

## The Heavens 181

### Chapter 181: Essence Extracting Needle

Shang Xia coordinated flawlessly with Peng Lanqing, killing one of the latter's enemies and heavily injuring the other.

As for the two Shang Xia avoided earlier, they attacked him from behind after flying into a fit of rage.

With Peng Lanqing's timely reminder and Shang Xia's experience in dodging sneak attacks from behind, he managed to avoid getting struck from behind. After dealing with his enemy, Peng Lanqing leaped over to Shang Xia's original position and forced the two of them back instantly.

As Shang Xia got to his feet, he noticed that something was wrong and he quickly ran over to Peng Lanqing's side.

A grunt entered Shang Xia's ears and the cultivator who was forced back by Peng Lanqing just a second ago was killed by Yang Zigong who had already forced his original opponent to escape.

"How is the situation here?" Yang Zigong asked.

By the time he approached, Shang Xia had already arrived beside Peng Lanqing and he could feel violent fluctuations of heaven and earth qi coming from the instructor's body. He didn't know what he could do to salvage the situation.

"Instructor Peng, this..." Yang Zigong couldn't complete his sentence when Peng Lanqing spat out a mouthful of blood and fell backwards.

Of the six Martial Intent Realm experts of the Rose Party who were attacking Yang Zigong and Peng Lanqing, three of them were dead and one of them was seriously injured. In exchange, Peng Lanqing was also on the verge of death.

Peng Lanqing's gaze was empty as he stared into the void above. He had chosen to side with Liu Jitang, and he led a huge part of the Tongyou Peak's strength over for the expedition to the Coral Forest. Not only did he have to suffer attacks from the members of the Rose Party the moment they entered, they were nearly wiped out completely! Moreover, he learned about what happened to the Tongyou Peak after they left and realized his actions nearly led to the fall of the Tongyou Peak!

If Liu Jitang was the person who should be held accountable for everything that happened, he would be next in line when the time came to pursue responsibilities.

Now that Liu Jitang had died, he would have to take the blame for everything! Like Yang Zigong, he chose to hold the enemies back in order to atone for his sins! In fact, he had no desire to live. He was planning to drag down the enemies by exhausting his life force completely.

His intentions were clear for all to see. Yang Zigong understood what was going on in his mind too.

"Brother Peng... He's planning to leave his life behind..." Yang Zigong sighed. He was clearly saying that for Shang Xia to hear.

Those experts who entered the Coral Forest with Liu Jitang wouldn't be able to avoid punishment after they returned to the institution.

Yang Zigong might have chosen to stay behind to hold the enemies off, but he never thought of dying! He only wished to atone for his mistakes!

Previously, he had no idea who Shang Xia was. However, he racked his brains and dug out every memory he could only to discover that Shang Xia was Shang Bo's grandson! He had to try his best to put in some good words for himself!

In that situation, speaking up for Peng Lanqing was the same as explaining himself.

“Deacon Yang, can we do anything about his injuries?” Shang Xia asked after disregarding everything he said earlier.

“Do you have any sort of medicine on you? I used up everything a long time ago. Brother Peng's medicine had long since been split among the rest.” Yang Zigong replied.

After thinking about it, Shang Xia retrieved four cases from his Embroidered Cloud Case. “I obtained these medicines in the Coral Forest, but I don't recognize any of them. Deacon Yang, can you see if any of them can be used to treat Instructor Peng's injuries?”

Yang Zigong opened a case after Shang Xia spoke and gasped. “Life Blood Powder? Even though it's only a rank two medicine, it should be useful.”

He opened the jade box beside it after speaking. Looking at the inky green powder within, he raised an eyebrow in shock. “Icy Flesh Jade Bones Powder! This is good stuff! Even though cultivators possess stronger bodies than mortals, it's difficult to strengthen them any further! This medicine can be used to temper the bodies of lower leveled cultivators! It's used in many types of assistive medication and can even assist in cultivating some martial intents!”

Zhu Ying only focused on his escape when he was attacked by Shang Xia in the hidden chamber. He left behind all the medicines, and since Peng Lanqing couldn't use most of them, Shang Xia kept them for himself.

Yang Zigong's gaze was heated as he watched those cases disappear into Shang Xia's sleeves. However, the appearance of another jade bottle stunned him. When Shang Xia popped open the cork on the bottle, he saw the look of anticipation on Yang Zigong's face.

That was also something Zhu Ying left behind, but as the smell filled the air, a sneaky smile formed on Yang Zigong's face.

Shang Xia didn't notice the abrupt change on the deacon's face, and he asked eagerly, “What about this? Do you know how to use this medicine?”

A strange smile hung on Yang Zigong's face. “This... Hehe... Have you heard of the Spring Unity Powder?”

“Spring...” Shang Xia didn't understand it at first, but realization dawned on him and an awkward smile soon appeared on his face.

Yang Zigong chuckled in his heart when he saw Shang Xia's reaction and he wanted to tease the kid a little more. However, Peng Lanqing's injuries were too serious and it didn't seem appropriate to joke around. He could only mutter softly, “This... Just throw it away when you leave this place.”

“Yeah... I definitely will...” Shang Xia forced himself to maintain his serious expression.

Never in his wildest imagination would he have expected Zhu Ying to possess such nonsense! Zhu Ying was barely a year older than him, but he required medicine like that to maintain his ‘power’... His situation was pretty bad in Shang Xia’s opinion.

Shang Xia could only bank his hope on the final case he obtained from Zhu Ying.

When Yang Zigong opened the last case, a flash of joy crossed his face. He didn’t wait for Shang Xia’s approval before grabbing the item within.

Shang Xia looked at the six needles sitting in Yang Zigong’s hand and raised an eyebrow.

“Rank three medicines... These are Essence Extracting Needles!” Yang Zigong explained. He immediately poked them into several points in Peng Lanqing’s chest, before continuing his explanation, “Many rank three medicines are administered through the use of needles like this. As long as we send enough inner qi through them, Instructor Peng will be able to absorb their medicinal properties. The effectiveness is a lot higher than powders and pastes!”

“The Essence Extracting Needle can allow a cultivator to quickly recover their inner injuries. At least, Peng Lanqing’s life won’t be in danger for the time being.”

Shang Xia saw beads of perspiration dripping down Yang Zigong’s forehead after he was done with the treatment. Clearly, it wasn’t easy to use the Essence Extracting Needles. However, Shang Xia couldn’t contain his curiosity. “Deacon Yang, are medicines for advancement to the Martial Intent Realm also administered using needles?”

Yang Zigong nodded slowly. “Most of them are...”

After he was done, Yang Zigong pointed at his head.

Even though Shang Xia had some guesses in his heart, he couldn’t help but ask, “Do you have to poke it into your head?”

Yang Zigong nodded yet again.

Sighing softly, Shang Xia turned his attention to Peng Lanqing who was lying on the ground. His complexion was much better than before, and his injuries had stabilized slightly.

After some discussion, the two of them decided that it was safer to bring him to the core region of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World.

When they were discussing their plan in case they ran into cultivators of the Rose Party, two figures approached them at high speeds.

“It’s Wang Shihai and Qian Sitong! They’re here to help us! Looks like the others had already entered the core region...” Yang Zigong heaved a sigh of relief.

Chapter 182: Pointers

Out of the Martial Intent Realm cultivators of the Tongyou Institution, other than Ma Mingfeng, the only ones left on the outside were Peng Lanqing, Yang Zigong, Qian Sitong, and Wang Shihai.

Peng Lanqing was an instructor of the outer division, Yang Zigong was a deacon of the Protection Division, Qian Sitong was an officer of the Outreach Division. Wang Shihai was a teacher for one of the various subjects in the institution.

Qian Sitong was the most innocent of them all. After all, Liu Jitang forced him to follow their expedition in order to avoid leaking the news to other parties.

When Wang Shihai and Qian Sitong saw Peng Lanqing's sorry figure in the distance, their expression sank. They only heaved a sigh of relief after hearing Yang Zigong's explanation.

The two of them shot a look of amazement towards Shang Xia. Divine senses surrounded him as they wanted to verify their guesses.

Even though Shang Xia hadn't congealed his divine sense and was unable to stop them from inspecting him, he could feel a sense of discomfort as they probed him with their divine sense.

"Teacher Wang, Senior Qian, please ask me anything you wish to know." Shang Xia revealed a bitter smile.

"Kid, did you really kill Murong Gaosheng? How did you do it?"

"Weren't you at the grand completion stage of the Martial Realm when you stepped into the battlefield between two worlds? It hasn't been two months yet! How did you reach the grand completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm?"

Qian Sitong and Wang Shihai seemed to speak in unison. However, the two of them were focused on different things.

Shang Xia was too lazy to explain himself and he quickly brushed them off with a random explanation. "This disciple was lucky to take Murong Gaofeng by surprise. Also, I raised my cultivation through several fortuitous encounters in the battlefield between two worlds!"

Yang Zigong could pretty much hear that Shang Xia didn't wish to be troubled any further and he quickly stopped their questioning. "Let's not talk about this for now. How are the rest?"

"They have already entered the core region of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World. That is why we left to help you guys." Wang Shihai replied.

A frown slowly formed on Yang Zigong's face. "Wait. If the two of you are here, who's controlling the protection formation?!"

Of the Martial Intent Realm experts who entered the Coral Forest with Liu Jitang, they only belonged to powers loyal to the Liu Clan with Qian Sitong as the only exception. After Liu Jitang sent several Martial Realm disciples of the Tongyou Institution to their deaths, two different groups started to form among them.

Without Martial Intent Realm experts to control the situation, those loyal to the Liu Clan and those who had the institution's interests at heart would have broken out into a massive brawl.

Qian Sitong knew what Yang Zigong was concerned about and he chuckled, "Relax. Teacher Sun managed to condense her divine sense and step into the Martial Intent Realm."

“Teacher Sun managed to advance?” A flash of joy could be seen on Shang Xia’s face as he gasped lightly.

All of them relaxed visibly after hearing the news.

Yang Zigong didn’t continue to harp on the matter and he muttered, “As long as the situation in the core region is stable, we’ll be able to maintain the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World...”

“What should we do next?” Wang Shihai asked.

His question was directed to Qian Sitong. Peng Lanqing was supposed to be their leader. Now that he was seriously injured and unresponsive, Qian Sitong would be next in line to take over as the leader of the operation. After all, his cultivation was the next highest.

Qian Sitong thought for a second and replied, “Let’s think about it after bringing him back to the core region!”

Everyone agreed with his suggestion and made their leave. To their surprise, Shang Xia didn’t wish to follow them.

Facing the weird gazes he was getting, Shang Xia explained, “This disciple is very familiar with the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World. I wish to take the chance to kill more disciples of the Rose Party.

Wang Shihai snapped at him the moment the words left his lips. “Nonsense! Even though they’re a scattered bunch now, they still have some Martial Intent Realm experts among them! Even if you manage to kill Murong Gaosheng, do you think you can deal with the rest?”

Yang Zigong understood where Shang Xia’s confidence came from. However, he had to consider his position when he gave his advice. “Martial Nephew Shang, you cannot act rashly. Even though we managed to gain the upper hand, we cannot move about rashly! We only need to protect the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World now and wait for the battle to blow over! There’s no need to rush things!”

Shang Xia thought about the situation Shang Bo described to him earlier before he arrived and he shook his head resolutely. “Since we managed to obtain the absolute advantage in the Coral Forest, shouldn’t this be the best time for us to head out and kill the enemy? We can deal a heavy blow to the Rose Party as long as we move now!”

Wang Shihai smiled. “Once we gain full control over the Coral Forest, the life and death of these people will still be controlled by us. There’s no need to waste our energy taking unnecessary risks!”

“Control?” Shang Xia shook his head. After listening to his grandfather, he knew that the institution’s main goal wasn’t to control the Coral Forest. More than half the region was destroyed beyond recognition anyway! Not to mention the fact that there was a rank five undead corpse running around unchecked in the area.

Qian Sitong was much more insightful than the other two and he seemed to have picked up something from Shang Xia’s words. He sighed, “Martial Nephew Shang, do you know something that we don’t?”

“The Four Spiritual Peak have already chosen to work with the Rose Party. We might not be able to stop them from leaving if we remain idle. Also, there is a giant anomaly running rampant in here...” Shang Xia explained. Pausing for a second, his tone changed. “... Also, don’t you think this is a great opportunity?”

After he spoke, he waved casually before disappearing into the various rock formations in the distance.

Scrunching his face together, Wang Shihai sighed, “This brat...”

A bitter smile appeared on Yang Zigong’s face. “Looks like we won’t be able to take things easy. Luckily, there aren’t many Martial Intent Realm experts left in the Rose Party. We won’t be in much danger as long as we take a little precaution. We can’t possibly let him do all the work!”

Qian Sitong muttered softly, “Let’s send Instructor Peng back before deciding on our next course of action...”

Compared to the other Martial Intent Realm experts, the pressure Qian Sitong was feeling was a lot less. After all, he was brought to the Coral Forest against his will! The institution wouldn’t punish him as heavily as the rest!

...

After the battle that just happened, the number of Martial Intent Realm experts on the other side reduced by a whole lot. That was the reason Shang Xia had the confidence to venture out by himself.

He wanted to use the members of the Rose Party to train himself! He needed to comprehend his Quandary Manual and Hidden Needle Manual as soon as possible so that he could fuse them into his Yin Yang Sword Formation!

When that happened, his Yin Yang Sword Formation would experience a massive increase in strength!

Other than that, Shang Xia still had one last objective, He wanted to look for Dongfang Mingyu!

Dongfang Mingyu’s sword art caught Shang Xia’s eye and he knew he had to obtain it no matter the cost!

Well, before starting his grand plan, Shang Xia decided to raise his strength as much as he could. Taking out the Icy Flesh Jade Bones Powder, he planned to refine it as soon as possible.

#### Chapter 183: The Fourth Addition

Shang Xia’s inner qi started to circulate quickly as he absorbed the medicinal effects of the Icy Flesh Jade Bones Powder.

A look of disappointment flashed across his face when that happened.

Cultivators would hardly use medicine to temper their bodies as that was usually done during the course of cultivation.

As such, the effects of the Icy Flesh Jade Bones Powder were minuscule after Shang Xia refined it.

Regardless, any type of increase was an improvement.

As Shang Xia's understanding of his Yin Yang Sword Formation grew deeper, he discovered that not only would he require sturdy meridians to unleash a powerful sword formation, but he also needed a robust body!

As such, he didn't hesitate to refine the Icy Flesh Jade Bones Powder. However, the effects of the medicine were far from his expectations.

Throughout the refinement process, Shang Xia could feel the effects of the medicine flowing through his body. As such, he concluded that the lacking effects had nothing to do with the medicine!

There could only be one reason left. Shang Xia's physical body was too damn strong! The medicine was unable to strengthen it by much!

Thinking about it, Shang Xia felt that it wasn't that much of a surprise. After all, his body had been transformed greatly after training in so many different types of qi. Every time he mastered one, the qi would cleanse his body, making it stronger!

His body was several times stronger than cultivators of the same level!

Even though the effects would diminish every time he mastered a different pair of qi, the increase wasn't negligible!

It seemed as though he had underestimated himself!

...

Emerging from his cultivation, the first thing Shang Xia needed to do was to locate several cultivators of the Rose Party.

Holding two swords in his hand, he was currently raining down attacks on a disciple of the Rose Party at the Martial Extremity Realm.

The disciple of the Rose Party might not be at the large completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm, but he was close! The nine-segmented whip in his hand wasn't weak either.

Even so, the cultivator's attacks seemed to have landed on cotton as Shang Xia defended himself with his newfound Hidden Needle Manual.

Realizing he was no match for Shang Xia, he decided to beat a hasty retreat. However, the sudden change instantly caught Shang Xia's reaction. Countless rays of sword light appeared and formed a net around him.

With his route of retreat sealed, the cultivator of the Rose Party only had one choice left. He had to fight for his life!

The nine-segmented whip in his hand started to dance through the air and he went crazy. Without a care in the world, he attacked Shang Xia with everything he had. He used his deadliest attack against the net of sword light surrounding him.

Only then did the cultivator discover the difference between them. He couldn't cause a single scratch to the other party, much less drag his opponent to death with him!

From the looks of it, his opponent wasn't deliberately messing with him. Instead, he felt like his opponent was using him to train his sword skills!

The moment he saw through Shang Xia's intentions, he stopped attacking altogether.

Not realizing what happened, Shang Xia discovered the Yin Yang Diagram in his dantian speeding up and his inner qi started to speed up. Offensive and defensive qi poured through his meridians.

He clearly reached a new level of understanding of his Hidden Needle Manual.

Along with the pairs of qi he fused into his Yin Yang Sword Formation, a new pair was added! The Yin Yang Sword Formation became even more perfect, and Shang Xia's understanding of different extremities deepened.

A flash of inspiration struck Shang Xia and he pointed the Delicate Jade River Sword in his hand forward casually.

Just that one move was enough. A sword light emerged and shot through the dense net of sword light.

Even though the cultivator from the Rose Party could see the ray shooting towards him, he couldn't avoid it no matter how hard he tried.

It was as though he was a magnet, and the sword was like a piece of steel pike that was drawn towards him no matter where he went.

The sword light pierced through his body, but a trace of freedom filled the cultivator's mind. Not a trace of anger could be seen on his face as he fell to the ground.

At the last moment, Shang Xia comprehended the key to the Hidden Needle Manual. Simplicity was the essence! He could conceal his killing intent through the simple stab, hiding the tyrannical might behind the purest of strikes!

As his opponent fell, Shang Xia's qi transformation was complete.

At the same time, a new sword appeared above the Yin Yang Diagram.

Keeping his sword, Shang Xia's gaze shifted from the fallen cultivator and it landed on a rock formation nearby.

"Since you're already here, why don't you show yourself?" Shang Xia yelled.

As soon as he spoke, a familiar figure appeared from behind the rock formation. It was precisely Dongfang Mingyu who had used Shang Xia as a training partner not too long ago.

Dongfang Mingyu looked at the body before Shang Xia and he growled, "Do you think it's appropriate to use him as your grindstone?"

Chapter 184: Black and White Sword vs Yin Yang Sword Formation

"You were playing with his life! What shameful behavior!" Dongfang Mingyu chided.

However, Shang Xia seemed completely unaffected by his accusation. "Wow, great master Dongfang, did you forget how I nearly died in your hands too?"

Raising an eyebrow in shock, Dongfang Mingyu's expression changed slightly and he snapped, "That's a different case. We were sparing fair and square! I even withheld my divine sense from the battle and I suppressed my cultivation to the Martial Extremity Realm..."



“Oh, since you’re so great, tell me if my cultivation is higher than the guy I just killed.” Shang Xia was too lazy to mention the fact that Dongfang Mingyu unsealed his cultivation base and forced him to the edge of death with his divine sense.

When it was a battle to the death, it didn’t matter how other people viewed it. As long as one could deal with their conscience, they could fight however they liked.

Dongfang Mingyu fell silent, but his battle intent was starting to boil.

“That’s right! The two of us are enemies who won’t stop till the other party is dead anyway! There’s no need to talk about morality between us! We’ll just end it with a huge battle!” Shang Xia raised his swords and gestured towards Dongfang Mingyu. Even though his cultivation was lower, he seemed evenly matched with the man.

Dongfang Mingyu pulled out his sword and it seemed to light up the surroundings.

Shang Xia’s gaze remained on Dongfang Mingyu’s sword for a second longer before turning to look at the man himself. A strange look formed in his eyes. “I’m still a little curious. How did someone like you wander all the way out here? Shouldn’t you be well protected by the members of the Rose Party while you make your escape? Who gave you the courage to show your face here? Aren’t you afraid that you’ll be surrounded and killed?”

A soft chuckle left Dongfang Mingyu’s lips. “Hah... Aren’t you also someone who refuses to stick with your faction? Outer disciple of the Tongyou Institution, descendant of the Shang Clan... Shouldn’t you be hiding in fear of assassination?”

Clearly, Dongfang Mingyu did his research.

“Haha! Our Tongyou Institution is different from the Rose Party!” Shang Xia smiled.

“How so?” Dongfang Mingyu paused for a second before he continued, “Don’t think that you’re the only ones who know what sacrificing yourself means...”

Shang Xia wanted to continue to mock the other party, but he discovered something off. The Jade Creek Sword in his hand created a dense layer of sword light as the Delicate Jade River Sword in his other hand carefully waited for an opportunity to strike.

A huge ray slammed into the dense sword light surrounding Shang Xia suddenly, and it threatened to tear it to pieces.

Forcing Shang Xia back slightly, the Jade Creek Sword bent at a scary angle.

However, his other sword wasn’t there for decoration. Like a sharp needle ready to strike, it stabbed out from behind the curtain of sword lights.

A clear hum rang through the skies as he struck Dongfang Mingyu’s Autumn Water Sword!

The giant sword light dissipated instantly as a shrill ringing filled the air.

Retreating slightly, Shang Xia stabilized himself before dissipating the strange energy that invaded his sword.

“Twisting Twin Swords, light and heavy...” Dongfang Mingyu sighed. “Too bad I already comprehended my martial intent. Even if I obtain your sword art, I will only be able to extract a little bit for my own technique.”

His hands didn't remain idle as he was speaking. After forcing Shang Xia to take a few steps back, his sword continued to slash at Shang Xia's blind spots. Sword light filled the air and turned the air white.

A solemn expression appeared on Shang Xia's face as the qi in his sword transformed again. Rainbow-colored lights appeared on the blade's surface and it threatened to tear the white sky apart. At the same time, his Jade River Sword disappeared into the shadow of the other sword.

In that instant, a ray of darkness tore through the skies as it shot towards Shang Xia with incredible speed.

The moment it appeared, a bent sword light appeared from an amazing angle and sliced the black light in two.

“Clang!”

Shang Xia took another two steps back after that clash. However, the pure white sky shattered like panes of broken glass and Dongfang Mingyu's surprised expression was quickly revealed behind it.

“It's shocking how you managed to transform the Murong Family's Triple Polarity Mystery Art... What's more surprising is that you managed to cultivate it for real! Offense and defense, softness and strength. With the other pair of qi you displayed when fighting me for the first time, you should have already comprehended how to use three pairs of qi, right?” Dongfang Mingyu gasped and his gaze turned a little strange when he looked at Shang Xia.

“Who would have thought that you would be able to comprehend the path of light and darkness... I'm really interested in your martial intent now...” Shang Xia replied with his own evaluation.

“You'll get the chance...” Dongfang Mingyu roared with laughter and he swung his sword at Shang Xia. “Now that I had a taste of your sword intents, you can go to hell now! They're surprising, but there's an end to every game...”

As soon as the words left his lips, the world around them became dark. He turned into a solitary figure that stood in mid air as a terrifying pressure descended on everything around him.

That was the divine sense of a Martial Intent Realm expert!

Shang Xia tried his best to suppress the fear in his heart from the difference in cultivation and he realized that he was in danger. In the blink of an eye, several rays of white light fused with the darkness. It seemed to symbolize hope in a desperate situation, but there was a deadly intent hidden behind it.

There was a small voice in Shang Xia's heart that was hurrying him towards the streaks of white light.

Hurry up! Let's head for the light at the end of the tunnel! We'll be free!

Shang Xia took a step forward unconsciously. As though the curtain of darkness was resonating with Shang Xia, it moved towards him too.

Watching the curtain of black drawing closer and closer, the streaks of white became extremely glaring. It started to speed up slightly as if it couldn't wait to touch Shang Xia.

Just before both sides touched each other, several specks of light emerged from Shang Xia's body. Those lights were pretty unique and each of them brought its own radiance. They spun quickly around Shang Xia and separated him from the veil of darkness. The voices in his mind also stopped.

Cracking sounds filled the air as the specks of light around Shang Xia were destroyed. However, they reformed quickly.

The ray of white was stopped firmly away from him, but it ground against Shang Xia's defense desperately.

When the exchange went on, the darkness around him started to crumble. Rays of warm sunlight entered, restoring the world to its original form.

A massive sword formation was deployed in an instant, firmly wrapping itself around Shang Xia.

The rays of black and white sword lights were blocked off completely.

Outside the sword formation, a trace of fright formed on the originally confident Dongfang Mingyu.

#### Chapter 185: One Sword, Four Intent

It wasn't Dongfang Mingyu's first time experiencing the chaotic flow of qi from Shang Xia.

That was the other sign that a cultivator had reached the grand completion stage of their current cultivation realm!

After experiencing Shang Xia's strength, Dongfang Mingyu didn't find it weird at all. The only thing that he found hard to accept was that Shang Xia wasn't affected by his divine sense at all! The weird sword formation even managed to neutralize his Black and White Sword Boundary!

Even though experts at the peak of the Martial Extremity Realm who had the ability to withstand a Martial Intent Realm expert's divine sense were extremely rare, it was still possible to find one if they looked hard enough. However, he had never seen a Martial Extremity Realm cultivator nullifying his Black and White Sword Boundary!

In his eyes, it was completely ridiculous for Shang Xia to block off a Martial Intent Realm expert's all-out attack!

Dongfang Mingyu comprehended his Black and White Sword Boundary when he was in the Martial Extremity Realm! His advancement should have increased the power contained in his martial intent, but it was easily blocked by Shang Xia!

From the quality of martial intents, his Black and White Sword Boundary wasn't too far off Shang Xia's Yin Yang Sword Formation!

No matter what, he couldn't understand how the both of them were evenly matched. His arrogant self could never accept it! Even if they were only evenly matched on the surface and he was still reserving his strength, his poor little heart couldn't take the insult!

The first time they fought, Dongfang Mingyu discovered that the moment he used his divine sense, he would be able to suppress the other party to the point where he couldn't raise his head!

Now, even when he gave it his all, his opponent didn't seem weakened in the slightest!

The sword formation protecting Shang Xia didn't look too grand, nor did it exude a terrifying aura. Despite its weak appearance, Dongfang Mingyu couldn't break his way into it no matter how hard he tried!

Of course, if he was given enough time, he would be able to wear Shang Xia down with his cultivation base at the Martial Intent Realm. The only problem he had was exactly that! Time wasn't on his side.

When Shang Xia was hunting down the members of the Rose Party in the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World, Yang Zigong, Wang Shihai, and Qian Sitong seemed to have reached the same understanding. They controlled the protection formation flawlessly and would hunt down disciples of the Rose Party from time to time. Their actions caused a huge amount of casualties on the side of the Rose Party.

The two of them might not have fought for long, but when Dongfang Mingyu thought that someone could have noticed his actions, he realized that it wouldn't be long before the Tongyou Institution started to send some backup over.

He had to leave before that!

Since the notion of retreating appeared in his mind, his Black and White Sword Boundary started to fade.

Feeling the changes in the situation, Shang Xia's Yin Yang Sword Formation which was at a slight disadvantage started to transform once again!

Initially, Shang Xia was surrounded by a dense layer of sword light. They seemed to have received some sort of summoning as they returned to the Jade River Sword with a single thought from Shang Xia. They slowly turned into a giant ray of sword qi that contained four colors.

The moment it formed, the Black and White Sword Boundary was unable to suppress it in the slightest!

Tearing through the skies, the four-colored sword qi ripped the Black and White Sword Boundary apart.

Suppressing the shock in his heart, Dongfang Mingyu decided to escape with all his might. Controlling his remaining sword qi to form tiny little rays, they rained down on Shang Xia in an attempt to stall him a second longer.

Shang Xia was helpless and he couldn't deal with Dongfang Mingyu's shameless behavior even if he wanted to. He chose to transform his Yin Yang Sword Formation once more. A terrifying wave of energy wiped out the countless strands of sword qi rushing towards him.

Dongfang Mingyu ran as quickly as he could while that was happening. Even though Shang Xia could freely transform his qi into any of the four pairs he mastered, it took up a lot of inner qi. His previous attack to shatter the sword qi raining down on him used up a huge portion of his remaining strength.

Seeing as Dongfang Mingyu had already escaped tens of feet away, he knew that he couldn't catch up even if he tried. Trying his best to force Dongfang Mingyu to remain behind, Shang Xia controlled his sword qi to charge at the man. "Do you really think you can run?! Eat my sword!"

The condensed sword qis charged at Dongfang Mingyu. They seemed to speed up suddenly as they stabbed towards his back.

Seeing as he was about to be struck, a hairpin appeared above Dongfang Mingyu's head. It hovered in the air for a second before emitting a ray of bluish-red sword light. It sliced down behind Dongfang Mingyu as it covered his escape.

The moment it came into contact with Shang Xia's sword qi, a huge explosion filled the air.

The hairpin was clearly a treasure that contained an expert's divine sense, and it was obviously Dongfang Mingyu's life-saving treasure.

Even though the sword qi that emerged couldn't be compared to Shang Ke's Suspended Spear when Shang Xia slayed Murong Yuntian, it was powerful enough! As long as it wasn't broken completely, Dongfang Mingyu could still use the remaining power stored within!

From that point alone, one could see how much better Dongfang Mingyu's treasure was.

Well, it didn't really matter as the hairpin exploded into countless shards after the sword qi came into contact with Shang Xia's attack.

Dongfang Mingyu turned to look behind him, and he could no longer contain his horror. His life-saving treasure was completely destroyed! Even though he expected it to suffer some damages, he felt that he would still be able to use it once more in a desperate situation. However, the attack from a kid at the Martial Extremity Realm shattered it completely!

Shang Xia was extremely confused too. He released that attack in a state of desperation. He hastily combined the four types of sword qi into a single sword made from heaven and earth qi, giving it the strength to destroy anything that stood in its way!

He was dumbfounded by the power contained in the strike!

Only then did he suddenly realize something.

The sword was the origin of everything. It was no wonder the power increased by so many times when he fused them back into a single sword!

Circulating his Yin Yang Diagram in his dantian, four tiny swords appeared above them again. At the same time, a huge sword made from four different extremities started to form. It seemed to contain unrivaled might!

Not even Dongfang Mingyu's lifesaving treasure could stop him!

Dongfang Mingyu might have been taken aback by the sudden change in the situation and stopped attacking, but Shang Xia wouldn't play fair. Especially when their enmity and previous battle had reached a point where one side had to die!

Whatever. It wasn't as though Shang Xia was really honorable to begin with. Attacking when his opponents were distracted was one of his special moves.

Jade Creek tore through the air and another sword qi containing four extremities emerged.

This time, it was much smaller than the sword that sundered Dongfang Mingyu's life-saving treasure.

Despite the difference in size, Dongfang Mingyu yelped in shock before retreating as far away as possible. His Autumn Water Sword slashed at the incoming sword qi in a desperate attempt to block it.

His Black and White Sword Boundary appeared once again, but Shang Xia's Four Intents Sword Qi was even more ferocious this time!

In an instant, the Black and White Sword Boundary was turned to nothingness.

That wasn't all. His Four Intents Sword Qi arrived before Dongfang Mingyu and started to wreak havoc. It managed to slice his sleeves right off, and the destructive energy shattered Dongfang Mingyu's Embroidered Cloud Case that was contained within. An assortment of treasures rained down on the lands.

#### Chapter 186: Yin Yang State

Even though he managed to make contact, Shang Xia still underestimated the other party's strength!

His Yin Yang Sword Formation made a breakthrough at the last moment, and he managed to defeat Dongfang Mingyu head-on. However, he was still unable to force Dongfang Mingyu to leave his life behind.

However, it might be a good thing that Dongfang Mingyu ran away as quickly as he could. Shang Xia had exhausted his entire reserve of inner qi.

Not too long after Dongfang Mingyu's figure disappeared, Shang Xia staggered to the side and spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Damn! His Black and White Sword Boundary is really powerful!" Shang Xia even thought that he was going to die under Dongfang Mingyu's sword earlier!

During the exchange, a small portion of black and white qi entered Shang Xia's body. It was formless and nearly undetectable. Without the Yin Yang Diagram to neutralize it for the time being, Shang Xia might be ridden with hidden injuries!

It was something he couldn't defend himself against!

The strand of black and white qi followed his flow of inner qi back into his dantian now that the battle was over.

He only managed to detect it when he rotated his Yin Yang Diagram earlier. If it was anyone else, they wouldn't be able to notice the anomaly! The strand of black and white qi would probably detonate in their bodies at an opportune moment for Dongfang Mingyu to strike.

Dongfang Mingyu could only blame his bad luck for attacking Shang Xia.

That was the reason he turned tail to run. He noticed that his strand of qi wasn't working like it normally would.

To Shang Xia, this hidden attack was a massive treasure trove. The stand of black and white qi contained Dongfang Mingyu's divine sense!

Once Shang Xia destroyed the divine sense contained in the strand of qi, he would be able to convert it into his Yin Yang Essence Qi!

Shang Xia's injuries mainly came from the divine sense anyway, once he spent some time shattering it, he would recover too. Throughout the process of the conversion, Shang Xia would be able to inspect the source of black and white qi.

Like when he refined the Unstable Rock and comprehended the use of light and heavy qi, he might be able to do the same for the strand of black and white qi! If that happened, he could freely transform his qi into it when the time came!

Moreover, the strand of black and white qi would be a whole lot more effective than the Unsteady Rock when he tried to understand the meaning behind the pair of qi.

Since he couldn't really go after Dongfang Mingyu or enter seclusion that very second to study the strand of black and white qi, he could only treat his injuries the best he could. He picked up the items that fell from Dongfang Mingyu's Embroidered Cloud Case and tossed them into his own. He barely glanced through them as though he was in a race against time. He quickly left the region.

Shang Xia also had a feeling that he would run into Dongfang Mingyu again. When that happened, the exchange between the two would only grow more violent.

In the core region of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World... The moment he appeared, a huge ruckus was kicked up. He didn't mind it too much and decided to do his own thing.

Healing his injuries was of the highest priority. Even though he saw a few familiar faces in the core region, he only made a quick report to Sun Haiwei and Ma Xiaofeng before entering a random cultivation cave to cultivate.

...

In a place that couldn't be accessed by anyone under the Martial Extermination Realm, several experts were exchanging blows. Shang Bo sealed off the space with the Coral Command, and whatever happened there wouldn't affect the Coral Forest at all.

Of course, he only managed to do that after controlling the Coral Command entirely. Other than several plots of land, everywhere else was turned into a pile of ruins.

...

Not too far away from the Tongyou Peak...

Two teams of cultivators from the Azure Spiritual World and Azure Origin World gathered together, and there were close to a hundred experts ready to strike.

One of the teams consisted of experts from the Four Spiritual Peak, led by Lang Jingyun and Lu Zhanyi.

The other was led by She Zhihong, and he was the brother of She Zhiqing who lost his life in the battle on the Tongyou Peak.

The only thing that made him stand out from the rest was that his age was a lot higher than the rest. His experiences were rich and his cultivation was strong. Even Lang Jingyun and Lu Zhanyi could only address him as their elder.

“Uncle Hong, the Tongyou Peak is right up ahead!” Lang Jingyun bowed respectfully.

She Zhihong’s appearance was pretty scary. His face was large, and his ears were like huge fans. He wore a strict expression all the time.

“Can you ascertain the situation on the mountain right now?” She Zhihong continued, “I just arrived here and I’m not overly familiar with the situation. Everything I know comes from you guys. Look at the mess you caused! You even caused Zhiqing to die during the previous battle!”

Lang Jingyun’s expression froze and a dry cough escaped his lips. “Of course. We are sure that Ji Wenlong, Shang Bo, and Shang Lubing have entered the Coral Forest. The only Martial Extermination Realm expert from the institution left on the mountain is Liu Qinglan. No one else is strong enough for us to take note of them! The only thing we need to be careful of is the protection formation! If Uncle Hong makes a move, it will fall for sure!”

She Zhihong didn’t fully believe what he said earlier. Instead, he continued his line of questioning. “Is there really only Liu Qinglan left? Are you sure they didn’t send any experts over secretly?”

“Uncle Hong, you might not know this, but there are only so few Martial Extermination Realm experts in the Tongyou Institution! That’s how we managed to keep the balance up till now! Kou Chongxue only managed to step into the Martial Dipper Realm with his dogshit luck. However, he’s seriously injured right now and Yun Jing has to oversee matters in the institution. She can’t leave even if she wanted to. The Tongyou Institution cannot possibly bring out any more experts!”

“Is that so...” She Zhihong looked at Lang Jingyun with a faint smile on his face. “Don’t forget, you guys were extremely confident when attacking the Tongyou Peak the last time. Three completely unexpected variables appeared during the war! If another one appears this time, this old man won’t be surprised at all...”

Lang Jingyun’s face flushed red and Lu Zhanyi could only jump in to help mitigate the awkward situation. “Elder Hong, you’re more experienced than all of us here. If you lead us into battle later, nothing unexpected can happen. Even if an additional expert at the Martial Extermination Realm appears, we’ll be able to deal with it.”

After he spoke, he didn’t forget to signal towards Lang Jingyun with his eyes.

Hesitating for a second, Lang Jingyun eventually nodded his head to pander to the old man’s ego. “Brother Lu is right! Uncle Hong, we’ll definitely achieve our goal today!”

...

In one of the secret chambers, Shang Xia completed the transformation of the strand of black and white qi in his dantian. He managed to learn how to transform his Yin Yang Essence Qi into it and he couldn’t hide his smile.

The accumulation of different types of qi might not increase his cultivation level, but it strengthened his foundations quite a bit! He would grow stronger than before!



Moreover, he could feel that the more pairs of qi he comprehended, the stronger his Yin Yang Essence Qi would become. His inner qi became purer every time he comprehended a new type.

There was no doubt about it that he took another step closer to breaking through to the Martial Intent Realm. If he had an advancement formula, he was sure that the blood red tablet would be able to optimize it immediately.

In actuality, there was an advancement formula of the Zhu Family when he obtained Zhu Ying's Embroidered Cloud Case. However, he was trying to avoid using it.

There was no need to think more about it. Shang Xia brought out another sword manual, and it was the Dual Interference Sword Manual Dongfang Mingyu dropped!

#### Chapter 187: Broken Mysterious World

The injuries Shang Xia sustained weren't too serious. Especially after he transformed the strand of black and white qi into his own, more than half his injuries healed. With the Icy Flesh Jade Bones Powder he refined earlier, his body became even more resistant.

Moreover, there were tons of medicine residue left in his body in the past and all of them helped him to reduce the extent of his injuries.

He no longer planned to head out to kill cultivators from the Rose Party as he had achieved his goal.

The fate of those from the Rose Party was held in the hands of the Martial Extermination Realm experts anyway. Shang Xia heading out made no difference.

The most likely outcome would be that several Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Rose Party and Four Spiritual Peak would leave their lives behind. Whatever the case, Shang Xia had no control over any of it.

Retrieving the Dual Interference Sword Manual, Shang Xia planned to train in it. He had read through the entire inheritance, and he knew the essence of it. Even though he hadn't started training in it, he pretty much gained a general understanding of how it worked.

After ignoring the rest of the injuries he sustained that weren't so serious, Shang Xia's newest problem was that he had to continue tempering his body.

Planing the manual down on the ground, another different type of powder appeared in his hand.

It also belonged to Dongfang Mingyu.

One could say that Shang Xia's luck was pretty good this time. The Dual Interference Sword Manual and the medicine were both things he could use immediately to increase his strength.

The only problem was that Dongfang Mingyu's Embroidered Cloud Case was shattered by Shang Xia's sword qi earlier. No one knew how much good stuff was destroyed with it. Shang Xia's heart started to ache slightly when he thought about them.

As an elite cultivator from the Dongfang Family, Dongfang Mingyu was sure to possess quite a few treasures. Moreover, he was pretty strong compared to the rest of the cultivators who entered. The number of goodies he obtained ever since entering the Coral Forest was bound to be plentiful. Even though some of them were destroyed, those Shang Xia picked up piled up in his spatial treasure.

After tossing another portion of Tempering Meridian Powder into his mouth, Shang Xia started to concentrate on absorbing its medicinal properties.

Since he had experience of eating the Tempering Meridian Powder before, he decided to eat a portion of Meridian Expanding Powder along with it.

When he was done refining all his medicine, he started to consolidate his foundations. Training his qi of softness and strength, void and reality, fire and ice, he was ready to fight at any moment. It could also allow him to display a greater amount of strength!

Even though he didn't suffer any injuries when fusing the Hidden Needle Manual into his Yin Yang Sword Formation, it was because of the little extra boost he got when he refined the Icy Flesh Jade Bones Powder.

When he reached enlightenment during his final strike on Dongfang Mingyu and fused all four different pairs of qi into a single sword, his martial intent, the Yin Yang Sword Formation, reached its second form!

Too bad it drained all his energy. In that state, he was unable to unleash a second strike!

If he did it forcefully, he would only injure himself in the process!

If Dongfang Mingyu knew what had happened, he would realize why Shang Xia didn't give chase immediately.

As for the medicine Shang Xia just consumed, the effects would be much less than before since it wasn't his first time eating them.

If the effects of the second portion of medicine reached half of the first, he could thank the gods.

Shang Xia planned out his path directly. After consuming the medicine, he would continue to comprehend the Quandary Manual and the Dual Interference Sword Manual. Once he managed to form the two other swords in his Yin Yang Diagram, the Yin Yang Formation would take a huge step forward.

With his cultivation base as a guide, Shang Xia knew that he had to start preparing to enter the Martial Intent Realm soon.

He was thinking of remaining in the stone chamber for a period of time to digest his gains from the Coral Forest, but a sudden change in situation caused him to emerge.

It was as though doomsday had arrived as a giant hole was torn through the skies. Massive hurricanes swept the land.

Shang Xia wasn't foreign to the disturbance at all. When the Four Spiritual Peak attacked the Tongyou Peak in the past, the battle between the Martial Extermination Realm experts was at that scale.

"Who died this time?" Shang Xia located Sun Haiwei immediately after emerging and asked.

"Lang Xiaoyun and another Martial Extermination Realm expert of the Rose Party!"

"They died together?" Shang Xia frowned.

Shaking her head, Sun Haiwei replied, "Pretty much... Lang Xiaoyun died first and Dongfang Daying followed soon after."

"What about the hole in the sky? Did Zhu Tong run away?" Shang Xia continued.

"Zhu Tong?" Sun Haiwei was slightly taken aback. "The hole appeared when the two of them died. It seemed as though a giant palm tore through the skies and slapped them both into meat paste. They couldn't resist at all! In fact, they didn't look like they were planning to fight back!"

Shang Xia's eyes widened in shock and his heart sank slightly. He suddenly recalled what Dongfang Mingyu said, 'The members of the Tongyou Institution aren't the only ones who know what sacrificing themselves'.

"What about Zhu Tong? I mean, the rank five undead corpse! Did it get away?" Shang Xia asked hurriedly.

Sun Haiwei's expression was solemn as she shook her head. She knew how serious it was. Dongfang Daying and Lang Xiaoyun were powerful experts at the Martial Extermination Realm! Even so, they were killed without the slightest resistance!

However, their deaths weren't in vain. They managed to blow a passage through the Coral Forest during their deaths, opening a path for the members of the Rose Party and the remaining experts.

Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo had to make a choice. They could either stop the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Four Spiritual Peak from leaving, or they could focus their energy to trap Zhu Tong in the Coral Forest!

Since they decided to sacrifice their lives, the two Martial Extermination Realm experts were able to shatter the stalemate and advantage the Tongyou Peak had over them!

A heaven-shattering roar rocked the space around them, and another layer in the space above them seemed to rip apart.

Shang Xia and Sun Haiwei's expressions changed instantly. From the looks of it, Zhu Tong had entered the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World!

Huge fluctuations appeared in the skies and tiny sparks of light condensed to form a huge lance that crashed into the land below.

When that happened, Yan Su'er grabbed Ran Biluo as they charged towards the hole created during the deaths of Lang Xiaoyun and Dongfang Daying.

#### Chapter 188: Tough Choice

In the air above the Tongyou Peak...

She Zhihong, Lang Jingyun, and Lu Zhanyi revealed themselves at the same time. When they released their attacks in unison, the protection formation of the Tongyou Institution trembled violently. It seemed as though it would shatter at any moment.

Dense fog appeared all of a sudden to surround their forces, causing a shift in the battlefield immediately.

Even though they were close to achieving their goals, She Zhihong's expression was far from happy. Instead, a look of irritation flashed across it. "Is this what your Four Spiritual Peak means by only having a single Martial Extermination Realm expert holding the fort?! How do you explain that extermination origin?!"

A look of shock appeared on Lang Jingyun's face when he was faced with the old expert's questioning.

Lu Zhanyi cleverly moved to the side the moment She Zhihong started. He started saving those trapped in the poisonous fog, and he chose to ignore the other two completely.

Even though he was roped in by the Four Spiritual Peak, he didn't belong to any power! He didn't wish to be dragged into the meaningless power struggles!

The only reason he accepted the mission to begin with was because of the benefits they promised him.

He was willing to assist them, but he would never risk his life! After all, there was no use holding all the riches in the world when one was dead! He also swore never to take part in the power struggle or enmity between the four races of the Tongyou Peak. In return, they wouldn't be allowed to command him as they wished either.

The poison fog covered a huge area under the foot of the Tongyou Peak, but even though it was powerful, the potency of the poison would dissipate as the fog dispersed even more. Experts at the Martial Extermination Realm would be able to move around as they pleased once they were ready for it.

However, the same couldn't be said for the forces they brought along! More than ten disciples had already fallen into the poison fog. Of course, most of them were merely at the Martial Extermination Realm.

There were several others who managed to escape the region surrounded by the fog. Even though their lives were no longer in danger, they had to restore their strengths with various medicines. They wouldn't be able to fight for the foreseeable future.

In an instant, the assailants on the Tongyou Peak suffered a huge blow to their strength. They lost some fighting strength before the war even started!

"Who?!" She Zhihong roared and the spear in his hand shot outwards, tearing a hole through the protection formation.

His extermination origin swept through the air like a snake and huge explosions rang through the skies as they smashed into the body of the Qiling Peak.

When he retrieved his spear, another wave of poisonous fog emerged from the hole he created in the protection formation.

Even with his cultivation, he could only retreat hastily. He didn't wish to be polluted by the unknown poison.

"This junior is Kang Ci of the Tongyou Institution. I wonder how I should address senior?" A blurry figure appeared in the air.

Lang Jingyun quickly explained, “This person is one of the four great masters of the Outreach Division of the Tongyou Institution. He serves under Yun Jing. He took part in the war previously, but he was only a Martial Intent Realm expert then. I have no idea how he managed to break through in such a short period of time...”

She Zhihong shot a glare towards Lang Jingyun but he eventually turned to the blurry figure. “This old man is She Zhihong. I am She Zhiqing’s brother!”

Kang Ci’s phantom nodded lightly and sighed, “I see...”

“You made a move against lower leveled cultivators, violating the promise all Martial Extermination Realm cultivators made in the past... Are you planning on going against the oath?” She Zhihong growled.

Kang Ci chuckled, “What do you mean? You guys started an attack on our Tongyou Peak all of a sudden. I only reacted instinctively. Those who were affected by the poison fog were merely collateral damage when you attacked us!”

A snort left She Zhihong’s lips. “You’re being unreasonable...”

Kang Ci’s expression turned frosty all of a sudden. “Humph, if not for your sneak attack, why would they be injured? Am I supposed to let you guys destroy the Tongyou Peak as you wish? Are you stupid? If I let you run wild, I won’t be able to explain my actions to the others!”

“Nonsense!” She Zhihong snapped.

Before he could continue, soft laughter rang through the air. “How laughable! You took the chance when the deputy patriarchs left to launch a sneak attack on our Tongyou Peak and you’re claiming to be the victims here. Are your actions really glorious? Should I prepare a medal for you? Both of us are enemies and we’re going to fight to the death anyway. Stop wasting time trying to gain the moral high ground on us.”

The figure of a pretty lady appeared above the protection formation after the words rang in their ears and Liu Qinglan’s projection appeared.

“With the two of us here and so many of your disciples incapacitated, I suggest you scram. It’s your choice if you wish to risk it all, our Tongyou Peak will never yield to despicable scum like you!” Liu Qinglan snorted before her projection disappeared alongside Kang Ci.

A look of hesitation appeared in She Zhihong’s eyes.

Lang Jingyun felt his heart thumping in his chest, both from anger and fear. He eventually asked, “Uncle Hong, what do we do now?”

The entire group had fallen into an extremely awkward situation now that they were exposed. The opponent had another Martial Extermination Realm expert on their side, and they also had a fully functioning protection formation.

The three of them were definitely unable to shatter the protection formation for real. They might be able to poke holes in it, but the formation would recover quickly.

If they really wanted to shatter the protection formation, they would have to send out the entirety of their forces to assault the periphery of the barrier in all directions. If they were able to do that, they might be able to wear the barrier down eventually.

It was too bad the lower leveled cultivators of their assault group were affected by the poison. They wouldn't dare to venture near the barrier anyway. Under such circumstances, they wouldn't be able to shatter it!

However, if they chose to retreat at that moment, all their preparations would have been for naught.

Regardless of whether it was She Zhihong or Lang Jingyun, they were confident of shattering the protection formation of the Tongyou Peak before they came. They dreamed of shattering the stalemate in the battlefield between two worlds, but their plan was destroyed in the blink of an eye. Their faces stung from the shame and humiliation!

Faced with such a difficult choice, the two of them were at a loss of what to do when the awkward situation was shattered by a loud blast. A strong shockwave tore through the lands.

She Zhihong, Lang Jingyun, and Lu Zhanyi turned to stare towards the direction of the disturbance and stared at each other in fright.

The three of them weren't the only ones who were shocked. Liu Qinglan and Kang Ci who were on the Tongyou Peak appeared near the edge of the barrier before staring in the same direction.

"This... This disturbance is larger than when someone enters the Martial Extermination Realm! Either a Martial Extermination Realm expert fell, or a monster is achieving a breakthrough to the Martial Dipper Realm!" She Zhihong muttered. Of course, he didn't think it was possible for someone to advance into the Martial Dipper Realm at all.

"Which direction did that come from?" He asked Lang Jingyun.

"It's the Coral Forest!"

Chapter 189: Tough Break

...

Regardless of Lang Xiaoyun or Dongfang Daying, neither of them intended to sacrifice themselves. They had been looking for chances to escape the whole time, but it was too bad the Coral Forest was made up of multiple regions of space. There were barriers stopping them from breaking through regions as they pleased, and it formed a massive hindrance to their escape.

With their cultivation at the Martial Extermination Realm, they could break through the barriers forcefully, but they needed to expand a bit of energy and time. Both were things they couldn't afford to waste with Zhu Tong on their tail! There was no way the rank five undead corpse would give them the luxury to do whatever they wanted.

If they risked their lives and gave it their all while waiting for their backup to arrive, it was definitely possible to escape! They quickly made secret transmissions to those from their faction.

When Yan Su'er, Ran Biluo, Yuwen Shengjie, and Sima Zhanxing received their reports, they started to move. Both sides might be suspicious of each other, but they had to cooperate in that

critical moment! They couldn't watch as the strongest experts from their factions died in the hand of an undead corpse.

After all, Martial Extermination Realm cultivators were extremely valuable!

It was too bad their actions were discovered by Shang Bo the moment they moved. The moment Ji Wenlong and Shang Lubing moved out, the fates of Lang Xiaoyun and Dongfang Daying were sealed!

With no other alternatives, Lang Xiaoyun and Dongfang Daying could only harden their resolve. Rather than waiting to be eaten by Zhu Tong after exhausting themselves, they would use the last of their strength to tear open an avenue of hope for the others!

When they discovered that the members of the Tongyou Peak were the ones who refined the Coral Command, they already expected as much. The Tongyou Peak's plan of dealing with all of them in one fell swoop was obvious!

If they tried to come up with a plan to snatch the Coral Command from Shang Bo, they would probably drown in the spit of everyone in their respective worlds. Since that was impossible, they could only sacrifice themselves for the others to fight another day. They could even leave the rank five undead corpse to trouble the members of the Tongyou Institution.

Things played out exactly as they thought. When they blew a hole in the Coral Forest, Zhu Tong turned to head towards the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World where the others were hiding.

Feeling the life force of so many disciples was one thing, but Zhu Tong could feel a special resonance with a bloodline there!

Shang Bo didn't know if Zhu Tong was attracted by the bloodline of someone from the Zhu Family, but with so many lower leveled disciples of the institution gathered there, Shang Bo couldn't ignore them!

His Nine Firefly Lance tore through the skies to obstruct Zhu Tong who was rushing over.

Even though Shang Bo had just entered the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm, his strength wasn't too far off from Ji Wenlong. With the Coral Command and ability to control the space around the Coral Forest, the strength he could unleash was terrifying!

Despite that, Zhu Tong managed to send his lance flying away with a single punch. Shang Bo's heart sank instantly.

When he grabbed his lance again, his hands trembled violently. His meridians felt like they were about to shatter. Even so, he could only continue to chase after Zhu Tong in an attempt to stop him.

In mid air, Yan Su'er dragged a heavily injured Ran Biluo towards the hole the two experts blew open. The staff in her hands swept backwards desperately, forcing Shang Lubing to retreat.

The shockwaves produced by Yan Su'er were too large and Sima Zhanxing fell back towards the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World.

"Leave this place to me, you should go bring the others away!" Yuwen Shengjie yelled at Sima Zhanxing, but before he could fully complete his sentence, a giant blade tore through the air. He was slammed into the ground ruthlessly.

Ji Wenlong appeared in the next instant as his blade drew several beautiful arcs through the skies. Behind him was Shang Lubing and a pale Liu Zhuyuan.

Even though Yan Su'er and Ran Biluo managed to escape through the hole earlier, they were forced back by Shang Lubing and Liu Zhiyuan. They stood opposite the Tongyou Institution's trio as their chests heaved up and down.

Yuwen Shengjie wasn't looking too good either. He was alright on the surface, but he was forcefully pushing himself with the use of various secret techniques. His situation was terrible, causing Yan Su'er's heart to sink slightly.

"Shang Bo won't be able to hold the rank five undead corpse back alone..." Yan Su'er muttered. She was clearly speaking to Ji Wenlong about the matter.

However, her 'warning' was met with a hearty chuckle. Shang Lubing revealed a gratified smile too, and so did Liu Zhiyuan.

"You guys..." Sima Zhanxing's voice came from behind Yan Su'er.

A sense of foreboding filled Yan Su'er's heart and she quickly turned around to see the hole created with Lang Xiaoyun and Dongfang Daying's lives in exchange rapidly closing up.

That wasn't all. When Yan Su'er was forcefully holding them back earlier, she couldn't feel a thing. Now that she had time to breathe, she discovered that even the space around them was turning more solid.

The Coral Command could only be rapidly refined in the hands of a Martial Extermination Realm expert, and there were only two super experts of the institution who could hold on to it. Yan Su'er and the rest knew that either Shang Bo or Ji Wenlong would be holding on to it. However, neither of them would be able to restore the space while fighting, and Yan Su'er expression changed drastically.

"It's a formation master! You have a formation master in the core region, stabilizing the grand formation!" Yan Su'er gasped.

Ji Wenlong's laughter tore through the skies and so did his blade.

Shang Lubing and Liu Zhiyuan didn't hold back as they launched their attacks in tandem.

Swinging her staff, Yan Su'er pushed herself to the limit. A faint trace of a fourth extermination origin appeared, slicing apart Ji Wenlong's blade intent.

Under such stressful circumstances, Yan Su'er finally broke through the bottleneck! She started to step into the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm!

Yuwen Shengjie wasn't as lucky as her. Ji Wenlong's blade intent had been split in two to attack both of them simultaneously anyway. His blade intent arrived, along with Shang Lubing and Liu Zhiyuan's attack.

Clearly, the members of the Tongyou Institution wanted to deal with the weakling that was Yuwen Shengjie first.



Forcefully destroying Ji Wenlong's blade intent, Yuwen Shengjie expended most of his energy. He was no longer able to stop the other two, and his secret art that maintained his outward appearance crumbled. He spat out mouthfuls of blood as he was sent crashing into the ground below.

Ji Wenlong took the chance to press the advantage. However, he paused before he could arrive. Turning in the direction of the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World, he growled, "I'll leave you two to deal with this mess..."

As soon as he spoke, he rushed in the other direction.

Shang Lubing looked at the members of the Rose Party who had partially escaped through the closing hole and turned to the vigilant Yan Su'er as a sigh escaped his lips. "Alas... We didn't manage to deal with them completely..."

Chapter 190: Bloodline Aura

In mid air, the heavily injured Ran Biluo joined hands with Sima Zhanxing as they evacuated all the members of the Rose Party they could.

Yan Su'er was stopping the gap from closing as Yuwen Shengjie was dying beside her. She wasn't willing to let an ally die right in front of her and she stood tall before him.

Liu Zhiyuan wanted to make a move, but he was stopped by Shang Lubing.

When Liu Zhiyuan was staring at the senior Martial Extermination Realm expert in confusion, the disciples of the Rose Party were evacuating as quickly as they could.

The moment Liu Zhiyuan or Shang Lubing interrupted them and allowed the gap in the Coral Forest to seal up, the juniors of the Rose Party would definitely die. However, that would also mean that Yan Su'er and the rest had nothing to lose. They would go all out and risk their lives to fight Liu Zhiyuan and Shang Lubing.

With Shang Bo and Ji Wenlong fighting Zhu Tong, the two of them wouldn't be able to stop Yan Su'er themselves regardless of her state of injury!

When that happened, the Tongyou Institution was probably going to be the ones in trouble.

"So... Are we going to watch them leave?!" Liu Zhiyuan wasn't willing to accept it.

Shang Lubing thought for a second before laughing, "We're concerned about the Coral Forest. Once they leave, we won't have to worry anymore."

Liu Zhiyuan eventually nodded his head. When he turned to stare behind him where Shang Bo and Ji Wenlong were battling the rank five undead corpse, a look of viciousness appeared in his eyes.

...

The instant the Nine Firefly Lance appeared in the air, Shang Xia's expression changed.

Sun Haiwei could see Shang Xia's sleeves trembling and she tried to comfort him, "Calm down... Deputy Patriarch Shang is really strong. He has the Coral Command too. Even if it's a rank five undead corpse, it won't be able to do anything to him. Don't forget, even Lang Xiaoyun and Dongfang Daying managed to survive for a long time against the undead corpse."

Shang Xia forced a smile in response.

When their exchange went down, the sky was filled with multicolored lights. A ray of extermination origin formed a giant blade that slashed into the chaotic battle.

“Look! Deputy Patriarch Ji entered the battle too! The two of them are definitely strong enough to deal with the problem!” Sun Haiwei continued.

After she spoke, the two of them turned to look in the direction of the hole that was blown through the Coral Forest. They discovered that the battle had already ended, and they finally heaved a sigh of relief.

Turning back to Shang Xia, Sun Haiwei noticed that was wearing an ugly expression and she couldn't help but ask, “Junior Brother Shang, what's wrong?”

“My injuries are acting up again... Senior Sister Sun, I'll have to enter seclusion again to ensure nothing is wrong.” Shang Xia revealed a bitter smile and said.

“Go quickly!”

Returning to his secret chamber, Shang Xia retrieved an Embroidered Cloud Case carefully.

When Shang Bo tried to stop Zhu Tong earlier, Shang Xia wasn't too terrified. He was merely shocked. That was because the moment Zhu Tong tore through the spatial barrier to enter the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World, Shang Xia felt the case shaking slightly.

It was something he obtained from Zhu Ying's body, and it was where he stored the dude's corpse.

It had been some time since he obtained the case, but there seemed to be nothing wrong with it.

Shang Xia would rather be beaten to death than believe that Zhu Tong had nothing to do with the case's reaction.

He felt that it had something to do with Zhu Tong's appearance in the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World.

Perhaps the resonance had something to do with the bloodline in Zhu Ying's body. That was the reason Shang Xia kept Zhu Ying's body in the case in the first place.

However, the Embroidered Cloud Case was a spatial artifact. Shouldn't it have some kind of isolation properties?!

Curiosity got the better of Shang Xia and he decided to bring out Zhu Ying's body to take a closer look.

Due to the preservation effects of the spatial artifact, Zhu Ying's corpse was exactly the way it was when he died. The stench of blood filled the chamber the instant Shang Xia brought the corpse out.

In the same instant he pulled out the body, an enraged cry ripped through the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World.

Even in the secret chamber, Shang Xia could feel his eardrums hurting.

A strange scene soon played out. The blood on Zhu Ying's body started to bubble, and it turned into a faint mist that rose into the air. It started to drift towards the exit of the chamber.

Jumping in fright, Shang Xia would understand what was going on even if he used his buttocks to think. The blood mist was definitely trying to flow towards Zhu Tong!

If he were to allow the bloodmist to escape from the room, Zhu Tong might just be able to locate him!

No! Zhu Tong might have already locked on to Shang Xia's location!

However, Shang Xia didn't know why the rank five undead corpse was so drawn to Zhu Ying's blood, but he felt that the reason wouldn't be so simple!

Could the blood possess some sort of special use to Zhu Tong? Was it so important that the rank five undead corpse had to get his hands on it?!

Looking at the mist that was gathering around the exit, a thought flashed through Shang Xia's mind. I have to destroy the corpse!

If Zhu Tong needed to absorb the blood mist produced from Zhu Ying's body, Shang Xia would never let him achieve his goals!

Traces of lightning danced around Shang Xia's fingertips. The moment he willed it, he would be able to summon a destructive bolt that tore Zhu Ying's body to shreds!

Even though he could do that, a trace of hesitation flashed across his face. The sword qi that was starting to gather around his body disappeared, but he scattered the bloodmist regardless. When the bloodmist was gone, he stored Zhu Ying's body into the Embroidered Cloud Case and emerged.

Seeing Sun Haiwei again, Shang Xia discovered that Yang Zigong, Qian Sitong, and Wang Shihai had already returned. They were fathered around each other, discussing something. Liu Zhifei was also with them.

Seeing Shang Xia appear, Sun Haiwei smiled at him, "Junior Brother Shang, are you alright now?"

The rest turned to look at him in unison. Other than Liu Zhifei who had an empty look in his eyes, everyone else smiled at him.

Shang Xia's expression was a little panicky, and he quickly nodded at the others before saying, "Senior Sister Sun, I have to leave the Coral Forest!"

"Now?" A frown appeared on Sun Haiwei's face. However, she quickly realized something.

The members of the Rose Party had barely left, and there were several Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Rose Party and Four Spiritual Peak outside...

"If you leave now, wouldn't you be sending yourself to death?" Sun Haiwei snapped.

Qian Sitong added, "Also, there's no way for anyone to leave now. The hole is starting to close! You can only leave if the person controlling the Coral Forest opens a passage! Otherwise, you need a Martial Extermination Realm expert to forcefully tear open the barrier to the outside world! None of us have the ability to do so..."

"Are you planning on going out in the underwater route? Didn't it already crumble?" Sun Haiwei raised an eyebrow and asked.

