

Splitting the Heavens #Chapter 1346: Gathering Information - Read Splitting the Heavens Chapter 1346: Gathering Information

Chapter 1346: Gathering Information

To say that Kou Chongxue wasn't anticipating the growth of the Spirit Luxuriant World would be a massive lie. However, he didn't believe that the Spirit Luxuriant World would be able to ascend into an Essence World in the ten or so years before the Star Curtain crumbled.

The thought might have flashed through his mind, but the logical part of his brain suppressed it.

It had been more than 20 years since the Spirit Luxuriant World came into existence, and even if they counted the time it took for the Star Curtain to shatter, they would barely be 40 years old.

Using 40 years to grow from a Spirit World to an Essence World... If they truly achieved something like that, wouldn't that mean that the Spirit Abundance World and Spirit Mammoth World which used more than a thousand years to reach their current level should just slam their heads into a wall and die for all the time they had been wasting?

Essence World?!

Nah... Naaah...

Kou Chongxue didn't even dare to think about it.

However, when faced with the look of anticipation in Shang Xia's eyes, he didn't know what to say.

Perhaps feeling that he wasn't looking as good in front of a disciple of the Tongyou Institution, he coughed softly and continued, "Even if we manage to reach the standard of a peak-tier Spirit World, that doesn't mean that we would be able to ascend to an Essence World. There are many powers in the Heaven Observation Field and those in the sea of stars outside who have their eyes on us. They won't allow us to complete the ascension so easily. When the time comes, we won't be able to avoid a massive battle. Our Spirit Luxuriant World is still too weak at the end of the day. Just the number of True Immortals we have is far too lacking. Our collective strength isn't good enough either..."

The collective strength of the world and the individual combat strength of their high-level experts was the hardest problem to solve.

The Spirit Luxuriant World had 15 True Immortals at the moment, and their average cultivation level was pretty shit to be honest. Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia were basically outliers in terms of cultivation of True Immortals in the Spirit Luxuriant World.

They didn't even need to compare themselves to the Spirit Mammoth World or Spirit Abundance World. They couldn't even match up to the Spirit Thistle World and Spirit Tinkle World.

The True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World weren't all from the Tongyou Institution anyway. Everyone had their own way of thinking. Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue might want to raise the world into an Essence World as soon as possible, but that didn't mean the other True Immortals felt the same way.

Even if they were forced to agree, along with everyone's increased cultivation realm, they would probably come up with other plans.

A runway of slightly more than 10 years was just too short. The Spirit Luxuriant World couldn't complete their accumulations by the time it was done and if they were to force the ascension, they could only make use of extreme methods of devouring multiple worlds. During the entire process, the Spirit Luxuriant World would definitely pay a huge price.

Looking at Kou Chongxue, Shang Xia eventually muttered, "Patriarch Kou, I still wish to give it a shot!"

Seeing the resolute look on Shang Xia's face, Kou Chongxue couldn't help but chuckle. Shaking his head, he mumbled, "Fuck, I'm actually going crazy. I'm actually going to go along with this... Alright, tell me... After the establishment of an Elysium in the Jiao Continent, who's going to be the Elysium True Immortal there? Are you going to let your Grandpa Bo do it?"

Shang Xia smiled initially, but he sighed softly when he heard the later part of Kou Chongxue's question. "I'm afraid it's going to be difficult for Grandpa Bo to take on the position. He might have fought for a good portion of the World Origin Source connected to the Ji Continent, but he failed to take the last step even with the blessing of the world. That's a sign his potential to cultivate is already exhausted..."

Compared to the rest, Shang Bo had completed the refinement of his 4th fate dipper a long time ago. He planned to make use of the blessing of the world to refine the 5th, but he failed. The thing he gained was a slightly stronger inner qi.

Fortunately, the other mid to high-level cultivators who followed Shang Bo managed to raise their cultivation realms with the blessing of the world. The entire operation was still considered a success.

Speaking of which, among those heavily nurtured by the institution, Shang Bo was no longer the only one who was at the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm.

With the expansion of the You Continent, the World Origin Source connected to it grew stronger and more abundant. Along with the increased density of heaven and earth qi in the region, the You Continent slowly grew to become one of the greatest blessed lands in the Spirit Luxuriant World. Talents were being born every day and there was a batch of youngers who reached an impressive cultivation level and they were still growing stronger.

Kou Chongxue sighed, "I'm really gratified you can think that way. Fourth Brother Shang gave it his all when establishing the Tongyou Institution with me. Even though the new replacing the old is just what happens normally, I don't wish to leave behind regrets like this and let the members of my generation be at a disadvantage. However, if we create another Elysium now... It might remain empty for a good amount of time."

Currently, the Tongyou Institution has 4 great True Immortals. Ge Qingzhu was an Elysium True Immortal and couldn't leave the Tongyou Elysium, and Sun Haiwei was stuck dealing with the harassment of the sea spiritual beasts. The Tongyou Institution planned to let disciples train themselves there to gain battle experience and cultivation resources, and Sun Haiwei remained in the Hai Continent the entire time to prevent any accidents from happening.

Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia, the 2 high-level True Immortals and the only ones at their cultivation realms in the Spirit Luxuriant World were barely back in the Spirit Luxuriant World.

Shang Xia thought for a second and frowned. "If we are really out of choice, we should let the Formation Hall lay down a rank six grand formation there and I'll station my clone there..."

"Yeah, that's the only thing we can do." Kou Chongxue nodded helplessly. However, he thought of something next and asked, "Right, how many second tier True Immortal clones can you create now?"

Normally, a True Immortal would be able to create a clone after reaching the second tier of the Martial Void Realm. As they grew stronger, the clones they created would be stronger and they could make more of them. However, the limit of any clone was the first tier of the Martial Void Realm. Shang Xia was the only person who could create a clone with second tier True Immortal combat strength.

After hearing the question, Shang Xia seemed to know what Kou Chongxue was asking and he replied, "2 clones with the strength of a second tier True Immortal is the most I can create. You should know the limits of them as well... They will be the weakest second tier True Immortals out there."

“Even so, it’s enough.” Kou Chongxue nodded. “When the time comes, you can leave behind a second tier clone and I’ll leave behind a clone of mine to prevent any accidents.”

Pausing slightly, Kou Chongxue eventually continued, “Your actions in the Spirit Abundance World have already touched the nerves of many factions. Any Elysiums in the various worlds will definitely strengthen their defenses. Since you were able to infiltrate a world, enter an Elysium, and kill an Elysium True Immortal without being detected, it’s difficult to ensure no one else has the same ability! Even if experts in our Heaven Observation Field can’t do the same thing as you, we can’t ensure those outside the Star Curtain don’t. We still need to be careful.”

Since Kou Chongxue said it, Shang Xia didn’t have any objections.

What they needed to do next was to secretly channel the resources from the You Continent to the Jiao Continent.

Currently, the Tongyou Institution controlled the You, Bing, and Jiao Continents. They also controlled most of the Hai and Ji Continent, and their territory was vast. The resources they controlled definitely ranked at the very top of the Spirit Luxuriant World. Not even the Northern Sea Mystic Sect could compare to them!

Since they made up their minds to create the second Elysium, Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia didn’t waste any time and they personally dealt with matters regarding the movement of resources. They quickly reorganized the strength of the Tongyou Institution on the 24th year of the Spirit Luxuriant Calendar, but no waves were raised in the process.

In the following half a year, Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue would frequently head to the Spirit Thistle World to meet with the rest. Even True Immortal Shao, True Immortal Qu Guan, and other third tier Free True Immortals also came up with a battle formation that focused on defense. The battle formation gave them enough confidence to stay alive when faced with attacks containing Seventh Order energy. Of course, that was provided a Marital Emptiness Realm Sage wasn’t personally controlling it.

Throughout the process, only Zuo Li didn’t show his face as he was stuck in seclusion.

Actually, other than the first meeting, Zuo Li never appeared before the rest.

The alliance of the 3 worlds knew that Zuo Li was making his preparations to enter the fifth tier of the martial Void Realm, and his advancement would prove to be a great asset to the alliance.

If he succeeded, the alliance wouldn’t suffer too many losses when up against the 2 great Spirit Worlds or the Star Origin Dao Field.

Also... Because of the matter in the Spirit Abundance World, they revealed a lot of trump cards to the various worlds and the Star Origin Dao Field. As such, everyone's attention was placed on studying the Spirit Abundance World's ability to control Seventh Order energy.

Everyone learned more about the Spirit Abundance World, but not much was known about the Spirit Mammoth World. The Spirit Mammoth World still had several spatial tunnels that led out of the Star Curtain, and they had always been focused on matters outside. In fact, they had always maintained contact with at least 3 different worlds outside.

From what they knew, other than the fact that the Spirit Mammoth World also had an Elysium Grand Formation like the Spirit Abundance World, they might have more than 2 fifth tier True Immortals. In fact, there might even be an existence at the level of Extreme Harmonization in their ranks!

That was something everyone was guessing and had no evidence to prove but believed anyway.

Other than fifth tier True Immortals, the Spirit Mammoth World also had 4 fourth tier True Immortals. There were also 20 or so more True Immortals, and it was safe to say that they had more than 30 True Immortals. They were truly reaching the limit of a Spirit World.

No matter how they looked at it, the Spirit Mammoth World surpassed the Spirit Abundance World in strength. At the very least, the number of True Immortals in the Spirit Abundance World who stood against everyone was less than 30 in number, and they even lost a second tier Elysium True Immortal. A third tier True Immortal also suffered heavy injuries.

No one could rule out the fact that there were still hidden experts in the Spirit Abundance World, but that wouldn't put them ahead of the Spirit Mammoth World.

...

The latter half of the 24th year of the Spirit Luxuriant Calendar, with the strong support of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect and the help of other smaller factions, the Heavenly Star Elysium was established and the 7th great Elysium of the Spirit Luxuriant World was born!

Chapter 1347: News from the Chaotic Sea of Stars

With the birth of the Heavenly Star Elysium, the Spirit Luxuriant World welcomed their 7th great Elysium.

It was an amazing achievement in the eyes of the various powers of the Spirit Luxuriant World, but they expected as much.

What they were interested in was that after the 7th Elysium was established, the Spirit Luxuriant World reached the standard to activate the Elysium Grand Formation. With the birth of the Heavenly Star Elysium, they possessed the ability to control Seventh Order energy!

Even though the energy could only be used to defend their world, with the various worlds possessing the same strength, it was something the Spirit Luxuriant World needed to compete with the Spirit Mammoth World and Spirit Abundance World.

Also, the birth of the Heavenly Star Elysium wasn't something shocking. With their foundations and the help of the various factions of the Spirit Luxuriant World, there was no way they would fail.

The only downside to their ascension was that they owed a lot of favors in the process. It was going to be difficult for them to pay off their debts in the future.

Whatever it was, the birth of the Heavenly Star Palace happened a lot earlier than everyone expected. Many of them felt that it had something to do with the help they received from the various factions, but it didn't take long for shocking news to spread after the establishment of the Elysium.

Other than Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue, and the higher-ups of the Tongyou Institution who already knew, the others had no idea.

On the third day of the establishment of the Heavenly Star Elysium, Zhang Xuansheng informed the great powers of the Spirit Luxuriant World that Zhang Jianzi had been expelled from the sect.

Before anyone could digest the news of his expulsion from his sect and when some were afraid Zhang Xuansheng would end the life of Zhang Jianzi because he would no longer have an Elysium to support him, Yin Jingxu of the Heavenly Star Palace passed down the news that they sincerely invited the wandering True Immortal with no sect into their Elysium to take on the role of their Elysium True Immortal!

With how seamlessly they acted, their arrangement couldn't be clearer to everyone else.

What most people paid attention to were 2 very important points. The first being how did Elysium True Immortals transfer from one place to another like a game, and if the Northern Sea Mystic Sect was truly willing to give up a powerful True Immortal they spent so much effort nurturing.

Secondly, they also wished to know if the Heavenly Star Palace was so willing to give control of their newly found Elysium to another True Immortal who just joined their sect!

One had to know that an Elysium True Immortal could control everything in their Elysium and the moment Zhang Jianzi joined the Heavenly Star Palace, he would surpass even the second tier True Immortal, Yin Jingxu!

Wasn't the Heavenly Star Palace scared that after hundreds of years, they're going to become a part of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect?!

One had to know that Elysium True Immortals lived a lot longer than Free True Immortals!

Yin Jingxu would probably be hard-pressed to live longer than the first tier Elysium True Immortal!

If the first point made many people think that the Heavenly Star Palace had gone crazy, the second point shocked even the high-level experts of the Spirit Luxuriant World.

When they finally thought about how the Northern Sea Mystic Sect produced a second Elysium True Immortal, they felt a little less shocked. After all, that was something that didn't make sense to begin with.

With Zhang Jianzi taking up a spot in the Heavenly Star Palace, it was clear that even though the Northern Sea Elysium was able to hold 2 Elysium True Immortals, it wasn't as though there were no drawbacks. That was probably why Zhang Xuansheng wanted to chase him away.

Well... Other than those points, Zhang Jianzi's entry to the Heavenly Star Palace also caused the situation in the Spirit Luxuriant World to change.

Regardless of the reasons, the Heavenly Star Palace now had 2 True Immortals and there was no denying their strength took a massive leap forward.

Also, with all 7 Elysiums of the Spirit Luxuriant World possessing an Elysium True Immortal, once they activated their Elysium Grand Formation, the power they could wield would be even stronger.

No matter what, there was a difference between an Elysium with an Elysium True Immortal and one that didn't have one!

In less than 3 months of Zhang Jianzi's entry to the Heavenly Star Palace, he pretty much completed the transplant of his soul and controlled the Elysium. Huge waves rose in the Yi Continent as their land started to expand.

The Yi Continent was originally already 9,000 miles wide. It was but a step away from reaching the state of perfection. However, their sudden expansion still shocked the other powers.

They caused quite a big commotion, but it didn't last for long. After 2 short months, they completed the transformation and the Spirit Luxuriant World welcomed their new continent that had reached a state of perfection.

Soon, several more astute experts discovered something strange. Rumors started to spread, and as they reached more and more people, those rumors were quickly verified. The Yi Continent might have completed its expansion, but the Northern Sea Mystic Sect was behind it. Experts went to investigate the matter and discovered that the Northern Sea Continent shrank slightly.

The news caused many people to frown.

To receive a free Elysium True Immortal from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect and resources to expand their continent... It seemed as though the deal they made wasn't bad at all!

As the various powers were still discussing what had happened, another month passed and Spring of the 25th year of the Spirit Luxuriant Calendar rolled about. The Northern Sea Mystic Sect made another huge move, and with a majestic momentum, everyone realized why Zhang Jianzi had left. With powerful fluctuations filling the world, Zhang Xuansheng became the first fourth tier Elysium True Immortal of the Spirit Luxuriant World!

With that, the Spirit Luxuriant World finally had 3 high-level True Immortals, with 1 of them being an Elysium True Immortal.

Rumors... Or more like the truth of what happened, where Zhang Xuansheng kicked Zhang Jianzi out of the Elysium in order to advance to the level of Dao Harmony, quickly reaching the ears of every expert in the Spirit Luxuriant World.

Since Zhang Xuansheng ascended to become a high-level True Immortal, Yang Taihe's position in the Spirit Luxuriant World also became slightly strange. Almost everyone in the Spirit Luxuriant World thought that Yang Taihe would be the first to become a high-level Elysium True Immortal, and he was also the person chairing the meeting among the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World most of the time. In the eyes of many, he held a lofty position.

With Zhang Xuansheng taking the first step, it seemed as though Yang Taihe's position in the world would be greatly affected!

When everyone was discussing the high-profile actions of the Heavenly Star Palace and Northern Sea Mystic Sect, the Tongyou Institution was carrying out their plan without catching the attention of anyone.

Huge amounts of resources were funneled into the Jiao Continent from the You, Bing, Ji, and Hai Continents. They were sent to the Five Pillars City of the Jiao Continent through the Five Element Teleportation Formation as experts of the Formations Hall, Talisman Hall, and Weapons Hall moved over silently.

Because the Five Element Teleportation Formation had always been under the jurisdiction of the Tongyou Institution, their sneaky movements went even more unnoticed.

As they were preparing to establish a second Elysium, a secret transmission returned from Star Beast Nest No.1. It passed through the Tongyou Institution and quickly entered the hands of Shang Xia in Star Beast Nest No.2.

It didn't take long for him to return after reading it. When he entered Star Beast Nest No.1, he even used an Illusion Talisman to conceal himself. He wasn't even discovered by Jiu Jing and Yifan who were stationed there.

"Where is he?!" Shang Xia didn't care how shocked the person in front of him was when he appeared and simply asked the question.

Zhang Jianfei, who had barely reached the Martial Dipper Realm, understood that there had to be a reason for Shang Xia to appear so quietly. He knew he had to keep it a secret and muttered in a low voice, "He's in the Void Bazaar, our world discovered that the Spirit Faith World and the Essence Ming World would hold a massive fair every year, and this time, it has already run for 3 days. That person came looking for us out of the blue, displayed the token and managed to match our codeword. That was why I sent a transmission back immediately..."

Shang Xia smacked his shoulders in satisfaction and he nodded solemnly, "This matter is of grave importance. Other than Patriarch Kou and myself, do not tell anyone about this."

Zhang Jianfei nodded before he replied, "I understand. I have already set up a new meeting with that person to buy a treasure from him. I'll bring you there now..."

Shang Xia waved his hand and dismissed Zhang Jianfei before he could finish. "There's no need for that. I know where he is. You don't need to bother yourself with this any longer. Pretend you didn't see anything and forget everything you heard."

After warning Zhang Jianfei again, Shang Xia rushed towards the Void Bazaar that was established in the space outside Star Beast Nest No.1.

Shang Xia reached an agreement with True Immortal Geng back then, and since then, the worlds had been interacting with each other. The Void Bazaar was a market that was established on a floating island not too far away.

When Shang Xia first arrived in Star Beast Nest No.1, he had already discovered Song Zhen's presence because of the restrictions he left in his body back then. Nôv(eI)B\\jnn

After bidding Zhang Jianfei goodbye, he hid his aura again and transformed his appearance before rushing to the island.

When he saw Song Zhen, he saw that the second tier True Immortal who was once a Piercing Cloud Bandit had already established a small trading group. With an Illusion Talisman, he was acting like a fourth element Martial Dipper Realm cultivator and was buying some special products produced only in the Spirit Faith World or the Spirit Luxuriant World.

As Shang Xia brushed past him, the restrictions in his body resonated slightly and Song Zhen quickly finished his deal without showing much reaction. When he was done, he quickly passed his responsibilities to his goons before turning to walk down the street. He followed the feeling he received and eventually arrived at a teahouse.

Shang Xia, who had been waiting for him, quickly acted as though he had been waiting for Song Zhen and called him over to enjoy a pot of fragrant tea.

After they sat, Shang Xia chuckled in a voice that was so soft only they could hear it. "I didn't think you would return so quickly. You even established a small trading group..."

"I was in charge of trading back in the Piercing Cloud Bandits... Establishing a trading group is something I am very familiar with. However, I just made this for fun to hide my tracks. It's not worth mentioning." Song Zhen spoke casually, but he maintained an extremely respectful attitude as he continued, "The reason I took the risk to come over is because I have something important to report."

Even though Shang Xia didn't show much reaction, he became slightly more serious. "Go ahead."

As the attendant came over to pour their tea, Song Zhen savored it slightly and praised it before he spoke in a low voice to Shang Xia, "Lord... You instructed me to do 3 things when I left and I always kept them in mind. I'm here to report on 1 of them."

Shang Xia didn't say anything and indicated for him to continue.

"I returned to the Chaotic Sea of Stars through the Essence Ming World and quickly heard some news about the Essence Hong World. The Essence Hong World is also a massive powerhouse in the sea of stars and they have a lot of connections. They are pretty famous in the Chaotic Sea of Stars too and it wasn't too difficult to learn of their

location.” Song Zhen continued, “However, when I wanted to approach the worlds around the Essence Hong World, I heard about news regarding the Spirit Mammoth World and even met them!”

“What?!” Shang Xia might have tried to prepare himself for whatever Song Zhen might tell him, but he was shocked that the Spirit Mammoth World had contact with the Essence Hong World.

Song Zhen understood that the information he uncovered was of value to Shang Xia from his reaction and he quickly rearranged his thoughts as he continued, “When I came into contact with them, I was pretending to be a manager of this trading group. The members of the Spirit Mammoth World were purchasing something called the Hollow Heaven Stone. From what I know, the Hollow Heaven Stone is an important ingredient in crafting arks...”

Chapter 1348: Hollow Heaven Stones and Spirit Ark

“Hollow Heaven Stone?! What is that?” Shang Xia asked.

Shang Xia couldn’t be considered a frog in a well, but he still hadn’t heard of something like that before.

“Uh...” Song Zhen was slightly taken aback as he revealed a complicated look. He eventually explained, “A Hollow Heaven Stone is... It’s the core that contains the soul of an expert in the Martial Void Realm or higher! It’s produced when a True Immortal dies...”

Shang Xia’s expression changed slightly before he spoke in a serious tone, “Continue.”

“Lord, didn’t you ask me about ways to become a True Immortal back then?” Song Zhen asked.

Nodding slowly, Shang Xia mumbled, “The first is to brand their soul into the World Origin Source, Elysium, or a Dao Field. The second is like you who branded your soul into a secluded Earth Star in the sea of stars.”

Song Zhen sighed, “A Hollow Heaven Stone is produced when a Martial Void Realm expert dies and the Earth Star remains...”

Raising an eyebrow in shock, Shang Xia could hear the storms of blood Song Zhen had seen because of treasures like that. He could also hear the helplessness in his voice. He couldn’t help but continue to ask, “Can a Hollow Heaven Stone only be produced like that? Wouldn’t a world produce a Hollow Heaven Stone when a True Immortal dies and their soul is extinguished in the World Origin Source?”

Song Zhen shook his head in response. “The moment a world is destroyed or when a True Immortal who reached their cultivation realm that way dies, the World Origin Source would assimilate the remnant energy left in their soul. Anyway, any invader who kills a True Immortal probably has their eye on the World Origin Source anyway and they’ll devour it eventually.”

Shang Xia sighed and thought of something. He stared at Song Zhen with a deep gaze.

Song Zhen quickly forced a chuckle, “That’s right... That is why the location we branded our soul is the greatest secret we have. We cannot reveal that we’re True Immortals who ascended using the second method or we will be hunted down...”

Shang Xia understood how cruel their fate was but he couldn’t help but ask, “In that case... Wouldn’t that mean that True Immortals who relied on their world to ascend would be the safest?”

“They are...” Song Zhen replied instinctively, but he quickly realized his response wasn’t too respectful and he lowered his gaze and softened his tone. “Cultivators who brand their soul into the world through the World Origin Source will grow much faster than those who advanced the other method. For example, cultivators like me can only rely on myself and there wouldn’t be much help provided from where I advanced. It would be much more difficult to grow...”

Song Zhen paused for a second and revealed a complicated look on his face as he continued, “That is how most of the True Immortals in the Chaotic Sea of Stars are. In order to obtain more cultivation resources, they formed groups of different sizes to kill and plunder one another. They would also gather together to attack other worlds, and that is how many Star Pirate groups formed.”

Shang Xia fell deep into contemplation, and no one knew what he was thinking about.

Song Zhen didn’t dare to disturb him as he quietly enjoyed his tea while waiting for Shang Xia’s next instruction.

A moment later, Shang Xia snapped back to his senses and laughed apologetically before asking a question that caused Song Zhen to become uncomfortable. “I once saw a strange and special method used to become a True Immortal. The person branded his soul into an Earth Star before integrating it into a world... Have you heard of a method like that?”

Shang Xia was clearly talking about the Heavenly Star Palace’s advancement method, which the Tongyou Institution also learned about somehow.

Even without Song Zhen’s response, the look on his face gave Shang Xia the answer he needed.

Thinking for some time, Shang Xia continued, "For experts at your level, are you still able to transfer your soul into a world?"

Song Zhen hesitated for a long time before speaking slowly, "There is actually a secret technique like that in the Chaotic Sea of Stars. There have been people who tried it but no one has been able to verify it."

"Continue doing your thing. If you are able to obtain the secret technique and verify its authenticity, I'll fight for a piece of land in the Spirit Luxuriant World for you in the future so you can transfer your soul over..." Shang Xia spoke seriously.

With his eyes widening in shock, Song Zhen gasped with a slight trace of hesitation, "Are you serious?!"

Even though an expert would be able to enter the Martial Void Realm in different ways, one didn't need to be a smart man to realize which way was better and safer. Even if the Spirit Luxuriant World was only a Spirit-level World, there were high-level True Immortals watching over it. They also had a grand formation that could allow them to control Seventh Order energy to defend themselves... Compared to the Earth Star Song Zhen relied on to advance, it was countless times safer!

Shang Xia didn't bother himself with Song Zhen's doubt. He chuckled and stated simply, "Of course I'm serious. However, you should also know that it won't be easy for me to do something like that as many True Immortals in my world will oppose the idea. As such, you need significant contributions so that no one would be able to say otherwise. With the backing of me and Patriarch Kou, 2 high-level True Immortals, things would become much easier."

Even though there were still some lies in whatever Shang Xia had said, Song Zhen had no choice but to believe him. He felt that he would still be able to reach the third tier of the Martial Void Realm in his current state. If his soul could be transferred into a world, he might just be able to become a high-level True Immortal!

Seeing how excited Song Zhen had become, Shang Xia couldn't help but caution him, "However, you will still be considered an outsider to the Spirit Luxuriant World when we start the transfer. Will making the change affect you in any way? Also... We have to consider the rejection the World's Will might have on you."

One had to know that the Spirit Luxuriant World had the experience of invading several worlds. They knew what would happen to the cultivators of the world after it was destroyed. If those under the Martial Dipper Realm were unable to transform their inner qi after arriving in a new world, their cultivation would be greatly affected. Even ordinary mortals would need several generations before they would be fully integrated into the new world.

If Song Zhen's soul was transferred into the Spirit Luxuriant World, integrating himself might prove to be a challenge.

Whatever it was, he gave Song Zhen hope to grow stronger and he would fight for it regardless.

Seeing how Song Zhen was starting to get lost in his imagination, Shang Xia coughed softly and caught his attention again. "Right, let's return to the topic of the Spirit Mammoth World. Are you here to tell me that they're looking for Hollow Heaven Stone in order to build an ark?"

"Lord, you're a genius!" Song Zhen quickly flattered before he continued, "From what I heard, the Spirit Mammoth World might call themselves the subsidiary of the Essence Hong World, they are extremely mysterious and are in a special spot. The Essence Hong World gave them a lot of freedom and there are even rumors that say that the Spirit Mammoth World is the strongest vassal world of the Essence Hong World."

Even though Shang Xia had already thought as much when Song Zhen first relayed the news to him, he still had to suppress his shock now that he heard it for himself.

Not only did the Spirit Mammoth World collude with the Essence Hong World, but the relationship between them was actually so deep! That would mean that during the expedition to the Essence Ping World, it was very possible for the experts of the Essence Hong World to pretend to be from the Spirit Mammoth World to join in the battle.

The reason for the Spirit Mammoth World finding Hollow Heaven Stones to craft arks didn't need to be said.

"Does that mean that the Essence Hong World also knows that they are looking for Hollow Heaven Stones and their subsequent plan?" Shang Xia mumbled softly.
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"It's not that easy to build an ark. Only a few selected powers have the secret art to create one. Most of the time, the various worlds would gather all the resources they could before asking those great powers to craft the ark. For the Spirit Mammoth World to gather Hollow Heaven Stones... They should be gathering resources for now. They will most probably ask the Essence Hong World to craft an ark for them after they are done." Song Zhen explained.

Shang Xia asked another question, "Is any Hollow Heaven Stone enough to craft an ark?"

After thinking for some time, Song Zhen responded, "Azure Arks only require the Hollow Heaven Stone created during the death of an ordinary True Immortal. Spirit Arks can only be made with Hollow Heaven Stones left behind when a high-level True Immortal

dies. As for the even higher quality Essence Arks... It's not something I know at the moment."

Shang Xia nodded slowly. "Your report came at the right time. What I need you to do next is to pay attention to the movements of the Spirit Mammoth World and Essence Hong World. Oh right, for you to be able to come here with your little trading group... Does that mean that the spatial tunnel connected between the Essence Ming World and the Chaotic Sea of Stars is safe to use?"

Song Zhen looked pleased with himself as he replied, "Lord, please rest assured, I have established 2 other paths I can use to smuggle goods if I wish to do so and I have already bribed or controlled the guards there."

"What if you wish to smuggle a Spirit Ark over?" Shang Xia threw him a bomb before he could prepare himself.

With his eyes widening in shock, Song Zhen naturally knew which Spirit Ark Shang Xia was referring to. He quickly forced a chuckle, "Lord... This... This is going to be difficult. The routes I managed to secure can only handle a few small Star Ships at most. As long as I give them enough treasures, the guards will definitely let it pass. However, if I try to bring a Spirit Ark over..."

Shang Xia sighed softly in response, "Looks like I was thinking too big."

"No, wait. It's not like I don't have other ideas. I can create a new route myself, but it would be quite difficult and the risks will be pretty big." Song Zhen said after thinking for a second.

"Oh..." Shang Xia fell into contemplation for some time before he continued, "In that case, I need you to investigate a world. These are its approximate coordinates. Start from the Chaotic Sea of Stars to see if anyone heard of them. If there is, get me everything you know about it!"

Chapter 1349: Targeted

When Shang Xia was still chatting with Song Zhen in the teahouse, Song Zhen's subordinates had already completed several deals with the members of the Tongyou Institution in Star Beast Nest No.1. They sold away everything they had for treasures that could only be found in the Spirit Luxuriant World.

They prepared to head back to sell them in the Chaotic Sea of Stars to earn big.

Because Song Zhen remained in the Spirit Luxuriant World for some time back then, he understood a good portion of the resources produced in the world because of Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia's help. The Tongyou Institution also prepared resources rarely found in the Chaotic Sea of Stars because of his input.

With both sides helping each other, Song Zhen's trading group would definitely strike it rich. Also, the Tongyou Institution would be able to obtain a trading route in the Chaotic Sea of Stars because of him, widening the resources they could get their hands on. There would be many more choices for the experts of the institution because of it.

When Song Zhen finally left, he obtained another batch of mid to high-level talismans, including 4 rank six talismans that could save his life.

Bidding farewell to Song Zhen, Shang Xia fell deep into thought. He remained in the teahouse for some time before finally getting up to head back to the Spirit Luxuriant World.

He felt that the Spirit Mammoth World was trying to get their hands on Hollow Heaven Stones because of the Spirit Luxuriant World.

When Shang Xia brought the Spirit Ark back from his solo operation around the Essence Xing World, many continents expanded and 2 True Immortals were born. Such a massive change couldn't be hidden from the rest of the worlds and every other world in the Heaven Observation Field probably already learned of their possession of a Spirit Ark. At the same time, they would be able to make the connection that the Spirit Luxuriant World already had a channel that led out of the Heaven Observation Field to interact with other powers in the vast sea of stars.

Shang Xia felt a chill running down his spine when he thought about it. Since he was unable to hide the news of the Spirit Ark, when the Spirit Mammoth World asked the Essence Hong World for help, they would definitely reveal information regarding the Spirit Luxuriant World. That would mean that the Essence Hong World would know what happened and the Essence Xing World might be able to learn of it as well. When that happened, Shang Xia's identity as someone from a Spirit World would be revealed and the Dachen Dynasty would learn that he stole their shit!

When the time came, it seemed as though they would have to settle all their scores.

From the looks of it, he had to head over to the Essence Xing World as soon as possible. Otherwise, his identity might be exposed before he even went.

Before he left, he would have to prepare enough defenses in Star Beast Nest No.2. Without a high-level True Immortal guarding the place, it would be in danger of being invaded.

At the very least, he would have to ensure everyone in Star Beast Nest No.2 would be able to leave before the experts of the Essence Xing World invaded them. They would also have to destroy the spatial tunnel while retreating.

...

After returning to the Spirit Luxuriant World, Shang Xia didn't immediately rush back to the Star Beast Nest. Instead, he stood above the heavenly screen and carefully inspected the Elysium Grand Formation that was starting to be constructed around the world.

Even though they only had 7 Elysiums at the moment, it didn't matter where they were in the Spirit Luxuriant World. The grand formation encompassed the entire world and the Elysium True Immortals would be able to wield the energy from where they were.

Shang Xia smiled to himself as he realized when the Tongyou Institution established the new Elysium in the Jiao Continent, the Spirit Luxuriant World would be completely shocked.

He planned to head back to the Formation Hall to grab a bunch of resources that had been prepared when he suddenly turned to look in the southeastern direction where the Hai Continent was located.

A second ago, he discovered auras of many Martial Dipper Realm experts tangled together and 1 of them even died. As soon as it happened, the others scattered.

Even though it was extremely far away and he hadn't entered the world, he could still feel everything clearly through the heavenly screen.

The intense fluctuation caused by experts of the Martial Dipper Realm going all out wasn't exactly subtle, and there were so many of them.

Oh? Did something happen there?

Shang Xia raised an eyebrow but eventually shook his head. He was a high-level True Immortal at the moment and it wouldn't be nice if he interfered with them. Even if the experts who suffered were from the Tongyou Institution, he couldn't do anything.

Shaking his head slowly, he entered the heavenly screen and headed back to the You Continent.

Arriving in the Formation Hall, Shang Xia handed over a batch of high-level talismans and grabbed the resources they prepared for the Formation Masters of the Tongyou Institution to work with in Star Beast Nest No.2. As he was about to leave, he received urgent news from the Hai Continent where a Martial Dipper Realm expert from the Tongyou Institution was ambushed by several sea spiritual beasts and was killed.

Shang Xia couldn't help but sigh as he felt their aura above the heavenly screen earlier. He felt that those sea beasts were pretty smart as they not only knew how to work together, they also concealed their aura to attack their target before scattering immediately.

Heading to the Five Element Teleportation Formation to leave, he suddenly heard that the Martial Dipper Realm expert who was slain was Ju Hang, an instructor in the Outer Division!

Shang Xia's footsteps paused as he headed back into the Tongyou Hall where the deputy patriarchs usually met.

"Oh? It's rare to actually see you..." Ji Wenlong couldn't help but tease after not seeing Shang Xia for such a long time.

The other deputy patriarchs quickly perked up when they noticed his arrival. Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue were the same. They would either not appear, or when they did, they would have something important to relay.

"Uh..." Shang Xia grunted softly, "I just came back and heard about Ju Hang dying to sea beasts..."

"Sigh... It's a shame! He was a talent our institution was nurturing. Even though he wasn't as good as Haiwei and Qingzhu, he took every step of his cultivation seriously and he had strong foundations. He was preparing to refine his fourth fate dipper, but was killed before he could do so..." Yun Jing muttered softly.

Shang Xia frowned and asked, "Are we really sure they are Sea Beasts?"

The deputy patriarchs were experienced experts. They exchanged a glance and Shang Bo eventually asked, "Did you discover something?"

After a moment of silence, he mentioned what he felt earlier.

Liu Zhiyuan looked at the other deputy patriarchs, before replying, "I understand you were from the same batch of students as Ju Hang, but you might be thinking too much into it. After all, rank five spiritual beasts developed their intelligence and it's normal for them to lay a trap to gang up on their enemies. However, you can rest assured that our institution will look into his death in detail."

Shang Xia also knew that he reacted that way because of his relationship with Ju Hang, and what Liu Zhiyuan said was really reasonable. After all, the Tongyou Institution only had several tens of Martial Dipper Realm experts even with their recent rapid growth. The death of any was a serious setback. The Tongyou Institution would definitely look into the matter and if Shang Xia randomly decided to butt into the matter, he might disrupt their progress.

Shang Xia nodded and quickly acknowledged his mistake. "Indeed... I was a little too rash. However, I would like to ask if there have been many high-level cultivators who died at the hands of sea beasts." Nôv(e)B\jnn

Liu Zhiyuan was very satisfied with how Shang Xia no longer tried to interfere with their investigation, and he quickly replied, "There have been disciples in the Martial Extermination Realm who were killed, but those were still acceptable. After all, our disciples had to temper themselves in some way. This is the first time a Martial Dipper Realm cultivator was killed. As such, we will definitely pay more attention to it."

Shang Xia nodded slowly and bid the deputy patriarchs farewell. However, he seemed to have thought of something after he turned around and he turned back to ask, "How about among the various powers of the Spirit Luxuriant World? How many Martial Dipper Realm cultivators died there?"

"Not many... The last time something like that happened was 2 months ago. A Martial Dipper Realm expert from the Yuanchen Sect went too deep in pursuit of a sea beast and might have caused a big commotion and drawn over a large number of them. In the end, he was also killed..." Liu Zhiyuan thought for a moment before explaining.

A light flashed in Shang Bo's eyes. "Are you suspecting that the sea spiritual beasts are killing high-level experts of the various sects?"

"How... How can that be possible?" Liu Zhiyuan interrupted before Shang Xia could say anything.

However, he seemed to have thought of something as he fell silent the next moment with a deep frown on his face.

Ji Wenlong, who was standing at the side, noticed his reaction and asked, "What's the matter? Did you think of something?"

With a distant gaze in his eyes, Liu Zhiyuan seemed to be recalling something as he mumbled softly, "The Yuanchen Sect lost a second element Martial Dipper Realm expert 2 months ago. 3 months ago, the Three River Sect of the Wu Continent also lost another Martial Dipper Realm expert. Going back a few more months, an expert from the Liang Continent died to a small-scale sea beast tide... I'm not too sure about what happened before that, but..."

The deputy patriarchs also noticed several strange points because of what he said.

Yun Jing turned serious and asked in a frosty tone, "Are you saying that the sea beasts would bait and kill Martial Dipper Realm experts from time to time? How are they doing it? Even if they developed some intelligence, it shouldn't be at the point where sea beasts of different species would be able to work together. No matter how we look at it, it's a little difficult to understand."

Ji Wenlong also spoke in a low voice, "Since that's the case, we should look into it. Martial Dipper Realm experts aren't nameless fools. It won't be difficult to trace their deaths or where they went!"

“If they really are being killed by the sea beasts... What do we do then?” Liu Zhiyuan asked suddenly.

“If that’s really the case, rather than suspecting their intelligence is more developed than ordinary spiritual beasts, we should wonder if there is actually another monstrous beast commanding them. In fact, there might be more than 1 of those beasts. For it to command many high-level sea spiritual beasts... It might just be a rank six sea spiritual beast we haven’t discovered yet!” Shang Xia threw out a guess that shocked everyone present.

Chapter 1350: We'll Go

The sea spiritual beasts around the Hai Continent killed a third element Martial Dipper Realm expert of the institution and Shang Xia noticed the intense fluctuation at the exact time it happened. Because he was familiar with the person who died, he went to ask the deputy patriarchs about what happened.

Just a casual question from him actually allowed them to discover something really suspicious and Liu Zhiyuan quickly laid down the order to gather all information regarding sea beast tides and the death of any Martial Dipper Realm expert in the Spirit Luxuriant World because of those beasts.

...

It didn’t take long for him to receive the list and reports and he gasped in shock, “Shit... There might really be a problem!”

Everyone in the hall looked at the report and Ge Qingzhu, who heard that something was happening, had also rushed over to the Tongyou Hall.

Even though the Spirit Luxuriant World had 15 True Immortals, those True Immortals had exalted status. Martial Dipper Realm experts were the ones maintaining the communication between the various factions.

They were the true backbone of the various factions!

The death of any one of them would affect any faction. Even superpowers like the Tongyou Institution and the Northern Sea Mystic Sect... As such, they had to get to the bottom of the matter.

Since sea spiritual beasts started growing active in the 22nd year of the Spirit Luxuriant Calendar, 3 years had passed. Other than those who were killed during the initial sea beast tide, 1 Martial Dipper Realm expert would die every 2 to 3 months.

Those who were killed were besieged by sea beasts, or they went too deep into the sea while chasing their target.

“Without a doubt, those sea spiritual beasts are killing Martial Dipper Realm experts in some sort of systematic way. It has been 3 years since the sea beast tide started, and other than those who were killed during the initial chaos, more than 10 experts have been devoured by them so far.” Liu Zhiyuan spoke with a solemn expression.

The higher-ups of the Tongyou Institution also had similarly serious expressions.

They condoned the threat of the sea spiritual beasts initially as they wanted to use them as a way to train their disciples.

However, with the death of more than 10 Martial Dipper Realm experts whose deaths were because they had been plotted against by those creatures, the various powers felt as though their faces had been slapped really hard.

Liu Zhiyuan glanced at everyone before he continued, “In the past, we didn’t discover what was happening. No one paid much attention to it because the Martial Dipper Realm experts were from different factions. They were from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect, Eternal Palace, Divine Capital Sect, Three River Sect, and even wandering cultivators from the Shu, Mo, Yi, and other continents. None of them were from the same faction.”

Ji Wenlong growled, “From the looks of it, those beasts aren’t just killing Martial Dipper Realm experts randomly. They seem to know which faction their target hails from!”

If anyone were to say the deaths of those Martial Dipper Realm experts were accidents, they would be utter fools.

Even Shang Xia didn’t think that something like that would happen.

Everyone also started to believe what Shang Xia suspected.

“Perhaps, there really is a rank six sea beast commanding them... Otherwise, it’s too difficult to justify their actions.” Shang Bo was the first to agree with his grandson’s conjecture.

Yun Jing added, “This is a lot more complicated than it seems. If there really is a rank six sea beast, how did it get in here? If it was a rank five sea beast and grew stronger, it wouldn’t have been able to avoid being detected by our True Immortals. If it had been hiding in the remains of the Spirit Dusk World...”

Shang Xia shook his head immediately. “Impossible. Before splitting up the world fragment, I checked thoroughly. If there really was a rank six sea spiritual beast, Patriarch Kou and I would have noticed.”

“Hm...” Yun Jing frowned. “That would mean that the beast probably entered our world without being detected by anyone. That would either mean it’s an extraordinary beast, or someone helped it to hide from everyone. That also proves why it’s able to control other sea beasts to kill Martial Dipper Realm experts.”

Ji Wenlong gasped suddenly, “If there really is a rank six sea spiritual beast... No, if there really is more, do you think they would be rejected by the World’s Will?”

“Of course!” Liu Zhiyuan replied immediately.

“What if the rank six beast has been hiding for a long time? What if it infiltrated our world when we just ascended back then? It should have been able to adapt after such a long time and will be able to unleash a certain amount of strength. It’s especially so since our world has grown a lot since then and if it had been here all along, the World’s Will might not reject it at all... That is probably why it started to mess around now.”

Everyone in the hall fell silent. They were clearly shocked by Ji Wenlong’s conjecture.

A moment later, Ge Qingzhu looked at Shang Xia and broke the silence, “Little Shang, do you think it’s possible?”

Shang Xia forced a smile. “That’s something I don’t know. However, no matter what it is, it’s no longer a problem we have to solve on our own.”

Yun Jing agreed with him. “I was just about to say that we should share this information with the other factions. From the looks of it, we’re going to have to form a massive alliance against the sea spiritual beasts. If there really is a rank six beast...”

She couldn’t help but look at Shang Xia as she said that.

Before Shang Xia could reply, Ge Qingzhu responded, “Leave this matter to me and Haiwei. If there really is a rank six sea beast, the other first tier True Immortals of our world wouldn’t sit by and watch.”

There were 7 Elysiums in the Spirit Luxuriant World and they had 7 first tier True Immortals. Among them, other than Lu Wuzi and Zhang Jianzi who had deeper foundations, the others had recently ascended. They hadn’t fought experts of the same level before.