

The Heavens 291

Chapter 291: Gimme!

Shang Xia's reckless death-courting actions caused another deep wound to form on his already battered body.

The wound was bad, but luckily, it was only an external wound and Shang Xia was able to hold on forcefully.

He might not have been able to see the result of his Woundless Spear, but Shang Xia could determine that Liang Shuangren was definitely injured by it.

Liang Shuangren might be a third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert, and Shang Xia's strike might only be able to draw some blood. However, that was enough. As long as he drew Liang Shuangren's attention away for a split second, the other Martial Extermination Realm experts would be able to capitalize on the chance!

His crazy attempt drained him of all his energy. There was no way he could do it again.

Another voice rang in his ears as he was retreating. "Silly kid, you're really lucky to be able to escape with your life this time. Borrow me your spear for the time being!"

Thinking back to the interaction before the battle, Shang Xia realized it belonged to Youshang of the Azure Spiritual World.

How was it possible for Shang Xia to lend his spear to someone from the Azure Spiritual World? The Shang Clan specially created the Scarlet Star Spear for him, and they used a colossal amount of resources to do so. He wouldn't hand deliver the weapon to someone from the Azure Spiritual World...

Before Shang Xia could start hurling obscenities at the man, Mister Bu's voice rang in his mind. "Lend it to him. With the spear, we might be able to kill Liang Shuangren!"

"Kill Liang Shuangren? Am I supposed to toss the spear towards you guys? Will he be able to grab it if I do?" Shang Xia's tone was a little reluctant and it was obvious he didn't wish to hand his spear over to a cultivator from the Azure Spiritual World.

However, logic told him that an opportunity to kill an elder of the Changbai Holy Land wouldn't present itself so often. As such, he chose to listen to Mister Bu.

"Just throw the spear in! Gimme the weapon! Other people are going to come soon!" Youshang's voice rang through the air once again.

Even though Shang Xia couldn't see the battle clearly, he could tell where they were from their voice. It seemed as though Youshang was working with Mister Bu and the black-clothed man to fight Liang Shuangren. He might be confused about the reason behind Youshang's decision to kill Liang Shuangren, but he eventually chose to trust Mister Bu.

With all his strength, he tossed his spear towards the chaotic battlefield. When he was done, he started running away with all his might.

Without his weapon in hand, Shang Xia didn't even dare to stay behind to wait for the battle to conclude!

As he was making his way away, Shang Xia heard a happy grunt from Youshang as the battle intensified yet again.

Rumble...

The mountain range under the four Martial Extermination Realm experts was starting to crumble, and the shockwaves of the battle tore through the lands. While running away, Shang Xia felt that the shockwaves were sent after him intentionally.

Running desperately, Shang Xia didn't stop until he couldn't hear the blasts coming from their exchange.

When he was finally far enough to feel safe, he turned to look at the scene of destruction. He was shocked to discover a huge wave pointing in his direction. Shang Xia wondered if it had anything to do with Liang Shuangren trying to drag him into the afterlife.

The thought flashed through his mind, but he was unable to receive any confirmation on the matter. That was because the clouds in the air had already been destroyed by the chaotic battle. The space was no longer twisted, and the four of them were nowhere to be seen. He couldn't tell the result of the battle either.

"Where did they go? Hey wait a second, my Scarlet Star Spear!" Shang Xia roared angrily as he didn't know if he would ever be able to retrieve his weapon now that it was in the hands of a Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Azure Spiritual World.

What Youshang said earlier suddenly rang in Shang Xia's mind. 'Other people are going to come soon'! He thought that after Senior Brother Lin returned, he would be leading the members of the Azure Spiritual World over. However, it was also possible for other cultivators to check out the disturbance. Mister Bu also said before that his identity couldn't be leaked. He had to return to the city before night fell.

That was probably why they disappeared after the battle concluded. After all, none of the four could reveal their identities. That made it all the more so that Shang Xia wouldn't be able to stay where he was. Even though he had to leave as soon as possible, he didn't dare to return to the city immediately! He took a huge detour around other regions of the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range before heading back.

Not too long after he emerged from the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range and caught sight of the Changfeng City in the distance, an unexpected figure appeared beside him. It was Mister Bu who had disappeared after the battle.

"Cough, cough..." Mister Bu covered his mouth with his left hand before chuckling, "Kid, you're really quick. If I came a little later, you would have entered the city."

Shang Xia glanced at him from the corner of his eye and muttered, "Are you injured?"

“Hehe, it’s just a small injury. Moreover, I traded my injury for something much more worth it.” Mister Bu chuckled.

“You killed the third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Azure Spiritual World?” Shang Xia’s eyes lit up and he gasped softly.

Nodding slowly, a satisfied smile appeared on Mister Bu’s face.

Stretching out his hand, Shang Xia growled, “Where’s my spear?”

Nearly bursting out into laughter, Mister Bu flipped his wrist to reveal the Scarlet Star Spear. It was clear that Mister Bu had a spatial artifact on him too.

Shang Xia reached out to grab his spear and inspected it from head to toe. When he was satisfied that there wasn’t any serious damage on the spear, he heaved a sigh of relief.

Next, he heard Mister Bu whispering softly. “Your spear is made with a lot of good materials. It also looks like it went through several refinement processes from Ou Bai of the Tongyou Institution. His talent in blacksmithing isn’t exceptionally impressive. He never takes risks. Every time he refines a weapon, he would follow the steps without any deviation. His success rate is high, and the quality of the product is good. However, he is never able to bring out the limits of the materials used. From a certain perspective, you can say that he’s wasting resources.”

Shang Xia couldn’t help but look at Mister Bu in a new light. “Senior, do you also refine weapons?”

Thinking back to how the Tongyou Institution got him to meet with Mister Bu, it made sense as Shang Xia went to the forge to look for Mister Bu in the first place.

A smile appeared on Mister Bu’s face. “I know a thing or two. In fact, the materials and treasures used to craft your spear are more than enough to refine a high-grade weapon. Who would have thought that Ou Bai was the one working on it? It’s no wonder it became a mid-grade weapon. However, it’s possible to improve it in the future. The only requirement is for you to look for several more treasures.”

He even told Shang Xia the names of the materials he needed to find in order to raise his spear to the high-grade level in the future. Shang Xia burned them all into his memory.

Seeing as they were about to arrive at the city gates, Shang Xia couldn’t help but ask again, “Senior, what exactly happened back there? Why would the three of you surround Liang Shuangren to kill him? Who are the other two? Where did you go after the battle?”

“Hehe, I thought you would have asked this a long time ago. You really managed to control yourself...” Mister Bu chuckled in amusement.

Shang Xia sniggered under his breath. “Mister Bu, please enlighten me.”

In response, Mister Bu shook his head slowly. “There are some things you cannot learn about at the moment. All that matters now is that Liang Shuangren is dead and we wiped out the nest of cultivators from the Azure Spiritual World.”

“Oh... So that’s where you went after killing him. Did you do that to prevent the news from leaking? Looks like the person they called Senior Brother Lin didn’t manage to

avoid his fate even after nearly breaking through to the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm..." Shang Xia sighed.

"Who nearly broke through to the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm? There were a few of them who completed their third divine sense transformation, but the strongest among them was only at the large competition stage. None of them were close to breaking through..." Mister Bu frowned.

Realizing the severity of the situation, Shang Xia's expression turned serious immediately. If Senior Brother Lin really managed to escape, the news of Liang Shuangren's death would probably be leaked!

Also, the three other Martial Extermination Realm experts who killed Liang Shuangren were still trying to hide their identities! It was especially so for Youshang. In Shang Xia's eyes, he was a weirdo who changed his allegiance at the last second and killed his comrade! There was no way he could allow the news to reach other members of the Azure Spiritual World!

Mister Bu lowered his voice and growled, "Are you sure there's someone like that?"

Shang Xia nodded resolutely. He also revealed the battle that happened among them.

Exhaling a long breath, Mister Bu shook his head in response. "We can't blame you for this. You killed three of the four Martial Intent Realm cultivators you faced. The way you handled the situation was pretty much perfect. If anyone else was in your place, they might not have done better. You don't have to worry about letting him escape."

"What about exposing our identities?" Shang Xia asked.

"Relax. The most important thing right now is to tell the other two that someone managed to escape. With their experience and schemes, they should have several more identities they can use to hide themselves. They shouldn't be exposed for the time being." Mister Bu sighed. From his words, Shang Xia could tell that the three of them had already reached an agreement and formed some sort of alliance.

That also allowed Shang Xia to heave a sigh of relief.

"Then..." Shang Xia muttered slowly while looking at Mister Bu.

With the corners of his lips curling upwards to form a sneer, Mister Bu retrieved a box before handing it over to Shang Xia.

"What's this?" Shang Xia gasped and a look of delight appeared on his face.

"Stop pretending to be dumb. You were waiting for this all along. Haha. You were indispensable when it came to killing Liang Shuangren. Naturally, we left a share of the spoils for you."

Shang Xia reached out to grab the box like a kid on Christmas day and he chuckled, "Many thanks to seniors! I wonder what good stuff you left for me?"

Chapter 292: Arrival of the Mysterious World

“Haha! I didn’t think that you guys would leave some scraps for me. I wonder what good stuff this box contains?” With his intentions seen through by Mister Bu, Shang Xia no longer maintained his courteous look. He couldn’t wait to open the box.

However, he was stopped by Mister Bu. “Haha, take a look after you get back. We’re approaching the gates. You better not let other people discover this.”

Suppressing the excitement in his heart, Shang Xia decided to take the man’s advice. He soon added, “Oh right, I apologize for my actions. If not for my insistence to bring you into the depths of the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range, you wouldn’t be injured.”

Shang Xia was sincerely apologetic for what he had done. However, his apology was met with a soft chuckle from Mister Bu. “You can’t be blamed for this. Everything happened too suddenly and we were caught off guard. Luckily, it ended well. At the very least, I found several people to work with for our plans on the Changfeng City.”

Shang Xia’s eyes lit up and he continued questioning, “Are you talking about the black-clothed man? He seems really familiar to me. I wonder where I’ve seen him before...”

“Hah. You’ll know when the time comes...” Mister Bu laughed.

“What are your plans for the future? How should we communicate in the future?” Shang Xia asked.

Thinking for a second, Mister Bu muttered, “You should have seen Old Wu from the forge the other day. If you notice a little copper bell under his shop sign, that would mean that I’m looking for you. If you need to find me, you can tell him directly. He’ll know where to find me.”

After confirming their mode of communication, they were about to enter the city when Mister Bu stopped walking. A strange look appeared on Shang Xia’s face as he turned to look at the Martial Extermination Realm expert.

All of a sudden, he discovered a violent fluctuation of heaven and earth qi in the distance. Shang Xia looked at Mister Bu with a look of confusion, but he saw the Martial Extermination Realm expert staring into the air in the northern direction.

Shang Xia followed his gaze, and he found himself looking at a huge mirage. A massive manor that was surrounded by huge rock formations seemed to appear on the horizon. He couldn’t be more familiar with the mirage. It looked exactly the same as the Coral Forest back in the battlefield between the two worlds!

“Mysterious Coral World?” Shang Xia muttered to himself.

“That’s right. Looks like the Tongyou Institution’s scheme that had gone on for twenty years finally bore fruit.” Mister Bu sighed. However, the deep frown on his face betrayed his true feelings.

“Is there anyone who will try to stop them?” Shang Xia couldn’t help but ask.

Mister Bu glanced at him from the corner of his eye and muttered, “Heh. Now, their enemies will be revealed. Those who are plotting against the institution have to make their move.”

When he was done, he turned to look at Shang Xia and he continued, "I thought we had a lot more time to prepare. Looks like things are going out of control. With the arrival of the Mysterious Coral World, the Tongyou Institution will throw all consideration to the wind in order to reach the status of a holy land. The Changfeng City has to react immediately. We're out of time. Here's the new plan. I'll save the third in command of the Eighteen Horsemen in three days and prevent the Changfeng City from cooperating with the Ji Continent!"

When he was done, he shot a final glance at the faint appearance of the Mysterious Coral World in the distance before turning to enter the city.

"Wait, wait, wait! What is our plan exactly?" Shang Xia asked.

Without turning his head, Mister Bu yelled, "You'll know when the time comes!" However, he seemed to have thought of something else and he continued, "When you return, do your best to improve your spear art. You will need all the strength you can get."

When he was done, his figure blurred and disappeared.

"Hah... How can I improve my Providence Spear Art so easily? If I manage to use three months to comprehend a new move, I'll be thanking the gods! How am I supposed to do anything in three days?" Shang Xia shook his head helplessly. Retracting his aura, he returned to his disguise as an ordinary hunter as he entered the city.

Walking along the streets of the Changfeng City, he saw that the Mysterious Coral World had attracted a lot of attention.

As the skies turned darker, the mirage of the Mysterious Coral World started to fade. The heaven and earth qi in the air seemed to become more active. Shang Xia could feel that the heaven and earth qi was fluctuating a lot more wildly than usual, and if he felt that was, things would be way worse for the others. In fact, they could even describe the increase in activity as 'tyrannical'!

Suppressing his Origin True Qi to the best of his abilities, Shang Xia found it trying to force itself free. If that kept up, his cultivation would definitely suffer some damage!

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Noticing the abnormality he was feeling, he could tell that many others were having it worse. If anyone were in seclusion at that moment, the sudden change in heaven and earth qi would cause all their efforts to go down the drain. Some weaker ones might even experience cultivation deviation and lose control of their inner qi altogether!

As if the world was trying to prove Shang Xia right, a miserable cry left the lips of a cultivator not too far away. He fell to the ground, twitching. Strange masses formed under his skin and they started moving about as though rats were running inside him.

"It's bad! He's experiencing cultivation deviation!" A guard near the gate growled.

"Give him some space to breathe. Enter the city quickly!"

Shang Xia wanted to make his move to help the man, but the situation was worse than he thought. Several palpating sounds could be heard as the bones on his body started to crack. His body shriveled up and the heaven and earth in the area started to fluctuate. There was no saving him.

Shang Xia had no choice but to enter the city with the large group around him. They circled around the dying cultivator to pass through the city gates.

The moment they entered the city, the fluctuating heaven and earth qi calmed down. It was in stark contrast to the outside world.

“There’s a formation around the city!”

Many people were rushing along the streets, and all of them were clearly cultivators. Ordinary humans who couldn’t cultivate didn’t possess inner qi in their bodies, and they couldn’t feel the heaven and earth qi around them. They were the only group of people who were unaffected by the changes to the world around them.

When Shang Xia returned to his courtyard, he saw Yuanyuan playing with several kids who lived nearby. He handed the bag of sweets he bought along the way to Yuanyuan and got her to share them with her newfound friends.

“Creak.” Shang Xia left Yuanyuan to her own devices before walking into the courtyard. Feeling the slight pulse of heaven and earth qi, he could tell that someone had recently completed their cultivation session.

“You’re back!” Hai Min wrapped a thick coat around herself as the sharp light in her eyes faded. Watching how she tried to hide her aura, Shang Xia didn’t plan on exposing her.

He chuckled in response, “You don’t seem to mind Yuanyuan playing around by herself outside...” Of course, he knew that with Hai Min’s current cultivation level, she could hear everything that was going on where Yuanyuan was playing. She would be able to rush over if anything went wrong.

Since Hai Min wanted to live an ordinary life, Shang Xia decided to let her do as she wished. After all, she didn’t know that he was a cultivator either.

Ever since leaving the mountain range, Shang Xia had closed his wounds. He changed into a fresh set of clothes so that Hai Min wouldn’t be able to notice anything off.

The events that transpired that day were frightening, even by Shang Xia’s standards. He saved several members of the Eighteen Horsemen before crawling back from the gates of hell when they were discovered by Martial Extermination Realm experts. He might have closed the wounds he received during the battle forcefully with his inner qi, but his body needed some more time to heal. After dinner, Shang Xia didn’t even practice his talisman crafting and neither did he try to cultivate. He crawled into bed and fell asleep instantly.

When he woke up the next day, his injuries were much better. The wounds were closing and he felt extremely refreshed.

It also didn’t take long for him to notice that the heaven and earth qi in the city was a lot denser than before.

Naturally, that was merely the situation in the Changfeng City. He didn't know how terrifying the heaven and earth fluctuations were outside the city, or the current situation in the Tongyou City.

Next, he merged his divine sense with the world around him. He noticed that the radius he could detect had increased. He also discovered that there was no movement from the other room. Clearly, Hai Min and Yuanyuan were still in deep sleep.

With nothing else distracting him, Shang Xia retrieved the box Mister Bu handed over to him outside the city gates. A sense of anticipation filled him when he thought about the reward he was getting came from Liang Shuangren, a Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Azure Spiritual World.

Opening the box carefully, Shang Xia discovered a stalk of Snow Ginseng that was covered in red threads. There were several talismans surrounding the item too. The ginseng was as clear as jade, and there were several vein-like strands running through its body.

Even though Shang Xia didn't know what the Snow Ginseng was worth, or what it could be used for, he could tell that it was an extremely precious treasure from how well it was kept.

“This should be a special herb that grows in the Azure Spiritual World... I might not know its rank, but it shouldn't be anything worse than a rank four treasure. I'll look for Instructor Zhang Haogu after returning to the institution to identify the treasure!” Shang Xia muttered to himself.

Keeping the box carefully in his Embroidered Cloud Case, Shang Xia decided to head out to buy breakfast.

When he stepped out of his room, he stretched his body slightly and discovered that there were no movements from Hai Min's room. A sudden urge to practice his spear arts overwhelmed him and the Scarlet Star Spear appeared in his hands.

After swinging it around twice, Shang Xia sent a trace of his Origin true Qi into the spear. He slowly entered his stance to display his first move, Rift Crossing!

As soon as he did, the scene in front of his eyes changed as a trace of red-hot inner qi entered his body from inside the spear. Before Shang Xia could react, the trace of inner qi fused with his Origin True Qi.

A ball of mist appeared in his vision and a faceless figure appeared within it. The faceless figure started demonstrating different spear arts with precise moves, causing Shang Xia to gasp in shock.

Chapter 293: Enlightenment, Sixth Spear!

After getting up in the morning, Shang Xia noticed that Hai Min and Yuanyuan were still sleeping and decided to practice his spear moves to loosen his muscles.

Who would have thought that a strand of foreign inner qi would be hidden in the spear, imprinting all sorts of spear arts and spear manuals into Shang Xia's memory the moment he started using it?

When the movements of the faceless figure in the mist were firmly imprinted into Shang Xia's mind, he suddenly recalled what Mister Bu said about training his spear art diligently after returning.

He was slightly skeptical at first as they were going to make their move in three days. Such a short amount of time wasn't enough for him to begin comprehending his sixth move!

Now, he finally understood why Mister Bu wanted him to practice his spear art after returning. It seemed as though the foreign inner qi that was left in his Scarlet Star Spear contained the recollections of an expert containing many intricate spear arts and techniques!

That wasn't all. After thinking through all the moves imprinted in his memory, Shang Xia discovered that all the moves possessed frightening strength. Through the recollection of the moves, Shang Xia realized that those spear arts seemed to ingrain themselves deeper into his memory every time he thought about it. They were like some sort of inheritance!

He even had the delusion that he could execute every move to perfection the moment he swung his spear. The feeling was extremely amazing, and it was indescribable with words.

Luckily, Shang Xia's divine sense was powerful and he didn't lose himself in the situation. It didn't take long for him to snap back to reality.

Nothing came free in the world. He wouldn't be able to master those moves without constant practice. Everything he felt earlier was a hoax, and he knew that he had to practice his spear art in order to gain proficiency in those moves.

The memory of the moves was real though. As long as he wanted to train in the spear arts that were burned into his mind, he would be able to without much difficulty. However, there was something even more amazing. There might not be a need for him to practice all the moves.

An idea appeared in his mind, and he couldn't wait to verify his guess. However, the sound of movements came from Hai Min's room.

Leaving the courtyard to get the mother and daughter some food, it didn't take long for him to return. However, he was more focused on the appearance of the Mysterious Coral World in the distance and the idea he came up with earlier when they were eating. Finishing his food quickly, Shang Xia bade farewell to the two of them and promised to bring Yuanyuan some delicious snacks before leaving the courtyard.

Shang Xia could guess that the moment he left, Hai Min would contact the remaining members of the Eighteen Horsemen to carry out their rescue operations. He respected her choices and chose to focus on himself for now.

Before leaving the city, Shang Xia took a huge detour over to Wu Ji's forge. He replenished his arrows before rushing towards the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range.

When he was at the forge earlier, Shang Xia didn't notice a bell hanging under the sign. Neither did he manage to see Wu Ji. He purchased the arrows from the attendant he met the first time he came, and he couldn't help but feel slightly disappointed.

During the appearance of the Mysterious Coral World the day before, the heaven and earth qi fluctuated violently. Due to the time that passed, the situation calmed down and the heaven and earth qi seemed to be much more docile. No one knew how many cultivators experienced cultivation deviation before the heaven and earth qi finally settled down.

Not too long after he left the city, Shang Xia found a secluded spot before turning to look in the northern direction.

The Mysterious Coral World he was expecting to see was nowhere to be found, but there were several strange and beautiful phenomena in the distance.

“This looks like something that can only be seen in the battlefield between the two worlds when an Origin Tide erupts...” Shang Xia muttered.

In the past, Shang Xia experienced a small-scale Origin Tide eruption when he entered the Martial Extremity Realm. He couldn't be more familiar with it.

However, he knew that the Origin Tide that assisted in his breakthrough was extremely tamed. The phenomenon he experienced before its eruption was like a fly compared to the monster he was seeing in the distance.

From all the information he was getting from his scattered sources, from the Shang Clan to Mister Bu, the Tongyou Institution had a grand scheme. The plan to bring the Mysterious Coral World back from the institution might only be a small part of it! It seemed as though fusing the Tongyou Peak with the Mysterious Coral World was but a mere rumor that existed previously.

If the battle between the various powers and the Tongyou Institution was hidden in the dark before, the appearance of the Mysterious Coral World in the You Continent would definitely push the battle out into the light.

It seemed as though the Tongyou Institution was planning to stand up against any faction that would threaten their plans. The fate of the You Continent rode on the fate of the Tongyou Institutions' actions, and regardless of the outcome, the outcome was bound to cause a great deal of change in the Azure Origin World.

The only thing Shang Xia found to be a pity was that he wasn't in the Tongyou City when everything was going on. That was bound to be the place where the battle got the most intense, but thinking clearly, he discovered he might not be very useful to the situation as a whole. After all, he was merely a Martial Intent Realm cultivator. He wouldn't be called upon for the true confrontation that would take place with Martial Extermination Realm experts, and there wasn't much left for him to do there.

Now that he was in the Changfeng City, away from the core of the storm, he might be able to assist the institution in several matters.

Shang Xia didn't remain in place for long. He quickly entered the mountain range to verify his guesses about the spear arts he received.

Even if he didn't use his movement art, it took less than two hours for him to venture into the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range.

Locating a deserted valley within, Shang Xia took out his spear impatiently and recalled the moves executed by the faceless man.

When he wanted to test out some of the moves, the Origin True Qi in his body pulsed violently. Beads of cold sweat dripped down his forehead. A bad premonition filled his heart.

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He realized that practicing many different types of martial arts might allow him to display stronger fighting prowess, but it might not be beneficial to his cultivation as a whole. Instead of training in

all sorts of techniques, it made more sense to practice several better ones to the peak level. That would make it easier for him to comprehend his martial intent in the future and step into the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm!

Thinking about his Shang Clan's inheritance, the Providence Spear, Shang Xia had already drawn a connection from the Providence Spear to the Triple Providence Chapter. If he recklessly practiced the moves from another inheritance now, it might adversely affect his progress. It might even muddle the ball of formless chaos in his dantian, harming his cultivation foundations severely!

At that moment, he realized that the 'Triple Command Realm' was completely different from the 'Yin Yang Realm'. He was able to utilize different sword arts in the Yin Yang Realm as it focused on combination. It combined the various techniques into one. In the Triple Command Realm, or the Martial Intent Realm as members of the Azure Origin World called it, Shang Xia chose his path a long time ago. He wanted to comprehend the Providence Spear Art to its peak, and there was no room for other inheritances! Especially so when the Providence Spear Art contained a lot of mysteries he had yet to discover.

If he tried training in the spear arts left in the spear, he would be destroying his path of cultivation completely!

"The spear arts contained in it seems to be a trap..." Shang Xia sighed silently. Since Youshang was the one who used his spear, he couldn't help but suspect that the cultivator was scheming against him.

"The five spear arts he imparted are not only complete, but they are also extremely exquisite! Any one of them would possess terrifying power when fully comprehended, and it would allow a cultivator to stand tall in the Martial Intent Realm. Among the five, two of them can be considered inheritance-level spear arts. They will allow a cultivator to comprehend a martial intent when trained to their peak... If this really is a trap, the person who laid down this trap is really too generous..."

As many thoughts flashed through Shang Xia's mind, he couldn't help but think about the various techniques contained in there. He quickly discovered that his memory of the faceless man demonstrating the techniques contained some secrets. He was able to sink his consciousness into his memory to observe every part of the technique when they were executed! He could even choose to experience the spear techniques personally by standing against the faceless man, feeling their power and intent!

What shocked Shang Xia was that he could stop the motion of the faceless man at any time to think about what he saw before resuming the execution of the technique.

To put it bluntly, he was watching a 4d video replay in his mind...

Wait a second... There was no need to train those spear arts himself! With the memory imprinted firmly into his mind, Shang Xia could understand all the moves by analyzing them slowly!

It seemed as though Youshang didn't plan to harm him! It seemed more like a test he had given to Shang Xia.

Since he passed the test and discovered the intricacies behind the spear arts left behind, next came the rewards. He could use those memories to comprehend his next move in the Providence Spear Art series!

It seemed as though the rewards he was getting for helping them kill Liang Shuangren were truly benefiting him. The other party might have bestowed upon him several spear arts for him to improve his own technique, but that wouldn't stop him from recording them for his clan in the future!

Not everyone in the Shang Clan had the authority to learn the Providence Spear and receive the clan's inheritance. Now that he had five more spear arts in his mind, it would bring about a massive boost to the clan's strength!

Rank three martial arts weren't cabbages that grew by the side of the road. Even in the Shang Clan, they had less than seven different martial arts for cultivators at the Martial Intent Realm! That was including the Providence Spear which wasn't open to most disciples of the clan. He received five out of nowhere, and two of them were complete inheritances!

The more he analyzed the various moves contained in those five spear arts, the more engrossed he became. All of a sudden, a new door seemed to have opened in front of Shang Xia and he felt as though he received enlightenment. He came up with the sixth move of his Providence Spear Art, and he gently stabbed the spear in his hand forward.

In an instant, the Origin True Qi in his body poured into the spear.

The heaven and earth qi that was around him rushed towards him with frightening momentum. They formed a giant spear that shot out in the direction his Scarlet Star Spear pointed at.

With a loud blast, the giant spear of heaven and earth qi pierced through a small hill that was a hundred feet away from Shang Xia. Soon after, the hill crumbled in on itself and dust filled the air.

The sixth move of his Providence Spear Art, Flow Recompensation!

Chapter 294: Discovery

At the location where Liang Shuangren was killed by Mister Bu and the other two the day before, Yang Hu examined the traces of battle along with three other Martial Extermination Realm experts.

"It definitely happened here. City Lord Yang, you seem to be really late to the party..."

A white-bearded old man who had long and narrow eyes snapped at Yang Hu.

"Ahem..." An older cultivator who looked to be in his fifties coughed once before trying to diffuse the situation. "As the two of you know, the situation in the Changfeng City is extremely important considering the state the Tongyou City is in now. It's no wonder City Lord Yang was unable to rush out of the city to observe the battle yesterday. After all, none of us can be sure that it's not a distraction to lure him out of the city. If their plot was to draw him away, we won't even have to care about the damage they could do to the city. Obstructing the holy lands' plan would be a great sin in itself! When that happens, all of us would be in trouble."

The narrow-eyed cultivator turned to look at the elder who spoke before mocking, “Oh? City Lord Yang might be unable to leave, but why the hell is a subordinate like you unable to check it out?”

“This...” The elder paused for a second, unable to think of a reply.

Eventually, Yang Hu stepped in to soothe the situation. “Brother Gao, Mister Si here isn’t my subordinate. He’s an old friend of mine.”

The cultivator who spoke earlier sneered and didn’t seem to want to let up, “Since you’re not City Lord Yang’s subordinate, why don’t you tell us where you were yesterday?”

A frown formed on Mister Si’s face and he growled, “Are you suspecting me?”

The cultivator who Yang Hu called Brother Gao snorted but remained silent. Even so, everyone present could tell that he was implying that Mister Si had something to do with it.

Sneering with rage, Mister Si released a weird laugh.

The situation immediately became tense between the two of them. Eventually, Yang Hu’s figure trembled slightly and he appeared between them to mediate the situation. “There’s no way Mister Si will be behind this. Brother Gao, you can relax.”

An interested expression appeared on Brother Gao’s face and he asked, “Why would you say that?”

Yang Hu started to hesitate for a second, but Mister Si took over with a sigh, “That’s because my family name isn’t ‘Si’. It’s ‘Sima’.”

“You’re from the Rose Party?” The other Martial Extermination Realm expert who hadn’t said anything finally spoke up. “Hmm... Indeed. It’s not possible for you to be behind this. Who would have thought that City Lord Yang would be friends with members of the Rose Party?”

Grunting softly, Yang Hu changed the topic. “Brother Wei, what did you discover?”

Shaking his head, he sighed, “This place might look like a mess, but whoever did it cleaned it up really well. They seem to be experts who have done this before. The only thing we can be sure of now is that there were more than two Martial Extermination Realm experts who took part in the battle. Liang Shuangren’s situation isn’t too optimistic.”

Yang Hu pondered for a second before asking, “The Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Changbai Holy Land have been wiped out twice now. The first time is understandable. After all, it was because...”

He seemed to have thought of something and he quickly switched his words. “Whatever the case, we will need their help in the future. It’s not easy for them to send their high level experts over!”

The cultivator Yang Hu addressed as ‘Brother Wei’ muttered in response, “Of course. With three Martial Extermination Realm experts dying left and right, any faction would feel the pain. Moreover, they died in a foreign land...”

Brother Gao snapped, “Actually, it doesn’t matter if they’re regretting their losses. As long as our plan begins in the Tongyou City, the Changbai Holy Land has to make a move.”

“Brother Wei, who do you think the most likely suspects are?” Yang Hu asked suddenly.

Brother Hu chuckled softly, “Haha. Brother Yang, you don’t care about who the assailants really are. You’re probably concerned about the experts of the Tongyou City. You think that a few of them are hiding around the Changfeng City, right? As long as you ensure the safety of the water-attributed spiritual vein under your city, nothing else matters. They won’t dare to attack you and neither would anyone else.”

“The spiritual vein is ready, but I plan to use that to help my son advance into the Martial Extermination...”

Before Yang Hu could complete his sentence, Brother Wei tossed a jade talisman over.

Yang Hu’s eyes lit up when he saw it. Even with his prestige as a city lord who had controlled the Changfeng City for twenty years, he couldn’t help but tremble with excitement. “This...”

“This is the rank four advancement formula you have been wanting. Do you think it’s worth it to trade it for the extermination origin you’ve been nurturing for twenty years?” Brother Wei muttered.

Sucking in a cold breath, Yang Hu sighed, “This is indeed something I cannot reject.”

A smile appeared on Brother Wei’s face after hearing Yang Hu’s response.

Mister Sima who had been standing at the side chuckled. “Congratulations, Brother Yang! You finally got what you wished for!”

A complete rank four advancement formula! That was the foundation of a powerful clan!

In order to scheme against the Tongyou City, the White Deer Paradise was actually willing to bring out a rank four advancement formula. One could imagine how much they were expecting in return.

Yang Hu wanted to say something, but a frown formed on his face as he turned to look in another direction.

“That doesn’t seem like a battle between Martial Extermination Realm experts.”

Mister Sima felt the energy fluctuations too, and he muttered.

“I need to head towards the Tongyou City after this. That seems to be on my way.” Brother Wei spoke and his extermination origin appeared under his feet. He sped into the distance.

Brother Gao yelled, “Senior Brother, wait for me!”

Watching the two of them disappear into the distance, Mister Sima chortled, “Heh, the two of them probably have something to discuss with each other. They don’t wish for us to listen in on their conversation...”

“Mister Sima, aren’t you curious about how the two Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Azure Spiritual World were killed the first time around?” Yang Hu muttered after watching the two of them disappear into the horizon.

The smile on Mister Sima's face didn't fade. "City Lord Yang will tell me if you're willing to. There's no need for me to pry."

"Heh. The cooperation between your Rose Party and the Azure Spiritual World probably started before you thought of working with the White Deer Paradise." Yang Hu gave him a deep stare before speaking.

"That's not something I can say."

"Will your Rose Party really not get involved with the matter in the Tongyou City this time?" Yang Hu continued.

"Do you think that's possible?" The smile on Mister Sima's face was enough to tell Yang Hu the answer he needed to know.

Yang Hu nodded slowly as if he already expected it. He continued, "In fact, my son ran into an ambush yesterday. There might be one, or even two Martial Extermination Realm experts who carried out an ambush on him."

"Is that true? Is he alright?" Mister Sima's expression turned serious.

Yang Hu sighed softly, "Yeah. He's smart enough to not rush into the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range on his own. Otherwise, Liang Shuangren and the cultivators of the Azure Spiritual World might not be the only ones who died yesterday.

Mister Sima added, "Do you suspect that the Martial Extermination Experts your son ran into were the ones who killed Liang Shuangren? Why didn't you tell the two of them earlier?"

Yang Hu glanced at his old friend from the corner of his eye. "Do you think the two of them are really here to look for the culprit?"

A bitter smile slowly formed on Mister Sima's face. "I was planning to persuade you to be a little more careful when dealing with them. After all, they might not truly trust you. My words might sound like I'm trying to sow discord between you guys, but I'm not. Furthermore..."

"Furthermore, you think that the advancement formula might be fake. Don't worry, it's not that easy to make a fake rank four advancement formula." Yang Hu muttered after finishing Mister Sima's sentence. "This is something I was unable to get my hands on even after working with the Rose Party for so many years..."

A forced smile appeared on Mister Sima's face and he heard Yang Hu sighing. "The storm is coming... Let's go. We're returning to the city."

"Aren't we waiting for Gao Yun of the White Deer Paradise to come back?" Mister Sima asked.

"He knows where the Changfeng City is."

...

“No matter what, the cultivator from the Azure Spiritual World who borrowed my spear returned the favor. Five spear arts is indeed a generous gesture.” Shang Xia muttered to himself. However, he recalled how they slayed a third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Changbai Holy Land and didn’t feel that guilty for getting so many benefits in return. After all, they would have gained a lot more from killing the expert.

“Also, he probably doesn’t know that I received my inheritance. Imparting the spear arts to me might not be an attempt to harm me. Luckily, I managed to resist the temptation earlier. Haha, I even managed to develop my sixth move!”

Shang Xia was extremely satisfied with the power contained in his sixth move.

After comprehending his sixth move, Shang Xia could feel that the remaining Yin Yang Essence Qi in his dantian was slowly being refined into Origin true Qi. Only a small portion was left.

Feeling the Origin Core in his body becoming more solid and full of Origin True Qi, Shang Xia was somewhat sure that his divine sense was ready to transform a third time. Once that happened, he wouldn’t be far away from reaching the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm.

When he was still evaluating his current self, several warning cries came from Yan Ni’er.

“Oh no, someone is coming.” Shang Xia yelled before leaving the valley. He suppressed his aura and fused his divine sense into the world around him. When he was done, he seemed to have disappeared from the face of the earth.

A moment later, two streaks of light appeared above the valley. The two Martial Extermination Realm experts of the White Deer Paradise who were talking to Yang Hu a moment ago had arrived.

They scanned the remains of the hill Shang Xia shattered as their divine sense surrounded the region. However, they failed to discover anything.

“Looks like a cultivator at the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm was here testing out the strength of his martial intent...” Gao Yun licked his lips as a trace of envy flashed across his eyes.

Even though he came from the White Deer Paradise, he didn’t comprehend his martial intent before breaking through to the Martial Extermination Realm.

According to the rules of the White Deer Paradise, he lost all qualifications to fight for an origin dipper in the future.

As such, his cultivation was capped at the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm. Reaching that level was something else altogether.

“He’s extremely alert. The person had already left.” Brother Wei muttered.

Shang Xia quickly recognized ‘Brother Wei’ when he saw the man hovering in the air. From his hiding spot, he could see the two of them clearly! Moreover, the cultivator they called ‘Brother Wei’, was Wei Zhongwen who was stationed in the Tongyou City!

Gao Yun muttered, "Senior Brother Wei, I'm afraid that Yang Hu will discover something strange with my actions. After all, I'm carrying out the plan alone..."

Turning to stare at him, Wei Zhongwen's face was expressionless when he spoke. "Oh? So what if he does? The moment Ancestor Lu arrives, he can't do anything about it even if he wants to."

Chapter 295: In Too Deep

"Junior Brother Gao, you need to remain in the city and prepare for Ancestor Lu's arrival. You don't need to worry about anything else." Wei Zhongwen muttered. From his expression, it was clear that he didn't think highly of Yang Hu.

One had to know that he was at the same cultivation level as Yang Hu. Both Wei Zhongwen and Yang Hu were experts at the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm. Gao Yun was slightly weaker than them at the second layer.

Gao Yun seemed to have fallen deep in thought as he muttered, "No wonder you weren't concerned about the deaths of those from the Azure Spiritual World..."

"Hah, they're not members of our world, why should we care about them?" Wei Zhongwen sneered. "The fusion of our worlds might be inevitable, but the day hasn't come yet. The reason our White Deer Paradise chose to reach an agreement with the Changbai Holy Land was to ensure both sides don't break out into an all-out war. The fusion of our worlds is a massive opportunity to begin with and how much each faction can obtain will depend on their strength. Since the Tongyou Institution chose to take the lead, They're going to help us take all the pressure."

Gao Yun added, "Those from the Tongyou Institution are overestimating themselves. If Kou Chongxue was at his peak, we might reconsider our actions. Hehe, he fell prey to the many holy lands and was attacked while in seclusion. Who would have thought that the Tongyou Institution would still be gutsy enough to bring the Mysterious Coral World back?"

"They're in too deep now to pull themselves out of their sticky situation!" Wei Zhongwen snorted. "The Tongyou Institution had coveted the Mysterious Coral World for a long time now. However, they're rushing things and have no clear sense of direction. Moreover, their inner affairs aren't in order and there might be some higher-ups in the institution working against them!"

A light lit up in Gao Yun's eyes. "I heard that Kou Chongxue's support of Shang Bo incurred the wrath and dissatisfaction of the other three great clans. Ji Wenlong's cultivation was stuck for a long time before he finally reached the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm recently. Moreover, none of them had access to Kou Chongxue's rank five advancement formula. Looks like the rumor about him not possessing one is pretty much confirmed. Anyway, that was also the main reason leading to the second ambush on Kou Chongxue. Someone in the higher-ups of the Tongyou Institution leaked the news intentionally and the greatest suspect is Ji Wenlong. Senior Brother Wei, you've been in the Tongyou City all this time. What do you think?"

“We are unable to verify the rumors and can only choose to believe in them. Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo are outstanding talents of their generation and they definitely know what’s best for them. The rumors are far from enough to cause a rift to come between the two, especially now that they’re pulling the Mysterious Coral World into the You Continent.”

Gao Yun nodded slowly before asking, “Senior Brother Gao, are you going to return to the Tongyou City now?”

“Yeah. the Tongyou City is in complete lockdown now. They’re a bunch of suspicious fools. Even ‘alliance members’ like myself can only support their actions. They refuse to let us into the core of their institution. With my identity as a Martial Extermination Realm expert, I can leave the city to help them deliver news to people not in the city.” Wei Zhongwen sneered.

With his eyes widening slightly, Gao Yun gasped. “They wouldn’t expect that that would give you a chance to communicate with us!”

“Remain in the Changfeng City for now. Yang Hu looks like he doesn’t dare to do anything, but he’s a scheming one. We cannot let anything obstruct Ancestor Lu’s arrival. There are many people who will try to do something in secret. Now that the Liu, Guo, and Zhang families of the Ji Continent have entered the Changfeng City, they’re obviously going to fight with us for a share of the benefits. Be careful of them.” Wei Zhongwen explained.

Nodding in acknowledgment, Gao Yun growled, “They can try!”

“Just take care of yourself and be wary of them. I’ll have to go now.” Wei Zhongwen said as his extermination origins appeared under his feet. He tore through the air and disappeared in a few moments.

Gao Yun looked in the direction where Wei Zhongwen disappeared before returning to the Changfeng City. The valley quickly regained its calm.

No one knew how long had passed when a silvery-gray light shot into the skies. A bird circled the skies above the valley for some time before releasing a clear cry.

Shang Xia’s head popped out from one of the crevices in the valley, and he looked at Yan Ni’er who was flying happily in the air before emerging.

The cute little bird returned to his shoulders once he was out from his hiding spot. Staring at the little creature, a bitter smile appeared on Shang Xia’s face. “Things are getting more and more complicated now. I can’t return to the city anytime soon... What do you think I should do?”

Yan Ni’er flapped her wings around, causing Shang Xia’s scattered hair to become even messier. She released several short cries in succession.

A strange look returned to Shang Xia’s face as he stared at her in disbelief. “What did you find out this time?”

Yan Ni'er flapped her wings while holding on to his collar.

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

A crisp chirp confirmed his words as she released his collar and soared into the skies. She flew in the southeastern direction and Shang Xia raced after her with his Irregular Steps.

With so many encounters in the past few days, he became extremely familiar with the use of his Irregular Steps. With its short-distance maneuverability, it focused on allowing a cultivator to make tiny adjustments while compromising on their speed.

Since the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range was filled with dense greenery, it allowed Shang Xia to display the full extent of the technique's power.

While running after Yan Ni'er, Shang Xia didn't expect that their journey would last for more than two hours.

Even with his increase in cultivation, circulating his inner qi to sustain his use of the Irregular Steps basically drained him of all his energy. That was also under the premise that Yan Ni'er slowed down specifically for him to catch up. She had been chirping angrily in the air while indicating for Shang Xia to keep up.

All of a sudden, Yan Ni'er turned into a streak of silvery gray light that disappeared into the forest. Seeing her actions, Shang Xia could guess that they were close to their destination. He hid his aura before walking in the direction Yan Ni'er flew off to.

Climbing over a hill, Shang Xia seemed to hear the sound of rushing water. Surprise filled his mind as it was deep in the winter. How could there still be flowing water with the current weather? The lakes were supposed to be frozen but from the sound of it, he was close to a gushing river!

Could there be something strange with the water in the mountain range?

Just as he was about to approach the river, he saw a figure running deeper into the woods.

Hiding his presence, he followed the figure stealthily.

When he finally arrived at the bottom of the hill, he discovered that there was a huge lake surrounded by ice. However, the surprising thing was that thick mist seemed to emerge from the surface of the lake, signifying that the temperature of the water wasn't as low as he had thought.

Traveling along the river, Shang Xia eventually heard some people conversing with each other. He quickly ducked behind a large tree nearby.

He discovered that there were only a few feet separating him from the people who were talking.

Due to the mist in the air and the rumbling of water, Shang Xia nearly ran into the people he was tracking! It didn't take long for him to realize that something was off. Even though his physical senses were obstructed by the mist and noise, his divine sense should have discovered their presence!

Shang Xia focused more on his divine sense and discovered that it was being weakened as it extended away from his body. Originally, he could feel everything in a thirty feet radius clearly. Now, the distance has become less than half. He was barely able to feel two people who were talking slightly more than ten feet away!

“There’s something strange with this mist!” Shang Xia quickly discovered the problem.

“What’s going on? Why are you in such a rush to meet me in this place?” Shang Xia found the voice slightly familiar.

“Hmph! I’m trying to save you! Were you followed by anyone when you came over?” The second person who was talking also sounded familiar to Shang Xia. Could they be people he knew?

Shang Xia was curious, and he peeked his head out from behind his tree. Even though the mist was slightly clouding their appearance, Shang Xia recognized them right away.

The person he was following was Chen Sanyang, and the other person was Senior Brother Lin who escaped from Shang Xia the other day! He managed to evade capture from Mister Bu and the others and he seemed to have found a place to hide.

Chen Sanyang looked almost the same as before, but Senior Brother Lin looked extremely haggard.

Chen Sanyang also seemed to have understood the severity of the situation when he saw the other party’s disheveled appearance.

“Lin Yi, did something happen in our hideout? Why do you look like that?”

“How do you know something bad happened in our hideout?” Lin Yi gasped.

Too lazy to explain himself to his fellow comrade, Chen Sanyang growled, “Just tell me what happened!”

Lin Yi stared at him with a gaze full of suspicion and he raised his caution level for his fellow cultivator who came from the Azure Spiritual World. “Answer my question first! Were you followed?!”

Turning impatient, Chen Sanyang snapped, “No, no one followed me! Yang Hu left the city in the morning and he hadn’t returned when I left. I heard that he went into the depths of the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range due to some battle between Martial Extermination Realm experts...”

Pausing suddenly, Chen Sanyang stared at Lin Yi. “Was it Martial Uncle Liang? What happened to him?”

Lin Yi covered his face and started to choke on his sobs. “Martial Uncle Liang... He... He... I’m afraid he’s already...”

“Martial Uncle Liang might already be dead.” Lin Yi said after finally controlling his emotions. When he calmed down slightly, he told Chen Sanyang about what happened the other day and some guesses he had.

Chapter 296: Extermination Mist

After hearing Lin Yi’s description of the battle among the Martial Extermination Realm experts, Chen Sanyang muttered, “So, you’re suspecting that Yang Hu sold Martial Uncle Liang out? Or are you saying that he led his subordinates to surround Martial Uncle Liang? Is that why you were in a rush to get me out of the city? Are you afraid that Yang Hu will kill me too?”

“I don’t have any evidence, but that’s what I suspect. Moreover, Martial Intent Realm cultivators wouldn’t be involved in a battle between Martial Extermination Realm experts. All of us were unable to see those taking part in the battle. We only managed to hear Martial Uncle Liang.”

“All of you?” Chen Sanyang raised his eyebrow and something seemed to have caught his attention.

Lin Yi continued, “When Martial Uncle Liang detected the presence of Martial Extermination Realm experts and rushed over, I, Shan Dao, Yuan Gang, and Di Xian followed behind him. From the looks of it, those people were setting up a trap to lure Martial Uncle Liang over. Once he arrived, they surrounded him in a joint attack.”

Chen Sanyang frowned. “Slow down. Martial Uncle Liang has always been careful, how will he be tricked so easily? With his strength, unless Kou Chongxue appeared personally, wouldn’t he be able to escape?”

“I thought about it for a long time and only one possibility is left. Did you forget about the other Martial Extermination Realm cultivator who crossed the spatial barrier with us the other day?” Lin Yi sighed.

“Youshang? Are you talking about him? Do you think he was part of those who plotted against Martial Uncle Liang? Why would you say that?” Chen Sanyang became more confused. However, it seemed as though Lin Yi’s deduction made sense.

Lin Yi turned extremely solemn and he continued, “I suspect that he’s doing the same thing as Yu Cangze. Either he’s a traitor of our Azure Spiritual World, or the Azure Origin World planted him as a spy in our world.”

“Don’t you know why Martial Uncle Liang brought Youshang over? Didn’t they conduct a check on his background before?” Chen Sanyang decided to get to the bottom of the matter. After all, he crossed the barrier a long time before the others. There might be things he didn’t know about.

Lin Yi shook his head in response. “He met us along the way. Martial Uncle Liang said that Youshang was a friend he had made a long time ago and they were closer than blood brothers. When Youshang heard that Martial Uncle Liang was going to take the risk of crossing into the Azure Origin World, he chose to come along to provide assistance...”

Chen Sanyang stroked his chin and fell deep into thought. After some time, he muttered, “That’s coincidental... Did Martial Uncle Liang agree right away? No, that’s not possible. Martial Uncle Liang’s mission to enter the Azure Origin World was supposed to be one of the highest level secrets in our Changbai Holy Land. How can he mention it to Youshang so easily?”

Shrugging his shoulders, Lin Yi gestured wildly. “What’s the point of mentioning all these now? Maybe Martial Uncle Liang trusted him wholeheartedly. Who the hell cares? I suspect that Youshang sneak attacked Martial Uncle Liang from behind, causing him severe injuries. That was the reason he was unable to run away...”

Seeing the look on Chen Sanyang's face, Lin Yi finally raged. "You fucker! Are you suspicious of me?!"

Chen Sanyang growled. "The more you act like this, the more suspicious you look."

The two of them stared at each other in silence and tensions started to rise. Eventually, Lin Yi folded.

"Alright..." With a trace of guilt, Lin Yi spoke about everything else that happened. He talked about how they laid down the Essence Harmony Pulse Formation. However, they were interrupted by a Martial Intent Realm expert and the other three were killed.

"So... You ran away because you were scared and by pure luck, you ran in a different direction from the hideout, allowing you to avoid being killed by the next round of assault?" Chen Sanyang glared at Lin Yi when he saw the embarrassed smile on his face. His voice sank a little further. "From your description, that youngster should be Shang Xia of the Shang Clan. Oh right. Did you say that he's capable of using Yin Lian's bow?"

"The bow he's using looks pretty similar to what she used. However, there were several shreds of cloth around the bow and I can't be sure." Lin Yi sighed.

"Hah! It has to be!" Chen Sanyang slapped his thigh in glee all of a sudden, catching Lin Yi off guard.

Raising an eyebrow, Chen Sanyang decided to let Lin Yi in on some information. "Shang Xia was the last person who met Kou Chongxue. All we need to do is to send out the message that he's currently residing around the Changfeng City and this entire area will be thrown into chaos."

Lin Yi couldn't believe what he was hearing. "What has that got to do with our predicament now?"

At that moment, they were the only ones left in the Azure Origin World. Shouldn't their priority be finding a way to return to their world? Who the hell cared about catching Martial Uncle Liang's murderer or whatever dude called Shang Xia?

However, the two of them didn't know that the legendary being who could throw the entire region into chaos as described by Chen Sanyang was hiding a short distance behind them. He heard their conversation loud and clear, and he was feeling extremely annoyed. He didn't expect Chen Sanyang to guess his identity so easily!

If they were to leak his tracks, it was very likely that he would be located in Changfeng City before long. Even if he started running away that instant, Hai Min and Yuanyuan would be in for a great deal of trouble.

The two of them also had another identity that couldn't be compromised!

It seemed as though the only way to protect himself and the two of them were to ensure that Chen Sanyang and Lin Yi would never be able to leave the area.

A ray of frosty light flashed through his eyes and killing intent rose in his heart. Before he could start circulating his inner qi, a sharp pain came from under his ribs and he had to gasp for breath. The wound that closed the day before was clearly not fully healed yet.

Shang Xia discovered that the wounds caused by his Woundless Spear could only recover with time. Medicine and treasures wouldn't do much in helping in his healing journey. If he forcefully tried to circulate his inner qi and attack the two of them, he would only be able to use 80 percent of his strength!

With the element of surprise, it might not be a problem to take on one of them. However, two of them weren't easy enemies to deal with!

When Shang Xia was considering his next course of action, the voices returned.

“Are you really content returning to the Azure Spiritual World with your tail tucked between your legs?” Chen Sanyang sounded extremely displeased with the situation.

Lin Yi rolled his eyes before complaining, “What else can we do? The true battle between our two worlds will involve Martial Extermination Realm experts. The reason I came looking for you is because of your Multi World Anchoring Flag. As long as we join forces, we should be able to cross the dense fog and spatial barrier leading back to our world.”

Chen Sanyang sneered in response, “Stop dreaming. Even with the Multi World Anchoring Flag, we need a Martial Extermination Realm to use it. The two of us are basically stranded in the Azure Origin World. Unless you're willing to run all the way to the Linya Peak to beg them to help us, there's nothing we can do about it. Moreover, the Linya Peak belongs to the Mulan Holy Land. It's one thing for us to embarrass ourselves, but it's another to embarrass our Changbai Holy Land. We might even die without a proper burial ground if we head over there...”

After Chen Sanyang spoke about the various implications, he saw a strange smile appearing on Lin Yi's face. He slapped a boulder beside him and he chuckled, “do you know why I chose to bring you to this place?”

“Why?” Chen Sanyang frowned.

“Did you not realize that the mist in this place is able to restrict your divine sense?” Lin Yi said in excitement.

Spreading out his divine sense, Chen Sanyang discovered that it was true! The look in his eyes changed. “Extermination Mist? Is this a place used to nurture extermination origins? Damn! Your luck is really...”

Lin Yi gloated. “That's right. The mist is indeed extermination mist. However, there's no extermination origin at the source of this lake. I suspect that this lake starts to split underwater. The location where the extermination origin is located should be somewhere underground. The water that flows down the mountain is merely stained by the extermination qi produced by the extermination origin...”

Chen Sanyang continued, “Do you think we can locate the spiritual vein that produces the extermination origin?!”

“Hehe, I knew you would ask that question. Are you thinking of locating it so you can prepare to break through to the Martial Extermination Realm? Do you think that’s my real intention here?” Lin Yi snorted.

An awkward expression appeared on Chen Sanyang’s face. He wasn’t truly greedy. However, no cultivator would refuse an extermination origin! After all, an extermination origin was truly precious and it was the key to entering the Martial Extermination Realm! It wasn’t something easily obtainable in the Azure Origin World or the Azure Spiritual World! It was no wonder Chen Sanyang would get so worked up.

Many cultivators at the Martial Intent Realm had reached the peak of their cultivation level but were stuck there due to the inability to obtain a suitable extermination origin.

Both Lin Yi and Chen Sanyang had completed their third divine sense transformation. The two of them were also highly regarded disciples of the Changbai Holy Land. Both of them were cultivators who were expected to enter the Martial Extermination Realm in the future. However, that also meant that they were rivals who would be competing with each other for resources.

The more Chen Sanyang thought about it, the more he realized that there was no reason for Lin Yi to tell him about the extermination origin.

After exerting a little more brain power, Chen Sanyang discovered Lin Yi’s true intentions. “Are you planning to make use of the extermination qi here to tear open the spatial barrier to enter the battlefield between the two worlds?”

Lin Yi pressed his lips together and sighed, “What else? Do you think I was giving you an opportunity to enter the Martial Extermination Realm?”

Only Martial Extermination Realm experts who had refined their extermination origin would be able to tear open the spatial barrier with their own abilities.

However, with Chen Sanyang’s Multi World Anchoring Flag, they could gather the extermination qi in the air before unleashing an attack on the spatial barrier to split it open.

The Multi World Anchoring Flag had another use. The Changbai Holy Land managed to set up many leading formations in the battlefield between the two worlds, allowing the user of the Multi World Anchoring Flag to find their way around. Martial Extermination Realm experts might be able to travel through the spatial barrier, but they wouldn’t be able to find their way around without the use of the treasure!

Chen Sanyang understood that Lin Yi’s revelation of the extermination origin was his way of issuing an ultimatum. If Chen Sanyang rejected his proposal, Lin Yi would have to turn against him in order to protect his secret.

Chen Sanyang fell deep into contemplation. He was truly unwilling to give up everything he had arranged in the Changfeng City to return to the Azure Spiritual World with Lin Yi. He turned to look at his fellow comrade and sighed, “Junior Brother Lin, is it possible for you to give me a few days to think about it?”

Before Lin Yi could react, Chen Sanyang continued, “I won’t hide anything from you. I’ve been making some arrangements in the Changfeng City for the past half a year. I achieved some results, and I am truly unwilling to let everything go to waste. The moment I disappear, the plans I made in

the Changfeng City won't be the only thing to go wrong. The members of the Ji Continent might also come up with other plans. If that affects our cooperation with the White Deer Paradise, I would have let our Changbai Holy Land down! I won't be able to atone for my sins even if I died a hundred times over!"

Lin Yi's expression sank and he growled, "How long do you need?"

Gritting his teeth, Chen Sanyang eventually replied, "Three days. Give me three more days! Moreover, the extermination qi in the air right now is pretty scattered. Even if you use my Multi World Anchoring Flag, you will need some time to gather enough extermination qi to open the spatial barrier."

"Alright." Lin Yi agreed, and an excited expression appeared on Chen Sanyang's face. He wasn't the only one. Shang Xia was equally as excited.

His chance was finally here! They were going to split up!

As Chen Sanyang was about to leave, Lin Yi's voice rang through the air, causing Chen Sanyang and Shang Xia's expression to freeze.

"I'll wait for three days, but you have to leave the Multi World Anchoring Flag with me."

Chapter 297: Break, Break, Break!

"I'll wait for three days, but you have to leave the Multi World Anchoring Flag with me."

"You..." A hostile expression formed on Chen Sanyang's face.

Shang Xia, who was hiding behind his tree, felt that things were going south really quickly.

He could tell that the Multi World Anchoring Flag was a precious treasure. It was able to lead cultivators through the spatial barrier separating the two worlds from the battlefield between the two worlds.

Even if Shang Xia used his buttocks to think, he would know that Chen Sanyang would be unwilling to hand such a treasure over.

Not to mention the fact that Lin Yi might run away with the Multi World Anchoring Flag after Chen Sanyang returned to the city. When that happened, it would be too late for Chen Sanyang even if he wanted to cry!

Chen Sanyang's expression started to flicker. "Do you have to do this? Can't you wait for a little while?"

Lin Yi wasn't moved by his attempt. "Senior Brother Chen, don't take it the wrong way. After all, we need to use the extermination qi in order to tear open the spatial barrier. As you said, the extermination qi in the air is thin. Without several days of gathering, we won't be able to use the Multi World Anchoring Flag."

Lin Yi's words seemed to have moved Chen Sanyang. Retrieving a small triangle-shaped flag, he handed it over to Lin Yi. "Junior Brother Lin, you cannot lose this treasure."

A look of joy appeared on Lin Yi's face and he ignored the warning tone in Chen Sanyang's voice. He reached his hand out to grab the flag. "Brother Chen, go ahead. See you soon."

Snorting once, Chen Sanyang turned around to head back to the city. Some distance away, Chen Sanyang passed the tree Shang Xia was hiding behind but he didn't notice anything off.

Shang Xia watched as Chen Sanyang's figure disappeared into the thick mist. Since the two had separated, Shang Xia wouldn't mind carrying out a sneak attack on either one of them.

Regardless if it's Chen Sanyang who figured out Shang Xia's identity or Lin Yi who discovered the spiritual vein that should have produced an extermination origin, Shang Xia knew that he had to get rid of them. In order to prevent any more problems from arising in the future, taking them out now would be the best choice of action.

Under ordinary circumstances, Shang Xia would choose to kill Chen Sanyang before returning for Lin Yi. After all, Chen Sanyang's revelation would place him in a much more dangerous situation. Gathering the extermination qi would take some time, and Lin Yi might not be able to leave for some time.

If Chen Sanyang returned to tell Yang Hu about his discovery of Shang Xia's presence, things would turn ugly really quickly.

Just as he made the decision to go after Chen Sanyang, he heard Lin Yi's voice once again.

"Dumbass!"

Shang Xia was instantly intrigued. He took several steps to the side and managed to see what Lin Yi was doing. Waving the Multi World Anchoring Flag, several runes started to appear around his body. It created a weird barrier-like object around him, causing Shang Xia's vision to turn blurry.

"Of course, we need a few days to gather the extermination qi. But who told you that I'm going to start gathering the extermination qi after you leave?" Lin Yi flicked his wrist once and a weird yellow gourd appeared in his hand. He shook it beside his ears and heard the sound of water sloshing around inside.

"The extermination mist I gathered in here should be enough. Without Chen Sanyang, it might be a little dangerous for me to cross the spatial barrier. I better collect a little more in case anything unexpected happens." After speaking, he opened the cork of the gourd and a ball of black qi emerged.

"Oh shit!" Lin Yi almost yelled out loud and he slapped the bottle, sucking the black colored qi back into it. This time, the mist in his surroundings also seemed to be affected. They started moving towards the bottle.

Throughout the process, Shang Xia could feel that the mist in the air was being filtered before entering the bottle. Only a portion of the qi contained in the mist was sucked into the bottle.

After hearing the conversation between the two earlier, Shang Xia could confirm that Lin Yi was probably trying to collect the extermination qi in the mist.

According to his original plan, he was going to kill Chen Sanyang on his way back to the city. Now that he discovered Lin Yi's actions, he decided to change his plan.

It seemed as though Lin Yi's preparations were practically done. He would be able to tear open the spatial barrier soon!

In order to stop him from leaving, Shang Xia chose to kill him first.

From the looks of it, Lin Yi also possessed a shit ton of treasures. Other than the yellow gourd in his hand, he also had the Multi World Anchoring Flag! Shang Xia turned to look at a tree located halfway up the hill behind him.

No one knew when Yan Ni'er appeared, but she was staring at Shang Xia intently.

Gesturing for her to follow Chen Sanyang, Shang Xia tried to remain as quiet as possible. He could only hope that Yan Ni'er would understand his intentions from his gestures.

Leaping off the tree, Yan Ni'er flapped her wings before shooting through the skies. She disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Lin Yi raised his head all of a sudden, but it didn't take long for him to focus on the gourd after discovering that nothing was wrong.

Shang Xia wanted to wait a little while more before taking action in case Chen Sanyang noticed the disturbance and returned. However, he quickly discovered that the mist around him was starting to thin.

He stared at the yellow gourd in Lin Yi's hand and discovered that the mist was gathering there. It even seemed to form a cocoon around Lin Yi's body entirely.

Realizing that he had to make his move soon, he retrieved his Scarlet Star Spear. He leaped out from his hiding spot and went straight towards Lin Yi's original position.

He arrived at the source of the lake where Lin Yi was gathering the mist, and with his spear tearing through the thick mist gathered around the yellow gourd, he discovered that Lin Yi was nowhere to be seen.

Where the hell did that fellow go?

Shang Xia even thought that Lin Yi discovered his presence and would quickly carry out a counterattack.

He prepared himself for a huge battle, but after examining his surroundings, he discovered that Lin Yi had really disappeared.

Could he have escaped?

Shang Xia's first reaction was to grab the yellow gourd beside him. Next, he turned to look all around, trying to locate Lin Yi.

Soon after, he discovered that a small pool was hidden behind a rock nearby. Ripples could be seen on the surface of the water.

Thinking back to their conversation again, Shang Xia knew that that asshole Lin Yi was probably not willing to leave the extermination origin behind either. He wanted to see if he could locate it along the spiritual vein before he left.

From the thin mist gathered around in the place they were in, Lin Yi probably deduced that even if the river led to the spiritual vein where the extermination origin was located, it would have to be quite a distance away. Unless there was a straight path under the river leading to the spiritual vein, it was unlikely he would be able to find it.

However, what if he was wrong?

On the off chance that his estimations were wrong and the spiritual vein was located nearby, he would have missed a massive chance! No matter what, he was going to escape and abandon his mission. Once that happened, he would be labeled as a deserter even if returned. There was also no chance he would be able to return to the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range. Even if Lin Yi couldn't obtain the extermination origin, it wouldn't be a pity for him to destroy it!

Shang Xia quickly ran through Lin Yi's entire thought process. It didn't take long for the ripples on the surface of the water to grow more violent. It was clear Lin Yi was messing about under the water.

Shang Xia felt the ground under his feet trembling violently, and it was as though an explosion happened deep underwater.

Rumbling sounds came from the pool of water and Shang Xia's expression sank. He grabbed the yellow gourd before stuffing the opening with the cork he found.

Once he kept it in his Embroidered Cloud Case, a massive geyser sprayed into the air. The rumbling sounds became clearer and a figure seemed to appear in the pillar of water.

Shang Xia seemed to have expected it and the instant Lin Yi emerged from the pool of water, he struck. His Scarlet Star Spear tore through the pool of water and struck Lin Yi's figure in mid air.

Not expecting anyone to be nearby, Lin Yi dived into the pool without any reservations earlier. He didn't take much precautions either from the way he left his gourd unattended.

To catch someone off guard was basically Shang Xia's special skill at this point. Facing an attack specially curated to take him by surprise, Lin Yi wouldn't be able to react unless he had been expecting it. Unfortunately for him, he wasn't.

He even made it easy for Shang Xia as he released a massive attack under the water. He exhausted a lot of energy, and he was unable to muster any sort of true qi defense quickly. He barely managed to pull out his sword to meet the tip of the spear.

A loud clang rang through the air as his sword flew through the air. Shang Xia's spear twisted to the side, but it still managed to pierce through his belly.

Blood sprayed out from his body, turning the originally clear geyser a faint red.

Shang Xia twisted his spear slightly and sent a genius disciple of the Changbai Holy Land, Lin Yi, slamming into the ground below.

Luckily for him, Martial Intent Realm experts had terrifying life force. Lin Yi managed to remain alive for now, but his injuries were nothing to scoff at. He was alive, but barely.

Using the last of his strength to crawl to his feet, he held the boulder beside him as he tried to escape.

Shang Xia stood silently behind as he watched Lin Yi's staggering figure. After some time, he sent a simple stab towards the back of Lin Yi's heart.

Several dozen spears formed from heaven and earth qi appeared around Shang Xia before raining down on Lin Yi.

Chapter 298: Excited Zelda Music

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After meeting up with Gao Yun on their way back to the Changfeng City, Yang Hu, Mister Sima, and Gao Yun returned to the city without anyone knowing.

Entering the city lord manor, Gao Yun wanted to discuss something with Yang Hu but saw a Martial Intent Realm cultivator rushing over to whisper something in Yang Hu's ear.

With his expression changing slightly, Yang Hu's face quickly returned to normal. He turned to Mister Sima and sighed, "Brother Sima, please host Brother Gao for a moment. I'll be back soon. Brother Gao, my son brought me some news and I have to leave immediately. Please understand."

He cupped his fists towards Gao Yun before leaving hastily.

Even though he was displeased, Gao Yun knew that they weren't in the White Deer Paradise. City Lord Yang Hu was the person with the highest authority present and he had the stuff they needed. As such, he chose to remain silent.

It was Mister Sima who noticed something off with Yang Hu's hasty departure, but the neutral expression on his face didn't disappear. He didn't expose anything, and he quickly called for an attendant of the city lord manor to make arrangements for Gao Yun.

After Yang Hu left the hall, he increased his speed once again. Yang Zhenbiao had to use his movement skill before catching up to his father.

"Tell me what happened!" Yang Hu growled without turning his head.

"The water level surrounding the spiritual vein dropped suddenly. Extermination qi started to fluctuate violently and despite my efforts to stop it from spreading, I failed." Yang Zhanbiao explained.

The two of them arrived near the back of the manor before long. When they passed one of the rooms located there, Yang Hu's figure slowed down for a second. His gaze hovered around the room for a moment before he continued on his way.

Yang Zhenbiao followed his father's gaze and he seemed to have heard some movements coming from inside the room. The person inside also noticed them as he looked out of the window.

As Yang Zhanbiao followed behind his father, a look of contemplation could be seen in his eyes.

After passing several rooms, Yang Hu entered an old-fashioned looking one that seemed to stand out from the rest. He tapped several spots on the wall beside him and a passage that led underground was revealed.

Before heading down, Yang Hu growled, "Who else knows about this matter?"

“Father, you sealed off the passage to the spiritual cave yourself. Other than myself, no one can enter. I called Senior Brother Qin to stand guard outside in the past, and even though most of my senior brothers know that we’re trying to nurture an extermination origin in there, we’re the only ones who know that the extermination origin has already been produced!” Yang Zhenbiao muttered.

Nodding slightly, Yang Hu rushed down the pathway.

The sound of rushing water filled his ears as tiny water droplets could be seen on the walls around him.

Yang Zhenbiao stuck close to Yang Hu and he asked after some slight hesitation, “Father, have you told the members of the White Deer Paradise that we’re nurturing an extermination origin in the spirit cave?”

“... Relax. The White Deer Paradise’s scheme contains too many things. Their schemes run so deep that they won’t care about a mere extermination origin. In fact, our Changfeng City is such a small part of their plan that they couldn’t even care less.”

By the time they were done talking, a huge underground river could be seen. It was like a massive dragon that tore through the ground. The pathway they were on extended below the water surface, and a small wooden boat could be seen nearby.

Yang Hu didn’t approach the wooden boat immediately. Instead, he examined the water level before sighing, “Yes. It definitely decreased.”

Yang Zhenbiao stared at him in confusion. “Does this mean that the water level is starting to recover? When I went to make the report, the water level dropped by two whole steps!”

Nodding slowly, Yang Hu didn’t speak anymore. The two of them approached the wooden boat and released the line they were using to keep it steady. Without anything holding the wooden boat back, they rushed downstream like a rocket. In the time it took a pot of tea to boil, they traveled several miles out. A spot of light appeared in the distance.

As they traveled closer to the light source, Yang Zhenbiao saw Qin Yuyuan who was standing close by.

Stopping the boat, Yang Zhenbiao tossed the line over to Qin Yuyuan.

Pulling the boat to the side of the river, Yang Hu quickly leaped off. A small path that was barely two feet wide could be seen beside the river.

“What’s the situation right now?” Yang Hu asked.

Hesitating for a second, Qin Yuyuan reported, “Things are weird. The water level is recovering and the extermination qi that was thinning earlier seems to be recovering. It won’t take long before it returns to normal.”

The three of them continued forward and soon, they ran into a stone entrance that was covered with a layer of light.

“Yuyuan, wait here. Do not let anyone approach.” Yang Hu ordered before stepping through the light gate.

“Yes.” Qin Yuyuan muttered, but a strange light flashed through his eyes. It was too bad that Yang Hu and Yang Zhenbiao were too distracted to notice it.

Yang Zhenbiao entered the light gate after Yang Hu, and he tapped the side of the wall after he crossed, sealing it off behind him.

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Lin Yi didn't expect that he would actually hit the jackpot by randomly blowing up a part of the underground river. Who would have thought that the walls around the underground river were less than three inches thick?

Shang Xia stared at the geyser that was shooting up into the skies and he was at a loss of what to do. When the geyser appeared, the weird mist-producing river he saw before became a lot more violent. The mist in the air also thickened several times.

There was no way for him to head down to look for any clues as he had to kill Chen Sanyang before the cultivator could return to the city.

Of course, Shang Xia also knew that such a huge disturbance would definitely be noticed even if they were in the depths of the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range. It wouldn't be great if someone found the strange river and reaped the benefits without him. It seemed like the only thing he could do was to seal off the geyser.

He tried stuffing a rock slab beside him into the opening but it didn't take long before the frightening pillar of water tore through the rock.

Looking around, his gaze landed on the massive boulder he was hiding behind earlier. Using his Scarlet Star Spear as a lever, he circulated his Origin True Qi to move the giant object towards the hole. The boulder was several times the size of a human and weighed more than ten thousand pounds. Only after exerting a good amount of energy did Shang Xia push it over the geyser.

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It was more than enough to stop the pillar of water from emerging from the ground.

Next, Shang Xia found several small stones to seal off the gaps. When he was done, the raging river finally calmed down. Heaving a sigh of relief, Shang Xia pulled out the yellow gourd he obtained earlier. The thick mist in the surroundings was sucked in by the gourd quickly, and Shang Xia only stopped the process when the mist returned to its original level.

Learning from Lin Yi, Shang Xia shook the gourd beside his ear but noticed that the amount of liquid contained within didn't increase by much.

Right as he wanted to keep the gourd into his Embroidered Cloud Case, his gaze landed on a small opening in the ground that was emitting extermination mist.

Shang Xia walked over to observe the opening in the ground before creating a small platform out of rocks. He stuffed the gourd under the platform with its opening right above the hole in the ground where the extermination qi was emerging from.

Walking around the stone platform he created, Shang Xia nodded in satisfaction. The gourd was hidden, and it could absorb the extermination mist that emerged from the ground continuously. The situation couldn't be better.

Next came Lin Yi's corpse. It was destroyed earlier by the combination of Shang Xia's attack and the powerful rush of water from the geyser. Earlier, Shang Xia was trying out his sixth move and the results he obtained were frightening. Even though it proved that his sixth move was powerful, it also destroyed nearly everything on Lin Yi's body.

Shang Xia was exceptionally heartbroken by the fact that Lin Yi's low-grade sword was heavily damaged by his spear. Even though it looked intact earlier, Shang Xia barely picked it up when it shattered into a hundred pieces.

That also caused Shang Xia to feel slightly afraid. His Scarlet Star Spear was barely a grade higher than the sword. If his Origin True Qi infused attack could damage the sword so badly, it was definitely affecting his spear too.

He already experienced the tyrannical might of his Origin True Qi when he shattered his Waning Moon Spear in the past. His Origin True Qi might not pose a threat to himself, but the same couldn't be said for his weapons.

With a mid-grade weapon in hand, he couldn't put his mind at ease. He was afraid that it would shatter someday, and upgrading it to a high-grade weapon was his priority.

However, that was easier said than done...

Whenever he thought about the treasures that he required to upgrade the spear, Shang Xia couldn't help but feel a headache coming.

If it was that easy to refine high-grade weapons, his grandfather, Shang Bo, would have obtained one a long time ago.

Other than the sword, Lin Yi had many treasures on him. But if a graded weapon was unable to avoid its fate of destruction, those treasures wouldn't fare much better.

Shang Xia looked at whatever was left and he sighed in resignation.

Luckily, the Multi World Anchoring Flag was an exceptional treasure and it couldn't be destroyed easily.

He casually flicked it in his hand once and saw the water droplets falling off its surface. It regained its original shine

Chapter 299: Killing Chen Sanyang

Obtaining the two most important treasures Lin Yi possessed, Shang Xia was satisfied. He casually tossed everything left into his Embroidered Cloud Case without examining them closely.

Next, he had to catch up to Chen Sanyang!

However, he made a huge miscalculation. He had to kill Chen Sanyang before he left the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range! If he allowed Chen Sanyang to leave the mountain range, his actions might be discovered!

He felt lucky that Lin Yi sent himself to death earlier. He wasn't prepared for Shang Xia's attack earlier, and Shang Xia didn't exert too much energy.

Running in the direction Chen Sanyang left, not many clues were left for him to accurately track the man.

Since he knew Chen Sanyang was returning to the Changfeng City, he wouldn't be wrong if he headed in the same general direction. His only hope lay in Yan Ni'er. He prayed that the little bird knew what he meant when he gestured to her earlier. If she knew what his intentions were, things were over for Chen Sanyang. After all, she could even track Martial Extermination Realm experts, much less a Martial Intent Realm Chen Sanyang.

Running through the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range, he discovered he made a huge mistake. If Yan Ni'er was tracking Chen Sanyang, how the hell was she supposed to tell him which direction to go? In hindsight, he should have brought the four little birds along with him. With the four of them, they could relay the message to him.

Now, he could only hope that Chen Sanyang would take a short break so that Yan Ni'er could return to tell him where to go.

While waiting for him to point him in Chen Sanyang's direction, Shang Xia didn't stop moving. Seeing as he was about to leave the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range with no sign of Yan Ni'er, Shang Xia became slightly irritated. He even wondered if Chen Sanyang discovered her presence.

Yan Ni'er might not be as fast as the Lightning Bird, but she could still fly faster than Martial Extermination Realm cultivators. Moreover, not many people would pay attention to a mere bird.

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The problem was if she was discovered by the other party. She might be able to fly quickly, but she was still a little bird at the end of the day. If Chen Sanyang wanted to kill her and laid down a trap, it was highly possible she would be dead.

As worry started to overwhelm him, a familiar cry rang in the skies above.

A look of joy appeared on Shang Xia's face as he turned around to stare at the source of the cry. However, a look of confusion quickly formed on his face. Why did Yan Ni'er appear from the East? That wasn't where the Changfeng City was located.

Naturally, it wasn't time for him to think about all that. He ran towards her quickly.

Yan Ni'er seemed to be really anxious when she came, and the moment she saw Shang Xia, she turned around and sped off.

No longer caring about his usage of inner qi, Shang Xia tried his best to keep up. Every time he leaped off a hill, he would use his Origin True Qi to glide in the air. He could cover a longer distance that way.

With his speed, he traveled several miles in one short hour. He finally saw Yan Ni'er who was making circles in the air above.

It seemed as though he was nearing his target.

Slowing down to catch his breath, Shang Xia restricted his aura once again. He carefully walked in the direction Yan Ni'er was circling to look for traces of Chen Sanyang.

Before he could locate the man, Shang Xia discovered a massive path that cut through the mountain range.

“Why are we here?!” A frown could be seen on Shang Xia’s face as he observed the path that was barely five feet in width before him. It snaked across the entire mountain range, and he quickly discovered the presence of some other people.

The path stretched across the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range and connected the border of the Ji Continent to the Changfeng City. It was also the only path that carriages could travel through.

Ordinarily, the path would be populated with merchant carriages or people who were traveling between the continents. Nothing was different when Shang Xia arrived.

At that moment, Chen Sanyang was hiding on a nearby hill as if he was waiting for someone to arrive.

A chill ran through Shang Xia’s heart. He knew that he had to deal with the hidden threat that was Chen Sanyang as quickly as he could. If he allowed the person Chen Sanyang was waiting for to appear, things would become troublesome!

However, there were too many people traveling around. No matter how Shang Xia went about doing it, he was bound to be discovered.

Shang Xia was a decisive person regardless. Since there was no way of dragging it out any longer, he chose to make his move. Retracting his aura, he merged his divine sense with the world around him.

He started moving towards Chen Sanyang but he discovered that on the hill where Chen Sanyang was, there wasn’t much to hide behind. He was able to conceal his aura, but he couldn’t hide his physical body!

Even though there were talismans that could allow him to hide his body, Shang Xia could only create a rank one talisman called the Shadow Talisman that allowed him to remain unseen when he was in a shadow.

The hill Chen Sanyang was on didn’t possess any cover at all, much less a shadow he could hide in. Not to mention the fact that he could only remain undiscovered when he wasn’t moving while hidden.

Helpless, Shang Xia could only choose to approach Chen Sanyang cautiously with the intention to strike at any time.

Sneaking slowly behind Chen Sanyang, Shang Xia eventually got thirty feet of him.

At that moment, Chen Sanyang seemed to have felt something and he started to turn his head.

Knowing that he was about to be discovered, the Scarlet Star Spear appeared in Shang Xia’s hand and he got ready to attack. All of a sudden, a sharp cry rang above Chen Sanyang’s head. When Chen Sanyang raised his head to look at the skies above, he was shocked by a ray of grayish lightning rushing down towards him.

He jumped in fright, retreating close to five feet with a single leap to avoid Yan Ni’er’s ambush.

A trace of annoyance could be seen on his face as he chopped out with his right hand. The heaven and earth qi around him seemed to ignite as sparks flew all around. A fiery blade shot towards Yan Ni'er.

Yan Ni'er wasn't stupid. All she wanted to do was to distract Chen Sanyang. She knew that she wasn't strong enough to fight a Martial Intent Realm expert.

When Chen Sanyang leaped backward earlier to dodge Yan Ni'er's sudden attack, Yan Ni'er hurriedly flapped her wings to return to the skies above.

The fire blade created by Chen Sanyang struck nothing, but he couldn't care less about that. He could feel a terrifying killing intent rising behind him and the hair on his neck was already standing erect.

It was a distraction?! Someone is actually behind me! Shit! I was played by that fucking bird!

Chen Sanyang forced his body forward and pushed off with all his might.

A terrifying aura emerged behind where he stood, and the top of the hill seemed to be flipped over by a wave of heaven and earth qi. As he flew forward, he felt countless rays of sharp qi flying past him. Waves of pain started assaulting him as he felt many wounds cutting deep into his bones.

Even after suffering so much pain, he was unable to catch a glimpse of his attacker! He had no idea who was trying to kill him!

He could only continue to run forward while disregarding his injuries.

The winding path that connected the Ji Continent to the Changfeng City was right in front of him! Once he arrived, he would definitely run into some merchant groups. There would probably be some martial artists protecting the convoys and he might be able to use them to distract the person who sneak attacked him!

Even though it would cause some casualties among those merchant groups or random groups of travelers, Chen Sanyang could care less about them! He was from the Azure Spiritual World to begin with! He couldn't wish for more people of the Azure Origin World to die.

Shang Xia didn't expect Chen Sanyang to be so sensitive to danger. Neither did he expect Chen Sanyang to be an expert at the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm! It seemed as though everyone was hiding their strength nowadays. Everyone was clever. They wouldn't reveal their true cultivation level or hidden cards unless they were forced into a corner!

Even though he unleashed his third move earlier, Flashing Meteor, he only slightly injured Chen Sanyang.

Thankfully, Shang Xia had already made his preparations. He didn't expect to kill Chen Sanyang with his first move, and he quickly followed behind Chen Sanyang. He didn't forget to wrap a piece of cloth around his face to hide his appearance before rushing down the hill.

Releasing his divine sense, he locked onto Chen Sanyang who was barely ten feet away from him.

Their divine senses clashed with each other as Chen Sanyang tried to resist the suppression that came along with the lock-on.

Even though Shang Xia's cultivation level wasn't as high as Chen Sanyang, he wasn't losing any ground. In fact, his divine sense seemed to possess an edge over his opponent.

The two of them charged downhill, causing the merchants who were using the path to panic.

Screams filled the air and there were some curses mixed within. There were even some brave individuals who didn't care who the two of them were and started attacking indiscriminately.

Chen Sanyang knew that he couldn't give his enemy any opening. Every time he was distracted by the martial artists in front of him, a powerful attack would come from behind.

As for Shang Xia, he steeled his heart. Since he decided to kill Chen Sanyang, he was going to go all out. Those who distracted him from his tasks were thrown to the side mercilessly.

"Who are you? Who the fuck are you?!" Chen Sanyang screamed in terror, but he didn't dare to turn his head. A feeling of despair crept into his heart.

However, a rumbling sound came from the foot of a nearby hill. From the sound of it, they were rushing towards him at a terrifying speed.

Soon after, several riders mounted on Scarlet Cloud Horses appeared in Chen Sanyang's vision.

The killing intent behind him disappeared suddenly. Those riders who appeared were like angels to him, and he waved to them desperately. "Save me, please save me!"

All of a sudden, a small hole appeared in his thigh. Losing balance, he crashed into the ground with a loud thud.

The story Lin Yi told him earlier surfaced in his mind. Looking at the wound on his thigh, he recalled Lin Yi's story of how a weird spearman killed three of his fellow comrades. According to Lin Yi, the spearman had a way of striking his enemy without the spear actually making contact.

"It's him!" Struggling to get up, Chen Sanyang stared at the riders who were closing in on him and tried to yell, "Sha..."

A spear descended from the heavens and lodged itself deep in Chen Sanyang's throat, interrupting whatever he was trying to say.

Chapter 300: Shang Clan Spear Art

When Chen Sanyang fell to the ground earlier, he discovered the identity of the person who was hell-bent on killing him.

"It's him!"

He wanted to reveal Shang Xia's existence to the people around him in his last-ditch attempt to take revenge. Even if he had to die, he needed to cause trouble for his enemy!

"Sha..." A spear descended from the heavens and lodged itself deep in Chen Sanyang's throat, interrupting whatever he was trying to say. The gurgling of blood was all that was left.

The riders who had arrived quickly pulled on the reins of their mounts. When the horses' hoofs hit the ground, two deep craters were formed.

Under the gaze of the riders present, Shang Xia, whose face was covered in cloth, approached the corpse and retrieved his Scarlet Star Spear.

As Chen Sanyang's body twitched twice, the sign of his inner qi leaving his body caused the heaven and earth qi around them to fluctuate. Due to the difference in cultivation methods used by those from the Azure Spiritual World, a thick stench of blood filled the air.

“Cultivator of the Azure Spiritual World. You deserve death!” Shang Xia said as he swept his gaze across those present.

Other than Shang Xia, no one dared to speak a word.

Poking Chen Sanyang's body with his spear, a flurry of items fell to the ground.

His divine sense imprint of his spatial artifact broke the moment he died. As he laid down a self-destruction mechanism in his spatial artifact, most of the items in there were destroyed.

Shang Xia glanced at his surroundings nonchalantly, but under the cloth, his expression was twisted from the aching in his heart.

A loud cry came from the skies at that moment and Yan Ni'er swooped past Shang Xia's head.

Even though he was surprised, Shang Xia still maintained his cool appearance.

He casually stuffed everything on the ground into his Embroidered Cloud Case, and he didn't inspect any one of those items. When he was done, his figure blurred as he disappeared into the forest nearby.

From the time they appeared to the time Chen Sanyang was killed, not much time had passed.

Even after Shang Xia left, many people were unable to react.

Only after a long time did they finally realize what had happened.

Someone muttered softly, “Cultivator of the Azure Spiritual World? How can they appear here? Do you think he's joking?”

The person who spoke was a cultivator, but his position in the world of cultivation was clearly too low to be of concern. He didn't know that cultivators could cross into other worlds.

It didn't take long for someone to correct him. “He's right. That cultivator definitely comes from the Azure Spiritual World.”

Everyone stared at the person who just spoke, and he was clearly one of the leaders of the caravans. He looked at the phenomenon in the air caused by the fluctuation of heaven and earth qi and explained, “I managed to survive after entering the battlefield between the two worlds in the past. I fought against cultivators of the Azure Spiritual World. I experienced their techniques and the bloody essence qi in the air is proof of that.”

After he spoke, clamor broke out among the crowd as many people started to gather around the body.

Most people who went up to the body were people who were originally from the You Continent. Their hatred for those of the Azure Spiritual World had reached a terrifying level. It didn't take long before Chen Sanyang's body was stomped to shreds.

The riders who appeared earlier were from the Ji Continent, and their plan was to keep Chen Sanyang's body intact. However, they couldn't possibly engage and attack those who were stomping on his body, and they could only stare at each other helplessly.

There were even several people who drew their weapons to slash at the corpse.

All of a sudden, a streak of light tore through the skies and arrived above them.

“**Martial Extermination!**”

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Several people recognized the sign of a Martial Extermination Realm expert. The way Martial Extermination Realm experts soared through the air gave them another nickname in the eyes of mortals, They were also known as ‘Heavenly Cultivators’.

A tall elder with a gray beard clad in white robes descended from the skies and turned to the group of riders. “What’s going on here? Why did you stop?”

Their leader replied quickly, “We greet Elder Guo. A cultivator from the Azure Spiritual World was just killed here.” He then explained everything that happened a moment ago.

“Cultivator of the Azure Spiritual World, could it be...” Elder Guo’s expression changed drastically before pointing at the mangled corpse on the ground. “You... You watched him die?! Why didn’t you interfere?”

The leader among them hesitated for a second and whispered into Elder Guo’s ears. “Elder Guo, that’s a cultivator of the Azure Spiritual World! He...”

At the same time, everyone in the surroundings started to whisper among themselves. Even though they were speaking softly, their conversations couldn’t escape Elder Guo’s detection. He seemed to have heard the words, ‘Ji Continent’, ‘Great families’, ‘Guo Family’, and ‘seems to know him’. Those were the words getting thrown around the most often and he knew that he made a mistake.

Coughing once, he growled, “Did you see the appearance of the murderer? Where did he go?”

The leader of the riders pointed in the direction Shang Xia left. Even though Shang Xia moved quickly, he couldn’t possibly avoid detection altogether.

“Are you planning to stand here without doing anything?” Elder Guo growled before cruising into the air. He snapped, “Protect the corpse! Investigate the identity of the person who died. We must capture the spies of the Azure Spiritual World if there are any!”

The riders yelled in acknowledgment and surrounded Chen Sanyang’s corpse.

However, those riders had basically been affiliated with the Guo Family of the Ji Continent after Elder Guo’s arrival. Their intentions of protecting the corpse of an individual from the Azure Spiritual World could only be speculated.

...

After Shang Xia left, he ran straight for the depths of the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range.

Earlier, Yan Ni'er's loud chirp warned him that a Martial Extermination Realm expert was rushing towards them as they spoke.

From Shang Xia's understanding of the relationship between the Changbai Holy Land, White Deer Paradise, and the three great families of the Ji Continent, he guessed that the Martial Extermination Realm expert should be from one of the three great families.

Shang Xia knew their intentions. They were interested in the Mysterious Coral World the Tongyou Institution dragged back from the battlefield between the two worlds.

Shang Xia didn't bother verifying the identity of the person who came. After all, they would be enemies no matter what. He had long since come to the conclusion that no one in the White Deer Paradise, Changbai Holy Land, or the three great families of the Ji Continent could be trusted.

They were probably the reason Chen Sanyang was waiting by the hill!

Moreover, Shang Xia even had the suspicion that those bastards who were coming were probably involved in the second ambush on Kou Chongxue.

Luckily for him, the members of the three great families of the Ji Continent couldn't openly declare their collaboration with members of the Azure Spiritual World.

Even if it was an open secret to those amongst the upper echelons of the various factions, they wouldn't reveal the details to the lower leveled cultivators.

That was the reason those riders didn't stop Shang Xia, or chased him when he left. It gave him a little more time to run away.

Shang Xia couldn't care about the injuries he suffered from unleashing the Woundless Spear anymore as he charged deep into the mountain range.

Yan Ni'er shot past his head in a silvery blur, and she released another warning cry.

Shang Xia leaped to the side before tumbling into a small crevice under a cliff. He concealed his aura and merged his divine sense with the world around him.

After several breaths of time, an orange light tore through the air above and a tyrannical divine sense swept through the lands.

Not detecting anything out of the ordinary, the orange light continued on. However, the divine sense didn't disappear as it continued to scan through the lands. Unfortunately for him, he failed to detect Shang Xia no matter how hard he looked.

"I wonder which friend managed to kill a cultivator from the Azure Spiritual World. This old man is extremely impressed. I wonder if we can meet?" Elder Guo's voice rang through the air.

Hah, do you think I'm stupid? This daddy here won't be fooled by you, asshole!

Shang Xia sneered in his heart and he remained motionless.

Elder Guo's voice rang through the air several more times, and he seemed adamant about meeting the person who killed Chen Sanyang.

His words were like farts in Shang Xia's ears as he circulated his Origin True Qi internally to regain some of his energy. Since he was hiding his aura and presence, Elder Guo was unable to discover him.

After yelling for some time, Elder Guo seemed to have gotten tired. His footsteps grew softer and he seemed to return.

Not knowing if Elder Guo had truly left, Shang Xia decided to remain in place. He didn't wish to be played for a fool and caught by the other party the moment he showed his face.

He seemed to have been over-cautious as Elder Guo really left. Soaring through the air, he returned to meet with the group of riders.

By the time he returned, Chen Sanyang's corpse, or whatever remained of it, had been collected.

Another group of riders could be seen approaching when Elder Guo returned, and they seemed to be escorting a convoy.

When Elder Guo descended from the skies, a male and female cultivator walked out to greet him. The three of them looked similar in age, and they were familiar with each other.

The male cultivator had a sickly look, and he spoke the moment Elder Guo returned. "Brother Guo, did you find the person who did it?"

"The person who did it was extremely slippery. I seemed to have gone in the wrong direction..." Elder Guo shook his head and sighed.

The sickly-looking man turned to stare at the female cultivator beside him who was clad in green robes.

"Did you two notice anything?" Elder Gup asked.

The woman in green eventually spoke, "The person who died was Chen Sanyang, an envoy of the Changbai Holy Land. He was our contact here. After asking around, the person who killed him was probably using the Shang Clan Spear Art!"