

# Splitting the Heavens #Chapter 1351: Back Again - Read Splitting the Heavens Chapter 1351: Back Again

*Chapter 1351: Back Again*

The Tongyou Institution leaped into action the moment they made the decision. Ge Qingzhu left the You Continent for the Hai Continent to meet up with Sun Haiwei.

At the same time, the Tongyou Institution informed the various factions about the deaths of the Martial Dipper Realm experts and how suspicious things were.

Shang Xia didn't continue to keep up with the matter as he left the Spirit Luxuriant World to return to Star Beast Nest No.2.

Of course, Shang Xia personally informed Zhang Xuansheng about the matter of the suspicious deaths of their Martial Dipper Realm experts.

Be it rank six sea spiritual beasts or how they managed to infiltrate the Spirit Luxuriant World, or if there was truly someone behind the entire thing. With the high-level True Immortals of their world paying attention to it, there would no longer be any suspense and the danger level basically dropped to 0.

Of course, with Zhang Xuansheng being a high-level Elysium True Immortal, his ability to defend the Spirit Luxuriant World reached a whole new level. It was much safer than before, emboldening Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue to do more outside.

...

After several months of being in Star Beast Nest No.2, focusing on crafting talismans, the 26th year of the Spirit Luxuriant Calendar came about. Shang Xia left behind a second tier True Immortal clone in the Star Beast Nest before reporting to Kou Chongxue his plan before stepping into the region of space around the Essence Xing World again.

The first time he went, he managed to run a spot to cultivate and Song Zhen was hunted down by the experts of the Essence Xing World. He had to return without finding the Essence Xing World, but at the same time, he managed to gain an approximate location of where the Essence Xing World should be.

Now that he was back, he was a lot more familiar with the place.

From Song Zhen, he learned that because Essence Worlds had Martial Emptiness Realm experts, they probably had a lot of vassal worlds. They would form a Heavenly Field of their own.

The Heavenly Field of an Essence World wasn't as closed off as the Heaven Observation Field. Instead, they would open up their trade routes and interact with others.

From a certain standpoint, Shang Xia wouldn't have to be worried that he would be discovered and hunted down when he approached.

Of course, interacting with other worlds didn't mean that the Essence Xing World would relax the defenses of their heavenly screen and allow people to pass through freely.

Even if Shang Xia found the Essence Xing World and approached it, he would still be taking a big risk if he tried to infiltrate.

Not only was the heavenly screen of an Essence World much stronger than a Spirit World, they also had multiple Martial Emptiness Realm experts! At the very least, the Essence Xing World had a few of them!

Unlike the other time when he was running around like a headless fly, he took less than a month to approach an Earth Star closest to the Essence Xing World.

After arriving on the Earth Star that was the main trading hub established by the Essence Xing World, he noticed that there were more than 1 of those in the region. There, Shang Xia could clearly see the heavenly screen of the Essence Xing World.

He didn't use a Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman to infiltrate immediately. Instead, he observed it for some time and learned some things about the people approaching the world while also seemingly waiting for some people.

Half a month passed just like that, and a figure that was a little plump arrived on the Earth Star and entered a tea house according to the order he was given.

Ordering a pot of tea, the plump figure sat on the second floor of the establishment and started to look around intently as though waiting for someone. A soothing voice suddenly came from behind him. "True Immortal SHen, why do you look so tense?"

Shen Chongshan turned his head to see the grinning Shang Xia standing behind him.

Too shocked to think about how Shang Xia appeared undetected behind him at the moment, he quickly got to his feet. "True Immortal Shang, you finally came!"

Raising his hand to stop Shen Chongshan from speaking further, Shang Xia indicated for him to be careful of what he was saying before heading to the seat facing him.

Shen Chongshan quickly poured a cup of tea for Shang Xia and saw that no one was paying attention to them. He eventually heaved a sigh of relief. "True Immortal Shang, if

you still don't show up, I'm afraid I will have to head over to the Star Beast Nest in the region of chaotic space again..."

"Oh? If I didn't remember wrongly, your Wanyun Association obtained no fewer than 10 Myriad Tinted Cloud Talismans from me in recent years. Didn't you guys already free yourself from the Chen Dynasty and establish yourself in our own territory over the sea? Why do you look even more worried now than when you were being targeted by the Chen Dynasty?" Shang Xia gasped softly.

With another soft sigh, Shen Chongshan continued, "You might not have heard, but even though we established ourselves over the sea, we gave up everything we once had. We have to start from scratch again and strengthen our territory!"

Nodding slowly, Shang Xia asked, "Have things been going smoothly?"

Shen Chongshan had a constipated expression on his face as he explained, "Our Wanyuan Association started off as a merchant group, and with our floating island, we could travel the world to do business. We used to possess a pretty good relationship with the smaller powers but since leaving our original base of operations, our connections were greatly damaged. We also lost the ability to make deals with the Chen, Qi, and Yu Dynasties..."

Shang Xia indicated his understanding before he continued, "Well, your Wanyun Association should be great at making new connections, right? It won't be long before you grow strong again."

Shen Chongshan's eyes lit up, but it soon changed to a look of depression as he forced a chuckle, "Ever since we established ourselves over the sea, we thought that everything would pick up easily again. Only after some time did we discover how difficult it would be."

"I don't understand. Does your Wanyun Association only trade within your world? Or do you have more connections outside your world?" Shang Xia frowned and questioned.

Shen Chongshan muttered in a soft voice, "True Immortal Shang, you are very insightful. In the past, our Wanyun Association has always focused on dealing within the Essence Xing World. Even though we tried to interact with powers outside the world, we only started to focus on that after being pressured by the Chen Dynasty. We didn't have too much time to expand on that and we clearly underestimated the influence of the Chen Dynasty who had a Martial Emptiness Sage on the world..."

Shang Xia didn't stop there. "Is something the matter for your Wanyun Association to invite me to your world?"

That was right... Shang Xia's intention when he decided to head over to the Essence Xing World was because he wanted to infiltrate them and fuck them over from within.

He also wanted to try to find a way to grow stronger. He also received multiple invitations from the Wanyun Association and he decided to use it as an excuse to head over.

He originally wanted to sneak in as that would give him the flexibility to do whatever he wanted, but Kou Chongxue recommended that he should make contact with their local faction as soon as possible and establish some sort of cooperation. That would allow him to move around the Essence Xing World legitimately and he might even be able to learn about the overall situation there. At the same time, he could also fight for benefits openly.

Shen Chongshan suddenly turned serious and cupped his fists in Shang Xia's direction. "True Immortal Shang, please help us in establishing our foundations!"

Shang Xia hesitated slightly. "We have been working together for a long time, and logically speaking, we should have formed a basis of trust. However, if I enter your world, I would definitely face some rejection from your World's Will and I would be thankful if I can still keep 70 percent of my abilities. Your Wanyun Association might as well supply me with high-level talisman paper so that I can craft a few more talismans for you. That might be more helpful in your situation."

Shen Chongshan laughed and a mysterious smile appeared on his face. "Who said that you would have to enter our world to help us?"

"What do you mean?" Shang Xia raised an eyebrow in confusion, despite having a guess in his heart.

Shen Chongshan chuckled in response, "Actually, I came here because my Martial Uncle instructed me to tell you that if you agree to help us, we will send a fleet out of the world to establish our trade route in 1 month. I'm the person in charge of the fleet and if you agree, my Martial Uncle will go through the details with you again."

Shang Xia wanted to continue asking, but Shen Chongshan simply stated that he didn't know too much about the intricate details and bid Shang Xia farewell. Before he left, he handed over a spatial artifact saying that it contained proof of their sincerity before rushing off.

He felt a little displeased at the Wanyun Association's intention. His original plan was to enter the Essence Xing World, but he didn't think that they had no intention of inviting him in at all.

However, from what Shen Chongshan revealed, the Wanyun Association was planning something big. Shang Xia was clearly seen as a strong ally for them as they sent Shen Chongshan over to greet him once they heard he had arrived.

Opening the spatial artifact Shen Chongshan left behind, Shang Xia saw 300 high-grade essence crystals neatly arranged within. Even for a high-level True Immortal like Shang Xia, that was a considerable fortune. He could tell how serious the Wanyun Association was with their tribute.

1 month was but a blink of an eye if Shang Xia decided to use the time to cultivate, but Shang Xia didn't wish to do so.

Due to the blessing of the world he received from the Spirit Luxuriant World, his cultivation rose like a rocket. He felt that he had to slow down to consolidate his foundations instead of rushing even more.

*Since I have a month, I should head over to the Essence Xing World to have a look. Even though it's a little rushed, it's enough time to look around. I might even discover something interesting when I'm there...*

Shang Xia thought to himself as he recalled he buried 2 ticking time bombs in the Essence Xing World.

#### *Chapter 1352: Entering the World*

Shang Xia was looking forward to running around in the Essence Xing World, but he didn't forget there were Martial Emptiness Realm Sages there. They might be able to detect his presence after he activated the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman.

As such, he knew that he had to be extra careful when infiltrating the Essence Xing World.

In the past, Kou Chongxue asked about the number of clones he could create and he said he could make 2 second tier True Immortal clones at most. However, that was just a general estimation and he was still holding back.

With his accelerated cultivation and the high-grade essence crystals he received, he hadn't tried to create another clone, but he had a feeling he would be able to. Even though it might just be a first tier True Immortal, he had the Star Origin Lord Robe!

Casually deploying some restrictions to conceal his aura, Shang Xia wore the Star Origin Lord Robe and reached the peak of the fifth tier. Absorbing several dozen high-grade essence crystals, Shang Xia managed to create another clone.

Seeing as his plan succeeded, he didn't hesitate. He handed several treasures to his clone before activating a Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman for the clone to be swallowed by the spatial vortex that formed.

The Earth Star they were on was close enough to the Essence Xing World such that they could see the heavenly screen. As such, using the Six Harmony Teleportation

Talisman could allow him to choose an approximate location of where he wanted to send his clone.

To play safe, Shang Xia used the restrictions he placed on True Immortal Yu and True Immortal Kang to get an approximate spot close to the Yu and Qi Dynasties.

His clone arrived on a majestic mountain range with towering peaks and the first thing he noticed was the density of the heaven and earth qi in the Essence Xing World. He also discovered that the void was a lot sturdier than in the Spirit Luxuriant World. The rejection from the World's Will was also so strong that his clone was nearly crushed under the pressure.

He was in no rush to run away immediately. Instead, his clone found somewhere close by and transformed his aura before observing the spot he was once in.

The moment he left, he felt a powerful soul sweeping over the region. It was like a powerful tide that covered the mountain range. It paused for a second on the spot where Shang Xia's clone appeared before continuing on its way.

Shang Xia's clone didn't do anything as he remained motionless in his hiding spot. He concealed his aura to the extreme and continued to watch.

Even though the soul swept over the region and didn't detect Shang Xia's clone, he felt completely suffocated when it arrived.

Shang Xia felt Zhuo Gudao's divine soul in the past and his clone was completely certain that compared to the powerful soul that arrived earlier, Zhuo Gudao's divine soul was comparable to a tiny drop of water if that was a mighty lake.

That was the soul of a Martial Emptiness Realm Sage!

If a Sage could really detect the use and location he ended up after using the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman, Shang Xia's clone couldn't help but worry. The soul might have inspected the area causally and didn't lock on to his location, but his clone couldn't tell if his whereabouts had already been exposed!

According to his general understanding of the Essence Xing World and the location he chose, the powerful soul earlier should have come from Yu Tang, the Martial Emptiness Realm Sage of the Yu Dynasty!

Shang Xia's clone still didn't dare to move for a long time despite not feeling anything strange in the area. Since he alerted Yu Tang, he felt that Sage Qi Jing of the Qi Dynasty should have also discovered his arrival.

One had to know that Qi Jing was the strongest cultivator of the Essence Xing World and possessed the strongest foundations.

As he continued to wait, Shang Xia didn't feel the presence of another soul sweeping through the area. It really felt as though Qi Jing didn't notice his intrusion!

*Did he really not notice?!*

Shang Xia's clone found it unbelievable and tried to inspect his surroundings while staying concealed.

A moment later, he noticed 2 True Immortals rushing over from the direction of the Yu Dynasty but no one from the Qi Dynasty.

As the 2 of them arrived, they started to stroll around as though they were out for a leisure outing. They inspected the mountain range several times before turning into streaks of light that returned to the Yu Dynasty.

Shang Xia's clone still thought that they were up to something and he remained hidden for another day. When he felt some assurance no one would be coming back, he carefully crawled out from his hiding spot.

He suddenly thought about a memory his true body had about the rumor that Qi Jing was about to reach the end of his lifespan.

*Are the rumors actually true?!*

The strongest Martial Emptiness Realm expert of the Essence Xing World, who was also the oldest, had already reached a point where he couldn't even detect the intrusion of a True Immortal... That would truly be an important piece of intelligence he had to relay to his true body.

Whatever it was, Shang Xia's clone was influenced by Shang Xia's caution and he continued with the next part of their infiltration plan. Shang Xia's clone didn't immediately help to guide his true body into the Essence Xing World. Instead, he used a Five Element Teleportation Talisman and disappeared from his original spot. When he reappeared, he was in a dense forest thousands of miles away.

If the spot he once was had been placed under observation, his activation of the rank five talisman would definitely disrupt their plans.

He wasn't surprised by the fact that he only traveled within the continent. From his true body's memories, a peak-tier Spirit World had 24 continents, and all of them needed to be 10,000 miles wide at the very least. They could also hold 9 Elysiums. An Essence World was much more powerful. They could house 36 continents, and every single continent that reached the state of perfection would be at least 30,000 miles! They could also support a total of 12 Elysiums.

The Essence Xing World might not be considered a peak-tier Essence World, but they weren't weak. They had 33 continents and 11 Elysiums. Every single one of their continents was at least 20,000 miles wide.

Using a Five Element Teleportation Talisman, Shang Xia's clone failed to cross over to another continent, and with how wide the actual mountain range was, he only arrived in another location within it.

Along with the memories of his true body, a spatial gate suddenly opened behind him as Shang Xia quickly arrived.

The Essence Xing World's Will descended immediately upon the entry of a mighty high-level True Immortal, and the scene was pretty interesting. It was like the owner of a house who discovered an intruder in the middle of the night and was screaming at the top of his lungs.

The power of the World's Will that descended when Shang Xia entered was hundreds of times stronger than when his clone arrived.

It wasn't mindless suppression as the World's Will of an Essence World was powerful enough to know that a first tier True Immortal wouldn't be able to do much even if they entered their world. However, the same couldn't be said for a fifth tier True Immortal. An expert at that level had the ability to do very real damage even to an Essence World!

With the descent of the World's Will, Shang Xia knew that he was exposed. Even though he was surprised, he didn't panic.

His aura started to transform immediately and the World's Will suppression became weaker. It was as though it was confused in the first place as the commotion it caused disappeared.

Understanding that he already alerted many existences with the initial disturbance, Shang Xia quickly reabsorbed his clone to learn of everything his clone had experienced earlier.

Along with the activation of a Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman, he chose to move in a specific direction based on a vague feeling he had.

Not too long after he left, a mighty soul arrived from the Yu Continent. This time, it scanned the surrounding ten thousand miles several times before finally disappearing.

By the time it disappeared, Shang Xia had already arrived at a city within the Qi Dynasty tens of thousands of miles northwest of where he was earlier. He disguised himself as a Martial Dipper Realm cultivator who wouldn't be detected easily in the Fengxiang Continent.



The city he was in was called Kang City, and it wasn't a coincidence he chose it. He followed the restriction on True Immortal Kang when choosing a place. True Immortal Kang was a second tier True Immortal, and he was an outer elder of the Phoenix Cry Sect. He was also the patriarch of the Kang Clan, a vassal family of the sect. The city was also named after his clan.

Not too long after he arrived, when he was enjoying delicious food and wine in one of the best restaurants in the city, True Immortal Kang, who was dressed like a rich upstart, rushed into the restaurant while panicking. He plopped himself down opposite Shang Xia and grumbled, "You... Do you know how many people you alerted by coming in? Anyway, the Phoenix Cry Sect and Yang River Sect already guessed that it's you. Elder Feng Nanze specially instructed me to invite you over for a meeting!"

"Oh?" Shang Xia raised an eyebrow and laughed, "This is interesting."

True Immortal Kang immediately avoided eye contact with Shang Xia and muttered in a low voice, "I apologize. My clan relies on me and I didn't reveal your identity or actions. Elder Feng and the others managed to guess it..."

#### *Chapter 1353: Money First, Talk Later*

After Shang Xia left behind the restriction in True Immortal Kang and True Immortal Yu's dantians, he let them leave. Even though he gave them enough reason to explain their actions to their factions, he discovered that his special technique had already been discovered by the experts of their sects when 2 fifth tier True Immortals tried to chase him down back then.

He realized that their end might not be as miserable as he thought it would be. They were supposed to be chess pieces their sects gave up to deal the Chen Dynasty a huge blow, but his actions might have saved their lives.

As for why they were allowed to live... Them providing the identity of the person who stole the Spirit Ark and where it went was probably enough.

That was why the 2 of them had been kept alive and hadn't been used as scapegoats for the incident by their sects!

When True Immortal Kang mentioned the Phoenix Cry Sect and mentioned how Feng Nanze wanted to meet him, Shang Xia wasn't too surprised. Instead, he felt a trace of anticipation.

He might have thought that something like that would happen, which was why he chose to head over to the territory of the Qi Continent.

...

On a canyon a thousand or so miles northwest of Kang City, Shang Xia's clone stared at a snaking lake that was flowing in the southeastern direction.

"Is this lake called Qishui because of the Qi Dynasty?" Shang Xia's clone looked away from the flowing water below. His voice wasn't affected by the powerful rushing water below. However, he seemed to be the only person to be standing above the canyon as he spoke to himself.

As soon as his words fell, a figure who had a head full of black hair but eyebrows that were snow white due to his age appeared nearby. The old expert who arrived gave off the air of an immortal.

"The Qi Dynasty isn't the reason behind its name. It actually gained its name because of Qi Jing." Feng Nanze replied the clone before staring straight at him. "What's the matter? Do you not trust me? Why did you only send a clone over?"

Qi Jing was the Martial Emptiness Realm Sage of the Qi Dynasty and from what Feng Nanze said, it was clear Qi Jing's importance in the Qi Dynasty was paramount. At the same time, by bringing up Qi Jing, it could be noted that Feng Nanze was telling Shang Xia that the Martial Emptiness Realm Sage was the only person he should be afraid of.

Shang Xia's clone had a multitude of thoughts running through his mind, but he replied without missing a beat, "No matter what, this isn't my world. I need to be careful. Elder Feng, I think that you should already know that my arrival has alerted many existences in your world..."

The look of discontent that was originally on Feng Nanze's face disappeared and he quickly revealed a smile. "Fellow cultivator, being cautious is a must. Haha... After all, not only the Qi Dynasty discovered your presence. Even the Yu Dynasty has issued an order to hunt down the high-level True Immortal who infiltrated our world."

"Oh?" Shang Xia's clone raised an eyebrow and asked, "Are they so sure about my cultivation level? What I wish to know is why Sage Yu Tang nearly discovered me twice while there hasn't been any movements from Sage Qi Jing..."

A light flashed through Feng Nanze's eyes and he muttered, "Oh? Isn't that a good thing? Sage Qi Jing is the strongest Martial Emptiness Realm expert in our world. The Qi Dynasty is also the strongest power in our world. If they discovered your presence and decided to hunt you down, I believe you wouldn't be standing here speaking to me right now."

Shang Xia's clone laughed and revealed a soft smile. "Shouldn't your Phoenix Cry Sect be the happiest Sage Qi Jing didn't make a move? At the end of the day, I came here for fun. Since I can enter your world, I am also able to leave whenever I want. It won't matter to me if they try to hunt me down, I'll just run away."

The light in Feng Nanze's eyes grew brighter. "From the looks of it, you seem to know some things about the situation in our world... Please, go ahead and tell me what you think about the state we're in."

"Elder, you're exaggerating. It's the first time we're meeting and you should be telling me more about the state you're in. How can I teach you about your world?" Shang Xia's clone laughed along.

Feng Nanze roared with laughter. "Alright, there's no point in either of us probing each other. I'll get to the point right now. Since you agreed to meet with me, I have a great proposition that will allow you to gain huge amounts of benefits!"

Shang Xia's clone sneered in his heart, but he didn't scoff at the offer out loud. Instead, he asked curiously, "I'm afraid it will also involve great risks, right?"

"Of course! I wonder if you are still interested in joining us?" Feng Nanze didn't deny as his laughter continued.

Shang Xia's clone raised an eyebrow and decided to see what Feng Nanze was up to. "Why don't you tell me what it's about?"

"There's no need to rush into things. We have been talking for a while now, but I don't even know how to address you." Feng Nanze waved his hand and asked.

Shang Xia's clone replied softly, "I come from the Shang Clan."

Slightly taken aback, Feng Nanze quickly gasped in shock, "So it really is True Immortal Shang! Are you actually from the Essence Ping World?"

Shang Xia's clone chuckled softly, "Looks like I'm not exactly an unknown figure in your world!"

Feng Nanze quickly praised, "The moment the Wanyun Association brought out their long lost Myriad Tinted Cloud Talisman, it shocked a greater hand of our world. They only managed to escape from the clutches of the Chen Dynasty because of it and your reputation has been spreading in our world ever since. Our Essence Xing World hasn't produced a rank seven Talisman Master in more than 100 years. The Myriad Tinted Cloud Talisman is the strongest talisman under the seventh rank and that proves your unparalleled skills!"

"Elder, you're too kind..." Shang Xia's clone smiled.

Feng Nanze followed up immediately, "Will I be able to commission Myriad Tinted Cloud Talismans?"

Shang Xia's clone rejected him immediately, "Because of the agreement with the Wanyun Association back then, my true body swore an oath to never trade Myriad Tinted Cloud Talismans with anyone else."

Feng Nanze couldn't help but feel a little disappointed, but he seemed to realize something else. "Does that mean that I can commission any other rank six talisman other than the Myriad Tinted Cloud Talisman?"

"As a Talisman Grandmaster, I wouldn't reject any request for talismans. However, the deal will be set at 3 talisman papers for 1 completed talisman. If you need a new talisman I have not crafted before, or if the talisman is exceptionally complicated, it will cost you more. Depending on the difficulty, you will have to pay up to 7 talisman papers per talisman." Shang Xia's clone explained.

Without losing his composure, Feng Nanze immediately replied, "Of course, that is to be expected. It's great to hear that you agree to craft talismans for us..."

Shang Xia was able to craft Myriad Tinted Cloud Talismans, and he succeeded more than once. That would mean that his skills were already comparable to a pseudo rank seven Talisman Grandmaster.

Feng Nanze knew exactly how talented one had to be for that to happen. With Shang Xia's technique, as long as he didn't die randomly, it was more than likely he would become a mighty rank seven Talisman Grandmaster!

To gain the friendship of a rank seven Talisman Grandmaster, there was no price too high for the Phoenix Cry Sect to pay!

Returning to the topic at hand, Shang Xia quickly understood what the Phoenix Cry Sect wanted his help with. They actually wanted him to assassinate someone!

As the strongest dynasty in the Essence Xing World with the deepest foundations, the Qi Dynasty had the largest territory in their world. Of the 33 continents of their world, the Qi Dynasty controlled 9 of them!

In order to maintain their control over the continents, the Qi Dynasty stationed a high-level True Immortal envoy in each of them. At the same time, they would command the experts of the continents as they saw fit. With their strength, they also had the ability to suppress the continent they were in charge of.

Feng Nanze actually wanted to invite Shang Xia to assassinate a fourth tier True Immortal of the Tong Continent, Qi Hua!

Just by hearing his name, Shang Xia could tell that he was a direct descendant of the Qi Dynasty's royal family. Even though his cultivation wasn't anything special since it was only at the fourth tier, he definitely had the protection of the true experts of the Qi

Dynasty! Be it the secret techniques he trained, weapons, or special treasures... He definitely wasn't lacking any.

An expert like that would be difficult to kill for any experts of the same level, and Shang Xia didn't know why the Phoenix Cry Sect wanted him dead. Could it be just to weaken the Qi Dynasty?

Feng Nanze could see the confusion Shang Xia was feeling and he continued to explain, "The Tong Continent is beside the Fengxiang Continent. The Tong Continent is also at the border of the Qi Dynasty's influence. The Huang Continent further out is extremely desolate and it's also where the Ancient Gorge Sect established their Elysium..."

Hearing Feng Nanze's explanation, Shang Xia seemed to understand what they wanted to do.

Killing the envoy of the Qi Dynasty in the Tong Continent would weaken their control over it. They planned to use it to probe the attitude of the Qi Dynasty, and they might even plan to take over the Tong Continent depending on how things play out.

Feng Nanze might also have brought up the Huang Continent and the Ancient Gorge Sect to show that the Phoenix Cry Sect wasn't the only one behind the operation. The Ancient Gorge Sect might also be secretly backing the operation.

*Maybe... The Phoenix Cry Sect wanted to place the blame onto the Ancient Gorge Sect after it's done...*

Shang Xia thought of many possibilities, but he quickly composed himself to ask, "This is the Essence Xing World, and my strength is greatly restricted by the World's Will. I might not be able to kill him..."

"Of course we're not asking you to accomplish it yourself. All we need you to do is to make the final move and end his life." Feng Nanze explained.

Shang Xia gained a general understanding of what they wanted to do with that explanation. They actually only needed someone to blame it on!

"Since you need me to take the blame for this, it will cost you. It will cost you a lot. After all, I will have to take the risk of being hunted down by Martial Emptiness Realm Sages after killing him." Shang Xia's clone chuckled in response.

He had never been one to shy away from asking for more and pushing his luck when he could help it.

Feng Nanze smiled. "True Immortal Shang, weren't you confident of running away even if something happened?"

“Heh, coming back after I escape will be too difficult. I don’t care. You better pay me up front, and you better give me whatever I need.” Shang Xia didn’t back down and he stated casually.

#### *Chapter 1354: Assassination*

Shang Xia didn’t plan on deepening his relationship with the Phoenix Cry Sect too much and the deal he had with Feng Nanze seemed superficial at best. As such, he wanted to get his hands on the most benefits possible.

Also, according to Feng Nanze’s plan, Shang Xia could tell that the Phoenix Cry Sect was scheming something big. He wasn’t afraid of pissing them off either and he was sure the Phoenix Cry Sect wouldn’t dare to fall out with him because he asked for more benefits. The more he asked for, the more he would receive.

Feng Nanze might not be satisfied with Shang Xia’s reaction, but the truth was exactly as Shang Xia had thought. He wasn’t willing to continue wasting time negotiating with Shang Xia and he simply paid the price.

Without even mentioning other spiritual treasures, Feng Nanze handed over 20 top-grade essence crystals. Those alone would be comparable to 20 Martial Dipper Realm experts in the Tongyou Institution.

Of course, that was if they thought about it in the best case scenario.

Other than those top-grade essence crystals, there were many types of spiritual treasures and even some that were useful for True Immortals.

They also provided a complete rank six talisman inheritance called the Golden Phoenix Leaving Flame Talisman. It was a powerful offensive type talisman and the number of talismans Shang Xia knew increased yet again.

The Qi Dynasty controlled 9 continents and for them to station a high-level True Immortal in every one of them would mean that they had at least 9 high-level True Immortals. Their strength and foundations were clearly terrifying.

Other than those True Immortals, there was still the Qi Dynasty Emperor who was most likely at the level of Returning to the Origin.

No one knew how many True Immortals they actually had other than that. Whatever it was, Feng Nanze still felt that they had several True Immortals hidden among their ranks.

Among the 9 continents the Qi Dynasty controlled, the Tong Continent was ranked among the weaker ones. Even so, it was at least 20,000 miles wide. Among the various continents of the Essence Xing World, it would rank slightly above average. At the very

least, those border continents or desolate powers wouldn't be able to match up to them. For example, the Huang Continent they bordered.

"The World Origin Source connected to the Tong Continent would be suppressed when the time comes and True Immortal Qi Hua's ability to wield its power would also be limited. Once he becomes unable to fully control the power of the continent, True Immortal Shang, you can make your move."

Shang Xia understood the general plan they were going to use to assassinate the fourth tier True Immortal of the Qi Dynasty after his explanation and he became even more sure of his conjecture.

Shang Xia learned that the envoys sent out by the Qi Dynasty to the various continents had access to Seventh order energy, and he was actually fully against the idea of assassinating Qi Hua.

However, Feng Nanze reassured him time and time again and was even willing to share the entire plan they would use to kill Qi Hua, and Shang Xia finally agreed reluctantly.

He might have agreed, but he made it clear that the moment he discovered Qi Hua using Seventh Order energy or if the suppression of the World Origin Source weakened, not only would he not make his move, he would escape from the Essence Xing World immediately.

He also brought up another request. It was to complete the entire operation within a month. Otherwise, he would also leave and that there was no room for negotiation in terms of timeline.

The Phoenix Cry Sect had no issues with that. Since they found someone to do the dirty work for them, they could put the plan they had been preparing for a long time into motion.

...

Shang Xia's clone remained in constant contact with Feng Nanze in order to iron out all the details of their assassination process and his true body was nowhere to be seen. No one knew where he ran off too and even though Feng Nanze knew that he had already infiltrated the Tong Continent he didn't know anything more than that.

At the same time, in the Qi Dynasty Envoy Manor in the Tong Continent, True Immortal Qi Hua was extremely vexed about the constant activities of the Ancient Gorge Sect.

As a direct descendant of the Qi Dynasty, he might be from a distant branch, but he was still a high-level True Immortal and a mighty expert. The support he received from the dynasty was massive.

He was full of mettle when he took on the role of the Qi Dynasty's envoy in the Tong Continent. He wanted to prove himself and he unleashed constant attacks on the desolate Huang Continent in order to strengthen their influence in the region. The Ancient Gorge Sect was hit the hardest under his orders and they retreated again and again in order to try to keep the peace. However, the Qi Dynasty continued to press further into the Huang Continent and True Immortal Qi Hua's prestige rose along with it. His position among the envoys of the Qi Dynasty ranked in the top 3, and he was only second to those who had reached the fifth tier of the Martial Void Realm.

Everything turned on its head in recent years. True Immortal Qi Hua realized that it was getting more and more difficult to arrange for assistance from within the dynasty and everyone became a lot less serious when dealing with him.

That wasn't all. The Huang Continent was no longer backing off and they were even starting to fight back. They were comparable in strength compared to True Immortal Qi Hua's forces.

As time continued to pass, Qi Hua felt his control over the Tong Continent gradually weakening. His subordinates who used to follow his every order started to show signs of disobedience.

He became extremely demoralized as time passed and he started to change his approach. From his usual proactive attitude when it came to expanding the Qi Dynasty's territory, he changed to defending the Tong Continent, and the expanded territory was completely lost.

It wasn't as though he didn't think about reporting the situation of the Tong Continent back to the higher-ups of the Qi Dynasty. However, be it the emperor or his superior in the dynasty, everyone told him to protect the Tong Continent and not care about anything else. They even instructed him to no longer attack others without proper orders.

Everything seemed to point towards the rumor that Sage Qi Jing had reached the end of his lifespan!

Sitting in his cultivation chamber, Qi Hua frowned.

The grand formation deployed in the Tong Continent by the dynasty could allow him to control Seventh Order energy and as the envoy of the dynasty, he even had the authority to use it to cultivate.

If he cultivated using the energy, not only could he grow stronger. He could even gain better control over the Tong Continent.

As a descendant of the Qi Dynasty, Qi Hua managed to control a continent once he became a high-level True Immortal.



Since he had control of the continent, he could draw on their World Origin Source to cultivate and his cultivation rose sharply in the 20 to 30 years he was stationed there. He felt that it wouldn't be long before he could enter the fifth tier.

However... Earlier, his cultivation was interrupted as he felt an outside power stealing world origin from the World Origin Source connected to the Tong Continent.

He had long since gotten used to the disturbance and felt that it was most likely because the Huang Continent unleashed yet another attack.

He wasn't wrong. It didn't take long before someone yelled from outside his cultivation chamber, "Lord envoy, the border sent news that the members of the Ancient Gorge Sect launched another attack!"

Qi Hua's voice boomed through the air. "Send news to True Immortals Zhao, Yuan, Gong, and Xue who are defending the border. Tell them to use their battle formation to ensure the border remains safe. Do not care about their provocation. Those bastards will leave after realizing they can't gain anything."

"Lord... Something seems different this time. The Ancient Gorge Sect seems to be playing for real. True Immortal Yuan sent news that he felt the aura of a high-level True Immortal appearing on the other side and True Immortal Xue sent a report saying that Fan Changchuan might have left the Ancient Gorge Elysium."

"WHAT?!" Qi Hua yelled as he emerged from his cultivation chamber. He growled in a low voice, "Those pieces of shit. I didn't go looking for trouble and they came to mess with me. Do they really think I won't kill anyone just because I've been laying low in recent years?!"

"Lord, are you..."

"Activate the formation!" Qi Hua grunted. "This time, we're going to hit them for real. Do they really think I'm a joke? The old ancestor of our Qi Dynasty is still around!"

The subordinate who came to make the report gasped and lowered his head before leaving.

Qi Hua also left the courtyard as the formations around the manor started to activate. The World Origin Source connected to the Tong Continent started to boil as waves after waves of power started to superimpose on each other. Qi Hua's aura started to rise with it as dense heaven and earth qi gathered and formed a powerful heavenly phenomenon above the Guanxing City of the Tong Continent.

In the city, a banner wielding wandering doctor stared at the heavenly phenomenon rushing in the northwestern direction.

“Oh? The Qi Dynasty Envoy Manor is definitely the key to his control over the World Origin Source...” Shang Xia, who was using his usual disguise, didn’t follow Qi Hua as he rushed out of the city. Instead, he stared at the manor that was heavily defended even without the presence of their high-level True Immortal.

“Assassinating a fourth tier True Immortal Envoy of the Qi Dynasty who can control Seventh Order energy...” Shang Xia chuckled to himself suddenly. “All of us know what the consequences will be... Heh, why shouldn’t I let this play out and mess the situation up all the way?”

Holding the banner in his hand, Shang Xia gently pressed his glabella as he felt the Crimson Soul Tablet thumping in his sea of consciousness. It seemed to be expressing its excitement as Shang Xia felt that the assassination attempt was getting more and more interesting.

#### *Chapter 1355: Assassination Pt.2*

If they followed Feng Nanze’s plan, the best place for Shang Xia to make his move was when in the Qi Dynasty Envoy Manor. The World Origin Source connected to the Tong Continent would be restrained and Qi Hua would lose the ability to control Seventh Order energy when the Phoenix Cry Sect made their move.

Of course, he had to complete the assassination before Qi Hua returned to the manor!

The reason was simple. Once Qi Hua returned to the manor, he would be able to communicate directly with the World Origin Source. With the powerful layers of formation protecting the manor, not only would he be well protected, he would also be able to regain control of the World Origin Source from whatever they pulled.

Once that happened, he would be able to regain his control over the Seventh Order energy and their plan would fall through.

The second True Immortal Qi Hua regained control of his Seventh Order energy, even if he couldn’t use it to attack anyone, no one would be able to do anything to him or the Tong Continent.

Unless the Phoenix Cry Sect was willing to reveal their intention to leave the control of the Qi Dynasty and activate the Seventh Order energy they could control... Oh right, Feng Nanze was also an envoy of the Qi Dynasty and he controlled the Fengxiang Continent. Unless he was ready to reveal his intention of breaking free from the Qi Dynasty and using their ability against themselves, dealing with Qi Hua who wielded Seventh Order energy was going to be impossible.

Of course... If they were to go all out and collude with the Ancient Gorge Sect, taking over the Tong Continent would be a piece of cake. Especially with Shang Xia, a fifth tier True Immortal, waiting to strike Qi Hua right outside his home.

If that was what they were planning, there was no way Feng Nanze would pay such a huge price for Shang Xia to make a move.

Whatever it was, no matter how much they schemed, they wouldn't imagine Shang Xia had such a mystical treasure like the Crimson Soul Tablet that could mess up their plans completely.

### *Assassinating Qi Hua?*

To Shang Xia, assassinating Qi Hua was just something he was going to do in passing. His true goal was to plunder the World Origin Source connected to the Tong Continent!

Be it the Phoenix Cry Sect or the Ancient Gorge Sect, their goal was to obtain control of the Tong Continent and expand their influence. Shang Xia's intention was to plunder the World Origin Source and steal the world origin of the Essence Xing World!

Since he agreed to kill Qi Hua, he was going to fulfill it. However, he was going to choose when, where, and how he did it!

Shang Xia didn't show any signs of impatience when he saw Qi Hua rushing out of the manor while wielding Seventh Order energy.

If he wasn't mistaken, Feng Nanze and the rest were confident of obtaining control over the World Origin Source. Having an inside contact was the most obvious way they were going to do it.

The envoy manor was where Qi Hua's ability to control Seventh Order energy came from and if they wanted to obtain control of the World Origin Source, their spy had to already be inside!

10,000 miles away, True Immortal Qi Hua arrived at the border between the Tong Continent and the Huang Continent while wielding his Seventh Order energy.

When they noticed his appearance, the high-level True Immortal of the Ancient Gorge Sect also wielded Seventh Order energy and immediately rushed into combat. Both sides were locked in a stalemate.

If things were like how they were before, the Qi Hua would be able to quickly receive support from the Qi Dynasty. They might even be able to quickly receive support from True Immortals of the Qi Dynasty from the other continents to obtain the upper hand.

However, with Qi Jing's decline and the situation in the Qi Dynasty no longer being as stable as before, it was impossible for True Immortal Qi Hua to obtain help quickly.

Facing the Ancient Gorge Sect with the power he controlled in the Tong Continent was a tall task, but Qi Hua was an experienced expert. He had long since established many

fortresses around the border region heavily reinforced with layers of formations. With the formation systems reinforcing each other, they formed a massive defensive system.

With it, the Tong Continent remained safe against the aggression of the Ancient Gorge Sect.

As Qi Hua wielded Seventh Order energy and personally arrived on the battlefield, strange fluctuations happened in the World Origin Source.

A foreign power seemed to be vying for control over the World Origin Source, and it was showing signs of going out of control.

*Who... Who is it this time?!*

Qi Hua was enraged by the sudden disturbance. The situation happened more than once, but in the past, they would stop as soon as he moved to suppress it. The people who tried to control the World Origin Source back then seemed afraid to reveal themselves and would quickly back off.

This time, the mysterious expert actually tried again! It was as though they were making use of the unrest to achieve their goal. Moreover, the Ancient Gorge Sect's offensive grew in intensity as it happened.

Attacking them openly at the border and a sneak attack from within...

*Have they already reached a state where they dare to do this so openly?*

*Is it the Phoenix Cry Sect or is it the Western Transformation Sect?*

Qi Hua wondered as he continued to deal with the threat before him. Facing the intense offensive from the Ancient Gorge Sect, he fell into a disadvantage and looked to be in a pretty sorry state.

What was even worse was that because he was held down at the border, he could only watch as the World Origin Source of the Tong Continent slowly slipped out of his control. His ability to wield Seventh Order energy fell proportionally.

If the situation continued to turn against him, he might just lose his ability to wield Seventh Order energy altogether and the control of the World Origin Source with it.

His main purpose in being stationed in the Tong Continent was to control the World Origin Source and whatever territory he could protect. As such, he made up his mind to retreat. He gave the order for the other True Immortals to hold the line with whatever they could as he shook his opponent off to rush back to the Guanxing City.

Song Bufeng, who was the fifth tier True Immortal of the Ancient wielding Seventh Order energy to fight Qi Hua, didn't care about the exhaustion to the World Origin Source connected to the Huang Continent and crossed the border. Despite being weakened when he did so, he wanted to delay Qi Hua as much as he could.

At the same time, he seemed to be watching his surroundings as though waiting for something to happen.

Watching how Qi Hua was still heading back without the assassin coming, he felt that he had been tricked!

Rather than being angry at how the agreed upon assassination didn't happen, he was more afraid that he had been double crossed and realized he had to get away from the Tong Continent as soon as possible!

Without hesitation, he retreated. He didn't care if Qi Hua was an arrow at the end of his flight or if he looked utterly exhausted. He chose to return to the Huang Continent.

Qi Hua didn't know why Song Bufeng would leave when he already obtained the upper hand, but he heaved a sigh of relief nonetheless.

Seeing as he was about to return, he knew that as long as he stepped foot into Guanxing City, he would be able to personally control the protection formations. When that happened, he would be safe and so would the Tong Continent. Once he returned to the continent and controlled the World Origin Source, he would regain control of it and expel the foreign power trying to mess with them.

That wasn't all. He was also sure he would be able to uncover who was trying to steal control of the World Origin Source. The moment he made the report to the Qi Dynasty, the power behind the plot wouldn't be able to escape.

Returning to the city without obstructions, he discovered that the protection formations around the city were completely intact. He heaved another sigh of relief after realizing no one infiltrated during the time he was away.

Temporarily getting rid of the Seventh Order energy he was trying too hard to control. He quickly entered the Qi Dynasty Envoy Manor.

Everything looked like it was operating perfectly on the surface and he couldn't see anything strange with his subordinates. What was more, the grand formation in the center of the manor was operating normally.

Seeing as it was an external source trying to fight for control for the World Origin Source without affecting the grand formation, it had to be another vassal of the Qi Dynasty.

He decided to get to the bottom of the matter and uncover their identity.

As the thought flashed through his mind, he suddenly discovered a small portion of the World Origin Source that they had been fighting over disappeared.

It wasn't as though the other side managed to gain control over it. The portion of the World Origin Source he detected simply disappeared, as though it was never there in the first place!

*What the fuck just happened?!*

Unable to think too much about what happened, he rushed into his cultivation chamber without a care in the world. It was where he could connect with the World Origin Source, and it was the best place he could use to regain control of the World Origin Source.

Since the manor was operating normally, he wasn't too concerned about putting up his defenses. When he rushed into the room only to see a foreign cultivator standing at the core of the formation, he was stunned.

"Who... Who the hell are you?!" Qi Hua roared. He also realized something was wrong and tried to retreat, but a thin formless wall suddenly formed outside the room as the banner around the strange cultivator started to expand. It separated the room from the rest of the world and stopped his retreat and connection with the World Origin Source.

He wasn't too concerned by the sudden severing of his connection with the World Origin Source when he saw what was happening in front of him. The aura of an unfamiliar expert filled the room, and it started to rise rapidly. The World's Will which was supposed to suppress foreign existences didn't seem to be working too well as he saw the expert growing stronger by the second.

Clearly, the formless wall that appeared from the transformation of the banner was a special treasure that could isolate the space from the world around them!

Realizing he couldn't escape easily, Qi Hua didn't bother running. Instead, he decided to rush towards the foreign expert while drawing power from the core of the formation. He formed a seal with his hands and slammed it against the strange expert he was facing.

However... As soon as he formed the seal, he discovered a cape-like treasure shining in starlight swirling over the foreign expert. The aura around him grew even stronger, and it stepped into the level of Returning to the Origin.

The foreign expert moved a lot faster than him and as he reached the limit of his strength a pristine white Stone Rod that shone like jade appeared in his hands. It swung heavily at Qi Hua without the slightest hesitation.

*Thump...*

A dull blast rang through the air as the Qi Dynasty Envoy Manor and the Guanxing City trembled.

Qi Hua, who just formed his seal, was stuck in his position and he didn't even manage to send it out. It was as though he was frozen in space.

*Chapter 1356: Accidental Gain*

Shang Xia's entry to the Qi Dynasty Envoy Manor couldn't be simpler. He threw some of his Six Direction Qi as a mark on the servants who were moving in and out of the manor and once they entered, he activated a Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman to bypass the strong defenses of the manor.

That was how useful the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman was!

After controlling the servant after entering the manor, Shang Xia learned about Qi Hua's daily routine and got him to point out 2 other servants who usually served Qi Hua.

He quickly marked them both with his divine soul and he didn't hesitate to use another Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman to arrive at their spot undetected while they were cleaning up Qi Hua's residence. As soon as he arrived, he controlled both of them immediately.

Learning about Qi Hua's cultivation chamber from both of them, he understood that the secret chamber was also where the core of the formation of the manor was and it was where he would be able to communicate with the World Origin Source.

He didn't hesitate to use 2 Six Harmony Teleportation Talismans in order to locate the core of the formation, and if he counted the number of talismans he used while infiltrating the Essence Xing World, he already used up 4 Six Harmony Teleportation Talismans and 1 Five Element Teleportation Talisman.

Fortunately, he was a rank six Talisman Grandmaster, and in the Essence Xing World, he was even regarded as a pseudo rank seven Talisman Grandmaster! That was how he could use so many high-level talismans!

If it was anyone else, even if they were a high-level True Immortal from a large sect, their hearts would probably bleed if they used 4 rank six talismans so easily.

By that time, Shang Xia had already arrived at the cultivation chamber and there was clearly no way to retreat.

Casually inspecting the restrictions outside of the cultivation chamber, Shang Xia discovered something strange. The World Origin Source connected to the Tong Continent was already being plundered by someone! Moreover, the people stealing world origin seemed to be having a great time as they were not obstructed by anything.

For their progress to be so smooth, they had to possess some sort of treasure that allowed them to do so.

“There really is a spy in the Qi Dynasty Envoy Manor... It’s even someone who can enter and leave Qi Hua’s cultivation chamber with ease...” Shang Xia muttered to himself as his gaze landed on the servant beside him.

From what he could feel, the servants were mortals who didn’t cultivate. When he controlled them, he didn’t feel any trace of inner qi in them and there was no way they were concealing it from him

With his thoughts spinning, Shang Xia suddenly realized something.

*Who said that a mortal couldn’t be their spy?*

*Maybe, no one would suspect them and that’s why they were chosen...*

After thinking about it, he made a gesture and grabbed a mat that had been placed on the floor in the middle of the cultivation chamber.

The servants he controlled had already regained their senses by then, but they couldn’t move a muscle. They naturally couldn’t speak either. However, when he grabbed the mat, he noticed a look of terror on one of their faces as if he was trying to look for a way out. The other was rather calm, but his gaze was fixed on the mat.

Shang Xia chuckled to himself but his tone was extremely cold as he spoke again. “Speak. Who placed this mat in the cultivation chamber?”

The servant who had a terrified look on his face wanted to say something, and as he opened his mouth, he discovered he could speak again. He quickly explained, “This... This has been there all along! I don’t know anything! Please, spare me... Please...”

Falling onto his knees, he stared at the ground as Shang Xia looked at the other servant. “Looks like you should be able to tell me what I want.”

The second servant’s voice trembled, but he tried his best to remain calm. “I don’t know what you’re talking about! This is the envoy manor and since you dare to force your way into this place, you will be discovered soon! When that happens, you won’t be able to keep your little life...”

“Being able to speak like this in front of me... Looks like you’re the person I’m looking for!” Shang Xia interrupted the person before he could finish and he glanced at the other person kneeling on the ground. “To have a mental state stronger than ordinary people... This is what happens when you interact with strong experts frequently. Your calmness is what gave you away!”



“So that’s it...” The mortal forced a chuckle before no longer speaking. It was as though he had resigned to his fate.

“So... You seem like you don’t know what will happen to you. Qi Hua is too arrogant to notice you. Otherwise, how will you be able to do something like this right beneath his nose?” Shang Xia snorted coldly after speaking.

The servant felt as though Shang Xia slammed a sledgehammer into his sea of consciousness as his thoughts fell into disarray.

“Speak. Did you place this mat in the room?” Shang Xia asked casually.

“Yes...” The servant replied with his voice shaking.

“Did someone let you in here to place this mat?” Shang Xia continued to ask.

“Yes... Yes... Ahhhhh!” As he replied, he felt something in his mind twisting as he shook his head as hard as he could. It was as though he wanted to shake his head off his shoulders.

Shang Xia pressed his palm against the servant’s head and mumbled, “Alright, there’s no need to think so hard anymore. You don’t need to reply me either.”

His voice seemed to sink directly into the servant’s sea of consciousness, causing the trembling in his brain to slow down. The twisted look on his face also dissipated and he sank into a strange state of calm again.

“Alright, another question. Why did you agree to do it?” Shang Xia tried a simpler question.

“Mister Lu promised to teach my son... Urgh...” With his eyes bulging out of his sockets, he fell to the ground and no longer uttered a sound.

“Heh... Mister Lu?” Shang Xia looked at the dead servant and sighed, “I apologize for activating the restriction in your mind and causing you to die right now. I was planning to let you live for a few more days...”

The other servant had already fainted from fright. After dealing with the both of them, Shang Xia casually grabbed one of their robes and dressed in it before heading to the center of the cultivation chamber where the mat originally was.

As that was the location connected to the World Origin Source, Qi Hua should have placed several restrictions around it. However, Shang Xia didn’t seem to care as he sauntered into it.

As soon as he entered, his Six Direction Qi swept across the room and destroyed any restriction within.

Obviously, Shang Xia's actions alerted the members in the manor and a figure soon arrived outside. "What's the matter?! You guys don't have cultivation... How did you activate Lord Qi Hua's restrictions?"

The door slowly opened, but there was no reaction from within.

The person who arrived raised his eyebrow and muttered to himself, "What the hell is going on? Was it just an accident? Yeah... Those mortal servants won't be able to survive if they truly activated the formation."

After he spoke, he turned to look in the direction Qi Hua left last time and made up his mind to walk into the chamber. "Whatever. After this, no one knows if he's going to live anyway. I completed my mission and there's no need for me to remain in the Tong Continent."

Once he was done, he stepped into the cultivation chamber for a last check and saw a servant standing in the center of the room.

"?! Who are you?!" The person gasped in shock and quickly raised his guard. His aura started to rise rapidly and his original cultivation realm at the Martial Dipper Realm reached the Martial Void Realm.

"Mister Lu?" Shang Xia glanced at the person who entered with a look of disdain.

"How... How do you... Who the hell are you? Why are you here?" Mister Lu's expression changed and he seemed to have guessed something before quickly asking cautiously.

Shang Xia laughed casually as a strange light flashed in his eyes after observing Mister Lu's reaction. "Don't you have your guesses?"

A look of understanding crossed Mister Lu's eyes and he grunted in a low voice, "I didn't think that a high-level True Immortal like yourself would be commanded by Emperor Qi... Looks like Emperor Qi still doesn't trust the likes of us."

Shang Xia felt that things were really getting interesting after hearing the misunderstanding. He decided to play along. "Do you think you guys are worthy of trust?"

Mister Lu's expression sank and he muttered, "Hmph, this matter does not affect Emperor Qi's plan. We didn't go against the agreement anyway. As for this Void Draining Mat... It's just a treasure that can absorb some world origin from the edges of the World Origin Source. All we wanted was a bit of benefits. It's not going overboard at all..."

Shang Xia tried to keep the mat into his spatial artifact earlier and failed, and he knew that it was something special. As such, he didn't plan on giving it back. "Since I discovered your plan, I'll keep this treasure safe for you."

Mister Lu's voice sank. "Are you really not planning to be flexible? Aren't you afraid I will go public with this so that it can be judged fairly?"

Shang Xia maintained his nonchalant attitude, but he still wished to hear more information from the other side. He sneered, "Heh, you can try!"

Seeing the cold smile on Shang Xia's face, Mister Lu shot him a profound gaze before sighing softly, "The patriarch's guess was right... Emperor Qi is only a step away from entering the Martial Emptiness Realm, right?! I didn't think that he would be able to hide it from the rest of the world... It's no wonder news of Sage Qi Jing's exhausted lifespan would spread so quickly... It's so that you guys can uncover everyone with bad intentions. It's a shame those Elysiums have no idea. They were still thinking of how to steal the dynasty's thousand years of foundations and they would probably fight for all the benefits only for Emperor Qi to sweep them all up in the end... Let's hope Emperor Qi will uphold the promise made to my sect and help us to become the 12th Elysium of our Essence Xing World."

#### *Chapter 1357: Devouring the World Origin Source*

Recalling several years ago when Shang Xia first heard about the conflict between the various powers in the Essence Xing World and the 3 dynasties, They said something about the Chen Dynasty Emperor being at the peak of the Martial Void Realm and was trying to enter the Martial Emptiness Realm while the emperors of the Qi and Yu Dynasties were at the level of Returning to the Origin.

It had only been a few years, but Shang Xia was hearing something completely different from the mysterious Mister Lu before him. He was learning that the Qi Dynasty Emperor wasn't at the level of Returning to the Origin, and he was actually a step away from the Martial Emptiness Realm! Also, from what he was hearing, the Qi Dynasty Emperor was very likely to succeed!

*Heh... The Essence Xing World is really full of dangers.*

The Chen Dynasty Emperor was planning to remove his soul from the world so as not to be bound to it anymore.

Qi Jing, the old ancestor of the Qi Dynasty was said to be reaching the end of his lifespan, but the Qi Dynasty Emperor was no idler. It seemed that he would actually advance before the Chen Dynasty Emperor.

Since both emperors had always been hiding some shocking secret and their cultivation realm, Shang Xia felt the Yu Dynasty Emperor was definitely also very suspicious.

“Have you thought of where to establish your Elysium?” Shang Xia asked suddenly.

Slightly taken aback, Mister Lu mumbled, “Didn’t we already set the location with Emperor Qi...”

With his eyes widening in shock, a chilly gaze flashed through them and he yelled, “You’re not Emperor Qi’s men! Who the hell are you!”

Even though he was asking the question, he had already started to escape. At the same time, he started to activate a talisman.

Shang Xia was originally only planning to scam more information out of the mysterious Mister Lu. He understood he fucked up when Mister Lu’s eyes widened in shock earlier.

Seeing how Mister Lu wanted to run, Shang Xia sighed softly and released his Six Direction Qi. It rushed like an endless tide towards Mister Lu.

As a pseudo rank seven Talisman Grandmaster, Shang Xia knew better than anyone else how to disrupt the activation of his talisman.

Mister Lu’s talisman was about to take effect when half of its power disappeared. Whatever was unleashed couldn’t threaten Shang Xia in the slightest.

His domain was as weak as paper under the constant burst of Shang Xia’s Six Direction Qi, and as a mere first tier True Immortal, Mister Lu was immediately crushed.

“You... You’re actually from another world...” Mister Lu grunted with his final breaths.

Shang Xia chuckled coldly before suppressing the explosion of inner qi after Mister Lu’s death. He managed to contain it so well that not even those outside could feel the disturbance.

After retrieving Mister Lu’s spatial artifact and treasures he left behind, Shang Xia spoke in a low voice, as though to the dead Mister Lu. “I’m afraid what you’re planning to ask at the end is how I am not suppressed by the World’s Will even though I’m from another world, right? Actually... Hahaha, the suppression should be really strong.”

From the time he stepped foot into the room to the time he died, Mister Lu didn’t notice that the entire room was covered in a thin veil made from a strange banner.

Inside, the suppression by the World’s Will on Shang Xia was extremely weak and it was more than enough for him to reveal fighting strength at the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm.

To put it another way, Shang Xia killed Mister Lu silently without even using his full strength.

After dealing with Mister Lu, Shang Xia glanced in the northwestern direction and muttered in a low voice, "Oh... I need to speed things up a little. I'm afraid the envoy can feel that something is wrong and is trying to return..."

After he spoke, he waved the banner again and hid it in the void around the room.

The fragment of the heavenly screen of the Spirit Abundance World was able to create a barrier that shielded him from being suppressed by the World's Will of the Essence Xing World, but only to a certain extent. No matter what, the heavenly screen fragment came from a Spirit World but had to contend against the World's Will of an Essence World.

As such, being able to reveal the strength of an expert at the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm was already impressive.

However, when Shang Xia killed Mister Lu, the World Origin Source connected to the Tong Continent was being attacked by many different parties from different directions. The World's Will influence on the Tong Continent was greatly weakened and Shang Xia knew that he would be able to reveal a greater level of strength as time passed.

Heading to the center of the room which was connected to the World Origin Source of the Tong Continent, Shang Xia activated the Crimson Soul Tablet. The tablet was thumping with excitement as it started to greedily absorb world origin as the World Origin Source connected to the Tong Continent started to shrink at a speed visible to the naked eye.

One had to know that they were talking about the World Origin Source connected to a continent in an Essence World...

In the past, the Crimson Soul Tablet absorbed world origin from several Spirit Worlds till the point it no longer desired to do so. It was clear that the world origin from a Spirit World wouldn't be affecting the last portion of its recovery.

The cracks on the tablet had been restored some time ago, but it was still cracked within. Even though it was only a little damaged, it was the most difficult part to restore.

With world origin from the Essence Xing World pouring into it, the final bit of damage was slowly being restored.

As the Crimson Soul Tablet continued to absorb world origin, Shang Xia's soul started to integrate itself with the tablet at a deeper level.

After absorbing world origin, the Crimson Soul Tablet would refine it and pass a portion of it to Shang Xia. He didn't waste his chance as he circulated his Six Harmony Flawless Rod Technique to strengthen his cultivation.

His actions was what alarmed Qi Hua to abandon his post and the battle with his opponent at the border in order to return to the city. He also barged into his cultivation chamber without any defenses, attempting to control the situation with the World Origin Source. That was how he stepped into Shang Xia's trap unknowingly.

Since a large amount of world origin had been taken from the World Origin Source connected to the Tong Continent, the World's Will's influence in the Tong Continent dropped slightly and Shang Xia managed to regain strength at the peak of a fourth tier True Immortal.

Even though he was hastening the progress of the absorption, he felt that it wasn't enough despite getting rid of the Seventh Order energy Qi Hua could wield. He also didn't wish to expose his presence in the Essence Xing World and wanted to get rid of his opponent as quickly as possible. When everyone was still panicking, he would flee, lowering the possibility of getting caught.

The second Qi Hua entered the room, he donned the Star Origin Lord Robe, raising his cultivation to the level of Returning to the Origin!

Smashing the Stone Rod in his hand into the ground below, Shang Xia unleashed Void Stabilization. The connection between Qi Hua and the World Origin Source shattered and he fumbled extremely hard. Before he could react, he was restrained by a strange energy. Shang Xia pointed at the space between his eyebrows the next moment, sending a strand of inner qi into his sea of consciousness, unleashing multiple martial intents at the same time. Divine Killing Spear eliminated his soul while his Samsara Nether Blade caused his body to age rapidly. His body turned to ash instantly as his inner qi escaped from his body to form a heavenly phenomenon in the skies.

Shang Xia dealt with Qi Hua without leaving a trace. Even if anyone tried looking for clues in the future, nothing would be linked back to him.

With Qi Hua's death, Shang Xia grabbed all his treasures and decisively gave up absorbing world origin. He immediately activated another Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman and used the marking he left outside the heavenly screen to return to where he once entered the world.

Not long after he left, the heavenly phenomenon caused by his death swept across the continents controlled by the Qi Dynasty. Along with it came the chaos that would cause the situation in the Essence Xing World to change.

Whatever it was, Shang Xia no longer had anything to do with it.

After completing his agreement with the Phoenix Cry Sect, Shang Xia started to take stock of everything he gained in the Earth Star closest to the Essence Xing World. It had barely been tens of days since he arrived when he killed Qi Hua and he wasn't afraid that his presence would be revealed.

According to the agreement they had, the elder of the Phoenix Cry Set couldn't reveal his existence or involvement in any shape of form.

Moreover, Feng Nanze didn't know how the hell he killed Qi Hua and didn't know his whereabouts in the first place.

The treasures he gained from them were nothing compared to the world origin he took.

Even though the time between his intrusion into the World Origin Source and the killing of Qi Hua was short, with his estimation, Shang Xia felt that the Crimson Soul Tablet absorbed a third of the World Origin Source connected to the Tong Continent.

One had to know that it was the World Origin Source of a continent of an Essence World that was greater than 20,000 miles wide. It was much stronger than the Spirit Worlds, and far stronger than Azure Worlds.

With the Crimson Soul Tablet eating its fill, the most direct improvement was the part that was restored. At the same time, Shang Xia's connection with it also improved.

Because of the purification of the world origin by the tablet, world origin would slowly be transformed into something Shang Xia could use and it wouldn't take long for him to improve greatly in terms of his cultivation.

Other than that, something else happened to the Crimson Soul Tablet that Shang Xia needed to verify.

*Chapter 1358: The Formation Blade, The Seal, The Talisman Brush, and The Spiritual Medicine*

With the exception of the transformation it was experiencing after absorbing a third of the World Origin Source connected to the Tong Continent, Shang Xia also gained some benefits from Feng Nanze and those he killed.

He obtained a divine weapon from Mister Lu called the Formation Blade. It was actually something Shang Xia heard more than once from Chu Jia in the past.

The Formation Blade had vast uses in the hands of a Formation Grandmaster. It could be said to be one of the most useful artifacts they could have, but truly high-level Formation Blades were hardly seen.

Not only could it be used to break many formations, but it could also be used to correct some mistakes in formations.

In other words, if a powerful Formation Grandmaster got their hands on a Formation Blade, they could easily shatter or alter any formation they desired.

From the Formation Blade he obtained from Mister Lu, Shang Xia understood why the formations in the manor didn't detect him as he ran around. At the same time, it was highly likely Mister Lu was a powerful Formation Grandmaster.

It was a shame Shang Xia failed to obtain any special inheritance related to formations from him when he died. Otherwise, he would be able to strengthen the foundations of the Formation Hall when he brought it back.

Whatever it was, obtaining the Formation Blade would already be enough to give Chu Jia a pleasant surprise.

As a rank six Formation Grandmaster, Chu Jia not only had a Formation Artifact. Once she obtained the Formation Blade, one could only imagine how terrifying she would become.

Of course, Shang Xia obtained even more treasures from Qi Hua. His high-grade spatial artifact might have something to do with it, but most of his treasures had been preserved.

As a high-level True Immortal who was an envoy of the Qi Dynasty, Shang Xia was greatly looking forward to sorting out everything he had.

Of the treasures he saw, Shang Xia seemed more interested in a certain seal that was obtained. The seal emitted a soft glow, and the words, "Tong Continent Envoy," were carved into them. It was clearly the symbol given to the envoy of the Qi Dynasty.

The moment Shang Xia's gaze landed on it after killing Qi Hua and making a cursory gaze over his items, his inner qi poured over to form multiple layers of restrictions over it. He separated it from the rest of the world and he didn't dare to weaken the restrictions in the slightest.

He might not know what it was exactly, but he knew it was the key to Qi Hua's ability to wield Seventh Order energy.

Now that the token had been brought out of the Essence Xing World, it was likely the next envoy of the Tong Continent wouldn't be able to wield Seventh Order energy as the Qi Dynasty might not be able to create another token in a short amount of time.

As such... It was hard to say if the Qi Dynasty would be able to maintain their control over the Tong Continent.

The only way things would change was if the Qi Dynasty Emperor no longer hid his cultivation and revealed his combat strength and cultivation to be at the peak of the Martial Void Realm, shocking the various factions who had their eyes on the territory of the dynasty.



He could also attempt to enter the Martial Emptiness Realm. The moment he succeeded, he wouldn't need to do anything else as any resistance would simply vanish.

From what Mister Lu said, Shang Xia felt that the sneaky Qi Dynasty Emperor wasn't going to do anything about it. Even if the Tong Continent was controlled by other powers, he might not do a thing!

The token looked useless to Shang Xia, but he didn't think of it that way. From the material used to make the token, it wasn't inferior to his Stone Rod which was a Holy Artifact. It was also something that could assist in wielding Seventh Order energy, and it would definitely be important for the Tongyou Institution's future progress.

Keeping the token, Shang Xia didn't forget to throw on a few more layers of restrictions for good measure. After that, he looked at the rest of Qi Hua's belongings.

He had seen most of the treasures which weren't specially covered in restrictions, and since there was nothing else stopping him at the moment, he released his Six Direction Qi to wipe away any resistance.

His eyes lit up when he saw what was contained within. A massive brush appeared in his hand the next moment.

It was actually a talisman brush that was at the level of a divine artifact. Moreover, it was clearly a talisman brush that had never been dipped in ink!

Shang Xia had the Silver Branch Star Splendor Brush, but as a pseudo rank seven Talisman Grandmaster, he wouldn't complain about having too many brushes!

Not to mention there was something special about the brush. When crafting different talismans, the effects of the brush would make it such each stroke would be specially emphasized.

A Talisman Grandmaster wouldn't be able to choose which brush they used normally due to how rare it was to come across one, but if they had a choice, who would use a brush they weren't comfortable with? With an additional brush, Shang Xia could see which he liked more!

With his rapidly increasing understanding in the art of talismans, Shang Xia's success rate when crafting high-level talismans was high. The Silver Branch Star Splendor Brush might be a divine artifact, but it had been worn to a certain extent with excessive usage. Shang Xia was extremely satisfied he obtained another brush.

The only thing Shang Xia found strange about the situation was why Qi Hua had a Talisman Brush that had never been used before.

*He can't possibly be a high-level Talisman Grandmaster, right?!*

Shang Xia thought about the treasures he obtained after killing the man and realized other than the brush, there was scattered information and random artifacts. From the looks of it, they seemed related to the Myriad Tinted Cloud Taliman in some way.

Even though many of the reports there were merely hearsay, or miscellaneous information, Shang Xia understood that he found something interesting within.

For example, some information regarding the Wanyun Association's trading routes and their plans to disrupt them. There was even some information regarding him as they had been observing the members of the Wanyun Association in the streams of chaotic space entering the Star Beast Nest.

Other than those, Shang Xia obtained 2 sealed spiritual cases of high-level talisman papers. There were 36 rank five talisman papers and 12 rank six ones.

Shang Xia seemed pretty sure Qi Hua was no Talisman Grandmaster. He probably made the acquaintance of a powerful Talisman Grandmaster and wanted to use those treasures to form a connection.

Shang Xia found it a shame that he couldn't find any information on who Qi Hua was trying to form a connection with.

The treasures he obtained were worth a fortune, but despite Qi Hua's identity, the treasures Shang Xia found useful were barely a bunch.

Instead, he found most of them interesting. They were mostly medicines called the Hundred Spirit Temperance. It was a rare medicine that could assist in one's cultivation.

One had to know that the stronger one became, the rarer medicine like that became.

Ever since entering the Six Direction Realm, Shang Xia discovered that he could only use the Three Lights Water created by Yuan Qiuyuan in order to strengthen his cultivation. Nothing else worked.

Also, the maximum number of drops of Three Lights Water a True Immortal could use was 12. After that, the only use it would have would be to restore one's inner qi.

Even though other than Shang Xia, no one would be able to see great effects from using Three Lights Water, the Tongyou Institution had classified it as one of their core secrets. Other than Yuan Qiuyuan who knew how to make it, the only other people who knew about it were the 4 True Immortals of the institution, Xin Lu, and Yan Ming.

In Shang Xia's time in the Spirit Luxuriant World, he never heard of any medicine that could benefit True Immortals. Maybe the other factions were also concealing it, but that only served to show how important medicine like that was.

Shang Xia found it a shame that there were only 6 cases of Hundred Spirit Temperance. Also, they would only bring about big benefits to those who weren't high-level True Immortals. Once a True Immortal reached the fourth tier, the effects would be greatly reduced and for those in the fifth tier, there was basically no effect.

Helpless, Shang Xia could only store all 6... No, 5.5 cases of Hundred Spirit Temperance well. He would hand it over to Kou Chongxue for the patriarch to deal with.

According to his knowledge of Kou Chongxue, the cases of Hundred Spirit Temperance would most likely be given to Ge Qingzhu and Sun Haiwei anyway.

Arranging everything he obtained from the Essence Xing World, Shang Xia started to adjust his condition to prepare for the promise he made to the Wanyun Association.

...

A Transmission talisman appeared out of nowhere and arrived beside Shang Xia who was meditating.

Opening his eyes, Shang Xia removed the restrictions around him before grabbing the transmission to take a look at its content. His expression sank after he read it and he appeared outside his cultivation chamber the next instant.

*Chapter 1359: Innate Holy Artifact?!?!?!*

"True Immortal Shang, please." In the void hundreds of thousands of miles away from Shang Xia, True Immortal Gong Zhuo gestured for him to enter a massive Star Ship he had prepared.

Behind the massive ship were 6 other smaller ones, forming a massive merchant fleet. Also, the Star Ships seemed to be positioned in specific positions, forming a subtle battle formation.

The only thing Shang Xia didn't know was how strong the power of the battle formation would be, or if it could utilize Seventh Order energy.

From Shang Xia's short stint in the Essence Xing World, it didn't seem rare for top powers to wield Seventh Order energy. As one of the 11 great Elysiums, the Wanyun Association would definitely be able to control it.

Moreover, he also noticed that ever since they arrived that the fleet would be venturing into the asteroid belts far from the Essence Xing World and deep into the sea of stars.

Shang Xia might not think that the Wanyun Association would be able to hide their movements from the rest of the world, but they would at least be able to greatly conceal their tracks such that it wouldn't be easy to track them.

With Gong Zhuo's invitation, Shang Xia didn't act too politely and he simply entered the massive Star Ship into a special cabin that had been specially arranged for him.

As he boarded, he noticed a middle-aged man who was always smiling and looked to be waiting for him for some time.

Seeing how friendly he was and his special identity, Shang Xia inspected him with his divine soul. The middle-aged man seemed to be hiding some sort of profound qi in him, and it was something that far surpassed Gong Zhuo.

There was no doubt about it. The middle-aged man was also a fifth tier True Immortal like Shang Xia!

Thinking back to what Shen Chongshan said to him when they spoke about the fleet, Shang Xia recalled that the Wanyun Association had already given Gong Zhuo the authority to command the trading fleet. However, with the appearance of the person before him, things weren't as simple as Shen Chongshan described.

Standing outside the cabin, Shang Xia didn't enter immediately. Instead, he looked at Gong Zhuo with a questioning gaze.

Gong Zhuo was about to make the introductions when the middle-aged man roared with laughter and spoke first. "This should be True Immortal Shang of the Essence Ping World, right? I have been hearing about you for such a long time, and we finally met!"

The middle-aged man cupped his hands in greeting before making his introductions, "You can call me Zhang Shun. I am the Director of the Wanyun Association. Something happened within our Essence Xing World, causing us to be a little late. I hope you don't mind."

"Director Zhang, it's a pleasure to meet you." Shang Xia quickly gave his greetings after hearing the newcomer's introduction before being invited into another cabin by Gong Zhuo.

When everyone got comfortable and found their seats, Zhang Shun was the first to speak. "Martial Nephew Shen made the agreement with you, but because we had to keep things a secret, he didn't know that I would be in charge of the fleet. That was why he told you Gong Zhuo would be taking charge. I apologize on his behalf."

"I understand." Shang Xia waved his hand casually before changing the topic, "I heard that something happened in your world... Can you share anything about it? Of course... If it's inconvenient, please pretend I didn't ask."

Zhang Shun nodded at Gong Zhuo who was beside them.

Gong Zhuo started to explain, "Actually, there's nothing much to keep secret. After all, among the higher-ups of the Essence Xing World, it's no longer a secret. An envoy of the Qi Dynasty was assassinated in the Tong Continent, causing a massive chain reaction."

"Oh? An envoy?" Shang Xia gasped. He looked very interested in the matter and he quickly continued to ask, "Isn't that a high-level True Immortal?! There has to be a bigger plan involved if someone like that was killed!"

Gong Zhuo glanced at Zhang Shun and saw no reaction as he continued, "No one knew what happened, or the identity of the assassin who killed True Immortal Qi Hua. Everything fell into a state of chaos and everyone was preparing for battle!"

When he saw how Shang Xia was about to ask another question, he quickly added, "From the news we received, True Immortal Qi Hua was actually killed in his manor by the assassin. Moreover, He was said to have died from a single blow!"

"That's what we don't understand. Qi Hua's cultivation chamber was located at the heart of the formation that connects to the World Origin Source. He would be able to wield Seventh Order energy and despite the advantage he had, he was still killed. No one should have been able to do anything to him there, but he died right in his cultivation chamber..."

Shang Xia thought for a second and asked, "Did a Martial Emptiness Realm Sage personally take action? Or could a powerful expert he is familiar with be behind it?"

Gong Zhuo understood what he meant and shook his head. "It's impossible for a Martial Emptiness Realm Sage to personally make a move. From the looks of it, it's most likely someone close to him who made a move. The person who is the most suspicious is actually his trusted subordinate called 'Mister Lu', and he had been missing ever since Qi Hua's death was announced. If he was dead, no one has seen his body. The only thing is that the person's cultivation was only in the Martial Dipper Realm. He might have been hiding his cultivation, but it's not likely he was a high-level True Immortal. We can only know what he used to kill a high-level True Immortal unless we get our hands on him."

Shang Xia nodded slowly and pointed out, "From the looks of it, Mister Lu isn't a simple character. To be able to hide under the nose of a high-level True Immortal, he has to be backed by a powerful faction!"

As soon as he spoke, Zhang Shun who had been chuckling bitterly at the side glanced at him.

Gong Zhuo gasped softly, "True Immortal Shang, you are sharp indeed. That is where things get interesting. After Qi Hua was killed, the Qi Dynasty's reaction was strong, but it caught everyone off guard. Actually, it's just the Qi Dynasty Emperor. He personally led 2 other fourth tier True Immortals of the dynasty and 2 other Envoys, along with many ordinary True Immortals to exterminate a hidden sect in the Tao Continent."

"During the process, everyone discovered that the Qi Dynasty Emperor had reached the grand completion stage of the Martial Void Realm. He's merely a step away from entering the Martial Emptiness Realm, shocking our world! What the various factions find strange is that the hidden sect that was eliminated revealed an unusually strong foundation, not losing out to the 11 Elysiums. It was said at least 2 high-level True Immortals joined their side and many True Immortals took part in the battle. The sect leader actually reached the fifth tier and eventually fled after being heavily injured by the Qi Dynasty Emperor.

Shang Xia frowned. "Hidden sect? How can such a powerful faction not be discovered?"

"Exactly." Gong Zhuo sighed, "How can a faction so strong remain hidden without protection from other powerhouses?"

Shang Xia thought for a second before he mumbled, "Do you mean that it's strange because the Qi Dynasty had actually been the ones protecting them in the past only to turn on them now?"

"Hehe..." Gong Zhuo chuckled softly. "It was said that after the sect master escaped, a good half of the various powers went to kill him. Among them, the members of the Phoenix Cry Sect were the most enthusiastic about it."

"Why is that?" Shang Xia knew that Gong Zhuo wouldn't bring up the Phoenix Cry Sect for fun and he quickly followed up with his question.

Gong Zhuo laughed as he continued, "That's because the Tao Continent is right beside the Fengxiang Continent. Also, the Fengxiang Continent borders the Tong Continent and is located to their southeast."

Hesitating slightly, Shang Xia wondered out loud, "True Immortal Gong, Do you mean to say that the Qi Dynasty is after the Phoenix Cry Sect the entire time? Are they so involved in killing the sect master because they knew that the dynasty was getting suspicious of them? Hmm... Maybe they wish to silence the sect master in order not to leak any information to the dynasty..."

Zhang Shun, who had been silent the entire time, finally spoke, "Actually, there's another reason. Other than the matter with the Qi Dynasty and the Phoenix Cry Sect, there's another reason that caused us to be late for the appointment with you."

Shang Xia raised an eyebrow, as he knew that they were truly about to get into the secrets of the Essence Xing World. He patiently waited for Zhang Shun to continue.

Gong Zhuo widened his eyes in shock as he looked at Zhang Shun, not thinking that the director would actually reveal the matter.

“True Immortal Shang is no outsider...” Zhang Shun seemed to be explaining it to Gong Zhuo as he continued, “The real reason such a huge fuss was kicked up was that a third of the World Origin Source connected to the Tong Continent had disappeared!”

“True Immortal Shang, you also come from an Essence World and understand that the world origin of our world is far more powerful compared to lower worlds. It’s not easy to steal so much of it in such a short amount of time! The only thing that can do something like that is an Innate Holy Artifact!”

Shang Xia didn’t know shit about an Innate Holy Artifact, but he had to play along. He remained silent as he allowed Gong Zhuo to continue.

“It’s unbelievable for something like that to happen, but the Tong Continent is weakened. The biggest suspect we have of stealing the world origin is actually Mister Lu who disappeared, and the escaping sect master. If we find them, we might be able to obtain an Innate Holy Artifact!”

“An Innate Holy Artifact is the key to establishing a Dao Field, and in our Essence Xing World, we only have 3 great Dao Fields. All of them contain the foundation of the dynasties and the strength of our Essence Xing World!”

#### *Chapter 1360: Wanyun Association’s Plan and Goodwill*

Shang Xia was asking some questions about the death of Qi Hua, but he didn’t think that the impact would be so huge. Not only did the Qi Dynasty Emperor’s cultivation at the peak of the Martial Void Realm become revealed to the entire world, it even caused a hidden sect to be wiped out. He also learned about things like an Innate Holy Artifact.

As it turned out, an Innate Holy Artifact was able to store world origin from an Essence World by drawing it from the World Origin Source!

*Is the Crimson Soul Tablet in my sea of consciousness actually an Innate Holy Artifact?*

Shang Xia thought to himself, but he didn’t know that his expression had been carefully scrutinized by the high-level True Immortals of the Wanyun Association.

Seeing the look of shock on his face, Zhang Shun asked suddenly, “True Immortal Shang, do you know about the existence of an Innate Holy Artifact?”

He could tell that Zhang Shun was probing him out, but he shook his head and sighed, "My Essence Ping World only has a single Dao Field..."

Zhang Shun exchanged a subtle glance with Gong Zhang before laughing, "So that's the case!"

Zhang Shun once heard from Gong Zhang that Shang Xia was stationed in the Star Beast Nest because he had been exiled.

How could a high-level True Immortal... A pseudo rank seven Talisman Grandmaster at that, be exiled from their world? No matter where they were, an existence like that would enjoy an exalted status.

He had always been wondering what could force an expert like that to obediently stay in a Star Beast Nest outside his world. The answer seemed pretty evident to him.

Zhang Shun quickly made a deduction. It was either Shang Xia had some grudge against a powerful faction in his world, or he pissed off a Martial Emptiness Realm Sage.

Gong Zhuo also seemed to receive another piece of news while they were talking.

Zhang Shun saw his reaction and asked, "Looks like the fleet is ready. Shall we go?"

"We are waiting on your order, Director Zhang." Gong Zhuo smiled.

"Let us set off then!" Zhang Shun nodded slightly at Gong Zhuo before turning to Shang Xia. "Speaking of which, the reason I am able to leave the world is because of the rumor that there's someone hiding an Innate Holy Artifact running rogue. More than half the world's attention was placed on that person. Otherwise, it wouldn't be easy for me to leave."

Shang Xia laughed along. "For Director Zhang to be moving out personally with the fleet, success is assured!"

Zhang Shun laughed and continued, "Looks like this will be the second time I will have to apologize to you. You were told that the reason behind our Wanyun Association's plan was to expand our trade routes outside the world, but there is another important reason."

"Oh?" Shang Xia chuckled softly. He wasn't too surprised. "What is it?"

Zhang Shun stood up and gave Shang Xia a deep bow suddenly. "My plan was to establish the 34th continent of our Essence Xing World, and I hope you can help me out with it. When it is done, I will definitely repay you generously for the huge favor."



The second Zhang Shun bowed, Gong Zhuo did the same to ask Shang Xia for help.

Looking at them, Shang Xia stood up, raised an eyebrow, and asked, "There's no need for this. I am glad you trust me enough to ask me to help with such an important task."

Seeing as Shang Xia didn't reject the idea, Gong Zhuo rejoiced. "To be able to gain your assistance would mean that we are even more likely to succeed!"

Zhang Shun also had an expression of joy. "That's right. With 3 high-level True Immortals working together, even in the Chaotic Sea of Stars, we can be considered a powerful force. Not to mention we also have other alliances there."

As the 3 of them finally sat down again, Shang Xia asked in a low voice, "Fellow True Immortals, even though I agree to help, we cannot drag out something as important as this. I will not hide my situation from you guys. I have not taken part in anything like this in my world but I understand that in order to establish a new continent, there are 2 most direct methods. You would either make a deal with others for world fragments or conquer a world. No matter which method you use, you will require an ark to drag the world fragment back to your Essence Xing World. No matter how I look at it, these Star Ships..."

Zhang Shun chuckled in response. "True Immortal Shang, you are insightful indeed, but you can rest assured about the ark. Like I said... We have allies."

"Those allies..." Shang Xia frowned.

Zhang Shun smiled and didn't explain any further. "When the time comes, you'll see."

...

With Gong Zhuo personally taking charge of the arrangements, Shang Xia quickly settled down in a massive cabin on the main ship.

After they left, Shang Xia thought back to the exchange he had with Zhang Shun earlier.

The Wanyun Association's high-level True Immortals might have been trying to probe him out earlier, but their overall attitude was that they trusted him. At the very least, they didn't link him and the assassin of Qi Hua.

Shang Xia wasn't surprised how Zhang Shun never mentioned they had allies until the very end as there were some things they couldn't share no matter what. If he was in Zhang Shun's place, he wouldn't have said anything until the time actually came.

He was at least 80 percent sure that the allies Zhang Shun spoke of were Star Pirates. It was most likely a powerhouse among them.

The only thing Shang Xia found a pity was that he didn't tell Song Zhang about the Wanyun Association's plan to enter the Chaotic Sea of Stars.

Even though the sea of stars was endless, the Wanyun Association's adventure wouldn't go undetected. If anyone was really planning to track them, they would be able to follow their tracks. Song Zhen might also be able to do so.

If Song Zhen really took part in the operation, Shang Xia would be able to gain another route of retreat. He might even be able to obtain some benefits if he colluded with Song Zhen.

Whatever it was, it was too late to think of things that could happen. He could only improvise when the time came. Fortunately, he made preparations for the mission. He spent a lot of time crafting talismans before they left.

He had quite a lot of high-level rank six talisman paper with him as well. Other than the special talisman paper the Wanyun Association used to craft Myriad Tinted Cloud Talismans, there were a bunch of them he obtained from Qi Hua.

Even though there were so many sheets of talisman paper, Shang Xia's attention was actually drawn to an intricate jade slip he got his hands on.

It was something Gong Zhuo gave him along with a batch of rank six talisman paper after he entered his cabin.

Shang Xia didn't take extra notice of it until he actually read its contents.

The Wanyun Association actually gave Shang Xia the method to craft special talisman paper required for the Myriad Tinted Cloud Talisman. They even added an additional note that the paper was actually a failed product when a rank seven talisman paper craftsman tried to make rank seven talisman paper.

They had always controlled the method of crafting the special talisman paper, and even though they gave Shang Xia the inheritance to craft the talisman back then, they had always controlled the production of special talisman paper. Now that they had revealed the method to Shang Xia, the Wanyun Association was clearly expressing their goodwill. At the same time, they also showed their determination to establish the 34th continent in the Essence Xing World.

Shang Xia didn't reject any of the goodwill they showed since he arrived.

From Gong Zhuo, he learned that they would be traveling deep into the sea of stars and it would take at least half a month of continuous travel. Along the way, they might even run into some dangerous situations.

That was also why they wished to invite Shang Xia. It wasn't just to make up the numbers as a high-level True Immortal would greatly ensure their safety as they traveled through the sea of stars.

As for their fleet of 7 Star Ships wielding Seventh Order energy... That was clearly their trump card and they wouldn't use it unless absolutely necessary.

What Shang Xia needed to do was to continue crafting Six Harmony Teleportation Talismans.

It proved to be a great help for everything Shang Xia had been doing, and it was also the talismans he used the most. It was especially since he tried infiltrating the Essence Xing World and killing Qi Hua. He used up a lot of those talismans.

Since he obtained a new brush after killing Qi Hua, Shang Xia also felt a strong urge to play with his newfound treasure.

Other than the Six Harmony Teleportation Talisman, Shang Xia also wanted to try his hand at the Golden Phoenix Leaving Flame Talisman he obtained from the Phoenix Cry Sect.

The only problem was that even though the Phoenix Cry Sect was not the sole power who knew how to craft them, the talisman was pretty famous in the Essence Xing World. If Shang Xia really crafted them, they might be able to make the connection between him and Qi Hua's assassin.

Currently, he didn't wish to expose his involvement in any of those. As such, after a short moment of contemplation, he decided to ignore the inheritance completely. No matter how tempting it was, he didn't plan on even exploring its uses.

After all... He was in someone else's territory. Who was to say that his movements wouldn't be monitored or discovered?

In the time it took for them to travel, Shang Xia felt that he would be able to craft 3 or 4 talismans.

The production of Six Harmony Teleportation Talismans seemed to be going pretty smoothly. In 4 attempts, he only failed once.

By the time he completed the talismans, the fleet arrived at the border of the Essence Xing Heavenly Field and along with a strong push, they rushed straight into the streams of chaotic space.