

The Heavens 201

Chapter 201: One Sword, Five Intentions

In the Shang Clan Manor in the Tongyou City...

A middle-aged man who had a headful of short hair stood before the giant doors of the Shang Clan Manor. He had a long sword in his hand and he was dressed simply. Even so, his plain clothing couldn't hide the unique aura he emitted. He had a melancholic look in his eyes as he looked at the structure before him.

"Second brother?" Behind the middle-aged man, a youngster called out anxiously. The two of them looked pretty similar, but he couldn't help but call out to the middle-aged man after some time.

The youngster resembled Shang Xia slightly, but there was a trace of mischief in his eyes. From time to time, his gaze would turn sharp, revealing his true self. From the looks of it, he wasn't a simple character. He carried a long cloth bag behind him and no one knew what it contained.

The middle-aged man turned around with a complicated expression on his face. "I haven't been back for the past ten years... The manor looks even more imposing than before."

Swallowing his words, the youngster forced a smile. "Let's talk when we're back inside..."

Stepping past the middle-aged man, the youngster smacked his palm on the gate impatiently. "Open the door! Hurry up! Why did you guys close the main gate in the day anyway?!"

The middle-aged man behind him couldn't help but burst into laughter after hearing what he said.

As the entrance creaked open, an aged voice rang in their ears. "Stop knocking. Damn it, even the sturdiest of doors would be destroyed by all the heavy banging from you cultivators."

Yelping in fright, the youngster retracted his hand instantly. He muttered softly, "Uncle Xiang, why are you opening the door personally? Where's the rest?!"

A white-haired old man whose back hunched a little poked his head out. Sizing the youngster up, his eyebrows shot upwards and he cried out in shock, "Ninth Young Master?! Didn't you go to the Ji Continent? Why are you back so early?"

"How can I remain in the Ji Continent after such a huge matter happened in the Tongyou City? Also, I didn't come back alone! I dragged this guy along with me!" A wide grin appeared on the youngster's face and he stepped to the side.

The figure of the middle-aged man appeared and the youngster yelled happily, "Uncle Xiang, do you recognize him?"

The middle-aged man took a step forward and smiled. "Uncle Xiang, it's been a while. How are you doing?"

A trace of confusion could be seen on Uncle Xiang's face, but it was soon replaced by an agitated expression. "Second... Second Young Master! Second Young Master, you came back!"

"Yeah..." The middle-aged man exhaled a long breath in response.

Seemingly having thought of something, Uncle Xiang pushed the doors open and sighed, "It's good that you're back. No one from the older generation is watching over the clan right now. The disciples of the clan are getting nervous about the situation brewing in the city. Second Young Master, Ninth Young Master, now that you're back, we finally have someone to make the decisions!"

The middle-aged man and the youngster stared at each other for a second and their hearts sank.

"Where's third uncle? Shouldn't he be in charge of matters in the clan? What about my dad? Don't tell me Seventh Sister isn't here too... Where did all of them go?" The youngster asked.

Leading the two of them into the manor, Uncle Xiang sighed, "We'll talk when we're back..."

The two of them hastened their footsteps and the door closed behind them.

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Back in the institution, it was business as usual as Yun Jing held the fort alone.

Yu Duhe entered the main hall to give his report for the day. "We just received news from those in the city that Shang Jian, the second young master of the Shang Clan, and Shang Yang, the ninth young master of the Shang Clan had returned."

Opening her eyes slowly, the corners of Yun Jing's lips curled upwards. "How many families does this make?"

"They're the eleventh family to recall their members so far. However, not everyone from the Shang Clan is back. Their fifth young lady has yet to return." Yu Duhe explained.

Seeing Yun Jing's expressionless face, Yu Duhe continued, "Ever since the news of Patriarch Kou's injury and the Rose Party's entry to the battlefield between the two words were revealed, we imposed martial law on the city. A total of sixteen families in the city started to recall their members. Other than that, several wandering experts have entered the city."

Yun Jing nodded slightly and her expression lightened up. "Looks like they still care about the You Continent. Let's hope that everything proceeds smoothly."

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In the Four Spiritual Peak...

Shang Ke looked at the staggering swordsman facing Shang Xia and he raised an eyebrow in surprise. "You didn't kill him?"

Shang Xia kept Jade Creek on his back before focusing on the Yin Yang Diagram in his dantian. The fifth tiny sword was forming, and he explained simply, "I broke his dantian earlier. He's no threat to us anymore."

"Hold up. That doesn't seem right. If you broke his dantian, that would mean that his cultivation is crippled. To cultivators, it's a fate worse than death! Why was he thanking you when he left?" Shang Ke frowned.

Shang Xia replied nonchalantly, “How would I know? Not every cultivator treats cultivation as their life. He might have some family members back at home. Why would he choose to die here if he can return to their side?”

“Wait a second. That’s not the main point. What type of sword technique are you using anyway? It looked like you used an ordinary strike to shatter his sword intent...” Shang Ke frowned.

His question was met with a burst of laughter from Shang Xia. “Grandpa, who said that I had to use my martial intent to break his?”

“What? Oh right, whatever. What is your martial intent anyway? Stinking brat, come back here when I’m talking to you!” Shang Ke yelled when he saw that Shang Xia was wandering up ahead without him. However, a smile soon formed on his face. “Damn brat, why are you acting all mysterious with this old man? Don’t you know that there’s a Martial Intent Realm expert waiting up ahead to ambush you?” He quickly followed behind Shang Xia after muttering to himself. Even though he was trailing behind Shang Xia, he didn’t look anxious at all. It was as though he didn’t even care that Shang Xia was about to walk into an ambush.

When the disciple of the Four Spiritual Peak leaped at him, Shang Xia was actually surprised. Even though the man before him was a Martial Intent Realm expert, he refused to believe that Shang Ke would be unable to detect his presence. There was only a single explanation... His Fifth Grandpa had been waiting for him to walk into a trap!

Looking at the dirty appearance of the cultivator who just popped up, Shang Xia realized that his opponent had probably been buried in the dirt below after one of the mountains collapsed.

“Damn it! He did it on purpose! He probably wants to verify my strength after hearing that I killed a Martial Intent Realm expert back in the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World.” Shang Xia muttered to himself. However, he didn’t know if Shang Ke was doing it to satisfy his own curiosity or if it was because of Shang Bo’s orders.

“Hmph! Since all of you want to see my martial intent so badly... I won’t use it!” Shang Xia made up his mind and laughed silently. A trace of sword qi emerged from his Jade Creek Sword hanging from his back and it sliced towards the Martial Intent Realm cultivator in front of him.

Facing the sword qi of a Martial Extremity Realm cultivator, a look of disdain appeared on his face. However, he quickly regretted his decision. He circulated his inner qi desperately when he felt a sense of danger filling his mind, but it was too late! He was sliced in two by the ray of sword qi before he could wrap his head around the matter.

The sword qi Shang Xia unleashed was named the Yin Yang Sword, and it was something he comprehended not too long ago. Even without unleashing his martial intent, the Yin Yang Sword Formation, the sword qi alone contained a fusion of five different sword intents!

Chapter 202: Thousand Layer Steel Cloud

Shang Ke had been extremely curious about Shang Xia's abilities since hearing about them in the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World.

Shang Xia's increase in strength was too damn fast! Moreover, his battle achievements were terrifyingly high too! A trace of mystery and glory surrounded Shang Xia and it caught the attention of both Shang Ke and Shang Bo.

In order to check out Shang Xia's true strength, Shang Ke didn't remind him about the ambush he was about to walk into earlier. He wanted to force out every bit of Shang Xia's strength and watch how he dealt with the cultivator from the Four Spiritual Peak who was one whole realm stronger than himself!

According to him, Shang Xia would be forced to his limit in order to deal with his opponent.

He couldn't be more wrong. Just when he got ready to watch the huge battle unfold before his very eyes, the Martial Intent Realm expert was sliced in two!

One strike, that was all it took!

With his divine sense covering the area long before the battle started, he discovered that his eyes weren't playing tricks on him! Shang Xia only used a single strike to kill his enemy!

Not only did Shang Xia's sword qi cut through his enemy's inner qi defenses, but it also sliced through Shang Ke's divine sense that wrapped around it!

Shang Ke felt that if he forcefully increased his control over his divine sense to peer into the intricacies of the sword qi, it was very likely for his divine sense to be injured!

Was that something a Martial Extremity Realm cultivator was capable of?!

Shang Ke's imagination started running wild. There had to be something special about Shang Xia's technique! He even suspected that Shang Xia had used some sort of talisman to kill his opponent so easily. Otherwise, the opponent had to be seriously injured before they arrived...

Even though Shang Xia hadn't been in the Coral Forest for long, his journey was rich! Shang Ke had no idea how much the kid actually gained!

After analyzing the situation, Shang Ke realized that the possibility of the opponent suffering from injuries could be eliminated. As a Martial Extermination Realm expert, he was extremely clear about the other party's condition!

Taking a giant step, he appeared right above the corpse before Shang Xia could even react.

By the time he arrived, Shang Xia had barely searched the corpse. From the look of disdain on his face, it wasn't hard to tell that the cultivator of the Four Spiritual Peak barely had anything on him.

Shang Ke had a complicated look in his eyes as he turned to Shang Xia. He snorted jokingly, "Brat, what exactly is your martial intent? What are you trying to hide?!"

"This opponent is too damn weak! I can't even find the chance to use my martial intent!" Shang Xia jested.

With the side of his lips twitching uncontrollably, Shang Ke nearly broke out with a torrent of curses at him. When he saw the 'innocent' look on Shang Xia's face, he snorted in anger, "Whatever. Don't say I didn't remind you. He probably appeared from below because he was trying

to retrieve something. Otherwise, he would have left immediately once he sensed danger. With your cultivation level, you won't be able to eat his dust if he ran away earlier."

Shang Xia nodded slowly as he felt that Shang Ke's reminder made sense. He could only sigh about the dead cultivator's bad luck.

Even though the other party wasn't very fortunate, Shang Xia lucked out. A grin eventually formed on his face as he dug into the ground happily. Shang Ke wasn't as carefree as him. A deep frown could be seen on his face as he examined the corpse carefully.

The originally intact corpse finally experienced some changes. A drop of blood started to flow from the space between his eyebrows as his body finally separated in two.

"One, two, three... No... Fire qi? That should form a pair with the ice qi. Light and heavy? No, seems like void and reality qi. What the hell? There are at least four pairs of qi here!" Shang Ke's eyes widened in shock. Even at his level, it wasn't easy to distinguish between the different types of qi.

"What martial intent did this brat actually comprehend? There are so many different types of qi in his body, how has his dantian not exploded yet? He's definitely hiding something that can fuse so many types of qi at once. That has to be it. He definitely learned some especially high-ranking techniques for him to accomplish all this!" Shang Ke rubbed his chin slowly and continued, "Hah, even if you beat me to death, this granddaddy here won't believe that the Triple Mystery Polarity Art can allow him to achieve something like this! He probably ran into some special opportunity or obtained a secret cultivation manual! Damn brat, if he really trained in some secret cultivation manual, he's seeking death! Who the hell trains in something he has no idea about? Oh right, the brat didn't even die when he was struck by lightning while cultivating in the institution. No wonder he had the balls to try something like that."

A voice interrupted his thoughts. "I found it!"

Walking over to the voice, Shang Ke turned to stare at the corpse behind him suddenly. "Hmm, his sword skills aren't good enough yet. Otherwise, the corpse wouldn't split into two so quickly."

Even though he didn't speak loudly, his voice rang clearly in Shang Xia's ears.

He might have criticized Shang Xia's sword technique, but his face started to burn slightly in embarrassment. He thought about the time he was still a Martial Extremity Realm cultivator and cursed himself silently.

"Bah, who cares! This old man is already in the Martial Extermination Realm. I won't compare myself with an annoying brat!"

It didn't take long for him to arrive beside Shang Xia.

"Hey! That's Thousand Layer Steel Cloud! It's extremely precious even among rank four treasures! How did the Four Spiritual Peak get their hands on this? Why didn't

they send this back to the Azure Spiritual World the moment they discovered it?" Shang Ke gasped.

"Rank four treasure?" Shang Xia asked. "What can it be used for?"

"If we use this in combination with a few other resources from our clan, we can invite an expert from the institution to create a graded weapon! In fact, we can probably create a high-grade spear for your Grandpa Bo! When the time comes, he can return the Nine Firefly Lance to the institution." Shang Ke explained.

"Oh! Is there a blacksmith in the institution that can create high-grade weapons?" Shang Xia widened his eyes in shock.

Shang Ke was just about to reply when their conversation was interrupted by a loud cry from the skies. Raising his head, Shang Xia looked at the Lightning Bird circling above and yelled, "The members of the Tongyou Peak have arrived!"

"Haha, Liu Qinglan is something else alright. She dared to take the gamble after receiving a report from a Martial Extremity Realm disciple. Luckily, she's right! Now, all we have to do is to see how long the rank five undead corpse can last." Shang Ke chuckled.

Noticing the strange tone in Shang Ke's voice, Shang Xia frowned. "Grandpa Ke, will there be any more surprises?"

"It depends on how far the four races are willing to go..." Shang Ke smiled but stopped his explanation there. Shang Xia could only stare at him in confusion.

Chapter 203: Native Cultivators

The Zeng Family in the Tongyou City was one of the twelve families that had at least a Martial Intent Realm expert at the helm. Ever since Wei Zhongwen of the Ji Continent arrived in the city, he took up residence there.

The patriarch of the Zeng Family behaved extremely cautiously around him and explained the customs of the You Continent patiently. Halfway through his explanation, he noticed the change in Wei Zhongwen's expression and the next thing he knew, the Martial Extermination Realm expert had disappeared.

Wei Zhongwen's actions quickly drew the attention of other experts. Those Martial Intent Realm cultivators who came with him stared at each other and quickly leaped onto the roof of the building around them to stare into the skies above the city.

The Zeng Patriarch's expression fluctuated slightly as he stood quietly in the hall.

"Second Uncle, they... What's going on?" One of the members of the younger generation of the Zeng Family asked cautiously.

Shaking his head, Zeng Li, the patriarch of the Zeng Family, sighed, "No idea. Tell everyone in the family not to make a huge fuss about this matter."

A bitter smile appeared on Zeng Li's face after the descendant of the Zeng Family left. He muttered to himself, "I wonder if we made the right choice this time..."

Not too long after Wei Zhongwen emerged, You Haibiao and Chang Huaiwu arrived.

You Haibiao was the last to arrive, but he seemed the most anxious. "What's going on? Did the Hidden Frost Sword really disappear?"

Chang Huaiwu glanced at him from the corner of his eye and sneered. "No shit. If it's still here, do you think we'll dare to soar in the skies like this?"

Wei Zhongwen closed his eyes and tried to extend his senses over the city. Opening his eyes once again, he looked at the two of them. "The Hidden Frost Sword isn't the only thing that is gone. Lady Yun's aura disappeared too."

Chang Huaiwu and You Haibiao looked at each other and frowned.

"Something is wrong. Why would she enter the battlefield between the two worlds now? Isn't she afraid of leaving the city undefended?" Chang Huaiwu asked softly.

"There is only one possible explanation for this. The situation in the battlefield between the two worlds required their immediate presence!" You Haibiao analyzed.

However, his explanation failed to convince Chang Huaiwu in the slightest. "Do you think there's some sort of scheme behind her actions? We can't forget about his presence. There's one person who hadn't appeared since the start of this. None of us know anything about his actual condition."

You Haibiao's expression changed instantly. "Are you talking about Kou Chongxue? Isn't he seriously injured?"

"Hah. Did anyone actually see him injured? I heard that the news was spread by the Rose Party! The institution had never admitted anything about their patriarch's injuries. Even if he is actually injured, the fact that his cultivation realm is at the Martial Dipper Realm won't change! It won't be a problem if he wanted to deal with the three of us!" Chang Huaiwu sneered.

Before he could continue, Wei Zhongwen interrupted. "Kou Chongxue's injuries are real. This is something the manor lord verified himself."

Chang Huaiwu and You Haibiao fell silent instantly.

Wei Zhongwen continued, "Even so, Brother Chang is right. Kou Chongxue is a Martial Dipper Realm expert at the end of the day. It won't be good if we try anything funny while in their territory. Why don't I enter the institution to ask about the current situation? After all, all of us came with the intention to give them our assistance. They can't possibly repay our kindness with enmity, right?"

The three of them quickly reached an agreement and they rushed towards the Tongyou Institution to request for an audience with Yun Jing despite already noticing her departure.

When they arrived at the entrance of the institution, they were stopped by the head of the Protection Division, Song You.

“I know what you’re here for. I would have to ask you to return for now. Deputy Patriarch Yun has already prepared a message for all of you. She will return in two days at most. She hopes the three of you can understand her difficulties in giving you an immediate reply.” Even though he was speaking to three Martial Extermination Realm experts, Song You wasn’t flustered in the slightest.

Hai Youbiao couldn’t help but snort in anger. “You’re just the head of a division of the institution. What rights do you have to speak on the institution’s behalf to the three of us? If you don’t want to waste your patriarch’s efforts of keeping the institution alive, you should open the path to the battlefield right now for us to render our assistance! We’ll start an unstoppable offensive against the Azure Spiritual World!”

Song You maintained the smile on his face but remained firm on his stance. “Everything is under our control. Please rest assured that we’ll deal with any problems happening in the battlefield between the two worlds promptly. We thank fellow seniors for their concern, but we have everything under control.”

Chang Huaiwu added from the side, “Your patriarch is currently injured and all your Martial Extermination Realm experts have entered the battlefield between two worlds. The evil remnants are lying in wait to strike. Your institution is besieged from both inside and outside. Why are you so adamant about dealing with this on your own? We’re fully prepared to work with you to deal with the members of the Azure Spiritual World!”

“Even though you guys might have to concede some benefits by opening the passage to the battlefield between the two worlds to us, you’ll be able to reduce a lot of casualties on the side of your institution! Isn’t that something you should be aiming for? Let’s not talk about other matters. In the past twenty years, how many lives have you sacrificed in the battlefield between the two worlds? Do you think the number of cultivators in your You Continent increased after so many years of fighting?!”

Song You remained impassive. “This junior understands and accepts your goodwill. However, all of us have our own considerations. There’s no need to say anymore.”

Song You’s words might have taken a roundabout way of telling them to fuck off, but they understood his intentions. Their expressions turned ugly really quickly.

Wei Zhongwen who had been silent all this while finally spoke up. “Alright. Let me ask you a question. If anyone tried to attack the Tongyou Institution right now, what are you going to do about it?”

For the first time, Song You’s attitude changed when he addressed the three of them. The smile on his face remained, but a chilly light flashed through his eyes. “Everyone in the institution, our Tongyou City, and everyone under our command will defend our territory with our lives!”

Instructors, custodians, deacons, and even disciples of the institution appeared in all key areas of the institution as soon as the words left his lips. Even though they were situated in various important positions, they seemed to stand directly behind Song You. Not a single sound could be heard as

their unwavering gaze landed on the three Martial Extermination Realm cultivators. In that instant, the three of them felt a formless pressure descending on them.

Chang Huaiwu nudged You Haibiao slightly and indicated for him to look behind him.

Even though their divine senses had been spread out the whole time, they failed to discover that the streets behind them were filled with countless cultivators. From the entrances of manors to the doors of shops, cultivators who had anything to do with the institution lined every single step. They stared unwaveringly at the backs of the three Martial Extermination Realm experts and not a shred of fear could be seen in their eyes. All of them wore a tranquil expressions on their face, ready to face whatever would come their way.

Ever since the You Continent took the brunt of the collision against the Azure Spiritual World, many native cultivators had left their homeland in search of a more stable life. Under the threat of external forces, the Tongyou Institution sent out a call to arms the moment the Tongyou Peak came under siege. Even though they withstood the enemy attack, they were immediately thrown into another precarious situation. The institution's cry for assistance remained and now, the cultivators of the You Continent who had scattered elsewhere in the past have returned! All of them were prepared to deal with any threat against the institution!

Chapter 204: The Secret Warehouse of the Heaven Swallowing Peak

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At the foot of the once glorious Four Spiritual Peak.

The Heaven Swallowing Peak was the first to fall under Zhu Tong's assault. As the home of the She Race, it wouldn't take a genius to know that they suffered catastrophic damage.

When She Zhihong noticed Zhu Tong following him into the barrier earlier, he ran straight for the Heaven Swallowing Peak to take control of the protection formation there. He wanted to use it to resist the rank five undead corpse's assault.

With Zhu Tong right behind him, She Zhihong didn't even have enough time to prepare himself before the battle began. It didn't take long for them to destroy the Heaven Swallowing Peak, causing the entire mountain to collapse.

The battle then spread to the Tide Peak, but due to Ran Biluo's heavy injuries, she was unable to protect it for long.

When she was brought away by the members of the Rose Party after being injured in the Coral Forest, the members of the Ran Race whisked her off to the Tide Peak immediately. When the battle between She Zhihong, Zhu Tong, Yan Su'er and Sima Zhanxing reached the Tide Peak, she couldn't even circulate her inner qi before she was killed.

The battle raged across the Four Spiritual Peak and after the tide peak, the battlefield shifted to the home of the Lang Race.

Luckily Lang Jingyun and Lu Zhanyi returned at that moment. With them to control the protection formation, the Four Spiritual Peak was finally able to hold Zhu Tong back.

Of course, fighting to a standstill didn't mean that the destruction would stop. In the blink of an eye, the Whistling Moon Peak started to crumble.

When She Zhihong's attack tore Zhu Ying's corpse to shreds earlier - despite it being Shang Ke's ploy - Zhu Tong had already set his eyes on the old expert. After all, Zhu Tong's only hope of resurrection had disappeared. In order to vent all his frustration, Zhu Tong focused his attack on She Zhihong.

She Zhihong's fate was sealed the moment his attack shattered Zhu Ying's corpse. When he died, the protection barrier around the Four Spiritual Peak popped, leading to the scene Shang Xia saw before they started their mission to sweep up the remains on the mountain.

Once he died, the situation on the Four Spiritual Peak was revealed to both Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo who had been lying in wait outside. Even without Yan Su'er's threat, they would have joined in the battle.

After all, the rank five undead corpse was too dangerous to be left alone. They had to deal with it immediately to prevent any unpredictable situations from rising in the future.

Now that the Four Spiritual Peak was close to being destroyed, the Tongyou Peak held the absolute advantage. Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo didn't wish for Zhu Tong to cause any more destruction. They would be wasting precious resources otherwise.

With the rank five undead corpse on its last breath, the two of them would obviously have to make the decisive move.

Since Zhu Tong had entered the Martial Dipper Realm, he had to possess a fate dipper!

In the core region of the Zhu Family Manor, Shang Xia wasn't the only one who went to take a look at the stone coffin. Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo naturally went to examine the stone coffin after the kid! The two of them knew exactly what type of fate dipper it was!

It was something even Kou Chongxue would have to admit is a treasure.

There was no doubt that the rank five undead corpse would die. However, the Four Spiritual Peak would fight desperately to obtain his fate dipper!

When Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo entered the battlefield to fight for Zhu Tong's fate dipper, the disciples of the Tongyou Institution finally arrived. Under Liu Qinglan's order, they started to form five man groups to scour the ruins. Their job was to kill any survivors and retrieve anything of value from the Four Spiritual Peak.

"See! I told you to hurry up earlier. Now that they're here, you won't be able to obtain much." Shang Ke sneered at Shang Xia. He called several disciples who were either from the Shang Clan or had relations with them over and organized them himself.

Watching the excited disciples digging through the ground, Shang Xia sneered in his heart. "Hah! Old man, if you personally go dig for treasures, we'll be able to get a lot more!"

"Damn brat! You're getting more and more impudent! If I can personally search for treasures here, why would I be following you around?" Shang Ke snorted angrily.

Shang Xia sighed in response, "Oh. About your injuries..."

“I’m afraid I’ll have to enter seclusion for half a year after I return. My foundations were too weak when I fought with Lang Jingyun and Lu Zhanyi. I’ll try to refrain from exerting myself if possible.” Shang Ke explained.

Nodding in acknowledgment, Shang Xia continued to dig around with his Jade Creek Sword.

However, Shang Ke’s sigh came from behind him once again. “If this old man isn’t wrong, there’s a hidden warehouse where you’re digging. Too bad this old man’s spatial tool is full.”

Shang Xia felt a lightbulb lighting up in his mind. He felt that his grandfather wasn’t willing to get his hands dirty because he wouldn’t get any benefits out of it anyway!

“Even though the treasures and herbs gathered by the Four Spiritual Peak in the battlefield between two worlds would be shipped off to the Azure Spiritual World as soon as possible, they would have to store it somewhere safe. The Four Spiritual Peak would distribute the gains for each race before sending them off for safekeeping in their individual warehouses. Every race would send a convoy back from time to time, but they wouldn’t empty their warehouses completely. The treasury on the Heaven Swallowing Peak should be located right where your sword is.”

Shang Xia asked in a strange tone, “Weren’t we at the Tide Peak when we entered the Four Spiritual Peak? Why didn’t we look for their treasury?”

Pressing his lips together, Shang Ke sneered, “The Tide Peak sent off their convoy recently. There wouldn’t be much left in their treasury!”

The intelligence the Tongyou Institution had on the Four Spiritual Peak once again shocked Shang Xia.

However, it made sense after he thought about it. The Four Spiritual Peak likely knew about the Tongyou Institution’s plan as well. That was how their convoy was attacked when they just entered the battlefield between the two worlds.

As his sword casually slashed open a boulder on the ground, he accidentally activated a hidden restriction.

Rays of light shot into the skies and Shang Ke barely managed to yell a warning when his voice was drowned by the sound of an explosion.

Shang Xia waved his second sword in the air and strands of sword qi quickly surrounded him. They formed a giant net that shattered everything flying Shang Xia’s way.

“This... This can’t be called a Sword Formation anymore... It seems more like a Sword World!” Liu Qinglan gasped as she appeared beside Shang Ke. The explosion earlier sent rocks flying everywhere and those approaching Shang Xia were ground to dust by his sword qi. The other shards seemed to be controlled by a formless power that caused them to fall to the ground after traveling several feet.

“Why are you here?” Shang Ke sneered when he noticed her presence.

“The Four Races take turns to transport their supplies out of the battlefield. The state of their treasuries isn’t a secret to any of us.” Liu Qinglan smiled in response.

“I found this place with the kid...” Shang Ke snorted softly.

The smile on Liu Qinglan’s face grew wider. “Since I discovered you guys, I get half of whatever is inside!”

The two of them were about to start quarreling when Shang Xia’s voice interrupted them. “Hey! This is Ebony Lingzhi! Wow! It should be several hundred years old!”

Chapter 205: Origin Fate Dipper and Divine Weapon

When Shang Xia was splitting the loot he obtained from the remnants of the Heaven Swallowing Peak and the Tide Peak, the battle on the Spiritual Swallow Peak had reached its climax.

Ever since Zhu Tong emerged from his coffin, he had been fighting with the experts of the Rose Party, Tongyou Peak, and Four Spiritual Peak non-stop.

After exerting a huge amount of energy to slay She Zhihong, Zhu Tong was an arrow at the end of his flight.

The four experts of the Four Spiritual Peak might outnumber Shang Bo and Ji Wenlong, but none of them were able to exert their full strength against the enemy. Yan Su’er and Sima Zhanxing sustained a ton of injuries in the Coral Forest. Lang Jingyun’s injuries from the war against the Tongyou Peak hadn’t fully recovered either. As for Lu Zhanyi, he never had any intention of risking his life.

Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo were outnumbered, but they were experienced generals at the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm. When they worked together, they were leagues ahead of those from the Four Spiritual Peak.

If one were to seriously consider the strength the Tongyou Peak invested in the operation, they would also note that Liu Qinglan was on the ruined Heaven Swallowing Peak. She was no rookie Martial Extermination Realm expert!

Both sides looked like they were working together to contain Zhu Tong, but their cooperation was merely temporary. Everyone knew that a huge fight to obtain Zhu Tong’s fate dipper would break out the moment his fate was sealed.

Neither side wanted to charge into the battle recklessly. Everyone was wary of their enemies from the other faction as they tried to exhaust the rank five undead corpse rampaging about the Four Spiritual Peak.

When everyone was holding themselves back for fear of exposing a moment of weakness to the other side, Yan Su’er found an opportunity to smash her staff accurately against Zhu Tong’s skull.

The sudden change in situation shocked all the Martial Extermination Realm experts present.

Zhu Tong’s skull exploded instantly, and all the life force left his body. He fell straight down towards the Spiritual Swallow Peak.

Her attack was like a signal. Shang Bo was the first to react as his Nine Firefly Lance stabbed at the chest of the undead corpse in an attempt to protect the corpse from further damage.

Unfortunately for him, Yan Su'er followed up with another strike to shatter the resulting spear light. Ji Wenlong's blade drew a beautiful arc in the skies and a mighty blade light emerged. The space around it shattered as it went straight for Sima Zhanxing and Lang Jingyun.

As their cultivation was a little lacking compared to Ji Wenlong, along with their injuries, they could only choose to retreat. Looking at Lu Zhanyi, everyone understood his intentions as he stood clear of the battle. He would only assist them under the premise that his life wasn't under threat.

Shang Bo flicked his wrist and four massive lances created from his extermination origin appeared in the air above. Nine flashes of light emerged from each lance, forming thirty six beams of light that trapped Yan Su'er.

"Matriarch Yan, since things have already progressed to this point, there's no need for pointless resistance." Shang Bo was easily able to suppress the injured Yan Su'er with his extermination origin.

When the cultivators of the Four Spiritual Peak were suppressed by Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo, Liu Qinglan finally made her move!

Her eight segmented whip extended towards Zhu Tong's body that was about to hit the ground. Since the experts of the Four Spiritual Peak were unable to lift a finger to stop her, she managed to easily grab hold of Zhu Tong's body.

Even though the corpse was about to be taken away by Liu Qinglan, Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo's expressions changed in unison.

"Be careful!"

"Dodge!"

Liu Qinglan might not know what was going on, but she decided to trust the two of them as she released the corpse.

At almost the same instant, a strange ringing sound filled the battlefield between two worlds. A weirdly shaped claw descended from the void and stabbed straight into Zhu Tong's chest. As a hole was torn open, a heart that glowed a dull yellow was revealed to the world.

The claw wasted no time to grab the dull yellow heart along with Liu Qinglan's whip!

With a slight tremble, the claw started to drag Liu Qinglan towards itself. Even though she tried to release her grip on her whip earlier, she was powerless to stop herself from being drawn over!

"Divine weapon! It's the Bloodline Divine Weapon of the four races, the Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw!" Liu Qinglan felt her heart going cold as she flew towards the claw. In that instant, despair filled her heart as she knew that her fate was sealed once the divine weapon set its eyes on her.

She saw Shang Bo's Nine Firefly Lance and Ji Wenlong's Lithe Blade slashing towards the claw, but it was useless! Yan Su'er and the other Martial Extermination Realm experts risked their lives to interrupt their attacks!

Shang Ke leaped into action as he disregarded his injuries. But from the looks of it, he wouldn't be able to change the situation either.

...

After the hidden treasury on the Heaven Swallowing Peak was raided by Shang Xia, he managed to find close to fifty treasures,

There were three of them protected by layers of restrictions, and it wasn't hard to tell that they were of the fourth rank. There were also eleven rank three treasures, but by the time he brought them out of the treasury, Liu Qinglan had already disappeared. Several disciples of the Warehouse Division of the institution took her place as they negotiated the split with Shang Xia.

Halfway through their discussion, a weird ringing sound tore through the battlefield between the two worlds.

Many weaker cultivators spat out a mouthful of blood and some of them fainted on the spot.

With the experience he had when he was hunting down the cultivators of the Four Spiritual Peak after the war, Shang Xia knew what was going on. He hastily circulated his inner qi and the Yin Yang Diagram in his dantian started to spin rapidly. It suppressed his inner qi that was threatening to go berserk.

Turning to look at Shang Ke, he realized that he had been left alone.

The skies lit up above him before he could react.

By the time he raised his head, he saw ripples coming from the direction of the Tongyou Peak. A frigid light sundered the space as it appeared right above the Four Spiritual Peak.

The disciples of the Tongyou Peak finally felt their inner qi returning to normal after the arrival of the second divine weapon. With the appearance of the Hidden Frost Blade, everyone felt as though they were thrown into an icy lake. Snowflakes drifted down from above as a metallic clash echoed in their ears.

Instinctively, everyone turned to stare in the direction of the Spiritual Swallow Peak.

The only intact peak left crumbled to dust. The destruction was on a whole new level compared to the three peaks that fell earlier.

After the clash, pieces of dull yellow crystal flew into the skies, scattering all over the Four Spiritual Peak. A piece that was the size of a pebble shot towards Shang Xia and the disciples of the Warehouse Division.

Chapter 206: Curtain Call

The Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw was the divine weapon that represented the prestige of the four great races of the Liao Continent of the Azure Spiritual World!

It was said that the divine weapon was only created after the joint effort of the supreme experts of all four races!

In order to refine the divine weapon, the four races had to use the bones that their Martial Dipper Realm ancestors left behind!

The moment it appeared, the claw went for Zhu Tong's heart. Once it grabbed Zhu Tong's fate dipper, it set its sights on Liu Qinglan.

She was unable to struggle free from the grasp of the divine weapon. When she saw how Shang Bo and Ji Wenlong's attempt to help her was stopped by the experts of the Four Spiritual Peak, despair filled her heart. She readied herself to meet her death when a flurry of snow descended from the heavens.

A horrifying killing intent filled the lands as a ray of frosty light slammed into the Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw.

When the burst of light from the explosion died down, an ancient-looking sword that was surrounded by a swirling mist could be seen hovering in mid air.

Without warning, it slashed down once again, landing accurately on the fingertips of the Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw. A loud clash filled the skies and everyone around felt an explosion going off in their minds. The disciples of the Tongyou Peak who came with Liu Qinglan to deal with the remnants of the Four Spiritual Peak had the weakest cultivation of those present and most of them fainted instantly. The only person in the Martial Extremity Realm who managed to keep their consciousness was Shang Xia!

Due to the appearance of the Hidden Frost Sword, Liu Qinglan's newly upgraded eight segmented whip lost one whole segment as it was sliced off cleanly from the exchange. However, she considered herself lucky as that was the only price she had to pay to escape her predicament.

The shockwave that ensued from the clash of the two divine weapons forced the Martial Extermination Realm experts to take several steps back and the small skirmishes that went on earlier stopped.

The Whistling Moon Peak that had been cleaved in two earlier was finally unable to avoid the fate that befell the other mountains. It crumbled to dust, signaling the end of the Four Spiritual Peak's dominance.

That wasn't all. When the Hidden Frost Sword clashed with the Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw, Zhu Tong's fate dipper exploded under the impact. It turned into several pieces that scattered around the land. Only a quarter of it remained in the claw.

Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo reacted quickly. The moment they felt the presence of the Hidden Frost Sword, the two of them changed their strategy. No longer focusing on the members of the Four Spiritual Peak, they got ready to grab the shattered remains. Liu Qinglan didn't remain idle either. After being freed from the Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw, she leaped into the fray to grab the shards. The three of them managed to grab shards nearly making up half the heart.

As the expert who had the highest fighting strength in the Four Spiritual Peak at the moment, Yan Su'er gathered her extermination origin to summon a pair of wings behind her. She managed to grab two tiny shards while Lang Jingyun and Sima Zhanxing managed to catch one each.

Lu Zhanyi managed to get his hands on a piece too. Because he didn't exert himself too much earlier, he was in better shape than Lang Jingyun and Sima Zhanxing. As his wings flapped behind him, he reached for the second shard.

Who would have thought that Ji Wenlong, Shang Bo, and Liu Qinglan would move against him in unison? Out of the three, two of them were terrifyingly strong existences even among fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm experts. That wasn't all. The two of them fought side by side in the past and their cooperation was flawless! Even if Liu Qinglan was added to the mix, their battle formation wouldn't be hindered in the slightest! In an instant, their attacks rained down on him.

Feeling the killing intent coming from the three, Lu Zhanyi turned to the members of the Four Spiritual Peak and screamed in terror, "Save me!"

The Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw was about to move when the Hidden Frost Blade moved yet again. A curtain of sword light fell from the heavens, forming a clear line between Lu Zhanyi, the Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw, and the experts of the Four Spiritual Peak.

"Hidden Frost Sword! Yun Jing!" A roar emerged from the void and there was a trace of embarrassment hidden within.

The laughter of a woman rang through the air, but unlike the previous roar, Shang Xia could tell that it came from the direction of the Tongyou Peak.

"Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw... Haha, I wonder which one of the four patriarchs I am dealing with today?" Yun Jing's question was genuine as she really didn't know who her opponent was.

As the Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw was jointly owned by the four great races, one had to obtain the approval of three out of four races before they were allowed to bring the weapon out for battle.

As for the experts of the Azure Spiritual World, they knew exactly who their opponent was. In the Tongyou Institution, there was only a single high level sword user other than Kou Chongxue. Shang Bo used a lance while Ji Wenlong used a blade. The only other people with enough authority to use the Hidden Frost Sword were Yun Jing, Liu Jitang, and Kou Chongxue. Since Liu Jitang was dead and Yun Jing was an expert in the way of the sword, it came as no surprise that she was the one wielding the divine weapon.

No one even guessed that Kou Chongxue had arrived personally. If he was the one using the Hidden Frost Sword, Zhu Tong's fate dipper wouldn't be shattered during the exchange. The Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw would probably be blown away the moment he struck.

When it came to the wielder of the Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw, the members of the institution were really confused. It could be any one of the three patriarchs other than Yan Su'er!

"I, Ran Kongqing of the Ran Race, am here! Yun Jing, are you really planning to fight us to the death today?! Do you really think my claw cannot shatter your sword curtain?" His voice betrayed his frustrations and fear of the other side. However, he didn't intend to back down.

Yun Jing's voice resounded from behind the curtain of sword light. "Greetings, Patriarch Ran! If we really go all out against each other, we will only make the other party vulnerable to outsiders! Since Patriarch Ran made a move, we'll definitely show some restraint! However, Lu Zhanyi doesn't

seem to be someone from your four great races. Is Patriarch Ran planning on starting a war against our institution for an outsider?”

Yun Jing might have been acting deferential, but her tone was unwavering. Silence descended on the lands.

Since the divine weapons had appeared, the next decision either side made would be the deciding factor to see if both sides would start a fight to the death. It became so quiet that everyone could hear the thumping of hearts in their chests.

The fact that Yun Jing gave Ran Kongqing a chance to make his choice was already commendable. After all, the Tongyou Institution held a massive advantage over the Four Spiritual Peak at that moment.

Recalling how annoying Lu Zhanyi had been since the start of the battle where he avoided any difficult battles against the members of the Tongyou Institution only to run away when Lang Jingyun and Sima Zhanxing were attacked by Ji Wenlong earlier, one could say that he brought everything upon himself.

Shattering the curtain of sword light was completely doable for Ran Kongqing. Even if he did that, the four great races might be able to defend against the assault of the Tongyou Institution eventually. However, those of the four races who were present in the battlefield between two worlds would definitely be unable to live to see that day.

There was no way they could disregard the lives of Martial Extermination Realm experts! The losses had already crossed their bottom line and they couldn't risk the lives of any more experts! Not to mention the fact that Yun Jing's words made sense. Lu Zhanyi wasn't a member of their four great races!

At that instant, an unspeakable shame washed over the members of the Azure Spiritual World. They had been scheming against the Tongyou Peak countless times in the past twenty years. They fought several wars against the other party and even managed to nearly destroy the other side's grand formation in the previous war! Unlike them, the Tongyou Peak had never caused much damage to the Four Spiritual Peak. However, they carried out a destructive assault the moment they chose to attack! It might not be the first time the Tongyou Peak launched an offensive on the Four Spiritual Peak, but they would retreat every time after fighting some small battles. Things were different this time! Chasing their lead in the Coral Forest, the two monstrous deputy patriarchs caused the grand formation of the Four Spiritual Peak to shatter for the first time! As if that wasn't enough, they would have wiped out the Four Spiritual Peak if not for the appearance of the Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw!

The lack of response sounded louder than any warcry in the ears of those from the Tongyou Institution. A chuckle left Yun Jing's lips and the curtain of sword light dissipated. Lu Zhanyi's desperate howl was cut short and an explosion of heaven and earth qi filled the skies.

“We're leaving!” Liu Qinglan's voice rang in the ears of those from the institution. As the disciples of the institution started to awaken, they started to make their leave.

As for Shang Xia, he grabbed the shard in front of him before following behind them.

A pretty sunset seemed to signify the fall of the Four Spiritual Peak in the battlefield between the two worlds as the curtains of the monumental battle finally drew to a close.

Turning around abruptly, Shang Xia saw the magnificent sight of Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo standing side by side above the destroyed Four Spiritual Peak as a long sword hovered above their heads.

Chapter 207: Not Over Yet?

Due to the appearance of the divine weapons, the battle had to end abruptly.

Even so, the Tongyou Institution's gains were frightening enough. Not only did they obtain a part of Zhu Family's inheritance, but they also managed to turn the Four Spiritual Peak into a pile of rubble! The Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Four Spiritual Peak and the Rose Party were slain, and even though they lost Liu Jitang in the process, the opponents suffered a lot more! It could be said that they achieved an unprecedented victory!

The twenty year long stalemate in the battlefield between the two worlds had been broken but that wasn't all. The Rose Party that had been a hidden threat to the institution also received a huge blow to their strength!

Despite achieving an overwhelming victory, the Tongyou Institution wouldn't be able to rest easy. They would probably be thrown into even more chaos.

From the time Liu Qinglan dispatched the disciples of the Tongyou Peak out to clean up the loose ends on the Four Spiritual Peak, the defenses on the Tongyou Peak were reduced to a state lower than when Liu Jitang deployed a huge group of disciples to the Coral Forest.

Luckily for them, they managed to complete their mission. As long as the beasts in the battlefield between the two worlds didn't go crazy, the Tongyou Peak would probably be fine for the time being.

Liu Qinglan would have to rush back to take charge of the situation along with Shang Bo and Ji Wenlong. The various disciples of the institution would probably be in for a hard time as they digested the spoils of the Four Spiritual Peak.

As for Shang Lubing and Liu Zhiyuan, they were assisting the formation masters in the Coral Forest to tie up the loose ends there.

From the highest ranking members of the Tongyou Institution to the disciples of the various divisions, everyone was working on overdrive... Well, other than one person. Shang Xia found a rare chance to rest!

No one came over to distribute missions to him, and neither did anyone disturb him. It was as though the entire world forgot about his existence.

Naturally, he couldn't be happier about the situation.

He was the one who gained the most from the Coral Forest and the Four Spiritual Peak. He needed a period of time to digest everything he obtained. Taking the chance to consolidate his foundations, Shang Xia wanted to turn everything he obtained into actual strength.

Of course, his time of peace wouldn't last for long.

“Where’s the shard you obtained on the Four Spiritual Peak?” Shang Ke’s arrival quickly brought him back to reality.

Completing his final move of the Dual Interference Sword Manual, Shang Xia kept his sword before reaching over to retrieve the shard of fate dipper. A smile could be seen on his face as he handed it over to Shang Ke. “Grandpa Ke, what’s the rush? I was planning to play with this for a few more days. No matter what, this is a rank five treasure! It’s not every day I get to hold one!”

Weighing the shard in his hand, Shang Ke chortled, “Hah, even I haven’t seen many rank five treasures in my life! I’ve seen three of them in total and one of them is Kou Chongxue’s Hidden Frost Sword!”

“What’s the other?” Shang Xia raised an eyebrow in confusion.

“Well, you’ve seen that one too, It’s the Coral Command your Grandpa Bo refined. Actually, it should be called the Mysterious World Command.”

Shang Xia frowned. “Wait a second, didn’t you enter the stone chamber behind those bronze gates in the Zhu Family Manor? The stone coffin there should also be a rank five treasure.”

“Yeah, it used to be. However, Zhu Tong sucked up too much of their essence to form his fate dipper. The coffin might have been a precious treasure in the past, but it’s a rank three treasure at best right now.”

“Rank three?” Shang Xia’s heart trembled slightly but he remained expressionless.

“What a pity. But from what you say, a rank three treasure is worthless in your eyes! If it’s so useless, why doesn’t every Martial Intent Realm expert of the institution possess a graded weapon?”

Chuckling softly, Shang Ke replied, “Oh right. A rank three treasure is really precious. My standards just became a lot higher after the stuff we obtained in the Coral Forest and the Four Spiritual Peak.”

Shang Xia could see how excited his fifth grandfather was and a mischievous smile appeared on his face. “Wouldn’t this mean that our clan received a lot of benefits after the expedition this time?”

“Of course! We received a ton! Well... Most of the benefits went to the institution.” Shang Ke roared with laughter.

Nodding slightly, Shang Xia chose to remain silent. However, he quickly heard a sigh escaping Shang Ke’s lips. “Brat, you managed to gain a lot of credit this time! The institution will definitely reward you heavily! You better not let them off easily. When the time comes, raise your requests boldly! The more you ask for the better!”

“Request? What am I supposed to ask for? Am I supposed to get the advancement formula for the Multi Illusion Wine?” Shang Xia sniggered playfully in response.

The smile on Shang Ke’s face dulled slightly and he muttered, “Do you know what condition your Grandpa Bo raised when he stepped down as the patriarch of the clan to focus on his role as the deputy patriarch?”

Shang Xia's expression sank immediately. "Did he ask for the formula for the Multi Illusion Wine?"

"Yes."

"But we already obtained a rank four advancement formula! Don't we have the Hundred Days Longevity Intoxication?" Shang Xia asked.

Shaking his head slowly, Shang Ke explained, "That's a promise your Grandpa Bo made to Kou Chongxue in the past. Moreover, one rank four advancement formula isn't enough for a clan to truly grow strong."

"Why is Patriarch Kou so adamant about keeping Grandpa Bo as a deputy patriarch of the institution?!" Shang Xia frowned slightly. He didn't understand what was going on.

"I don't know what your Grandpa Bo discussed with Kou Chongxue that year, but because of their negotiations, Kou Chongxue supported our clan greatly, pushing us up to rank alongside the three other great clans."

Shang Xia sighed softly in response, "Even if Grandpa Bo isn't the patriarch of our Shang Clan anymore, he will always be my grandpa!" He paused for a moment before changing the topic. "Grandpa Ke, the institution will definitely reward me when the time comes. Is our clan not planning to do so?"

"Damn brat! I knew you were up to no good!" Shang Ke chuckled before tossing out two jade bottles. "The red one contains Tempering Meridian Powder. You have to go get enough herbs for your own advancement medicine. As for the yellow bottle, it contains a portion of Expanding Meridian Powder. Take them as your reward from the clan!"

Pouting slightly, Shang Xia complained, "Is that it?"

"Heh. Have you decided if you want to inherit our Shang Clan's spear art?" Shang Ke sneered softly.

A grin appeared on Shang Xia's face as he made his reply. "Of course. Our Shang Clan Spear Art is extremely famous. Why would I not obtain the inheritance when it's dangled right in front of my face?"

"Crazy brat! You learned so many different types of sword art and I thought you were planning to train in sword techniques your whole life." Shang Ke roared with laughter.

Shang Xia shook his head slowly in response. "Of course not."

Eventually, Shang Ke nodded his head and spoke solemnly, "In that case, I'll gather some resources we received and craft a low-grade spear for you!"

"Many thanks, Grandpa Ke... No. Many thanks, Patriarch Shang!"

However, a sigh eventually left Shang Ke's lips. "Don't get too excited yet. I plan to have Duan Hong give it a shot. He might not be a blacksmith capable of crafting graded weapons in the past, but he's our greatest hope."

"It's time for our Shang Clan to nurture a rank three blacksmith. He will have to try to craft one sooner or later." Shang Xia raised an eyebrow slowly.

Even though rank three treasures could be made into low-grade weapons, every single weapon had different requirements. They would need a lot of rank two ingredients too, and the chances of crafting a low-grade weapon were kind of slim.

The Shang Clan might have twenty years of accumulation, but it wouldn't be enough if the blacksmith wasted several batches of ingredients used to create graded weapons.

Suddenly thinking of something, Shang Xia retrieved an item from his spatial artifact.

Staring at the black lump in Shang Xia's hand, Shang Ke gasped in shock, "How do you have so many treasures on you?!"

Chapter 208: Sword Talisman

Any treasure that reached the third rank or higher would birth their own spirituality.

Most of the time, treasures at that level would be contained with a type of sealing talisman to prevent their spirituality from leaking.

"This is definitely something good. It'll be a waste to give this to Duan Hong..." Shang Ke shook his head and suggested, "You should keep this for now. Once Duan Hong manages to craft his first low-grade weapon, you can use this to upgrade it to a mid-grade one."

After speaking, he decided to take his leave.

Since the Four Spiritual Peak was destroyed, the Tongyou Peak wasn't just busy trying to expand their territory. They had to digest all their gains and send resources back to the institution.

The four great clans of the Tongyou City were swamped with post-battle work. Since the Shang Clan's contributions to the recovery of the Coral Forest and the destruction of the Four Spiritual Peak was the largest, they obviously got the largest share. However, the long standing patriarch of the Shang Clan, Shang Bo, chose to renounce his position as the patriarch of the clan, leaving all the work to the newly ascended Shang Ke. For the past few days, Shang Ke had been so busy he hadn't taken a single break!

Shang Xia stood at the top of the Shang Pavilion as he looked all around. He didn't know if he was mistaken, but there seemed to be a fundamental change in the six surrounding peaks.

Staring intently to look for the reason behind his feeling, he couldn't notice anything different. As the skies were filled with a soft mist originating from the battlefield between the two worlds, he couldn't see too far past the surrounding peaks either.

Taking in the illusory view, Shang Xia sighed before returning to his chamber.

This time, he didn't train in the Dual Interference Sword Manual any longer. Instead, he turned his attention to a piece of half-finished talisman jade.

Ever since returning from the Coral Forest, Shang Xia only had three things on his mind. The first was to train in his Yin Yang Mysterious Art, the second was to deepen his understanding of the Dual Interference Sword Manual. The last was to research the Zhu Family Talisman Scripture.

Ever since entering the grand completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm, Shang Xia's mastery of the Yin Yang Mysterious Art seemed to have reached the peak of what it could have been. However, he strengthened his foundations even further after using so many portions of Expanding Meridian Powder and Tempering Meridian Powder. He had some room for improvement and he decided to continue circulating his Yin Yang Mysterious Art to increase his strength even further.

As for the Dual Interference Sword Manual, Shang Xia wanted to delve a little deeper into it even though he had already comprehended the martial intent behind it. He was close to forming his sixth sword intent, but he noticed that there was still room for improvement! He hadn't reached his limits yet!

At that moment, his Yin Yang Sword Formation contained five different types of martial intent. His strength had far surpassed anything a Martial Extremity Realm cultivator could reach, but that wasn't enough. He wanted to see how far he could push it!

Next came the Zhu Family Talisman Scripture. Even before obtaining it, Shang Xia had become a second rank talisman master.

Even though the number of talismans contained in the scripture was barely a drop in the ocean compared to those out there, they contained extremely detailed descriptions and creation methods.

During his seclusion, Shang Xia placed most of his attention on his Yin Yang Mysterious Art and the Dual Interference Sword Manual. His research on the Zhu Family Talisman Scripture had always been secondary. Even so, he managed to create 13 of the 23 rank one talismans recorded within. Of the 14 rank two talismans recorded, he also managed to create 5 of them.

He discovered that creating the rank two talismans recorded in the scripture was countless times easier than when he created the Golden Sword Talisman.

Previously, he had no guide at all. However, the talismans recorded in the Zhu Family Talisman Scripture were basically a step-by-step guide for dummies. As long as he grasped the key to several rank one talismans, he could easily extend the knowledge to craft the rank two ones!

Throughout the process, Shang Xia discovered something interesting. Out of all the talismans he made, most of them were sword talismans! He had no idea why, but he seemed to be drawn to sword talismans over the others. In fact, that was also the reason he chose to craft a rank two Golden Sword Talisman previously!

Of the 13 rank one talismans he made, six of them were sword talismans. 2 of the 5 rank two talismans also contained principles similar to those behind sword talismans.

Because of his discovery, a bold idea was born in his mind. He wanted to try creating a sword talisman containing sword intent!

One had to admit that Shang Xia was slightly overestimating himself. There were countless rank two talismans in existence, and he hadn't been a rank two talisman master for long. Hell, he hadn't even made a substantial number of rank two sword talismans! Now, he wanted to create a new type of talisman containing sword intent...

According to his plan, he could split off a little bit of his sword intent from one of the five tiny swords surrounding his Yin Yang Diagram and seal them into the talisman. However, things were easier said than done. Every time he tried it, he failed miserably.

Even so, Shang Xia didn't plan to give up. After repeated tries and wasting 20 pieces of rank two talisman paper, Shang Xia finally managed to create two half-talismans containing sword intent.

Each half contained his ice and fire sword intent respectively, but whenever he tried to fuse them together, the resulting power would create a mini explosion.

After wasting so many pieces of rank two talisman paper, Shang Xia finally realized that the reason behind his failure might be because of the quality of talisman paper. Ordinary talisman paper might not be able to contain his sword intent and he decided to test it out using talisman jade.

During his first try, the clash of the opposing qi caused a massive explosion that wiped out the rest of the rank two talisman paper he had on his table. The frosty qi that emerged also froze the ink he was using.

Reflecting on what he could have done better, Shang Xia realized that he didn't need to fuse both fire and ice qi! Like the situation in his dantian, fire and ice qi could remain separate until the time came to fuse them together!

Putting the theory to the test, Shang Xia decided to seal his fire sword intent into one side of the talisman and his ice sword intent into the other. The talisman jade would still remain one solid piece but it would contain an invisible barrier between the opposing types of sword intent! Only when it was activated would the power on both sides fuse together!

As Shang Xia's Yin Yang Essence Qi started to transform, his Thorny Brush danced on the surface of the jade. As runes were slowly carved out on its surface, he finally completed half his talisman!

Even though only half of it was completed, the runes on the talisman jade didn't dissipate immediately. Instead, it seemed extremely stable as one type of sword intent had already been sealed within. Shang Xia felt a burst of joy after seeing the product. Even though it was only half complete, he knew that his idea was feasible! A type of rank two talisman that he came up with was starting to take shape!

Chapter 209: Contest

It could be said that Shang Xia somewhat had experience creating talismans like that.

When he successfully comprehended his Chaos Essence Lightning Palm, he created several Lightning Charms with the use of Lightning Wood Boards. Those lightning charms could be considered rank one talismans, and even though the power contained in each couldn't match up to the Chaos Essence Lightning Palm if he executed the technique personally, it was impressive nonetheless. If he managed to catch Martial Extremity Realm cultivators off guard, he would be able to seriously injure them!

...

After taking a break, he managed to complete the other half of the talisman.

He might have created a new type of rank two talisman, but his instincts told him that it would definitely be several times stronger than any of the rank two talismans he made previously.

Successfully creating the Ice and Fire Twin Intent Sword Talisman, Shang Xia felt really good about himself. Recovering to his peak state, Shang Xia decided to create sword talismans out of the other pairs of sword qi.

Once again, he overestimated his abilities. He didn't succeed on his first try, or the second try for that matter. Destroying his third piece of talisman jade, Shang Xia finally discovered that creating talismans like that wouldn't be as easy as he thought. He only succeeded on his fourth try. This time, he sealed softness and strength qi into the second talisman. After he was done, he felt a wave of weakness hitting his body.

He might be exhausted, but he had proven that his idea was feasible. With the creation of a second talisman like that, Shang Xia discovered that the first one he made wasn't a fluke.

Luckily, he gained an insane amount of money during his trip too. He had enough silver essence to support his crazy spending on his talisman experiments.

In the past few days, Shang Xia didn't waste a single second. Even when he slept, he did so in a seated position while circulating his inner qi. Now that he exhausted himself after completing the talisman, taking a proper nap didn't sound too bad. Crawling onto a stone bed nearby, he started to drift off into sleep.

However, an idea flashed through his mind right before he fell asleep. He could just seal a single type of sword qi into one talisman and used them however he liked! Well, too bad he was overwhelmed by his fatigue and the world around him turned dark.

He had no idea how long he slept for. Feeling extremely energized when he woke up, a knocking soon appeared at his door.

Shang Quan came over to deliver a batch of rank two talisman paper and rank two ink.

"Uncle Quan, about the thing in the past..." Shang Xia asked.

"Are you talking about the eighty silver essence you owe Sun Haiwei? Relax. I gave it to her a long time ago. It's your money anyway. I sold off some lower leveled treasures and herbs you handed me and gave her a part of the proceeds." Shang Quan chuckled before tossing a bag over. From the rattling of the bag, Shang Xia could tell that a substantial amount of silver essence was contained within.

Shang Quan continued, "Other than the money used to purchase your talisman paper and ingredients to make rank two ink, everything is in there. There should be around three hundred silver essence."

Weighing the bag in his hand, a grin appeared on Shang Xia's face. "Hah! Looks like Uncle Quan is really looking out for me. I only gave you the rank one and two items to sell but there's so much money leftover..."

Waving his hand slightly, Shang Quan explained, “Not really. I didn’t give you any special treatment here. After so many great battles, the surviving disciples managed to gain a whole lot. Many of their cultivation improved, and many of their weapons were damaged in the wars. All of them were trying to get their hands on the stuff you gave me. The demand for rank one and two treasures went through the roof! I managed to sell all of them for a good price. Oh right, the situation in the Tongyou City seems pretty interesting too.”

“Tongyou City? Oh right, what happened back in the institution?” Shang Xia asked.

He had been in seclusion the whole time and he didn’t know what was going on on the Tongyou Peak itself, much less the city.

“I heard that many native cultivators of the Tongyou City have returned. Cultivators from other continents have also streamed into the city, resulting in a three-way standoff. Our Tongyou City isn’t the only one affected either. The surrounding cities have also turned slightly chaotic. Deputy Patriarch Ji left several days ago to suppress the disorder in the city. According to our sources, Instructor Liu Qinglan and Kang Ci will be returning to the city too.” Shang Quan explained.

Shang Xia frowned. “Why didn’t Deputy Patriarch Yun return? She’s holding the Hidden Frost Sword and she should be enough to stop all the chaos back in the city!”

“Ever since the battle on the Four Spiritual Peak, Deputy Patriarch Yun stationed herself there. She shouldn’t be returning to the city anytime soon.”

Shang Xia quickly understood what his uncle implied and his expression sank. “Are the four great races starting to move again so quickly?”

Shaking his head, Shang Quan sighed, “I’m not too sure. She might also be protecting the Coral Forest to prevent any unexpected situation from arising when it’s being shifted.”

As the two of them were speaking, the ground under their feet started to shake. Thinking it was a slight tremor, the two of them ignored it.

As the shaking became more and more violent, the two of them could no longer sit still. There was even a deep rumbling coming from down under.

Glancing at each other, the two of them decided to step out from the cultivation chamber. They discovered that the main peak wasn’t the only thing that was shaking. The six auxiliary peaks around them were also quaking violently. Even the skies above weren’t spared.

“What’s going on?” Shang Quan muttered softly.

Shang Xia realized that he wasn’t wrong when he thought that something was different about the Tongyou Peak.

“The entire region is moving.” A voice interrupted their thoughts and Shang Xia appeared behind them.

“Wait. We’re rising into the air and moving?” Shang Xia widened his eyes in surprise. “Isn’t our Tongyou Peak and the Four Spiritual Peak supposed to be locations in the

battlefield between two worlds that will remain where they stand? Why are we moving all of a sudden?"

Shang Xi explained, "You're right. When our Tongyou Peak and the Four Spiritual Peak were established, we chose a location close to the entrance to our world. However, the distance between our territories has been inching closer and closer ever so slightly. Now that twenty years have passed, the distance between us has been shortened to less than a thousand miles! Actually, we have been preparing for a huge battle that would lead to one of the two sides being wiped out for several years now! We estimated that in three to five years, the distance between the two mountain ranges would become so close that we would have no choice but to fight! Luckily for us, the Four Spiritual Peak has been destroyed."

"Why would our Tongyou Peak and the Four Spiritual Peak inch forward anyway? Is there a reason behind it?" Shang Xia asked.

After thinking about it for a moment, Shang Xi frowned. "This entire thing might be a contest to see which world is stronger. I don't know much of the details, but all I know is that any side that manages to wipe out the other world from the battlefield between two worlds would receive a lot of benefits. Patriarch Kou should be the clearest about the situation. He might have shared the reason with the deputy patriarchs but other than that, nobody really knows. Even the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the institution don't know the full story. Everything I told you came from your Grandpa Ke."

Nodding slightly, Shang Xia followed up with another question. "Oh right, why are we rising into the air anyway?"

"I heard that they brought back some sort of broken rank five treasure the other day. They're probably using it alongside some sort of formation to do this." Shang Xi replied.

A light flashed through Shang Xia's eyes. A broken rank five treasure seemed familiar. It might be the broken fate dipper he handed over to Shang Ke.

Turning to stare at Shang Xia, Shang Xi asked, "The institution will be sending a convoy back to the city soon. Fifth Uncle plans on leading the members of our clan back personally. Do you wish to return with them?"

"Yeah." Shang Xia replied after thinking for a second.

Chapter 210: Sudden Assault

On the 27th of the 8th month of the 843rd year of the Divine Martial Calendar, Shang Xia finally left the battlefield between two worlds after three months of danger-fraught adventures.

The holiday given by the institution had already ended. Out of the disciples of the outer division, a third of them had been eliminated while half of the rest had been retained. The remaining disciples had been promoted to the inner division, becoming proper members of the Tongyou Institution.

Originally, the number of students who should have been promoted to the inner division should number a little more than 110. However, due to various accidents and the war on the Tongyou Peak, more than twenty of them died. 90 students were left.

There were 30 students in the inner division who were made to stay for another year and after everyone gathered, there were exactly 120 of them in the inner division! Twenty disciples would share a room.

Things were different from the past. Previously, 30 to 40 students would share a single room. It seemed as though things had changed in the Tongyou Institution.

“The twenty years of accumulation of our Tongyou Peak finally bore fruits!” Shang Xi sighed softly.

In the past, there were too few unusable talents in the Tongyou Institution. The battlefield between the two worlds had also sucked up a huge part of their strength.

After so many years, the institution finally nurtured enough experts to become instructors in the institution. With the temporary disappearance of the experts from the Azure Spiritual World from the battlefield between the two worlds, the Tongyou Peak could also deploy a batch of experienced seniors back to the institution.

“The more classes there are, the greater the amount of resources required. Since the number of students in each class has decreased, everyone will be able to obtain more resources. Instructors and teachers will also be able to focus more on each student.” Shang Xi analyzed.

Shang Xia’s expression fell slightly. “I missed the first month of class... Won’t I be ineligible to obtain the training resources allocated previously?”

“Don’t pretend like you care about that little bit of resources.” Shang Xi snapped at him in annoyance.

A pitiful look appeared on Shang Xia’s face and he cried, “Of course I care about it! It’s better than receiving nothing!”

“Hah! You can try applying with the institution and request for them to make it up to you.” Shang Xi sneered in his face.

Chuckling loudly, Shang Xia changed his line of questioning. “I wonder if the outer division will experience any changes this year...”

“Of course there will be.” Peng Lanqing, an instructor of the outer division appeared out of nowhere and laughed softly, “We were planning to expand the outer division to contain eight divisions in total, but we decided to increase it to ten divisions after what happened. We’ll be able to take in five hundred students in the outer division!”

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“What?! That’s a lot of students!” Shang Xia gasped.

Peng Lanqing’s laughter continued. “Haha. There might be a lot of them, but less than one hundred and fifty will be able to enter the inner division after a year.”

“Are you guys planning on raising the bar to enter the inner division too?”

Peng Qinglan smiled in response. “Naturally. We have to increase the quality of our students...”

Shang Xi added at the side, “Won’t our institution expand our influence and start recruiting from other regions too?”

“That’s right. We plan to allow the disciples of native families of our Tongyou City, who left for other continents in the past, to enroll in the institution.” Peng Lanqing muttered.

Exchanging some pleasantries, Peng Lanqing and Kang Ci soon left. The newly ascended patriarch of the Shang Clan, Shang Ke, led the disciples of the Shang Clan back to the city along with the supply convoy returning to the institution. The moment they entered the city and split from those from the institution, they sauntered back to the Shang Clan Manor in a majestic manner. At the same time, they attracted the attention of many people on the streets.

Perhaps it was because he had been away for too long, Shang Xia raced home the moment he returned to the city. He didn’t even bother checking which class he had been allocated to.

In the three short months that he had been away, a lot of changes happened to the Tongyou City. The number of people along the streets had also increased quite significantly.

From the way they dressed, many of them seemed to be wandering cultivators or people of other regions.

Even though the increase in population made the Tongyou City look a lot more prosperous on the surface, the city seemed to have lost some of its original characteristics. In fact, there seemed to be some chaos hidden in the bustle.

Shang Xia saw three destroyed shop fronts on his way back to the Shang Clan Manor, and it was obvious that a huge fight happened. Marks could be seen on the walls and Shang Xia sighed softly, “Looks like the city isn’t as peaceful as before...”

“Young master!”

Raising an eyebrow slightly, Shang Xia recognized the voice immediately. Turning around, he saw Yan Qi rushing over to this side.

Ever since the war on the Tongyou Peak, Shang Xia hadn’t seen Yan Qi. His uncle had been busy handling matters of the clan.

“Seventh Uncle, is something the matter?” Shang Xia chuckled happily.

A serious look could be seen on Yan Qi’s face when he spoke. “Young master, Fifth Master disappeared...”

As his eyes widened in shock, he turned to stare at the back of the convoy only to discover that Shang Ke was gone.

“Hmm... Martial Extermination Realm cultivators come and go as they please. Could he have already returned to the manor?” Shang Xia laughed nonchalantly.

His response was met with a shake of the head from Yan Qi. “Even if Fifth Master wanted to leave, he wouldn't do it so quietly. He would definitely tell some of us his plans. Now, other than Young Lady Xi, no one managed to discover his disappearance. She looks a little uneasy too.”

Shang Xia turned to look at his aunt and their gazes met. The two of them could tell that a seed of anxiety was starting to form in each other's hearts.

However, Shang Xia maintained his nonchalant expression and he chuckled loudly, “Hah! There's nothing to worry about! Do you really think someone will be bold enough to rob us in broad daylight?”

Shang Xia signaled to one of the members of the Shang Clan manning a carriage at the back of the convoy secretly while he was speaking. Acknowledging Shang Xia's intention, he took off the black cloth covering a cage and a black shadow shot into the skies.

Soft chirping sounds could be heard as the black shadow disappeared from everyone's sight.

“How many Martial Intent Realm experts do we have here?” Shang Xia whispered softly.

“Other than one of them who remained in the Tongyou Peak to take over Fifth Master's place, there's only Young Lady Xi and me.” Yan Qi responded softly.

A sigh left Shang Xia's lips. “Too bad that annoying Lightning Bird refuses to leave the battlefield between two worlds. If only it came with us... With its current strength, it can basically be considered a Martial Intent Realm cultivator.”

As the words left his lips, a loud cry came from the skies above.

Shang Xia's expression changed immediately and he yelled. “Stop the carriages! Prepare for battle!”

He urged his horse forward and Yan Qi followed beside him.

A cultivator clad in clothes belonging to native cultivators of the Tongyou City pulled out a short trident and stabbed it towards Shang Xia's horse as he rode by.

The sneak attack didn't end there. Rope extended out from the second floor of a nearby shophouse and shot directly towards Shang Xia. A peddler on the opposite side of the road flipped over a giant pot of boiling soup before grabbing the long pole beside him. With the pole in hand, he leaped at Shang Xia.

It went without saying that the Shang Clan's convoy had walked into an elaborate trap!

The moment his horse was stabbed by the trident, he could only leap off the creature's back. When that happened, he would be trapped by the rope coming for him and the pole-carrying peddler would take the chance to deal the decisive blow when he was distracted!