

## The Heavens 211

### Chapter 211: Rampaging Sword Qi

With things progressing up to that point, anyone could tell that the entire situation had been a meticulous scheme! They even calculated the reactions of a Martial Extremity Realm cultivator!

Unfortunately for them, they failed to account for Yan Qi! That was a true cultivator at the Martial Intent Realm! However, Yan Qi's presence didn't seem to matter as Shang Xia charged onwards regardless.

The body of the cultivator who was stabbing the trident towards Shang Xia's horse froze all of a sudden.

With his cultivation, he was able to regain control of his movements in the next instant. However, it was too late. Shang Xia's body brushed past him when he was still paralyzed.

Yan Qi followed closely behind Shang Xia but when he arrived beside the cultivator, he noticed something off about the man. Reaching out in surprise, he pulled something out of the man's body.

With the trident clattering to the ground, the cultivator held his neck with both his hands as his eyes widened in shock. Gurgling sounds escaped his lips and terror filled his mind. He wanted to warn his comrades about the frightening enemy but the blood seeping through his fingers stopped him.

The rope that was supposed to trap Shang Xia descended on Yan Qi instead. At the same time, the pole-wielding peddler smashed his weapon down on Yan Qi's head.

With a cold snort, a surge of qi surrounded Yan Qi. He waved his right hand in front of him and a faint silhouette flashed in his palms. It disappeared in the next moment, causing everyone to think that they were seeing things.

The rope falling over Yan Qi was sliced in two before anyone could react. With nothing left to restrain him, Yan Qi roared in anger and his divine sense surrounded the area. Two illusory wings seemed to emerge from his back as he sent a fearsome punch flying towards the falling pole.

"Crack!" The wooden pole that seemed to be made from precious materials shattered in two and the peddler was flung backward from the impact. Vomiting mouthfuls of blood, he crashed into one of the surrounding shops.

The miserable neigh of a horse filled the air, attracting everyone's attention. Yan Qi quickly turned to look at the source of the sound and saw several arrows sticking out of Shang Xia's Scarlet Cloud Horse. However, the rider was nowhere to be seen.

Slapping the horse he was riding violently, Yan Qi released an enraged cry as his mount surged forward.

His reckless advance was met with a loud roar from the side of the street. "I'll hold him back! You guys deal with Shang Xia!"

A well-built figure emerged from the shadow and he looked more like a lumberjack than a cultivator. He strolled over to the middle of the street and stopped Yan Qi from moving any further. Facing the charging Yan Qi, he released a cold snort before sending a powerful punch forward.

“**Martial Intent Realm!**” Yan Qi’s expression changed and he leaped off his mount. His hands formed the shape of claws as he reached for the buff cultivator standing in his way.

Facing Yan Qi’s claws, the buff cultivator punched out with both his fists.

A huge explosion filled the street and the shockwaves blew a few nearby carriages apart. The items contained within were scattered everywhere.

The ground beneath the buff cultivator broke apart and Yan Qi staggered slightly when he landed across him.

“Hmph. Why the hell do you look like a lumberjack? Don’t tell me being a cultivator isn’t tiring enough for you. You’re not someone from our Tongyou City.” Yan Qi growled.

“Hehe, what about you?? You’re not even from our Azure Origin World!”

The only reason behind their exchange of words was to catch their breath. The battle broke out again after the buff cultivator spoke. As the battle between them got more and more heated, the stalls at the side of the street quickly turned to dust.

When the two of them were fighting, Shang Xi was also ambushed.

Her opponent was holding a long silver fishing pole and he looked like some weird fisherman. With his divine sense descending suddenly, a sharp whistle broke through the air as his fishing pole stabbed at Shang Xi.

“Grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm... You guys really think highly of me!” Shang Xi snorted in contempt as her blades drew two beautiful arcs through the air.

Crisp ringing sounds rang through the air as a tiny hook attached to the end of a transparent line was sent flying away.

Seeing as his attacks had been deflected by Shang Xi, his expression turned serious. “Large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm...”

“What’s wrong? You look surprised. Did you guys not make a proper plan before coming or were you fed with some shitty information?” Shang Xi sneered in contempt.

With his eyelids jumping, the old expert who used the fishing pole snapped at her, “Preposterous! Eat this!” He swung his weapon at her after yelling.

With a burst of mocking laughter leaving her lips, blade intent emerged from Shang Xi’s blades. They slowly gathered together to form a giant illusory blade that hovered beside her, blocking off all attacks thrown her way.

...

From how two Martial Intent Realm opponents appeared to stall Yan Qi and Shang Xi, along with the disappearance of Shang Ke, the target of the attack couldn't be more clear. It seemed to be a huge conspiracy to capture Shang Xia!

After Yan Qi dealt with the pole-wielding peddler and the rope that aimed to capture Shang Xia, the plan seemed to have changed. Heaven and earth qi started to fluctuate as arrows flew towards Shang Xia's horse.

From the amount of power contained in those arrows, Shang Xia could tell that they were far from ordinary.

A burst of lightning surrounded him as he appeared several feet away from his horse.

Its miserable neigh rang in his ears as the arrows stabbed accurately into its body.

Shang Miao, a member of the Shang Clan who had reached the Martial Extremity Realm, was supposed to be the leader of the convoy. As Shang Ke was present, Shang Miao's only job was to follow the old man's instructions. Now that Shang Ke had disappeared, the responsibility of leading the convoy was thrown back to him. After hearing Shang Xia's yell earlier, he had already stopped the entire convoy to prepare for battle.

His timely decision proved to be invaluable as several dozen masked cultivators charged out from the alleyways towards them.

Even though they were prepared, one couldn't say that they were confident in the upcoming battle. As they had chosen to travel with the institution, they didn't bring many members of the Shang Clan along with them. After splitting up, there were only six cultivators protecting the Shang Clan's convoy! None of them expected anything to happen as they still had the Martial Extermination Realm expert, Shang Ke, traveling with them.

Now that the worst-case scenario had happened, all of them could only brace themselves for what was about to come next. Out of the six of them, Shang Miao's cultivation was the highest at the peak of the Martial Extermination Realm. However, that was far from enough to deal with their enemies! More than half of those charging over were in the Martial Extremity Realm!

"To the death."

Realizing that there was no way out, turning to run would be the stupidest move he could make. The moment he turned to flee, their defensive line would collapse and everyone would be thrown into chaos. Since they were going to die anyway, they might as well drag a few of their enemies with them! That was how cultivators of the Tongyou Institution acted anyway!

The disciples behind him revealed faces of despair, but an incomparable resolution filled their hearts. They got into formation immediately.

Right before the pack of masked cultivators could charge into the Shang Clan's convoy, another shadow appeared from behind Shang Miao. Before anyone could react, a frightening amount of sword qi tore through the streets. As it rampaged about, clattering sounds rang through the skies. After the chaos finally died down, Shang Miao and the disciples behind him realized that none of the enemies rushing towards them could take another step!

Chapter 212: Rampaging Sword Qi (cont)

In a sealed space above the Tongyou City, Shang Ke stood cautiously in mid air as his nerves were taut. His spear hovered around him as he got ready to take on any surprise attacks.

Despite his preparations, the ambush he was preparing for didn't happen.

The space around him started to twist all of a sudden as cracks appeared all around. The illusory space around Shang Ke was torn open forcefully.

With Ji Wenlong in the lead, Liu Qinglan and Kang Ci followed closely behind.

"There's nothing to worry about anymore. They're too crafty. They might have noticed that the few of us were prepared to take action and they should have already left." Ji Wenlong sighed as he signaled Liu Qinglan with his eyes.

With her whip, she drew a secret mark only revealed to the higher-ups of the Tongyou Institution and Shang Ke finally relaxed.

"How did they notice you? Did I reveal something through my actions?" Shang Ke asked after keeping his spear.

Ji Wenlong's expression turned serious and he shook his head slowly. "There can only be one other possibility. The Rose Party has already infiltrated the upper echelons of the other four institutions!"

"Even them..." Shang Ke muttered softly as his eyebrows furrowed together. "Why did we even tell them our plan?"

Liu Qinglan interrupted, "The plan was suggested by You Haibiao of the Beihai Institution in the Qing Continent. The plan was approved by the other four institutions too. After all, the Rose Party chose to work with the Four Spiritual Peak and destroyed the stability in the battlefield between the two worlds. They betrayed the Azure Origin World and that was something none of them could accept. If they were able to infiltrate our institution and place us in such a dangerous spot, how far would their influence in the other institutions stretch?"

An unhappy expression remained in Shang Ke's face as he grumbled, "Why did we choose my Shang Clan to bear the brunt of the blow anyway?"

"Senior Shang, who told you guys to take the lead to leave the Tongyou Peak? You made such a huge show of it too." Kang Ci laughed.

Ji Wenlong followed up with another explanation. "We made a lot of preparations for this. Regardless of which clan chose to lead the convoy back, we wouldn't allow them to suffer too many losses."

Shang Ke stared at the three of them before snorting coldly.

"Well, it's not like we failed completely. At the very least, we can confirm that Yu Wugou and Qiao Han are part of the conspiracy. They seem to be quite adamant about catching Shang Xia. As for those masked cultivators, a huge part of them are there to create a smokescreen about their actual goals. There might even be members of the Rose Party among them."

“Capturing Shang Xia? Looks like their plan isn’t as simple as we had thought. They probably plan to threaten us to release members of the Rose Party we captured.” Shang Ke sneered when he saw the group of masked cultivators down below. All of them had been stopped by Shang Xia’s sword qi and his tone turned chilly. “In that case, all of them deserve to die.”

“Brother Shang, that’s where you’re wrong.” Another person appeared in mid air, and Shang Ke immediately recognized him as Chang Huaiwu of the Yanmen Institution of the Bing Continent. “Those masked cultivators are disciples of the other institutions.”

Glancing at Chang Huaiwu from the corner of his eye, Shang Ke sneered, “Instructor Chang, looks like the members of your institution aren’t here.”

“Their plan had been leaked out a long time ago. Some members of my Yanmen Institution were starting to get restless but all of them managed to suppress their urges. Seeing so many of you here, it looks like they won’t be able to return safely today.” A bitter smile formed on Chang Huaiwu’s face.

Ji Wenlong ignored whatever he said and continued to question, “What about the Weiwu Institution of the Liang Continent and the Jianmen Institution of the Shu Continent?”

Chang Huaiwu shook his head and sighed, “None of their experts moved. Looks like the plan to kill the true experts of the Rose Party failed. There might be spies hidden among their higher-ups...”

His guess aligned perfectly with what Liu Qinglan, Ji Wenlong, and Kang Ci spoke about previously.

“How many Martial Extermination Realm experts of our institutions were able to take part in this plan? There are only a few of you who entered the Tongyou City. Who could it be?” Kang Ci threw out the final question.

“No matter who it is, they were definitely not a core part of our ambush team. They probably discovered the trap at the very last second and fled. If they made the plan with us, they would have called off the sneak attack on the Shang Clan’s convoy a long time ago. Patriarch Shang wouldn’t be dragged here by an illusion formation too.” A voice traveled over as a middle-aged man carrying a large sword on his back approached. He was clad in white robes, and he nodded towards Ji Wenlong and Chang Huaiwu slightly. He cupped his fists towards Shang Ke and gave his greetings. “Yu Chengjin of the Jianmen Institution greets Patriarch Shang. Congratulations on breaking through to the Martial Extermination Realm!”

“It’s an honor to meet Deputy Patriarch Yu!” Shang Ke returned his greetings.

“Elder Yu, why would you think that they only discovered our trap at the very last moment?” Liu Qinglan asked.

Clicking his tongue, Kang Ci interrupted, “What if there really is another spy at the highest level? They might have revealed the plan to their subordinate after it was conceived, causing them to be unable to recall the ambush in time. This would mean that there are at least two Martial Extermination Realm traitors...”

Chang Huaiwu’s frosty voice added, “The person planning to ambush Patriarch Shang should be a powerful expert too. They’re expecting Shang Bo to follow the convoy anyway and anyone who was confident of ambushing him had to be a supreme expert. After all, it won’t be easy to deal with a second layer Martial Extremity Realm expert in a short amount of time...”

The more they analyzed, the worse they felt.

Kang Ci had no choice but to shift the topic with a forced laughter, “No matter what, we managed to profit a little from this misadventure. Yu Wugou and Qiao Han are experienced experts in the Martial Intent Realm. Now that they exposed themselves, we can take the chance to weed out the other members of the Evil Remnants!”

“Did the thought of them being abandoned chess pieces not cross your mind? They might be using this as a distraction to draw all of us here anyway. If their spies are truly part of the upper echelons of the institutions, they might use this chance to set another trap for us!” The words barely left Shang Ke’s lips when a massive explosion rang through the skies.

Waves of heaven and earth qi filled the skies and they managed to feel the disturbance even through the protection formation around the city.

“Not good!” Chang Huaiwu’s expression changed as he flew towards the source of the explosion outside the city.

Ji Wenlong followed closely behind him. However, Kang Ci was stopped by Liu Qinglan right before he could rush towards the disturbance. Her intentions were clear. He was to stay in the institution to take control of things when the rest of them dealt with the sudden change in the situation.

Shang Ke remained where he stood as he looked at Yu Chengjin. The expert of the Jianmen Institution glanced around cautiously and the two of them chose to remain in the city. They were afraid that they would fall for another layer of the enemy’s traps.

Chapter 213: Following Chapters Have the Same Title So Have Fun Reading My Made Up Titles

Li Xi, an inner disciple of the Beihai Institution had been instructed by You Haibiao to mix in with the scattered cultivators in the Tongyou City to carry out detailed investigations on all of them. You Haibiao wanted to see if the evil faction was manipulating those cultivators in the dark.

When the news of the institution’s victory started to spread, there were also rumors going around that the Tongyou Institution only managed to obtain a bitter victory after sacrificing a lot of their strength.

Even more rumors popped up after that, stating how the Tongyou Institution was in bad shape. As one knew, rumors only got more and more exaggerated the more they spread. Soon, it was said that

the Tongyou Institution was on the verge of collapse in the battlefield between two worlds and they had to send the resources they plundered out as soon as they could.

From what they said, the Zhu Family's Inheritance was split evenly among the four great clans. Among the inheritance were dozens of advancement formulas, extermination origins, and even the most valuable treasure everyone pined for, the rank five advancement formula, had been obtained by the four great clans! There were also precious martial arts, scriptures, talismans, and even medicine among the loot.

Adding on the fact that the Tongyou Peak managed to crush the Four Spiritual Peak, the number of treasures possessed by the former would reach a terrifying amount!

As Li Xi mixed around with the scattered cultivators, he could vaguely feel that something was off. He could even feel that some of them were forming alliances in the dark.

"We might not dare to touch the Tongyou Institution, but why shouldn't we try to mess with one of the four clans?"

"We are only able to chance upon better techniques out in the wild. A great opportunity has presented itself! As the sayings went, the bold will prosper and the timid will starve! Let's see who has the guts to go through with this!"

"..."

Realizing that things were going south, Li Xi quickly made a report to You Haibiao. He had been instructed to infiltrate their ranks to look for the person behind the scenes.

That was the reason he joined the bunch of masked cultivators to assault the Shang Clan's convoy. Otherwise, why would an inner disciple of the Beihai Institution choose to join that ragtag bunch?

They managed to receive intelligence that the weakest of the four clans, the Shang Clan, was making their way back from the battlefield between the two worlds that day. Li Xi knew that those scattered cultivators would definitely take the chance to carry out a raid.

Things happened exactly as expected. The experts leading the way made the first move and the backup team shot Shang Xia's horse down. He appeared along with the rest of the cultivators to create some trouble. They wanted to create as much chaos as they could so that those involved would be able to hide in the crowd and run away when the time came.

When Li Xi was still thinking about whether he should change sides to help the Shang Clan, the situation changed! A young cultivator wielding two swords charged out of the fray and summoned dozens of sword lights, forcing everyone to stop where they were.

The distance between the masked cultivators and the convoy spanned several steps, but not a single person dared to move.

At that moment, Shang Xia was only using the moves recorded in the Dual Interference Sword Manual. With his current mastery, he could easily switch between the different types of qi and he was a step away from forming his sixth sword intent.

Waving both swords in the air, he managed to display the properties of both swords according to the essence of the Dual Interference Sword Manual. Light and heavy sword qi filled the air around him.

His swords were like the wind as they danced in the air. His fantastic display of the sword art caused everyone to stop dead in their tracks.

If they truly wanted to break through, charging towards Shang Xia in unison would do the trick. He wouldn't be able to stop everyone anyway! However, all of them were too afraid to take the next step. They hoped that someone would take the lead only to realize that everyone else thought the same way.

Seeing as no one dared to square up, Shang Xia's actions became more and more unbridled. He displayed his sword art to the best of his abilities.

When everyone thought that he was done, Shang Xia snorted coldly and a strange sight occurred. His movement changed and the feeling both swords gave off became completely unfathomable.

As he stepped closer to the group of masked cultivators, they finally understood how terrifying their opponent was. The weapons they had raised were either sent flying or it was sliced cleanly in two! Facing such a freak, they could only retreat!

Shang Xia couldn't be bothered by their reaction at that moment as he was fully focused on his final phase of comprehension. With the threat of being overrun by the enemy, he managed to break through the final bottleneck! He finally achieved the final stage of the Dual Interference Sword Manual!

Every time his sword slashed out, the person standing in his way would definitely take a step back. It didn't take long before he forced the entire group of scattered cultivators further away from the convoy.

With the increased distance between the mob and his clan's convoy, Shang Xia decided to focus on the changes that were starting to happen in his dantian.

Two tiny swords appeared above his Yin Yang Diagram when he reached enlightenment in the Dual Interference Sword Manual and they entered the eye of Yin and Yang respectively.

At long last, he comprehended his sixth sword intent! His Yin Yang Sword Formation would also experience a solid increase in strength!

As he was stuck in his trance, he didn't notice anything other than the dozens of cultivators before him. However, his actions caused a storm to batter against the hearts of the Shang Clan disciples. They stared at him like they were looking at a monster.

Even the group of masked disciples couldn't believe their eyes.

Finally, when Shang Xia's Jade Creek Sword flew towards one of their Martial Extremity Realm cultivators in the crowd to expose his identity, a blue sword light appeared to stop him. A loud clash rang in the ears of everyone present as someone finally managed to counter Shang Xia's sword.

"Good technique!" Shang Xia lowered his swords and he stared at the black clothed figure three feet away. "Looks like you're not some random nobody."

The black clothed man waved the blue sword in his hand and growled at Shang Xia, "Then I'll have to trouble you to give me some pointers!"

Chapter 214: You're Not Special



You Haibiao's plan for Li Xi to mix around with the scattered cultivators didn't stop there. Li Xi received explicit orders to help out the Shang Clan when the situation called for it.

However, the current situation caused him to realize that his help wasn't needed at all. The Shang Clan was more than capable of taking care of themselves.

Even though they were both technically on the same side, Li Xi, who was also a fanatic with the sword, couldn't hold himself back! Shang Xia's sword technique was too amazing and he had to experience it for himself.

After all, Shang Xia's actions were too reckless! In Li Xi's eyes, Shang Xia wasn't taking this whole thing seriously!

They ran into a trap laid down by their enemies and they had to face more than thirty masked cultivators! If anything went wrong, people were going to die. However, Shang Xia still had the mood to train in his sword techniques!

That wasn't the most ridiculous part. The scariest part of all of it was that Shang Xia's training was actually that it was working! He managed to stop every single opponent standing against him!

It didn't end there. He even managed to successfully comprehend his sword intent!

Everyone present felt a wave of humiliation wash over them. Li Xi was no exception!

One had to know that in the Beihai Institution, he was a genius in the way of the sword! Other people were his stepping stones to grow stronger! How could he accept it when Shang Xia was using him to train his sword art?

In Li Xi's eyes, Shang Xia was going too far!

When he saw how Shang Xia's sword was about to reveal the faces of one of those around him, he finally interfered.

Shang Xia noticed that the person who stopped him possessed impressive sword techniques right away!

The moment their swords clashed, a sword intent charged into Shang Xia's sea of consciousness in an endless tide. One single strike like that was stronger than all the half-assed defenses he faced earlier.

Luckily for him, Shang Xia's senses had been tuned by the many battles he had been through. After realizing that there was someone who was able to match up to him, he became a lot more cautious.

Li Xi didn't wish to expose his identity so early on, and what better chance to 'oppose' the Shang Clan as per the wishes of those controlling the situation behind the scenes than to fight with Shang Xia? At the same time, he could also exchange pointers with an expert in the way of the sword!

Li Xi was burning with battle intent, but so was Shang Xia! He managed to comprehend the sword intent behind the Dual Interference Sword Manual and an opponent appeared at that exact moment! He wouldn't miss the chance to refine his techniques in battle!

"Watch my sword!" Shang Xia yelled and started his offensive. His sword intent was released immediately.

Unwilling to show any weakness, Li Xi displayed his mastery over his Dusk Tide Sword Manual. Sword lights surged towards Shang Xia in an endless tide, threatening to overwhelm him.

Shang Xia's mastery over the Dual Interference Sword Manual was impressive, but his opponent was no weakling! They were evenly matched for the time being!

True to its name, Li Xi's sword qi rose and sank like the tide. It would rush towards Shang Xia ferociously in one moment and recede the next. As the sword lights returned to his side, they would form a powerful defense against the outside world!

One had to say that the Dusk Tide Sword Manual was really well balanced in terms of offense and defense. In Li Xi's hands, the tempo of the battle slowly swayed his way.

Even if some weaknesses were revealed, he would quickly amend his technique to prevent his opponent from capitalizing on it.

In a flash, the two of them exchanged close to a hundred moves.

Their swords danced in mid air as sword light clashed against each other. In the distance, the two of them resembled two giant balls of light that were contesting to see whose glow was stronger. Their battle wrecked the street around them as many structures started to collapse.

It was clear that Li Xi's mastery over his Dusk Tide Sword Manual allowed him to gain a small advantage over Shang Xia in the beginning stages of the battle. However, that was all he could do. As the battle dragged on, Shang Xia's momentum became stronger and he showed faint signs of suppressing Li Xi. The light around Shang Xia grew larger and larger while forcing Li Xi back.

With a balanced offensive and defensive might, Li Xi's Dusk Tide Sword Art could allow him to last for a long time in battle. However, Shang Xia's Yin Yang Essence Qi was like a massive cheat code. His foundations were a lot stronger than Li Xi, and his reserves were larger too.

Shang Xia might not be able to contest against Li Xi in terms of technique alone but he made up for it in terms of inner qi.

As the battle raged on, it became clear that Li Xi was losing steam a lot faster than Shang Xia. Even though Li Xi was annoyed, he couldn't do a thing about it!

Unwilling to take the L, Li Xi chose to risk it all. Leaping into the air, his low-grade weapon, the Blue Waves Sword, released a huge wave of energy. The space around them seemed to distort as a frightening power weighed down on Shang Xia.

That was his martial intent, the Sword Tide! With the ever-changing ebb and flow of the tide of sword qi, it seemed to possess enough power to swallow the heavens and devour the earth!

Facing the sudden change, Shang Xia seemed completely at ease. He wasn't surprised at all.

Circulating his inner qi, Shang Xia released the two swords formed by the sword intent he comprehended after mastering the Dual Interference Sword Manual.

The Jade River Sword disappeared in his hand as sword lights surrounded him.

With one sword to hold up the heavens and one sword to anchor the earth, Shang Xia gathered the sword lights to release a single strike!

The one move seemed to contain immeasurable power!

Both strikes met in mid air and in the face of Shang Xia's sword intent emerged as the victor. Li Xi's Sword Tide was shattered into countless pieces.

When his broken sword intent caused sword qi to scatter chaotically, another change happened!

Li Xi changed his approach and shocked everyone present. The sword tide that was planning to swallow everything in its path transformed. Gathering back together, the sword lights pulsed a little more gently.

That was the true meaning behind his martial intent, the Sword Tide! Dusk would never remain forever. Dawn would break eventually no matter how dark the night and the tides would rise again!

At that instant, Shang Xia raised his eyebrow in shock. A secondary sword intent! In front of everyone present, a secondary sword intent appeared! It was the first time in the history of the Azure Origin World that anyone other than Shang Xia had seen a secondary sword intent! According to the knowledge of everyone in the Azure Origin World, it was not possible to possess more than one sword intent! That was also the reason Shang Ke was confused about Shang Xia's sword art previously!

Li Xi's secondary sword intent, Twilight, was revealed!

A thought flashed in Shang Xia's mind at that instant. The dao coincides with nature!

Ever since he gained some inspiration when sparring with Dongfang Mingyu the first time they met, he had never experienced anything like this. Now, Shang Xia's view of the Azure Origin World changed once again.

They might not know about Yin and Yang and how the dao was contained in everything around them, but they were definitely smart enough to make inferences. They could experiment slowly and uncover all the secrets behind the dao!

No matter what, the era of cultivation barely started in the world. The history of cultivating didn't even go back a thousand years!

If they took Shang Xia out of the equation, they would eventually be able to connect the dots and understand the theory behind yin and yang.

Li Xi's sword art might cause Shang Xia to raise his eyebrows in shock, but it wouldn't be able to change the course of the battle!

Chapter 215: Pew Pew Shooting A Sword Through The Air

The moment Twilight was unleashed, Li Xi felt that he had a chance to turn the tides of the battle.

He didn't expect Shang Xia to shatter his sword intent right after recovering from his shock.

The Jade Creek Sword that was still in Shang Xia's hand edged forward slightly. A thin stream of sword qi emerged as the two opposing types of qi merged, poking a small hole in Li Xi's Twilight.

It might just be an incomparably small prick, but the effects were terrifying. The second wave of sword qi that wanted to swallow Shang Xia whole dissipated in an instant!

Li Xi quickly discovered that while his sword qi was gone, his opponent's wasn't! He could tell that there was something strange about his opponent's sword qi but he was unable to get rid of it no matter how he tried!

Shang Xia's sword qi started to transform once again. A trace of white and a stream of black separated from the thin strand of sword qi as it turned into two slender fishes that swam in a perfect circle, chasing each other's tail.

Even though Li Xi summoned more sword qi to defend himself, he discovered that they were on the verge of collapse! A surge of darkness threatened to overwhelm him.

When he finally forced his sword qi to come under control, the darkness receded and a piercing white glow took over. It broke through his defenses like it was paper!

Never in his wildest dreams did he think that his secondary sword intent would be destroyed so easily!

Even though his sword qi was still in the air, he had lost control of them completely. Li Xi knew that he had lost.

He was baffled by the way he lost, but he couldn't do a thing about it!

Retrieving his sword, he discovered that the threat surrounding him had also disappeared. His opponent was standing opposite him with his sword behind his back.

"How?" Li Xi couldn't help but ask.

Instead of replying immediately, Shang Xia thought about it for a second. "Twilight is the moment before dawn, and it represents both darkness and light. I only needed to reverse the flow of qi and everything came crumbling down."

"Darkness and light..." Li Xi muttered to himself. Raising his head to stare at the enemy who defeated him, he sighed, "Interesting. Not anyone can integrate the properties of darkness and light into my Twilight sword intent. I guess there's no point hiding anymore. You can call me Li Xu, and I'm the leader of the inner division of the Beihai Institution. You're an admirable opponent!"

"It was a good battle, Brother Li! The five institutions defending the border stand on the same side. As it turns out, I was lucky enough to meet a comrade of the Beihai Institution today." A smile formed on Shang Xia's face. Even though a thousand questions were forming in his mind, his expression remained cheery. He wasn't planning on digging deeper into the matter if the other party wasn't planning to explain.

"I am ashamed of what happened today. In the future, I will definitely pay you a visit! I bid my farewell for now." Li Xi cupped his fists towards Shang Xia before disappearing from the mob.

"Hehe... Impressive... he has two sword intents!"

Shang Xia overheard someone muttering to himself but was unable to pinpoint the source of the voice.

When he started to fight Li Xi, Shang Xia definitely had the intention of tempering his sword art through battle. However, he recalled the situation they were in and chose to end the battle as soon as he could.

Shang Xia might not know much about the darkness and light sword intent, but he could replicate both types of qi after fighting with Dongfang Mingyu twice.

In the past, Shang Xia was also able to transform his qi into light and heavy qi after obtaining the Unstable Rock. After refining Dongfang Mingyu's sword qi back in the battlefield between two worlds, transforming his Yin Yang Essence Qi to darkness and light qi was a piece of cake.

When Li Xi revealed his secondary sword intent, Shang Xia was struck with a flash of inspiration. Darkness and light made up the foundations of Twilight and tempering with them would cause his opponent's technique to crumble!

Shang Xia's guess was on point. Li Xi was strong, but he wasn't strong enough!

Naturally, Shang Xia was comparing Li Xi to himself. Against others at the same level, Li Xi would be a force to be reckoned with.

By the time Li Xi gathered his inner qi to release his secondary martial intent earlier, he was on the verge of exhaustion. His inner qi was running dry. It was no wonder Shang Xia could defeat him so easily.

At the end of the day, Li Xi only lost because of his weaker reserves. Shang Xia's final act of reversing darkness and light only served to ensure his defeat.

Then again, the Beihai Institution was located in the Qing Continent. Coincidentally, the Dongfang Family of the Evil Remnants was based there! Shang Xia gasped silently when he thought about the sword art used by Li Xi and Dongfang Mingyu. Was it possible that Li Xi's sword art had some sort of connection with the Dongfang Family?

Regardless, it wasn't time to think about all that. The battle between Shang Xia and Li Xi earlier had exceeded the scope of a battle between Martial Extremity Realm disciples. Their battle completely shocked the mob who came to attack the Shang Clan's convoy.

Moreover, Li Xi revealed his identity before he left. Anyone with half a brain in the crowd would realize that something was very wrong. No one would dare to jump out and cause trouble anymore. Regardless if they were spies from the other institutions like Li Xi or they were truly there to cause trouble, all of them had half a mind to escape. Even though they outnumbered Shang Xia countless times, they didn't dare to take a step forward.

The battle between the Martial Intent Realm experts reached a new high as Shang Miao and the rest huddled closer around the carriages.

As the thought of assisting Yan Qi and Shang Xi entered his mind, a sharp whistle came from a pavilion a hundred feet away.

Shang Xia turned to stare at the source of the sound and he met the gaze of a patron in the pavilion.

"I am Ma Qi of the Weiwu Institution. I hope Brother Shang will be kind enough to give me some pointers." A soft voice entered Shang Xia's mind. Before he could react, a white-robed figure leaped out of the third-story window. His feet lightly tapped

against the roofs of buildings separating them and it didn't take long for him to approach Shang Xia.

His sleeves trembled slightly and a sword that was as thin as could be shot at Shang Xia while emitting frosty light.

“Flying Sword!”

Gasps came from the crowd as Shang Xia narrowed his eyes. He seemed as though he was trying to lock on to the flying sword.

Against the sword art that awed those present, Shang Xia looked incomparably calm.

Chapter 216: And Another One

Flying Sword? In Shang Xia's eyes, it was nothing but a flashy technique.

He had long since learned how to do something like that. Due to his insistence to train in multiple sword manuals, he gained a strong insight into the way of the sword. He couldn't be bothered with a sword technique that only focused on outward appearances. It might look cool to shoot a sword at their opponent, but it had no practical use!

For a sword cultivator who hasn't congealed their divine sense or reached the realm of becoming one with their sword, throwing out a sword like that was basically giving their weapon away. Unless the opponent was a lot weaker than them, they could forget about dealing any sort of substantial damage.

At that point, even if one managed to send out the sword containing their divine sense, it would be kind of useless too! The further the sword traveled, the weaker the cultivator's divine sense would be!

Since the sword would be traveling extremely quickly, it wouldn't take long for it to leave the radius of a cultivator's divine sense.

Even with precise control over their sword, sending their weapon away from them wouldn't be the best choice either. If anyone carried out a sneak attack or got close to them, they would be defenseless!

If everything that was said earlier applied to Martial Intent Realm experts, there was nothing much to say for those at the Martial Extremity Realm.

Ma Qi looked really cool as he charged over, but Shang Xia was confident of shattering his technique with a single strike before the flying sword could arrive.

However, his rationality got the better of him. Ma Qi dared to attack Shang Xia even after witnessing the battle between Li Xi and himself. There had to be something backing his confidence if he still tried to exchange pointers with Shang Xia!

As such, Shang Xia was fairly certain that Ma Qi's fighting style would quickly transform. That was also the reason why he hadn't moved to intercept the flying sword yet.

Indeed. When it was nearly thirty feet away from Shang Xia, the frosty light surrounding the sword separated to form hundreds of rays of sword light. They rained down on Shang Xia like a summer's drizzle.

“Void and reality qi? Or is it something else?” Shang Xia questioned in his heart. Even though he didn’t know what type of qi his opponent was using, the attack was already on him! He had to react.

It took a mere thought for him to transform his qi again. Instead of the Jade Creek Sword, the Jade River Sword returned to his hand.

A flurry of sword light emerged from Jade River as they scattered like petals in a flower field. They landed accurately on the sword light sent by the other side.

Seeing as their attacks were about to clash, the white-robed cultivator increased his speed. He raced behind his sword light and reached out his hand to casually tap at the void before him.

The hundreds of rays of sword light converged in an instant. A sword light measuring a hundred feet in length surged forward.

“Fusion and separation...” Shang Xia muttered to himself as he recognized it right away.

He was no stranger to the dao of fusion and separation. After all, he had witnessed Liu Qinglan using it against Ran Biluo during the war on the Tongyou Peak.

Even a powerful expert like Liu Qinglan who was at the Martial Extermination Realm only dared to separate her senses into seven parts to control her seven segmented whip previously. Shang Xia couldn’t help but sneer when he saw how many parts Ma Qi separated his senses to.

While the thoughts ran through his head, Ma Qi’s sword light was still flying towards him at a terrifying pace. Everyone present thought that Shang Xia would be helpless when faced with the sudden change when his scattered sword qi gathered to form a screen between Ma Qi and the sword qi he controlled!

When Ma Qi gathered his sword qi to form the giant sword, he managed to shatter some of the sword light coming his way. However, his actions were completely useless as the sword light possessed the properties of void and reality!

With the formation of the screen, Ma Qi could no longer effectively command his sword light! The connection between them seemed to be broken as the giant sword light started to tremble in mid air.

Without his weapon, Ma Qi’s attempt to break through the screen of sword qi became an uphill battle. The sudden shift in the battlefield truly caught him off guard.

As a somewhat experienced cultivator, he knew that the most important thing he had to do was to recall his weapon! However, his flying sword was surrounded by the hundreds of sword lights he summoned earlier. How was he supposed to call it back?

The screen that separated them didn’t stop his flying sword from advancing towards Shang Xia. In the split second that he realized the connection was broken, his flying sword had already reached the limit at which he could control it! The trembling of the blade became even more obvious.

With a slight wave of his sword, Shang Xia scattered Ma Qi’s sword qi. Jade River wrapped itself around the sword mercilessly as Shang Xia dragged it towards himself.

By the time the screen of sword qi disappeared, Ma Qi discovered that his connection with his weapon had already been broken. He saw Shang Xia holding two swords in his hand, along with a toothy grin plastered on his face.

It went without saying that allowing one's opponent to obtain your weapon was utterly humiliating.

As the blood drained from Ma Qi's face, Shang Xia casually flicked his wrist to send the man's sword flying back to him. Even though the battle had just concluded, another youth in the crowd stood out and pointed the tip of his sword at Shang Xia. "It's easy for you to obtain victory against Brother Ma. Why did you humiliate him that way? Hmph. I am Yang Chao of the Yanmen Institution. I hope to receive your pointers too!"

What the fuck is going on today?!

Shang Xia sighed inwardly. Disciples of three institutions had already appeared and all of them were sword cultivators at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm!

How could things be so coincidental?

Weren't the five institutions supposed to be on the same side? Couldn't they see that the Shang Clan's convoy was in a precarious situation at the moment with enemies all around? Why the hell were they trying to exchange pointers with him?

It was fine if they didn't step out to help the Shang Clan out of the dangerous situation. With so many of them challenging him, they were basically hitting the Shang Clan when they were down! Were they trying to declare war on the Shang Clan or something?

Shang Xia might be extremely suspicious about their motives, but he didn't dare to be careless when facing the incoming sword intent.

The feeling he got from his new opponent, Yang Chao, told him that the man was probably at the same level as Li Xi.

Shang Xia drew an imaginary circle in front of him with his Jade River Sword and it quickly split into twelve formless rings that rose into the air.

Facing Shang Xia's interesting defense, Yang Chao stepped slightly in the air and his body traveled several feet forward. In the same instant he moved, the twelve formless rings summoned by Shang Xia locked down the space around them and the void became a little more solid than before.

As long as he took a single wrong step, he would be trapped in a quagmire of softness and strength qi.

Shang Xia unleashed the sword intent he comprehended after fusing both softness and strength qi together in one of the earliest sword arts he practiced. The martial intent was called Sword River, similar to the name of the sword policy he practiced.

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Unfortunately for him, his opponent dodged in time.

Yang Chao clearly wasn't a weakling. The moment he avoided being trapped by Shang Xia's Sword River, he launched his counterattack. When his feet touched the ground below, he twisted his body in a strange fashion before stabbing his sword forward to dissipate his momentum. His body froze unnaturally in mid air as though he was waiting for something to happen!



Shang Xia's expression changed drastically when he noticed Yang Chao's actions. In the instant Yang Chao's body froze, the twelve rings that were converging towards where Yang Chao was supposed to be missed!

Chapter 217: Wtf?

Ever since he started training in the way of the sword, the River Sword Policy was the first set of sword manuals he practiced! It could even be said that the Flexible Sword Art that allowed him to comprehend the sword intent behind softness and strength qi was the one was the most familiar with!

Out of the six different sword intents he comprehended, he was most comfortable with River Sword. It was also the technique that possessed the strongest offensive ability!

He didn't notice anything off when Yang Chao dodged his first strike, but his curiosity was piqued when Yang Chao avoided his second move!

There were several explanations for the matter, and one of them was that Yang Chao had already grasped the way to break Shang Xia's technique! Another was that Yang Chao had some sort of special method to predict where Shang Xia's strike would go!

Shang Xia was naturally more inclined to believe the latter. After all, Yang Chao would probably have launched a fierce counterattack if he understood how to break Shang Xia's technique.

With the opponent avoiding two of his strikes, Shang Xia felt a sense of danger slowly encroaching on him. He didn't dare to attack recklessly anymore and he changed his focus to defense.

The moment the intention to defend crossed his mind, Yang Chao attacked!

It seemed as though Yang Chao was a special type of person. He would remain still when required, but he would strike like lightning the moment the opponent showed signs of wavering!

With his sword back in hand, Yang Chao stabbed at Shang Xia with frightening speed. His strike was even faster than when he threw the sword out earlier, and the power contained behind the strike was countless times stronger.

When Shang Xia unleashed his martial intent comprehended from the Flexible Sword Manual, the River Sword, his strike was unhurried and it contained an astounding amount of power. Somewhat similar to Shang Xia, Yang Chao's stab contained a frightening amount of power. However, it was a lot faster, and it arrived when his opponent was retreating.

If he was facing any other ordinary opponent, he would probably have been the victor right then and there. Even if the opponent wasn't defeated immediately, they would have to retreat heavily in order to survive.

Too bad for him, Shang Xia wasn't an ordinary opponent!

Not flustered in the slightest, Shang Xia no longer cared about the consumption of his inner qi. He transformed his Yin Yang Essence Qi in a torrential fashion and a dense layer of sword light appeared in front of him.

Yang Chao's strike was unable to penetrate the web of sword light that was formed around Shang Xia and the closest it got was three inches away from his target.

Those three inches were like an insurmountable gap that mocked Yang Chao unceasingly.

Trapped in the web of sword qi, Yang Chao's strike finally lost all the energy contained in it. Seeing as it was time to counterattack, Shang Xia launched his offensive immediately. Long strands of sword light emerged from the web of sword qi. They extended quickly towards Yang Chao, but when they were three inches away from the man, they were shattered by Yang Chao's sudden withdrawal of his sword.

Once again, Shang Xia failed to triumph over his enemy!

It was the third time that happened, and that was after Shang Xia had used a different technique! He was using the moves contained in the Hidden Needle Manual, and he was defending and attacking at the same time! He wanted to draw Yang Chao closer to end the battle quickly, but to his surprise, the man avoided it at the last second!

Yang Chao might have dodged the third round of Shang Xia's attack, but unfortunately for him, they were too close to each other at that moment. Shang Xia finally caught on to the weakness behind his technique!

When Yang Chao retreated tens of feet away, he felt Shang Xia's playful gaze landing on him.

"Haha, as it turns out, you're training in the dao of movement and stillness!"

A frosty light flashed through Yang Chao's eyes suddenly as killing intent threatened to leak out of his body. His expression sank as he glared at Shang Xia.

His vaguely concealed anger was met with a chuckle from Shang Xia. "Your sword technique is truly profound. You seem to be able to see through your opponent. You act decisively by striking the moment your opponent shows the slightest weakness. I wonder what sword art you train in?"

"This... I train in the Agile Sword Manual!" Yang Chao growled. "I thought that I would be able to see through your moves, allowing me to seize the initiative during our battle. Who would have thought that I would still be defeated in the end..." Shaking his head, Yang Chao continued, "Your technique has touched on the realm of perfection. It's nearly impossible to predict your move and even though I managed to see through them at the last moment, I had to react accordingly. It was fortunate for me to be able to keep my life, but defeating you should be impossible..."

"Agile Sword Manual? The dao of movement and stillness..." Shang Xia muttered under his breath. After a second of contemplation, a smile appeared on his face and he chuckled, "A second of stillness might be better than charging forth recklessly. Counter aggression with passiveness, strike when you have grasped the enemy's intentions. Brother Yang, you have reached a high level of achievement in your sword art. You stood immobile when required but you struck like lightning the moment you noticed an opportunity."

Shang Xia wasn't messing around with him. Instead, he spoke about his comprehension of the battle. He recalled a saying from his original world and he casually spoke of it.

Yang Chao, who was standing opposite him, was unable to maintain his calm appearance after hearing what Shang Xia said. Those words were like massive bombs exploding in his head. He couldn't help but ask, "Brother Shang, did you also train in the Agile Sword Manual?"

He quickly realized that his question was rather foolish. If Shang Xia had trained in the Agile Sword Manual, he wouldn't have been able to last three moves against Shang Xia.

Watching how Shang Xia was trying to control his laughter, he quickly suppressed the raging waves battering against his heart. "I wonder how Brother Shang came up with the theory. Moreover, the techniques you used when fighting against Li Xi and Ma Qi were completely different. I heard rumors of the Murong Family's Triple Mystery Polarity Art and I wonder if that's how you managed to display so many different skills?"

Chuckling slightly, Shang Xia replied, "You're not far off from the truth. I drew on the experience of cultivating the Triple Mystery Polarity Art and made a few changes!"

From the time Ma Qi appeared, Shang Xia knew that some of his secrets would be seen through by those present. Revealing some information to Yang Chao might not be a bad thing. Sating their curiosity could allow him to avoid many troublesome matters in the long run.

Yang Chao nodded slowly and muttered to himself, "Brother Shang is really a genius. You definitely used several sword intents earlier..."

Shang Xia nodded politely but remained silent about the matter. Seeing Shang Xia's reaction, Yang Chao decided to end things there. "Brother Shang definitely received a lot of insights after the multiple battles today. Let's call it a draw, shall we?"

Despite Yang Chao's attempt to end the battle, a playful grin returned to Shang Xia's face. "Brother Yang, I'm afraid you're looking down on me."

Yang Chao's expression sank instantly. "What's the matter? Do you wish to continue? If that's the case, I'll definitely play along!"

Yang Chao had high achievements in his Agile Sword Manual. Even though he wasn't able to defeat Shang Xia, he felt that it was impossible for him to be defeated by the other party! At worst, they would fight till both sides were exhausted, resulting in a draw! That was the reason he made the suggestion. Who would have thought that Shang Xia would be unwilling to reciprocate his goodwill?

"Sure. I don't plan on embarrassing myself on my own territory anyway. If you're able to remain unscathed after taking on my next attack, I'll renounce the draw and you can be the ultimate victor. How about it?" Shang Xia smiled.

Turning deadly serious, Yang Chao raised his sword and pointed it at Shang Xia, showing off his intentions.

Keeping the smile on his face, the Jade River Sword stabbed forward unhurriedly as a sword domain descended.

Chapter 218: Old Cultivator Names Gotta Go

Above the Tongyou City, three Martial Extermination Realm experts were watching the battle closely. They were the three who remained after Ji Wenlong and the rest left to deal with the source

of disturbance outside the city. Kang Ci of the Tongyou Institution, Shang Ke, the new patriarch of the Shang Clan, and the deputy patriarch of the Jianmen Institution, Elder Yu Chengjin, stared unblinkingly at the battle below.

In fact, watching the battle closely seemed a little inappropriate to describe their actions. To put it more accurately, the three of them were completely focused on Shang Xia.

“Light and heavy, void and reality, offense and defense, softness and strength... This kid is something else alright! How was he able to comprehend four different pairs of qi?” Yu Chengjin gasped. “The only thing that makes it more terrifying is that the kid actually comprehended sword intents at the ‘Two Opposing Realm’ for each of them!”

The Azure Origin World only started to use their unified method of cultivation realm classification in recent years. That was why Yu Chengjin still called Shang Xia a cultivator at the ‘Two Opposing Realm’.

Chuckling lightly, Shang Ke spoke up, “Elder Yu, you’re praising the boy too much. The little brat has always been really pompous about his own actions. He’s always running around saying how he came up with something new. Hah. All he did was to add a little extra to the Triple Mystery Polarity Art.”

A smile that didn’t seem like a smile appeared on Yu Changjin’s face as he snapped, “Pompous? What the hell! All I saw was him being humble out there. The Triple Mystery Polarity Art has been the pride of the Murong Family for hundreds of years! How can someone casually make improvements to it?!”

After he spoke, Yu Changjin’s gaze returned to the two below. He muttered to himself, “Even if he made some improvements, shouldn’t it only be to the type of qi? Three pairs of qi seem to be the maximum when cultivating the Triple Mystery Polarity Art.”

With the way Shang Ke put it earlier, it was clear he was trying to protect little Shang Xia. He didn’t wish for the kid’s talent and skills to be exposed to the world so soon. He quickly added, “He might be a little smart, but he’s still a Martial Extremity Realm cultivator. He has a long way to go... Elder Yu, you’re thinking too highly of him.”

“Yeah... The road of cultivation is a long one...” Yu Chengjin sighed, but he changed the topic the next moment. “We definitely can’t behave like a frog in a well. There’s always a higher mountain out there. How can we miss such a good opportunity?”

Looking at each other, Shang Ke and Kang Ci saw the confusion in each other’s eyes. They didn’t know what the hell Yu Chengjin was referring to, but they quickly noticed him tossing out a transmission signal.

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Martial intents were split into different levels.

Ordinary martial intents were no different from skills created from the fusion of several techniques. An example of such would be the martial intent of one of the disciples of the Rose Party. Back in the battlefield between two worlds, the disciple of the Rose Party used a martial intent, Triple Blade, against him! It was a simple attack that involved three strikes.

Martial intents that were a little better would be able to trigger slight changes in their surroundings.

An example would be Shang Xia's Chaos Essence Lightning Palm! He could trigger the appearance of lightning and use it to attack his opponents. The power contained in his attacks was much stronger than usual. Of course, that only referred to the Chaos Essence Lightning Palm the original Shang Xia planned to comprehend. After he was struck by heavenly lightning which also caused the current Shang Xia to transmigrate over, a shocking change happened. The massive increase in power couldn't be measured in ordinary terms! In fact, it could probably be classified under the next type of martial intent.

The third type of martial intent triumphed over the previous. It could create a boundary of its own as long as the user maintained his control over it. Even though it wasn't a comprehensive upgrade in power, it was a lot more versatile and useful. Against cultivators who were at the same level or weaker, it gave the user a lot of advantages.

As for Shang Xia's Yin Yang Sword Formation, it could probably be considered to be of the third type. However, it was leagues ahead of any other martial intent as it made him an invincible existence in the Martial Extremity Realm.

Even if he were to use each of his six sword intents separately, they would be classified under the second type of martial intent.

Yang Chao's martial intent behind his Agile Sword Art could allow him to capitalize on gaps in his opponent's technique, but Shang Xia's moves changed too quickly for it to have any effect. Shang Xia's sword qi might seem to be in disarray as it transformed to many different types, but they would form an impeccable protection net at the critical moment. As long as Shang Xia wasn't defeated immediately, he just had to wait for his opponent to burn off all their energy before pressing for the win.

That was also the reason Yang Chao thought that both of them would be evenly matched. He felt that there was no need to drag the battle out to make things worse. In his eyes, his actions were noble and allowed Shang Xia to conserve his energy. However, Shang Xia not only rejected his goodwill, he even added a challenge on top of it!

With rage filling his heart, Yang Chao swore that he would definitely teach Shang Xia a lesson no matter the cost.

He never would have expected that Shang Xia had been hiding his strength the whole time! Even when he fought the other two earlier, he only used one type of sword intent at a time. He was using less than one-sixth of his true battle capabilities!

Since he challenged Yang Chao, Shang Xia felt that he should bring out a little bit of his true strength. No longer disrespecting his opponent, the Yin Yang Diagram in his dantian started to rotate a little bit faster. Fire and ice qi, along with softness and strength qi appeared at the same time. He unleashed his Yin Yang Sword Formation with two of his six sword intents!

Yang Chao felt a sense of danger approaching the moment Shang Xia moved. He tried to overestimate Shang Xia's ability as much as he could, and he was even prepared to face a sword boundary.

However, being cautious was the most he would allow himself to be. He wasn't afraid as he felt that utilizing his martial intent would allow him to avoid the strike for sure. The moment he did, he would be the victor of the battle!

The perfect scenario came crashing down in his mind the moment the sword boundary descended. Yang Chao's expression changed, as shock threatened to overwhelm the fear he was feeling.

Shang Xia was too fast and the sword boundary descended before he could react. In fact, even if he managed to respond in time, he wouldn't have been able to leave the region affected by the sword boundary.

Despite his fright and surprise, he decided to go all the way. He might be trapped in his opponent's sword boundary, but that didn't mean that he had lost yet! At worst, he would suffer some inner injuries while keeping his outward appearance! As long as he looked unaffected, he would be declared the victor anyway.

One couldn't forget that the longer a cultivator maintained their sword boundary, the larger the energy consumption.

Alas, Yang Chao was wrong again! Why would Shang Xia care about energy consumption when he was only using two of the six sword intents that made up the sword formation? He had lots of energy to spare.

As the sword qi descended on him, fire and ice qi mingled with softness and strength qi as they struck heavily against Yang Chao's body.

The blood drained from his face as it turned into a stream that exited from his nose. He discovered that his martial intent was completely useless in the face of absolute strength!

Chapter 219: It's Over

Shang Xia's sword boundary disappeared as quickly as it appeared.

A casual smile could be seen on his face when he withdrew his sword formation. It was in stark contrast to the sorry look on Yang Chao's face which still had blood trickling down it.

The victor was clear.

"You..." Yang Chao had an unresigned expression on his face, but his reluctance to accept the situation was accompanied by confusion and fear. Everyone could see how flustered he was.

"Many thanks for the lesson." Shang Xia cupped his fists towards Yang Chao to declare the end of the battle.

"Much obliged. In the future, I will definitely look for Brother Shang to practice my sword art in the future." After experiencing what just happened, Yang Chao understood clearly that he would never be Shang Xia's opponent as long as they were both in the Martial Extremity Realm. The only way he could attain victory would be to enter the Martial Intent Realm before challenging Shang Xia again.

“Well said.” Shang Xia praised sincerely. Regardless, he managed to gain quite a bit of insight after fighting Yang Chao.

As Yang Chao turned to walk away, he was received by a group of young disciples from the Yanmen Institution. There was a complicated look in their eyes when they looked at Shang Xia, but there were traces of admiration hidden in there.

Shang Xia swept his gaze across the crowd at the same time and discovered that all of them had subconsciously taken a step back. Ma Qi who was jumping around a moment ago was nowhere to be seen.

His amazing sword art scared away everyone who was harboring evil thoughts in their mind, but the battle between the Martial Intent Realm experts was still raging on behind him.

Just as he was about to throw himself into the fray, an arrogant laughter tore through the skies as a figure started to approach them. “I heard that there’s a showdown between powerful swordsmen here and found it slightly interesting. My elder specifically instructed me to head over for some practice, saying something about how we can all learn from each other. Well, I don’t really believe him but I can’t really ignore my elders now, can I?”

As the voice rang through the skies, a youngster clad in light green robes appeared at the end of the street, behind the mob of masked cultivators. He held a sword sheath in one hand while resting the blade of the sword on his shoulders.

He was pretty handsome, but the impatient look in his eyes diminished his otherwise perfect appearance. The corners of his lips were slightly raised upwards and he managed to portray a perfect expression fitting of someone who was asking to be beaten up.

Swinging his sword around, he sneered with disdain, “... What the hell... I was still in the middle of a pai gow match.”

Looking at every single cultivator in front of him, he discovered that all those in masks had lowered their heads in fright to avoid meeting his gaze.

“Well, who the hell is called Shang Xia? Get out here and fight with me. Let’s end this quickly.” With the corners of his lips trembling slightly, his expression became even more wretched. However, his tone became all the more sincere, forming a disgusting contrast. “Relax. We’re just exchanging pointers. I’ll stop before I actually hurt you. There’s no need to be afraid. No lives will be lost today.”

Facing the sudden assault on the Shang Clan’s convoy the moment they returned from the battlefield between two worlds, Shang Xia could be said to be more surprised than angry. After all, why would anyone attack the Shang Clan in the Tongyou City? Did they think that the Tongyou Institution was there for show?

However, the repeated challenges caused his emotions to shift yet again. The shock he felt was starting to diminish as a sense of irritation was starting to overwhelm him.

He had originally dealt with the threat that was the group of masked cultivators who wanted to raid the Shang Clan convoy. Just as he was about to return to help Shang Xi and Yan Qi, Li Xi appeared to stop him.

If that was all, Shang Xia might have let it be, but right after Li Xi's departure, Ma Qi jumped out of nowhere to cause trouble. Next came Yang Chao of the Yanmen Institution. All of them wanted to exchange pointers with Shang Xia, seemingly inspired by the person before them. Moreover, all of them acted as extremely arrogantly as though they were better than Shang Xia.

Shang Xia was extremely annoyed by the entire situation. It didn't matter if the members of the other institutions didn't come out to help earlier when they were in danger. Now, they were popping up one by one to challenge him. If they weren't students of the other institutions and they were back in the battlefield between two worlds, Shang Xia would have already unleashed his Yin Yang Sword Formation to kill them all. Now, he had to keep the relationship between the five institutions in mind and allow them to leave with their prides relatively intact. At the very least, he couldn't critically wound them!

Never in his wildest imagination would he expect someone to appear out of nowhere saying that they were there to challenge him after receiving orders from their elder.

Hou Yuchun, the newly arrived disciple, didn't see the previous battles. However, his wealth of experience made him feel as though his elder's instructions to fight with some random bumpkin whose name he hadn't heard of before was extremely degrading. He felt that with his mastery over his sword art and his battle experience, taking care of anyone at the same cultivation level would be a piece of cake. That explained his pretentious entrance.

Shang Xia's heart was burning with anxiety with the battle between Martial Intent Realm experts raging behind him. Since some random asshole appeared while spouting a whole bunch of bullshit, Shang Xia's anger reached its peak.

However, Hou Yuchun was apparently not done. He continued, "Fuck! Are you a mute or something?! This daddy here left three hundred pieces of silver essence back at my game! If I fail to return in the time it takes a stick of incense to burn, that piece of shit dealer will take my money away!"

"The time it takes a stick of incense to burn is too long!" A voice interrupted Hou Yuchun as Shang Xia turned to face him. "I'm the person you're looking for. Right now, I promise you that you'll definitely make it back in time for your game! In fact, this won't take long at all."

"Hah. Many thanks then. It would be great if you would admit defeat right now..." Hou Yuchun revealed a toothy grin and released a burst of inner qi the moment he confirmed his opponent's identity. The ground around him shattered as the crack extended several feet away.

He didn't think that it was inappropriate at all. After all, he wanted to end the battle as soon as he could. He didn't think that Shang Xia would admit defeat without a fight anyway. As such, he released his inner qi and lunged at Shang Xia without warning.

Unfortunately for him, he was bound to be disappointed this time. His opponent was no ordinary cultivator. As he approached, he was stopped by an even more frightening sword qi. In the face of Shang Xia's sword qi, he felt that he became weaker than a baby!



Even though they were still separated by a distance of a few feet, Shang Xia's sword qi had already arrived. The structures at the side of the road were turned to dust in the face of overwhelming power.

"Please spare my life!" Hou Yuchun's body froze in mid air as he faced the terrifying sword qi released by Shang Xia. The sword qi had already exceeded his scope of understanding and he lost all courage to fight. His previous arrogance was nowhere to be seen as he forced the four words out of his mouth.

"Stay your sword!" A familiar voice rang through the air but even though Hou Yuchun recognized the person who spoke, despair still filled his heart. He knew that even with the appearance of the newcomer, it won't be enough to save his life. His fate was held in the hands of the opponent he challenged earlier.

Regardless, dying under the blade of someone who comprehended such a powerful sword qi wasn't such a bad thing.

Just as he was about to accept his fate, the sword qi that was about to send him to the depths of hell dissipated.

Staring at Shang Xia in confusion, he soon found himself tumbling through the air. He flew several hundred feet away from his original location.

"I told you. Our battle won't take long. You'll definitely make it back before the time it takes for a stick of incense to burn." Shang Xia's voice rang through the air. Hou Yuchun cut a sorry figure as he was sprawled out on the ground like a dead dog and a sword stabbed deep into the ground three inches away from his nose.

#### Chapter 220: Farce

In a small alleyway several feet away, Li Xi stood silently as he watched the entire thing play out.

His expression fluctuated uneasily as he stared at the crossroads where Hou Yuchun was sent flying and he looked at his sword with a weird expression on his face. He eventually sighed before turning around to leave.

...

Somewhere nearby, Ma Qi was standing respectfully behind a young man who emitted a deep and profound aura.

"Senior Brother Yue, that's where it happened! Shang Xia went too far! Look, he's right there. Do you think..."

Before he could finish, the young man interrupted him. "Yes. I do see him."

After he spoke, he turned around to leave.

"Huh? Senior Brother Yue, you..." Ma Qi didn't know why the backup he bought was leaving, and he couldn't help but question.,

Pausing suddenly, the young man sighed without even turning his head. “Before you enter the Martial Intent Realm, no... Don’t offend this guy. Even when you enter the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm in the future, he’s not someone you can afford to offend!”

He left right after he was done speaking. He didn’t even care if Ma Qi followed behind him as he disappeared into the city.

...

Hou Yuchun tumbled through the air and brushed past the members of the Yanmen Institution.

One of the disciples turned to Yang Chao and asked cautiously, “Senior Brother Yang, that... Was that Hou Yuchun of the Jianmen Institution?”

Yang Chao nodded like a wooden chicken.

The disciple followed up with another question, “Were they lying about how powerful Hou Yuchun was? Maybe his achievements were exaggerated!”

Yang Chao’s glare instantly landed on the person who spoke.

Realizing that he had spoken wrongly, the disciple quickly lowered his head.

Someone else sighed, “Hou Yuchun isn’t weak at all. It’s just that Shang Xia is too damn strong! This... Brother Yang Chao, can you please explain what just happened? We didn’t manage to catch it.”

“There’s no point. All of you just need to remember one thing from now on. If you see that freak in the future, do not offend him.” Sighing after he spoke, Yang Chao shook his head softly.

The disciples behind him gasped in shock as they looked at each other in confusion.

The smile slowly returned to Yang Chao’s face as he addressed the rest. “Let’s go. We’ll return to the courtyard the Tongyou Institution prepared for us. I’m afraid the city won’t be able to keep its calm for long.”

Seeing how Yang Chao left, the others followed him quickly. However, there was still someone who couldn’t contain his curiosity. “Senior Brother Yang, what sword intent did Hou Yuchun comprehend anyway?”

“High and low.” Yang Chao gave a short reply without even turning his head.

“What... What about Shang Xia?”

Yang Chao’s figure paused slightly and he shook his head in defeat. “I don’t know.”

The disciples following behind stared at each other silently after hearing his reply.

...

Even though Shang Xia was extremely annoyed by their actions, he kept his last shred of rationality and dissipated his sword qi before anyone died.

Of course, Hou Yuchun was unable to avoid his fate of being blown away by the resulting sword qi. When he finally stopped, he was a hundred feet away from his original location.

As Shang Xia lowered his sword, everyone in the surroundings fell silent. Even the battle between the Martial Intent Realm experts behind him came to a pause.

Even though the original threats had disappeared, Shang Xia was on full alert as he stared at the space before him. It was as though a great enemy had descended.

Beside Hou Yuchun stood a well-built middle-aged man who was carrying a sword on his back.

The moment he arrived, Shang Xia felt as though the tip of a sword was pointed at his chest.

However, the feeling disappeared as quickly as it arrived.

“Returning to one...” The middle-aged man’s lips quivered slightly and Shang Xia could make out a few words. When the middle-aged man was done speaking, he grabbed Hou Yuchun before disappearing from where he stood.

“Returning to one?” Shang Xia muttered to himself.

“Hah. I thought you were going to kill him!” Shang Ke’s voice boomed in Shang Xia’s mind.

Recognizing Shang Ke’s voice, Shang Xia was finally able to relax. He heaved a sigh of relief as he turned to look at his Fifth Grandfather.

“Who was that?” Shang Xia asked.

“The deputy patriarch of the Jianmen Institution, Elder Yu Chengjin.” Shang Ke didn’t plan on hiding the other party’s identity anyway.

Snorting softly, Shang Xia raised an eyebrow in surprise. “Did you scare him away?”

“I’m not capable of that. He left on his own accord.” Shang Ke revealed a bitter smile of his own.

“What is going on today?” Shang Xia muttered softly before turning to look at the situation. The originally tense scene had regained its calm as the members of the Shang Clan cleaned up the street behind them.

There were several corpses lining the street as those were the cultivators who tried to take advantage of the time when Shang Xia was occupied with Li Xi, Ma Qi, and Yang Chao to raid the convoy. They were slain by the remaining members of the Shang Clan.

The reinforcements of the Shang Clan also arrived as they searched through the dead bodies to look for clues.

Of the twenty-ish members of the Shang Clan who arrived stood a swordsman who was at the Martial Intent Realm. Even though he was clearly clad in the robes of their clan, Shang Xia didn’t recognize him at all. He couldn’t help but wonder when the Shang Clan managed to nurture another Martial Intent Realm expert.

A helpless sigh escaped Shang Ke’s lips. “We’re the unfortunate ones who got caught up in this mess. There’s nothing more to it. What a farce...”

He quickly explained the situation to Shang Xia who was staring at him as though he was speaking gibberish. After all, no one knew what he was talking about.

When he was done with his explanation, Shang Xia's eyes widened in shock. "The other institutions felt threatened by the appearance of the Rose Party and decided to come up with such a plan to draw them out from hiding?"

"Who would have thought that they would see through our scheme? We thought that they planned to give up on Yu Wugou and Qiao Han. Now, I don't know what's going on..." Shang Ke sighed.

Shang Xia sneered slightly in response. "Looks like they were supposed to be the bait for the Rose Party to draw your attention away..."

However, Shang Xia wasn't done. "From the looks of it, there should be several Martial Intent Realm experts among the five institutions who are spies of the Rose Party. I believe that everyone recognizes this as a fact after this incident..."

"Yeah. That's most likely the case." Shang Ke could only laugh helplessly.

"I wonder who schemed against who this time..." A sneer returned to Shang Xia's lips as a beam of light shot towards Shang Ke from the direction of the institution.

Receiving the transmission symbol sent from the institution, Shang Ke quickly scanned through it. His expression changed instantly, "You Haibiao of the Beihai Institution is dead!"

Shang Ke couldn't believe his eyes as he gasped, "His cultivation is higher than mine. Why aren't there any signs of his death? Shouldn't there be a wave of heaven and earth qi signaling the death of a Martial Extermination Realm expert?"