

The Heavens 231

Chapter 231: Breaking Though

“How did they succeed so quickly?” Shang Xia couldn’t contain his shock.

A chuckle left Shang Xi’s lips as she explained, “The Essence Separation Liquid isn’t exceptionally hard to create. The only problem lies in locating the herbs used in it.”

Shang Xia stared at Shang Xi with a look of shock on his face. “Don’t tell me our clan actually had all the herbs required to make the liquid... What the hell! Isn’t our You Continent some barren land? That’s the reason we had to monopolize the battlefield between the two worlds!”

“Your second uncle and aunt...” Shang Xi revealed a guilty smile and explained.

A look of revelation appeared on Shang Xia’s face and he didn’t know what to feel. Naturally, Shang Xi understood what he was thinking at the moment and she explained, “Your second aunt, Xu Huizhu, is from the Yan Continent. She had all the ingredients required to make the liquid and she provided them to the clan when she heard that we were looking for it.”

“Alright, alright, what do they wish for in return?” Shang Xia sighed softly. He always had a feeling that his second uncle had a favor he wished to obtain from Shang Xia. From the time he imparted the Irregular Sword Art to the time he stopped Xu Huizhu, to the discovery that all the herbs required to make the Essence Separation Liquid were provided by them, Shang Xia could tell that Shang Jian had something to ask of him.

In fact, he seemed to have felt it when he first saw Shang Jian.

“Hah, little brat, since you already knew that he wanted something from you, why don’t you make a guess?” Shang Xi chortled in amusement.

Pressing his lips against each other, Shang Xia sighed, “Isn’t it obvious? They’re both in the Martial Intent Realm and they shouldn’t need me for anything. However, their children aren’t experts in the Martial Intent Realm! The favor he wants definitely has something to do with them.” Seeing as Shang Xi hadn’t said anything, he continued, “He probably saw my sword art the other day when I was fighting on the streets. When Shang Dong sneak attacked me the other day, I noticed that their sword technique differs greatly from their parents...”

Shang Xia didn’t even need to hear her confirmation. He could tell from her expression.

“You actually discovered it... Are you planning to help them out?” Shang Xi tried to keep herself as calm as possible, but Shang Xia still managed to hear the trace of anticipation she had for his response.

A grin quickly found its way onto his face. “Aunt, I’m not a narrow-minded person. Of course I don’t mind teaching them. However, I can’t possibly run over there and beg them to let me teach them some skills, can I?”

Shang Xi giggled in amusement and Shang Xia could tell that she understood what his intentions were. Since that was done, he quickly changed the topic. “About the Intent Guarding Incense...”

“Yeah, yeah... It’s probably going to be done in a few days. Hmph, I bet this isn’t some assistive medicine that can be used exclusively for your breakthrough. It’s beneficial for cultivators at the Martial Intent Realm too. Looks like we’re going to strike it rich this time! Of course, we need to actually craft the incense before we can say for sure...” Shang Xi nodded her head in response.

Thinking about it for a second, Shang Xia muttered softly, “Looks like I’ll start my breakthrough soon...”

“Hah. I didn’t think that you would break through so quickly! I thought that you would require a lot of time to consolidate your foundations, especially since you only entered the Martial Extremity Realm not too long ago. Looks like I was wrong. Anyway, the situation is different now. You haven’t returned to the institution ever since you came back from the battlefield between the two worlds. The complaints against you are getting louder and louder...”

When Shang Xia wanted to ask her what she meant, she turned to leave.

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Realizing he wasn’t going to get an answer, he simply tossed away all the random thoughts in his mind as he focused on circulating his inner qi. He got ready to start his breakthrough to the Martial Intent Realm.

The next evening, the first portion of the Intent Guarding Incense was successfully created by the Shang Clan. Even though there were only three sticks, Shang Xi chose to deliver all of them to Shang Xia.

“Are you really not planning to return to the institution to break through? The secret chamber there is much better than those in our clan. The heaven and earth qi there is much denser too.” Shang Xi asked.

Shaking his head, Shang Xia replied, “Everything I need to break through has been prepared. Moreover, I don’t wish to go back to the institution only to be struck by heavenly lightning again...”

Turning to Shang Xi, he said, “I’m afraid I need to trouble you to protect me while I break through this time.”

A snort left Shang Xi’s lips, “Damn brat. Once you advance this time, even I won’t be your opponent.”

...

After one entire day of preparations, Shang Xia was finally ready to break through. Shang Xi mobilized the power of the clan to protect the manor while she took on the role of his personal guard. His courtyard was completely isolated from the rest of the manor and no one could approach the region.

In the secret chamber within his courtyard, Shang Xia felt that he had finally reached his peak state. With the items he needed placed orderly in front of him, he began.

The Intent Gathering Powder, Essence Separation Liquid, and Intent Guarding Incense were placed beside the case containing the three needles.

A tub of steaming water could be seen behind him, and there were several medicines at the side in case his breakthrough failed. In case he truly failed, they could be used to stabilize his condition as soon as possible.

Clearing his mind, Shang Xia took out the first of the three needles in the jade case after lighting the Intent Gathering Incense.

It was made from countless precious herbs and treasures, and it emitted a soft glow as Shang Xia held it in his hand.

According to the instructions on the blood red tablet in his sea of consciousness, Shang Xia dipped the needle in the bottle containing Essence Separation Liquid.

Nothing happened to the needle, but Shang Xia could feel that the liquid in the bottle had decreased slightly.

After a third of the liquid was absorbed by the needle, it seemed to have reached its saturation point.

Taking off his shirt, Shang Xia inserted the first needle three inches below his abdomen. The Guanyuan Acupoint was first, and the moment the needle entered his body, Shang Xia's expression turned solemn.

A sharp pain shot through his body and Shang Xia was nearly unable to bear the suffering. His hands trembled and he released the needle.

Luckily for him, the effects of the Intent Gathering Incense worked its magic at that moment. It kept his mind clear despite the pain.

Enduring the pain shooting through his body, he continued to push it inwards. When it reached a certain depth in his body, the pain disappeared abruptly.

Is it done?

The needle that was five inches long seemed to have disappeared completely into the Guanyuan Acupoint.

Chapter 232: Transformation to the Dantian

According to Shang Xia's limited knowledge of the traditional way of his old world, he felt that the Martial Intent Realm in the Azure Origin World should be named the Triple Command Realm.

That was also the name scribbled on the blood red tablet in his sea of consciousness but he simply skimmed through it previously.

He didn't know what the triple command stood for anyway. Extending his limited knowledge, it was possible that the triple command was represented by the Heavens, Earth, and Man. Slightly extrapolating it, he thought of the three sources of light, the Sun, the Moon, and the Stars. It might also have some connections to the Spirit, the Soul, and the Qi.

Well, even if he could guess as much, he had no idea how it actually worked.

His thoughts returned to his breakthrough. The key seemed to lie in the three acupoints. When Shang Xia learned about the location of his Guanyuan Acupoint, he suspected that it was somewhere on his lower dantian. That would mean that the Shanzhong Acupoint was located at his middle dantian, and the Yintang Acupoint was located at his upper dantian!

That would also mean that when he entered the Martial Extremity Realm, the key lay in his lower dantian.

From the records kept by the Shang Clan, the ascension to a Martial Intent Realm expert had something to do with the other two parts of his dantian. Since a Martial Intent Realm cultivator would be able to gather their divine sense, advancing higher in their level would mean that their divine sense would experience a substantial improvement.

If his hypothesis was true, Shang Xia could fuse his knowledge of the Shang Clan's insight with his own. The triple command might have something to do with the lower, middle, and upper dantian. There might be even more secrets hidden behind it!

Shang Xia shook his head slightly. Everything was a conjecture at the moment. He was unable to actually make sense of what was going on until he stabilized his cultivation in the Martial Intent Realm.

Observing the situation in his body, Shang Xia's expression changed once again.

There used to be a giant Yin Yang Diagram controlling all the inner qi in his dantian. When he entered the grand completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm, the giant Yin Yang Diagram gathered all the scattered inner qi in his body. Now, the Yin Yang Diagram is gone. In its place was a formless mass.

Shang Xia was clearly frightened by the sudden change. He thought that something had gone wrong during his breakthrough, crippling his cultivation completely. Luckily for him, the Intent Gathering Incense allowed him to remain focused despite his desire to crumble into panic at the moment.

Desperately circulating his inner qi, he heaved a sigh of relief when he realized that it was still there. Even though the Yin Yang Diagram had transformed into a ball of chaos, his cultivation was still there.

He also discovered an alarming fact. He was barely able to use 30 percent of his strength at the moment. If anyone were to attack him then, the results would be disastrous.

It was no wonder cultivators would search for a secret location when breaking through. They would also look for their trusted allies to protect them throughout the process.

With his attention finally turning back to the ball of chaos in his dantian, he couldn't help but feel a sense of disappointment after realizing that it wasn't changing anymore.

Picking up the second needle, he slowly stabbed it into his Shanzhong Acupoint after dipping it into the Essence Separation Liquid. This time, he was prepared for the pain.

Like the time he pierced it into his Guanyuan Acupoint, it sank into his body and the needle disappeared.

The same process applied to the third needle. The only difference this time was that it went for his Yintang Acupoint at the space between his eyebrows.

When the third needle sank into his body and disappeared, Shang Xia's vision turned completely black. He felt his body descending suddenly into an endless abyss.

No one knew how long had passed, but Shang Xia finally regained consciousness thanks to the Intent Guarding Incense. When he opened his eyes, his mind slowly started to clear. He discovered that his entire body was surrounded by a region of chaos.

This... Am I currently in the space in my dantian?

With his eyes widening in fright, the space around him seemed to shift once again and he saw his surroundings in the secret chamber again.

Did I really enter the space contained in my dantian earlier?

Shang Xia used to be able to observe the situation in his dantian in the past. However, that seemed more like some sort of 'inner vision'. A moment ago, the feeling he had was completely different. He seemed to have physically entered the space contained in his dantian!

The feeling was miraculous indeed.

As he thought about the feeling he had earlier, Shang Xia tried to do it again. The miraculous feeling returned and his surroundings was filled with chaotic air.

At that moment, Shang Xia discovered that even though the Yin Yang Diagram had disappeared, his abilities that made use of it didn't. The chaotic qi contained in the formless mass in his dantian had the ability to transform at will. He was still able to use the techniques he comprehended in the past whenever he felt like it.

Perhaps it was because of the transformation to his dantian, his techniques would experience a fundamental transformation when he used them in the future.

After observing the transformation in his dantian, Shang Xia had a feeling he had finally entered the Martial Intent Realm! He truly entered the 'Triple Command Realm'.

Now, he had to make sense of what the difference was between the lower, middle, and upper dantian. Even though he stabbed the three needles into the three acupoints respectively, a human could only possess one dantian!

Was it possible that the three acupoints were merely different entrances from which qi would enter his dantian? From the lower path, middle path, and upper path? Perhaps that was what it really meant.

Even though he was confused, it seemed to make sense. Since half the process was done, he decided to follow the instructions recorded on the tablet.

With a single thought, he returned back to the secret chamber. When he reappeared, he extended his divine sense to observe his surroundings. He was able to 'see' the entire area around him with his senses. Shang Xia found the feeling slightly weird but pretty amazing at the same time.

Extending his divine sense even further, he tried to look at the situation outside the secret chamber.

Chapter 233: Divine Sense, Complete Breakthrough

Shang Xia's breakthrough was a terrific event for the Shang Clan.

Ever since the collision between the two worlds, the heaven and earth qi contained in the You Continent was greatly affected. The Shang Clan, which was a mere second-rate clan, experienced a huge boost. They took twenty years to gather their strength and eventually became a huge faction with hundreds of people.

Even so, there were only two Martial Extermination Realm experts born in the family.

The number of Martial Intent Realm experts they had wasn't something they could boast about too. Even with the addition of Yan Qi, an adopted member of the clan, along with Xu Huizhu who married into the Shang Clan, they could barely gather seven Martial Intent Realm experts across the older generations.

The moment Shang Xia broke through, the Shang Clan would welcome their eighth Martial Intent Realm expert. More importantly, he was the first among the third-generation disciples to break through! That alone was a significant event to show that the Shang Clan possessed a worthy successor!

Everyone knew the importance of Shang Xia's breakthrough. The moment his divine sense extended beyond his room, Shang Xi was the first to react.

Even though Shang Xia's divine sense extended out of the room, signaling his successful breakthrough, Shang Xi didn't let her guard down. Instead, she became even more alert in case anything happened at the last second.

When Shang Xia extended his divine sense outside his room, he was naturally able to notice Shang Xi's flurry of feelings too. He was also able to sense that she became a lot tenser than before.

"Damn brat." Shang Xi snorted before glancing in the direction of his secret chamber. "He barely completed his breakthrough but he could extend the area covered by his divine sense by so many times. It's basically comparable to mine. I wonder how terrifying it would be after he advances to the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm... Hmph, I was right back then. He's probably stronger than me now that he has broken through."

"Oh, maybe not. He has to start practicing martial arts made for Martial Intent Realm cultivators before he can be a match for me..." Shang Xi thought to herself.

She wasn't the only one whose mind was filled with a multitude of thoughts. Shang Xia was deepening his understanding of the Martial Intent Realm.

"If condensing my divine sense is considered the first transformation, it's a little too weak. It's able to pressure my opponents slightly, and it seems to be able to affect the heaven and earth qi in the surroundings to a certain extent. However, it's just too damn weak! Well, at least I know what to expect for future transformations to my

divine sense..." Shang Xia grumbled to himself. With his current experience and strength, he felt that the ability his divine sense had to affect his surroundings was really too weak! If anyone else were to learn of his evaluation, they wouldn't be able to resist the urge to beat him up!

When Shang Xi felt the fluctuations in heaven and earth qi earlier, she experienced incomparable shock. Any other Martial Intent Realm expert of the Shang Clan would feel the same if they were in their place.

Earlier, when Shang Xia's divine sense overlapped with Shang Xi's, he managed to gain a better understanding of how divine senses were used. "Aunt Xi seemed to have successfully gone through her second divine sense transformation. Even though the area she can cover is barely larger than mine, she should be able to form a barrier with her divine sense."

"It might not be able to physically stop attacks from coming through, but she will be able to feel anything that enters its range! There will be no blind spots left in the region around her!"

Gaining a primary understanding on the uses of his divine sense and grasping the way to control it, he decided to test it out one more time. When he tried to extend his divine sense again, he was assaulted with a wave of nausea. The world started to spin around him and he felt weakness in his limbs.

"Not good... I overexerted myself! I should have consolidated my foundations before playing around with my divine sense!" Shang Xia gasped in fright before crumbling to the ground.

Forcing himself to get up with the last of his strength, he dumped the Intent Gathering Powder into the tub of water behind him before jumping in himself.

The weakness he felt finally started to fade and he finally managed to clear his mind. After taking a long breath, he no longer tried to play around with his divine sense. Instead, he inspected the ball of chaos in his dantian.

A smile slowly returned to his face. He finally stepped through the gates of the Martial Intent Realm!

There was only one thing he couldn't wrap his head around. If the Triple Loop Coalescence Needle allowed him to form an origin core in his body, what did the blood red tablet mean by the 'Triple Command Realm'?

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The way Shang Xia entered the Martial Intent Realm was too highkey. Even with Shang Xi forming a barrier around his courtyard, she didn't manage to prevent the divine sense of other Martial Intent Realm experts in the Shang Clan Manor from detecting the change.

In fact, the Martial Intent Realm experts of the Shang Clan weren't the only ones paying attention to his breakthrough. There were countless other disciples taking note of it.

In the eastern courtyard of the Shang Clan Manor, Shang Jian and Xu Huizhu noticed his breakthrough almost instantly.

“He... He actually succeeded?” Xu Huizhi mumbled.

Nodding slowly, Shang Jian turned to look in the direction of Shang Xia’s courtyard. He seemed to be able to peer through the void as he silently observed the changes to the heaven and earth qi in the air.

An awkward expression hung on Xu Huizhu’s face as she muttered sheepishly, “I was too rash the other day, causing trouble for you in the clan again. I should have done more careful research on the situation so that Shang Dong could choose the correct opponent...”

“You...” Shang Jian shook his head and sighed, “Do you still not understand? It wasn’t about choosing the wrong opponent. Your method was wrong in the first place. Our Shang Clan has an established set of rules. Regardless of your identity and strength, the Shang Clan won’t bother offending you even if they don’t accept us completely. You had to come up with a plan to establish our strength... Your actions would only serve to alienate us further from the clan...”

A deep frown remained on Xu Huizhu’s face. “What was I supposed to do? If this really doesn’t work out, we can always leave! With our strength, we can definitely look for a suitable sword technique for our kids.”

“Nonsense! If it was so easy to look for a suitable technique for the two of them, we would have found it a long time ago! They’re about to enter their twenties soon and we still can’t find a sword art for the two of them! Are they supposed to wait around their whole life? Look! Even my fourth brother’s child has condensed his divine sense. Are we going to make them wait forever?! Now is not the time to throw a tantrum and make hasty decisions.” Shang Jian snapped.

“Then what are we going to do now? Are we supposed to look for him to offer our apologies? Hmph, regardless, we’re his elders! How can we lower ourselves to apologize to someone of the younger generation?” Xu Huizhu grumbled.

“Oh? Did you just realize that you’re his elder?” Shang Jian revealed a bitter smile and sighed, “Enough. You don’t have to interfere with this anymore. I’ll think of a way.”

Chapter 234: Providence Spear

The Third Order of the Primary Realm was a huge milestone for cultivators.

“After stepping into the Martial Intent Realm, the clan, and the institution will severely limit the amount of resources provided to you. You can only rely on yourself from now on.” That was what Shang Ke said to him the moment he emerged from his seclusion.

Even though Shang Ke knew that Shang Xia was clear about the situation after he entered the Martial Intent Realm, it was a formality he had to mention to anyone who entered the Martial Intent Realm in the clan.

In the past, Shang Bo was the one who would give the speech. Now that Shang Ke had ascended to the position of the Shang Clan Patriarch, it was his first time saying it.

Shang Xia was brought over to the inheritance land in the clan manor and Shang Ke handed him the Triple Providence Chapter and the manual for the Providence Spear. As the core inheritance of the Shang Clan, those two items were never allowed out of the inheritance land.

Without Shang Ke leading the way, even Shang Xia wouldn't be allowed into the inheritance land! In order to learn the Triple Providence Chapter and the Providence Spear, Shang Xia would have to memorize the manuals before he left.

As a senior member of the clan and the current clan patriarch, Shang Ke trained in the Triple Providence Chapter and the Providence Spear when he entered the Martial Intent Realm in the past. He could have imparted some of his knowledge and insight to Shang Xia, but he chose not to do so. He only spoke about several more important obstacles he ran into when training in the Triple Providence Chapter. As for the Providence Spear, he pointed out some insights when Shang Xia ran into parts he didn't understand in the manual before allowing the kid to think about it himself. His only piece of advice for Shang Xia was for him not to rush through the training process.

Even though Shang Xia was confused, he could only memorize the two manuals before going back to think through them. Flipping through them a few more times, he had to ensure that he didn't miss a thing.

When he was done, Shang Ke asked, "Do you know the origins of the Triple Providence Chapter and the Providence Spear?"

Shang Xia shook his head slowly. Thinking back to what Shang Ke said before, he tried reading deeper into what Shang Ke meant. However, Shang Ke quickly added, "We didn't possess the Triple Providence Chapter and the Providence Spear since the creation of the clan. Instead, our founding ancestor obtained it almost a hundred years ago from beyond the heavens."

"Beyond the heavens?" Shang Xia frowned. There was an incredulous look on his face when he stared at Shang Ke.

Nodding seriously, Shang Ke started his explanation. "Even though it sounds absurd, that is the truth. A shooting star shot through the skies a long time ago and our ancestor located the place the star landed. Shards of the shooting star were strewn around the land. He located two more intact shards and discovered that they contained the Triple Providence Chapter and the Providence Spear."

A sigh also left Shang Ke's lips. "Close to a hundred years ago, our Shang Clan was barely considered a small clan. However, we slowly grew stronger with these two inheritances. Before the Azure Spiritual World smashed into us, our Shang Clan grew to a level that was only second to the five great families."

"What... What is contained beyond the heavens?" Shang Xia asked. Other than the origin of the Triple Providence Chapter and the Providence Spear, Shang Xia was well-

versed in the history of the Shang Clan. The only thing that caught his attention was where the inheritances came from.

Shang Ke wasn't surprised by Shang Xia's question at all. After all, anyone who learned of the origin of the Triple Providence Chapter and the Providence Spear would be intrigued by what lies beyond the heavens.

Shang Ke shook his head in response. "I have no idea." Seeing the look of disappointment on Shang Xia's face, Shang Ke continued, "Kou Chongxue once mentioned that our Azure Origin World and the Azure Spiritual World might only be a small drop in the ocean... The Triple Providence Chapter is too intricate and everyone who trained in it managed to comprehend something different. One will never be able to get the most out of it if one receives pointers from those before them. Our clan tested it over so many years and those who comprehended the Triple Providence Chapter on their own were less prone to cultivation deviation."

Gasping in fright, Shang Xia asked, "Is that also the case for the Providence Spear?"

"Nope. However, anyone who tries comprehending the Providence Spear will reach their own understanding and achievement in it. Shang Bo managed to reach his current height in the technique and received the title of Soul Tearing Spear. Unlike him, the way I use the spear is different and I received the title of Suspended Spear."

Even though everything relied on how much a cultivator could comprehend on their own, Shang Ke was still willing to point out some obvious traps. From the way Shang Ke explained everything to him in detail, he could tell that his Fifth Grandpa really had high hopes for him.

After receiving the clan's inheritance, Shang Xia wanted to return to his courtyard when he was called back by Shang Ke. "Hey, now that you managed to receive the inheritance, you should go back to the institution."

"Is there anything urgent going on right now? Why is everyone telling me to go back?" Shang Xia asked casually.

"Kou Chongxue might summon you."

...

After leaving the land of inheritance, Shang Xia quickly noticed Yan Qi who came over to look for him.

"Young master, congratulations!" Yan Qi yelled the moment Shang Xia appeared.

"Seventh Uncle, how are things in the city right now?" Ever since Shang Xia returned to the city, he cooped himself up in seclusion the whole time. He didn't really know what was going on outside.

He had a feeling that Shang Ke and Shang Xi were hiding something from him.

“Young Master, you should just call me Yan Qi from now on. You can also call me Old Seventh. It might be a little weird for you to call me Seventh Uncle...” Yan Qi muttered softly.

Stopping dead in his tracks, Shang Xia growled softly, “What’s wrong? Did something say something to you?”

“No...” Yan Qi whispered. “I just feel that it’s not too appropriate for you to call me that now. The Ninth Master has returned, and a new Second Master popped up too... You call them Ninth Uncle and Second Uncle too. People might find it weird when you call me your seventh uncle...”

Shang Xia definitely didn’t find anything wrong with it, but from Yan Qi’s perspective, it would really inconvenience him in the clan if Shang Xia continued to address him as Seventh Uncle.

Nodding slightly, Shang Xia seemingly thought of the considerations. He smiled, “Alright. I’ll call you Uncle Yan from now on.” As soon as he spoke, he continued walking.

Hurrying behind him, Yan Qi gave his report, “The Tongyou City is a little strange right now.”

“Oh?” Shang Xia raised an eyebrow in surprise. “Tell me about it.”

“It’s about the matter of You Haibiao’s death. Even though a Martial Extermination Realm expert of the Beihai Institution died here, the institution remained strangely peaceful. Every single expert seemed to have forgotten about his death, including the members of the Beihai Institution!” Yan Qi reported.

“Huh? This is strange indeed. What about the attitudes of the elders of the clan? Is our clan doing anything about it?” Shang Xia asked again.

After thinking for a second, Yan Qi summarized, “Ever since returning to the clan, Patriarch Shang rarely appeared. He would only show himself when someone came to visit us. Oh, on the third day we returned from the battlefield between the two worlds, the 29th of the 8th month, Patriarch Shang went to the institution to take a look. When he returned, he sent every single member of the clan adept in the art of formations over.”

Shang Xia nodded his head slightly subconsciously as he processed the information.

However, Yan Qi was unable to keep his silence. After pausing for a short while, he decided to add an important point. “Young master, as of today, the disciples of our Tongyou Institution are being seriously suppressed and bullied by the disciples of the other four institutions...”

Chapter 235: Trouble!

Shang Xia wasn’t surprised by Shang Ke’s low-key behavior after returning. After all, he hadn’t entered the Martial Extermination Realm for long, and the higher one’s cultivation realm got, the longer it would take to stabilize his foundation.

Moreover, Shang Ke attempted his breakthrough when he was only at the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm. His foundations were extremely shaky and he barely succeeded with the help of his advancement medicine and the extermination origin contained in the Fantasy Spiritual

Pearl. He required a lot more time than Martial Extermination Realm experts who attempted their breakthrough after reaching the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm.

If Shang Xia wasn't mistaken, The new patriarch of the Liu Clan, Liu Zhiyuan, was doing the same thing as Shang Ke.

When Shang Xia thought about the reason behind sending those proficient in the art of formations to the Tongyou Institution, Yan Qi dropped another bomb on him.

Raising his eyebrows slightly, Shang Xia questioned, "What was that again?"

A helpless smile appeared on Yan Qi's face and he told him that the actions of those from the other institutions were because of him. During the battle that happened when the Shang Clan's Convoy was attacked when they returned, Shang Xia achieved the unthinkable by defeating the strongest sword cultivators in the Martial Extermination Realm of the other four institutions.

Even the weakest of the four, Ma Qi, was an elite cultivator in the Wuwei Institution. His position was comparable to inner disciples of the Tongyou Institution!

There was even less need to mention Li Xi and Yang Chao who were basically peak-tier existences in the Martial Extremity Realm in their respective institutions. Despite their strength, they were defeated by Shang Xia easily.

Hou Yuchun, the strongest of the four, suffered an even more terrifying fate! His luck was too damn bad as he had to arrive last to face an annoyed Shang Xia. His attitude was even worse, causing Shang Xia to deal with him harshly. Before he could even unleash his first move, he was defeated by Shang Xia's six sword intents! His mentality suffered greatly after the battle and his dantian was sealed by some sort of strange qi!

Shang Xia might have single-handedly defeated everyone, earning his prestige as the "Thousand Illusion Sword", but he unknowingly trampled on the reputation of the other four institutions!

Because he had to prepare for his breakthrough to the Martial Intent Realm, he returned to the clan and remained in seclusion ever since. Since the members of the other four institutions couldn't find him and even if they did, they wouldn't be his match, they could only vent their frustrations on the other members of the Tongyou Institutions.

The disciples who came to the Tongyou City weren't weaklings. The elders of their institutions had the intention to train them up when they brought them over anyway, and they were practically all elite disciples.

Because of the situation in the battlefield between the two worlds, the strength of the Tongyou Institution was spread too thin. Most of the stronger disciples weren't present in the institution at that moment.

That didn't stop the four institutions from challenging the disciples of the Tongyou Institution. The disciples of the Upper and Inner Divisions were challenged by the elite disciples of the other institutions all day long, and they were badly defeated.

"So... I caused this?" Shang Xia chuckled to himself.

Whatever the case, he wasn't too bothered by it. He wouldn't be able to do anything about it anyway. Even if he interfered, they would come up with some bullshit reason and say that he was bullying the weak.

Yan Qi quickly reminded, "Young master, you can't ignore this. You need to be careful. After all, you never know what they're thinking."

As the two of them conversed, they arrived at the Yifeng Pavilion in the Shang Clan Manor. Shang Xia recently learned that his father was the person who named the courtyard.

When they arrived, they saw a pretty buff-looking man pacing around anxiously at the entrance.

Not too far away were two young disciples of the Shang Clan.

"Master Duan Hong, the best blacksmith in our Shang Clan! He's an important craftsman in our Shang Clan. He followed the next convoy back from the battlefield between two worlds, and it's said that our clan hopes to nurture him into a master blacksmith who can craft low-grade weapons." Yan Qi introduced at the side.

Shang Xia had seen Duan Hong back on the Tongyou Peak. He also knew that the clan was hoping he could craft a low-grade spear for Shang Xia. The low-grade spear was a reward for Shang Xia's great contributions back in the battlefield between the two worlds.

When Duan Hong saw the two of them approach, a look of joy appeared on his face. "Sixth Young Master, I received orders to come look for you."

"What do you need me for?" Shang Xia nodded slightly.

Rubbing his hands together, his face flushed red in excitement. "I need to know how large your palm is. I also need to measure your height in order to create the most suitable spear for you."

"Master Duan Hong, when do you plan to start the crafting?"

Chuckling happily, Duan Hong responded, "Probably in the following weeks. All the materials and preparations are basically complete. However, I need to refine a few ordinary spears in order to adjust my condition. If everything goes according to plan, your weapon will be complete in three months."

Shang Xia invited Duan Hong into his courtyard before giving him everything he needed. However, he seemed to have thought of something and he mentioned, "Master Duan Hong, did you say that you were going to practice refining a few ordinary spears in order to adjust your condition?"

"Yeah?" Duan Hong replied with slight confusion.

It didn't take long for Shang Xia to rummage through his belongings. He tossed out a somewhat broken-looking halberd.

With his eyes nearly popping out of their sockets, Duan Hong was at a loss for words. That didn't matter as Shang Xia quickly spoke up, "Why don't you repair and modify this low-grade weapon first? That should prove to be a better warm up activity before refining my spear."

Three months was too damn long! Moreover, no one was sure that Duan Hong could succeed on his first try. With the undercurrents brewing in the Tongyou City, Shang Xia needed to raise his strength

as soon as possible. If Duan Hong could do something to the halberd, Shang Xia could use it as a replacement for the time being.

Shang Xia might have comprehended the Seven Laceration Sword before ascending to the Martial Intent Realm, but he knew that he would find it a little lacking now that his opponents would all be Martial Intent Realm experts. No matter how strong it was, the Seven Laceration Sword was a martial extremity intent.

If he wanted to bring out the true strength of someone at the Martial Intent Realm, he needed to quickly comprehend the Triple Providence Chapter and the Providence Spear!

Chapter 236: Growth

Shang Xia knew that Duan Hong had the ability to repair graded weapons. He was also skilled enough to modify one!

After all, Duan Hong repaired Shang Xi's pair of knives in the past. Repairing a weapon was much easier than making one from scratch anyway. Since Duan Hong was going to attempt to create a low-grade spear anyway, giving him the low-grade halberd to practice on didn't seem too bad.

If Duan Hong managed to modify his halberd and successfully create the low-grade spear, Shang Xia would have struck it big. However, Shang Xia was obviously the only one who was rich enough at the moment to give Duan Hong a graded weapon to play around with.

Ignoring the cost of modifying the Waning Moon Halberd to turn it into the Waning Moon Spear, Shang Xia knew that changing the base of a weapon from a halberd to a spear would definitely affect its quality. Even if it remained as a low-grade weapon, it could barely be considered one. However, all he wanted was to use it as a placeholder before his actual spear was completed!

He couldn't be bothered that he would destroy the halberd. After all, he had three other graded weapons in his possession.

Rather than keeping it in his Embroidered Cloud Case as decoration, he might as well bring out the halberd and increase his strength as much as possible.

After Duan Hong left and brought away the two younger disciples of the Shang Clan who he introduced as his disciples, he still felt his head spinning.

From what he knew, the Shang Clan only had so many graded weapons. He didn't expect Shang Xia to bring out one for him to play with.

Watching Duan Hong's leaving figure, Yan Qi chuckled in amusement, "Young master, you definitely scared Master Duan Hong this time."

After he spoke, he discovered that Shang Xia was playing with another short blade in his hand. With his pupils widening in fright, Yan Qi shuttered, "This... This... Isn't this..."

When Zhu Ying challenged Shang Xia in the past, he wanted to use the exact same short blade. Many people had seen it before.

Shang Xia sniggered softly in response, "Yeah, this is the blade you're thinking about. It's mine now. However, I'm not good at using short blades. Uncle Yan, you can have it. I know that the dagger Aunt Xi gave you in the war is too short and you're not used to it."

Yan Qi's gaze couldn't leave the short blade, but he shook his head resolutely. "No. I cannot accept it. This is a mid-grade weapon! It's too valuable."

He knew that the Shang Clan was severely lacking in mid-grade weapons. He couldn't accept such a huge gift from Shang Xia.

However, the blade came flying over before he could say anything else.

Grabbing it hastily, he tried to return it to Shang Xia. "Young Master, this..."

Pushing his hand away, Shang Xia said in all seriousness, "Uncle Yan, you have been taking care of me all this while. You can even be considered half my father! Don't tell me our relationship isn't worth as much as this sword."

A trace of gratefulness flashed in Yan Qi's eyes and he muttered softly, "I'll accept Young Master's favor! I will definitely remember your grace!" When he spoke, a short dagger appeared in his palm.

"Since I obtained the short blade, I shall return this dagger to you."

The Origin Light Dagger didn't really suit Yan Qi in the first place. As such, Shang Xia didn't reject it. Instead, he jokingly reminded Yan Qi after retrieving the dagger. "Uncle Yan, don't forget to disguise the blade a little. Even though Zhu Ying's death might have wiped everything clean, it's not a good idea to wave it openly."

Yan Qi nodded solemnly. He seemed to have thought of something as he played with the dagger in his hand and he continued, "I forgot to say this earlier, but Young Lady Mu Qingyu returned with the Yun Family's convoy."

Shang Xia's eyes widened in shock. "Oh? Is she still alive? Alright then. It's good to be alive." Shang Xia felt a little guilty in his heart. After all, he left her behind when he chased after Zhu Ying back then.

"Young Lady Mu's condition isn't too bad. I heard that she ran into quite a few fortunate encounters in the Coral Forest and experienced a huge increase in cultivation strength."

Shang Xia's thoughts immediately returned to the stack of herbs Zhu Ying left behind and his heart started to ache slightly.

...

After instructing Yan Qi to continue taking note of the situation in the city, Shang Xia returned to his Yifeng Pavilion.

A loud cry came from the skies and several chirps could be heard in succession. Raising his head, Shang Xia saw four tiny little birds raising their heads to the skies above with their small beaks wide open.

A gray shadow descended from the skies as Yan Ni'er made a graceful twist in the air before returning to her nest.

The next thing he knew, she released the foot-long fish in her mouth and the four little Rain Swallows rushed towards it.

Several sparks of lightning flashed through the nest, causing the three other rain swallows to jump in fright. In the next moment, they started twittering away as they went over to complain to Yan Ni'er.

Shang Xia stared intently at the little bird who was emitting a soft silver glow and was a little larger than the other three. The little bird was tearing away at the flesh of the fish Yan Ni'er brought back.

A smile found its way onto Shang Xia's face as it wasn't the first time that happened. It was basically a daily occurrence that brought Shang Xia a little joy in his otherwise dull life.

Shang Xia named the little swallow when it just hatched, and it was called Yan Lei. It was precisely the descendant of the Lightning Bird and Yan Ni'er. Perhaps it was because Shang Xia gave the Lightning Bird and Yan Ni'er an overall boost with his constant provision of the ball of lightning, their descendant seemed a lot stronger the moment it was born.

That also allowed it to become the fastest among its three other siblings when it came to fighting for food.

Clearly, its actions were unacceptable in Yan Ni'er's eyes. She wouldn't allow one of her children to behave so impolitely and she chirped angrily at Yan Lei.

Yan Lei seemed to understand its mother well and it lowered its head before moving slightly to the side. The soft silver glow around it also disappeared.

The three other little swallows quickly rushed over and started their feast.

Unfortunately for them, the most delicious part of the fish had already been eaten by Yan Lei.

After watching her kids eat for a little while, Yan Ni'er emerged from her nest and landed on Shang Xia's shoulders.

With his inner qi slowly circulating around his body, several bolts of lightning appeared around Yan Ni'er. She flapped her wings in joy while letting out happy chirps as she bathed in the web of lightning Shang Xia summoned.

All of a sudden, another figure emerged from the nest and charged towards Shang Xia. Sadly, Yan Lei wasn't able to fly properly yet and it tumbled about in the air unsteadily.

Reaching out to hold Yan Lei, a chuckle left Shang Xia's lips. Before he could do anything, Yan Lei struggled violently out of his palm and hopped over to his shoulders. Evidently, it wanted to bathe in the web of lightning too.

Chapter 237: Forked Path

Even though Shang Xia received an inheritance for the Martial Intent Realm, both the Triple Providence Chapter and the Providence Spear were extremely profound. Before he started to cultivate either of them, he would have to analyze them carefully in order not to walk down the wrong path.

Shang Xia recalled the Triple Providence Chapter and when he was confident he didn't miss anything out, he pulled several sheets of paper over and wrote down everything he remembered.

As he wrote down what he remembered, he also penned down his insights. When he was done, Shang Xia realized that he had filled more than a hundred sheets of paper and it filled the entire room.

As the contents on the paper were not allowed to be leaked to the outside world, Shang Xia flicked his wrist once and all the scattered sheets turned into ash. Even though they were clearly burned, not a trace of smoke could be seen in the room.

Waving again, the ashes flew out the window.

After getting rid of his insights for the Triple Providence Chapter and its contents, he pulled over another stack of paper. He started from scratch and started from the first chapter. Every time he came to a conclusion, he would write it down before striking it through with his brush. After completing his second round, he stood up to stretch his body. Feeling the popping from all his joints, he discovered that three days had passed!

Only then did he finally understand how to start training in the Triple Providence Chapter.

It seemed as though the way of cultivation was filled with solitude. One had to be able to endure loneliness in order to be a good cultivator!

After emerging from his room, Shang Xia went to mess with the little birds in the nest before giving Yan Ni'er another bath of lightning. The little monster bird, Yan Lei, also ran over to leech some benefits.

When Shang Xia was done and he chose to enter seclusion, Yan Ni'er chirped to stop him.

Staring at her in surprise, he asked, "You found it?"

Two short chirps left her lips to show her confirmation.

A trace of hesitation appeared on Shang Xia's face and he fell silent for a second before muttering, "Alright. Don't alert them. Just keep a lookout. You definitely cannot be discovered by the other party. We have to think this through before we make any moves."

Tilting her head to the side, she seemed to understand what he was talking about as two short chirps left her lips.

After she left, Shang Xia took out a voice transmission symbol and spoke several short sentences into it before returning to his secret chamber.

This time, he was planning to truly start training in the Triple Providence Chapter. Previously, all he did was theorize everything about the first chapter of the Triple Providence Chapter. Now, the true test was about to begin.

...

After Shang Ke took over as the patriarch of the Shang Clan, he didn't take over Shang Bo's cultivation chamber. Instead, he remained in his own courtyard which slightly resembled Shang Xia's. Of course, it was slightly bigger than the kid's courtyard, and there were countless types of plants growing around.

Shang Ke remained in a half-secluded state ever since he returned from the battlefield between the two worlds. He would only appear when there was no other choice, and he left the day-to-day activities to Shang Xi, Shang Jian, and Shang Yang.

At that moment, he was leisurely trimming his plants in his courtyard and he resembled an old farmer who worked in the fields.

Raising his head suddenly, he tossed away the trimmings in his hand and dusted the soil away before grabbing a ray of light that shot his way.

“Oh? It really is him...” Waving his hand to destroy the report he just received, he continued, “Since that’s the case, we might actually be able to set up a proper scheme...”

...

In the training grounds of the Tongyou Institution.

A ray of sword light sliced through a flurry of flashes as a groan filled the air. Ye Yimei, a disciple of the Jianmen Institution, retrieved her sword.

“Your technique is flashy, nothing more! It doesn’t even suit you.” Ye Yimei looked at the lady standing before her who looked younger than she actually was and muttered with the intention of giving her some pointers.

Beads of perspiration dripped down Mu Qingyu’s forehead and her right hand trembled violently. She was unable to keep her grip on her weapon, but she didn’t back down. “Many thanks to Senior Sister Ye for the guidance. I hope to be able to practice my sword techniques with you in the future.”

The corners of Ye Yimei’s lips curled upwards in response, “Anytime.”

As the two ladies left the plaza, the disciples who were gathered around broke into a flurry of discussion.

“Damn, Senior Sister Mu lost!”

“We lost more than we won when up against the disciples of the other institutions...”

“Yeah. I’m afraid the only one who managed to defeat his opponent was Senior Brother Dou Zhong.”

“Hah... Most of our senior brothers and sisters of the Inner and Upper Divisions are stuck in the battlefield between two worlds. Otherwise, we won’t be suppressed by the other four institutions!”

“Hmph, everything happened because of that bastard, Shang Xia. They even gave him the title of ‘Thousand Illusion Sword’. They’re even calling him the ‘Thousand Illusion Young Master’. He doesn’t even dare to show his face around here! He’s leaving us to clear up all his mess.

“I heard that he’s preparing to break through to the Martial Intent Realm and is unable to return to the institution at the moment. Maybe that’s why he didn’t show up?”

“Bah, that’s all bullshit. He’s definitely using it as an excuse. Even if he does break through, it’s not like the other institutions don’t have Martial Intent Realm disciples. He won’t be able to take them on even if he succeeds!”

“Enough. No matter what, he’s a member of the Shang Clan. We’re in no position to spread rumors about him.”

“Hah, what are you afraid of? The rumors of his strength are definitely exaggerated. Every capable disciple of the institution was called over to the battlefield between the two worlds. Why would he return to the city? He might not even be Senior Brother Dou Zhong’s match. At the very least, the other institutions hold high praise for Senior Brother Dou Zhong. Yet none of them said anything about that bastard.”

“...”

...

Shang Xia didn’t know how seriously his reputation had suffered during the time he was away. He also didn’t know that the higher-ups of the other institutions gave a strict command to their disciples to not reveal Shang Xia’s strength ever since the battle that day.

Even if he knew, he might not care. At the very moment, he was focused on his training in the Triple Providence Chapter.

As he trained according to the insights he wrote out on the sheets of paper earlier, a slight transformation happened in his dantian.

The Triple Providence Chapter was clearly different from the other secret arts meant for Martial Intent Realm cultivators.

Shang Xia felt that it was somewhat different from the strongest techniques he had seen. Speaking of the strongest secret arts, Shang Xia had to admit that no one even came close to Ouyang Zhaiyuan. His title as Ouyang’s Third Fist wasn’t wasted on him. The only pity was that fusing his three punches into his ultimate technique, ‘Killing God’ was too damn difficult. Even at the point of his death, he was unable to complete it. In the end, he was killed by Shang Ke and Gu Shou.

The Triple Providence Chapter seemed vastly different from the tyrannical art that was Killing God. It progressed step by step, and the increments in strength were slow but steady. It didn’t seem too difficult to reach the highest level if one took things gradually.

Chapter 238: You Used The Wrong Formula But Got The Correct Answer Anyway

In terms of cultivation in the Azure Origin World, the cultivation system had two main paths when one entered the Martial Intent Realm.

One was to fuse three different techniques into their third martial intent, stepping into the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm. That was the route Ouyang Zhaifeng was taking.

The other was to progress step by step, developing one technique to the extreme. They would experience an increase in strength every time their divine sense was upgraded. Improving gradually, they would also step into the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm.

Those were two completely different ways of training, and neither could be said to be better than the other.

It was easy for cultivators to follow the first method of training as training in three different techniques was much easier. It was much more flexible in the short term. However, the problem came when they had to fuse their techniques to form their third martial intent. It was a bottleneck that stumped many Martial Intent Realm experts.

The second method of training was slightly more difficult in the initial stages. Every small breakthrough was a challenge, and the speed of cultivation was hardly comparable to the first.

However, their final bottleneck to the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm was a lot easier to get through than those who used the first method of training.

That was also the reason many cultivators chose the first way of training. One could risk it all and try breaking through to the Martial Extermination Realm when they were at the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm.

Those who chose the second way were the minority, but their chances of entering the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm were higher.

Comparing the number of cultivators in the Martial Extermination Realm who used either the first or second method, one would discover that they were almost the same in number. Even though those who chose the second method had a much higher chance of breaking through, there were too many who chose the first.

Choosing the second method also didn't ensure that one would definitely enter the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm. A great example would be Shang Ke who failed to break past the final bottleneck before attempting his advance. That also played a huge factor for those who decided to choose the first method of training.

The disparity between those who chose the first and second methods of training was also evident in the Shang Clan. Not many disciples chose to train in the Triple Providence Chapter and the Providence Spear. Instead, they chose to take their own path into the Martial Extermination Realm.

Some of the higher-ups of the Shang Clan also chose to take their own path. Shang Jian chose to train in the way of the sword, pioneering a sword inheritance for the Shang Clan.

Shang Xi chose to comprehend the Triple Providence Chapter, but she didn't train in the Providence Spear. After all, she was more accomplished in the way of the blade. If she forcefully learned how to use the spear, she would greatly affect her training speed.

Out of the three second-generation members of the Shang Clan present in the clan manor at the moment, only Shang Yang trained in both the Triple Providence Chapter and the Providence Spear. However, he was also a beginner who barely started.

Like Shang Xia, Shang Yang also stepped into the Martial Intent Realm recently. He received the news of the institution running into trouble in the battlefield between the two worlds when he was out, and he rushed back as soon as he could to provide his assistance. Since he was back, he could also receive the clan's inheritance.

With the teachings of so many seniors, Shang Xia tried to fuse them with his limited knowledge of cultivation in his previous world to gain a better understanding of the 'Triple Command Realm' (Martial Intent Realm but in another term)

"What the hell does 'Heaven, Earth, and Man' represent? Hmmm, whatever, It sounds like something? I heard in the past about transforming essence to qi, training qi to achieve the divine, and returning from the divine to the void..."

"Ahhh, fuck it, It makes sense and I'll just understand it this way!" Shang Xia tried to circulate his qi in accordance with his understanding and he quickly found a way to start. His inner qi started to circulate through his meridians.

Due to the transformation in his dantian, the formless ball of chaos seemed to have formed some sort of obstruction where his inner qi was unable to flow through. His inner qi and the formless ball of chaos seemed to be two different entities that didn't interfere with each other.

As his inner qi ran through his meridians, Shang Xia could feel heaven and earth qi pouring into his body at a terrifying rate. In several breaths of time, the heaven and earth qi around his courtyard had been sucked dry.

Compared to the time he was in the Martial Extremity Realm, he absorbed heaven and earth qi several times faster! His way of absorbing heaven and earth qi could even be considered tyrannical!

That was even considering the fact that the grand formation around the Shang Clan Manor was actively absorbing heaven and earth qi from the surroundings to increase the density of heaven and earth qi in the manor. Even then, he managed to create a space void of any with his absorption speed.

With the absence of heaven and earth qi in his surroundings and the slow rate of recovery, Shang Xia's cultivation speed was naturally affected

According to his estimation, he should be able to complete one full circulation in two hours. Due to the lack of heaven and earth qi, he was only able to complete it after three long hours.

When he was done with the first round of circulation, he could feel his origin core growing a lot stronger. At the same time, it also gained some spirituality.

The only thing that confused him was the requirement to train in a Martial Intent Realm martial art in order to transform the inner qi already stored in his dantian.

Ever since entering the Martial Intent Realm, the large amount of Yin Yang Essence Qi left in his dantian would only transform when he trained in the Providence Spear!

Even though training in the Providence Spear was easier than the Triple Providence Chapter, he would need to fully comprehend techniques that suited him after understanding the theory behind the Providence Spear!

Luckily for him, his understanding of the Triple Providence Chapter provided him with a direction to pursue when he tried to comprehend his own spear art in the future.

Chapter 239: Waning Moon Spear

“Refining the essence to qi...” Shang Xia muttered to himself as he played with a long spear in his hand.

If that was truly the case, the medicine and way for him to enter the Martial Intent Realm that had been modified by the blood red tablet in his sea of consciousness was only a guide for him to form an origin core in his body.

Only when his inner qi completed its transformation would it finally be considered his ‘Triple Command Origin True Qi’. He would have to circulate the Triple Command Origin True Qi in his body in order to start training in the Triple Providence Chapter.

The Triple Command Origin True Qi had nothing to do with the ball of chaos that appeared in his dantian during his promotion to the Martial Intent Realm. Instead, he had to transform his Yin Yang Essence Qi that he had gathered when he was in the Martial Extremity Realm completely into Triple Command Origin True Qi. In order to do that, he would need to practice the Providence Spear!

He discovered that the process of cultivation was long and difficult indeed. Every time he broke through, he would have to start from scratch by transforming his inner qi! Of course, that didn’t mean that it was all bad. When he trained in the Providence Spear Art, he would slowly transform his inner qi in the Triple Command Origin True Qi. It worked almost exactly like when he entered the Martial Extremity Realm where he had to transform his inner qi into Yin Yang Essence Qi.

When the transformation was complete, his cultivation speed would rise rapidly!

After all, the amount of Yin Yang Essence Qi he gathered in the Martial Extremity Realm was abundant. He was so strong that no one in the same realm was his match!

The metal spear trembled in his hand as it barely managed to contain his inner qi. Even though it looked like it was about to break apart, Shang Xia hadn’t injected a lot of power into it. In fact, he was afraid to put too much energy into it in case it became a pile of scrap metal.

At the moment, the spear in his hand was made purely from iron. It wasn’t that he didn’t wish to use a spear made from precious materials. If he had a proper spear, it would be much easier to train in the Providence Spear Art!

It was too bad his Triple Command Origin True Qi was extremely high level. It possessed destructive properties that could destroy pseudo-graded weapons that were made from precious materials. Although it would last longer than the current spear in his hand, it would still shatter after a few rounds of training. The Shang Clan didn’t possess that many good spears to begin with, and they couldn’t ensure Shang Xia’s expenditure.

After he destroyed three pseudo-graded spears after nine days of training, Shang Xi personally came to look for him to forbid him from using any more.

Helpless and desperate to use a spear to continue comprehending his spear art, Shang Xia could only look for those made from ordinary iron white waiting for Duan Hong to complete the modification of his Waning Moon Spear.

While that was happening, he continued to explore the properties of his Triple Command Origin True Qi.

Deep down in his heart, he knew why his qi destroyed the spears he was using. The Providence Spear Art wasn't just a technique. It contained several profound principles that one had to figure out for themselves.

Shang Xia was also unable to prevent his inner qi that would leak from time to time. It contained many different properties. Due to his cultivation, his inner qi would transform instinctively between the powers of lightning and the seven pairs of qi he mastered in the Martial Extremity Realm. When it entered the weapon he was holding, it would bring about extremely destructive behavior, weakening the weapon severely.

That was also the reason why Shang Xia hadn't made any actual progress in the half month he was training in it.

One fine day, he was thinking of leaving seclusion and returning to the institution when Duan Hong rushed towards his courtyard with an elated expression plastered to his face.

"Sixth Young Master, I did it! I succeeded!" His voice arrived long before he did.

"Really? Where is it? Let me have a look!" Shang Xia rushed out into his courtyard in excitement.

He was already starting to get disappointed by his inability to practice his spear art. Now that Duan Hong had arrived, it seemed as though a huge part of his problems would be solved!

Seeing the look of joy on Shang Xia's face, Duan Hong waved his hand and yelled to his apprentices, "Bring it in!"

The two of them carried a long spear on their shoulders as they stumbled into the courtyard.

Without a second word from Duan Hong, Shang Xia went over to grab the body of the spear. Twisting his wrist, he drew a perfect arc before him. A strong breeze swept against the two apprentices and they stumbled backward slightly.

Duan Hong reached out to hold their shoulders and he muttered softly, "Watch carefully. This is a good opportunity for the two of you."

His apprentices were disciples of the Shang Clan to begin with. They were sent over to Duan Hong to learn the ropes due to their superior talent, and they were the hope of the Shang Clan.

Duan Hong knew that they would eventually take his place once they grew up, but he couldn't do anything about it. He required the support of a giant power like the Shang Clan if he wished to improve his skills. They were basically making use of each other, and he wasn't reserved when imparting his skills to the two of them.

With their teacher's tip, the two of them opened their eyes wide to watch Shang Xia swinging his spear around the courtyard. The sharp wind that slammed against them caused them a little pain, but they couldn't be bothered with it at that moment.

Strictly speaking, Shang Xia wasn't too adept with using the modified halberd due to the fundamental difference between the two weapons. Regardless, a graded weapon was a graded weapon. It was capable of holding Shang Xia's Triple Command Origin True Qi.

When he was ‘training’ in the Providence Spear Art previously, he could only visualize the moves. Now, he was finally able to test them out! With Duan Hong and his apprentices as witnesses, he started his formal training in the spear art!

As he swung the spear, he vented all the frustrations he had built up when the various spears he used previously shattered, rendering him unable to train properly.

The faster he swung his spear, the clearer his mind became. The large amount of inner qi in his dantian started to transform, and the Triple Command Origin True Qi that was stored in the formless mass of chaos in his dantian increased by one-fold. Stabbing his spear into the skies, a loud whistle tore through the air.

Chapter 240: Gaining Control

If Shang Xia had to mention his deepest impression of a Martial Intent Realm cultivator, he would have to say that it had something to do with their ability to control the heaven and earth qi around them.

The number of Martial Intent Realm cultivators he fought with wasn’t few. He suffered greatly in their hands because of that specific ability. As such, his greatest desire after stepping into the Martial Intent Realm was to learn how to do the same.

With the Waning Moon Spear in his hand, he executed several moves he comprehended in the Providence Spear Art and finally obtained a Martial Intent Realm martial art of his own.

That wasn’t all. After completing the moves, the Yin Yang Essence Qi in his dantian was starting to transform. The origin core that contained his Triple Command Origin True Qi expanded by more than one time, making him more powerful than before.

That was great proof that he managed to gain an initial grasp of his martial art.

With excitement flowing through his veins, Shang Xia sent a trace of his Origin True Qi into the spear. Heaven and earth qi started gathering around the tip with his Origin True Qi as its origin, and it turned into a giant spear light tens of feet long that shot towards the heavens.

Controlling heaven and earth qi at will! When he obtained a slight accomplishment in his Martial Intent Realm martial art, he finally managed to achieve his goal!

In his excitement, Shang Xia failed to control his Origin True Qi in his dantian and he raised his head to roar loudly at the skies. Half the Tongyou City was alarmed by his sudden scream.

After a short moment, Shang Xia regained his calm.

If he managed to disturb half the city, the Shang Clan Manor was definitely going to be affected. Nearly the entire population in the manor saw the spear light piercing high into the heavens before disappearing.

When his Origin True Qi finally calmed down, Shang Xia remembered that there were still people in the courtyard.

“Congratulations to the Sixth Young Master for succeeding! With a spear in hand, your future is limitless!” Duan Hong cupped his fists towards Shang Xia and smiled.

Ever since Shang Jian and Shang Yang returned, people had stopped addressing Shang Xia as 'Young Master Shang'. Instead, all of them changed his address to 'Sixth Young Master'.

Shang Xia knew that it was pretty much a formality in the clan and he didn't really care either.

The only people who could affect how people addressed each other in the Shang Clan were Shang Bo and Shang Ke. Regardless, the naming convention didn't affect him much.

Stabbing the Waning Moon Spear into the ground, Shang Xia chuckled, "Master Duan Hong is too kind. I only succeeded because you modified the halberd well."

"Thank you, Sixth Young Master, but you exaggerate!" Other people might not know where the weapon came from, but Duan Hong clearly knew that Shang Xia provided the low-grade weapon himself! The reason he succeeded was because of Shang Xia!

As long as Duan Hong provided him with a spear that could withstand his Origin True Qi, he would succeed regardless.

Seeing the look on Duan Hong's face, Shang Xia changed the topic. "Master Duan Hong, when do you plan to start refining the low-grade spear? The Waning Moon Spear might be good, but it's not perfectly suited to my needs."

Duan Hong snapped back to reality the moment Shang Xia brought up the topic. "Before anything else, I need to thank the Sixth Young Master for allowing me to practice with the Waning Moon Halberd. With the experience of modifying the weapon into a spear, I am much more confident in making a brand new low-grade spear. Today, I came with good news. Three days later, I will start the refinement process to create your spear."

Shang Xia immediately turned serious. "I hope Master Duan Hong will be successful! When that happens, our Shang Clan will welcome our very own master blacksmith!"

"I will definitely do my best. After all, it's time to repay the clan for the grace they have shown me all these years." Duan Hong bowed sincerely and gestured to his apprentices, "Little brats, why haven't you thanked the Sixth Young Master for giving you the opportunity to watch him train? Don't be rude!"

His apprentices looked younger than Shang Xia, and their appearances were a little haggard after what they just went through. Earlier, Shang Xia drew over a ton of heaven and earth qi and covered his courtyard with his divine sense. Even with Duan Hong's protection, the two of them were severely suppressed.

However, that didn't stop them from revealing excited expressions as they went up to thank Shang Xia. They had looks of adoration and worship on their faces as they spoke to Shang Xia. "Many thanks, Sixth Uncle!"

As they spoke, they gave him a deep bow.

"There's no need for formalities! We're all family here!" Shang Xia raised an eyebrow in surprise at Duan Hong.

Even though they looked barely younger than him, it seemed as though they were from the fourth generation of the Shang Clan!

A chuckle left Duan Hong's lips as he explained, "Sixth Young Master, when you covered the entire courtyard with your divine sense earlier, you managed to help temper their willpower. You also placed a shadow of the spear dao in their minds. They barely entered the gateway of cultivation and they're currently at the Martial Realm. Thanks to you they will be able to train in spear arts and achieve twice the results with half the effort."

Widening his eyes in shock, Shang Xia gasped, "That works too?"

Nodding slightly, Duan Hong decided that it was time to leave. "If there's nothing else, we'll not disturb you any longer."

Shang Xia felt that Duan Hong wanted to say more, but since he chose not to, Shang Xia didn't press into the matter. He thought that it would be inconvenient for the two apprentices to hear him, and Shang Xia quickly bade his farewell. "Master Duan Hong, take care! When you start the refinement process, I'll be sure to show up."

After Duan Hong left, Shang Xia pulled his spear out from the ground and held it steadily in one hand.

Sending some of his Origin True Qi into the weapon, the spear started to buzz. Formless spear light emerged from its tip from time to time.

A flash of inspiration filled Shang Xia's mind and he withdrew his Origin True Qi all of a sudden. Instead, he sent a wisp of the purest energy contained in the formless ball of chaos in his dantian into his spear.

Resplendent rays of light emerged from the tip of the spear. There were even faint arcs of lightning flashing around it.

Indeed. Shang Xia was still able to use his first and second martial intents he comprehended in the Martial Realm and the Martial Extremity Realm respectively. Even if he used the spear, it didn't affect his ability to utilize his qi.

The power contained in the multicolored spear light was terrifying. In fact, it seemed even more powerful than the formless spear light that he sent into the air when he comprehended his Providence Spear Art earlier. The only problem he found was that the multicolored spear light wasn't as pure as the other attack. It seemed all over the place and he couldn't quite put his finger on it.