

The Heavens 191

Chapter 191: Attraction

Shang Xia's sudden desire to leave the Coral Forest piqued everyone's interest.

Sun Haiwei could guess where he wanted to leave from, but at that moment, the passage had already collapsed.

"We'll open it back up again!" Shang Xia muttered.

"Do you intend for us to help you open up the passage? Even if it's possible, aren't you in too much of a rush right now? Will we make it in time?" Yang Zigong raised an eyebrow curiously.

Shang Xia stared at him silently and his expression started to fluctuate.

A strange voice rang out from the side, "Why don't you leave from there?"

Turning to look at the person who spoke, they saw Liu Zhifei pointing towards the hole created by Lang Xiaoyun and Dongfang Daying. He continued, "The members of the Rose Party are almost done evacuating. Those Martial Extermination Realm experts are starting to take their leave. If you're not afraid of being surrounded and hunted down by the enemy, that's the easiest way to leave."

"Many thanks for Teacher Liu's pointers!" Shang Xia cupped his hands towards Liu Zhifei and ran off in the direction of the hole.

"Oi! Are you really going?! What the hell?!" Liu Zhifei's voice came from behind him.

Yang Zigong and the rest stared at each other in shock. They were too stunned by Shang Xia's urge to leave and forgot to ask him the reason behind his rush.

"Hey! Why are you trying to leave?" Shang Lubing yelled from mid air when he heard what Shang Xia said.

Liu Zhiyuan and himself were hovering in the air above, watching the actions of the Rose Party and Four Spiritual Peak. They were there to prevent the rest from charging back inside.

"I have a way to lure the rank five undead corpse out!" Shang Xia yelled.

"What?"

Before Shang Xia could reply, Liu Zhiyuan's voice rang in the distance. "Why do we want to lure it out?!"

The two of them looked at the hole that was slowly closing and Liu Zhiyuan continued, "The moment the hole recovers, Senior Shang Lubing and I will join in the battle. With the help of the grand formation, we should be able to exterminate Zhu Tong!"

"Even if we manage to kill it, how many people will we lose in the process? We'll pay a huge price to exterminate the rank five undead corpse! The Coral Forest is already in such a battered state, how much more do we want to destroy it? All of us only

managed to reach an advantageous position after such great difficulty. We can't lose it all like that!" Shang Xia yelled.

With anger surging in his heart, Liu Zhiyuan snapped at him, "Brat! Do you even know who you're talking to? Even your father..."

"My father?" A trace of confusion appeared on Shang Xia's face suddenly and a blurry memory flashed across his mind.

A cold snort escaped Liu Zhiyuan's lips. However, his tone changed when speaking to Shang Xia. "Kid, have you thought about it? It's our best chance to kill the rank five undead corpse now that it's stuck here! The moment it leaves, disaster will sweep through the battlefield between two worlds. Unless Patriarch Kou personally enters to deal with Zhu Tong, no one will be able to deal with the threat! Well... Even if Patriarch Kou takes action personally, we might not be able to kill it necessarily..."

"Why is that?" Shang Lubing asked before Shang Xia could say anything.

"Don't forget, the undead corpses can escape through the earth. Every single undead corpse of the Zhu Family we discovered in the battlefield between the two worlds had the ability to move through the earth. Zhu Tong specialized in using earth qi when he was alive. Now that he has become an undead corpse, the moment he runs into the earth, Patriarch Kou won't be able to do a thing!"

Shang Lubing turned to look at Shang Xia and sighed, "This... This... Patriarch Liu's concern is actually very legitimate..."

Since Liu Jitang had already died, Liu Zhiyuan was the only Martial Extermination Realm expert of the Liu Clan. He was naturally going to be named the patriarch after they returned. Shang Lubing's way of addressing him was correct.

Shang Xia threw out a massive bomb at that very instant. "I can lead it to the Four Spiritual Peak!"

"WHAT?!" Shang Lubing and Liu Zhiyuan roared in unison. They couldn't believe their ears.

In an instant, both of them became dead serious. Even though Liu Zhiyuan's lips were twitching, he chose to remain silent.

"I am 80 percent sure that I will be able to lead it there. When that happens, you can't forcefully keep the undead corpse here. Just delay it the best you can until I arrive at the Four Spiritual Peak. You can't let it catch up to me..." Shang Xia muttered.

Shang Lubing stared at Shang Xia and sank deep into his thoughts, "If that's the case..."

"Hurry up! The gap is closing!" Shang Xia pointed to the sky and snapped.

Reaching to grab Shang Xia with one hand, Shang Lubing no longer hesitated. He tossed Shang Xia towards the gap, sending him out of the Coral Forest.

“How can we let you do something as dangerous as this? Brat, your fifth grandpa will take it from here!” Shang Ke’s voice rang in Shang Xia’s mind the moment he landed on the ground.

Turning around in shock, he saw Shang Ke rushing out of the Coral Forest too. Once he did, the gap closed completely.

“Fifth grandpa, why didn’t I see you earlier?”

Shang Ke shook his head in disappointment. “I was planning to take a look at the rank five undead corpse alongside your Grandpa Bo. However, I didn’t even get the chance to join the battle with my strength. I was too weak and held all of them back! When I left the battle, I ran into you.”

“Is Grandpa Bo alright?” Shang Xia asked in concern.

A chuckle finally left Shang Ke’s lips. “Of course he is. He’ll be able to hold on for quite some time. With the old fellow, Ji Wenlong, to help him, the two of them won’t be defeated easily. They even have the help of the grand formation.”

Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief after hearing Shang Ke’s explanation.

As the two of them started to chat with each other, they charged towards the Four Spiritual Peak.

Shang Ke asked suddenly, “Brat, why don’t you tell me how confident you are in luring the undead corpse over? Looking at your shady behavior earlier, you seem to be hiding a lot of secrets. Now that there’s no one else left, why don’t you tell me?”

“Hehe, Of course I can’t hide it from Fifth Grandpa. I just didn’t want too many people to know that I killed Zhu Ying and obtained his corpse.” Shang Xia giggled.

“Oh?” Shang Ke’s eyes lit up in response. “Zhu Ying was merely a pawn. No matter if it was the institution or the Liu Clan, they were only planning to use him to unlock the Zhu Family Manor. They thought that a Martial Extremity Realm cultivator like that wouldn’t be able to raise any waves, but who would have thought that the little fellow would be able to run around unhindered? Looks like he managed to gain quite a lot.”

Shang Ke naturally hoped that Zhu Ying would be able to gather quite a lot of treasures now that Shang Xia revealed that he killed Zhu Ying.

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A mischievous smile appeared on Shang Xia’s face all of a sudden. “Hundred Days Longevity Intoxication!”

Staring at Shang Xia in confusion, the look in Shang Ke’s eyes eventually changed. “Is that... Is that a rank four advancement formula?!”

The smile on Shang Xia’s face didn’t fade.

Shang Ke’s voice started to tremble and he continued, “Is it... Is it complete?!”

Shang Xia could understand the desire Shang Ke had for a complete rank four advancement formula. He wanted to show off a little more, but he decided against it after noticing Shang Ke’s

fervent desire for it. “Fifth Grandpa, relax. It’s a complete advancement formula. Now, our Shang Clan will possess a real foundation to become a superpower in the world!”

“Great, great, great!” Shang Ke roared with laughter. “Kid, you still haven’t explained if there’s a connection between Zhu Ying’s corpse and the rank five undead corpse.”

“Fifth Grandpa, the undead corpse seems to be able to track Zhu Ying’s body. It seems to be lusting over Zhu Ying’s blood essence.” Shang Xia explained.

A look of realization crossed Shang Ke’s face. “Is that how you plan to lead it to the Four Spiritual Peak? Aren’t you just messing around?! You don’t even know if the corpse can detect Zhu Ying’s corpse from so far away!”

Shang Xia’s expression froze for a second. “Um, yes I do... Wait. Do you think Zhu Tong will be able to experience rebirth if he absorbs Zhu Ying’s blood essence?”

Shang Ke’s expression changed yet again. “Give me that. You’re too slow. This old man will personally make a trip over to the Four Spiritual Peak.”

Shang Xia didn’t hesitate to hand the Embroidered Cloud Case over to Shang Ke. Once he obtained the case, Shang Ke’s figure tore through the skies.

A flash of inspiration entered Shang Xia’s mind all of a sudden and he yelled, “Grandpa, you should crush his body and scatter all the bones around the Four Spiritual Peak!”

Despite his reminder, Shang Ke’s figure disappeared into the horizon. No one knew if he heard what Shang Xia said.

Chapter 192: Nefarious Thoughts

After Shang Ke disappeared, Shang Xia realized that he had no idea what he should do next.

Was he going to return to the Tongyou Peak in preparation of entering the Martial Intent Realm?

He had to look for a rank three advancement formula if he wanted to advance. He still had Zhu Ying’s rank three advancement formula with him after killing the man, but he wouldn’t even need to look at it to know that it wouldn’t be suitable for him.

He was so doubtful about it that he wouldn’t even bother optimizing it with the blood red tablet.

Shang Xia didn’t forget how the tablet cracked when he changed the advancement formula for him to enter the Martial Extremity Realm. No matter how he looked at it, a rank three advancement formula was several times stronger than a rank two one! If he chose one that wasn’t compatible with himself and optimized it with the tablet, he was afraid that things wouldn’t simply end with another crack on the tablet.

As such, he made up his mind to look for an advancement formula after returning to the institution.

He wasn’t too worried about the ingredients required to create the medicine. After all, he gained quite a lot in the Coral Forest. Regardless of whether it was the gains he obtained with his abilities, or those he got after he killed Zhu Ying, those amounted to a terrifying amount! There were many ingredients he could use to create his advancement medicine too.

There was also no need to mention that Shang Xia's performance in the Coral Forest. Disregarding everything else, he allowed the institution to obtain the Coral Command. He was basically the reason the institution was able to turn the situation around.

When he first entered the Coral Forest, he also gained a solid grasp on the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World, allowing the institution to expand their influence greatly.

Those two points alone called for massive rewards from the institution.

However, Shang Xia didn't plan to advance quickly. He would rather take the chance to perfect his Yin Yang Sword Formation, allowing him to reach greater heights in the future.

He thought of training in his sword arts next, but a problem quickly popped up. There were no suitable opponents. If he tried training alone, he wouldn't be able to achieve the desired effects.

Shang Xia's gaze traveled across the endless plains before him. He didn't feel any different in the Coral Forest, but now that he was alone, he felt that something was missing.

His thoughts were in disarray, but a shadow that shot past his head jolted his senses. He finally recalled that the Lightning Bird went missing after he entered the tunnel.

Whistling loudly, he wanted to see if he could reach the little critter.

It didn't take long before a sharp chirp responded to him.

Raising his head with pleasant surprise, he discovered a silver streak in the skies closing in rapidly. It didn't take long before it started to circle above him.

"Heh! Little thieving bird, where did you run off to?" Shang Xia chuckled happily.

All he got was a chirp in response as the little creature flew down to perch on his shoulders.

He quickly discovered something new. The little bird was much heavier than before!

A series of chirping rang in his ears, and Shang Xia seemed to understand what the bird was saying.

"Did you find a strange place that would benefit you greatly?" Shang Xia continued, "You became stronger (fatter) because of it?"

A short cry left the Lightning Bird's lips and it nodded once, confirming what Shang Xia said.

"You wish to bring me there too?" Shang Xia asked.

The Lightning Bird soared into the air, but a familiar howl brought it back down towards Shang Xia's shoulders. The rank five undead corpse slammed against the barrier around the Coral Forest.

A thought flashed through Shang Xia's mind suddenly. "Let's hide for now... It won't be too late to head over later!"

Shang Xia didn't even need to explain further. The Lightning Bird could feel the threat coming from the rank five undead corpse.

The human and bird duo traveled carefully in the direction where the rank five undead corpse rushed towards.

Shang Xia also took note of what was happening around him.

In an instant, he felt the aura of the undead corpse growing closer and closer.

His heart thumped violently. Even though he had already gotten rid of Zhu Ying's body, he was afraid that the rank five undead corpse would just get rid of him along the way. Against an existence like that, Shang Xia wouldn't be able to put up the slightest resistance.

When his thoughts were running wild, a terrifying aura descended on the lands. He was suffocated for a second, but the aura soon disappeared.

He didn't even manage to catch a glimpse of the undead corpse's figure!

It seemed as though they were too weak for Zhu Tong to even bother about them. Chuckling bitterly at himself, Shang Xia's worry disappeared completely.

"Huh? Why are you here?"

Shang Xia jumped in fright when he heard the voice. He didn't even discover their presence! However, he quickly noticed two figures. "Grandpa, you... Grandpa Ji is here too!"

Shang Xia turned to look at Shang Bo and Ji Wenlong who popped out of nowhere.

"I heard from Chief Lubing that you plan to lure Zhu Tong out of the Coral Forest. Your Fifth Grandpa followed you out too. After coming to a common understanding, we released the seal on the Coral Forest. Zhu Tong escaped immediately, but where's your Fifth Grandpa?" Shang Bo asked. His divine sense spread all over the land, but he failed to locate Shang Ke! A deep frown appeared on his face.

Shang Xia quickly followed up with an explanation. "Fifth Grandpa went to the Four Spiritual Peak. He has something that attracts Zhu Tong."

The two old experts immediately realized what Shang Xia's plan was.

"Don't you know that this will put your Fifth Grandpa in danger?" Shang Bo growled at Shang Xia suddenly.

"Well, all he has to do is to scatter the stuff around the Four Spiritual Peak before running away. He should be able to escape if he doesn't run into anyone." Shang Xia explained.

Nodding once, Shang Bo turned to speak to Ji Wenlong. "We can't waste any more time. Let's head over too!"

Ji Wenlong was also extremely curious about the item that could attract the rank five undead corpse. Seeing as Shang Bo had already made his move, he could only follow behind.

Watching the two old experts disappearing into the horizon, Shang Xia yelled, "Hey! Zhu Tong might be able to shatter the protection formation around the Four Spiritual Peak! You should take advantage of the situation to mess with them!"

Before he completed his sentence, the two old men had already disappeared. He didn't know if they heard him or not.

Regardless, a sense of relief washed over him. With the two peak-leveled experts leaving, he became a lot more at ease. The way he spoke became a lot less respectful too.

“Hey, should we... Should we head over and take a look?” Shang Xia asked.

The Lightning Bird chirped in excitement, mirroring his thoughts.

“No, no. no! This can’t do. I’ll go to the Four Spiritual Peak myself. You have to relay the message back to the Tongyou Peak!” A mischievous smile appeared on Shang Xia’s face. “Since we’re going to take advantage of the situation, we’ll go all the way! Go big or go home!”

Chapter 193: Intercepting the Losers

In the air above the Tongyou Peak...

She Zhihong vented his anger by slamming a four colored spear light on the protection formation.

A huge portion of the power contained in it was dissipated by the protection formation, and Liu Qinglan personally dealt with the remnant power.

Since their plan to sneak attack the Tongyou Peak was destroyed with the appearance of the newly ascended Kang Ci, Lang Jingyun and Lu Zhanyi were already making preparations to leave.

She Zhihong’s bombardment of the protection formation allowed him to release his anger at the situation, but it also provided a perfect cover for them to withdraw. At the very least, no one would dare to chase after them with a crazy fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm expert blasting the region outside.

All of a sudden, a huge explosion swept through the battlefield between two worlds.

She Zhihong rose into the air, but he quickly turned to leave.

Liu Qinglan and Kang Ci’s figure appeared above the protection formation too. Deep frowns could be seen on their faces as they stared in the direction of the blast.

“Senior Sister Liu, do you think our plan for the Coral Forest will succeed?” Kang Ci asked. He managed to learn about the Tongyou Institution’s scheme after entering the Martial Extermination Realm, and he needed someone more experienced to clear his doubts.

Liu Qinglan’s expression changed slightly, but a resolute look eventually appeared in her eyes. “Of course we will! We used close to twenty years to prepare for this moment! We should be a lot more ready than the Rose Party or the Four Spiritual Peak!”

“But Deputy Patriarch Liu...” Kang Ci frowned.

A flash of worry crossed Liu Qinglan’s eyes but her gaze quickly turned cold. “The seal around the Coral Forest was broken twice... All we can do is to wait for news to return...”

Kang Ci nodded his head but sighed softly, “I wonder if any Martial Extermination Realm experts fell during the battle...”

“There’s no need to speculate. Regardless of any sacrifices, our Tongyou Institution should stand victorious! We should receive news soon!”

Kang Ci nodded. He wanted to say something else, but a ray of bright light shot towards the two of them.

“It’s here!” Liu Qinglan muttered.

Her voice trembled slightly, and Kang Ci realized that she had been putting up a strong front the whole time!

Sighing softly in his heart, Kang Ci saw how Liu Qinglan poked at the ray of light. It transformed into several words in mid air.

“Completed the mission, Jitang is lost!” The words lingered in the air for a second before dissipating in the air.

The two Martial Extermination Realm experts holding the fort didn’t know what expression they should show.

“Deputy Patriarch Liu is dead?!” Kang Ci muttered.

Liu Qinglan sucked in a cold breath in response. “Regardless, the Coral Command should have fallen into our hands. All we need to do now is to transform the Tongyou Institution into a mysterious world! Our institution will finally be a standalone power!”

Kang Ci nodded before raising his own concerns. “I’m afraid the Liu Clan won’t be able to keep their position as part of the four great clans any longer...”

Liu Jitang was part of those who created the institution! He held the position of the deputy patriarch for close to 20 years! Now that he died, the institution wouldn’t allow the Liu Clan to do as they wished!

Moreover, the sudden change in situation only happened because of Liu Jitang’s greed to monopolize the inheritance of the Zhu Family! He barged into the Coral Forest before the institution even shifted a portion of their strength to do so, putting the entire Tongyou Peak at risk! There were already many experts of the institution unhappy with them!

Luckily, the institution managed to retain control of the Coral Command eventually. They couldn’t make things difficult for Liu Jitang who sacrificed his life in the process, but they would definitely hold the Liu Clan accountable for some of his actions.

No matter what, Kang Ci could finally relax. He planned to return to the main hall to prepare to spread the good news and to make preparations to welcome the heroes back to the Tongyou Peak when he was interrupted by a gasp from Liu Qinglan.

“How are there more transmission talismans?!”

Turning around hastily, he noticed a streak of light flying straight for the Tongyou Peak. When he extended his divine sense to take a closer look, he discovered that the streak of light wasn’t actually a transmission talisman.

“Oh? Wait, that’s the Lightning Bird!” Liu Qinglan’s voice barely left her lips when a loud chirp tore through the air.

The Lightning Bird seemed to have discovered their presence as well, and it didn’t dare to advance deeper into the Tongyou Peak. Instead, it started to circle around.

“Do you have something you need to relay?” Liu Qinglan asked gently.

Replying with a curt chirp, the Lightning Bird released a strip of cloth from its claws.

Liu Qinglan reached forward as the strip of cloth slowly drifted towards her.

Kang Ci revealed a smile and praised, “This little bird is pretty smart!”

“WHAT?! This... This is great!” Liu Qinglan roared with excitement after reading the words scribbled on the cloth strip. Her yells caused Kang Ci to jump in fright.

Before he could ask, she passed him the strip of cloth. “Junior Brother Kang, remain here! I’ll bring our disciples to attack the Four Spiritual Peak! If the message here is true, it’s our best chance to severely damage the Four Spiritual Peak’s foundations!”

She disappeared after speaking.

Reading through the information on the cloth, Kang Ci muttered to himself, “Rank five undead corpse?! Rushing over to the Four Spiritual Peak?! Senior Sister Liu, you can’t leave me here, I want to join in the fun too!”

...

Not too far from the Coral Forest.

The members of the Rose Party who entered the battlefield between the two worlds suffered varying degrees of injury. There were only 21 of them who managed to escape from the Coral Forest, and it was barely a third of the number they came in with!

Luckily for them, the desperate situation caused a lot of them to grow stronger. All of them had already congealed their divine sense.

With the protection of Yan Su’er and Sima Zhanxing, they escaped desperately towards the Four Spiritual Peak.

Ran Biluo had already fallen into a comatose state after escaping the Coral Forest after receiving a devastating blow from Shang Bo.

Yuwen Shengjie’s situation was even worse. He sustained himself with the use of several secret techniques, and he received Ji Wenlong’s ‘personal care’. He was close to taking his last breath.

As they made their way towards the Four Spiritual Peak, Yan Su’er suddenly stopped dead in her tracks.

Sima Zhanxing was no fool. His expression changed immediately. “Senior Yan, are they hunting us down?”

Nodding slightly, Yan Su'er handed him a jade pendant in the shape of a swallow. "Bring the rest to the Four Spiritual Peak. With my pendant, the Spiritual Swallow Peak will allow all of you to enter."

"Senior Yan, take care!" Sima Zhanxing knew that there was no time to lose. Grabbing Ran Biluo and ordering several Martial Intent Realm disciples to carry Yuwen Shengjie, they left hastily.

...

When Shang Ke heard the massive explosion coming from the Coral Forest, he knew that Zhu Tong had escaped.

Shang Xia's conjecture was quickly proven to be right. A terrifying aura was headed straight for him!

No matter how quickly he traveled towards the Four Spiritual Peak, he could feel the crushing aura growing closer and closer!

Luckily, he wasn't too far from the Four Spiritual Peak! Heaving a sigh of relief, he could feel a familiar aura coming between him and the Four Spiritual Peak.

"Oh shit! I can't let this old hag notice the rank five undead corpse... I have to lead her away!" The thought flashed in Shang Ke's mind and he increased his speed again. He planned on circling around Yan Su'er before making his way over!

Chapter 194: Mistakes Were Made

It wasn't easy to hide the aura of a Martial Dipper Realm expert. In order to distract Yan Su'er, Shang Ke would have to use his divine sense to cover the entire area. Hopefully, Yan Su'er would discover his aura and follow behind him.

His hope came through. However, it wasn't because his plan was legit. Instead, Yan Su'er became curious after discovering his aura and discovered that he was flying in the direction of the Four Spiritual Peak. She might not know what his plot was, but she decided to stop him.

Shang Ke didn't dare to delay at all. After exchanging a blow or two with her, he pushed himself to the limit to continue his journey.

He knew that he wasn't her opponent and he focused on running. Before she could react, he managed to rush past her.

Even though he managed to successfully run past her, he knew that it was an extremely dangerous gamble. The moment the ones in front turned around to stop him, he would be pincerred and placed in a precarious situation.

Well, whatever. Being stuck between the Martial Extermination Realm experts was less scary than facing the rank five undead corpse head on. He sneered angrily in his heart, "Humph. If you dare to try messing with this old man today, I'll splash some of this blood on you! You'll have to face Zhu Tong's wrath when he arrives!"

Shang Ke might be afraid that they would stop him, but he already had a backup plan.

Even though Yan Su'er found it weird that Shang Ke was rushing towards the Four Spiritual Peak, she didn't chase after him. She could deal with it when she returned anyway.

It didn't take long for the Four Spiritual Peak to appear in Shang Ke's sights. He was even catching up to Sima Zhanxing and the rest!

Sima Zhanxing wasn't prepared for Shang Ke's appearance either. He thought that the Tongyou Institution had sent someone out to kill them all, and Yan Su'er was held back trying to stop the rest.

He handed Ran Biluo over to a female cultivator of the Rose Party before rushing in the direction of the approaching Shang Ke.

Luckily for him, the Four Spiritual Peak seemed to have discovered the disturbance in the area. With Yan Su'er's pendant, he believed that he would be able to take cover in the Four Spiritual Peak soon.

Once he entered the radius of the protection formation of the Four Spiritual Peak, he believed that Shang Ke wouldn't be able to attack them.

Seeing Sima Zhanxing in the distance, Shang Ke didn't choose to avoid him this time.

One of the reasons was that there wasn't much time left. The Four Spiritual Peak was in sight, and he had to get rid of the ticking time bomb that was Zhu Ying's corpse! Another reason was that Sima Zhanxing was like him. Both of them barely broke through to the Martial Extermination Realm. He wouldn't be able to stop Shang Ke anyway!

A long spear tore through the air and Shang Ke acted as though he was about to risk his life to bring Sima Zhanxing down with him.

Long black lines appeared on Sima Zhanxing's forehead. He didn't know what medicine Shang Ke ate for him to act so aggressively off the bat, but he didn't dare to take the attack head-on.

The disciples of the Rose Party were already entering the protection formation of the Four Spiritual Peak. Sima Zhanxing didn't know why, but the protection formation around the Four Spiritual Peak was already activated!

He might be confused, but those on the Four Spiritual Peak weren't! Their protection formation had been active since the time Lang Jingyun left with Lu Zhanyi! The moment they left to carry out the sneak attack on the Tongyou Peak, they left the Four Spiritual Peak completely defenseless! Not a single Martial Extermination Realm was left to hold the fort!

Whatever the case, Sima Zhanxing didn't see a need to go into an all out brawl with Shang Ke since the protection formation was already active.

A burst of joy filled Shang Ke's heart when he saw the hesitation in Sima Zhanxing's eyes. Since the other party was already planning to retreat into the formation, there was no one to stop him!

Pressing closer and closer into the Four Spiritual Peak, a thought crossed Shang Ke's mind. From the looks of it, the Rose Party was already starting to collaborate with the Four Spiritual Peak. That was something the institution was standing strongly against.

If Shang Ke played his card right and allowed the Four Spiritual Peak to think that Zhu Tong only came after them because of the Rose Party, he would be able to deal both sides a massive blow!

His idea was great, but the situation didn't allow him to do as he wished!

The moment Shang Ke drew close to the protection barrier, several huge phantoms appeared in the air above.

They started to repel this foreign presence with all their might.

Even though there wasn't a Martial Extermination Realm expert to protect them, the Four Spiritual Peak's protection formation wasn't there for decoration. They released brilliant rays of light as they tried to stop Shang Ke. Naturally, the control over the protection formation wouldn't be as nimble as a Martial Extermination Realm expert. Shang Ke found an opportunity to arrive directly above the Four Spiritual Peak.

In hindsight, that didn't seem like a great idea. He was immediately surrounded by the attacks of the various phantoms.

At the same moment, Sima Zhanxing entered the protection barrier. As an outsider, he wouldn't risk his life and take the initiative to attack Shang Ke.

Seeing as Sima Zhanxing wasn't going to square up, a flash of disappointment crossed Shang Ke's face.

Regardless, he achieved his goal. All he needed to do was to scatter Zhu Ying's corpse. After that, all he needed to do was to run!

When he retrieved Zhu Ying's body, a familiar voice rang through the air. "Asshole! Do you think you can take advantage of us when no one is around?!"

The voice seemed pretty foreign, and the direction it came from was weird. It seemed to come from the direction of the Tongyou Peak!

Shang Ke raised his head abruptly and a bad feeling filled his heart. Shit! The Four Spiritual Peak received reinforcements and they went towards the Tongyou Peak!

When he was trying to get over his shock, a long spear shot through the air. A four colored extermination origin emerged to form a passage back to the Four Spiritual Peak.

That was a fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm expert!

Shang Ke's heart trembled slightly and he saw an old expert comparable to Ji Wenlong in age. The spear shot straight towards Shang Ke.

"Leave your life behind!"

She Zhihong, who was helpless against the protection formation of the Tongyou Peak, felt rage boiling in his heart when he realized that his opponent had delivered himself to their doorstep.

His spear was like a massive snake that shot straight for Shang Ke!

Without any time to think, Shang Ke tossed the body out from the Embroidered Cloud Case before circulating all his energy to resist the strike!

He circulated all his energy and wrapped his extermination origin around Zhu Ying's corpse before sending it towards She Zhihong's spear. It came as no surprise when the body was blown apart and scattered around the Tongyou Peak.

When that happened, Yan Su'er's voice boomed through the air. "There's a rank five undead corpse after him! Be careful of traps!"

Chapter 195: Other Powers in the Tongyou City

Back in the Tongyou Institution...

News of Kou Chongxue's injuries had spread through the lands. Undercurrents were surging through the city but the four great clans slammed their doors shut, refusing to receive any guests. The only expert left in the institution was Yun Jing.

Since she was the only one who couldn't hole up somewhere and hide from everyone, she received many requests to see her. Since the incident where the information was leaked, it was Song You's third time reporting to her.

Yun Jing seemed to be deep in thought as she wore a blank stare on her face.

"Is it them again?" A soft sigh left her lips before Song You could say anything.

Raising his head slightly, he saw Yun Jing turning to look at him.

Her appearance was pretty ordinary, and she dressed simply. Those who didn't know would think that she was an ordinary middle aged lady.

However, the poise of a Martial Extermination Realm expert could never be hidden from the world. There was an exquisite air around her.

Song You lowered his head instinctively. "Yes... Other than Wei Zhongwen from the Ji Continent and Chang Huaiwu from the Bing Continent, You Haibiao of the Qing Continent has also arrived. Many experts from the various families have arrived. Even though it seems calm on the surface, some of them have already begun to move secretly."

A sneer left Yun Jing's lips and she glanced at Song You from the corner of her eye. "Do you have any idea how we should deal with it?"

"The key lies with Patriarch Kou. If Patriarch Kou makes an appearance..."

He hadn't completed his sentence when he felt Yun Jing's death stare on him. His throat bobbed slightly and his lips twitched slightly. "Now that everyone has set their sights on our Institution, we might cause more panic if we refuse to give an explanation. If Patriarch Kou can make an appearance, we should be able to quell all their thoughts of defiance."

After he spoke, he raised his head carefully to look at Yun Jing. He heaved a sigh of relief after noticing how she was deep in contemplation.

Right before she could say anything, her gaze shifted to the entrance of the main hall.

Song You swallowed a mouthful of saliva when he saw her action, but the sound of hurried footsteps gave him the explanation he needed.

More than half the strength of the Tongyou Institution were sent to the battlefield between two worlds. The number of Martial Intent Realm experts who remained were few and far between. There were only a select few who could enter the main hall as they wished. It didn't take long for Song You to guess the identity of the newcomer.

Yu Duhe, one of the heads of the Outreach Division, scurried into the hall. He held a report in his hand that had been delivered by a mutated fowl they tamed in the battlefield between two worlds.

“Urgent report from the Tongyou Peak!”

Yu Duhe handed a bamboo pipe that was the size of a thumb to Yun Jing the moment he entered. There were countless restrictions around it, stopping anyone unauthorized from reading its contents.

Receiving the bamboo pipe, A soft glow enveloped the object as the restrictions were broken by Yun Jing. She quickly scanned through the contents.

Song You whispered softly to Yu Duhe. “What is the report about?”

Yu Duhe shook his head and sighed, “It’s surrounded by a rank four restriction. Neither of us is qualified to open it.”

Right after he spoke, the two of them noticed a smile appearing on Yun Jing’s face.

“Song You, since they wish to meet me, bring them in!” Yun Jing’s indifferent voice rang through the hall.

Even so, Song You seemed to hear the unwavering confidence in her voice. It was as though they held the absolute advantage. A huge weight seemed to be lifted off his shoulders. “I’ll bring them over right now!”

The moment he turned around, Yun Jing’s voice rang in his mind again. “Oh right. Lift the martial law imposed on the city. They can move about in the morning, but the night curfew will remain!”

Song You nearly tripped over himself when he heard the order. Even Yu Duhe didn’t understand what was going on. “Instructor Yun, shouldn’t we lift the martial law after the other deputy patriarchs return?”

The smile on Yun Jing’s face grew even wider. “There’s no need for that anymore.”

...

“There’s a rank five undead corpse after him! Be careful of traps!” Yan Su’er’s warning came a little too late.

When Shang Xia killed Zhu Ying previously, his body had been preserved perfectly. Only when Shang Ke retrieved it earlier and used it to block She Zhihong’s attack did the body explode into a rain of blood that fell on the Four Spiritual Peak.

The moment it did, a huge path formed with yellow-colored clouds appeared in the skies above the Four Spiritual Peak.

A withered corpse appeared in the blink of an eye. Even though it was several miles away earlier, it arrived after taking three huge steps! A ferocious glare landed on She Zhihong.

The fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm expert felt his limbs going cold instantly. He was so surprised by the sudden change in the situation that he didn’t pull his spear back in time.

“Fate... Fate Dipper! Martial Dipper Realm!” She Zhihong’s voice trembled violently as he choked out the few words.

A loud howl left the withered corpse's lips, and the resulting soundwave tore open the clouds that gathered above the Four Spiritual Peak.

Everyone could hear the desperation and maniacal intent in its voice.

Shang Ke's body was frozen in mid air. He was afraid that any movements he made would attract a round of abuse from the rank five undead corpse.

She Zhihong was utterly confused at the moment. Even though he had no idea what was going on, he could tell that the undead corpse was full of killing intent! And he was its target!

Instinctively, he dove into the protection barrier around the Four Spiritual Peak!

His actions became the prologue for whatever came next.

Following She Zhihong's figure, the rank five undead corpse dove downwards too.

Noticing that the corpse was no longer paying attention to himself, a single thought formed in Shang Ke's mind. "Run!"

He had to make his escape immediately!

Sima Zhanxing looked at the undead corpse that was chasing behind She Zhihong and quickly turned to stare at the fleeing Shang Ke. A bad premonition filled his mind. "That... That corpse that exploded earlier! Shit!"

Gritting his teeth, Sima Zhanxing flew into the air.

Even though he had already guessed what had happened, he realized that he had no choice but to assist the Four Spiritual Peak in stopping the rank five undead corpse!

"Do not enter the Four Spiritual Peak!" Yan Su'er's voice rang in the distance, but she sped towards the Four Spiritual Peak at the fastest speed possible.

Too bad she wasn't fast enough. Even though her speed was comparable to She Zhihong, one of them was a lot closer to the barrier than the other. Moreover, She Zhihong was running desperately and it wouldn't be easy for him to change directions even if he wanted to.

"It's over!" Yan Su'er's face turned as white a sheet and a feeling of powerlessness filled her body.

With no other choice, she could only return to the Four Spiritual Peak.

As the protection formation was only controlled by Martial Intent Realm disciples, they would never be able to hold out against the frenzied attacks of the rank five undead corpse. Yan Su'er had to return to take charge of the situation!

Chapter 196: Divine Weapon

In the main hall of the Tongyou Institution.

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An expert left in a huff, followed by two others whose expressions didn't look too good. Even though they were experts at the Martial Extermination Realm, their faces didn't look too good.

Behind the three of them stood Song You who watched them leave with his head bowed.

The moment they left the institution, the leader of the three roared with rage, "This is bullshit! I came all the way here to assist the institution in defending against our foreign enemy but they're treating me as though I harbor some malicious intentions against their organization! Preposterous!"

"Brother Wei, please calm down." One of the experts behind him stepped out and tried to mediate the situation. "You should be familiar with how those bastards of the You Continent work. They're always on guard against others and they have a nasty temper. Even though Yun Jing's words were curt, we already expected as much."

Wei Zhongwen snorted angrily, "Hah, can't they see what situation they're in right now? How many of them are left after so many years?! They refuse to let anyone help them... In a few years, all of them will be dead!"

The other Martial Extermination Realm expert stepped out too. He maintained a friendly smile on his face as he explained, "Brother Wei, that's where you're wrong. You crossed the line by saying that. No matter what, the Tongyou Institution lifted the martial law they imposed on the city. We can walk around openly now. Even though Deputy Patriarch Yun's words were a little sharp, she made some concessions. Our priority is to resist the invasion of outsiders anyway, there's no need to be so worked up!"

Wei Zhongwen's rage dissipated by a huge half after he vented his frustrations and he sneered softly, "Let's see how long she can remain stubborn. Humph, does she really think that Kou Chongxue can control the situation alone through the use of brute force?"

You Haibiao chuckled, "No matter what, things won't be up to Yun Jing the moment our men enter the Tongyou City."

Chang Huaiwu maintained his gentle smile as he addressed the rest, "Fellow cultivators, should we start talking about the rules we should lay down before carrying out our plan? No matter what, we're stationed in the Tongyou City. It won't be good to fight among ourselves with the enemy before us. Patriarch Kou is injured and things might go south any moment. We don't really know the details of either. Let's control ourselves..."

"Hah, what are we afraid of?" Wei Zhongwen snorted in response.

The sword in his hand started to tremble as the words left his lips. He pulled his sword out of its sheath, but it shook violently as though it was afraid of something.

"Look up there!" You Haibiao yelled.

The three of them raised their heads in unison only to see a long sword hovering high above the institution. Thick strands of heaven and earth qi swirled around it and it emitted a resplendent glow. It started to soar around the city.

"Hidden Frost Sword!" Chang Huaiwu gasped in admiration.

"The divine weapon appeared!" You Haibiao's expression showed the envy he was feeling in his heart.

"Oh no! Pass down the order. Tell those under you to behave themselves. If they're slain by the Hidden Frost Sword, their deaths will be in vain..."

...

To be honest, She Zhihong's actions of diving towards the Four Spiritual Peak wasn't wrong. He might be at the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm, but he was far from being a match for the rank five undead corpse!

He planned on leveraging the protection formation's power to fight the rank five undead corpse evenly.

He never would have expected that there wouldn't be a single Martial Extermination Realm expert holding the barrier! Neither would he have thought that the rank five undead corpse would be hell bent on attacking him!

His mistakes didn't stop there. He failed to account for the speed of the rank five undead corpse! It was much faster than he imagined!

When She Zhihong approached the barrier, Zhu Tong's fist had already arrived! It tore through space as it went straight for She Zhihong's back.

Realizing his mistake at the last second, She Zhihong twisted his body to receive the punch. At the end of the day, he was at the fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm. He managed to use the force of Zhu Tong's punch to push himself into the protection barrier.

As an ally of the Four Spiritual Peak, they didn't stop him from entering the barrier. However, the same couldn't be said for Zhu Tong. He crashed into the barrier mercilessly.

A massive explosion ensued, and the protection barrier shook violently. Luckily for them, the barrier held out.

Soon after, Yan Su'er arrived and rushed towards the key locations of the protection formation.

"Out of the frying pan, into the fire..." Sima Zhanxing sighed. A look of helplessness and self-mockery could be seen on his face as he followed behind Yan Su'er. Since he had already chosen to work together with the Four Spiritual Peak, he had no choice but to defend against the rank five undead corpse!

"What's going on?!" Lang Jingyun and Lu Zhanyi appeared where She Zhihong once stood and yelled as they protected the lower leveled disciples they brought with them to sneak attack the Tongyou Peak.

A bad premonition filled their hearts when they heard the loud explosion earlier.

They weren't as fast as She Zhihong, and they failed to see what happened earlier. The only thing they noticed was a streak of light flying in their direction.

"It's someone from the Tongyou Peak!" Lu Zhanyi yelled and he got ready to fight.

"Shang Ke? What?! He actually entered the Martial Extermination Realm?!" Compared to the surprise Lu Zhanyi felt, Lang Jingyun nearly jumped in fright. "Did he cause the huge disturbance earlier?! Why didn't Uncle Hong stop him?"

It was at that moment Shang Ke noticed the two of them. He immediately changed directions.

“Whatever! We’ll talk after we stop him!” Lang Jingyun and Lu Zhanyi naturally wouldn’t allow Shang Ke to do as he wished. They started to spread out to intercept him.

Lu Zhanyi moved a lot faster with his natural gift, and he managed to shorten the distance between himself and Shang Ke in an instant. Helpless, Shang Ke could only circulate his inner qi to get ready for a tough battle.

Shang Ke cursed his bad luck. First, he was chased by the rank five undead corpse. Along the way, he was intercepted by Yan Su’er and Sima Zhanxing. Now, two other Martial Extermination Realm experts appeared.

He thought that his troubles were over after escaping from the Four Spiritual Peak. Who would have thought that he would run into Lang Jingyun and Lu Zhanyi? Now, he wouldn’t be able to defeat them even if he fought, and he wouldn’t be able to run away facing the two either.

Shang Ke was no coward. Seeing as there was no way to escape unscathed, he made his preparations for the huge battle up ahead. If he stepped the two of them, the rank five undead corpse would have an easier time bashing the barrier around the Four Spiritual Peak anyway.

His spear danced in the air as the battle broke out immediately.

Lu Zhanyi’s figure jumped around in the air and his wings destroyed a spear light created by Shang Ke.

As someone who had just entered the Martial Extermination Realm, how could he possibly fight against Lang Jingyun and Lu Zhanyi at the same time?

In several short rounds, Lu Zhanyi managed to find an opening and sliced open a huge gash on Shang Ke’s left shoulder. Lang Jingyun’s whip slammed heavily into Shang Ke’s spear, jolting his organs.

The huge commotion around the Four Spiritual Peak caused a trace of suspicion to be born in Lang Jingyun’s heart. He felt that there was no way for a newly ascended Martial Extermination Realm expert like Shang Ke to be behind it.

However, everything remained quiet after Shang Ke appeared, and Lang Jingyun heaved a sigh of relief in his heart. He thought that the peak was safe now that Shang Ke had left, and all they had to do was to stop him.

“Hah! We left the Tongyou Peak empty handed earlier. Who would have thought that they would send us a present like that! If we allow you to leave today, we’ll be disrespecting the Tongyou Institution’s intentions!” Lang Jingyun roared haughtily as his whip came slashing out again.

Feeling the threatening aura coming from Lang Jingyun’s whip, Shang Ke knew that he would be dead the moment he was struck!

Chapter 197: Broken Barrier!

“Pa!”

A crisp slap rang through the air and it sent Lang Jingyun's four segmented whip flying in the other direction.

At the critical moment, Liu Qinglan arrived. Her timely appearance saved Shang Ke from certain death.

Retrieving his whip, Lang Jingyun felt a stinging sensation in his arms and he frowned in disbelief.

The war ended not too long ago, but it seemed as though Liu Qinglan's strength improved significantly!

Lang Jingyun could only curse in his heart about the speed at which those freaks from the Tongyou Institution cultivated.

Liu Qinglan didn't know the complex thoughts flowing through Lang Jingyun's head and her whip flew through the air towards him.

After killing the rank four snake and obtaining its tendon, she managed to upgrade her seven segmented whip to an eight segmented whip! Even though it wasn't a high-grade weapon, the power it possessed was phenomenal! Moreover, she became a lot stronger with the weapon in hand.

As their weapons tangled together, Lang Jingyun realized that killing Shang Ke would be impossible with Liu Qinglan present.

He also managed to discover a queer disturbance near the Four Spiritual Peak. Deciding to return, he made a signal towards Lu Zhanyi and the two of them disengaged immediately. They retreated in the direction of the Four Spiritual Peak.

Having crawled back from the gates of hell, Shang Ke didn't even have time to thank Liu Qinglan as he retrieved a bottle of medicine to treat his injuries. If there was any delay, he might be sent straight back to the netherworld he barely escaped from.

"Who would have thought that you would be able to refine an extermination origin. Looks like the Shang Clan will turn into the strongest clan in the Tongyou City..." Liu Qinglan's expression was complicated as she stared at the recovering Shang Ke.

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With his pale face, Shang Ke felt a lot better after consuming the medicine. After thanking her, he sighed softly, "Without my third brother, our Shang Clan will still only possess one Martial Extermination Realm expert. Our strength would remain the same! There's no way we would become the strongest clan in the city."

Liu Qinglan's expression changed instantly. A look of fright appeared on her face. "Don't tell me... No... The report sent to the Tongyou Peak was stamped with Shang Bo's insignia, he can't be dead!"

Shang Ke suppressed his injuries and explained, "Shang Bo withdrew as the patriarch of our Shang Clan. He's planning to focus on being the deputy patriarch of the Tongyou Institution and give it his all!"

Pausing for a second, he turned to look at Liu Qinglan. "This... Nevermind... Let's not talk about this for now!"

Liu Qinglan gasped in shock, but a smile soon appeared on her face. “That’s great! It’s something worthy of celebration for our institution! Also, I think congratulations are in order for your ascension as the Shang Clan Patriarch!”

“You should know that I am greatly against the idea of Shang Bo doing that...” Shang Ke sighed and waved his hands to dismiss her blessings. Pausing for a second, he continued, “Even though Liu Jitang is dead, his son, Liu Zhiyuan, has entered the Martial Extermination Realm. The four great clans will remain as such, but our institution will lose a deputy patriarch.”

Nodding solemnly, Liu Qinglan replied, “I knew about Deputy Patriarch Jitang’s death. I thought that the Liu Clan would decline because of it. Now that Liu Zhuyuan has broken through, things should be alright.”

“Looks like you received news about the rank five undead corpse. Let’s circle back to the Four Spiritual Peak and see how much destruction it can cause!” Shang Ke muttered.

A smile appeared on Liu Qinglan’s face. “Of course we have to return. It’s the best chance we’re going to get! Now that they’re the ones in danger, it’s time for us to profit from their misfortune! As for your injuries...”

“I’m fine! If the undead corpse can really shatter the barrier around the Four Spiritual Peak, I wouldn’t mind sacrificing half my life for it!”

The two of them quickly rushed towards the Four Spiritual Peak.

A strange look appeared on Shang Ke’s face when he noticed several cultivators following behind Liu Qinglan.

“You brought our disciples here too?”

“Once the barrier breaks, we need some experts to clear up the trash...”

...

Shang Xia was pretty regretful that he didn’t pester Shang Ke to bring him along, but he trudged on towards the Four Spiritual Peak nonetheless.

Along the way, the Lightning Bird that returned to relay the news met up with him!

He didn’t know if he would be able to make it in time for the battle that was bound to happen on the Four Spiritual Peak!

For them to be able to stand against the Tongyou Institution for the past twenty years, no one knew how deep their foundations went. Both sides experienced countless casualties after so many years of fighting, but neither could suppress the other.

With a chance to destroy the stalemate, the members of the Tongyou Institution wouldn’t miss out on the great show! Once the Four Spiritual Peak was decimated, the four great races that made up the Four Spiritual Peak’s strength would receive a huge blow!

Their accumulations would be plundered mercilessly, and the Tongyou Institution would secure their advantage in the battlefield between two worlds with no problems at all!

The Lightning Bird circled around Shang Xia as it chirped angrily. It seemed to be scolding Shang Xia for not moving fast enough. With its speed, it could have made two round trips to the Four Spiritual Peak in the time it took Shang Xia to travel.

“Damn bird, shut up!” Shang Xia snapped in irritation. “Look at you! You’re a tiny little shit! When you grow bigger, this granddaddy here will ride on you as we soar to the skies.”

An angry chirp rang in Shang Xia’s ears as a lightning bolt fell from the skies.

“Hah! You dare to strike me with lightning? Don’t you know that you got your abilities from me?!” Shang Xia leaped into the air and boosted himself on a tree nearby. Rising high, he pointed at the lightning bird and a thick bolt of lightning flew at it.

Releasing a clear cry, the Lightning Bird flapped its wings slightly. It seemed to be taunting Shang Xia to make him send more lightning bolts its way.

Scolding it jokingly, the two of them messed about all the way until they caught sight of the Four Spiritual Peak in the distance.

After so long, Shang Xia finally arrived! He stared at the Martial Extermination Realm experts hovering in mid air as they stared down the Four Spiritual Peak.

He really wanted to know what was happening in there, but from afar, everything looked as peaceful as could be.

That was what he could see on the surface. With so many Martial Extermination Realm experts surrounding the Four Spiritual Peak, it was naturally easy to infer that things weren’t going too well inside.

The thing that Shang Xia found incredulous was that the rank five undead corpse had clearly entered the barrier. However, the protection formation didn’t seem to be destroyed!

He wondered if the members of the Four Spiritual Peak had water in their brains. Why would they allow Zhu Tong to enter the barrier?!

As he stood there in confusion, the peaceful situation started to change. In an instant, the world before his eyes experienced a heaven-shaking transformation.

The protection barrier around the Four Spiritual Peak fluctuated violently and it popped like a bubble!

An earth-shattering explosion rang through the skies and the four mountains that made up the Four Spiritual Peak shook violently. One of the peaks crumbled completely, and one of them was on the verge of destruction. Another looked as though someone cleaved a giant chopper through the body of the mountain, and only one of the peaks remained relatively safe.

Chapter 198: Cause

“Shit! The undead corpse is still standing strong! Is the Martial Dipper Realm actually so terrifying?!” Shang Ke gasped in fright when he saw the scene of destruction on the Four Spiritual Peak.

Shang Bo raised an eyebrow and chuckled in response, “The body of a Martial Dipper Realm expert is terrifying to the extreme. It won’t be easy even if he wants to die! Moreover, Zhu Tong’s fate dipper is of the earth element. His defenses are much stronger than others of the same level! It won’t be easy for anyone to kill him!”

Liu Qinglan couldn’t help but furrow her brows. “What if they fail to kill the undead corpse? Won’t it be able to threaten our Tongyou Peak?”

“The appearance of a rank five undead corpse is the greatest anomaly in the battlefield between two worlds. Neither us nor the Four Spiritual Peak will allow an existence like that to remain unchecked. Today, we borrowed the power of the rank five undead corpse to weaken the Four Spiritual Peak as much as possible. It’s impossible to destroy them completely. Also...”

Liu Qinglan seemed to understand whatever he was saying and she heaved a sigh of relief. “Does that mean that we have a way of dealing with the undead corpse if it runs free after this?”

A chuckle left Shang Bo’s lips. “Since the moment the undead corpse was released, it had been pestered by several Martial Extermination Realm experts. Even with its immense strength, it won’t be able to last forever. Moreover, the Four Spiritual Peak forms the battlefield of the Azure Spiritual World. No matter what happens, the undead corpse will die today.”

“Then... When should we make our move? The longer we drag this out, the greater the chance for the Azure Spiritual World to interfere!” Shang Ke asked.

“Too late. They’re going to interfere for sure. All we can do now is to cause the greatest amount of destruction.” Ji Wenlong snorted coldly.

Shang Ke stared at Liu Qinglan and their hearts trembled slightly. Shang Bo soon followed up with an explanation. “It won’t be over even after we clear the Four Spiritual Peak out. We don’t have the power to exterminate the four great races completely. They will be able to regain their strength in the battlefield between the two worlds before long. Building up our foundations and growing stronger is how we will remain victorious in the end. After this battle, our Tongyou Institution will gain an absolute upper hand in the battlefield between two worlds! This is great news for our future development!”

Even though everyone knew that Shang Bo wasn’t revealing everything he knew, all of them knew better than to ask.

All of a sudden, Shang Bo turned to Shang Ke and said, “Fifth brother, your injuries are serious. You already helped out a lot by luring Zhu Tong over to the Four Spiritual Peak. You don’t have to take part in the upcoming battle.”

“Alright. That brat came all the way here too. I’ll stick around him and see what benefits we can find in this mess.” Shang Ke laughed in response.

A helpless smile formed on Shang Bo's face and he turned to address Liu Qinglan. "Since you brought our disciples here, please take care of them. I hope they will be able to remain relatively intact. If it's possible, avoid sending them into battle."

Liu Qinglan nodded slightly.

Finally, Shang Bo turned to Ji Wenlong and muttered, "It's about time we make our move."

"Hehe, do you think that old hag will beg us for help?" A crafty smile appeared on Ji Wenlong's face suddenly.

The words barely left his lips when a soft sigh swept through the battlefield between two worlds. It came from the only peak left standing, the Spiritual Swallow Peak. A burst of four colored lights filled the air as the heaven and earth qi formed a giant hurricane that tore through the air.

"She Zhihong is dead!"

...

"What!? Grandpa, are you serious?! You're going to follow me into the Four Spiritual Peak?!" Shang Xia stared at Shang Ke who had a shit-eating grin on his face and roared.

Shrugging nonchalantly, Shang Ke explained, "Well, I can't help it. Your Grandpa Bo noticed the injuries I sustained and told me to stay out of the battle. No matter what, I'm the patriarch of our Shang Clan now. If I run around unchecked in the Four Spiritual Peak and harvest all the gains alone, the other clans will definitely have something to say. If I assist you... Hehehe, they can't possibly find fault with a junior of the younger generation!"

"What the fuck is the difference?!" Shang Xia widened his eyes in shock.

With a serious face, Shang Ke started to berate Shang Xia. "Of course there's a difference, you brat! I'll prevent you from going overboard!"

Shang Xia understood that his grandfather's real intention was to protect him from any harm and his heart trembled slightly. He maintained a smile on his face as he continued, "Since that's the case, why don't you give me all the rank three advancement formulas in our clan's treasury? I won't go overboard looting them after I get what I want! Anyway, I'm about to break through to the Martial Intent Realm. I should start making my preparations."

Shang Xia thought that his grandfather would agree happily, but he was met with the complete opposite. "I'm afraid we can only talk about this after we return to the institution..."

"What? Why? Grandpa Ke, don't tell me you don't remember the advancement formulas..." Shang Xia frowned.

"This is our clan's rule! It's also the way we protect our inheritance from leaking out of the clan!" Shang Ke snapped at him impatiently.

Thinking about it for a second, Shang Xia continued, "Then... If I run into any ingredients that can be used for my advancement medicine and can't recognize it, what should I do?"

“Huh? Do you think you won’t be tempted by rank three herbs even if you don’t recognize them? I can’t tell you the formulas now, but it doesn’t mean I don’t know them! I know what herbs you will need to make your medicine so just go wherever you want and grab whatever you can!” Shang Ke clicked his tongue in annoyance.

Seeing the stupid look on Shang Xia’s face, Shang Ke tossed the Embroidered Cloud Case used to store Zhu Ying’s corpse previously. Naturally, Shang Xia recognized it immediately.

“Who would have thought that Grandpa Ke wouldn’t be interested in this? It’s a top grade Embroidered Cloud Case with three cubic feet of space!” Shang Xia chuckled.

After all, there was only a single Embroidered Cloud Case in the Shang Clan at the same level.

Shang Ke’s lips twitched in irritation and he nearly swore at the brat. “I’m going to become the patriarch of our Shang Clan soon. Your Grandpa Bo will hand his Embroidered Cloud Case to me. You can keep this treasure for yourself.”

“What about Grandpa Bo?” Shang Xia frowned.

“He’s gonna sell himself to the institution. Don’t you think that they should show some sincerity?”

“Oh... Why did Grandpa Bo do that anyway? Can’t he remain as our patriarch and be the deputy patriarch of the institution at the same time? He has been doing it for the past few years anyway!” Shang Xia asked.

Shaking his head, Shang Ke decided to reveal everything to Shang Xia. “I don’t know the situation exactly, and your Grandpa Bo is unwilling to say anything about it. However, it definitely has something to do with Kou Chongxue’s support for us to become one of the four great clans. In the past, your Grandpa Bo and I were only Martial Intent Realm experts. He probably promised Patriarch Kou something in order to be promoted to a Martial Extermination Realm expert.”

Shang Xia finally gained a better understanding of what happened in the past.

However, Shang Ke wasn’t done. “Naturally, there might also be some other reason behind his action. Regardless, we should only talk about it after returning to the city.”

Shang Xia swallowed his remaining questions after hearing what Shang Ke said.

A loud-pitched voice tore through the skies after some time. “Ji Wenlong, Shang Bo, if you choose to remain idle, don’t blame this old lady for tearing off all pretense with your Tongyou Peak! All of us will go down together!”

Shang Xia raised his head only to see two four colored meteors shooting towards the Four Spiritual Peak.

A sneer formed on Shang Ke’s lips. “That old lady is really scheming. She has so much strength left but she allowed She Zhihong to die. What a dumbass...” Turning to Shang Xia, his expression loosened up. “Alright! Let’s go sweep up the rest of the treasures left on the Four Spiritual Peak!”

Chapter 199: Strange Conch, Weird Rock

When the protection formation shattered, more than half the Four Spiritual Peak was already in ruins. When Shang Xia and Shang Ke entered the radius of the protection formation, they could barely find another living soul under all the destruction.

A Martial Extremity Realm disciple managed to crawl his way out from the ground, but he was killed with a wave of Shang Xia's hand. A sigh left Shang Xia's lips along with it. "Are they all dead? Oh right, that makes sense. That's a rank five undead corpse we're talking about. It won't show mercy to those stained with Zhu Ying's blood."

His conjecture was met with a shake of the head from Shang Ke. "You're wrong there. Actually, a huge portion of those from the Four Spiritual Peak had already left. They're no fools. The moment Zhu Tong entered the protection barrier, they had already started to prepare for the worst. They knew that they wouldn't be able to stop Zhu Tong."

"How..." Shang Xia gasped in shock.

"Hah. They probably expected as much the moment your Grandpa Bo and Ji Wenlong arrived. The Four Spiritual Peak looked peaceful earlier, but that is because they used their Martial Extermination Realm experts to stall for time. That was probably why She Zhihong sacrificed himself too." Shang Ke explained.

Shang Xia couldn't understand it fully and he continued to ask, "Then... Grandpa Bo and Grandpa Ji should have discovered that the disciples of the Four Spiritual Peak are making their escape. Why didn't they stop them?"

"How were they supposed to do that? Were they going to massacre all the lower leveled disciples on their own? Or do you think that they should have sent you to stop hundreds of disciples from escaping?" Shang Ke growled in annoyance.

Shang Xia seemed to have recalled something and he frowned slightly. "If Instructor Liu came earlier, the disciples of our Tongyou Peak would be able to stop them!"

"Haha. Liu Qinglan is already looking highly upon you by leading an army of disciples based on your haphazard report. Naturally, the disciples of the Four Spiritual Peak wouldn't be able to leave unscathed. Hundreds of them should be buried under the collapsed peak. Don't forget, they lost a huge number of cultivators during the war on our Tongyou Peak. I strongly suspect that the number of cultivators of the Four Spiritual Peak who managed to escape wouldn't number more than two hundred! After this battle, the strength of the four races in the Azure Spiritual World would drop by more than a third! That's including the loss of Martial Extermination Realm cultivators!"

Shang Xia's heart trembled slightly as he stared at Shang Ke. It seemed as though the four great clans' intelligence on the four races that populated the Four Spiritual Peak wasn't as bad as he thought!

Could they already have planted spies in the enemy's rank?

Seeing the look on Shang Xia's face, Shang Ke smiled. "Alright. You don't have to think too much about it. This is the best chance for you to sweep up all the benefits here. If you wait around and let the members of the Tongyou Peak arrive, you won't be able to grab all the good stuff in time!"

They didn't remain idle as they continued to walk deeper into the Four Spiritual Peak. It didn't take long for them to arrive before a half-destroyed building.

"This is the Music Pavilion on the Tide Peak. This is where Ran Biluo and several important figures of her race would enter seclusion. The building is extremely sturdy and there might be several restrictions around it. That's how it managed to survive the destruction."

Even though neither the Tongyou Peak nor the Four Spiritual Peak managed to destroy each other in the past twenty years, they managed to gain a thorough understanding of each other.

Shang Xia's earlier guess seemed to be confirmed at the moment. Even if he was beaten to death, he wouldn't believe that the Tongyou Institution didn't plant spies among the four races!

Whatever the case, grabbing the leftover treasures was more important to him. With a single slash, Shang Xia's Jade River Sword sliced the roof of the pavilion in half.

"Oi! Don't act recklessly! If the restrictions were activated..." Shang Ke yelled at him. Before he could complete his sentence, he saw a myriad of lights emerging from the opening Shang Xia created. However, they were quickly shattered with another swing of Shang Xia's sword.

"Grandpa, I'll head in first. Please deal with the rest." Shang Xia jumped through the gap before Shang Ke could say anything.

A trace of contemplation flashed through Shang Ke's mind and he muttered to himself, "This... This is weird. How many different types of martial intent did the brat just use?! Even if he cultivated the Triple Polarity Mystery Art, he should only be able to transform his qi among the three different types. He can only use one pair at a time... How the hell did this brat use so many martial intents in one strike?! Did this old man go blind or something?!"

At his level, he obviously noticed the abnormality when Shang Xia unleashed his previous attack to shatter the restriction that emerged from the opening he created! Even Martial Intent Realm experts would find it hard to replicate what he just did, much less disciples at the Martial Extremity Realm!

When Shang Ke was still suspecting if the restriction around the Music Pavilion had degenerated due to the destruction, several popping sounds came from within. In a flash, Shang Xia emerged with a wooden case that was half a feet long and a conch that was the size of a fist.

"Is that it?" Shang Ke frowned.

Nodding his head, he handed both items over to his grandfather. "Looks like everything inside has already been swept clean. They definitely took whatever they could before running away. These are the only things left inside. They were hidden in a secret chamber and I only managed to get to them after unleashing seven slashes! Take a look and tell me what you think of them!"

“The secret chamber should be where Ran Biluo entered seclusion. For items to be kept in there... Haha, this should be some pretty good stuff!” Shang Ke chuckled while examining the conch in his hand.

“Ran Biluo’s Seven Conch Sword can be considered a high-grade weapon. The soundwaves it emits can mess with her opponent in battle. It causes one’s inner qi to flow chaotically, and it can even affect their thoughts. It’s extremely difficult to defend against it. I heard that she only managed to refine the Seven Conch Sword after extracting all the essence spirit of various conches in the sea...” Halfway through his explanation, Shang Ke flicked his finger on the surface of the shell, causing a clear ringing sound. He clicked his tongue and sighed, “This conch is studier than some metal out there! It’s definitely a rank three treasure or higher! If we refine it into some sort of musical instrument, the weakest it can turn out to be will be a low-grade weapon!”

Shang Xia was elated to hear the evaluation, but there was still a trace of confusion in his mind. “No matter what, she’s a Martial Extermination Realm expert. Rank three treasures might be rare, but it’s a little lacking for her to keep it so close to her! There has to be some other use for this conch!”

“Ran Biluo’s cultivation method is related to how tides form in the ocean... If you place your ears at the opening of the conch, you’ll be able to hear the sloshing of waves! Could that be the key to her cultivation?!” Shang Ke widened his eyes in shock.

“Maybe?” Shang Xia chuckled in amusement before keeping the conch into his Embroidered Cloud Case. “You should take a look at the wooden case too.”

Looking at the restriction around the wooden case, a trace of extermination origin appeared on Shang Ke’s palm and he forcefully destroyed whatever protection remained around the case.

He sucked in a cold breath the moment he examined its contents. “Damn kid, you lucked out! How the hell did you manage to find something like this? Well, it shouldn’t be a problem for you to congeal your divine sense after all!”

Chapter 200: Ethereal Mind

“What?! Spirit Initiation Stone? This doesn’t look that impressive...” Shang Xia sneered in contempt after hearing a short explanation from his grandfather about the item in the wooden case.

“What do you know?!” With his temper rising slightly, Shang Ke resisted the urge to slap Shang Xia. “A Spirit Initiation Stone can’t be created naturally! Only experts at the peak of the Martial Intent Realm can leave something like this behind! When they achieve enlightenment, a Spirit Initiation Stone will be created!”

“Huh? Doesn’t that mean it’s artificial?” Shang Xia snorted slightly.

“Oi! Don’t you know what achieving enlightenment means?! One can only achieve it through luck! Even the person who created the Spirit Initiation Stone wouldn’t know how it happened!” Shang Ke roared with rage.

A helpless look eventually replaced his angry expression as he explained patiently, “Every single piece contains its own spiritual nature. You need to remember that it doesn’t contain the cultivator’s divine sense directly. When a cultivator uses it, it serves as a guide for one to condense their individual divine sense.”

Taking the piece of rock out of the wooden box, Shang Xia tossed it around and muttered, “This looks like something someone played with for a long time. Could the spirituality inside have faded?”

“That’s impossible.” Shang Ke shook his head. “The moment the spirituality in the rock disappears, it will crumble to dust. From the looks of it, it should be perfect. You can only rely on luck if you wish to receive the approval of the spirituality within.”

“So... Doesn’t that mean that absorbing it will come down to luck too?”

“Exactly!” Shang Ke nodded in affirmation.

Putting the rock back into the wooden case before tossing the entire thing into his Embroidered Cloud Case, Shang Xia asked, “Oh right, isn’t this something created by a cultivator of the Azure Spiritual World? Bloodline cultivators are different from us to begin with. Can I really use the Spirit Initiation Rock?”

“Relax. Many people tried it before and succeeded in refining the treasure. You’re not the first person to obtain something like this anyway.”

After hearing the explanation, Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief.

Shang Ke added, “Just obtaining this piece of Spirit Initiation Rock made our trip to the Four Spiritual Peak worthwhile!”

The two of them continued to hunt for treasures in the Four Spiritual Peak after he had plundered the Music Pavilion. Shang Ke might be injured and unable to take part in the battle on the Spiritual Swallow Peak, he was more than capable of blocking the shockwaves of the battle.

The two of them ran into some fortunate members of the Four Spiritual Peak who survived along the way, causing those who were thanking their lucky stars for being able to survive to curse their fates. Their fortunes were turned into misfortune as all of them ended up being practice targets for Shang Xia’s sword techniques.

At that moment, Shang Xia had learned six different sword arts. He understood the essence behind four of them, fusing them into his Yin Yang Sword Formation. He had to train in the other two the best he could! He was practicing the Quandary Sword Art at the moment, and he was trying to comprehend the martial intent after reaching the highest achievement in the technique.

The Quandary Sword Art seemed a little unorthodox as it made the victims of the technique live with a pain worse than death. When Shang Ke saw the state of those disciples of the Four Spiritual Peak after they were struck by the technique, he knew he had to speak up about it.

“Your sword technique is a little too evil. You look like you’re torturing your opponents on purpose! In the future, stop using it.” He berated.

Falling deep into contemplation, Shang Xia didn’t seem to hear what his grandfather said.

When Shang Ke saw the look on Shang Xia’s face, he thought that the kid wasn’t taking his words seriously. He wanted to add several more warnings, but he discovered that Shang Xia wasn’t as stupid as he looked. The kid looked like he was comprehending something and Shang Ke decided to let the matter go.

However, a sudden change in the situation caused Shang Ke to raise an eyebrow in shock. Three feet away, a massive boulder exploded. Tiny shards flew through the air and a black figure shot straight towards Shang Xia. He held a long sword in his hand as a weird hissing sound filled the air. There was a faint indication of a martial intent behind his attack.

The figure who appeared was a Martial Extremity Realm disciple of the Four Spiritual Peak and he was also well-versed in the way of the sword!

Afraid that the sudden disturbance would affect Shang Xia’s comprehension, Shang Ke decided to step in. However, he hadn’t even moved when a resplendent ray of sword light emerged from Shang Xia’s Jade River Sword. A tyrannical sword light slashed towards the opponent, giving him no chance to dodge.

The appearance of the sword light caused the swordsman who just arrived to feel extremely pressured. He knew that he wouldn’t be able to stop the sword light even if he gave it his all, but he had no way out! He could only risk everything and take the strike head-on.

He never would have thought that the sword light would twist in the last second, avoiding his desperate counterattack. Avoiding the swordsman’s defenses, Shang Xia’s sword light drew a distinct line across one of his arms, causing a spurt of blood to spray into the skies.

Shang Xia could have easily taken his opponent’s life. However, he chose to avoid the vitals, showing a shred of mercy. The sword light was merely meant as a warning.

However, things were different in Shang Ke’s eyes. He was much more insightful than a disciple at the Martial Extremity Realm. He could tell that Shang Xia was using the same sword technique as before, but the sword light that emerged possessed a grand and imposing aura compared to the dark and sinister one it had before!

Anyone who saw how Shang Xia dealt with his previous opponents would think that he was humiliating them and toying with their lives. However, this particular strike gave Shang Ke the impression that Shang Xia was sincerely sparing his opponent’s life! The change was too abrupt!

It was too bad the Four Spiritual Peak and the Tongyou Peak were mortal enemies. Shang Xia’s actions of sparing his opponent’s life would never be appreciated by the other party.

Grabbing his sword firmly with his other hand which was unaffected, the swordsman continued to press closer to Shang Xia.

At that moment, Shang Xia was stuck in a peculiar state. His mind was blank but his senses were sharp. It was as though he was looking at himself from a third party point of view.

If Shang Xia's earlier strike transformed the sinister intent into a glorious one, his next move would knock the socks off everyone's feet. His understanding of the Quandary Sword Art broke through a particular bottleneck and he managed to convert the core of the entire technique!

He might have shocked himself by the sudden flash of inspiration, but Shang Ke was truly on the verge of fainting in fright.

"Ethereal Mind! That... That... That's the sign of him forming his divine sense!" Shang Ke gasped. A complicated expression appeared in his eyes as he stared at the kid in front of him. "I thought that he progressed a little too quickly from the Martial Realm to the Martial Extremity Realm. According to our estimations, he would need a little more time and accumulation to advance! Shang Bo probably sent me out to protect him while giving him some advice, but from the looks of it, our actions were unnecessary! Looks like I have to give him the advancement formula for the Triple Loop Coalescence Needle."

As the battle between Shang Xia and the swordsman of the Four Spiritual Peak reached its climax, Shang Xia broke through the defenses of his opponent multiple times. However, he would withdraw at the very last moment, allowing his opponent to survive.

The swordsman who had been spared multiple times not only failed to discover Shang Xia's mercy, he even tried to push his luck!

"Enough!" The swordsman yelled while retreating slightly.

Snapping back to reality, Shang Xia awakened from the mythical state and stared blankly at his opponent.

"I'm not your opponent, and there's no point in dragging his battle out any longer. Now that the Four Spiritual Peak is destroyed, I have no way of escaping. I hope that you can experience my final attack!"

Turning serious, Shang Xia growled, "Alright, go ahead."