

The Heavens 301

Chapter 301: Martial Dipper, Ancestor Chen

“Shang Clan Spear Art?” Elder Guo’s expression changed and he asked, “Are we sure of that?”

“I fought Shang Bo twice and lost. I understand the Shang Clan Spear Art pretty well. From my deductions, that person is definitely using the Shang Clan Spear Art.” The green robed lady muttered.

Elder Guo frowned. “It’s not that I don’t believe the Fourth Lady. However, I heard that the Shang Clan’s inheritance is called the Providence Spear. Practically every practitioner of the Shang Clan Spear Art comprehended different moves. How can you be sure that it’s the Shang Clan Spear Art?!”

Chuckling softly, she replied, “I have my ways.”

Elder Guo nodded silently and decided not to continue his line of questioning. He turned to the other man and asked, “Brother Zhang, since she’s sure of it, shouldn’t we start guessing if the person who killed Chen Sanyang is Shang Bo’s grandson? Is he the person who saw Kou Chongxue last?”

The man hesitated for a second before nodding slowly. “It’s definitely possible. However, he covered his appearance when he made his move earlier. None of us can be sure.”

“What do you think we should do now? Should we focus on flushing him out to question him about Kou Chongxue’s whereabouts?” Elder Guo asked.

Brother Zhang and the green robed lady stared at each other before the green robed lady spoke. “The issue regarding the Tongyou City is of utmost importance. We cannot waste our resources looking for a mere junior. Even if we find him, he might not know where Kou Chongxue went.”

Brother Zhang added, “The Tongyou Institution has always done things their own way. Our task is to fight for benefits for our respective families. Who cares if we find Kou Chongxue? Even if we find him, we’ll have to give that information to the others for them to deal with him. We might as well do something more worth our time.”

Seeing the understanding the two of them had reached, Elder Guo knew that they already reached a conclusion before he arrived. He said, “The two of you make sense. Our three great families of the Ji Continent will advance and retreat together. Without the members of the Azure Spiritual World, we won’t have to worry about many other things. I guess this can be considered a sort of advantage!”

The three of them represented the three great families, but it seemed as though the relationship between them was pretty interesting.

On the surface, the three of them were of similar status. However, Elder Guo was the strongest and most experienced out of the three. Even though the other two couldn’t match up to him in those aspects, they seemed to possess some sort of tacit understanding with each other.

Brother Zhang continued, “So... Should we continue our journey to the Changfeng City then?”

Elder Guo glanced at him casually before looking in the direction of the Changfeng City. “No! The Changfeng City has already thrown in their lot with the White Deer Paradise. If we go there, we won’t be able to gain any benefits! We’ll skirt past the Changfeng City and head directly towards the Tongyou City!”

Exchanging another glance, Brother Zhang and the lady seemed to agree with Elder Guo’s suggestion.

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Shang Xia only returned to the Changfeng City the next day.

After one night of seclusion in the mountains, his injuries were a lot better.

At the very least, no one could tell that he was injured after he wore a new set of clothes.

He didn’t know what Hai Min and Yuanyuan would think after he spent a night outside the city.

Even though Shang Xia stayed with the two of them in order to maintain his disguise as an ordinary hunter, he had to admit that it was a different type of life he really enjoyed.

It seemed as though he would have to break the promise he made to Yuanyuan the day before. In order not to get himself flagged for suspicious behavior, he remained outside until noon time before returning to the city.

Strolling around the city, he used his divine sense to observe everything around him. Discovering nothing out of the ordinary, he finally relaxed.

On the way back to his courtyard, he made a special detour to Wu Ji’s forge.

He planned to take a casual look even though they had already planned to take action three days since they last met. Surprisingly, he heard the clear ringing of a bell when he passed the forge. He glanced up only to see a small bronze bell hanging below the shop sign.

Narrowing his eyes slightly, he strolled into the forge casually. Since he bought arrows often, it made sense for him to be there. Entering the forge, he yelled, “Attendant, are there any better arrows around? The arrows I bought the other day were too light!”

The curtain parted slightly and Wu Ji poked his head out. Glancing at him and taking a look around the forge to ensure there was no one present, he growled, “Follow me!”

Entering the back room where the furnace was running at full power, he passed a row of wooden houses that housed the attendants and apprentices. Eventually, they arrived at a small but exquisite courtyard.

The old blacksmith pointed at the only room in the courtyard and muttered, “He’s waiting for you.”

When he was done, he left immediately.

Shang Xia pushed the doors of the room open and saw a middle aged man standing with his back facing the entrance. He was admiring a piece of art on the wall and he turned around when he heard the creaking of the doors. Shang Xia immediately recognized Mister Bu.

“You killed Chen Sanyang yesterday? Your identity is exposed. Everyone knows that Shang Bo’s grandson appeared in the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range and might

reside in the Changfeng City!" Mister Bu spoke the moment he saw Shang Xia, and he sounded extremely serious.

Shang Xia stared at Mister Bu without a trace of fear and he returned Mister Bu's question with one of his own. "Mister Bu, what about your Painting Finger? Are you a spy of the institution or are you with the Rose Party?"

The two stared at each other with no intention to back down.

After a short while, Mister Bu finally broke the silence with a soft snort. "I don't know if you did the right thing. Chen Sanyang died while waiting to regroup with the experts of the three great families of the Ji Continent. Now, they chose to circle around the Changfeng City to head straight for the Tongyou City."

Shang Xia didn't understand the logic behind it. "What has his death got to do with their detour? Did the three great families of the Ji Continent reach some sort of agreement with the Changbai Holy Land?"

Shang Xia thought back to the conversation he overheard in the restaurant when he first came to the Changfeng City. The White Deer Paradise and the three great families were supposed to be on the same side, or at least that was the vibe Shang Xia received from them. Did they run into some sort of disagreement? Why would they skirt past the Changfeng City that was working with the White Deer Paradise at the last moment?

Shang Xia stared at Mister Bu for an explanation but was met with a shake of the head. "I don't know what's going on either. All I know is that it might have something to do with a formation master of the White Deer Paradise who arrived yesterday."

"Formation master?" Shang Xia thought back to Gao Yun and Wei Zhongwen who hailed from the White Deer Paradise. He saw them after he released his fully powered sixth move back in the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range. They were drawn over by the heaven and earth qi fluctuations, and he hid down below to listen in on their conversation.

Mister Bu clearly didn't notice the look in Shang Xia's eyes as he continued, "That's right! As soon as that person arrived, he was hosted with a massive banquet! In the morning, Yang Hu even invited him over to the spirit cave in the underground water-attributed spiritual vein..."

"Hold up. Did you just say underground water-attributed spiritual vein? Spirit cave?" Shang Xia connected many dots in that instant and he couldn't help but ask.

Mister Bu thought that Shang Xia was asking due to his limited knowledge of those things and he quickly explained, "There has always been a water-attributed spiritual vein located under the Changfeng City. Yang Hu placed a strong emphasis on it and other than his son and several direct disciples, no one knows the location of the spirit cave. In order to prove his sincerity to work with the White Deer Paradise, he invited their formation master over to lay down protection formations. It could be said that he has already passed all his power over to the White Deer Paradise!"

Shang Xia raised his eyebrows in shock. "Are they really willing to give up their control of the Changfeng City so easily?"

“Naturally, it comes with several conditions.” Mister Bu explained. “One of them was that the White Deer Paradise had to provide them with a complete rank four advancement formula. At this moment, Yang Hu already has the formula.”

“No wonder...” Shang Xia gasped. He understood the meaning behind their actions too. That was because they were like the Shang Clan. In order to receive a complete rank four advancement formula, Shang Bo put in a lot of hard work for the institution.

If not for Shang Xia’s luck to obtain the Hundred Days Longevity Intoxication, the Shang Clan might still have to depend on the institution’s advancement formula.

Mister Bu continued, “From what I learned, it’s highly likely they’re nurturing an extermination origin in the spirit cave. In fact, it should already be complete! Yang Hu might have invited the formation master of the White Deer Paradise due to something that happened to the extermination origin.”

Shang Xia nodded slowly as his gaze flickered slightly. “Can it really be so coincidental?!”

“What are you thinking about?” Mister Bu finally noticed Shang Xia’s abnormal reaction and he asked.

“Oh... Mister Bu, who is the strongest person in the White Deer Paradise? Can they defeat Patriarch Kou?” Shang Xia asked all of a sudden.

“What’s with the sudden question?” Mister Bu thought that Shang Xia was asking purely out of curiosity and he explained patiently, “From what I know, the White Deer Paradise definitely has their own rank five advancement formula. They might even possess more than one ancestor in the Martial Dipper Realm.”

“Ancestor?” Shang Xia’s expression changed. “Is that how they address experts who reached the Martial Dipper Realm in the White Deer Paradise?”

Mister Bu replied, “That’s right. In the White Deer Paradise, only experts who have reached the Martial Dipper Realm can receive the title, ‘Ancestor’. There should be at least three ancestors in their ranks.”

“Three?!” Shang Xia gasped. He felt a chill running through his heart. “Wouldn’t that mean that they can flatten our You Continent if they choose to launch a full-scale assault?”

Chuckling softly, Mister Bu explained, “Relax. It’s not that simple. Those who receive their origin dipper with the assistance of their holy land would be severely restricted. They are unable to leave the territory controlled by their holy lands. In fact, it’s difficult for them to leave their holy land itself.”

Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief, but he heard the meaning behind Mister Bu’s words. “It might be difficult to leave, but there seems to be a way. Do you think the White Deer Paradise will send a Martial Dipper Realm ancestor over to our You Continent?”

Chapter 302: Wonder of the Providence Series

“It might be difficult to leave, but there seems to be a way. Do you think the White Deer Paradise will send a Martial Dipper Realm ancestor over to our You Continent?”

Even though he asked the question, he already had an answer in his heart. In fact, he was practically sure they would send a Martial Dipper Realm ancestor over. After all, that was what he heard from Wei Zhongwen and Gao Yun the day before.

Back then, he didn't know that the members of the White Deer Paradise called their Martial Dipper Realm experts 'Ancestor'. Now that he did, he knew that things were about to get ugly.

Mister Bu was extremely experienced. With a small reminder from Shang Xia, he understood many things.

“Are you saying that Gao Yun came to the Changfeng City because...”

Shang Xia nodded solemnly. “Actually, I wonder where the underground water-attributed spiritual vein leads? Does it go through the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range and lead towards the Ji Continent? If that's the case...”

Mister Bu's expression twisted immediately. Only after some time did he reply. “Even if it's not connected, they can always do it manually...”

Mister Bu growled, “No. This is bad. The arrival of a Martial Dipper Realm expert will bring about too many uncertainties. I have to report this immediately. We need to make preparations now! You...”

Shang Xia interrupted him before he could complete his sentence. “Mister Bu, how is Patriarch Kou right now?”

It was a question he had been dying to ask. Even though Shang Xia didn't know if Mister Bu knew anything about Kou Chongxue when they first met, he had a suspicion that Mister Bu definitely received some news recently.

It was especially so after he worked together with Youshang and the black robed expert to kill Liang Shuangren. He definitely knew a lot more than before. Even the aura he exuded changed. He felt a lot more unflustered than when Shang Xia first met him.

Most importantly, Mister Bu's expression might have changed earlier, but he didn't panic in the slightest. He only thought of making a report back to the institution so that they could 'make their preparations'. It was as though they already had a plan to deal with the descent of a Martial Dipper Realm expert.

Clearly, Mister Bu didn't expect the question from Shang Xia so suddenly. He didn't react immediately, and he only spoke after a slight hesitation. “How should I know anything about him? However, the Tongyou Institution has been operating for more than twenty years. Even if he isn't around, they might possess some form of assurance. Moreover, the Martial Dipper Realm expert's strength would be greatly affected if he travels so far away from his territory. If the Tongyou Institution has enough time to prepare, they might be able to overcome this ordeal.”

Shang Xia couldn't be bothered with Mister Bu's forced explanation at all. Instead, he only cared about Mister Bu's initial reaction when he asked the question.

The short hesitation allowed Shang Xia to form his own guesses about the situation.

Of course, he knew that there was no point in digging deeper into the matter either. It wasn't as though Mister Bu would reveal any more...

No matter what, Shang Xia was still a mere student of the institution. He might be considered an extremely powerful individual in the Martial Intent Realm, but he was still too weak to be factored into the Tongyou Institution's plan.

Shang Xia no longer continued to ask about Kou Chongxue. Instead, he continued down the line Mister Bu was driving at. "Mister Bu, do you have any way of contacting the institution? From what I heard, even birds are unable to enter the Tongyou City at this moment."

Shang Xia tried sending Yan Ni'er back a long time ago. However, she returned the next day and brought back some horrifying news. There was something outside the city that was ready to ambush her, and she was too afraid to return.

Yan Ni'er might be a lot more domesticated than before, but her instincts of locating danger didn't dull. Shang Xia didn't doubt her evaluation of the situation when she returned.

Mister Bu replied, "There's no need for you to ask too many questions about this. Even if I wish to send some information back to the city, I'll have to pay a huge price. Time is tight. All you need to do now is to raise your cultivation level. Didn't I tell you to practice your spear art the other day? Wait... Your cultivation... Are you about to experience your third divine sense transformation?!"

Mister Bu didn't observe too closely earlier, and Shang Xia was used to hiding his aura. As such, he failed to detect Shang Xia's increased cultivation level the moment he stepped in.

Only then did he discover that Shang Xia's divine sense was about to reach a whole new level.

A smile appeared on Shang Xia's face and he chuckled in response, "I have to thank senior for the reminder the other day. I might not know which senior sealed their knowledge into my spear, but I offer my sincere thanks."

Mister Bu sighed. "Your Shang Clan's 'Providence Inheritance' is really marvelous. It combines the insights of a secret art with your martial arts. The other day, I noticed that you hadn't reached the requirements to experience your third divine sense transformation. Did you manage to comprehend your sixth move of your Providence Spear Art?"

Indeed, comprehending a new move in the series would allow his cultivation to take a huge leap forward. When Shang Xia came up with three moves of his Providence Spear Art in the past, his divine sense experienced a second transformation.

Now that he completed the next set of three moves, his divine sense was ready to transform the third time!

What made the increase in cultivation so special was that such rapid advancement wouldn't affect his foundations! The Triple Providence Chapter and the Providence Spear were the reason Shang Xia's cultivation shot up so quickly in the Martial Intent Realm!

Of course, him being able to come up with his moves due to his insight into the Providence Spear Art was an important factor. If he was unable to comprehend the secrets behind the spear art, his cultivation would never be able to increase no matter how hard he tried!

Shang Xia felt that after his divine sense transformed a third time, he couldn't rely on coming up with new moves for his Providence Spear Art to raise his cultivation. He would have to start training in the Triple Providence Chapter in order to push his cultivation up.

Speaking of which, Shang Ke was a good example to talk about. During his cultivation, Shang Ke created four moves in total before his divine sense transformed for the third time. He wasn't like Shang Xia who increased his cultivation solely based off the creation of new moves. Shang Ke had to cultivate painstakingly between each transformation. When his divine sense finally completed the third transformation, he came up with his fifth move, but that wasn't enough for him to comprehend his martial intent to enter the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm. Eventually, his cultivation level was stuck at the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm and he forcefully broke through by refining the extermination origin in the Fantasy Spiritual Pearl. Due to his weak foundations, he would never be able to match up to Shang Bo despite their cultivation levels both being in the Martial Extermination Realm.

A weird smile formed on Shang Xia's face. "Senior, you seem to know a lot about my Shang Clan's inheritance..."

"Of course not! I only heard stories about it. Your grandfather, Shang Bo, created seven moves in total and Shang Ke created five. Now, you've created six moves before experiencing your third divine sense transformation. I hope that you can surpass your Grandfather Shang Bo in the future." Mister Bu replied.

Even though he was already a Martial Extermination Realm expert, a trace of envy could be seen on Mister Bu's face.

Shang Xia cupped his fists together and laughed, "Many thanks for senior's kind words. I'll work hard." When he was done, he turned around to leave. However, he was called back by Mister Bu.

Shang Xia turned around, baffled, while Mister Bu added, "We might have to carry out our plans in the next two or three days. The Changfeng City will probably also fall into chaos. When that happens, your chance to complete your third divine sense transformation will come."

Shang Xia stared deeply at Mister Bu as the corners of his lips slowly curled upwards. "Many thanks for senior's reminder. I know what to do."

"Just do your best. Don't push yourself past your limits. Remember, staying safe is of utmost priority." Mister Bu nodded.

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After emerging from the forge with two quivers of arrows, Shang Xia returned to his courtyard.

When he entered the street leading to his courtyard, he saw Hai Min laying out some needlework on the rocks beside the entrance of their courtyard. Uncle Cen was beside her and seemed to be telling her something. Yuanyuan was playing with some other kids not too far away.

Hai Min replied Uncle Cen half-heartedly as her gaze constantly flickered to the other end of the street. When she saw Shang Xia's familiar figure, the tension in her heart disappeared and she seemed to feel a lot more relaxed.

Straightening her back, she looked at Shang Xia who was walking towards the courtyard and a smile appeared on her face.

A soft breeze brushed against her hair, messing it up slightly. She used her slender fingers to tuck them behind her ears, causing her to give off the air of a demure young lady waiting for her husband to return home.

The smile on Shang Xia's face was wide as he waved to her.

At that moment, Uncle Cen also turned to stare at Shang Xia. Nodding slightly, he released a soft sigh. The only person who had a different reaction was Yuanyuan. Instead of standing there quietly, she leaped into the air with joy as she ran towards him in excitement.

Shang Xia held her by her shoulders and tossed her into the air only to hear her cute little giggles ringing in his ears.

Placing her down slowly, he brought out a packet of sweets he bought along the way.

"You don't have to buy them every day! Look at her, she became a little chubbier from eating so many sweets..." Hai Min pouted but it did nothing to hide the joy she felt.

"Hahaha, is there a kid out there who doesn't like candy? It would be a pity if she doesn't get to eat them!" Shang Xia replied before turning to Uncle Cen. "Fifth Uncle, when did you come?"

Uncle Cen smiled in response. "I've been here for a while now. Little Min said that you didn't return the entire night and she was worried about you. She has been waiting for you outside the whole time."

The other day, the Eighteen Horsemen disbanded and Shang Xia saved Uncle Cen with Mister Bu. He was unwilling to reveal his appearance and Uncle Cen had no idea his savior was standing right in front of him.

Shang Xia chuckled softly and looked at Hai Min. He saw her face turning slightly red and he couldn't help but laugh, "There is really little prey in the nearby mountain ranges. I had to venture further out and missed the timing to return to the city. I could only stay out there last night."

It was a great explanation he had already made up while he was returning.

"Have you eaten lunch?"

"Nope!"

"I left some in the kitchen... I'll heat them up for you now." Hai Min said and she turned to enter the courtyard.

Uncle Cen coughed once and spoke, "Since there's nothing else, I'll take my leave. I have to travel a fair distance after leaving the city."

"Fifth Uncle, please take care." Hai Min bowed slightly. After watching Uncle Cen leave, Hai Min and Shang Xia returned to the courtyard.

Placing his bow to the side, Shang Xia asked, "Oh yeah, why did Uncle Cen enter the city?"

“Someone fell sick and he came in to buy some medicine. He came over as it was along the way...” Hai Min explained.

Chapter 303: I Spy With My Little Eye

As darkness fell over the land, the Changfeng City fell silent and the usual bustle was nowhere to be seen.

In a small courtyard in the northern part of the city, Shang Xia lit his lamp after sensing that Hai Min and Yuanyuan had gone to sleep. He placed several items on the table. In the middle of his room.

Among those items were the Multi World Anchoring Flag and some items Chen Sanyang left behind.

The Multi World Anchoring Flag could also be considered to belong to Chen Sanyang, but it didn't really matter at that point.

As for the yellow gourd Lin Yi used to collect extermination mist, he left it back at the opening near the river before returning.

After meeting Mister Bu and learning about the presence of the water-attributed spiritual vein under the Changfeng City, Shang Xia came up with a plot of his own. After all, the White Deer Paradise wasn't the only one who knew how to scheme against others.

There was only one problem. It seemed as though he couldn't leave the yellow gourd there anymore.

He learned that the spiritual vein was affected the day before and Yang Hu made arrangements for someone from the White Deer Paradise to investigate the matter. From the timing of the incident, it seemed to coincide with the time Lin Yi caused the massive explosion underground.

If Yang Hu were to continue his investigation, it would be a matter of time before his gourd would be discovered. Shang Xia felt that it was time for him to take another trip out to the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range to retrieve his treasure. It was a pity that he would have to waste all the escaping extermination mist, but recovering his treasure was more important.

With the matter of the gourd settled, Shang Xia started to look through the rest of the items on the table.

After killing both Lin Yi and Chen Sanyang, Shang Xia grabbed all their belongings before making a run for it. The expert from the Guo Family of the Ji Continent tried hunting him down right after that happened and Shang Xia managed to avoid capture by hiding somewhere in the mountain range. He chose to remain in seclusion to recover and to avoid any crafty tricks by the other party.

Finally, he returned to the city and spoke with Mister Bu. He didn't have time to check through the items he obtained.

With the cover of night, nothing else was stopping him from looking through his loot. However, a wave of disappointment filled him when he stared at the items laid out on the table.

It wasn't that Chen Sanyang possessed garbage, but all of them could no longer impress Shang Xia. “All of these are ordinary herbs and treasures at the second or third rank... Damn it! No matter

what, Chen Sanyang was a core disciple of the Changbai Holy Land. Shouldn't he possess some secret art or items required to break through to the Martial Extermination Realm?!"

Shang Xia grumbled silently. Of course, he didn't expect to find an advancement formula or divine weapon from Chen Sanyang. After all, he entered the Azure Origin World to act as a liaison for those who would come after. It would be too much of a risk to hold such precious treasures.

Shang Xia's expression twisted slightly as he looked at them again, but he soon noticed something odd about them. Those rank two and three herbs and treasures seemed to be gathered for a specific purpose...

"They might be common, but that's because I'm from the Azure Origin World! Chen Sanyang was from the Azure Spiritual World and these are extremely rare treasures to him! No wonder he collected all these things..." Shang Xia gasped in realization.

Well, his joy of discovering Chen Sanyang's purpose in gathering those treasures ended there. He had no use for most of the items. However, if he brought them back to the Tongyou Institution, there would be god knew how many people fighting over a single one of those treasures.

Due to the fact that cultivators from the Azure Spiritual World cultivated differently from the cultivators from the Azure Origin World, the way they used their spatial artifacts were also different. When they died, there would be a restriction in their spatial artifact that reacted to their deaths and destroyed everything within.

It happened to both Lin Yi and Chen Sanyang.

Shang Xia was especially heartbroken that Chen Sanyang's spatial artifact was broken. Chen Sanyang had been in the Azure Origin World for a much longer time and he should have collected a lot more treasures. It was a pity they were all destroyed after his death.

However, Shang Xia also discovered that when Chen Sanyang was hunted down by him the day before, he didn't reveal any weapons. He only used some sort of martial art that created a fire palm that shot towards Shang Xia. He even wondered why Chen Sanyang wasn't used to weapons.

Without obtaining a graded weapon, Shang Xia felt that something was missing.

Playing with the items on the table, he discovered several stone pieces that contained blurry lines on their surface. Thinking hard and deep, he finally recognized that those blurry lines made up some sort of runes.

As Shang Xia was a qualified talisman master, he was familiar with runes and the like.

He felt as though he had seen those runes before.

Thinking back, he recalled the scene where Chen Sanyang created the opening in the spatial barrier to allow Liang Shuangren and the others to enter the Azure Origin World. The Multi World Anchoring Flag might be the most important treasure, but he laid out several items to create a formation to assist him.

Due to the distance separating Shang Xia from Chen Sanyang when that happened, he barely managed to glance at the runes that made up the formation.

Now, it seemed as though those runes were also present in the items he obtained from Chen Sanyang. Was there a deeper meaning behind them?

“Looks like the runes are used together with the Multi World Anchoring Flag...” Shang Xia thought to himself. “If I am able to grasp how those runes work, I wonder if I can cut a path through the spatial barrier myself. Hm... I’m afraid I need to look for several formation masters to help me with this matter...”

With his idea in mind, Shang Xia decided to start understanding the runes on Chen Sanyang’s items. He brought out the items he used to create talismans and started tracing those runes.

The moment his brush hit the talisman papers, a flash of inspiration struck him.

He placed his brush down instantly and took out the Multi World Anchoring Flag. Since Chen Sanyang used the flag to lay down the formation, the runes might also be present on the flag itself.

He tried recalling everything when Chen Sanyang opened the path in the spatial barrier and he tried sending some of his Origin True Qi into the flag.

The instant he tried, he felt a strong resistance coming from the item. It seemed as though some bloodline qi remained in the item and it tried to stop Shang Xia’s inner qi from entering the Multi World Anchoring Flag.

Even so, Shang Xia didn’t stop. His Origin True Qi was tyrannical to begin with. After an hour, he managed to destroy any trace of bloodline qi on the Multi World Anchoring Flag. Without any obstructions, he poured his Origin True Qi into the item.

That was the frightening part regarding treasures that were used in both worlds. Even though both sides had their differing methods of using inner qi, they could use treasures from either world without restrictions.

That was also the reason cultivators of both worlds could draw on each other’s experience to improve their talismans, weapons, and even spatial artifacts.

It might also be the reason behind the fusion between the two worlds...

As soon as Shang Xia managed to pour his inner qi into the Multi World Anchoring Flag with no restrictions, dense runes appeared on the surface of the flag. They flickered unsteadily before twisting to form a complete rune. When they finally merged, it seemed as though the flag was lit on fire and a bright orange glow surrounded the object.

Shang Xia quickly stopped pouring his inner qi into the flag when that happened. The flickering runes died down almost instantly.

It seemed as though his guess was right. The runes were also present on the Multi World Anchoring Flag. They looked extremely complicated and he felt that he would need a little more time to grasp their true use.

The only thing strange about the runes on the flag was that they didn’t seem to be drawn on by a brush. Instead, they were directly weaved on.

If he wanted to memorize the runes entirely, he could only pour his Origin True Qi into the flag and feel each thread one by one.

Of course, that might not be a bad thing. By sending more of his Origin True Qi into the item, he could refine the item and increase his control over it.

That caused Shang Xia to think back to the Swallow Fur he obtained back in the battlefield between the two worlds. He learned that a spatial pouch was created by weaving the fur together.

The institution and the Shang Clan had been paying great attention to the fur they could collect after the Mutated Rain Swallows nested on the Pinxin Peak. However, Shang Xia heard nothing about the creation of a spatial pouch even after such a long time.

Shang Xia had a portion of Swallow Fur, but Yan Ni'er used it to make her nest. Now that her babies had hatched, Shang Xia wondered if Shang Xi managed to bring the fur away for the institution to create a spatial pouch.

Speaking of spatial artifacts, Shang Xia was currently using two Embroidered Cloud Cases. He found them a little lacking when it came to storing all the items he had.

He was entitled to feel whatever way he wanted, but if his thoughts were revealed to the outside world, he would be in a great deal of trouble. Even Martial Intent Realm experts might not necessarily possess an Embroidered Cloud Case. If people learned that he had two Embroidered Cloud Cases on him, even Martial Extermination Realm experts might appear to rob him.

Chapter 304: Calamity

In a small room in the northern part of the Changfeng City in the dark of night.

Shang Xia was listening intently to the situation outside his room. Ensuring that nothing was off, he continued to trace the runes he saw on the Multi World Anchoring Flag.

Several dozen crumpled balls of talisman paper could be seen lying all around the ground below. The light from the candle on his table flickered unsteadily, mirroring the erratic feeling Shang Xia was feeling in his heart. He was starting to get annoyed with each failure.

A formless energy emerged from the tip of Shang Xia's brush suddenly, tearing the rank two talisman paper to shreds. More than half the completed rune was turned into trash.

Helpless, Shang Xia placed his brush down. He wanted to ball up whatever remained of the talisman paper but paused abruptly as he turned to stare at the flickering candle.

"The heaven and earth qi in the air is fluctuating violently. However, there aren't any Martial Intent Realm experts or Martial Extermination Realm experts fighting nearby... Don't tell me that the protection formation surrounding the Changfeng City is malfunctioning..." A frown formed on Shang Xia's face and he turned to stare out of the window immediately.

Ever since the Mysterious Coral World appeared the other day, the heaven and earth qi in the You Continent hadn't been too docile. It even caused several cultivators with weak foundations to experience cultivation deviation.

Previously, the heaven and earth qi in the city managed to maintain its calm due to the presence of the protection formation around the city.

Things seemed to be taking a turn for the worse at that moment. With Shang Xia's discovery of the heaven and earth qi in the surroundings turning violent, one could only imagine how terrifying the situation would be outside the city.

Staring at the night sky, Shang Xia felt that it turned a shade darker. As he rose to his feet, he heard some sounds coming from outside.

Slapping the table once, everything he took out earlier, including the wasted talisman paper that had been crumpled and thrown to the ground earlier disappeared.

Blowing out the candle, Shang Xia returned to bed and let out long snores.

Everything happened in a flash and soon, the door of Hai Min's room creaked open. She was clearly disturbed by the sudden fluctuations of heaven and earth qi as she stared into the skies in confusion.

As someone from the Eighteen Horsemen, Hai Min's cultivation foundations were pretty solid.

She wasn't the only cultivator who was woken up in the middle of the night due to the change. Many weaker cultivators received varying degrees of injuries as they were caught unprepared.

Hai Min stared into the skies and noticed several rays of light coming from the north.

The phenomenon shocked Hai Min, but she quickly understood that something had happened in the Tongyou City. Walking quickly over to Shang Xia's room, she placed her ears against the door. She left quietly after hearing his snores, and she disappeared in a flash.

Shang Xia felt everything she did clearly and when the footsteps coming from the roof of his building disappeared, he leaped to his feet. He moved quietly and left his room.

Using his divine sense to cover the room Yuanyuan was in, he sighed, "Isn't she afraid that Yuanyuan would be frightened after waking up and discovering her absence?"

Ensuring Yuanyuan was still sound asleep, Shang Xia ran after Hai Min.

It didn't take long for him to notice that she was running in the direction of the City Lord Manor.

Wait a second... Is she trying to infiltrate the City Lord Manor alone?!

Fortunately, Hai Min was no fool. She slowed down after closing in on the manor and she hid her presence. She stared in the manor and observed the situation within.

Shang Xia was afraid that she would be discovered by the guards and was prepared to help her out. He didn't expect to discover countless people observing the situation in the City Lord Manor using the cover of night.

The disturbance in the city was too huge, causing many cultivators to gather around the City Lord Manor to try to get to the bottom of the matter. At that moment, a three colored light tore into the skies from the core of the City Lord Manor, dulling every other light source in the residence.

A tyrannical aura emerged from the manor to reveal the prestige of a Martial Extermination Realm expert.

Yang Hu's voice boomed through the air as he addressed everyone. "The Tongyou City has gone too far! Their selfishness caused the thinning of the spatial barrier and intrusion of cultivators from the Azure Spiritual World! The chaos they brought is immeasurable! Not even our protection formation can stop the fluctuation of heaven and earth qi anymore and that is a sign that the passage

between the You Continent and the battlefield between the two worlds has been completely exposed!”

He was throwing all the blame onto the Tongyou Institution and he was so convincing that even Shang Xia who knew what was going on had no idea how to react.

The descent of the Mysterious Coral World definitely required widening the spatial tunnel connecting the You Continent to the battlefield between the two worlds. By doing so, the spatial barrier would definitely be weakened. Shang Xia witnessed how cultivators of the Azure Spiritual World crossed the barrier and the fluctuation of heaven and earth qi was also true.

The institution might have planned for everything to happen, but Shang Xia didn't know about their considerations. Yang Hu might have learned something, but he wouldn't reveal it to the outside world. The only thing Shang Xia could do was to guess.

Moreover, the Tongyou Institution was dancing on the edge of a blade at the moment. If they succeeded, they would be able to reap huge benefits. If they failed, they would be doomed for eternity. Not even the allies of the Tongyou Institution could agree with what they were doing. From the looks of it, even the closest allies of the institution might be plotting against them. It was evident from the complete lockdown the Tongyou Institution ordered. The complete lockdown was so serious that even Shang Xia couldn't return.

“What does City Lord Yang plan to do in that case?” A reply came from the skies above the City Lord Manor.

“Everyone, relax!” Yang Hu's voice came again. Even though it boomed in their ears, only cultivators could hear what he was saying. “I might not be powerful enough to take on the entire Tongyou Institution, but I have invited an expert from the White Deer Paradise to protect the city. Everyone, you can rest assured that no matter what happens to the Tongyou City, our Changfeng City will stand tall!”

“When day breaks tomorrow, I will personally head over to the Tongyou City to ask for an explanation! The Ji, Liu, Yun, and Shang Clans will have to give us an explanation of what is going on right now! They can't possibly play with the lives of everyone from our You Continent for their stupid plan!” Yang Hu became more agitated the more he spoke.

Those residing in the city weren't fools. They knew that with Kou Chongxue at the helm, the Tongyou Institution had been protecting the You Continent for the past twenty years from the invasion from those from the Azure Spiritual World. They might not know what was going on in the Tongyou City at that moment, but they had their faith in the institution. No matter how righteous Yang Hu sounded at that moment, all they could hear was that he was planning to collude with the White Deer Paradise. Suspicion filled their hearts but they remained silent.

In front of a powerhouse like Yang Hu and an expert of the White Deer Paradise he invited, no one would dare to question his decision.

Those who came quickly took their leave, but Yang Hu remained in the air as he turned to stare in the direction of the Tongyou City.

A three colored light surrounded his body and made him look extremely intimidating. Only after looking around and discovering no one left around the City Lord Manor did he return.

Under the illumination of several lanterns surrounding the City Lord Manor, Yang Zhenbiao ran over to where Yang Hu was standing.

“Father, are you really going to the Tongyou City tomorrow?” Yang Zhenbiao asked apprehensively.

Ignoring his son, Yang Hu’s gaze landed on Mister Sima who was standing beside him. “Will you follow me there tomorrow?”

Mister Sima’s expression remained neutral but before he could speak, Yang Zhenbiao yelled, “Is Mister Sima also going? That would mean that there would be no Martial Extermination Realm expert protecting the city!”

Yang Hu glared at his son once to shut him up before turning to Mister Sima. “What do you say?”

“I’ll listen to City Lord Yang.” A smile appeared on Mister Sima’s face as he replied.

“Great!” Roaring with laughter, Yang Hu turned to leave.

“Father, you...” Before Yang Zhenbiao could say anything, Yang Hu had disappeared.

Yang Zhenbiao could only turn to Mister Sima with a helpless expression on his face. “Mister, do you think...”

“Young City Lord, relax. Since the Changfeng City has chosen to side with the White Deer Paradise, we should go all the way. As long as your father or myself remains, they will be able to let their guard down. We’ll just leave the entire place to them when we head over.” Mister Sima explained.

“But... But... Father’s twenty years of hard work on the Changfeng City...” Yang Zhenbiao stuttered.

Mister Sima patted Yang Zhenbiao’s shoulder and explained, “The City Lord’s ambition doesn’t stop here. A mere Changfeng City is too small to fulfill his appetite!”

After he spoke, Mister Sima turned to leave. The moment he turned around, his expression turned completely dark.

...

When Hai Min returned to the courtyard, she could hear Shang Xia’s snores ringing steadily through the air.

At dawn the next day, Hai Min surprised Shang Xia with a sudden declaration. “I have to visit my family today and I will be leaving the city. Can you stay at home and take care of Yuanyuan for today?”

Raising an eyebrow in shock, Shang Xia eventually regained his composure and a smile appeared on his face. “Sure.”

Chapter 305: The Wind Rises

Even though Yang Hu had left, the conversation between Mister Sima and his son didn't escape his ears.

Crossing into a small courtyard near his own, he saw Gao Yun sipping a cup of piping hot tea.

"The Ice Tea in the northern continent is really something else!" Gao Yun smiled after placing his cup down. "Ever since half of the You Continent was swallowed up by the collision between the worlds, the Ice Tea has been hard to find. Who would have thought that Brother Yang would be in possession of some?"

"I discovered several Ice Tea Plants in the depths of the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range and harvest a tael or two every year. If Brother Gao likes it, I have some lying around in the manor. Feel free to help yourself." Yang Hu smiled. Ice Tea might be precious, but he wouldn't fuss over such matters when things have progressed up to that point.

After thanking him, Gao Yun turned serious. "Brother Yang, have you not found the Multi World Anchoring Flag?"

Yang Hu's expression sank and he shook his head. "We are unable to locate Shang Bo's grandson. Those who witnessed the killing the other day said that they didn't see any flag-like item among the loot taken away. Shang Bo's grandson brought everything away and the experts of the three great families of the Ji Continent were the ones who collected his body eventually."

A sneer formed on Gao Yun's face. "So... The Multi World Anchoring Flag can be anywhere then? Chen Sanyang could have hidden it somewhere, or it could have landed in Shang Bo Grandson's hands. It might even be destroyed when Chen Sanyang was killed or the three great families of the Ji Continent might have gotten their hands on it..."

"That seems to be the case. The only possibility that seems unlikely is the flag's destruction. The flag is sturdy and it's unlikely to be destroyed along with the self destruction of Chen Sanyang's spatial artifact." Yang Hu replied after a short while.

The look of mockery became even deeper on Gao Yun's face. "No shit! Hmph, why would Elder Guo lose a Martial Intent Realm cultivator anyway? Do you think anyone would believe that he was unable to catch up to a cultivator in the Martial Intent Realm? Not to mention the fact that they decided to avoid our Changfeng City after discovering Chen Sanyang's corpse..."

"That is true. Moreover, the disciples of the three great families of the Ji Continent left the city before nightfall today." Yang Hu nodded.

"Hmph. I'm not surprised by their actions at all!" Gao Yun snorted.

After some hesitation, Yang Hu asked, "Brother Gao, do you mean that they managed to obtain the Multi World Anchoring Flag?"

Instead of replying Yang Hu directly, Gao Yun asked another question. "I heard that Chen Sanyang was waiting by the mountain path connecting the Ji Continent to the Changfeng City. From the looks of it, he seemed to be waiting for someone."

“Yeah, he was.”

“Who do you think he’s waiting for?” Gao Yun continued.

“From the looks of it, the three great families of the Ji Continent are the most suspicious.” Yang Hu replied.

Gao Yun nodded slowly before adding, “I heard that Chen Sanyang received a warm welcome when he first entered the city. According to the plan for the three great families of the Ji Continent, they were supposed to use the Changfeng City as their base of operations. Why would Chen Sanyang run all the way over to the mountain path to wait for them?”

“This... Could they have reached some sort of agreement without us knowing?” Yang Hu frowned. He found it weird too, but he seemed to have thought of the problem. “He learned that the members of the Azure Spiritual World were wiped out! Does he think that we’re behind it?”

“Could he have tried to warn them before they entered the city?” Yang Hu guessed. However, he quickly continued, “That doesn’t seem right. If we were the ones who did it, why would we leave Chen Sanyang alive?”

The look of mockery on Gao Yun’s face remained and he sneered, “He might think that we’re afraid of hurting him and damaging the Multi World Anchoring Flag in the process!”

Yang Hu felt that Gao Yun was forcing the matter, but he couldn’t think of any other explanations in the meantime.

After thinking about it for a moment, he asked, “Brother Gao, if we are unable to obtain the flag, will our plan be affected?”

Gao Yun finally wiped the annoying smile off his face and he muttered, “It will definitely affect our plans. We would have been able to ensure Ancestor Lu possessed 90 percent of his strength if we had the Multi World Anchoring Flag. Now...”

Yang Hu’s heart pounded in his chest. “What happens now?!”

“Brother Yang, calm down. Even if Ancestor Lu is unable to maintain 90 percent of his combat strength, I can still ensure that he has the strength of a Martial Dipper Realm expert. He’s more than enough to sweep away any resistance in the You Continent regardless!” Gao Yun chuckled to reassure Yang Hu.

Seeing the confident expression on Gao Yun’s face, Yang Hu finally relaxed. However, he couldn’t get rid of the final bit of unease in his heart.

...

Shang Xia didn’t expect Hai Min would leave him to watch Yuanyuan. That itself portrayed the immense trust she had in him.

Also, he could guess what she was planning to do. There was no way she was going to leave the city for him. Moreover, she seemed prepared. The moment Shang Xia agreed, she picked up her stuff and got ready to leave.

Yuanyuan looked really unaffected too. She remained obediently beside Shang Xia after Shang Xia agreed to watch her for the day. It seemed as though it wasn't the first time Hai Min was leaving Yuanyuan alone.

When Hai Min stepped out of the door, she paused for a second before turning back to look at Shang Xia and Yuanyuan. "If I don't come back today, I hope you can look after her a little while more."

Shang Xia didn't seem to understand the meaning behind her words and he said simply, "Don't worry about us! She's going to be alright with me!"

Hai Min waited to say something else, but she felt her throat locking up. She eventually nodded her head before muttering softly, "I'll have to trouble you then."

When she was done, she left without turning back.

Shang Xia and Yuanyuan went to the entrance of the courtyard and watched as she disappeared down the street.

Yuanyuan, who stood as tall as Shang Xia's knee, raised her head to look at him. "Uncle, will my mommy come back?"

"Why do you ask that?" Shang Xia raised his eyebrows in shock before kneeling down to look at her more comfortably.

Tears welled up in Yuanyuan's eyes and she muttered, "Last time, there were some uncles and aunts who would say the same thing. However, they would never come back!"

Shang Xia rubbed her head affectionately and muttered, "Relax. She'll be back."

Grabbing Shang Xia's sleeves, Yuanyuan turned to look at Shang Xia "Uncle, can you help my mommy?"

Staring at Yuanyuan in shock, he asked, "Do you know what she's going to do?"

Shaking her head, Yuanyuan was on the verge of tears. "No... But I want her to come back!"

"Alright. Follow me. Once we arrive there, I'll head out to bring your mum back."

Shang Xia thought about it for a second before reaching a decision.

Backing into the courtyard for a moment, Shang Xia grabbed his bow. They then left for Wu Ji's forge and Shang Xia bought Yuanyuan several bags of sweets along the way.

Outside the forge, Shang Xia noticed the copper bell ringing in the wind and he brought her directly into the inner courtyard behind the forge.

Wu Ji rushed over to look for him and was taken aback when he saw Shang Xia holding a little kid with him.

"Can you look for someone to take care of her for two days or so? I'll leave some money with you. If I fail to return, please bring her back to the Shang Clan Manor in

the Tongyou City. Tell them my name and they'll take care of her." When he was done speaking, Shang Xia brought out a bag of silver essence and handed it over to Wu Ji. From the clinking of the bag, it wasn't hard to tell that there were hundreds of silver essence in there.

The bag was something Shang Xia obtained from Wang Chengjin of the Jianmen Institution. It was payment for his talismans and Shang Xia hadn't found a chance to use them throughout his journey.

Wu Ji was visibly shocked, but he quickly waved his hands to reject the money. "How can I take that?! Do you know how much money is in there?!"

"You can't be stingy when taking care of her." Shang Xia muttered before stuffing the bag into Wu Ji's hand. When he was done, he squatted beside Yuanyuan. "Follow this old grandpa for now. I promise to bring your mum back, alright?"

Yuanyuan nodded her head slowly before walking over to Wu Ji's side. She tilted her head to the side before grabbing Wu Ji's stubby fingers. "Hello, Grandpa!"

"Oh! Um... Hey, little girl..." Wu Ji was clearly at a loss for what to do. He quickly yelled at his disciple and the disciple scurried away.

It didn't take long before an old woman appeared from the courtyards in the back.

Wu Ji handed the kid over to her before instructing her to take care of Yuanyuan like she was her own granddaughter before sending them away.

Yuanyuan held the old lady's hand obediently as they walked away, but she turned her head from time to time to look at Shang Xia.

Sticking his tongue out suddenly, Yuanyuan burst into laughter.

Even after the two of them disappeared, Shang Xia was still staring in their general direction.

"Relax. My wife will take good care of her." Wu Ji muttered softly.

"Oh?" Shang Xia turned to look at the old blacksmith before finally snapping back to reality. "Where did Mister Bu go? Can I look for him now?"

To his surprise, Wu Ji shook his head slowly. "Mister Bu left for the Tongyou City with Yang Hu early in the morning. He left behind a message for you. He said that Yang Hu was getting suspicious of him. He also told me to tell you to stop everything you had planned. Leave the city immediately and keep yourself safe. Don't take unnecessary risks, or any risks for that matter! He also asked me to tell you to ensure that none of those outside the city enter. Tell them to stop anything they are planning!"

Even though Mister Bu didn't mention their names specifically, Shang Xia knew that he was referring to the remnants of the Eighteen Horsemen. Unfortunately, Hai Min had already left the city to meet them!

Shang Xia understood that it was too late to stop them. In fact, they might have already entered the city with Hai Min's help.

Chapter 306: Two Mysterious Worlds

In the Tongyou City...

Now, the Tongyou City looked nothing like before. It resembled some illusory fantasy land that was fading in and out of existence.

When the Tongyou Institution brought the Mysterious Coral World back to the You Continent, the expanded spatial tunnel destroyed the balance of the battlefield between the two worlds and turned into an outlet for the origins of both worlds to start leaking.

When the Mysterious Coral World started its merging process with the institution, a myriad of phenomena filled the skies. In the skies above, the scene in the battlefield between the two worlds could even be seen playing out like a great lifestream.

What confused many people was that the Tongyou Peak was like a massive annoyance that blocked off half of whatever they could see going on in the battlefield between the two worlds. Despite that, their attention was on the phenomenon that was playing out above the gigantic Tongyou Peak. The sun and moon could be seen hanging high in the skies.

The difference between this and the time Shang Xia experienced the tiny Origin Tide was huge. In the past, it didn't seem that impressive. Now, it seemed as though both celestial bodies were shining with the greatest intensity possible. Even though those in the Tongyou City were separated from the battlefield between the two worlds with the spatial barrier, they could slightly feel its effects.

"Sun and Moon in the sky... The appearance of an Origin Tide!" Yu Changjin stood in the air above the Tongyou Institution as he stared at the scene in the skies. He muttered to himself, but it seemed as though many people heard what he said.

"That's just a mirage in the battlefield between the two worlds. Don't forget, the real sun belonging to our Azure Origin World is hanging high above our heads!" Wei Zhongwen chuckled beside him.

In the air above the Tongyou Institution, almost every Martial Extermination Realm expert was present. Wei Zhongwen was coincidentally standing beside Yu Changjin.

Grunting softly, Yu Changjin tilted his head to look at the sun above. His gaze wavered slightly and he said, "I almost forgot about that! Looks like the Origin Tide that is going to erupt will be far beyond our imaginations. This... Do you think the Tongyou Institution will be able to withstand this tribulation?"

"Hehe, everything depends on the Tongyou Institution. If they're willing to stop before taking things too far, they might be able to." Wei Zhongwen mumbled. However, there seemed to be another meaning behind his words.

Yu Chengjin grunted again, but he didn't say anymore. He didn't look at Wei Zhongwen any longer and seemed to fall deep into thought. Seeing the look on his face, Wei Zhongwen knew that he managed to reach his purpose.

As though recognizing that the two of them had concluded their conversation, the skies above the Tongyou City changed once again. The temperature changed drastically. It was pleasantly warm one

second but deathly cold the next. A frightening gust of wind tore through the eastern part of the city while a flurry of snow fell on the western part.

The Tongyou City seemed to blast through the various seasons in that instant.

There were even places in the city that experienced different weather simultaneously.

At the same time, the heaven and earth qi in the surroundings became extremely dense. Even people who had barely stepped through the gates of cultivation could feel the powerful fluctuations. They were even able to locate the source of the disturbance by raising their heads.

It seemed as though the spatial tunnel connecting the Tongyou Institution to the battlefield between the two worlds was the source of everything. The Origin Tide tore through the city in an instant.

In the skies above, the Mysterious Coral World that was fusing with the Tongyou Institution resembled a massive beast. It sucked in a terrifying amount of heaven and earth qi every second and absorbed a frightening amount of energy coming from the Origin Tide. Resplendent rays of light filled the skies of the You Continent.

Chang Huaiwu of the Yanmen Institution sighed while looking at the pretty scene before him. "If I could bathe the amount of energy produced by the Origin Tide, my cultivation would experience a huge increase..."

An Baimei of the Beihai Institution chuckled in amusement, "Do you think it's that easy? The Origin Tide this time consists of energy from the Azure Spiritual World as well. The world origins are too chaotic at this point in time and even if you manage to absorb the energy, you will need a long time to convert it to your own."

Han Chongwei from the Wuwei Institution interrupted, "Then again, the Tongyou Institution seems to have planned for this. They started the fusion process before the Origin Tide, allowing it to eat up most of the energy coming from the Origin Tide. Normally, the eruption of the Origin Tide would cause great damage to any spiritual land. Even holy lands would be greatly corroded by the eruption. However, the institution dealt with it by using the chaotic energy to hasten their fusion process."

"That's true... The Mysterious Coral World has been sitting in the battlefield between the two worlds for close to twenty years. It's used to both the world origins of our Azure Origin World or the Azure Spiritual World. It can even stabilize itself with the energy contained in the Origin Tide..." An Baimei sighed.

Chang Huaiwu chuckled helplessly, "Looks like we won't be able to fish for as many benefits as we thought. We will have to let the Mysterious World form before doing anything else. Hah, the Tongyou Institution planned it out well."

"The You Continent suffered the most during the collision of our worlds. For Patriarch Kou, Ji Wenlong, Shang Bo, and the others to build the Tongyou Institution up to this state, it's a miracle! They truly deserve their title as geniuses of the generation." An Baimei muttered.

Han Chongwei continued, “Without a doubt, the Tongyou Institution will benefit the most from this. We can only wait for the scraps left behind by the Tongyou Institution... Looks like we have to start praying for better luck so that we get a little more of what is left behind.”

Chang Huaiwu sniggered, “We have no other choice...”

An Baimei heard the dissatisfaction in their voices, but he didn't point it out directly. He chose to remain silent and a frown formed on his face.

...

In the Changfeng City...

Shang Xia raced out of the city after leaving Yuanyuan with Wu Ji.

After avoiding the various merchant groups that were making their way into the city, Shang Xia unleashed his Irregular Steps to rush deep into the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range.

Mister Bu had already told Shang Xia the coordinates of the place he sent the remnants of the Eighteen Horsemen to, but he didn't know that Hai Min was part of them. In fact, it was highly likely she was related to the third in command captured by Yang Hu the other day.

When Mister Bu saved Uncle Cen and the rest, they didn't reveal Hai Min's existence either. It seemed as though every party involved had chosen to hide Hai Min and Yuanyuan's existence from Mister Bu. That eventually caused the oversight that was happening as they spoke.

Hai Min ran to contact Uncle Cen and the others the moment she learned that Yang Hu had left the city.

Shang Xia, who didn't know that Mister Bu was following Yang Hu away, didn't stop her from leaving the city. He didn't expect the situation to become so dangerous. With Yang Hu and Mister Bu out of the city, the expert from the White Deer Paradise was the only Martial Extermination Realm cultivator left! His strength was more than enough to destroy any form of resistance in the city!

However, that also seemed to be the greatest opportunity they had to rescue their third in command...

“Looks like I can only try my luck... Let's hope that I make it in time.”

Chapter 307: The Story Unfolds

In the battlefield between the two worlds...

A huge change happened to the geography with the disappearance of the Mysterious Coral World.

If Shang Xia were to enter the battlefield between the two worlds again, he would discover that the space seemed much more cramped than before.

Due to the presence of the Four Spiritual Peak in the past, the battlefield between the two worlds, it formed some sort of equilibrium with the Tongyou Peak to stabilize the space within. Even though the two territories were moving towards each other slowly, they still served as worthy anchors.

Unfortunately, the Four Spiritual Peak was destroyed following the events in the Coral Forest. When that happened, the Tongyou Peak became the core region of the battlefield between the two worlds.

Next came the moving of the Mysterious Coral World. When they were moving it to the Tongyou City, the territory controlled by the Tongyou Peak that was between the Tongyou Peak and the spatial barrier mysteriously disappeared. The Tongyou Peak became faintly visible from the Tongyou City due to the greatly reduced distance.

That wasn't all. The Mysterious Coral World's fusion with the Tongyou Institution caused a huge scale phenomena to fall upon the city. Moreover, the appearance of the Origin Tide caused world origin to pour out from the battlefield between the two worlds like water out a broken dam.

Due to the massive outflow of world origin, the spatial barrier separating the Azure Spiritual World and the battlefield between the two worlds started to thin. If anyone were to stand in the depths of the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range and stare in the direction of the spatial barrier, they would discover that the weird gray mist that made up the barrier was starting to thin.

The Tongyou Institution's act of pulling the Mysterious Coral World out of the battlefield between the two worlds seemed to be the cause of everything.

At that moment, Yun Jing and Shang Bo stood on the Tongyou Peak and stared in a certain direction in the battlefield between the two worlds.

The two of them were the only ones left on the Tongyou Peak. All the students and experts from the Tongyou City who went over to assist in their efforts to move the Mysterious Coral World had already returned to the city.

"It's coming..." Shang Bo's expression changed slightly and he released his aura completely. He became as still as a mountain.

Chuckling softly, Yun Jing asked, "Hehe, didn't we already expect this?"

"This time, the four great races will definitely utilize all their strength. I wonder how many Martial Extermination Realm experts the Changbai Holy Land will send..."

Shang Bo muttered.

Yun Jing turned serious too. "Heh. There's no retreating from this battle. As long as everything remains smooth over at the institution, the state of the Tongyou Peak no longer matters. Even if we destroy the entire battlefield between the two worlds, it doesn't matter!"

Shang Bo nodded slowly. "Luckily, the Changbai Holy Land still has their reservations. Those Martial Dipper Realm freaks there won't be able to affect our plans."

"Yeah. Even though we laid down so many plans, I never expected that things would still turn out this way." Yun Jing sighed.

"Now that things have reached this state, everyone's intentions are clear. Other than everything we prepared and our hidden aces, everything will be left up to luck."

Shang Bo growled. The moment he completed his sentence, the skies above the

battlefield between the two worlds tore open. A powerful energy wave that could affect even Martial Extermination Realm experts rampaged through the lands.

“Divine Weapon! The four great races brought out their Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw!” Yun Jing was slightly taken aback, but a chuckle soon left her lips. She grabbed at the void beside her and yelled, “Hidden Frost Sword, appear!”

A burst of light came from behind her and a shadowy blade rose into the skies. In an instant, icy qi filled their surroundings and stopped the chaotic flow of energy in the battlefield between the two worlds.

The only thing that could counter a divine weapon at that moment was another divine weapon!

Yun Jing’s expression remained solemn as she growled, “I’ll stop the Lingxuan Space Shattering Claw. I’ll leave the Tongyou Peak to you!”

“Relax. I’ll handle it.” Shang Bo sighed.

Yun Jing’s figure disappeared in an instant as four massive tears opened in the skies above. It was as though a giant claw had torn right through the space above, and the spatial tears showed no signs of recovering.

Soon after, a deeper and more terrifying rip sundered the four streaks in half. A massive hole was torn into the heavens above.

Without waiting for Shang Bo to admire the scene above him, four streaks of light flew towards the Tongyou Peak in all directions.

Before they could slam into the protection barrier around the Tongyou Peak, several more streaks of light appeared and rushed towards the solitary Shang Bo who stood on the Tongyou Peak.

...

Shang Xia thought that he could remain in the city to stop Uncle Cen and the rest before they made their move. However, he underestimated the size of the city. Not to mention the fact that he had no idea where the person they wanted to save was located.

Due to the fact that there were many among the original Eighteen Horsemen who surrendered to the City Lord Manor, Uncle Cen, and the others would have to change their appearance before they could enter the city. They might even enter through unconventional methods before meeting up somewhere in the city.

If Shang Xia waited for them outside the southern city gates, not only was it possible for him to miss them, they wouldn’t recognize him either.

Luckily for both sides, Shang Xia left Yuanyuan with Wu Ji not too long after Hai Min left the city. It was possible for him to catch up with her and he quickly sped towards the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range.

He needed to arrive at the hiding spot Mister Bu prepared for them before they arrived. In one of their previous exchanges, Mister Bu revealed the location to Shang Xia.

After entering the mountain range, Shang Xia didn't manage to discover Hai Min. He even called Yan Ni'er to do a sweep of the area but to no avail.

When he arrived at their hiding spot, Shang Xia discovered that the wooden hut Mister Bu prepared was completely empty! There wasn't any sign of habitation at all. None of the remaining members of the Eighteen Horsemen stepped foot in the region!

As bandits who were used to the wilderness, it made no sense that they couldn't locate the area. Moreover, Shang Xia even saw Uncle Cen outside his courtyard the day before.

Clearly, they didn't fully trust Mister Bu despite him saving their lives. They probably located another hiding spot in the mountain range.

Damn it! I should have expected something like this!

Shang Xia whistled loudly to signal for Yan Ni'er to increase her search radius before rushing back towards the Changfeng City. He hoped that he would be able to run into them on his way back.

Unfortunately, things didn't play out as he expected. Seeing as he was about to leave the mountain range, Shang Xia suddenly heard a long whistle coming from the air above. He whistled in response while running in the direction of Yan Ni'er's whistle.

The two of them quickly ran into each other behind a small hill.

"Where are they? Quickly, bring me there!" Shang Xia asked impatiently but he felt a headache coming. How was he supposed to remind them without exposing his identity?

However, Yan Ni'er chirped noisily, causing Shang Xia's expression to sink. "What do you mean they're not the ones I'm looking for?"

Tilting her head to the side, Yan Ni'er continued chirping hastily.

"Then who are they? Forget it. Don't bother with anyone else right now. Look for Hai Min and the rest. I have to return to the city right now. Let's hope I make it in time." Shang Xia was starting to get irritated. If he was going to return to the city anyway, there was no need for him to leave in the first place to waste that much time.

Seeing as Shang Xia was about to leave, Yan Ni'er flew towards him and grabbed his collar with her tiny claws. She flapped her wings violently and dragged him back slightly.

That was the first time Shang Xia had experienced her full strength, and she seemed stronger than she looked. One couldn't evaluate her strength by her short two feet long wingspan. As a Mutated Rain Swallow, she could borrow the power of lightning and use it to boost her strength slightly.

Stumbling back slightly, Shang Xia's expression turned serious. "This... Are you serious? Are you insisting that I follow you to look at the person you found?"

"Chirp!"

Yan Ni'er seemed to nod her head at him.

“Is this really important?” Shang Xia asked yet another stupid question. From her actions, Yan Ni’er had proven that she thought there was no other choice than to drag him there.

A trace of hesitation appeared on Shang Xia’s face. However, Yan Ni’er soared into the skies and made a beautiful arc through the skies before reaching out to grab Shang Xia’s collar again.

Dodging her at the last second, he yelled, “Alright, alright! I’ll go with you!”

Yan Ni’er shot up into the skies as Shang Xia shook his head helplessly. He quickly ran into the forest around him as he chased after the little bird. He tried to reassure himself silently, “Even if they enter the city, they might not make their move immediately. Since I don’t know where they are anyway, I can only locate them once they start their rescue mission. I should be able to make it back in time. Since that’s the case, I’ll take a look at what Yan Ni’er is getting at...”

Following as close as he could, Shang Xia quickly traversed through the mountain range. He discovered his surroundings getting more and more familiar as a sense of unease filled his heart. He heard the sound of water flowing after some time, and he increased his speed yet again.

When he finally arrived, he heard voices coming from upstream as a raging river ripped through the mountain range.

Chapter 308: Reeling In The Net

...

As the Tongyou Institution continued its fusion with the Mysterious Coral World, it resembled a giant tank of water that took in an astronomical amount of energy from the Origin Tide that had erupted above the Tongyou City.

As the Origin Tide started to die down, the energy fluctuations eventually stopped. It regained its original calm as it started to stabilize the new Mysterious World that was created.

Out of the four spiritual lands in the Mysterious Coral World, the Mountain and Sea Fantasy Spiritual World was in the best shape. The Willow Forest came next. They recovered at a much quicker pace compared to the Unstable Region and the Dual Season Lands.

Other than that, the Tongyou Institution itself was a complete spiritual land on its own. When the fusion was complete, they would definitely become stronger than the original Mysterious Coral World.

In the skies around the Tongyou Institution.

Many Martial Extermination Realm experts who were there to witness the transformation of the Tongyou Institution and protect it stared at the newly formed Mysterious World in awe. They were standing in positions allocated to them by the institution.

All of them played a key role in the smooth completion of the transformation. Naturally, they could use the chance to make use of the remnant energy left behind by the fusion to cultivate. It was beneficial for them in a way.

After entering the Martial Extermination Realm, one would reach a new height in cultivation.

Absorbing heaven and earth qi ordinarily wouldn't prove as effective as when they were in the lower realms, but things were different if they could absorb the energy that emerged from the eruption of the Origin Tide.

Even though the energy contained in the Origin Tide was chaotic, all they had to do was to refine it several more times after absorption. Moreover, now that the Origin Tide had died down and the energy was absorbed by the newly forming Mysterious World, it was more than suitable for them to absorb! How good would it be if all of them could absorb the heaven and earth qi that had filled the newly formed Mysterious World to the brim?

The thought filled everyone's mind. They couldn't help but think about Ji Wenlong who was currently at the core of the newly forming Mysterious World. Could he really be planning to barge into the Martial Dipper Realm with the help of the energy contained in the Origin Tide? Perhaps he was trying to replicate what Kou Chongxue did. That might be the true reason behind the Tongyou Institution's plan of dragging the Mysterious Coral World back from the battlefield between the two worlds.

They might be trying to force a Martial Dipper Realm expert to appear in their ranks to fill in the space after Kou Chongxue's disappearance.

Everyone's thoughts ran wild and complicated expressions filled the faces of those present.

Chang Huaiwu broke the silence all of a sudden. "The Tongyou Mysterious World isn't complete even after absorbing so much energy from the Origin Tide! This really makes me envious. Hahaha, I'm not afraid of embarrassing myself but I'm feeling a little impatient!"

Wei Zhongwen's roared with laughter right after he spoke. "Brother Chang, can't you see? The Tongyou Institution has already achieved their goal! They stabilized their foundations and can be considered to have stepped through to the ranks of a holy land!"

"What?!" An Baimei grunted once. He frowned and stared at Liu Qinglan who was nearby. "Instructor Liu, was this the plan all along? Is the Tongyou Institution trying to become a holy land?"

Before Liu Qinglan could say anything, Han Chongwei's voice came from the side. "You can't do that! If the Tongyou Institution forces itself to upgrade, it will eat up a huge portion of energy from the battlefield between the two worlds! The battlefield will shrink again, and the spatial barrier separating our worlds will weaken. Our worlds will fuse much earlier than expected."

A trace of rage emerged on Chang Huaiwu's face. He roared in anger, "Liu Qinglan, what's the meaning of this?!"

...

As he followed Yan Ni'er into the mountain range, Shang Xia quickly approached the river that emitted weird mist.

A trace of suspicion appeared in Shang Xia's heart, but he soon heard voices coming from the other side.

He went closer and listened in on their conversation. "... The flow of the river seems slightly off!"

“How can the river perfectly follow the flow underground? This is a mountain range for fuck’s sake!”

Shang Xia heard his heart thumping in his chest. He didn’t know if they found the region because of the disturbance the other day. He also wondered if there were any Martial Extermination Realm experts among them. After double checking that he hid his aura so that no one noticed him, he raised his guard once again.

Shang Xia experienced too many close calls in the recent days and he was getting a little bit nervous about running into another Martial Extermination Realm expert.

One had to know that it was difficult to find a single Martial Extermination Realm expert ordinarily. In the Tongyou City, Shang Xia was hardly able to see a Martial Extermination Realm expert even though his grandfather was one.

Now, Martial Extermination Realm experts were like cabbages that were popping up everywhere. Shang Xia basically saw one to two of them every day. There were times when he saw three or four of them a day!

Approaching cautiously, their conversation became even clearer.

“Senior Brother Li, you said that Elder Gao told us to look for the leak. What’s the point of that?”

“Hehe, junior brothers and sisters, all we have to do is to listen to Elder Gao’s instructions. There’s no need to dig deeper into the matter unnecessarily. Once we complete our task, Elder Gao will definitely reward us. There might even be a huge opportunity hidden here!!”

From the voice, Shang Xia could tell that the speaker was someone he had met in the past.

“Opportunity?” Another voice came from the side, attracting the attention of those present.

The familiar voice continued, “There’s no need to be anxious. All we need to do is to focus on the task Elder Gao gave us. The opportunity can wait.”

“Senior Brother Li is right!”

“Of course!”

“We have to thank Brother Li for this great chance to carry out Elder Gao’s orders. Even if we run into some sort of fortune here, Senior Brother Li should receive most of the benefits!”

A series of cheers broke out among the group.

From their words, they mentioned ‘Elder Gao’ and ‘Senior Brother Li’ a whole lot. Shang Xia’s thoughts immediately turned to Li Tianshou who was present at the gathering with Chen Sanyang and the three young masters of the Ji Continent the other day.

“Alright, alright, I am grateful for your goodwill. However, we need to make full use of our time. We should arrive at the source of the river soon. I managed to avoid Yang Zhenbiao when I left the city earlier, but we cannot drag this out for long. They will definitely get suspicious if I don’t return soon.”

“Right. Let’s focus on the task.”

“Luckily, Yang Hu left the city!”

Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief. From their conversation, Li Tianshou seemed to be their leader. Since he was in command, there should be no Martial Extermination Realm expert among them!

Suddenly, the mist above the river became thicker.

It barely took two days, but the extermination qi in the air seemed to have thinned a lot.

“I found it! The source of the leak should be right under this pile of rocks!” Li Tianshou’s excited voice rang through the air.

Shang Xia couldn’t hold back any longer. He couldn’t allow them to discover the yellow gourd he had hidden. If they obtained it, it would be too late for him to make his move.

He peeked out from behind a giant rock and released his fully drawn bowstring.

The bow was a low-grade weapon, but it could only unleash its full strength with a suitable bow technique. Even though Shang Xia fully drew the bowstring, the power contained in the arrow was barely half of what it was capable of. That was even after Shang Xia poured his Origin True Qi into the arrow to supplement its strength.

Of course, one couldn’t say that Shang Xia’s archery didn’t improve. He was a lot better than before.

The arrow he shot wasn’t aimed at Li Tianshou. Instead, it flew straight for another cultivator from the White Deer Paradise not too far away.

Shang Xia experienced Li Tianshou’s strength when he was spying on them previously. He knew that Li Tianshou had not only completed his third divine sense transformation, but he possessed frightening abilities. There was no way his half-baked arrow could injure Li Tianshou. Moreover, Shang Xia was sure his actions would be discovered the moment he acted. As such, there was no point shooting Li Tianshou. He had to take out someone with absolute certainty.

“Be careful!”

Shang Xia was right. Li Tianshou noticed his actions the moment he released the bowstring. However, Li Tianshou clearly didn’t expect that the sneak attack wasn’t aimed at him, the leader of the operation.

“Ah...” A howl came from Shang Xia’s target by the time the warning left Li Tianshou’s lips.

After shooting the arrow, Shang Xia kept the bow in his Embroidered Cloud Case. Rushing at Li Tianshou and the others, the Scarlet Star Spear was grasped firmly in his hands.

A solemn expression could be seen on Shang Xia's face. The arrow he shot earlier didn't even manage to seriously injure his target, much less kill the man.

Blood might be flowing from the wound, but the wound was on the cultivator's lower belly. It couldn't be considered a serious wound, and it wouldn't affect the cultivator's combat abilities in the short term!

It seemed as though the group of experts from the White Deer Paradise wouldn't be easy targets!

A sharp chirp came from the skies above when Shang Xia was preparing for battle, and he realized that Yan Ni'er was giving him a stern warning. It was a trap!

However, it was too late for him to retreat now.

Chapter 309: Careless

...

The fusion between the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World was inevitable. That was an open secret among those in the Martial Extermination Realm, but the view on the fusion was split. Eventually, it was agreed that the fusion of both worlds was inevitable. However, they would delay it for as long as possible to build up their strength.

The Tongyou Institution's actions showed that their scheme ran deep. God knew how many benefits they promised before dragging the experts of the other four institutions over to assist them in the fusion process. Even the White Deer Paradise of the Ji Continent sent an elder over.

Since moving the Mysterious Coral World out of the battlefield between the two continents wouldn't greatly damage the world origins or the spatial barrier, the various powers felt that it was acceptable. Moreover, the Tongyou Institution sacrificed a ton by guarding the You Continent for the past twenty years alone. There used to be the threat of Kou Chongxue too, causing everyone to take a step back and allow the Tongyou Institution to do as they wished.

However, if the Tongyou Institution wanted to borrow the world origins to upgrade themselves into a holy land, it would shake the foundations of the Azure Origin World! That would cross the bottom line of those present!

As such, a simple question from Chang Huaiwu caused the tension in the air to rise to its peak.

Facing his question, Liu Qinglan replied seriously, "We had a plan to promote ourselves to a holy land, but we definitely have not executed it. We didn't plan to do everything in one go."

The situation was greatly diffused by her explanation, but there were still many who threw looks of doubt at her.

"Is that really the case? From the looks of it, the formation of the Tongyou Mysterious World absorbed a great portion of the energy from the Origin Tide. If this keeps up, the spatial barrier will still be greatly weakened even if you don't become a holy land." Han Chongwen clearly didn't trust what she said and he pressed deeper.

"The Coral Forest suffered too much damage previously, and thus the Mysterious Coral World has to absorb more energy to restore itself. Everyone, please rest assured. Our Tongyou Institution won't place the world in danger in order to gain

some small benefits. Moreover, it's impossible to develop a holy land with the energy contained in a single Origin Tide." Kang Ci, who had recently entered the Martial Extermination Realm, added.

An Baimei stared at the exchange before snorting softly, "That better be the case."

Chang Huaiwu stared at An Baimei who seemed to be smoothing things over and he revealed a strange expression. "Hah. I thought of grabbing more benefits from the institution for this matter. Looks like that's going to be impossible now. The Tongyou Mysterious World doesn't seem to be fully satisfied by the energy contained in the Origin Tide. I wonder if Deputy Patriarch Ji is hiding from all of us as he enters the Martial Dipper Realm within?"

Seeing how Liu Qinglan turned to glare at him with a deep frown on her face, he quickly added, "I heard that the old ancestor of the Zhu Family managed to enter the Martial Dipper Realm. You guys ran into him in the Coral Forest and killed him after a long battle. Don't tell me that you failed to obtain his origin dipper..."

The new topic caught everyone's attention again.

The Tongyou Institution 'possessed' a rank five advancement in the eyes of those present. With the energy contained in the Origin Tide and an origin dipper, everyone thought that Ji Wenlong would definitely use the chance to step into the Martial Dipper Realm.

If he succeeded...

...

The moment Shang Xia emerged, he saw the look of mockery on Li Tianshou's face.

He understood that he was jumping head-first into a trap, but it was too late!

His Scarlet Star Spear was like a roaring dragon that shot at his opponent as he unleashed the strongest strike of the Providence Spear Art he created. Flow Recompensation Spear!

Surprisingly, Shang Xia didn't go for Li Tianshou! He aimed for someone else again.

The ball of energy that had gathered at the tip of his spear rotated in the opposite direction suddenly, scattering the original singular spear light into many smaller rays.

Naturally, that decreased the power of each spear light.

Shang Xia's true intention wasn't to kill any one of them. Now that he knew it was a plot, he wanted to look for an opportunity to escape.

There was no point in jumping into the deep end of their trap. He had to cut his losses immediately!

His reaction was quick, but how could the White Deer Paradise allow him to escape their intricate trap however he wished?

Li Tianshou and the others shattered the weaker spear lights that were flying towards them and someone activated the formation they laid down earlier.

Several trees in the surroundings became surrounded by a strange glow and ice shards flew all around. A huge net formed in the skies and surrounded Shang Xia instantly, blocking off all routes of retreat.

Seeing how impossible it was to escape, Shang Xia could only land between two huge boulders. He blocked off the ice shards casually by twirling his spear, causing an icy mist to surround him as he shattered them completely.

In the blink of an eye, Li Tianshou and the rest surrounded him. Five experts who were in the Martial Intent Realm formed a tight encirclement around Shang Xia with Li Tianshou as their leader.

However, a sharp cry came from somewhere else and a frown formed on the Martial Intent Realm experts in the White Deer Paradise's party.

In their haste to stop Shang Xia from escaping, they forgot about the disciple Shang Xia was aiming for previously. His spear light might not be able to affect those in the Martial Intent Realm experts after he diffused their strength, but that didn't mean that the others could.

Even though the spear contained a small portion of Shang Xia's full strength, it killed his target instantly.

Li Tianshou and the other four didn't dare to get distracted as they turned their attention back to Shang Xia. His act of killing their companion with a weakened spear light was more than enough to reveal his strength.

"Shang Xia, just give up. It's one against five, you have no chance of winning." Li Tianshou sneered in contempt. He was cautious of Shang Xia's strength, but he felt a sense of accomplishment filling his heart when he realized that they successfully trapped him.

Facing the five of them, Shang Xia maintained his calm demeanor. He stared at Li Tianshou before asking, "How did you recognize me?"

"Hehe, you're the only one who can locate this place! Do you think that my White Deer Paradise didn't know about the location of the leak? We discovered it a long time ago!" Li Tianshou sneered. "We also discovered the Spiritual Extermination Gourd under those rocks. Also, there was the corpse who displayed wounds created by your Shang Clan Spear Art! Do you think you can hide these from us?"

"After comparing them with the wounds on Chen Sanyang, we uncovered your identity. Haha, do you really think that you can remain undetected?"

"Not to mention the fact that you used the Spiritual Extermination Gourd to collect the Extermination Mist leaking into the air. Everything pointed to the fact that you would return. All we were waiting to do was for you to show yourself!"

"Hehe, as the last person who met with Kou Chongxue, your life is definitely worth a lot! Even though the Tongyou City is about to be sieged on all sides and your value is no longer what it was, it doesn't matter! I'll be the one to capture you today!" Li Tianshou roared with laughter while spewing a bunch of nonsense. In his eyes, Shang Xia was nothing more than a bunch of free cultivation resources.

Shang Xia's expression sank and it was so dark that it could rival thunderclouds.

Without a doubt, he had been too careless. He also underestimated the formation master of the White Deer Paradise.

He heard from Mister Bu that the water-attributed spiritual vein under the Changfeng City was experiencing some problems. Since they estimated that the spiritual vein was the key to the descent of the White Deer Paradise's Martial Dipper Realm ancestor, there was no way Gao Yun would be careless about it.

Shang Xia thought that he would be able to cover it up by blocking the leak, turning himself into a joke that thought he could pull the wool over the eyes of Gao Yun, a Martial Extermination Realm formation expert.

He felt that he could use the chance to earn big, but from the looks of it, they were waiting for him to return and step into the trap they crafted specially for him.

Li Tianshou clapped his hands, breaking Shang Xia's train of thought and he roared with laughter, "I have to thank Young Master Shang for this. The Spiritual Extermination Gourd is a special treasure indeed. The extermination mist within might not be enough to nurture an extermination origin, but there are many uses for it! Well, I won't bore you with the details."

Shang Xia wouldn't allow himself to be affected by Li Tianshou's mockery, and he raised his spear towards the man. "I heard that all the disciples of the White Deer Paradise are geniuses. Looks like I will have to experience it for myself. Brother Li, why don't we exchange pointers?"

Li Tianshou sneered in response, "Hah Are you crazy? Why would I fight you alone when we have you surrounded? What a joke! Junior brothers and sisters, we'll move together! We cannot allow Junior Brother Luo to die in vain!"

With all five of them taking action, Shang Xia was immediately thrown into a desperate situation.

With victory at hand, Li Tianshou and the others decided to play around with Shang Xia, eating away at his inner qi. After all, none of them wished to be buried with him. They would stand a chance to retreat unscathed if they wore him down until he had no energy left to unleash his desperate counter attack.

Li Tianshou seemed to have thought of something while forcing Shang Xia back with his sword. He chuckled, "Oh right, since Chen Sanyang died in your hands, you should be in possession of the Multi World Anchoring Flag. Haha! The flag is even more precious than the Spiritual Extermination Gourd!"

The other members of his group cheered in response as a look of greed appeared in their eyes.

Chapter 310: Bitter Battle

...

The situation in the Tongyou City was extremely precarious. Of the various Martial Extermination Realm experts in the air, most of them had their own plans. Even though they weren't targeting the Tongyou Institution directly, they were clearly denouncing the Tongyou Institution and their methods.

Liu Qinglan and Kang Ci might have reassured them that the institution wasn't planning to upgrade themselves into a holy land at that moment, but no one was buying it. They could only see that the Tongyou Mysterious World was sucking in a huge amount of world origin. If everything kept up, what everyone feared would come to pass.

With things progressing up to that point, the Martial Extermination Realm of the other institutions were the only ones who were suspicious. Even Liu Qinglan and Kang Ci felt their hearts pounding in fright.

That was because the Tongyou Mysterious World had indeed sucked up a huge portion of world origin from the battlefield between the two worlds.

Even if it wasn't brimming with energy, it should at least be close to filling up with energy! However, not a sign could be seen!

If Liu Qinglan and Kang Ci weren't able to convince themselves, there wasn't a need to talk about convincing others.

"Everyone, please do not panic." In order to deal with the situation, Shang Ke rushed over from his original position. "All of you might think that our Tongyou Institution is stubborn and persistent when it comes to carrying out our plans, but we have never once placed the rest of the world in danger in order to obtain benefits. We are part of the Azure Origin World and we will never betray our fellow comrades. Otherwise, why would we choose to protect this barren land for twenty years straight?"

His words allowed the tense situation to diffuse to a great extent. After all, it was true that the Tongyou Institution had been a loyal protector of the Azure Origin World.

Liu Qinglan and Kang Ci lacked persuasiveness due to their experience and seniority. Among the elders who came to support the institution, most of them were from the older generation. Even Han Chongwei, the youngest of them all, was older than Liu Qinglan by eight years!

Under such circumstances, all of them had an air of superiority when they were talking to Liu Qinglan. Such psychological superiority disappeared when Shang Ke appeared. After all, he was also part of the same generation as those present. At the very least, they had to respect his position as one of the heads of the four great clans of the Tongyou City.

Naturally, there was another aspect behind it. Shang Ke's appearance told them that the powers in the Tongyou City were of one mind. No matter what happened, they would side with the institution.

Liu Qinglan and Kang Ci also made it very clear with their actions. The moment Shang Ke appeared, they stood behind him to provide support. With Shang Ke speaking for them, even the Martial Extermination Realm experts had to think twice if they wanted to make things difficult for Liu Qinglan and Kang Ci.

Liu Zhiyuan, who had the weakest support and authority among the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Tongyou City hesitated for quite some time before finally heading towards Shang Ke, Liu Qinglan, and Kang Ci. He eventually stood behind Shang Ke before whispering to Liu Qinglan, "Instructor Liu, did something happen?"

The situation regarding the formation of the Tongyou Mysterious World might have calmed down, but conflict was starting to brew among the various parties who had arrived. The other institutions had laid down their stances and intentions loud and clear.

An Baimei warned the Tongyou Institution about risking the foundations of the Azure Origin World, but he was still amicable about it. From his position, he was leaning towards protecting the Tongyou Institution.

Han Chongwei and Chang Huaiwu were trying to find the moral high ground to pressure the institution, and they exposed their extreme displeasure towards the Tongyou Institution's actions.

Yu Chengjin hadn't said a word since the beginning, and he seemed to want to fade into the background. However, it went without saying that no one would dare to neglect his presence.

From the way things were looking, the alliance between the five institutions had a shit load of cracks in them. However, they could still forcibly maintain the alliance as there was no outright conflict among them.

Who would have thought that an accident would happen at that moment? A huge streak of red light tore through the skies and exploded in the skies above the city.

The huge explosion rocked the foundations of the city and the space above started to twist. A formless barrier that surrounded the city wavered slightly and became visible to those present.

“The Startling Rainbow Blade of the Yuwen Family! The Evil Remnants are making their move!” Chang Huaiwu recognized it immediately.

Liu Zhiyuan growled, “Hmph, we expected the Rose Party to make their move. This doesn't matter.”

“No!” Chang Huaiwu turned around abruptly and stared at those from the institution. “I'm trying to say that it's time for the spatial tunnel to be closed. The Tongyou Mysterious World absorbed enough energy, it's time to stop.”

Liu Zhiyuan's expression changed. “Mister Chang, what do you mean? According to our agreement...”

“According to our agreement, the Tongyou Institution shouldn't have absorbed so much world origin from the battlefield between the two worlds. According to our agreement, we should have closed the spatial tunnel a long time ago. According to our agreement, we should have already obtained the things promised to us!” Chang Huaiwu snapped at Liu Zhiyuan.

“You...!” Liu Zhiyuan roared with rage. However, he was stopped by a gesture from Liu Qinglan.

She indicated for him to calm down before addressing Chang Huaiwu, “The Rose Party has always stood against our Tongyou Institution. Moreover, they're the main enemies of all our institutions. There's no need to force us to compromise because of the interference of the Rose Party. All of us expected as much. Moreover, the Yuwen Family's foundations lie in the Bing Continent, not our You Continent!”

Grunting once, Chang Huaiwu didn't say anything else. He turned away and refused to look at the members of the Tongyou Institution.

Liu Qinglan muttered after observing his reaction, "In that case, I hope everyone follows the plan. I shall deal with the person outside the city."

After she spoke, she turned into a ray of light that shot out of the city. By the time the light faded, her figure could be seen outside the protection barrier.

Another red streak tore through the skies at that moment, but Liu Qinglan's Eight Segmented Whip appeared to take it on. It slammed heavily into the incoming ray of red light.

...

It was the first time Shang Xia felt so helpless when fighting. His spear art might possess tyrannical might, but he was unable to break through the encirclement no matter how hard he tried. The five of them were like experienced hunters who were hell-bent on tiring their prey to death. They wanted to force him onto the road of despair.

Shang Xia estimated that if things were to keep up, he would eventually be killed by them.

"His spear art is really terrifying. It's no wonder he managed to kill Chen Sanyang!"

Someone couldn't help but chuckle seeing as victory was already in their hands.

Instead of belittling Shang Xia's techniques, he truly admired Shang Xia's execution of the Shang Clan Spear Art. As an elite disciple of the White Deer Paradise, he managed to display his magnanimity even though they obtained the upper hand.

Li Tianshou chuckled bitterly, "The Shang Clan's Providence Spear really lives up to its reputation. Even the various holy lands recognized its abilities. The Shang Clan managed to rise up in the ranks due to this technique. They stood at the peak among the second-rate families before the collision of our worlds. When the calamity happened, they took the chance to become one of the four great clans of the You Continent... Oi, don't beat him to death!"

Li Tianshou barely completed his sentence when someone else interrupted, "His spear art might be strong, but he can't be compared to you, Senior Brother Li. Hahaha! Senior Brother Li has been suppressing him ever since the battle started!"

"Haha, Junior Brother Lu, you're overexaggerating. After all, I only fight battles I can win... Oi! Fuck! He's doing it again, be careful! One of his strange techniques can pierce through any defense... I can't stop it either!"

Even though he was talking, Li Tianshou's actions weren't affected. He slashed horizontally to slice off a piece of skin from Shang Xia's shoulders.

"Ah! ... This fucking spear art is bullshit!" Junior Brother Lu yelled as his left ear was torn to shreds by a formless spear light.

After unleashing the Woundless Spear, a small nick appeared under Shang Xia's cheeks. At the same time, his shoulder was stained red with blood.