

## The Heavens 141

### Chapter 141: Ouyang's Third Fist

Sun Haiwei's attempt to trap him was commendable, but he was still a Martial Intent Realm cultivator.

He might have lost the initiative to Chu Jia, but Sun Haiwei was far from enough to be able to stop him! He circulated his inner qi and destroyed the layer of ice around his body.

His compass returned to his hand before anyone could react, and he looked in the direction of the needle as he advanced. He took steps forward, backward, left, and right. He would avoid the traps in Chu Jia's formation every time he moved.

Sun Haiwei wanted to assist at the side, but she was unable to lock on to his figure to cause any effective damage.

All of a sudden, a loud blast filled the tunnel once again.

No one noticed when Shang Xia arrived beside Chu Jia's formation, and his Delicate Jade River Sword pointed at Bai Luming's approximate location. Bolts of lightning emerged from the tip of his blade and formed a net around Bai Luming.

Now, he had nowhere to run!

Luckily for him, Shang Xia had to increase the area his martial intent affected and the power contained in each bolt of lightning was weakened.

Bai Luming retrieved his array flag in his other hand. Shang Xia saw that he passed it to Ouyang Zhaiyuan before losing sight of Bai Luming in the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World, but he didn't know when he retrieved it.

Bai Luming waved the array flag above his head and it seemed to transform into an umbrella that shielded him from the lightning. Wherever he passed, the lightning would avoid him.

He wanted to sneer at Shang Xia's attempt, but before he could do so, Shang Xia stepped into the range of the formation laid down by Chu Jia. The lightning web converged on Bai Luming's location and when it finally faded, the tip of a blade greeted him!

The kid's movement might seem slow, but Shang Xia's actions seemed to have released the floodgates! A torrent of white sword light rained down on Bai Luming!

Now that he unleashed the Cloud Drizzle Rain Art again, it was different from the last time! He fused void and reality qi to unleash the strike, and every sword light seemed both illusory and real at the same time. It covered such a large area that his opponent would find it impossible to dodge!

Right before he was swallowed by the sword light, Bai Luming snorted loudly. A powerful gust appeared from the side, blowing apart the rain of sword light.

Ouyang Zhaiyuan! Why was it you again?!

Shang Xia couldn't help but turn to look at the Martial Intent Realm expert who was attacked by both Shang Ke and Gu Shou. Due to the distraction, Shang Ke managed to take the chance to stab his spear deep into Ouyang Zhaiyuan's back.

Ouyang Zhaiyuan vomited another mouthful of blood.

However, his attacks became even crazier the next moment.

As an explosion rang through the skies, Ouyang Zhaiyuan's fist smashed into Gu Shou's mace again. He forced Gu Shou to take three steps back, and his footprints were imprinted firmly into the ground.

Unfortunately, Shang Ke and Gu Shou had worked together too many times to count. The moment Gu Shou was forced back, Shang Ke stepped in to relieve the pressure. Gu Shou flipped the mace in his hands about and roared before rejoining the battle.

Shang Xia could tell that even if the two of them managed to kill Ouyang Zhaiyuan, they would have to exhaust a huge amount of their inner qi. They might even suffer from hidden injuries!

They definitely required outside help if they wanted to achieve a safe victory.

However, the three of them were at the peak of the Martial Intent Realm. The shockwaves of the battle alone ensured that Shang Xia and Sun Haiwei would never be able to join the battle.

The only person who could affect the outcome of the battle was Chu Jia, the rank three formation master!

Shang Xia wasn't the only one who realized that point. Sun Haiwei could also tell that Chu Jia was the key to the battle.

The two of them seemed to reach an agreement. They yelled in unison and charged towards Bai Luming. As long as they dealt with him, Chu Jia would be able to join the battle on the other side.

The two of them might not be able to deal with someone as terrifying as Ouyang Zhaiyuan. However, they were confident they could at least do something about Bai Luming who was at the small completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm.

At that very instant, Chu Jia made a massive blunder.

When Shang Xia and Sun Haiwei went all in on Bai Luming to end the battle as quickly as they could, she directed the energy in her formation to interfere with the battle on the other side. In that split second, the suppression on Bai Luming weakened.

Despite his sorry appearance, Bai Luming was a rank three formation master! His talent might not be as high as Chu Jia, but he was still a formidable expert!

Previously, Chu Jia managed to suppress him continuously because she caught him off guard. Now that she directed some energy to interfere with the battle, Bai Luming immediately caught on to the opportunity. He dodged whatever sword light Shang Xia summoned and broke Sun Haiwei's attempt to restrict him. He ran straight for the protection screen separating them from the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World.

Slapping the compass in his hand, several jade shards stuck themselves onto the weakest points of the protection screen.

Pushing himself to the limit, Bai Luming circulated his inner qi to the extreme as he poured all his energy into those jade shards. The gap that appeared previously when Shang Xia escaped was opened up once again.

“Ouyang, we have to go!”

Bai Luming knew how strong this fellow was. Now that he managed to open up a route of escape, he felt that Ouyang Zhaiyuan would definitely be able to push his enemies back and make his escape.

That was the confidence he had in his friend after so many years of working together!

As such, he jumped through the hole after giving the reminder. He no longer bothered with Shang Xia and Sun Haiwei who were cursing under their breaths.

Who would have thought that the protection screen would restore itself after half his body went through the hole? Once the protection screen was restored, Bai Luming was stuck in mid air. The upper half of his body was stuck on the side of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World, and the lower half was stuck in the tunnel!

The sudden change in the situation caught Shang Xia and the others off guard, but Shang Xia could imagine the flustered expression on Bai Luming’s face.

“Hahahaha! I caught him! He actually fell for it! This is really fun!” Chu Jia’s laughter rang through the air all of a sudden, and it sounded a little jarring to the ears.

She actually treated it as a game!

The gap that allowed Bai Luming to escape her suppression was actually a trap, and the man jumped into it without any hesitation!

Even though Bai Luming was also a rank three formation master, he couldn’t discover anything wrong with the protection screen! Chu Jia created another layer outside it! That showed that Chu Jia was a much better formation master than him!

How long has it been since Chu Jia analyzed the protection screen?

Even so, she managed to create another layer such that another rank three formation master wouldn’t be able to tell the difference!

That was how terrifying the most talented formation master of the Tongyou Institution was!

She could even treat the entire battle as a game!

“Brother Luming!”

Bai Luming’s mistake caused Ouyang Zhaiyuan to feel a sense of danger rapidly closing on him. Now, he would have to take everyone on himself!

“All of you deserve to die!” The genius cultivator of the Ouyang Family of the Rose Party unleashed everything he had.

“Crushing Mountain!” Ouyang Zhaiyuan’s first punch arrived. A soft glow covered his fist as it crashed against Gu Shou’s mace.

Gu Shou’s mace was flung out of his hands and a clear fist imprint could be seen on the low-grade weapon. Blood dripped from Gu Shou’s hand.

“Bang!” Shang Ke took the chance to sweep his spear into Ouyang Zhaiyuan’s chest, and the resulting crackling told him that he managed to break another two ribs.

“You should go to hell too!” Ouyang Zhaiyuan turned to Shang Ke and unleashed his second fist.

“Breaking Current!” Ouyang Zhaiyuan’s fist intent surrounded Shang Ke.

“Suspended Spear!” Shang Ke’s expression was grave as he took on Ouyang Zhaiyuan’s second fist. The spear in his hand shot out and he seemed to become one with it.

The instant the spear stabbed out, heaven and earth qi formed a giant spear that encased the actual spear body before the two strikes clashed.

A resounding blast ensued, and the giant spear formed from heaven and earth qi shattered. The actual body of the spear was revealed and it started to buzz softly.

“Hahaha! What do you think? Your Suspended Spear is no match for my techniques!” Ouyang Zhaiyuan’s laughter filled the air. Shang Xia noticed a layer of seven-colored light surrounding him, but it seemed as though he didn’t see it! Ouyang Zhaiyuan’s gaze was locked on to Shang Ke.

Shang Ke sighed softly, “Indeed... My Suspended Spear is not your match. However...” Shang Ke tapped lightly at the fist light suspended in mid air and it popped like a bubble. “... Looks like you still lost!”

“Yeah... I definitely lost this time...” A soft sigh left his lips.

Chu Jia was still using her formation to surround Ouyang Zhaiyuan. However, he didn’t seem to care in the slightest as a smile lit up his face. “In that case, I hope the two of you can experience my last strike!”

“Ahem...” Gu Shou spat out a mouthful of blood and snorted, “Can you still unleash it?”

“Without my last move, how can I be called Ouyang’s Third Fist?”

After he spoke, Chu Jia exclaimed in shock. “He... He’s struggling free! How is he so strong?!”

Shang Xia didn’t say a word as he summoned a bolt of red lightning to help Chu Jia.

Even so, Ouyang Zhaiyuan destroyed both the layer of seven-colored light and red lightning with a wave of his hand.

“Ha... My third fist! Killing God!”

A terrifying pressure descended and threatened to crush everyone present.

Shang Xia felt his thoughts stagnating, and time stopped around him.

“Stop him!” Shang Ke yelled, but his voice failed to make it into anyone’s ears.

As one of the only ones who could still move under Ouyang Zhaiyuan's martial intent, a massive spear was condensed from the surrounding heaven and earth qi as it shot towards Ouyang Zhaiyuan.

After sending out the spear, Shang Ke staggered and he nearly fell to the ground.

Gu Shou flicked his wrist and his other mace shot out towards Ouyang Zhaiyuan's head.

When the two desperate strikes flew to meet their target, Shang Xia felt the suppression around him loosen. Everything returned to normal.

That was also the instant Shang Ke's spear stabbed straight through Ouyang Zhaiyuan's chest. His brain was also turned into mush when Gu Shou's mace struck him.

Even though the danger had passed, a frown formed on Shang Ke's face.

Chapter 142: Greeting His End With A Smile

"We didn't kill him..." Gu Shou took several steps back and leaned against the wall to steady himself.

"That's right. His divine sense disappeared before our attacks hit..." Shang Ke's countenance wasn't much better than Gu Shou's. He stabbed his spear into the ground to support himself and he looked utterly exhausted.

Their gazes landed on Ouyang Zhaiyuan's corpse that had collapsed at the side and sighed softly.

In fact, Shang Xia had his guesses as to what happened even without an explanation from the two experts.

The scene where Ouyang Zhaiyuan released his martial intent was still fresh in Shang Xia's heart, but it dissipated before his third punch was released.

That could only mean one thing. Ouyang Zhaiyuan died before he could complete his move!

"Senior Shang and Instructor Gu called him Ouyang's Third Fist... However, nothing happened when he tried to unleash it. Could his life force have been depleted before he completed the move?" Sun Haiwei was equally as surprised as she asked. She experienced the same thing as Shang Xia when Ouyang Zhaiyuan released his martial intent previously. The feeling of desperation was still fresh in her heart.

Gu Shou shook his head and remained silent. He stuffed some medicine he had on him into his mouth before circulating his inner qi. It was clear he didn't wish to say anymore.

Shang Ke could only take over the explanation. Forcing a smile, he started, "That's right. Anyway, that wasn't supposed to be his third punch. You should have seen that it was difficult for both of us to take on his first two punches. His third punch shouldn't be too much stronger than the first two, but the one he tried to release earlier was far more terrifying!"

"Fifth Grandpa, what exactly happened?" Shang Xia asked.

"Crushing Mountain, Breaking Current, Splitting Space. Those three moves made up his fist technique." Shang Ke continued his explanation. "He's extremely ambitious. He planned to use the three moves as the foundation to comprehend his martial

intent before stepping into the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm. It would be one that had never been seen before!”

Sun Haiwei and Shang Xia gasped in fright. “That... That was him trying to fuse all three techniques together?”

“Luckily for us, he didn’t succeed...” Sun Haiwei heaved a sigh of relief. “A Martial Intent Realm expert’s ultimate technique is so strong! If he actually succeeded...”

“If he did, none of us would be walking out of here alive.” Gu Shou interrupted. “You can’t look down on any Martial Intent Realm cultivator’s special technique. Although they can be split into different tiers, not everyone can comprehend a tyrannical secret art like him. Also, when you choose a technique to train in when you step into the Martial Intent Realm, you need to comprehend one that fits you.”

Pausing for a second to catch his breath, he continued, “That fellow reached the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm a long time ago. It was said that he could reach the grand completion stage anytime he wished. He was also supposed to become the youngest elder of the Rose Party when the time came! Many people even thought that he possessed better talent than Deputy Patriarch Shang Bo!”

Shang Xia was shocked and so was Sun Haiwei.

Gu Shou ignored the look in their eyes and continued, “Too bad many years passed and despite his fame, he failed to take the final step. Even so, his fighting abilities are more than comparable to someone at the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm.”

Even though Instructor Gu had just completed his explanation, Shang Xia suddenly felt the urge to ask him about matters of cultivation instead. “Instructor Gu, How does one condense their divine sense anyway? Do they also need an advancement medicine? And How does one improve their divine sense? Also, about the martial intent used by Martial Intent Realm experts...”

“Hey, are you done? It’s really tiring to maintain this formation! Are you planning to get buried alive here or something?” A voice interrupted them all of a sudden. Chu Jia pouted at the side while stopping Shang Xia’s questioning.

Gu Shou chuckled in amusement before replying to Shang Xia, “You’re going to enter the inner division soon. You’ll learn all these things when the time comes. Moreover, your Shang Clan has a lot of resources too. You can ask the seniors of your clan for pointers. Even though I’m considered your teacher, this isn’t the best place for learning to take place, don’t you think?”

The tunnel they were in was pretty narrow. Even though the battle between the three experts widened the place a little, it was still pretty nasty.

Moreover, the shockwaves of the battle had already destroyed the structural integrity of the tunnel. It was long overdue for collapse. During the battle, the inner qi of the three Martial Intent Realm experts managed to hold the tunnel up. Now that Ouyang Zhaiyuan was dead, Gu Shou and Shang Ke were drained of energy, Chu Jia was the only one stopping the tunnel from collapsing!

With her lazy personality, she was starting to get annoyed that everyone else was talking among themselves and not dealing with the situation.

Other than Shang Xia, everyone else interacted with her before. They didn't dare to anger this womanchild and started to make preparations to leave.

Even though they could easily punch out a hole to leave immediately, they didn't know what lay above them. There might even be enemies waiting for them to emerge!

Instead of taking the risk, it would be much better to enter the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World. At the very least, there should be no danger waiting for them in there.

“What do we do about this guy?” Shang Ke raised his spear and poked Bai Luming's butt as he spoke.

The legs that were suspended in mid air started kicking about wildly. It was too bad the upper half of his body was stuck on the other side. They couldn't hear his curses no matter how loud he screamed.

“Hey. Didn't you say that water filled the other side? Why hasn't he drowned?” Gu Shou picked up his mace from the ground before asking Shang Xia. He kept them safely in his own spatial artifact before turning to look at the flailing legs.

None of them could be bothered with Ouyang Zhaiyuan's possessions for now and Sun Haiwei took on the task of searching the body.

Since the institution sent out Gu Shou, Shang Ke, and Chu Jia, there was no way Sun Haiwei and Shang Xia would be able to lay their hands on Ouyang Zhaiyuan's possessions.

Well, whatever. It wasn't as though Ouyang Zhaiyuan would have a lot of treasures on him either. At the very least, his inheritance for his famed Triple Fist wouldn't be on him.

He was an important member of the Rose Party and a genius cultivator of the Ouyang Family! He had a giant power standing behind him and there was no need for him to bring all his possessions around like those wandering cultivators.

“Hey, let's just kill him. This bastard is pretty good at laying down formations. He might not be someone from the Rose Party, but he's close to the Ouyang Family! We cannot leave him alive in case he grows stronger to become a threat to us later.”

The conflict between the Rose Party and the Tongyou Institution had long since grown to the point of no return. Neither party would stop unless the other was completely eradicated.

“Wait! I have a use for him!” Chu Jia raised her hand to stop them, as though she was a student in class.

A frown formed on Gu Shou's face. “What do you need him for?”

Chu Jia didn't reply immediately. Instead, she turned to look at Shang Xia. “Is the core diagram of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World with you?”

Staring at her in stunned silence for a while, Shang Xia didn't know how to react. It was his first time speaking to the number one formation genius in the Tongyou Institution. Hesitating slightly, he forced the words out of his mouth, "What... What are you talking about?"

Chu Jia wasn't happy with Shang Xia's reply and a pout formed on her face. "Hmph! There's no need to hide it anymore. The two of them mentioned the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl when they emerged, and they chased you all the way out here. You definitely have the core diagram!"

An embarrassed chuckle left Shang Xia's lips. "Umm... Can you open the protection screen with the core diagram?"

Chu Jia paused for a second as she never expected Shang Xia to question her abilities. "Hah! Even though I can't use the core diagram outside the formation, I can open the protection screen nonetheless!"

Shang Xia thought for a second and pointed at the rocks starting to crumble around them. "Instructor Chu, you might be able to open it, but how long do you need? Can you hold the tunnel up long enough for you to create another hole in the protection screen?"

Shang Xia didn't wait for her to respond as he took out a familiar-looking plaque. He slashed at the protection screen not too far away from where Bai Luming was stuck. Water poured out of the hole he created as he gestured for the rest.

"Vermillion Plaque! When did you get a Vermillion Plaque?" Chu Jia gasped.

Sun Haiwei mentioned that Shang Xia managed to get his hands on a Vermillion Plaque when they arrived, but it was evident that Chu Jia wasn't paying attention.

Shang Ke stared at Gu Shou and the two of them took the lead to enter the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World. Sun Haiwei smiled and entered right after them.

Finally, Chu Jia approached Shang Xia and she wriggled her nose slightly. "Even though I don't know what you're planning to do, the Rose Party will definitely learn of what happened as long as they have another formation master on their side. I won't snatch the diagram from you today, but I'll get it one day! Hmph!"

Shang Xia knew that there was no use arguing with her and a smile promptly appeared on his face. "Looks like I can't hide it from you anyway! Actually, I do need your help..."

Chu Jia's expression quickly softened and she gloated happily, "It's good that you know!"

After speaking, she entered the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World. The instant she did, the tunnel started to tremble and shake.

Shang Xia quickly went through the gap he created as huge chunks of earth fell behind him. It buried any signs that a battle took place.

#### Chapter 143: Shang Xia's Backup Plan

After he crossed the protection screen, Shang Xia noticed that there wasn't any water around him. He even thought that he had entered the wrong place.

However, his gaze quickly landed on a simple restriction Chu Jia placed down. It pushed the water away from them, creating a small pocket of air.



Shang Xia was impressed by her efficiency. Even though it was most likely done using some sort of artifact, he couldn't deny that it was impressive.

"What did he say?" Shang Xia stared at Bai Luming who was still trapped and asked.

"He agreed to help the lass. I placed the Triple Intent Lock on him and Lass Chu will keep an eye on him. No accidents will happen!" Shang Ke replied.

Initially, Gu Shou was supposed to be the leader of the group. Due to his injuries, the responsibility fell onto Shang Ke.

The Triple Intent Lock was a commonly used technique by Martial Intent Realm cultivators to restrain their prisoners.

It was made by imprinting one's divine sense onto the other party. Since every individual's divine sense was unique, the lock could only be undone by the person who created it!

The Triple Intent Lock was split into three different layers, and cultivators at the small completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm would only be able to create the first intent lock! Since Shang Ke was the one who used the technique, he could bring out the full restrictive abilities of the Triple Intent Lock!

"Oh really? Did he accept it obediently? He might be pulling some tricks again... Don't forget. He's a rank three formation master! If he creates trouble at some critical moment..."

Shang Xia refused to believe that Bai Luming would give up just like that! He was extremely wary of the other party.

However, Chu Jia declared confidently, "Don't worry! He won't be able to play any tricks when I'm watching him!"

The corners of Shang Xia's lips twitched slightly and he continued, "I mean... He's been stuck here for some time now. How can we be sure that he hadn't done anything to the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World?"

Chu Jia was at a loss for words and she rolled her eyes at Shang Xia.

Bai Luming, who had been silent all this time, finally spoke up. "The Rose Party is extremely exclusive! The five families make up the core of the organization, and no matter how hard I work, they refuse to trust me! Also, the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl can allow you to see what happened several minutes into the past. You can see that I didn't do anything!"

"Oh right! I forgot!" Shang Xia seemed to have recalled something and he retrieved the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram from his sleeves. When he opened the scroll, he discovered that the pearl was missing!

Bai Luming's voice rang through the air again. "You can bring the core diagram out, but the pearl can't leave the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World! The moment you left, you dropped the pearl."

Shang Xia turned to stare at him. "Do you know how to get it back?"

Bai Luming chuckled softly but refused to say anything.

All of a sudden, a slender white hand reached towards Shang Xia and gestured for him to hand the diagram over impatiently.

Shang Xia couldn't be bothered with Chu Jia and continued to stare at Bai Luming.

Coughing dryly at the side, Shang Ke spoke up, "Xia'er, give it to her."

A look of delight could be seen on Chu Jia's face and Shang Xia couldn't bring himself to look at her. He rolled up the scroll before tossing it at her.

With her head bobbing up and down happily, she laughed at Shang Xia, "See, I told you I'll get the core diagram! Although, I didn't think that I'd get it so quickly..."

After she spoke, she ignored the anger slowly appearing on Shang Xia's face while opening the scroll. Her inner qi quickly entered the core diagram.

Shang Xia felt something in his body throbbing, and he turned to stare at Chu Jia. At the same moment, she turned to look at him. Anger flashed in her eyes.

"You tricked me! You left behind an imprint in the diagram!" Chu Jia snapped at him immediately.

"Huh? What imprint?" Shang Xia was actually confused this time.

Gu Shou, who had remained silent all this while, frowned and yelled at her impatiently, "He probably left it behind unintentionally. Just wipe it off with your own inner qi! Why are you screaming at the kid?"

Her face flushed red after he spoke and she squeaked, "I... I can't get rid of it..."

"What?! You're a Martial Intent Realm cultivator!" Gu Shou was stunned.

How could a Martial Intent Realm cultivator be unable to wipe away the imprint of a Martial Extremity Realm cultivator? That didn't make sense!

Shang Ke was equally as surprised. However, a wide smile appeared on his face the next instant. "Kid, remove the imprint you left on the diagram."

With a grin threatening to break out on his face, Shang Xia casually reached his hand out to ask for the diagram like Chu Jia did previously.

In a fit of anger, she flung the scroll at his face.

Shang Xia wasn't surprised at all, and he caught it before sending some of his inner qi into it.

Bai Luming spoke up all of a sudden. "Hey, you do know that you can retrieve the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl too, right? Other than the fact that you're not a formation master, you're actually the best person to control the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World!"

Shang Xia's eyes narrowed and he stopped what he was doing. A cold light flashed through them and he turned to stare at Bai Luming, "Looks like you know quite a lot. Do you want me to give you one last chance to tell me everything you know?"

Shang Xia hated people who deliberately hid the information they knew. Killing intent was rising in his heart, and if they were in an ordinary situation, he would have gotten rid of people like that.

Bai Luming quickly spilled everything he knew. “You could see the situation around the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World through the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl when I entered. Either you know the art of formations, or you have some sort of special technique of the Zhu Family on you! Since you’re not a formation master, you have to possess the Zhu Family’s inheritance technique!”

“Huh?”

Shang Xia wasn’t the only one who was confused. Everyone turned to look at him with a raised eyebrows.

Sun Haiwei was the first to ask. “You managed to obtain the Zhu Family’s inheritance technique?”

“No? We’ll talk about this later.” Shang Xia thought about the Unstable Rock and seemed to have thought of something. Regardless, he didn’t obtain the Zhu Family’s inheritance technique. He ignored the weird gazes on him and he growled at Bai Luming, “So what do I do now? Am I supposed to wait for the moon to rise again?”

“Since you imprinted the core diagram with your inner qi, you definitely did the same to the pearl. The diagram and the pearl are connected. You should be able to retrieve it with a thought...” Bai Luming shot Shang Xia a strange stare as though he was looking at a fool.

Too lazy to care about Bai Luming, Shang Xia sent his inner qi into the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram to locate the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl.

A strange feeling came over him and when he raised his head again, he saw a fist-sized pearl floating towards him.

With a thought, the pearl turned blurry and reappeared above the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram.

Seven colored lights emerged from inside the pearl and the scene where Bai Luming just got stuck started to play out.

Indeed, he didn’t do anything.

Shang Xia nodded at the rest.

Chu Jia snorted softly before releasing Bai Luming. When he finally crawled to his feet, he cupped his fist towards Shang Xia. “I am willing to listen to the young master’s orders.”

Staring deeply at Bai Luming, Shang Xia seemed to have seen through his thoughts.

Only when Bai Luming became a little uncomfortable from Shang Xia’s gaze did the latter start to speak again. He handed the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram and the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl over to Chu Jia and said, “Alright, you can go ahead and be Instructor Chu’s assistant. That way, you can show off your strengths! You’ll be wasting your talent under me!”

The smile on Bai Luming’s face froze, but he didn’t dare to reject.

Gu Shou and Shang Ke looked at each other and saw the look of satisfaction in each other's eyes.

.

They could see that Bai Luming was brewing a scheme when he urged Shang Xia to retain control over the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World. However, Shang Xia was clearly able to resist the temptation to do so as he handed the diagram and pearl over to Chu Jia. Bai Luming's scheme failed before it even started.

That wasn't all. Shang Xia dispersed the imprint he placed on both items and handed over his authority to Chu Jia obediently.

Chu Jia revealed a shocked expression, but Shang Xia turned to Bai Luming and asked, "How long more do we have?"

Bai Luming naturally knew what Shang Xia referred to and he muttered, "Since the battle took place outside the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World, they probably don't know that the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World has already been compromised. We still have some time. However..."

Watching Shang Xia's expression darkening, he continued, "... However, the Rose Party will definitely send more people over! This time, a Martial Extermination Realm expert might come over!"

Gu Shou chuckled in response. "Great. I really hope that happens. There are only three Martial Extermination Realm cultivators of the Rose Party who entered the Coral Forest. Yuwen Shengjie was heavily injured by Deputy Patriarch Shang. If any one of them dares to come over, the stalemate in the Coral Forest will be instantly broken!"

Bai Luming continued, "Well... Three Martial Extermination Realm experts took the lead in bringing us to the battlefield between two worlds, but now, there are more than three of them! In fact, there may be five in total!"

A frown formed on Shang Xia's face. "What do you mean by that? Did the members of the Four Spiritual Peak come? All you shameless bastards colluding with outsiders against your own world!"

Shang Ke interrupted him suddenly. "No... Your Grandpa Shang Bo is stationed there and there are too many injured experts on the Four Spiritual Peak. They might not be able to send anyone over."

"No... Sima Zhanxing crossed the barrier to become a Martial Extermination Realm cultivator in the Dual Season Land. Murong Gaofeng, who had been in seclusion all this while, might also have broken through!" Bai Luming explained.

Turning to Gu Shou, Shang Xia asked, "Instructor Gu, are we able to contact the outside world now?"

They had to report critical intelligence like that! Otherwise, the Tongyou Institution would suffer huge losses if they entered the Coral Forest!

Gu Shou shook his head and his expression turned solemn. He pointed back at the protection screen they entered from. "Not unless we dig our way out of here."

Shang Xia shook his head and looked at Chu Jia who was looking at the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram as though it was her baby and yelled, "Is it possible for us to hold off a Martial Extermination Realm expert?!"

"Only a portion of the formation recovered. We won't be able to hold them off for too long!" Chu Jia rubbed her ears and grumbled, "What are you screaming at me for? I'm not deaf..."

Shang Xia sighed helplessly and took out an item from his Embroidered Cloud Case. "Whatever. We don't have a choice. We can only make a Martial Extermination Realm expert appear..."

#### Chapter 144: Four Spiritual Peak's Plot

Outside the Four Spiritual Peak, a huge moon rose into the air and a frosty light illuminated the lands.

A huge cloud flashed with three brilliant streaks of red, orange, and green light, and there seemed to be a trace of yellow mixed in between. The occasional flash of yellow looked weak, but it was extremely eye-catching.

All of a sudden, the cloud exploded and the moonlight disappeared. The darkness of night returned, but there were faint specks of light that fluttered through the sky.

The specks of light resembled fireflies in the night sky, and every time it moved, it would edge closer to the giant moon hanging in the air.

In the blink of an eye, the specks of light flashed seven times and right before they came into contact with the moon, all the specks of light fused back into one. It transformed into a massive lance.

Even though the moon in the sky trembled violently, the lance didn't pull back.

A loud cry rang through the skies above the Four Spiritual Peak as the exchange went on.

A huge Rain Swallow appeared from nowhere and soared towards the giant moon.

Hiding in the shadow of the moon, the giant Rain Swallow's claws reached towards the long lance.

In that instant, a snort boomed through the air. The cloud that dissipated earlier condensed to form a giant fist that punched straight towards the rain swallow.

"Ah!"

A loud cry came after the blast that happened after the fist collided with its claws. Even though the fist was dispersed yet again, the rain swallow was sent tumbling through the air.

At the same time, the lance stabbed mercilessly into the huge moon.

Bang!

A visible shockwave tore through the lands and the cloud that dispersed earlier scattered even further.

The lance returned to the hands of the wielder, and the moon started to fall. It eventually disappeared beneath the Four Spiritual Peak.

The Rain Swallow that finally steadied itself released an angry chirp before returning to the safety of the protection formation of the Four Spiritual Peak.

Even though both sides seemed even in that exchange, the experts of the Four Spiritual Peak were forced to return to the protection of their grand formation!

The scene wasn't new to cultivators there. It has been happening for quite some time now.

Ever since the beast tide receded, the Shang Bo went over to stand guard outside the Four Spiritual Peak alone. He stopped any Martial Extermination Realm cultivator who tried to leave their protection formation.

Yu Zhiqing and Yan Que died during the war, Lang Xiaoyun was seriously injured, and Lu Zhanyi suffered some light injuries. Four of the seven Martial Extermination Realm cultivators of the Four Spiritual Peak were basically out of commission.

Even Yan Su'er, the crafty old grandma, suffered serious injuries due to the trap Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo set.

Ran Biluo was hiding in whatever hole she made, and Lu Zhanyi was a hired gun. Both were unwilling to deal with Shang Bo sitting at their doorstep. The only ones who had the ability to fight were Lang Xiaoyun and Yan Su'er.

Otherwise, how could Shang Bo hold them off alone?!

His tactic of sitting in front of their doorstep was too damn insulting. Lang Xiaoyun and Yan Su'er were helpless. If they didn't keep him in check, all their disciples would probably flee from the mountain.

Even though Yan Su'er had her own plans to dissociate herself with the other races on the Four Spiritual Peak, she had to put on a convincing show now that Shang Bo was there.

Both sides knew each other's intentions.

Shang Bo's true goal was to obstruct them from meeting up with the members of the Rose Party, and he had to fight for more time for the Tongyou Institution to deal with the enemies!

The Four Spiritual Peak wouldn't give up on the Coral Forest anyway! They needed to mess with the Tongyou Peak every step of the way! If they could use the Rose Party to cause the Tongyou Peak to suffer huge losses, they would be more than happy!

"Shang Bo, if we really choose to leave the Four Spiritual Peak, you can't stop us!"  
Lang Xiaoyun appeared close to the edge of the protection barrier as he yelled.

He stared at the void where a cloud was starting to reform itself and he seemed to be sure that that was where Shang Bo was hiding.

"Old wolf, I never thought of stopping you! You're thinking too much! I'm here to train myself and gain some pointers from you! I need to consolidate my strength as soon as I can!" Shang Bo's voice rang through the air.

Another figure appeared beside Lang Xiaoyun all of a sudden and Yan Su'er pointed her cane into the air. "There's no need to hide it from us! Tell us what you plan to do in the Coral Forest!"

Shang Bo didn't respond immediately. After some time, he finally spoke up. "Hahaha, you have always gotten straight to the point. It won't be polite for me to beat about the bush then!"

"Hurry up and speak. Do you plan to fight or do you want an alliance? Stop making us guess!" Yan Su'er had always been used to holding onto the initiative. When she spoke, Lang Xiaoyun stood silently at the side.

"So... You're willing to help us kill the cultivators of the Rose Party?" Shang Bo's clone appeared as the cloud around him condensed even more.

"Help? Hehe. Since we're negotiating now, let's take out some sincerity. Otherwise, you can screw off now!" Even though Yan Su'er was starting to look old and senile, her words proved otherwise.

Shang Bo chuckled in amusement. "I'm not the one who plots against others every chance I get. I'm not the one who allied with the Rose Party to sabotage my Tongyou Peak either. You guys colluded together and Yuwen Shengjie's appearance in my Tongyou Peak was the greatest proof. Why are you talking to me about sincerity now?"

After thinking about it, Yan Su'er turned to Lang Yunxiao. "You tell him!"

Lang Xiaoyun's expression sank and he growled, "We cannot allow a third power to appear in the battlefield between two worlds."

Shang Bo nodded lightly in acknowledgment. "Yeah. The battlefield between two worlds belongs to us. The moment a new power appears, we'll have to split the resources here again..."

"What do we do with the Coral Forest then?" Yan Su'er asked.

"It's come down to a fair competition between us." Shang Bo replied.

Yan Su'er sneered under her breath, however, Lang Xiaoyun replied in her stead. "Alright! It's settled then!"

Shang Bo and Yan Su'er were clearly shocked and they turned to look at Lang Xiaoyun who had an expressionless face.

Shang Bo seemed to have thought of something and he chuckled in response, "Brother Lang is really thoughtful... Aren't you afraid that the Rose Party will hold a grudge against you for breaking their arrangement?"

"So what? Do you think they'll come over to pester us before they take their revenge on you?" Lang Xiaoyun sneered.

"Brother Lang, you're really something else!"

"Alright, it's settled then!"

The two figures above the Four Spiritual Peak disappeared.

A teasing smile appeared on Shang Bo's face before his clone disappeared in a gust of wind.

...

In the Four Spiritual Hall of the Four Spiritual Peak.

Several Martial Extermination Realm experts of the four great races sat around the main hall and Martial Intent Realm cultivators gathered behind them.

Lang Xiaoyun and Yan Su'er walked through the main entrance and were immediately bombarded with questions.

“Brother Lang, are we really going to work with them?” An expert from his race yelled.

Lang Xiaoyun swept his gaze across those present and growled, “All of you heard our conversation earlier. We cannot allow a third power to appear in the battlefield between the two worlds! This is our bottom line!”

“Why aren't we working with the Rose Party instead to get rid of the Tongyou Peak?” One of the Martial Intent Realm experts stood up and asked.

Glancing at the member from the corner of his eye, Lang Xiaoyun's tone became a lot softer. “I understand the rage you have after Brother Yu died in battle. However, we need to take things one step at a time. We cannot send more people of our races to die! We need to be one hundred percent sure we can wipe out the Tongyou Peak if we try again!”

The cultivator who spoke sat down after receiving his reply. He might be unhappy about it, but he couldn't do anything!

Lang Xiaoyun no longer bothered with him and he glanced at several others. “When will our reinforcements arrive?”

Looking at each other, one of them finally stood up to answer, “They'll be coming soon. Senior She Zhihong will be bringing them here.”

“Good.” Lang Xiaoyun nodded before giving his order, “There's no need for them to come to our Four Spiritual Peak. Tell them to go hide around the Tongyou Peak.”

Everyone in the hall stared at him in shock.

A smile slowly appeared on Lang Xiaoyun's face. “We need to deal with the Rose Party, but if we can take the opportunity to destroy the Tongyou Peak, they can only blame themselves for their carelessness. I didn't say that we won't move against them.”

A commotion broke out in the hall.

When discussions broke out in the hall, someone brought up an actual concern. “What if they already made preparations? They've been controlling the Tongyou Peak for a long time. It's not easy for us to chase them out of their territory! Moreover, they definitely suffered less losses than us when the beast tide broke out! They have the Tongyou Institution behind them too... Reinforcements might also be coming their way...”

Lang Xiaoyun seemed to have thought about it a long time ago and he interrupted the speaker, “That is why Brother She Zhihong cannot be the only one going. My brother, Lang Jingyun, will also be part of the operation! I will also ask Brother Lu Zhanyi to make his move. With the three of them, we'll definitely be able to cripple the Tongyou Institution!”



One of the Martial Intent Realm cultivators behind Lang Xiaoyun asked all of a sudden, “That... About Jingyun’s injuries...”

“Relax. I won’t play around with the life of our Martial Extermination Realm experts!”

“As for the reinforcements from the Tongyou Institution... They will definitely send some people over! Kou Chongxue is injured and Yun Jing will have to remain in the institution. Even if they have hidden Martial Extermination Realm experts, I believe the three on our side will be more than enough to suppress them!” Lang Xiaoyun declared confidently.

“As for the experts we’re sending to the Coral Forest...”

Yan Su’er interrupted. “There’s no need to say any more. I’ll be heading there personally!”

Lang Xiaoyun nodded slightly before turning to Ran Biluo. “Lass, what about you?”

Ran Biluo was the only one on the Four Spiritual Peak who maintained most of her fighting strength after the war with the Tongyou Peak.

However, she seemed to be extremely worn out after the battle and she hadn’t appeared in public since then. Even though everyone was discussing their future plans, she didn’t say a word.

Hearing Lang Xiaoyun’s question, she finally raised her head. “I was thinking if we should request for reinforcements from outside the Liao Continent... This will allow us to...”

“Shut up!” Lang Xiaoyun roared at her before she could complete her sentence, shocking everyone in the hall.

Yan Su’er’s voice rang through the hall soon after. “Do you know what you’re talking about right now? How much blood and sweat did our four races shed in the battlefield for us to reach our current height? With victory right in front of us, you’re asking us to split it up even more? Did you come up with the idea of inviting experts from the other continents yourself or is this the intention of your race?”

Ran Biluo felt stares converging on her body and her body trembled involuntarily. She realized her mistake and she quickly tried to correct herself, “It was merely a passing comment. You don’t have to take me seriously. Anyway, I’ll head over to the Coral Forest too!”

Lang Xiaoyun and Yan Su’er’s gazes met and they saw the doubt in each other’s eyes. However, Lang Xiaoyun couldn’t deal with the problem immediately and he nodded slowly, “Alright. It shall be decided then!”

Chapter 145: Everyone Has Their Own Plans

“The members of the Four Spiritual Peak cannot be trusted.” Ji Wenlong sighed after hearing what Shang Bo said.

Shang Bo chuckled in response, “Chief Ji, of course I know that! However, all of us know that we cannot allow a third power to appear in the battlefield between the two worlds! They know that we have to work together to get rid of the hidden threat.” Pausing for a second, he added, “Of course, the benefits we obtain will depend on how well we play this.”

Ji Wenlong nodded slightly and turned to the side. “Brother Shang, what do you think?”

Shang Lubing smiled silently. “You two can decide. I’ll make an appropriate strategy depending on our choice of action.”

“Brother Shang, you’re acting too humble. You’re much more experienced than me, and I hope you can give me some pointers.” Shang Bo replied.

To that, he only received Shang Lubing’s humble denial.

“Alright alright, enough of the pleasantries.” Ji Wenlong snapped. “Has there been news from the Tongyou Institution? Is the Third Young Lady of the Yun Family coming over?”

A bitter smile appeared on Shang Bo’s face. “I’m afraid not. The patriarch’s injuries are worse than we thought. Sister Yun is unable to leave the institution for the time being.”

Ji Wenlong’s expression changed slightly and a sigh left his lips. “Looks like we can only rely on ourselves...”

“What do you think the situation is inside the Coral Forest? Which one of the elders of the Rose Party led them this time?” Shang Bo asked.

Ji Wenlong’s expression turned solemn and he thought about it for a moment. A name flashed through his mind and he gnashed his teeth in irritation, “Murong Tianlan!”

...

“We can’t rely on those bastards on the Four Spiritual Peak!” Yuwen Shengjie growled and his complexion didn’t look too good.

He was injured by Shang Bo during the war on the Tongyou Peak, and even though his injuries couldn’t be considered absolutely life-threatening, it was serious enough to affect his fighting abilities.

“The Four Spiritual Peak has been at odds with the Tongyou Peak for twenty years. They killed an uncountable number of people from the other side, and their hatred cannot be resolved till the other party is dead. Now that they have the chance to rid themselves of their enemy once and for all, they should be willing to work with us. Moreover, they can also get some benefits from the Coral Forest.” One of the younger cultivators of the Rose Party spoke up, but unlike the other two around him, he didn’t seem to be able to control his aura.

“It’s hard for us to say. Their battle raged on for twenty years, and they understand each other’s bottom line. They can even guess each other’s thoughts. Moreover, we don’t really have too much intelligence on either side.”

The younger expert continued, “Martial Uncle Yuwen, do you think that they will work together against us? I don’t think that’s possible! They can’t wait to kill each other!”

Yuwen Shengjie chuckled in response, “Who said that mortal enemies cannot form an alliance?”

“Uncle Daying, what do you think?” The younger cultivator turned to the other old expert and asked.

Dongfang Daying looked at the two of them before speaking, “We can give up anything but the control over the special regions! Only then will we be able to establish ourselves in the battlefield between the two worlds! Only then will we be able to stand at the same height as either one of the two powers!”

The young cultivator thought about it for a second before asking cautiously, “So... We should be cautious of them even if we work together?”

Dongfang Daying slapped the young expert on the shoulder and chuckled, “Zhanxing, my intention is for you to go hide yourself. Do not reveal your identity as a Martial Extermination Realm expert. As for Murong Gaofeng, let’s hope that he manages to cross the bottleneck and break through! When that happens, we’ll possess five Martial Extermination Realm experts! When the time comes, the two of you will become the key to our victory!”

Yuwen Shengjie spoke up too. “Too bad Ouyang Zhaiyuan is adamant about comprehending his ultimate technique. Otherwise, he would have been able to break through a long time ago! With his strength, we’ll be able to gain an absolute advantage!”

Dongfang Daying smiled, “It’s up to him. Didn’t we send him and that formation master to the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World? Let’s see if he can grasp the opportunity he’s been given. He’s been stuck at his current level for such a long time now and the amount of resources he has wasted has already touched on the bottom line of the Ouyang Family. Let’s hope he makes the right choice this time.”

Yuwen Shengjie sighed, “Let’s hope so. The Coral Forest has been untouched for twenty years and we’re squeezing its resources dry right now. All we hope for is a few more experts to be born!”

The young Sima Zhanxing sighed at the side, “Martial uncles, didn’t we hand the task of controlling the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World over to the kids? If I recall correctly, their leader should be a talented formation master from the Murong Family...”

“Yes.” Yuwen Shengjie sighed, “Some of the kids have been brainwashed by him and all of them chose to head over to grab some benefits. They haven’t responded in a long time and they might have run into trouble. We can assume that all of them have already sacrificed their life in order to control the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World... Senior Murong is really too lenient with the members of the younger generation...”

Dongfang Daying muttered at the side, “That’s right. Even if he wishes to train them, there’s a limit to what they can do! Luckily, Murong Gaofeng is about to break through to the Martial Extermination Realm. The Murong Family will have another expert! Martial Uncle Murong can finally heave a sigh of relief...”

Sima Zhanxing seemed to have realized something and he quickly responded, “Yeah... Although it’s a pity...”

His response seemed to please the other two, but he followed up with another question. “By the way, why hasn’t Ancestor Murong appeared even though the Tongyou Peak is breathing down our necks?”

Yuwen Shengjie released a meaningful chuckle. “Uncle Tianlan is focused on the Zhu Family Manor at the moment. He’s suppressing Liu Jitang who is hiding in there. I’m afraid he doesn’t have time to help us.”

Dongfang Daying interrupted suddenly, “You can’t say that. The Zhu Family Manor is the most important region of the Coral Forest. It’s the key to our Rose Party forming a base of operation here in the battlefield between two worlds.”

Yuwen Shengjie sneered softly, “Brother Dongfang, you’re right. However, I think you missed an important point...”

“Enough. Brother Shengjie, we shouldn’t air our dirty laundry in front of the juniors. Martial Uncle Tianlan is our senior after all...” Dongfang Daying glared at Yuwen Shengjie and growled.

Sima Zhanxing brought up an interesting idea all of a sudden. “Martial uncles, why don’t I head over to the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World to take a look? That place seems a little strange. After all, we haven’t received any reports from those within. I heard that once the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World opens, illusions will fill the area. Brother Zhaiyuan gave up the chance to enter the Unstable Region and Murong Gaofeng went in his stead. Could he have planned to comprehend his marital intent in the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World since the start?”

Dongfang Daying roared with laughter. “It will be great if that’s true! Anyway, you better not reveal yourself.”

“Yeah. You shouldn’t head over now. If Ouyang Zhaiyuan really manages to comprehend his martial intent, you’ll find out either way. Moreover, he cannot be disturbed during his comprehension. If you head over now and affect his breakthrough, things will get complicated.” Yuwen Shengjie added.

Sima Zhanxing smiled in response, “Alright! I understand! I thank martial uncles for the tip!” Waving goodbye to the both of them, he took his leave.

Dongfang Daying looked at his leaving figure and whispered, “Brother Shengjie, the Sima Family has always maintained their neutrality in the Rose Party. However, from what he said earlier, he seems to be leaning towards us... We need to hold back a little. If we push him too much, he might lean the other way instead...”

“I just think the Murong Family went too far! Didn’t I just say a little more...” Yuwen Shengjie muttered.

Dongfang Daying could only chuckle softly, “Alright, alright. The enemy is upon us. We have to look at the bigger picture. Martial Uncle Tianlan is our leader and we need to restrain ourselves.”

Yuwen Shengtian snorted once in acknowledgment.

.

However, Dongfang Daying seemed to have thought of something. “Oh yeah, what’s the name of Zhanxing’s extermination origin that he refined in the Dual Season Land?”

“It’s called the Changqing Extermination. Even though it’s not very strong, it allows one to live for a long time. It’s also called the Longevity Extermination...”

“Huh? Isn’t longevity the opposite of extermination? Those freaks of the Zhu Family... I wonder if their fate now has anything to do with the weird techniques they produced...”

...

“The seven-colored smoke in the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl should contain an extermination origin!” Shang Xia looked at the pearl carefully and pointed towards the pretty mist within. When everyone stared at him in fright, he continued, “This should be the Fantasy Spiritual Extermination. Well, at least that explains the name of the pearl!”

“Extermination origin... Is this the key to entering the Martial Extermination Realm?!” Sun Haiwei gasped. She was mesmerized by the beautiful mist contained in the pearl and she reached out unconsciously to touch it. However, her hands passed right through it and she retracted her hand quickly.

Shang Xia nodded and opened the Mountain and Sea Recollection. “According to the records, the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World was designed by the Zhu Family to collect extermination origins! The Fantasy Spiritual Pearl is the key to their plan! This book also contains the way to retrieve the extermination origin from the pearl for refinement.”

Shang Xia paused for a second, expecting the rest to be unable to digest what he just said.

Shang Ke broke the silence after a long time. “I heard that the Zhu Family has been able to produce a lot of experts during their peak. A Martial Extermination Realm expert would appear every dozen years or so. Before our worlds collided, the Zhu Family actually produced four Martial Extermination Realm cultivators on their own! Their patriarch was at the peak of the Martial Extermination Realm, and it’s said that he would be the first person in our You Continent to break through to the next realm!”

Shang Ke shook his head slowly after speaking up to that point.

If they were talking about knowledge regarding the You Continent, Shang Ke knew a lot more than those present.

Shang Xia changed the topic suddenly. “Now that we’re in the Coral Forest and have lost contact with the outside world, we can only rely on ourselves! We only have one option left! We need to produce a Martial Extermination Realm expert right here and now!”

He handed the pearl over to Shang Ke after he spoke. “Fifth Grandpa, we can only pray that you succeed...”

Chapter 146: Shang Clan’s Inheritance

Shang Xia didn't hide his intentions at all. Of course, there was no point in hiding it.

When Shang Xia told them about the existence of the extermination origin, everyone was shocked. However, they also accepted his suggestion silently.

If they looked at it another way, he was the one who discovered the extermination origin! He had the authority to use it as he saw fit.

The most important point was that all of them had already lost contact with the Tongyou Peak. They would face the wrath of a Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Rose Party any time, and they had to do all they could to survive.

Even though Gu Shou had a profound cultivation, he was still quite a distance away from breaking through.

Ensuring that Shang Ke was ready to break through, the group eventually split up as they had to get ready to take on a Martial Extermination Realm expert of the Rose Party.

Shang Xia followed Shang Ke to the fourth hidden chamber as the rest split up to complete their preparations, they saw detailed instructions on how a cultivator was supposed to extract the extermination origin from the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl for their breakthrough inscribed on the walls. It was clear that the room had been specially made for breaking through to the Martial Extermination Realm.

Shang Xia looked at Shang Ke and chuckled, "Fifth Grandpa, you won't blame me for taking over the situation and forcing you to break through without enough preparations, right?"

"Damn brat. You're pretty capable! You're really lucky too! Do you know how many people failed to locate an extermination origin even after so many years?! They were trapped in the Martial Intent Realm despite their deep accumulations! Only you would be able to give it away like that! Hahaha! Am I supposed to blame you if I'm not ready to break through?" Shang Ke suppressed his laughter.

Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief when he realized that his grandfather had no intention of blaming him. "Even so, I'm really regretful that you have to attempt to break through. You haven't comprehended your martial intent to break through to the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm. Your foundations would be stronger if you managed to... It's just too bad we're in such a bad situation now!"

"It's alright. I've been stuck at my current level for some time now. I realized that I might not be able to comprehend my martial intent even if I tried. However, I have been missing an extermination origin in order to start my breakthrough. Even though your Grandpa Bo tried searching high and low, he failed to locate any!"

Shang Xia knew that everything he was saying was true. However, he would never know what Shang Ke actually thought.

Whatever the case, he heaved a sigh of relief when he heard that Shang Ke had given up on comprehending his martial intent.

"About the medicine..." That was the other thing Shang Xia was worried about.

Patting his chest, he slowly revealed an intricately carved bronze gourd. “I made my preparations a long time ago. I was only missing the extermination origin. With the help of your Grandpa Bo, I prepared my advancement medicine three years ago! I bring it everywhere I go in case I run into an opportunity to break through!”

“However, it’s difficult to maintain the effects of a fully refined advancement medicine. A semi-finished product is contained in this gourd and I need to complete a few simple steps before turning it into my advancement medicine.” Shang Ke explained.

Shang Xia gasped in shock. “Is that even possible?”

“It’s difficult to create a high level advancement medicine. However, it’s harder to find a chance to break through! I have to always be ready!”

Shang Xia nodded slowly in acknowledgement.

When he followed Shang Ke to the fourth hidden chamber earlier, he wanted to express his apology. However, it seemed as though Shang Ke had considered everything! Since there was nothing else left to do, he turned to leave. He didn’t want to waste Shang Ke’s precious time to break through.

However, his departure was interrupted by a question from Shang Ke. “Xia’er, what do you think about the relationship our clan has with the institution?”

Shang Xia thought for a second before replying, “Both sides depend on each other. We flourish together, but if anything happens to one side, the other will also be affected!”

Shang Ke nodded slowly and maintained a passive expression. He continued, “You’re right. Right now, the Tongyou Institution is the foundation of strength for our You Continent. Patriarch Kou is indeed a genius, but I still think that our Shang Clan shouldn’t be shackled down by the institution. We have to keep our power and remain independent.”

Shang Xia stared at his grandfather in shock. He didn’t know why Shang Ke would talk about stuff like that now. He asked cautiously, “Fifth Grandpa, why are you telling me this?”

Shang Ke turned to look at Shang Xia deeply before explaining, “Shang Bo sank too deep into the Tongyou Institution. Of course, this isn’t a bad thing. It cannot be denied that his position allowed us to rise quickly in the You Continent. However, looking at things from another perspective, our Shang Clan’s rise was supported by Patriarch Kou.”

Shang Xia didn’t understand what he was getting at, but he could tell that Kou Chongxue definitely had some sort of plan for supporting the Shang Clan’s rise. Moreover, it made sense for them to repay the institution for the help they received.

Shang Xia didn’t interrupt his grandfather with his thoughts. Instead, he remained silent to wait for Shang Ke to continue.

Shang Ke knew that Shang Xia would understand where he was coming from eventually. He sighed and continued, “We cannot deny that Patriarch Kou did us a huge favor. It’s something we have to return eventually, but that’s a job for elders of the clan like me and your Grandpa Bo. We’ll return

the favor as much as we can, but our Shang Clan will forever belong to us. We can be allies, partners, and even friends of the institution, but we can never turn into a vassal! Do you understand my intentions?"

Shang Xiao hesitated slightly before nodding slowly.

A smile returned to Shang Ke's face. As though he was afraid that Shang Xia would overthink things, he added, "Hey, I'm not telling you to become an enemy of the institution..."

"I know!" Shang Xia grinned. "I know what you mean. I'll do what I have to..."

Shang Ke revealed a satisfied expression, but he had to remind Shang Xia. "It's not as easy as you think..."

As he spoke, he took out a jade goblet and poured some of the medicine contained in the gourd out. The dense fragrance filled the chamber in an instant.

Shang Ke took out two other bags and poured different colored powder into the goblet. When he was done, he tossed two candle-like items into it.

Shang Ke raised the goblet with one hand and his body started to sway from side to side. He released a soft sigh, "Multi Illusion Wine. When your Grandpa Bo advanced, this was also the medicine he used! The recipe was provided by Patriarch Kou!"

"Oh..." Shang Xia nodded absentmindedly. However, he tilted his head to the side violently and asked, "Fifth Grandpa, don't we have our own recipe to make advancement medicines for the Martial Extermination Realm?"

"Hahaha... Everyone says that our Shang Clan is the fourth great clan. Shang Bo's cultivation is good enough to challenge Ji Wenlong today and if I manage to enter the Martial Extermination Realm today, no one will doubt our status as a great clan any more. Who will expect us to not possess our own medicine recipe?"

Shang Xia raised an eyebrow in shock. "Do the other three clans have their own?"

Shang Ke nodded dejectedly, "Yeah. The Ji, Liu, and Yun Clans were part of the five great families! They definitely have their own inheritances..."

Shang Xia continued to ask, "Did you and Grandpa Bo swear never to leak the recipe of the Multi Illusion Wine?"

"Of course we did. Anyway, this is the most compatible medicine with our Shang Clan's techniques. It's part of the institution's collection, and we can't pass it down to others. Without a proper inheritance for our clan, it's over once anything happens to me or your Grandpa Bo. We'll immediately fall from our position, and it's very likely we'll be completely exterminated by our enemies!" Shang Bo sighed.

"That is why we need to find a recipe to create advancement medicine for our experts to enter the Martial Extermination Realm! Our Shang Clan needs to obtain complete control over it!" Shang Xia added on his grandfather's behalf.



Shang Ke paused for a second after hearing Shang Xia. "That's right. It would be best if we can obtain one that complements our spear technique. It doesn't really matter what medicine you use to enter the Martial Realm and Martial Extremity Realm, but you can't enter the Martial Intent Realm any way you want! When you enter the Martial Intent Realm, I hope that you can choose to practice our Shang Clan's spear technique. Even though we don't have an inheritance for you to reach the Martial Extermination Realm right now, our spear technique is extremely powerful. I'm not as talented and as strong as your Grandpa Bo back when he was at the Martial Intent Realm. If he was in my place, he wouldn't have lost to Ouyang Zhaiyuan!"

Shang Xia replied confidently. "I will!"

That had been his plan all along.

As the fragrance of the wine got denser and denser, Shang Xia felt a little lightheaded after taking a whiff.

"Since this is the first time we went all out to explore the Coral Forest, it's the best chance we have to obtain an advancement formula!" Shang Ke said all of a sudden.

"The Zhu Family's advancement formula?" Shang Xia gasped. "Is this the true goal of the Rose Party and every other power?"

Shang Ke didn't reply, and he asked a question of his own. "Do you know how many advancement formulas the Zhu Family possess?"

"Nope."

Shang Ke raised four fingers in the air and said slowly, "They have four different formulas!"

Shang Xia's eyes slowly widened in shock. "No wonder they were the strongest family in the You Continent! Do the formulas have anything to do with the four spiritual lands?"

"In the past, we wouldn't know. Now that I entered the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World, I can confirm that there is definitely some sort of connection!" Shang Ke muttered.

"The foundation of the Zhu Family is deep indeed..." Shang Xia praised.

"However, these formulas aren't the reason the Rose Party and the Tongyou Institution are going crazy." Shang Ke threw out another bomb.

"What can it possibly be?" Shang Xia was instantly taken aback.

"Breakthrough to the next level. To the Fifth Order of the Primary Realm!" Shang Ke's gaze turned sharp. He stared up at the ceiling and whispered, "There has been a rumor going around in the You Continent that the patriarch of the Zhu Family obtained a complete guide to break through to the Martial Dipper Realm!"

Chapter 147: Sudden Changes

After Shang Xia left the chamber, the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl hovered in front of Shang Ke.

The instant the entrance to the chamber closed, the rock formation started to light up.

“I hope Grandpa Ke can successfully enter the Martial Extermination Realm...” Shang Xia whispered in his heart.

According to his grandfather, there were only six known advancement formulas to the Martial Extermination Realm. Three of them came from the Ji, Liu, and Yun Clans.

The Multi Illusion Wine was the most suitable medicine for members who practiced the Shang Clan’s Spear Art.

That didn’t mean that it was the best advancement formula available out there. Shang Bo and Shang Ke could only choose the one that suited them the most...

Not too long after Shang Xia exited the chamber, a misty figure started to condense in front of him. It quickly took the shape of Chu Jia.

“Hey, that’s pretty good!” Shang Xia gasped. “It hasn’t been long since I gave you the core diagram! Instructor Chu, you’re really impressive!”

Well, he couldn’t go wrong leaving things up to the professional. Not to mention the fact that Chu Jia wasn’t just a professional. She was an absolute beast in the field of formations.

Shang Xia sighed in defeat. When he held the diagram, he could only observe the situation passively through the blinking lights. His use was elementary compared to what Chu Jia could do!

The image of Chu Jia sniggered happily after she heard Shang Xia’s praise. However, she quickly suppressed the joy on her face and she turned her head to the side. Pretending that she didn’t care too much about his compliment. “Hey, the four hidden chambers are the source of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Grand Formation. It’s good to be hiding in one of them.”

“Are there any dangers lying about?” Shang Xia’s eyes widened in surprise.

“I discovered that the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World would transform from time to time. It’s part of a bigger structure.”

“What do you mean? Can you simplify it for a normal human to understand?” Shang Xia muttered grumpily.

Rolling her eyes at him, she continued, “In the Coral Forest, the positions of the four spiritual lands can change! If you’re not hiding in one of the four chambers or a location that won’t move, you might be tossed to some other region when the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World teleports!”

“Shit! You should have said so earlier!” Shang Xia snorted. “However, the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World is massive... Even if it’s possible for it to change positions with the other regions, it won’t be easy, right?!”

“I told you what I learned! I don’t care if you believe me or not!” Chu Jia snapped.

“Relax! Which one of the four chambers is empty right now?” Shang Xia followed up.

“Why do you care? It’s not like you believe me.” Chu Jia pouted in annoyance.

Chuckling softly, Shang Xia responded, “I’m just being careful!”

As Chu Jia’s figure started to fade, her voice rang in his ears. “Senior Shang closed off one of the chambers and Instructor Gu chose one to treat his injuries. Junior Sister Sun is currently cultivating in the qi condensation formation and I’m in the last one. Hmph. There’s none left for you!”

Before Shang Xia could start complaining, Chu Jia’s voice rang through the air. “I’m able to control the region contained between the four chambers. As long as you don’t leave this region, you won’t be thrown out of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World when it teleports...”

After speaking, she disappeared completely without giving Shang Xia the chance to complain to her.

“Oi! Shit! This daddy over here brought you guys into the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World! Now, all of you kicked me out of the stone chambers... Fine! I’ll just take the time to train my sword techniques!” Shang Xia cursed loudly as he walked around one of the stone formations contained within the boundary described by Chu Jia.

He didn’t walk too far when he turned around to stare at one of the rock formations. “Crap... Everything looks similar here. I didn’t lose my way in the past because of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Diagram... Now that I don’t have it anymore, I better not venture too far. If I leave the region by accident and the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World really teleports... I’m screwed...”

Shang Xia looked for a suitable region to train but he quickly recalled that Shang Ke was in seclusion not too far away.

“Oh well... I’ll walk a little more in case I disturb Grandpa Ke...”

As he had been reading through the Twisting Twin Blades before Ouyang Zhaiyuan and Bai Luming arrived, he gained a basic understanding of it.

As long as he practiced it slightly, he would be able to familiarize himself with the sword art. After trying it out in battle a few times, he was confident that he could reach the large completion stage of the sword art.

Not too long after he found the perfect spot to practice his sword art, he heard a dull buzzing sound all around him.

A terrifying wave of heaven and earth qi came from all directions and formed a massive whirlwind. It swept through the rock formations around Shang Xia and a loud whistling sound filled his ears.

Ever since Shang Xia and the others entered the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World, the sounds of conflict in the outside world got louder and louder. The only thing that could lead to a disturbance at that level was an exchange between experts at the Martial Extermination Realm, but there was something different about it this time. The entire Coral Forest seemed to be breaking out into combat and the commotion seemed to flip the region upside down!

“This... The Martial Extermination Realm experts on our side started to fight with the Rose Party?” Shang Xia guessed as a chilly light flashed through his eyes. Every time his blades crossed, streaks of frosty light would fill the air.

“No... The disturbance is too large this time! Could the experts of the Four Spiritual Peak be here too?” Shang Xia guessed. His thoughts started to run wild as he practiced.

The Rose Party had a deal with the Four Spiritual Peak! Moreover, both sides were enemies of the Tongyou Peak!

The Tongyou Peak was superior to either party no matter how they looked at it. In that case, Shang Xia felt that there was no way the Four Spiritual Peak would refuse to work with the Rose Party!

Now that the disturbance was getting larger and larger, not even the restrictions around the Coral Forest could block off the signs of battle. The sky had been dyed a multitude of colors.

Shang Xia even felt that the rock formation below him was trembling from the impact. Waves were starting to rise from the once-calm surface, and the bridges connecting the rock formations shook slightly.

“This can’t be happening... How will Fifth Grandpa cultivate and breakthrough?! Won’t he experience cultivation deviation?!” Shang Xia tried to suppress his worries. His hands had already stopped moving as it was obvious he wasn’t in the right state of mind to continue practicing his sword.

Keeping his blades, he returned to where Shang Ke was.

However, he paused after taking a single step. Didn’t Chu Jia say that she could control everything within the four chambers? She could stop any energy fluctuations from affecting their cultivation!

One had to know that in the four chambers, four cultivators were doing everything they could to grow stronger. One of them was trying to advance, and another one was treating his injuries. There was one more strengthening her foundations, and the last was studying the art of formations.

None of them could be disturbed!

That was also the reason Shang Xia was left outside like an abandoned child.

Looking all around him, a frown formed on Shang Xia’s face. If Chu Jia could block off all the energy fluctuations in the region, why was he affected by it? How were the rest supposed to cultivate in peace?

Unless... He had already left the region controlled by Chu Jia!

There was no way...

Shang Xia’s eyes widened as he observed the area around him.

Where did he come from?! Where was the rock formation with the hidden chamber his Grandpa Ke was cultivating in?!

Which bridge did he come from?!

Shang Xia turned around abruptly and ran in the direction he thought he came from. However, the huge energy fluctuations caused the rock formations to quake around him. The waves that crashed against the rock formations rose to become giant tsunamis, and Shang Xia realized that something was horribly wrong.

A howl came from the depths of the Coral Forest in that instant, and his mind went completely blank.

Hearing the howl, the heaven and earth qi in his surroundings quietened down instantly.

The sky around the Coral Forest that was filled with multi-colored lights from the battle between the Martial Extermination Realm cultivators returned to normal.

The battle between the experts seemed to be suppressed too. Only the howl remained.

Shang Xia suddenly saw the rock formations around him distort as some grew taller and some shrank in size.

The water around him rose and fell, and the world spun around him.

However, everything returned to normal in the next instant and he staggered about, trying to stabilize himself.

When he finally caught his footing, he felt his soul returning to his body and his mind finally started to work again.

Wait a second... If I moved around so much, I would have already fallen into the water below!

Shang Xia looked at his surroundings, and he realized that everything he was familiar with had disappeared! He appeared in a whole new area!

“Hiss...”

A whistle came from behind him and Shang Xia’s scalp started to tingle. He could feel something stabbing him from behind.

Reacting instinctively, his sword shot out to block the sneak attack.

“Hey! What sword technique is that?! It’s really weird!”

Chapter 148: Training Partner?

In the core region of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World.

Bai Luming was trembling nonstop on the ground as his body curled up into a ball. His clothes were completely wet, and his hair was caked with mud. If no one knew that he was a reputable rank three formation master, they would mistake him as a sad beggar at the side of the road!

From his appearance, it was clear he suffered a lot.

As he gasped for air, his disheveled hair hid his awkward expression.

“Hah... Bai Luming, I really underestimated you! It has only been a few moments since I reminded him and he disappeared!” Chu Jia’s lips were pressed tightly together and she started to activate the Triple Intent Lock on his body.

Sun Haiwei, who rushed over from the other stone chamber, glared at Bai Luming with killing intent leaking from her eyes.

“I... I told you! This has nothing to do with me! He ran around himself and left the core region!” Bai Luming gnashed his teeth in pain as he tried to explain.

“So you knew he left the core area...” Sun Haiwei caught on to his words instantly.

“Yes...” Bai Luming didn’t dare to hide the fact. After all, Chu Jia could easily see through his lies.

After all, the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl had the ability to replay what happened earlier. As long as they check through the footage after Shang Ke was done with the pearl, she would discover exactly what he had done!

Even without the pearl, she could still see his position in the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World when Shang Xia disappeared. That was exactly what she did the moment she discovered his disappearance. She also activated the Triple Intent Lock then, bringing him to the state he was in.

“Why didn’t you stop him?” Sun Haiwei growled at Bai Luming.

Sweeping his hair to the side, he stared directly into Sun Haiwei’s eyes and snapped, “Why should I? Didn’t Young Lady Chu remind him after he stepped out of Shang Ke’s cultivation chamber?”

“So you saw him leaving the core region with your own eyes! Even though you didn’t harm him directly, you chose to watch as he ran into trouble!” Sun Haiwei didn’t plan to let him off easy.

“Danger?” An odd expression appeared on Bai Luming’s face and a trace of mockery was contained in the smile that formed on his face. He didn’t bother with Sun Haiwei any longer and he turned to address Chu Jia. “Who would have thought that the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World would shift at that moment? Young Lady Chu, would you have expected it to happen?”

Chu Jia remained silent as Bai Luming’s gaze returned to Sun Haiwei. “The reason Young Lady Chu reminded him about the possible shifting of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World was because I told her everything I knew about the Coral Forest. With her talent and knowledge in formations, she couldn’t tell that it was about to shift! How was I supposed to know? Don’t you know that she’s better than me at these things?”

Sun Haiwei was at a loss for words, but Chu Jia sneered at the side, “Even if this has nothing to do with you, all of us know that you’re plotting something behind our backs...”

It was Bai Luming’s turn to be silenced. It was true that he had bad intentions, but he hadn’t started putting his plan into motion!

“Do you know why I got Instructor Gu to leave you alive?” Chu Jia asked.

When he looked at Chu Jia again, he noticed a bright smile lighting up her face. A bad premonition filled his heart. He couldn’t be more familiar with the smile. It was the same one he saw before he

was trapped in the protection screen separating the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World from the outside world!

Sun Haiwei was also shocked by her sudden question. When she recalled what happened in the tunnel when Chu Jia revealed a smile like that, she took a few steps back hastily.

“Isn’t... Isn’t it because you need someone to help you?” Bai Luming guessed.

Giggling happily, Chu Jia explained, “You can definitely be my helper if you’re obedient. In fact, I can even give you a recommendation to teach at the Tongyou Institution! After all, you’re pretty good at the art of formations. As long as you swear an oath never to betray us, everything is possible! You will no longer be part of the Rose Party and the Ouyang Family! Our Tongyou Institution will offer you our protection!”

“Many thanks?” Bai Luming was a little confused by her revelation, but he knew that she wasn’t done.

“But if you still harbor evil thoughts...” Chu Jia continued. The grin on her face became wider and the gaze in her eyes changed. She looked at Bai Luming as though she was looking at a toy. “Have you heard of a Formation Spirit?”

Bai Luming’s expression changed drastically. “Isn’t that... Isn’t that a forbidden art?! You’ll be despised by every single cultivator for sacrificing a life to create a Formation Spirit! You wouldn’t dare! The moment the news gets out, the Azure Origin World will go crazy! Not even Kou Chongxue will be able to protect you when that happens!”

“Forbidden art?” Chu Jia giggled as though she had heard the greatest joke of her life. “Do you know what I plan to do? Do you really think I’ll turn you into a Formation Spirit?”

Chu Jia found Bai Luming’s expression slightly amusing and she continued, “What are you thinking about? Of course I know that this is a forbidden technique. It’s frowned upon to create a Formation Spirit!”

Before Bai Luming could heave a sigh of relief, Chu Jia’s expression darkened. “As long as I don’t let anyone find out, no one will be able to crucify me. Hmph... Do you think the grand formations of the various superpowers in the many continents of the Azure Origin World are made for decoration? How many formation masters lost their lives in order to become Formation Spirits to protect their faction... Even if anyone discovered the secret, they would say that those who died were enemies who came to pester them! After all, it’s not wrong to kill those who plot against you...”

Bai Luming instantly understood her intentions. Sighing helplessly, he finally surrendered. “As long as you don’t turn me into a Formation Spirit, I’ll agree to anything! I’ll tell you anything you wish to know! Young Master Shang’s disappearance was an accident, and it’s not like he’s dead...”

“Exactly. That’s why you’re still alive! If he’s dead, you would have been dead too. Senior Shang is about to break through to the Martial Extermination Realm... You know... Once I tell them that you were behind it, they won’t let you die easily! Even if I

turned you into a Formation Spirit, they might think that it's too easy on you!" Chu Jia tutted.

Bai Luming, who had barely recovered after being terrorized by the Triple Intent Lock by Chu Jia earlier, fell to his knees.

"Do you need me to tell you what to do? Hahahaha... Alright. Junior Sister Sun, let's go!"

She turned around to signal to Sun Haiwei, but she realized that her junior sister was completely out of it.

"Junior Sister Sun? What are you thinking about? Let's go!"

"Huh?" Sun Haiwei jumped slightly and she forced a smile. "Oh... Alright, let's go..."

...

"Huh? What sword technique is this?! It's so weird!" A voice came from behind Shang Xia.

Turning around, he held his Delicate Jade River Sword in front of him before retreating slightly to open the distance between himself and the person who sneak attacked him.

"Martial Intent Realm!" Shang Xia revealed a bitter smile when he noticed the cultivation level of the person standing behind him.

He was facing a young cultivator who looked to be in his twenties, and his clothes were somewhat similar to what Shang Xia wore.

However, Shang Xia's clothes had been soaked and dried countless times in the past few days, and it was already starting to get a little nasty. Shang Xia's appearance wasn't too good either.

Facing the Martial Intent Realm expert who had two other bodyguards beside him, Shang Xia couldn't run if he wanted to!

However, the Martial Intent Realm expert raised his hands to stop his companions from turning Shang Xia into human bbq. "Relax. He won't be able to escape. I just obtained a sword technique from the Zhu Family and I lack a training partner. This person's sword technique is pretty unique, and he sent himself to me."

Shang Xia's first thought was to escape, but after looking around, he realized that it wouldn't be possible. He was trapped in the middle of a wasteland!

.

Seeing several rock formations in the distance, he felt that it was possible to use them as cover to run away. However, the young man saw through his plan instantly. He gestured for the two cultivators to stand down before releasing a twenty feet long sword light towards Shang Xia.

"There's no need to rush to leave. Your sword technique is really unique. Why don't we exchange pointers?"



Shang Xia blocked the sword light with a slash, and the two of them suddenly leaped at one another. They exchanged several blows, and Shang Xia was constantly forced back.

Even though the exchange between them looked tough, the young man was still able to speak casually while suppressing Shang Xia.

“You must be a student from the Tongyou Institution. With your cultivation, you should probably be in the upper division. You’re definitely not a nobody. I am Dongfang Mingyu. How should I address you?”

Shang Xia remained silent and he released his strongest sword strike from the Flexible Sword Art. From the short exchange, they managed to understand each other’s sword technique.

The young man’s sword technique was forceful, and even though it wasn’t at the level of the Vigorous Sword Art, it managed to suppress Shang Xia.

All of a sudden, his sword techniques would change. It became fast and soft, and even though it wasn’t as smooth as Shang Xia’s Formless Sword Art, it gave off a sense of danger that he had never felt before.

Chapter 149: Who’s The Coach Here?!

As Dongfang Mingyu suppressed his cultivation to the peak of the Martial Extremity Realm and he wasn’t too adept with the sword art he was using, he failed to suppress Shang Xia immediately.

Even so, Shang Xia retreated repeatedly.

“What’s wrong? Aren’t you willing to reveal your name? Are you a coward?” Dongfang Mingyu snorted. He suppressed Shang Xia easily, and he even held one hand behind his back!

Shang Xia tried his best to defend himself and anguish filled his heart. He tried to gasp helplessly while retreating.

Staring at the space behind Shang Xia, Dongfang Mingyu chuckled. “Stop acting. You’re still hiding your strength. Are you still planning to escape?”

Shang Xia’s expression changed as the two cultivators beside Dongfang Mingyu moved to surround him. Even though they didn’t take part in the battle, they prevented him from escaping.

“Well, it doesn’t matter. We have all the time in the world. After all, we’re going to be sparring for quite a bit. I’ll dig out all of your moves sooner or later. You’ll eventually reveal your identity!” Dongfang Mingyu’s sword technique switched up once again. He slashed out several times in succession.

The pressure Shang Xia experienced increased instantly.

All of a sudden, he stopped pretending. Even though it still looked like he was at a disadvantage, his defense became perfect and he no longer showed flaws in his movements.

Dongfang Mingyu raised an eyebrow in surprise. However, he expected as much and he simply chuckled in response.

“You have already broken through to the Martial Intent Realm. Why are you still learning the techniques of those in the Martial Extremity Realm?” Shang Xia asked all of a sudden.

“One can always strive to be better! The Dual Interference Manual is one of the Zhu Family’s core techniques!” Dongfang Mingyu laughed in response.

“Dual Interference Manual?” Shang Xia was surprised. “You’re clearly using light and heavy qi. What has that got to do with interference?”

Dongfang Mingyu was clearly happy to be sharing his experience and he replied, “The essence of the Dual Interference Manual is actually a grade higher than light and heavy qi!”

Glancing at Shang Xia, he continued, “Like the strike you used earlier. You used both strength and softness qi earlier in your strike, and you can think of my sword manual as the fusion of both heavy and light qi!” Dongfang Mingyu’s explanation was simple, but it raised giant waves in Shang Xia’s heart.

Ever since his transmigration, he thought that the cultivators of that world were really backward. That had always been his source of pride.

However, the creator of the River Sword Policy realized that the proper way of cultivation was to fuse both strength and softness qi and he created the Flexible Sword Art in the process. The only problem was that the creator of the manual was unable to describe the process clearly, affecting the cultivation process of those who tried to cultivate the River Sword Policy.

That also allowed Shang Xia to learn that everyone was slowly improving their way of cultivation through various trials and errors.

They might be amateurs in the eyes of Shang Xia, but it wouldn’t be that way forever.

One had to know that the world he transmigrated to only had 800 years of history!

Hearing Dongfang Mingyu’s answer, Shang Xia felt something click in his mind. “So... You’re curious about the sword strike I used earlier?”

“Exactly.” Dongfang Mingyu nodded seriously.

“The price of my teaching won’t be cheap...” Shang Xia said.

“Of course. Name your price.” Dongfang Mingyu seemed to have already expected as much.

Shang Xia didn’t think twice before naming his condition. “A set of Tempering Meridian Powder!”

Dongfang Mingyu threw his head back and laughed. A heavy slash sent Shang Xia retreating several feet and he sneered. “You seem to have gotten something wrong. Your life is on the line right now! Do you think you still have the ability to negotiate with me?”

However, Shang Xia took the chance to take out another long sword in his other hand. Scraping the blades together, a ray of fire and ice clashed in mid air. It severed Dongfang Mingyu’s sword light the moment it appeared.

“What sword technique is that?! It looks so familiar!”

Shang Xia’s new move stunned Dongfang Mingyu. Not only did he reveal a new sword technique, he also transformed his qi into two completely different types.

“Is this the Triple Mystery Polarity Art of the Murong Family? Ah... No wonder your sword technique looks familiar! It’s the Ouyang Family’s Twisting Twin Blades! Who the hell are you? Why do you have their inheritances?” Dongfang Mingyu wasn’t a fool. With his experience, he discovered Shang Xia’s techniques right away.

Oh... The Twisting Twin Blades belong to the Ouyang Family!

Shang Xia finally learned of its origins. However, he obviously wasn’t going to tell Dongfang Mingyu.

“Hehe, you can guess...” Shang Xia chuckled as he swung his blades around.

Under his control, the fire and ice qi that condensed on his blade moved in perfect harmony. They didn’t show signs of going out of control, and they seemed to possess much stronger power.

Even though fire and ice qi was the most common pair of qi that most cultivators used, it didn’t mean that it was weak!

Due to the fact that most people trained in fire and ice qi, its utilization had been the most studied and corrected. Their understanding of fire and ice qi was deep, and the experts who used them possessed frightening strength!

From the Twisting Twin Blades, it was clear that the creator of the manual was an expert at using fire and ice qi!

Shang Xia’s sudden change caught Dongfang Mingyu off guard. His counterattack came swiftly. Even though he was unable to suppress Dongfang Mingyu, he was able to put up quite a good fight!

Dongfang Mingyu couldn’t accept the fact that he lost to Shang Xia in terms of sword techniques! He no longer restricted his cultivation and started to regain some ground. Unbeknownst to him, Shang Xia was also using him to practice his Twisting Twin Blades!

Shang Xia didn’t want to let Dongfang Mingyu see through his intentions and he continued his act. “So how about it? A set of Tempering Meridian Powder and I’ll accept your conditions!”

A cold snort left Dongfang Mingyu’s lips and his attacks became even more intense. He circulated his inner qi and the amount of power he used could be compared to a Martial Intent Realm expert.

Seeing as things were getting out of hand, Shang Xia continued to bargain. “Young Master Dongfang, your sword techniques are really impressive. As a fellow sword cultivator, you should know that the strike I unleashed earlier placed some stress on my meridians. Without the Tempering Meridian Powder, I wouldn’t dare to use it again!”

Noticing the hesitant expression on Dongfang Mingyu’s face, Shang Xia felt that pressing on was the best choice. “Young Master Dongfang, you’ve been awfully quiet. Don’t tell me you actually have a set of Tempering Meridian Powder on you!”

“Do you want it? Come get it!” Dongfang Mingyu roared in anger. He thought that he would be able to suppress anyone below the Martial Intent Realm despite training in a sword art meant for cultivators at the Martial Extremity Realm. However, Shang Xia’s ever-changing technique caught him off guard.

He didn’t lack behind either as the sword in his hand danced about in mid air. He had already reached the large completion stage of his Dual Interference Manual!

Although he was unable to fuse the two different types of qi, he was able to switch between the two types of qi freely. As one of the geniuses of the Dongfang Family, the number of sword techniques he had access to when he was in the Martial Extremity Realm was numerous! He chose a technique that focused on heavy and light qi, and after reaching the large completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm, he comprehended his martial extremity intent to enter the grand completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm before stepping into the Martial Intent Realm!

A genius like that was obviously extremely confident in himself! Even after suppressing his cultivation, he felt that he would be unbeatable by someone of Shang Xia’s level!

“Oh? You actually do have it!” Shang Xia yelled.

A light lit up in his eyes, but he was quickly suppressed by Dongfang Mingyu’s use of brute force!

“This is bad... If this keeps up, I won’t be able to escape!” Shang Xia could tell that the two cultivators who were Dongfang Mingyu’s bodyguards had started to close in on him.

After blocking one of Dongfang Mingyu’s strikes, he twisted his blades and fireballs appeared on their edge. A sharp whistling sound pierced through the air.

“Heh... the fusion of ice and fire... At least I managed to reach the large completion stage...” That was the third sword art he trained to the large completion stage!

The corners of Dongfang Mingyu’s lips twitched, and a terrifying power emerged from the body of his sword. It shattered the ungraded weapon in Shang Xia’s hand instantly. Of course, the Delicate Jade River Sword remained completely intact.

After such a long battle, Dongfang Mingyu’s sword was scratched in many places. Even though it didn’t affect the strength of the weapon, it was an insult to Dongfang Mingyu’s status as a genius of the Dongfang Family!

“Hah... You’re no longer suppressing your strength!” Shang Xia sneered sarcastically.

In order to stop Shang Xia’s assault, Dongfang Mingyu no longer held back.

“Again!” It had been so long since he found an opponent like Shang Xia.

“Eat this!” Shang Xia roared, and his Delicate Jade River Sword released a myriad of sword lights. It rained down on Dongfang Mingyu.

“Sword intent!” Dongfang Mingyu released a weird cry and pushed his inner qi to the limit. He no longer held back and his divine sense descended. Several rays of sword light appeared to protect him.

“Illusion? No... This is void and reality qi!” Dongfang Mingyu realized that he fell for Shang Xia’s tricks.

When he finally dealt with the rain of sword light, Shang Xia had already retreated dozens of feet. He went straight towards one of the Martial Extremity Realm cultivators and released the final strike of the Flexible Sword Art.

“Brother Dongfang, look closely! This time, I’ll show you for free!”

Dongfang Mingyu was able to suppress Shang Xia due to his cultivation level, but a part of it was because Shang Xia was intentionally hiding his strength. Otherwise, it would have been much harder for Dongfang Mingyu to gain the upper hand!

However, the two other cultivators were no Dongfang Mingyu!

The unlucky soul who stood in Shang Xia’s way suffered critical inner injuries from the strike!

Shang Xia didn’t hesitate. After his slash landed, he turned into a streak of light and ran into the distance.

Chapter 150: Bronze Gate

“Preposterous!” Dongfang Mingyu roared with rage when he saw how Shang Xia killed one of his guards under his very eyes. Pushing himself off the ground, he chased after Shang Xia.

“Where do you think you’re going?” Dongfang Mingyu yelled as his divine sense covered his body. As his body turned a lot lighter, he shot after Shang Xia.

Covered by his divine sense, the rocks on the ground beside him rose into the air.

He thought that he would be able to catch up to Shang Xia instantly, but he couldn’t be more wrong.

Shang Xia’s body seemed to turn weightless as his speed became even faster! In the blink of an eye, he ran several dozen feet! He left the area controlled by Dongfang Mingyu’s divine sense instantly!

“You... You actually managed to counter my qi!” Dongfang Mingyu gasped in fright and yelled, “The Triple Mystery Polarity Art doesn’t contain a way to transform heavy and light qi! How did you do it?!”

Shang Xia might not know how to utilize heavy and light qi in battle, but he was able to nullify it with his Yin Yang Diagram. As long as he transformed it into another type of qi, he wouldn’t be restricted!

Naturally, he wasn't going to tell Dongfang Mingyu how he did it. Ignoring the question, he increased the distance between them again. He ran towards a location where the rock formations were the most concentrated and he made use of them to hide his tracks.

"I said it before, and I'll say it again! You can't escape!" Dongfang Mingyu's voice rang through the air. Tapping lightly on the ground, he closed the distance again. However, he was unable to lock on to Shang Xia because of the obstructions.

"I'm getting more and more interested in the secrets you're hiding!" Dongfang Mingyu yelled and he signaled for his other subordinate to assist him in surrounding Shang Xia.

Shang Xia couldn't be bothered with the man and he pushed himself to the limit. The Irregular Steps was perfect for moving quickly in close range, and Shang Xia's body flashed from side to side as he took cover behind the various rock formations.

Despite that, the distance between them was closing fast. No matter how good his movement technique was, it was difficult for him to sustain the speed against a Martial Intent Realm expert!

A sense of foreboding filled Shang Xia's heart when he realized that he had run into a dead end.

A bottomless cliff stood in his way, and a dense layer of mist filled the abyss.

Shang Xia stared at the opposing side and gasped silently. As if the appearance of a bottomless abyss wasn't shocking enough, there was a huge platform on the opposite side of the cliff!

The shocking part was that the platform wasn't connected to anything else! It was a sole island that stood in the middle of nothingness!

Turning to look behind him, Shang Xia realized that the two of them had already arrived.

.

"This is the Unstable Region. We're also standing on another huge platform right now. Do you really think you can leave?" Dongfang Mingyu sneered. "You can try... Go ahead, jump!"

Of course Shang Xia wasn't going to jump off. Since he wasn't willing to jump, he could only risk his life and go all out against Dongfang Mingyu!

A sudden whistle that rang through the air interrupted him.

"Who?!"

An enraged cry rang through the air, and Shang Xia felt the entire platform shaking under his feet.

Dongfang Mingyu's expression changed too. He turned his head in a certain direction as if he was able to see what was going on.

The only remaining bodyguard approached Dongfang Mingyu and whispered, "Young master, we need to hurry over! There seems to be some disturbance going on where the old man of the Murong Family is breaking through..."

Dongfang Mingyu snorted in response, “Isn’t this bastard here also one of those who intend to disrupt Murong Gaofeng?”

“Exactly... The Tongyou Institution probably has some sort of sinister plan...”

Before he could finish, a giant explosion ripped through the air.

Shang Xia, Dongfang Mingyu, and Dongfang Mingyu’s bodyguard turned to stare in the direction of the blast. They saw one of the floating islands crumbling to bits.

At the same time, two streaks of light tore through the air. One of them was clearly chasing the other, and they disappeared into the horizon.

“Not good! It’s a Martial Extermination Realm expert! How did they enter this place?!” Dongfang Mingyu’s subordinate exclaimed in shock.

Shang Xia’s attention returned to the bottomless abyss when he saw rays of light emerging from the darkness below. Different scenes appeared in the abyss, and Shang Xia swore he saw something that resembled the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World.

“The Coral Forest is starting to move! We have to capture him right now before returning to the Unstable Island!” Dongfang Mingyu released his divine sense to the limit as he raised his sword towards Shang Xia.

With his scalp going numb from the pressure emitted by Dongfang Mingyu, he knew that he was in deep shit.

He could tell that Dongfang Mingyu was about to release his sword intent!

Deciding to risk it all, Shang Xia leaped off the cliff. As the winds whistled in his ears, Shang Xia turned around only to see his original location surrounded by rays of light. The edge of the cliff was sliced into countless pieces.

Shit! That was a sword formation!

Something clicked in his mind, and he realized that Dongfang Mingyu’s sword intent was also a type of sword formation! Moreover, it was one that was used to trap and kill his opponents!

It was no wonder Dongfang Mingyu was so confident that he wouldn’t be able to escape!

His thoughts suddenly turned to the Tempering Meridian Powder Dongfang Mingyu had on him. Did the medicine have something to do with his sword formation?

As the thought flashed across Shang Xia’s mind, he was swallowed by rainbow-colored lights. His vision went dark for a second, and when the light finally returned, he saw endless plains stretching as far as he could see.

This doesn’t make sense... I fell backwards!

Shang Xia couldn’t be bothered to reason with the strange happenings that he experienced in the Coral Forest anymore. He reached his hand out to stop his fall as he transformed his inner qi into light and heavy qi. Sending out a palm strike, a giant imprint appeared on the grasslands below. The opposing force allowed him to slow his descent and he twisted his body gracefully to land safely on the ground below.

...

Outside the Zhu Family Manor that was situated in the Willow Forest...

Two huge bronze doors stood tall as they resisted the attacks of those outside. Giant palm prints and fist marks were all over the bronze gate.

A rock that seemed to be shrunk several times hovered in the air before the majestic gates.

Under the rock sat a giant formation that seemed to cover the entire Willow Forest.

On both sides of the rock stood an old man with a head full of white hair. Despite facing the giant bronze gate, they seemed extremely cautious of the other party.

“Roar!” A deep howl came from behind the gates, causing it to tremble unceasingly. The gates weren't the only thing that shook. The Willow Forest quaked slightly when the howl was released.

The expressions of the two old experts sank and they turned their focus back on the bronze gate.

“Rumble...” a formless palm came from behind the gates and two distinct palm prints appeared on it.

The massive gates showed signs of opening and even though only a tiny gap opened, a gust of cold wind tore through the lands.

The floating rock in front of the gates shook when it was blasted by the cold air, and rays of light emerged from the formation underneath. The entire region turned into a giant rainbow-colored lightbulb.

When the light eventually faded, the formation seemed to shift a little and a portion of it seemed to intertwine with each other.

The two old experts glanced at each other before grunting loudly. They reached out to push against the massive bronze gate.

Three colored lights surrounded one of the doors while four colored lights flashed on the other. The gates that started to open up were slammed shut.

“Ahem... Heheh, Old Man Liu, your cultivation isn't as high as mine... I don't think you will be able to hold out much longer...” One of the old experts who was clad in exquisite-looking robes muttered. There was a scholarly air around him, but when he spoke, his voice was raspy and hoarse.

“Heh. Old Freak Murong, we're both trapped in the same situation now. Once I die, your end will come soon enough.” The other old expert snapped. He seemed pretty haughty despite being stuck in such a bad situation.

“Who would have thought that we'll end up like this? Greed truly came to bite us in the ass.”

As perspiration soaked their clothes, they looked utterly worn out.



“Who would have thought that he would use that method to take the final step?!”

“He’s no longer the person he once was!”