipper Realm expert would be so weak as to have their state of mind affected so easily. There had to be some secret behind it and he quickly asked Xin Lu who interacted with Grand Stargazers before.

"I don't know anything... However, when Xing Xingtian and Senior Brother Xiao became Grand Stargazers, they entered seclusion for a long time in the secret chamber in the Star Observatory. By the time they emerged, they had already consolidated their cultivation." Xin Lu shook her head in response.

Ge Qingzhu sighed, "From the looks of it, we can only ask Yuan Qiuyuan what happened after he recovers."

Nodding slowly, Shang Xia turned to Yan Ming and asked, "How are his injuries?"

Yan Ming didn't need to say anything when Ge Qingzhu replied in her stead, "Relax. There's nothing wrong with him physically. It's just his mental state that was affected. I'm great when dealing with these and I've already stabilized his condition with a lotus seed I've been cultivating."

Shang Xia finally relaxed after hearing what he said.

Chapter 1313: Holes and Weaknesses

Anyone familiar with Ge Qingzhu would know that his rise to prominence started when he found a pond of spirit lotus in the Battlefield Between the Two Worlds.

He had been nurturing it since then and turned it into a blessed land of the institution. From a certain standpoint, the Spirit Lotus Pond was even more important than the Starry Tree in the Star Observatory.

Before obtaining the Starry Tree, Shang Xia had to admit that he was slightly envious of Ge Qingzhu's opportunities.

The Spirit Lotus Pond was massive and anyone between the Martial Intent Realm and Martial Dipper Realm would be able to make use of it. For any faction, cultivators at that level made up the bulk of their strength and could be considered the key to a faction's rise or decline.

The Starry Tree might be extremely useful, but the effects only came into play during an attempt to enter the Martial Void Realm. Moreover, the tree was extremely difficult to grow and the time taken for a Starry Fruit to mature was long. Also... There were only 3 fruits that could be harvested each time and they might lose them if they weren't careful.

The Starry Tree seemed really impressive until they understood how much it could actually benefit everyone.

Of course, Shang Xia only thought that way because the Tongyou Institution didn't need to worry about a lack of True Immortals.

After calming himself, Shang Xia asked with slight guilt, "Did I push him too far? After all... He had only been in the Martial Extermination Realm for several years..."

He clearly didn't consider his cultivation when he spoke like that. After all, he only remained in the Four Constellation Realm for several years before progressing to the Five Element Realm.

The Tongyou Institution might not be as hard up as the other factions about seniority and status, but they would usually rank each other based on the time they enrolled in the institution. Yuan Qiuyuan was a junior in Shang Xia's eyes because of the time he joined, and Shang Xia could easily make the decision on behalf of the institution to nurture someone like him. After all, as long as his talent wasn't too bad, the current Tongyou Institution was more than capable of quickly pushing their cultivation to the next level.

Not to mention the fact that Yuan Qiuyuan was the only direct member of the Tongyou Institution who was a Stargazer! All the more Shang Xia would focus on nurturing him!

In comparison, Xin Lu was brought over from the Star Origin Dao Field and Yan Ming only received a small portion of the Stargazer inheritance and she would probably not be able to go further down the path.

...

After some time, a pale Yuan Qiuyuan emerged from a secret chamber in the Star Observatory. Even though he looked extremely tired, his aura seemed stable and his cultivation showed no signs of regressing.

"Brat, what are you playing at? Is there something really so scary in the sea of stars that will cause a Martial Dipper Realm expert like yourself to faint?!" Seeing that Yuan Qiuyuan was alright, Shang Xia immediately started to nag.

Seeing how his actions actually alerted the strongest expert of the Tongyou Institution to personally appear to check on him, Yuan Qiuyuan revealed a look of shame and muttered, "It's not too scary but... But... Nevermind. Please come with me to take a look!"

Shang Xia was curious as to what Yuan Qiuyuan saw right after becoming a Grand Stargazer, but at the same time, he wanted to know how Yuan Qiuyuan was going to let him, a non-Stargazer, see what he saw.

Behind him, Ge Qingzhu, Xin Lu, and Yan Ming wanted to follow, but Shang Xia turned around to stop them.

"The situation is unclear right now and you guys don't have to follow..." Shang Xia was afraid that the scene might affect the others and he quickly stopped them.

Of the 3, even though Ge Qingzhu had become a True Immortal, his foundations were still shallow. Xin Lu's cultivation was also lacking as she was only in the Martial Extermination Realm. Yan Ming might be in the Martial Dipper Realm, but Yuan Qiuyuan who was also one who fainted earlier. As such, he felt that they should remain where they were.

Arriving at the center of the Star Observatory, Shang Xia could see that the Starry Tree had grown quite a bit. Starlight fell on the leaves and covered them in a divine glow.

Even though Shang Xia was no Stargazer, he could tell that the concentration of starlight on the Starry Tree had increased several times.

However, he didn't pay too much attention to it. Instead, his gaze lingered on the Star Origin Lord Robe that was hanging from one of the branches.

As if feeling his gaze, the robe seemed to react slightly.

Is this spiritual resonance? Is the Star Origin Lord Robe also considered a divine artifact? Or could it be of even higher rank?

Shang Xia thought to himself. However, he quickly suppressed the slightly preposterous thoughts that came into his mind before looking at Yuan Qiuyuan who was activating some sort of strange formation on the platform.

Yuan Qiuyuan, who was usually slow and somewhat not very good at reading the room, seemed to transform after becoming a Grand Stargazer. There was a certain aura around him.

Even though Shang Xia didn't know if the Spirit Mammoth World and Spirit Abundance World had Grand Stargazers, he was sure the Spirit Tinkle World and Spirit Thistle World didn't have any. As for the Star Origin Dao Field... They only had Xing Xingtian and Xiao Shengyi as Grand Stargazers.

One could say that Yuan Qiuyuan was already standing at the peak of the various worlds connected to the Star Origin Dao Field. In fact... His achievements in the stargazing arts should be at the peak of what was called the Heaven Observation Field!

As layers upon layers of formations were activated by Yuan Qiuyuan, the shock on those outside became evident.

Ge Qingzhu, who was standing beside them, couldn't help but ask, "What's the matter?"

Xin Lu didn't hide her surprise and said, "We thought that we were able to fully control the formations, but now... It doesn't seem to be the case!"

Yan Ming forced a chuckle, "I didn't think that there would be so many formations that we were unable to tap into... We didn't even discover their presence and from the looks of it, only a Grand Stargazer would be able to fully utilize a Star Observatory. I'm afraid Yuan Qiuyuan only managed to observe what he saw because of them..."

Ge Qingzhu muttered softly to himself and a frown slowly formed on his face. "Wait, something is wrong. When the Heavenly Star Palace reconstructed the Star Observatory, many people from the great powers took part. If there were any hidden formations, everyone should have discovered them. If you guys are right, that only proves one thing... The Star Observatory of the Heavenly Star Palace cannot be compared to ours!"

Xin Lu and Yan Ming thought seriously for a moment and nodded in unison.

The next moment, Ge Qingzhu felt something strange coming from the center of the platform and he couldn't help but ask, "What's happening over there?"

Xin Lu glanced at the platform and replied, "Little Yuan is showing True Immortal Shang his true abilities. Since he activated the hidden formations, the 2 of them should be the only ones who can see what is happening."

Ge Qingzhu grunted softly before shaking his head. He no longer spoke as he awaited their return.

They could see Yuan Qiuyuan speaking to Shang Xia with some agitation as he made many intense gestures, but no sound was transmitted out to them.

Compared to the agitated Yuan Qiuyuan, Shang Xia looked a lot more calm. After Yuan Qiuyuan stopped, a smile appeared on his face and he said something. Yuan Qiuyuan was taken aback by what he heard, but he seemed to have reached some sort of realization after that. He exhaled a long breath and looked slightly disappointed.

Not too long after, Shang Xia turned around and waved his sleeves, deactivating the formations on the platform. His voice also entered the ears of those present. "Come over and take a look."

"Us? Are you talking to all of us?" Xin Lu gasped softly.

Seeing her hesitant yet expectant expression, Shang Xia couldn't help but chuckle, "It's definitely something that will cause a great disturbance, but after today, it wouldn't matter. Little Yuan discovered the Star Curtain that separates this region of space from the sea of stars, but it's something Patriarch Kou and I will be telling the higher-ups of the institution soon. I believe all of you will soon get to know about it."

Ge Qingzhu laughed at the side, "I'm getting even more curious now. What did he actually see? What is the Star Curtain?"

As he spoke, he walked to the center of the platform. With Yuan Qiuyuan's assistance, the void was revealed to him.

"This..." Ge Qingzhu saw the void that was vaguely covered in some sort of almost-formless barrier and couldn't help but turn to Shang Xia to ask, "Is this the Star Curtain you mentioned?"

Shang Xia nodded. "This region of space... Or rather, the space that contains the Star Origin Dao Field and our worlds connected to it, including the Essence Ping World, is a massive star field. It has been covered by some sort of barrier, but this barrier served as protection for us. Everything protected by the barrier is referred to by a name that is known by almost every single powerhouse that exists in the sea of stars... It's the Heaven Observation Field and it's where we're located in the sea of stars..."

"But... But..." As a Stargazer, Xin Lu's achievement in the stargazing arts surpassed Yan Ming. However, the blood was draining from her face as she stared at the strange region of space as she croaked, "... Why does it feel like the formless barrier is full of holes and weaknesses?"

"You're right." Yuan Qiuyuan's hoarse voice came from the side. "Not only is the barrier full of weaknesses... It's about to crumble altogether."

Ge Qingzhu's eyebrows shot up and he asked, "What use is this barrier anyway?"

“Its existence is to prevent our Heaven Observation Field from being located by the great powers in the vast sea of stars.” Shang Xia replied calmly.

Nodding subconsciously, Ge Qingzhu continued, “I seem to understand why the Spirit Mammoth World, Spirit Abundance World, and Star Origin Dao Field are going to such lengths to attack the Essence Ping World now...”

Chapter 1314: Star Origin Lord Robe, Peak of the Fifth Tier

“Did Qiuyuan suffer a mental blow because he saw the Star Curtain full of weaknesses?” Yan Ming asked with a frown.

After discovering that the Star Origin Dao Field and the worlds it was connected to was a massive star field, everyone present was shocked. However, when they discovered that the formless barrier was full of weaknesses and could collapse anytime, they felt more fright than shock. However, that wasn't all. Otherwise, a Martial Dipper Realm expert wouldn't be frightened to the point of fainting.

If Yuan Qiuyuan fainted because of that, Kou Chongxue and Ge Qingzhu would be really interested in how he managed to enter the Martial Intent Realm in the first place with such a weak mental state.

“Of course, that's not all...” Yuan Qiuyuan mumbled weakly. “After discovering the formless barrier, a powerful intent appeared and sent a piece of information straight into my mind. The mighty consciousness didn't seem to be targeting me specifically. Instead, it looked like it was activated because some conditions were met. The moment it descended, my mind trembled and I couldn't move.”

“A mighty intent? What is that?” Xin Lu mumbled before bringing the topic back on track. “What information did you learn?”

Before Yuan Qiuyuan could answer, Shang Xia sighed, “The mighty intent was most likely left behind by the expert who created the powerful barrier separating the Heaven Observation Field from the sea of stars. It's most likely the person who created it in the first place, the Star Origin Lord!”

Yuan Qiuyuan nodded slowly and continued, “The information that appeared in my mind told me that the Star Curtain won't exist for much longer. It will probably disappear in ten or so years.”

Everyone's expression changed as they felt the danger that was about to befall them the moment the screen disappeared.

Thinking about it for a moment, Shang Xia muttered, “The Star Curtain conceals the Heaven Observation Field and there seem to be many worlds trying to look for this region of space. It seems to concern matters regarding the Heaven Observation Sect...”

After he spoke, Shang Xia introduced the Heaven Observation Field he learned from Song Zhen to the rest and after some confirmation, they seemed a lot more sure about some matters.

When he was done, he didn't forget to remind them, “This matter is only known by us for the time being. Do not reveal any information about the Heaven Observation Field.”

Everyone quickly promised him not to say anything.

Xin Lu felt an exceptional sense of belonging to the Tongyou Institution suddenly after hearing how Shang Xia was willing to reveal such secrets to her even though she came from the Star Origin Dao Field and wasn't technically a direct disciple of the institution.

Ge Qingzhu asked suddenly, "Since Little Yuan is able to detect the presence of the formless barrier, there is no way the Star Origin Dao Field doesn't know. Are the Spirit Mammoth World, Spirit Abundance World, and Star Origin Dao Field in such a rush to take over the Essence Ping World because of this?"

Shang Xia nodded. "That's very possible. The 3 of them can definitely feel the pressure..."

"Actually... When I discovered that the barrier was full of weaknesses, I could tell that most of the gaps in the barrier were closely monitored. The moment anything enters... Hmm... The moment anything or anyone enters the Heaven Observation Field, it should be detected immediately." Yuan Qiuyuan said suddenly.

Shang Xia grunted in acknowledgment. "This is most probably why the Star Origin Dao Field would send the Star Origin Guards out on patrol so frequently. They might be clearing out foreign existences who entered the Heaven Observation Field..."

Ge Qingzhu's eyes lit up suddenly. "In that case, does that mean that Little Yuan will be able to see the situation around our world with our Star Observatory? If anyone wishes to enter the region of space we are in... They wouldn't be able to avoid detection, right?"

Yuan Qiuyuan forced a chuckle. "Instructor Ge, you're thinking too highly of me. If someone enters our region of space and causes a huge ruckus, or if they brought a massive fleet with them, I would definitely be able to detect it. However, I might not have the ability to detect high-level experts who are familiar with infiltration..."

"Oh..." Ge Qingzhu mumbled softly. He was clearly disappointed, but he could understand the concerns. Otherwise, a Grand Stargazer would be a little too heaven-defying.

Shang Xia expected as much. He had been to many foreign worlds and if a Grand Stargazer was really so powerful, he would have been discovered long ago when he was mucking around in the void around the Essence Xing World. There was no way the Essence Xing World couldn't bring out a single Grand Stargazer...

Seeing as he had wrapped things up, Shang Xia exchanged some pleasantries with the others before taking his leave.

As he turned to leave, his gaze lingered on the platform, but he eventually looked away. He reached his hand to the side and made a slight gesture as the Star Origin Lord Robe flew over to him.

Ge Qingzhu left with him, and only when they had left the Star Observatory did Ge Qingzhu ask, "Did you want to activate the Star Map earlier?"

Shang Xia's actions were subtle earlier, but he couldn't hide it from Ge Qingzhu who was also a True Immortal.

As for secrets like the Star Map... Ge Qingzhu gained the qualifications to learn about them after entering the Martial Void Realm.

Shang Xia didn't deny it either. "Little Yuan just became a Grand Stargazer, and I became a high-level True Immortal along with Patriarch Kou. We will definitely be able to discover more if we activate the Star Map now. However... Patriarch Kou isn't here at the moment and I suspect that the information contained within will affect the sea of stars outside the Heaven Observation Field. With the Star Curtain still in place, we might be able to activate the Star Map, but we won't be able to verify the information contained within."

Ge Qingzhu nodded subconsciously before looking at the Star Origin Lord Robe in Shang Xia's hand. "What are you planning to do next?"

"I'm going to try to play around with this and head back to Star Beast Nest No.2."

Shang Xia shook the robe in his hand slightly in response.

Ge Qingzhu seemed to have already guessed what he was planning to do and he continued to ask, "Is this related to your promise to the other True Immortals?"

Shang Xia nodded and he didn't plan to hide his intentions. "I plan to try fusing the different Variant Formation Talismans. I have always suspected that the Variant talismans make up a higher level talisman and I was never confident in succeeding. With my cultivation improving and my understanding of the Myriad Tinted Cloud Talisman deepening, I plan to give it a shot."

After parting ways with Ge Qingzhu, Shang Xia used the Five Element Teleportation Formation to return to Star Beast Nest No.2. Without alerting anyone, he rushed into the depths of chaotic space around the Star Beast Nest.

Because it was difficult to draw over starlight in the chaotic streams, Shang Xia could only rely on the dense power of the stars gathered in the robes.

As he started to research the Variant Formation Talismans, he continued to discover the intricacies of the Star Origin Lord Robe he was wearing. As soon as he draped it over his body, he felt his strength rising greatly.

If the Star Origin Lord Robe could raise Shang Xia's combat strength by 1 whole tier in the past, after reaching the level of Returning to the Origin, even with the abilities of the Star Origin Lord Robe, he could only reach the peak of the fifth tier no matter how hard he tried! The sixth tier was completely out of reach!

He might have expected as much, but he couldn't help but feel that it was a pity.

If the Star Origin Lord Robe could allow him to gain the combat prowess of a sixth tier True Immortal, he would be a truly terrifying existence. After all, sixth tier True Immortals stood at the peak of strength in the Heaven Observation Field. His ability to deter the other worlds from doing anything stupid to them would increase greatly!

Chapter 1315: The Path Of Ascension For The Spirit Abundance World and Spirit Mammoth World

Several months passed in the blink of an eye and the 22nd year of the Spirit Luxuriant Calendar had rolled about. During that time, Kou Chongxue had been moving between the Spirit Thistle World

and Spirit Tinkle Worlds. The Five Element Teleportation Formation between them had also been established.

Cultivators from the Spirit Luxuriant World, Spirit Thistle World, and Spirit Tinkle World could travel freely between their worlds. It was countless times better than the time when cultivators who hadn't reached the Martial Void Realm had to transit through the Star Origin Dao Field.

The moment the teleportation formation was established, the great powers who held control over them earned so many essence crystals their pockets were bursting at the seams. Of course, the Tongyou Institution earned the most.

Even though Kou Chongxue didn't return to the Spirit Luxuriant World, information regarding the Spirit Thistle World, Spirit Tinkle World, Spirit Abundance World, Spirit Mammoth World, and the Star Origin Dao Field didn't stop returning to the institution.

After arranging the reports he sent back, a portion was sent to the other great powers, and another some additional information was given to factions friendly to the Tongyou Institution like the Tianya Pavilion, Zhongxuan Gate, Changbai Sect, and the Five Mountains Alliance.

Of them, the Five Mountains Alliance made the most progress in recent years. After fully mobilizing to help the Tongyou Institution force the members of the Divine Capital Sect out of the Bing Continent, Yin Jingxu obtained the institution's permission and help to establish a Holy Land, becoming a respectable faction in the Spirit Luxuriant World.

As for Shang Xia who was in Star Beast Nest No.2, he naturally received the complete report sent back to the institution by Kou Chongxue.

Information that was gathered in the Spirit Luxuriant World was also sent back to Kou Chongxue through the secret techniques of the institution.

Shang Xia, who was far away in Star Beast Nest No.2, learned about True Immortal Shao of the Spirit Tinkle World. True Immortal Shao was their newest fourth tier True Immortal who used to be a third tier True Immortal with deep foundations. With True Immortal Ban's unconditional support along with those of the other factions, the Spirit Tinkle World managed to retain the combat strength of a world with a high-level True Immortal.

At the same time, the Spirit Thistle World was stopping at nothing to strengthen their True Immortals. Of them, True Immortal Zuo Yi had the highest cultivation and greatest combat strength. After returning from the War of the Spirit Tinkle World, True Immortal Zuo remained in seclusion to prepare for a breakthrough to the fifth tier.

Other than True Immortal Zuo, the Spirit Tinkle World had 2 other third tier True Immortals with deep foundations. They had been fighting over a chance to become a high-level True Immortal as one of them had the support of True Immortal Qu and the other had the support of another fourth tier Elysium True Immortal. They might be trying to advance to the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm simultaneously, but the difficulty of that was just too high.

Other than the Spirit Tinkle World and Spirit Thistle World... They also received news that the Star Origin Dao Field had completed the restructuring of the Star Origin Guards.

Even though they still had 7 squads in each of the 7 camps, totaling 343 Star origin Guards in total, every single Camp Commander was now a True Immortal. Every captain was at least a third

element Martial Dipper Realm expert and the lowest cultivation of a Star Origin Guard was in the Martial Dipper Realm.

From the reports Feng Ziying sent back, the Star Origin Guards Commander was still fourth tier True Immortal, Tong Yutang. He was also the First Camp Commander. Feng Ziying was also promoted to become the Sixth Camp Commander because of his cultivation and could be considered to be in the upper echelons of the Star Origin Guards.

It was extremely difficult to gather information about Zhuo Gudao, the expert at the peak of the Martial Void Realm in the Star Origin Lord Manor, but Feng Ziying was sure that members of the Star Origin Lord Manor were traveling frequently. They might be investigating the matter of the Essence Ping World, or they might be secretly coming into contact with the Spirit Abundance World and Spirit Mammoth World.

The spatial tunnel connected to the Essence Ming World and Essence Hong World in the Star Relay had also been activated more than once, and the high-level True Immortals of the Star Origin Lord Manor had been increasing their interactions with them.

As for the information about the Spirit Mammoth World and Spirit Abundance World... What they could gather about the Spirit Abundance World was relatively more compared to the Spirit Mammoth World.

However, Kou Chongxue learned something about the 2 great Spirit Worlds from True Immortal Ban of the Spirit Tinkle World. Both of them were focusing on different things to prepare for their ascension to an Essence World. He spoke about their current situation and everything that happened in the past.

It was said that the Spirit Abundance World's main goal was to deal with their internal problems before getting ready to ascend. Their internal problems were more like ensuring each continent had reached the state of perfection and they would split up or to destroy some factions to make it such that it could happen for them to start the ascension process.

Due to the pressure from the Star Origin Lord Manor, preventing them from launching expeditions to other worlds, they haven't dared to openly attack any more worlds since a long time ago.

After their failure with the Spirit Luxuriant World where they failed 2 invasions because several factions got greedy, they would never show any mercy. The moment they discovered an opportunity, they would go all out. It was said that they were the ones behind the extermination of the Azure Oddity World back then.

The betrayal of the Spirit Tinkle World during their alliance probably had something to do with them too. With the sense of oppression that came with the weakening of the Star Curtain, the Spirit Abundance World dragged the Spirit Mammoth World's attention to the Spirit Tinkle World back then.

No one knows how complicated the implications were. After the Star Origin Dao Field stopped the alliance between the Spirit Abundance World, Spirit Mammoth World, and Spirit Tinkle World, the 2 great Spirit Worlds turned on their ally. However, the Spirit Thistle World and Spirit Luxuriant World arrived in the nick of time to stop the situation from devolving, and Zhuo Gudao managed to comprehend his marital intent and forced the 2 great Spirit Worlds to back off.

Because of the losses they suffered, the Spirit Abundance World had to turn their attention inwards in order to prepare for ascension.

As for what True Immortal Ban heard in the past, long before the Spirit Luxuriant World came to be...

There were sayings that the Spirit Abundance World suffered greatly when they tried another method to expand by looking outside the Star Curtain a very long time ago.

Of course, everything was mere rumors, and the True Immortals of the Spirit Abundance World were extremely tight-lipped about it.

Despite their reluctance to say anything, rumors would still spread and it was said that when the Spirit Abundance World ventured out of the Star Curtain hundreds of years ago to look for another world and was ready to make their big move, they seemed to have annoyed a terrifying presence. The mighty expert they disturbed sent a single strand of sword qi through the spatial tunnel they created and turned the northern region of the Spirit Abundance World into shambles. Some say that they lost 2 to 3 continents because of that!

Those continents that were severed became the Manyu Continent that drifted around in space, eventually being found by the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World of the past.

...

True Immortal Ban's conjecture was that during the Spirit Abundance World's desire to expand back then, they didn't just lose several continents. They also fucked up so hard that they caught the attention of a Martial Emptiness Realm expert. That was why they changed their focus to look within themselves for a way to ascend.

The Spirit Mammoth World was clearly much luckier than the Spirit Abundance World. They looked for worlds outside the Heaven Observation Field through spatial tunnels created by Star Beasts, and they could occupy Star Beast Nests to save a lot of time mucking about in the sea of stars.

However... Due to the secluded nature of the Heaven Observation Field, the Spirit Mammoth World's progress was slow. They were slow, but they progressed steadily. Even though they would meet slight setbacks from time to time, they didn't suffer huge losses like the Spirit Abundance World.

That was also why the Spirit Mammoth World was never interested in the internal conflicts of the Heavenly Observation Dao Field. They weren't willing to go against the Star Origin Dao Field if there was no good reason to.

Naturally... They weren't exactly opposed to forming an alliance with the Spirit Abundance World either. They wouldn't hold back if they were able to weaken the Star Origin Dao Field's control.

Chapter 1316: Dachen Dynasty's Probes

Hearing the analysis by True Immortal Ban, it seemed as though the 2 great Spirit Worlds were no strangers to the Heaven Observation Field. The only reason True Immortal Ban was revealing it to him was that he traded some information of equal value, and Shang Xia felt that he most likely revealed the situation regarding the Star Pirates in the Chaotic Sea of Stars in exchange for the information.

Shang Xia didn't really care. Regardless of the Spirit Tinkle World or Spirit Thistle World, they were worlds with a much richer history than the Spirit Luxuriant World. The young Spirit Luxuriant World couldn't match them in terms of the secrets they knew.

Even though they were exchanging information on the basis of being allies, the Spirit Luxuriant World was learning more from the others than they were teaching.

Also, the moment the Star Curtain disappears and the great powers in the sea of stars start to invade, the 3 worlds would most likely need to take care of each other to ensure their safety.

After looking through the reports of the other worlds, Shang Xia casually grabbed a report summarizing the affairs of their Spirit Luxuriant World. He was shocked that many continents were turning lively despite it only being half a year or so.

Everything started when he integrated the world fragment into their Spirit Luxuriant World anyway.

He learned from Song Zhen that the world fragment came from a world called the Spirit Dusk World, and after it was invaded by several Star Pirate groups, everything was split up.

After being ravaged by the Star Pirate groups, almost everything of value had been brought away. However, a Spirit World was massive and there were countless factions. There were thousands of years of heritage and factions that experienced abrupt rise and others that were destroyed. There were hidden powers and powers that had been protected from destruction. There were also some that hadn't been found. Of course, there were also factions that the Star Pirates couldn't bother raiding.

After Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue integrated the world fragment obtained by the Cloud Piercing Bandits, hidden formations, immortal caves, secret regions, and some ruins started to appear. The powerful fluctuations of the World Origin Source might have something to do with it, but there might be other factors in play. Whatever it was, in the continents that expanded, many new regions of opportunity appeared and many people discovered fortune within.

After news started to spread across the Spirit Luxuriant World, inheritances of the Spirit Dusk World swept across a good half of the lands.

The commotion started from the Hai Continent and Yan Continent, and it quickly reached the Ji Continent and Liao Continent. Even the Bing Continent was starting to get rowdy.

Because the Bing Continent was basically connected to the You Continent, and it was where the Tongyou Institution's influence was the strongest, many people who wanted to explore the region had their concerns. They didn't dare to make a huge ruckus when looking for treasure.

Also, the Tongyou Institution reacted swiftly and they cooperated with the Five Mountains Alliance which gave their full support to suppress any commotion in the Bing Continent, especially cultivators who came from other regions trying to find their fortune.

As for the expanded You Continent... It was completely under the jurisdiction of the Tongyou Institution and nothing much could happen right under their nose.

Even after Shang Xia received the reports, no cultivator from other continents dared to venture into the You Continent to look for benefits.

The Tongyou Institution worked with the Five Mountains Alliance to maintain order in the Bing Continent, and they did the same in the Hai Continent with the Tianya Pavilion. Even though the Tongyou Institution were operating in both continents, they required the help of the Tianya Pavilion a little more than the Five Mountains Alliance.

Other than the 3 continents, the Tongyou Institution had expanded its influence into the Ji Continent and was locked in intense conflict with the Triple Frost Palace. At the very least, both sides seemed to be fighting evenly on the surface. However, the Triple Frost Palace drew in experts from other continents to muddy the waters.

Shang Xia didn't really care too much about matters regarding the Ji Continent. After all, conflicts were what helped cultivators to grow. At the very least, the casualties they were suffering were well within what they could endure.

As for the increased grudge between the Triple Frost Palace and the Tongyou Institution... Shang Xia cared about that even less.

The Liao Continent and Yan Continent also experienced an expansion, but the Tongyou Institution didn't bother interfering with either. After all, both factions were allies, and they agreed to pay tribute to the Tongyou Institution after receiving pieces of the world fragment. They were allowed to freely control their land.

It was just that both the Zhongxuan Gate and the Changbai Sect were facing increased pressure from cultivators from other continents.

After reading through the reports, Shang Xia had a vague feeling that the institution was trying to get his opinion if they should send out their True Immortals to quell the chaos that was breaking out.

Thinking for some time, Shang Xia eventually decided to not allow it. He chose to let everything play out naturally and ignore whatever was going on.

The Tongyou Institution's goal in expanding was to obtain control of more continents so that they would hold more opportunities to allow their members to enter the Martial Void Realm, but they had to know their limits.

Once they consolidated their strength and controlled the continents around them, they were more than willing to give the rest of the benefits to their allies. After all, that would prevent them from being targeted by every other faction in their world.

Tossing the reports to the back of his mind, Shang Xia no longer bothered with matters regarding the Spirit Worlds. After all, Duke Zhang Mingjie of the Dachen Dynasty requested an audience with Shang Xia in a few days.

He was hesitating whether or not to accept, but after some contemplation, he decided that whether he appeared or not, the other side would still be suspicious. The only difference was how suspicious they would be. As such, he chose to meet the man.

Naturally, Zhang Mingjie would come alone. The other person who came with him was a second tier True Immortal Shang Xia had never seen before instead of Rui Baofang...

When Zhang Mingjie and his party finally arrived, his expression changed slightly after seeing Shang Xia. His laid back attitude immediately transformed into one of respect. Cupping his hands,

he greeted, "It's been long since we last met, True Immortal Shang. I didn't think that you would take the step before me and reach the level of Returning to the Origin first."

Shang Xia roared with laughter, "Speaking of which, I got very lucky! It's fortunate I didn't waste my time in seclusion."

After he spoke, he gestured for all of them to enter the Star Beast Nest to take a seat.

The Spirit Luxuriant World had been developing the Star Beast Nest for several years and it was no longer as impoverished as it once was. At the very least, Shang Xia didn't need to invite them to a small courtyard outside his cultivation chamber where they could only sit on some rocks.

After everyone settled down, Hai Yuanyuan brought them some fragrant tea.

Shang Xia's gaze lingered on the second tier True Immortal for some time and asked Zhang Mingjie, "How can I address him?"

Zhang Mingjie gasped in response, "Oh, I was careless and didn't make the introductions. True Immortal Shang, this is Young Master Chen Hui. When he heard that I was coming to meet you, he requested a chance to tag along. Unable to say no, I could only bring him with me."

The 'Chen' in his name is the same as the Dachen Dynasty...

It's clear he's no random nobody!

Shang Xia thought to himself as he nodded slightly at Chen Hui. He gave a quick greeting before looking back at Zhang Mingjie and chuckled, "True Immortal Zhang, you won't look for me for nothing... You even came personally this time. Are you here to give me some pointers?"

Zhang Mingjie waved his hands and laughed along, "True Immortal Shang, you're acting too formally. How would I dare to give you pointers? It's just that... I haven't seen you for a long time and I have been feeling uneasy lately. That is why I came to take a look. After all, a pseudo rank seven Talisman Grandmaster like you is rarely seen in the sea of stars... Our Dachen Dynasty isn't willing to miss out on a chance to get to know you better."

"True Immortal Zhang, you're thinking too highly of me..." Shang Xia smiled in response.

Maintaining the same look of excitement on his face, Zhang Mingjie continued, "True Immortal Shang, I believe your dao of talismans should have also taken a step forward with your improvement in cultivation. However... I am really curious if you have been cultivating in the Star Beast Nest the entire time."

Chapter 1317: Deduction of the Variant Formation Talisman and Replicating the Star Robe

"True Immortal Shang, have you been cultivating in the Star Beast Nest the entire time?" Zhang Mingjie asked casually with the same smile on his face.

Shang Xia didn't show the slightest change in expression as he laughed along, "Of course not. To enter the level of Returning to the Origin, I needed to return to my world. True Immortal Zhang, even though you haven't reached this level, I believe you understand what is required to break through."

“Oh...” Zhang Mingjie scratched his head and chuckled helplessly, “How can I forget something like that? I’ve embarrassed myself in front of True Immortal Shang...”

“...”

They exchanged more pleasantries before their topic returned to their cultivation.

Shang Xia might have reached the level of Returning to the Origin before Zhang Mingjie, but Zhang Mingjie was a high-level True Immortal of the Dachen Dynasty and his knowledge in cultivation wasn’t lacking.

Many of the questions they had were cleared up during their conversation and even when Zhang Mingjie decided to leave, both of them seemed a little reluctant to do so.

However... The person who benefited the most wasn’t Shang Xia or Zhang Mingjie. It was the second tier True Immortal, Chen Hui!

After the 2 of them left, Hai Yuanyuan poked her head out from one of the corners and ran over to Shang Xia. “Do you believe that they’re just here to pay you a visit and place an order for the next batch of talismans?”

Looking in the direction of the exit of the Star Beast Nest, Shang Xia didn’t bother turning his head to face her. “It’s just an excuse. They wanted to see if I was behind the theft of the world fragment.”

“Did they gain anything from it?” Hai Yuanyuan frowned.

“Doesn’t matter if they did. They will be suspicious nonetheless and it’s just how suspicious they are. I don’t really care if they think I’m the one who did it. I’m more curious about that person who followed Zhang Mingjie.”

“Curious about him?” Hai Yuanyuan tilted her head to the side and asked, “Is there something special about him?”

Shang Xia chuckled softly. “Well, his eyes are interesting.”

...

As the True Immortals left the Star Beast Nest, they didn’t converse with each other. Only after they left the chaotic space did Zhang Mingjie ask in a low voice, “How is it?”

A strange light flashed in Chen Hui’s eyes and he mumbled, “He should have only advanced to the level of Returning to the Origin after the Piercing Cloud Bandits were robbed.”

A frown appeared on Zhang Mingjie’s face and he mumbled to himself, “In that case, does that mean that he shouldn’t be the mysterious fifth tier True Immortal who appeared after the Piercing Cloud Bandits were robbed?”

Chen Hui shook his head in response. “It might not be him, but that doesn’t mean that it’s not someone from his world! I recall you saying that you once felt the aura of other high-level True Immortals in the Star Beast Nest.”

Zhang Mingjie nodded slowly. “We were merely trying our luck to see if we could find the culprit this time... No matter what, he’s someone who can create a Myriad Tinted Cloud Talisman with a

fixed success rate. A pseudo rank seven Talisman Grandmaster like that is someone worthy of pulling to our side. It's just that his timing is a little too coincidental..."

Chen Hui added, "Even if we can determine True Immortal Shang is the killer, or if those from his world are behind it, what can we do?! We can't possibly go knocking on their doorstep, right?"

Zhang Mingjie laughed softly, but there seemed to be a strange light in his eyes.

Chen Hui might have trained in some sort of secret eye technique, but he didn't notice the strange expression in Zhang Mingjie's eyes.

Soon after, Chen Hui asked, "Duke Zhang, do you think His Majesty will succeed?"

Zhang Mingjie looked into the distance with a profound gaze and sighed, "His Majesty has always been unpredictable, but he never does anything he isn't confident in. All we need to do is to follow his instructions."

Chen Hui nodded at that, but he couldn't help but feel a little worried. "I'm just afraid that our Dachen Dynasty will be targeted by everyone else if it happens."

"That's not something for you to worry about. Even if you're not sure of what is going to happen, you should charge ahead without any fear! You're not too far away from the level of External Unity, right?" Zhang Mingjie laughed in response.

...

Shang Xia tossed the matter of their arrival to the back of his mind and started to delve into crafting rank six talismans once they were gone.

Because of how often the 3 great powers of the Essence Xing World were commissioning talismans, he no longer lacked rank six talisman paper.

With his unusually high success rate, he quickly completed another batch of rank six talismans. There were 3 Myriad Tinted Cloud Talismans among them. When he was done, he started to research the principles behind them and attempted to combine the Variant Formation Talismans.

Ever since he started researching the Myriad Tinted Cloud Talisman, his deduction of the other Variant Formation Talismans in the series became a lot more smooth.

When he crafted them initially, Tong Yutang only gave him the inheritance to craft 1 of them. After his repeated experiments, he determined that there should be 7 Variant Formation Talismans in the series.

Originally, brute forcing the deduction and development process of a single Variant Formation Talisman already proved to be nearly impossible. However, Shang Xia obtained the Star Origin Lord Robe and managed to learn a few of the talismans that made it up. He already grasped how to make one of them, but with the other 2, the difficulty of coming up with the rest was greatly reduced.

Of course, since the Variant Formation Talismans were separated from a rank seven talisman, it was far more complicated than the Myriad Tinted Cloud Talisman. Even with a greatly improved speed of research, he wouldn't be able to complete the talisman anytime soon. After all... A rank seven talisman most likely needed to be infused with Seventh Order energy...

It was more than likely the Seventh Order energy required to complete the talisman was drawn from the stars, but be it the Tongyou Institution or Shang Xia, either had the ability to do so.

Fortunately, Shang Xia was in no rush to complete the rank seven talisman. He wanted to complete the analysis of the 7 Variant Formation Talismans that made it up and replicate the Star Robes and their battle formation.

The difficulty of making Star Robes will fall greatly once he completed his analysis of the 7 Variant Formation Talismans. However, he was going to face some difficulty when choosing the material to make the robes. Regardless, he never thought that he and the Tongyou Institution would be the only ones coming up with ideas.

Crafting Star Robes was one thing, and the battle formation was another. In the end, they would have to rely on Feng Ziyong to teach them even though it wouldn't be that easy.

When Shang Xia completed the deduction of the fourth Variant Formation Talisman in the series and more than half of the fifth, he got an idea of the sixth. Before he could continue, a transmission from Kou Chongxue forced him to drop everything and return to the Spirit Luxuriant World.

The Spirit Tinkle World and Spirit Thistle World called for a meeting of high-level True Immortals of their worlds to discuss how they should approach their operation to the Essence Ping World.

Chapter 1318: Setting Up

Shang Xia wasn't surprised that the high-level True Immortals of the Spirit Tinkle World and Spirit Thistle World would call for a meeting. What shocked him was that Kou Chongxue brought up another special request for third tier True Immortals to also take part in the meeting.

Shang Xia thought that Kou Chongxue felt that the combat strength of their high-level True Immortals wasn't enough and wanted to drag third tier True Immortals to make up the numbers. After all... Kou Chongxue knew that he was trying to replicate the Star Robes by studying the Variant Formation Talismans.

If they could get their hands on the principles behind the grand battle formation of the Star Origin Guards... With Shang Xia's replicated Star Robes, the True Immortals of the 3 Spirit Worlds would be able to burst forth with even greater might.

Just as he left behind a clone in Star Beast Nest No.2 and prepared to head back to the Spirit Luxuriant World, he thought of something. Other than Kou Chongxue and himself, there were 2 third tier True Immortals in their world, even though they were only Elysium True Immortals...

The meeting was in the Spirit Thistle World, and as Elysium True Immortals, he realized that those 2 wouldn't be able to leave the Spirit Luxuriant World anyway.

Why the hell are they going to take part in it?

After asking around, Shang Xia discovered that the 2 of them had created clones to take part in the meeting, and from the looks of it, they were extremely interested in being included.

Shang Xia shook his head slowly and guessed that they were afraid Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia would become the only bridge between the Spirit Luxuriant World and the others, which was why they wanted to join the meeting.

Once he returned to the Spirit Luxuriant World, he set a time with Zhang Xuansheng and Yang Taihe to set off before heading back to the You Continent.

The effects of integrating the world fragment of the Spirit Dusk World still lingered in the Spirit Luxuriant World and there were really quite a bit of good stuff that had surfaced. That included some historic ruins of powerful sects, high-level inheritances, and there were rumors some people even discovered ruins of Holy Lands.

After arriving in the institution, Shang Xia ran into the deputy patriarchs discussing if they should establish a Holy Land in the Jiao Continent.

The Jiao Continent was the only continent in the Spirit Luxuriant World that reached a state of perfection without a secret region or Holy Land.

The deputy patriarchs who were pushing for the establishment of the Holy Land felt that it would greatly increase their control of resources in the Jiao Continent and thus their authority over it. It was especially so for the World Origin Source connected to the Jiao Continent. In the future, they could even push for the Holy Land to become an Elysium, increasing the number of True Immortals the Tongyou Institution could possess.

With the current state of the Tongyou Institution, they were more than capable of developing another Holy Land.

However, there were others who had other concerns. The establishment of a Holy Land might allow the Tongyou Institution to have better control over the Jiao Continent, but it was where Kou Chongxue broke through to the Martial Void Realm. They already had an extremely strong control over it and establishing a Holy Land would be a waste of resources.

An even more important point was that the Jiao Continent was too far away from the Tongyou Institution. A powerful Holy Land that was tens of thousands of miles away from their main camp... It would be fine if the Tongyou Institution continued to progress or simply maintained their current might. However... If an accident really happened... There would definitely be people who would harbor malicious intent towards them.

Not to mention the fact that if the Holy Land in the Jiao Continent progressed into an Elysium in the future. If they nurtured an Elysium True Immortal there, the problems they would have would only grow bigger.

Seeing as Shang Xia had returned, everyone naturally gravitated towards him to make a decision.

The Tongyou Institution had been deciding to establish a Holy Land in the Jiao Continent for the longest time. Even Shang Xia heard of it a long time ago. Now that they had asked for his opinion, he simply spoke his mind.

Simply put, in principle, he agreed with the establishment of a Holy Land in the Jiao Continent. However, whether or not it could be made into an Elysium would depend on Kou Chongxue's decision.

An Elysium could give the Tongyou Institution another slot to produce a True Immortal. However, the Tongyou Institution already had control of the Bing Continent and Ji Continent. There was no need to waste too many resources to make another Elysium in the Jiao Continent as they might as

well use those resources to nurture Free True Immortal who could rely on the spirituality of the continents they already controlled.

While the Tongyou Institution was still worrying about whether they should create another Elysium, other factions were still busting their brains on establishing their first!

...

There was another thing Shang Xia heard after his return. It was a matter about the Heavenly Star Palace and he heard that in order to quickly gather enough resources for the Heavenly Star Palace to produce their Elysium, Yin Jingxu greatly reduced the support of many members.

It would have been fine if he had reduced the support for everyone without showing any favoritism, but naturally, that wasn't the case. Several talented disciples Yin Jingxu had his eyes on didn't just not receive a reduction in cultivation resources. They even received a lot more, pushing their cultivation further down their path.

No one knew how, but news of that started to spread, and the Heavenly Star Palace experienced massive turmoil.

Yin Jingxu might have suppressed the chaos with his prestige as the patriarch of the Heavenly Star Palace and his strength at the second tier of the Martial Void Realm, but his way of handling matters buried a lot of hatred that was hidden within the sect.

Well... Shang Xia wasn't involved anyway. After chuckling to himself, he simply returned to the Star Observatory in the Tongyou Elysium.

When he saw Ge Qingzhu again, he noticed that the Elysium True Immortal's cultivation had taken a huge step forward.

He was surprised when Ge Qingzhu told him that his cultivation had far surpassed Sun Haiwei who advanced with the spirituality of the Hai Continent.

After asking for the reason, Shang Xia learned that after both of them consolidated their foundations, all of them used 12 drops of Three Lights water to increase their cultivation by several years, but Ge Qingzhu had the Tongyou Elysium to support him. The Elysium Source hadn't been touched since it was established and as the first Elysium True Immortal of the Tongyou Institution, Ge Qingzhu obtained all the benefits and grew much stronger!

The Tongyou Institution might even be able to produce a second tier True Immortal in several years!

No matter what, with the Star Curtain about to crumble, every bit of fighting strength was important to the Tongyou Institution.

Stepping onto the Star Observatory once again, Shang Xia found Yuan Qiuyuan and asked, "The Star Observatory of the Star Origin Dao Field is able to gather and condense pseudo Seventh Order energy from the sea of stars... Are we able to do that too?"

Yuan Qiuyuan's eyes widened in shock when he heard Shang Xia's question. With his cultivation barely reaching the Martial Dipper Realm, he just became a Grand Stargazer. How was he supposed to be able to gather pseudo Seventh Order energy?

However, he saw how serious Shang Xia was and he thought back to everything he knew. After some time, he stuttered, “We... We can’t do that for the time being.”

“When will you be able to do it?” Shang Xia followed up immediately.

Even though he felt aggrieved by how Shang Xia was firing questions at him left and right, he understood that it was definitely an important matter for Shang Xia to care so much. Racking his brains, he eventually muttered, “I have not fully grasped the inheritance from the Star Origin Dao Field. There are some I am unable to understand with my current cultivation, but if I wish to gather pseudo Seventh Order energy, other than gathering a lot of manpower and the support of the Elysium Source, I’m afraid I will also need Instructor Chu’s expertise in formations...”

Shang Xia fell silent for a moment before he continued, “Other than observing the region of space around our world, fully focus on this. I’ll get the institution to fully support whatever you need, be it resources or manpower.”

After he spoke, Shang Xia turned to Ge Qingzhu.

Forcing a chuckle, Ge Qingzhu mumbled, “Relax... You can use the Elysium Source however you want.”

Using the energy contained in the Elysium Source would definitely affect Ge Qingzhu’s rapid improvement to some extent, but he understood that Shang Xia had his reasons for pushing for the gathering of pseudo Seventh Order energy. After all... There were still some secrets in the Tongyou Institution that only Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue were privy to because of their cultivation realms.

Shang Xia nodded and turned back to Yuan Qiuyuan. This time, his tone became a lot more gentle. “There’s no pressure. I can tell you now that I have backup plans for this and you should try to gather the energy the best you can. However, if you fail, we have other methods.”

Chapter 1319: The Highest Level Combat Strength of the Three Spirit Worlds

2 days later, Shang Xia met up with the clones of Yang Taihe and Zhang Xuansheng above the heavenly screen before heading over to the Spirit Thistle World through the Five Element Teleportation Formation.

Kou Chongxue and True Immortal Qu Guan had been waiting for them and seeing as all 3 of them arrived, Kou Chongxue quickly greeted the clones with a smile. In contrast, Qu Guan simply looked at them and nodded slightly before turning his attention to Shang Xia. Only when looking at Shang Xia did a grin appear on his face as he greeted, “True Immortal Shang, we finally meet again!”

“True Immortal Qu, looks like I have to bother you again this time. I wonder if our friends from the Spirit Tinkle World are already here?” Shang Xia smiled in response.

Qu Guan chuckled, “Fortunately for us, your Formation Master Chu managed to establish the Five Element Teleportation Formation between my Spirit Thistle World and the Spirit Tinkle World. It’s much easier to travel between our worlds now. True Immortal Ban of the Spirit Tinkle World and True Immortal Shao have already arrived.”

“Looks like we came too late! I apologize for making all of you wait... Shall we meet everyone now?” Shang Xia responded quickly.

“True Immortal Shang, please!” Qu Guan gestured to the side before leading the way.

Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia followed closely behind, and the clones of Yang Taihe and Zhang Xuansheng exchanged a glance before following behind the 2.

It didn't take long before the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World arrived at a secret region above the heavenly screen of the Spirit Thistle World.

“This is where True Immortals of our world normally gather to exchange pointers or to make decisions. I hope you won't find it too crude to be a gathering spot for the True Immortals of our worlds...” True Immortal Qu Guan spoke as he brought them into a secret region within a giant palace that had been constructed.

6 True Immortals had already gathered in the main hall of the secret region, and there were 3 main seats. 2 had already been taken. 1 was by True Immortal Zuo Li whom Shang Xia was familiar with. The other was by True Immortal Cao Jian, another fourth tier True Immortal of the Spirit Thistle World.

There were 2 seats on the left taken by the True Immortals of the Spirit Tinkle World. The person in the lead was the clone of True Immortal Ban. The True Immortal beside him was a female, and from the looks of it, she should be their newest high-level True Immortal, True Immortal Shao.

There were 2 other seats on the right side of the hall, which were clearly prepared for Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue.

Behind the main seats were several other seats that had been prepared for third tier True Immortals. However... When Yang Taihe and Zhang Xuansheng's clones arrived, they looked a little awkward. Among the third tier True Immortals of the other worlds, none of them were Elysium True Immortals.

In other worlds... It was pretty clear to them that the third tier Elysium True Immortals of the Spirit Tinkle World and Spirit Thistle World didn't bother joining the meeting, and it might be clear there was no need for them to do so.

“Since you're already here, just sit there and listen to what they have to say. After all, our world has shallow foundations and we don't have third tier Free True Immortals.” Kou Chongxue's voice rang in their minds, and he sounded a little apologetic. However, his tone quickly changed. “It will be strange if only Little Shang and I take part in his meeting. However, if we call Palace Master Yin or Brother Huang of the Yuanchen Sect, we will probably be a joke in the eyes of others.”

Kou Chongxue's meaning was clear. He was telling them that both he and Shang Xia had nothing to hide, and if the 2 old men were feeling a little embarrassed, they should just return to the Spirit Luxuriant World. Otherwise, they would have to obediently listen to what the high-level True Immortals were going to discuss.

Exchanging a glance, the clones eventually found their seats.

There were 3 third tier True Immortals of the Spirit Thistle World and 1 from the Spirit Tinkle World beside them. It was clear that the overall strength of the Spirit Thistle World was currently the strongest among them!

Before Shang Xia sat, he glanced at the third tier True Immortals who had arrived. He discovered that 2 of those from the Spirit Thistle World had already reached the peak of the level of External Unity. They didn't seem too far from becoming a high-level True Immortal and they should be the ones fighting for an opportunity to break through as reported by Kou Chongxue.

In other words... It wouldn't take long after their meeting for them to receive more support. The Spirit Thistle World would most likely produce another fourth tier True Immortal!

From Kou Chongxue's investigations about the Spirit Thistle World and Spirit Tinkle Worlds, other than those present, they probably also had another third tier Elysium True Immortal each.

In other words... The 3 worlds had 8 third tier True Immortals, but half of them were Elysium True Immortals. Half of those Elysium True Immortals were from the Spirit Luxuriant World!

Of course... The only reason the Spirit Tinkle World was so lacking in experts was because they suffered a massive blow during the War of the Spirit Tinkle World. More than half their True Immortals fell. Otherwise, they would most definitely be able to bring more third tier True Immortals over.

Inviting Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia to the seats on the right of the hall, Qu Guan quickly returned to his spot. However, before he could start the meeting, he heard Zuo Li cough once before staring at Shang Xia with a strange gaze.

Everyone in the hall quickly discovered Zuo Li's strange reaction and with the exception of those from the Spirit Luxuriant World, everyone turned to look at Shang Xia.

"True Immortal Shang... Dare I ask... Have you reached the level of Returning to the Origin?" After some hesitation, Zuo Li asked. He seemed to be afraid of the answer, but he was still extremely respectful. There was even a trace of envy and shock in his eyes.

As soon as the words left his lips, the expressions of those in the hall changed. The True Immortals of the other worlds started to whisper among themselves.

Shang Xia grinned as he replied, "I ran into some small opportunity recently, and fortunately, I managed to break through to the next level. Please, don't mind me..."

Don't mind you?! Who the fuck would dare to?

Holy shit you're being too fake now, aren't you?!

Without waiting for the third tier True Immortals to react, everyone in the main seats quickly got to their feet. Every single high-level True Immortal quickly cupped their fists towards Shang Xia.

"Congratulations, True Immortal Shang, for taking another step on your path of cultivation!"

Chapter 1320: The True Strength of the Spirit Mammoth World and Spirit Abundance World

In the hall of the secret region above the heavenly screen of the Spirit Thistle World, the high-level True Immortals of the other worlds congratulated Shang Xia in unison.

The third tier True Immortals of the other worlds might not understand the implications of Shang Xia entering the level of Returning to the Origin and becoming a fifth tier True Immortal, and they didn't understand why the high-level True Immortals of their worlds would act so respectfully, but they quickly got to their feet and bowed to show their respects.

The 5 high-level True Immortals of the Spirit Tinkle World and Spirit Thistle World understood that with Shang Xia's advancement, their alliance truly had the confidence to resist the 2 great Spirit Worlds.

In the past, even if their alliance was thinking of obtaining some benefits during the operation to the Essence Ping World, they would have to go about it in a sneaky way. They would only be able to pick up the scraps. However, now that Shang Xia had broken through, they might really gain the qualifications to stand up to either of the great Spirit Worlds or the Star Origin Dao Field.

Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue had long since understood the implications of his breakthrough long before the meeting...

Seeing as everyone was bowing to him, Shang Xia quickly got to his feet to return the pleasantries. When everyone finally sat back down, he mumbled a little awkwardly, "I managed to get ahead slightly earlier because of my luck... I believe everyone here will be able to catch up soon, especially True Immortal Zuo Li. If I'm not mistaken, you have already touched on the level of Returning to the Origin and you should be able to take that final step soon..."

Zuo Li shook his head while chuckling bitterly, "True Immortal Shang, I hope you're right. For people with cultivation at our level, we believe we should understand the situation we are in. Stepping into the next level is no longer just a matter of producing enough inner qi. Be it a state of enlightenment or a great opportunity, none of it can be missing. Even though I have reached the peak of the fourth tier, I do not know when I will be able to enter the fifth..."

The other high-level True Immortals also started discussing among themselves as they could relate to what Zuo Li just said. That was also why they were so envious of Shang Xia and showed him so much respect.

Seeing as the atmosphere was getting a little stifling, Shang Xia chuckled, "Everyone, this is a rare opportunity for us to meet in the Spirit Thistle World. I believe everyone here is an existence of great importance in your respective factions... Let's not waste any more time and start discussing the operation to the Essence Ping World!"

With their cultivation, everyone's state of mind was firm and even though they were surprised, all of them quickly snapped back to reality after Shang Xia's reminder. Most of them broke into hoarse chuckles before turning their attention back to the item at hand.

True Immortal Qu Guan, who was supposed to be chairing the discussion, thought for a moment before kicking things off. "Alright, I guess I'll get the ball rolling and talk about what I think we should do."

"Since True Immortal Shang has successfully entered the level of Returning to the Origin and our alliance possesses a total of 4 other fourth tier Free True Immortals

and 4 third tier Free True Immortals, we might not be stronger than the Star Origin Dao Field, but we can definitely contend against the other 2 great Spirit Worlds.” Qu Guan paused for a moment before he continued, “However... In order to contend with them, we can’t throw numbers and hope to gain an advantage. Everyone’s combat prowess and artifacts will play an important role. More importantly, we need a good battle formation and good trump cards. Picking the best time to take part in any conflict is also key, allowing us to get the highest chance of success...”

He turned serious the next moment before speaking again. “Other than our numbers and cultivation, we don’t seem to have an advantage over anything else. In fact... Even with the number of high-level True Immortals we have, we are barely comparable to the others. We need to think of a way to pull ahead...”

He turned to True Immortal Ban and asked suddenly, “I have no intention to offend you, but in the past, during your alliance with the Spirit Abundance World and Spirit Mammoth World, I wonder if you learned about the number of high-level True Immortals they have?”

True Immortal Ban nodded slightly. Actually, he didn’t need Qu Guan to ask the question as he would tell the rest anyway. “The Spirit Abundance World and Spirit Mammoth World have at least 25 True Immortals each, but definitely fewer than 30.”

The number he revealed caused everyone’s heart to sink.

After the War of the Spirit Tinkle World, the original 19 True Immortals they had was reduced to a mere 9. No matter how much support True Immortal Ban and the others gave, they only nurtured 3 more True Immortals. They even affected the other True Immortals’ growth because they pushed True Immortal Shao into the fourth tier.

Naturally... For them to raise so many True Immortals at once placed a huge strain on the World Origin Source.

As for the Spirit Thistle World, they had 16 True Immortals in total. Even though they had slightly fewer True Immortals than the Spirit Tinkle World, one had to know that the Spirit Tinkle World used to possess a fifth tier high-level True Immortal back then. The strongest among them was only at the fourth tier and they were considered much weaker because of that.

During the War of the Spirit Tinkle World, the Spirit Thistle World lost 2 True Immortals. However, with the benefits the 3 high-level True Immortals received, they continued to nurture experts. They might have 1 True Immortal less than the Spirit Tinkle World at its peak, but they were still the strongest at the moment.

Speaking of which, the Spirit Luxuriant World was the one who benefited the most. Not only did they gain 5 more True Immortals since the War of the Spirit Tinkle World, but the individual strength also rose sharply. For example, Shang Xia became a fifth tier True Immortal and Kou Chongxue reached the fourth tier. Yin Jingxu also became a second tier True Immortal...

The increase in the number of True Immortals in the Spirit Tinkle World, Spirit Thistle World, and Spirit Luxuriant World definitely surpassed the others, but in terms of high-level combat strength, they were sorely lacking.

True Immortal Ban continued, "From what I know, be it the Spirit Mammoth World or Spirit Abundance World, they have at least 2 fifth tier True Immortals. They also have more than 3 fourth tier True Immortals. Of course, I'm only referring to Free True Immortals here."

Pausing slightly, he added, "That's also before the war of my world. Now that several years have passed, I am not too sure about their combat strength..."

Everyone in the hall already knew about the matter regarding the Star Curtain and how it would crumble soon. Since they knew, there was no reason for the Spirit Mammoth World and Spirit Abundance World not to know about it since they had the longest history and were the closest to becoming an Essence World. They most definitely knew about the Heaven Observation Field and the Star Curtain.

That was also why they understood the importance of producing high-level True Immortals, not to mention the fact that the Star Origin Dao Field had Zhuo Gudao, an expert at the peak of the Martial Void Realm.

As such, no one was sure that there weren't any brave souls in the Spirit Mammoth World or Spirit Abundance World who tried stepping into the level of Extreme Harmonization to reach the sixth tier of the Martial Void Realm.

Kou Chongxue asked suddenly, "We already know about the Star Origin Guards' battle formation and Zhuo Gudao has some strange treasure that allows him to control Seventh Order energy... For the Spirit Mammoth World and Spirit Abundance World to also take part in the operation to the Essence Ping World, will that also mean that they also have the ability to control Seventh Order energy? What type of energy will they be able to control?"