

The Heavens 341

Chapter 341: Your Turn

Hundreds of miles outside the Tongyou City, Wei Zhongwen was beaten to death by a group of Martial Extermination Realm experts after he was obstructed by Yu Chengjin.

However, they had to admit that Wei Zhongwen was indeed extraordinary. Even with the impressive lineup that was Yu Chengjin, Liu Qinglan, Han Chongwei, and Shang Ke, they were unable to take him down without suffering some losses. Yu Chengjin and Shang Ke received heavy injuries in order to take him down.

As for Yang Hu, he was saved by two mysterious experts who came out of nowhere. Before Han Chongwei and the others could stop them from leaving, they were already gone. They could only focus on Wei Zhongwen.

As for Chang Huaiwu of the Yanmen Institution, he was stopped by An Baimei and the others. After a round of negotiation, they decided to detain him and send him back to the Yanmen Institution for further punishment.

The battle for the Tongyou Mysterious World eventually drew to a close, but half the city was turned into ruins due to the battle between the experts in the Martial Extermination Realm. If not for the fact that Kou Chongxue dealt with Yun Lu in the Tongyou Mysterious World itself, the entire place might have been trashed.

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With Uncle Cen and the other remaining members of the Eighteen Horsemen stationed in the City Lord Manor, Shang Xia could finally heave a sigh of relief before entering the spirit cave below.

After entering the spirit cave, he couldn't feel the slightest ripple of energy. That seemed about right as Kou Chongxue had just left for the Ji Continent. Since there was nothing to do, he decided to look at Yang Zhenbiao's storage artifact.

Shang Xia wasn't like Kou Chongxue who had the ability to shatter spatial artifacts without damaging their contents. He could only resort to brute force to open Yang Zhenbiao's treasure while praying that the precious items within wouldn't be damaged.

Crash!

Along with the destruction of his spatial artifact, a pile of items crashed to the floor. However, quite a bit of them fell into the deep pool below.

Reacting quickly, Shang Xia grabbed a piece of silk in front of him that had a talisman stuck on to it. At the same time, he managed to retrieve a jade bottle that was sealed shut with a special wooden cork and some red cinnabar clay.

The bottle looked a little familiar to Shang Xia. From the looks of how heavily it was protected, Shang Xia thought back to the time when Shang Ke retrieved his advancement medicine in the Coral Forest.

Examining the bottle carefully, he noticed a small row of words carved on its surface. Exquisite Muddle.

Thinking of something, Shang Xia hurriedly retrieved the jade strip Youshang handed him before leaving. His divine sense entered the strip to read its contents, and he gasped in shock when he saw the name of the rank four advancement formula, 'Exquisite Muddled Liquid'!

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The White Deer Country of the Ji Continent got its name due to the presence of the White Deer Paradise. As a holy land that sat on the Ji Continent, the White Deer Paradise enjoyed a majestic status in the land. Cultivators who were from the White Deer Paradise would usually refer to themselves as cultivators from the White Deer Sect when they went about doing their business in the Ji Continent.

As a holy land, the White Deer Paradise was naturally located in a separate region of space. It was unable to sustain itself as an independent world, but it hung high above the Azure Origin World.

The key to the balance the White Deer Paradise maintained with the Azure Origin World was the White Deer River that originated from the holy land that connected to the Ji Continent.

In the depths of the White Deer Paradise, on a large plain that housed the source of the White Deer River, the White Deer Spring, a herd of white deers could be seen grazing on the grass under their feet as they enjoyed the tranquility.

World origin emerged from the White Deer Spring as it poured into the depths of the White Deer Paradise, strengthening the space around it. Right beside the spring was Ancestor Yun Lu of the White Deer Paradise.

As he looked at the world origin streaming in, he felt a trace of unease in his heart. It was as though he could feel that something bad had happened to his clone.

Not too far away from him was an open entrance. A lady who had golden hair and was clad in a Chinese-styled robe walked out from within. She looked to be in her fifties and she was Ancestor Hua Lu, another Martial Dipper Realm ancestor.

A frown could be seen on her face as she emerged. "Looking at your uneasy expression, did something bad happen to your clone?"

Ancestor Yun Lu shook his head and sighed. "The distance between our continents is inhibiting my senses. I have no idea what is going on there."

"Would you like to recall your clone?" Ancestor Hua Lu muttered softly. However, she was met with a quick refusal.

As Yun Lu shook his head, he explained, "This concerns the fate of our White Deer Paradise. Everything here will determine if we can upgrade ourselves into the White Deer Heaven! Senior Brother Xuan Lu has been running around the past few years dealing with the matter of raising our strength once again, and he's been going to the region outside heaven so often. I can't give up this rare chance to obtain world origin from the Tongyou Institution! Moreover, my clone has the strength of a Martial Dipper Realm expert. I will be able to leave even if anything happens. At the very least, my Water Origin Fate Dipper should be back even if an accident occurs."

"But..." Ancestor Hua Lu seemed a little worried and wanted to say a little more, but she was interrupted by Yun Lu abruptly.

His expression changed as he spat out a mouthful of blood while hollering, “No!”

Ancestor Hua Lu was shocked as she tapped several spots in the air. A stream of pure inner qi poured into Yun Lu’s body and she asked, “What’s going on? Did something happen?”

With his chest heaving up and down, Yun Lu felt perspiration dripping down his forehead as pain assaulted his body. “I... My fate dipper clone was exterminated! This is a trap!”

“Who? What?” Ancestor Hua Lu growled, and she quickly looked around herself.

Snapping out of his pain, Ancestor Yun Lu became a lot more panicky. “It’s not good! He’s going to be here soon... No! He’s already here!”

Ancestor Hua Lu couldn’t be bothered with Yun Lu any longer and she quickly pulled her golden hairpin out of her hair and drew a horizontal line in the void before her.

A spatial crack appeared and shattered any connection the White Deer Paradise had with the outside world.

“It’s too late for you to cut the connection now! Hahaha!” The Hidden Frost Sword emerged from the White Deer Spring and sundered the spatial crack that was forming. Ancestor Hua Lu’s hairpin broke in half.

A bronze-colored sword qi seemed to transcend space to land directly on Ancestor Hua Lu’s body. Her figure flickered slightly and she appeared tens of miles away.

“Kou Chongxue, it’s you!” Ancestor Hua Lu gnashed her teeth together and growled. A sinister frown formed on her face.

“Oh? Why are you so feisty today? You seem to be holding a grudge about something!” Kou Chongxue’s voice boomed above the White Deer Paradise. “Lady Hua Lu sounds so serious! You better choose your words wisely. If your disciples misunderstand the relationship between us, it’s not my fault! By the way, I’ll be embarrassed too!”

“Kou Chongxue, you’re seeking death!” Hua Lu might look like she was in her fifties, but she had been cultivating for well over a hundred years. She was known for being graceful and proper. She couldn’t allow Kou Chongxue to say whatever he liked and smear her reputation. With anger rising in her heart, she retrieved a jade seal and smashed it over at the Hidden Frost Sword.

The seal spun around in mid air before turning into a small hill that was tens of feet tall. It fell directly on Kou Chongxue’s Hidden Frost Sword in an attempt to suppress it.

Well, Kou Chongxue didn’t come here to pick a fight with any one of them to begin with. Not to mention that he was currently in the other party’s territory. He wouldn’t be able to forcefully suppress them with his current strength.

His plan was only to try to enrage Hua Lu. However, he didn’t have much hope when he came over. After all, why would someone get angry with him over a few words? Much less when they were

already Martial Dipper Realm experts. However, reality exceeded his expectations. Ancestor Hua Lu flew into a fit of rage after he teased her slightly.

The jade seal might seem powerful, but it was full of weaknesses.

In actuality, all of them present knew that Kou Chongxue was fighting on borrowed time. The smartest move Hua Lu could pull was to team up with Yun Lu to suppress the Hidden Frost Sword. They could also draw upon the power of the White Deer Paradise to deal with the threat! Fighting him alone was the stupidest thing she could do!

The jade seal might have turned into a small hill, but Kou Chongxue's consciousness was inside the Hidden Frost Sword. The tiny sword quickly avoided the falling hill before shooting a terrifying sword light into the void before him.

Without the confidence to face Kou Chongxue's sword light, Hua Lu could only retreat again.

Once Hua Lu wasn't able to tangle with him any longer, the Hidden Frost Sword changed back into the White Deer Spring. According to Kou Chongxue, Yun Lu, the perpetrator of the entire scheme against the Tongyou Institution, hid his true body there!

Naturally, his instincts wouldn't be wrong at such a critical moment. However, Yun Lu was also a Martial Dipper Realm expert! He might be injured, but his cultivation base was still present! By the time Kou Chongxue entered the White Deer Spring, he had already left!

A sense of foreboding filled Kou Chongxue's heart as soon as he entered the White Deer Spring. For him to catch Yun Lu's trace so easily and follow him into the White Deer Spring, something was up! It was most probably a trap Yun Lu laid down! It seemed as though a tough battle was ahead of him.

Even so, Kou Chongxue wasn't worried in the slightest! The situation was much better than the worst-case scenario he prepared for before coming over.

From the time he entered the White Deer Paradise, he discovered that the strongest and oldest of the three ancestors, Ancestor Xuan Lu, was nowhere to be found!

Even though he didn't know when Xuan Lu left the White Deer Paradise or what he was doing out there, he knew one thing and that was that the White Deer Paradise only had two ancestors holding the fort at that moment!

A bronze strand of light emerged from the Hidden Frost Sword at that moment, transforming into a clone that looked exactly like Kou Chongxue.

The bronze light that emerged was Kou Chongxue's Primal Yang Copper Fate Dipper and his Hidden Frost Sword transported it all the way over from the Tongyou Mysterious World.

As soon as his clone formed, he grabbed the Hidden Frost Sword in his hand and sighed softly, "It's too bad I just obtained the Water Origin Fate Dipper. I can't refine it in time to make full use of it, but it will still be helpful in the upcoming battle!"

After he spoke, he stabbed his Hidden Frost Sword deep into the eye of the formation in the White Deer Spring. The White Deer Paradise trembled violently the moment his sword pierced the formation.

If Kou Chongxue's random swipe when he just appeared caused the White Deer Paradise to tremble slightly, his current actions caused a massive earthquake to the region!

Yun Lu was using the formation to steal the Tongyou Mysterious World's world origin, but Kou Chongxue's sword immediately tore a massive wound in the independent space that was the White Deer Paradise!

A massive blast ensued, and Kou Chongxue borrowed a little power from the Water Origin Fate Dipper he received from Shang Xia earlier. The foundations and energy accumulated by the White Deer Paradise started to shift with a thought from Kou Chongxue!

The energy stored by the White Deer Paradise started to flow into the White Deer Spring, and like how they stole the world origin from the Tongyou Mysterious World, it flowed along the White Deer River, Thousand Scale River, and through the underground river back to the You Continent!

Chapter 342: Identity

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In the City Lord Manor in the Changfeng City...

By the time Third Sister Hai returned, Fourth Brother Zeng, Uncle Cen, Sixth Sister Gu, and a few others were there to wait for her.

"Third Sister, you're back!"

"Are you alright?"

"Third Sister, where's Boss Sha?"

Third Sister Hai swept her gaze across those present and paused slightly before muttering, "Boss Sha and Second Brother Liu are dead."

Even though they already expected as much, hearing it from her gave off a different feeling. Even Sixth Sister Gu, who had seen Second Brother Liu's death with her own eyes, revealed a complicated gaze.

The few of them could only rely on each other as they danced with death and all of them had a pretty good relationship with each other. Now that their fellow comrades were dead, they couldn't help but feel a sense of regret filling their hearts. At the same time, they had to admit that their Third Sister Hai was a formidable expert. Her identity wasn't as simple as it seemed either.

"Mother, you came out!" Hai Min was also part of those who came.

Even though her daughter was the one who called out to her, Third Sister Hai barely acknowledged it with a slight nod before turning to address the others. "Where's the kid?"

Naturally, she was referring to Shang Xia.

She ran into Youshang outside the city earlier and learned that he instructed the remaining members of the Eighteen Horsemen to head over to the City Lord Manor.

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Because of Youshang's reminder, they went ahead and called Shang Xia the Sixth Young Master of the Shang Clan, allowing them some guesses as to who Third Sister Hai was looking for. However, Shang Xia went into the underground spirit cave right after they entered, allowing him to hide his face for the time being.

Even though they felt that she was a little disrespectful to their savior, they replied to her nonetheless. However, they hadn't corrected their mistake and thought that Shang Xia was the mysterious Martial Extermination Realm expert who came to their aid previously and they answered Third Sister Hai's question. "Senior told us to defend the manor. He went over to protect an important region and left this place in our care."

Third Sister Hai's expression changed slightly when she heard how they addressed him, and she muttered, "Why are you addressing him as 'senior'? Have you met him?"

After killing Second Brother Liu and Boss Sha, Third Sister Hai no longer hid her cultivation level. Her cultivation base at the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm was revealed, and Uncle Cen and the others didn't dare to look directly at her. Her slight change in emotions wasn't noticed by any one of them.

Nodding quickly, Uncle Cen replied, "When Boss Sha and the rest chose to betray us and join the Changfeng City, Senior Shang saved us, along with another mysterious senior. We haven't seen his true appearance, but he scared away many people with the bow earlier. His weapon of choice was similar to the senior who saved our lives, and since Senior Youshang sent us here to assist him, he's definitely our senior."

Third Sister Hai snorted slightly in response. "I'm not doubting his identity. But since you know that he's from the Shang Clan, did you meet him or something?"

"Third Sister, is there... Is there something wrong?" Uncle Cen hesitated for a moment as he heard the strange tone coming from Third Sister Hai.

She snapped at him the next moment. "What do you mean there's something wrong? Nevermind! Just guard this place! I'll go meet that 'Senior Shang' you're talking about!"

"Third Sister, the Sixth Young Master told us not to disturb him..." Fourth Brother Zeng added.

"Sixth Young Master?" Third Sister Hai nearly burst out laughing after hearing his title again.

Uncle Cen quickly turned to look at Hai Min before signaling her with his eyes. Hai Min quickly spoke up. "Mother, Yuanyuan... She's missing..."

Turning her head to stare at Hai Min, Third Sister Hai snapped, "What?!"

Jumping in fright, Hai Min quickly continued, "I handed her over and got someone to take care of her. The situation was too chaotic earlier and when everything settled down and I returned to my courtyard, I discovered that it had already collapsed. Yuanyuan also went missing. I think she might have been brought to a safe place by the person I requested to take care of her..."

Third Sister Hai's dark expression cleared up slightly after hearing that Hai Min might be fine and she asked, "Who did you ask to take care of her? Describe their appearance to me."

Hai Min quickly described Shang Xia's appearance to her mother. Everything seemed fine earlier, but once she made the description, Third Sister Hai gnashed her teeth with rage before bursting into laughter to conceal her anger. "Great! What an amazing Senior Shang you found here. Sixth Young Master of the Shang Clan my ass!"

Her sudden outburst caused everyone to stare at each other in shock.

Uncle Cen looked at Ninth Brother Huang as a bad premonition filled their hearts.

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In the spirit cave underground, Shang Xia had no idea his identity had already been seen through by Third Sister Hai.

He was still looking at the advancement medicine he obtained from Yang Zhenbiao. Since the advancement formula was given to him by Youshang after he picked out Gao Yun's belongings, it seemed as though the entire set was what the White Deer Paradise was giving Yang Hu in exchange for his alliance.

A set of advancement medicine and the Yin Water Mysterious Extermination Origin. Indeed... It seemed as though those were Yang Zhenbiao's key to entering the Martial Extermination Realm! Moreover, with the advancement formula in Yang Hu's hands, he would be able to establish himself as a powerful faction in the future!

For the White Deer Paradise to hand over a set of advancement medicine and a complete advancement formula, one could see how seriously they were taking this.

All the great powers in the Azure Origin World had a pact to strictly prevent the outflow of advancement formulas, especially high leveled ones!

Even with Shang Bo and Kou Chongxue's relationship, the Shang Clan had to toil away for twenty years and Shang Bo had to pledge his allegiance to the Tongyou Institution before he could obtain a set of rank four advancement formula for his family! That was how much emphasis the Tongyou Institution placed on a rank four advancement formula!

Of course, the Shang Clan didn't just possess that one set of advancement formula now. With more options, they could prevent wasting any talented individuals!

Shang Xia might have obtained the rank four advancement formula from Youshang earlier, but to be honest, he was more interested in the bottle of advancement medicine.

The advancement formula would describe the way to create the advancement medicine, but one would still have to look for all the ingredients and find a qualified alchemist! The number of precious herbs required to create a set of rank four advancement medicine was astronomical! There were even some that couldn't be obtained easily!

Now that a set of advancement medicine had fallen into Shang Xia's lap from nowhere, or more accurately to say, after killing Yang Zhenbiao, it would save him a lot of trouble!

That was also another reason why the great powers didn't wish to spread their advancement formulas around. They wanted to keep the ingredients of the medicine a secret so others have no idea how important some of the herbs were!

After keeping the medicine and the advancement formula carefully, Shang Xia started to look at the remains. He picked at those that caught his eye.

Even though it took a long time to describe what happened, only a short moment had passed in reality. Nothing came from the underground river that led to the Ji Continent, but Shang Xia chose to place his Spirit Extermination Gourd above the deep pool after thinking about it for some time.

All of a sudden, one of the holes above him turned dark. When Shang Xia raised his head to take a look, he saw a spear light smashing into the protection barrier above him.

Jumping to his feet in fright, he grabbed his Scarlet Star Spear and got ready to fight.

A tiny hole was torn in the barrier and a figure descended gracefully through it. She arrived in front of Shang Xia with a cold look on her face.

“Oh, it’s senior…” Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief after seeing who came. However, he still noticed the lingering spear light that struck the barrier earlier and he couldn’t be bothered with why she forcefully tore through the barrier to enter the spirit cave. His expression sank and a trace of killing intent formed in his heart. “Who exactly are you? What spear art did you just use?”

Without saying a word, Third Sister Hai’s aura at the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm descended. Her spear returned to her hand and she raised it towards Shang Xia.

As someone who had exchanged blows with Martial Extermination Realm experts more than once and even killed one of them, Shang Xia wasn’t intimidated by the aura of a mere grand completion stage Martial Intent Realm cultivator.

Watching how she raised her spear at him, Shang Xia chuckled with rage and his Scarlet Star Spear that he had been lowering slowly stood upright again.

One had to say that ever since he comprehended Piercing Sun and killed Gao Yun, he seemed to have reached a completely new realm of comprehension. Be it his mental state or his cultivation, they seemed to have experienced a massive level up.

It allowed him to maintain a casual attitude whenever he was up against cultivators of the same realm.

It was a state that allowed him to achieve complete suppression over those at the same cultivation level!

Even if his opponent was in the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm, it didn’t matter!

His opponent might have caught him off guard and taken the initiative to strike, but it wouldn’t be enough!

The moment Shang Xia brought out his spear, he would achieve complete domination!

Raising his spear, it didn’t matter which of the nine moves he wanted to unleash. That wasn’t all. He seemed to have mixed many different styles with each other and he was ready to utilize any technique he wanted.

Stabbing out slowly, Shang Xia completely shattered the pressure that was on him. Facing Third Sister Hai's seven foot long spear, he wasn't flustered in the slightest as he quickly suppressed her.

Nevertheless, she was a Martial Intent Realm expert at the grand completion stage. Defeating her wouldn't be easy. Her figure started to flicker and she quickly escaped his suppression.

Shang Xia didn't react immediately. Instead, he stood where he was and growled, "Who exactly are you? Why do you know my Shang Clan Spear Art?"

Compared to his initial anger, he was slightly taken aback by her skills. However, his shock couldn't even begin to compare to the fright Third Sister Hai was feeling.

The Providence Spear Art might differ from person to person as they came up with moves that suited themselves based on their understanding of the Providence Spear Art, but the basic principles were there. Anyone would recognize their technique as long as they knew what to look for.

Shang Xia's attacks earlier were all-encompassing and managed to force her back without much difficulty. Even though he used many different techniques, Third Sister Hai was able to confirm a single fact. He was definitely using the Providence Spear Art!

Her eyes widened in shock as she thought about the final sentence in the Providence Spear Art. "Nine spears into one, Providence in one's fingertips!"

Did he... Did he come up with nine moves based on his comprehension of the Providence Spear Art?!

Raising her head to stare at Shang Xia, she failed to contain her shock. "You..."

Before she could continue, a low rumbling came from the underground river.

Chapter 343: Origin Yang Thousand Peak Sword

Back at the White Deer Paradise.

With Kou Chongxue's fate dipper clone forming and controlling the Hidden Frost Sword personally, he stabbed it deep into the eye of the formation in the White Deer Spring. The energy that had been stored up by the White Deer Paradise poured into the spring at a terrifying speed as they were channeled back to the You Continent!

The White Deer Paradise had been plotting for a long time. However, now that the tables have turned, the energy they had accumulated was being stolen instead!

"Kou Chongxue, you deserve to die!" Ancestor Hua Lu who finally discovered what was going on roared with rage when she saw the accumulations of the White Deer Paradise being stolen under her nose. She was so angry she nearly vomited a mouthful of blood.

Even though she was bursting with rage, she managed to restrain herself this time. She didn't rush to attack Kou Chongxue immediately. She disappeared from her spot.

A cold snort emerged from Kou Chongxue's nose, but he became all the more serious.

When Ancestor Hua Lu disappeared, Kou Chongxue discovered that the space around him was starting to turn a little more solid. In fact, there was a subtle pressure descending on him in the form of complete suppression.

That was why a holy land was considered a holy land.

Even with his frightening strength, Kou Chongxue wouldn't be able to fight against the White Deer Paradise on his own! Given enough time, they would be able to force him to stop!

Earlier, when Yun Lu disappeared, it seemed as though he knew what to do now that Kou Chongxue had arrived. His retreat might be correct, but it was also because he had no choice. He suffered serious injuries just a moment ago when one of his fate dippers was forcefully separated from him. He couldn't possibly fight with the enraged Kou Chongxue who charged into their territory to seek revenge.

Yun Lu might have been a third element Martial Dipper Realm expert at his peak and much stronger than Hua Lu, but his current strength was severely compromised!

With Hua Lu retreating into the core of the White Deer Paradise to take charge of the situation, Kou Chongxue wouldn't be able to defeat them anymore.

Their reluctance to do battle outright might be fuelled by the fact that they had to protect the White Deer Paradise, but it was also because none of them wished to fight with the madman of the You Continent! Kou Chongxue wasn't known as the tyrant of the northern continents for nothing!

Even though the current Kou Chongxue was a mere fate dipper clone and was still severely injured, they didn't wish to fight him head-on! The clone might only be comparable to a first element Martial Dipper Realm expert, but that was Kou Chongxue they were talking about!

One had to know that the clone was created from his Primal Yang Copper Fate Dipper! Of the fate dippers owned by those in the Martial Dipper Realm, it was known to possess the strongest combat capabilities!

In the past, that was what Kou Chongxue relied on to dominate the Azure Origin World and establish his prestige!

With a fate dipper clone made up of the Primal Yang Copper Fate Dipper, he could easily challenge Hua Lu who was a second element Martial Dipper Realm cultivator.

There was also a need to mention that Kou Chongxue's fate dipper clone was wielding his divine weapon, the Hidden Frost Sword!

Graded weapons could be split into low, mid, and high-grade. However, no one knew how to classify divine weapons yet.

The Hidden Frost Sword was made from Origin Yang Mysterious Copper, and from the name itself, one could easily draw the connection to his fate dipper. There was no need to doubt that was a first-rate weapon!

Any Martial Dipper Realm expert would probably experience a 30 percent increase in strength with a divine weapon in hand. But for Kou Chongxue with the Primal Yang Copper Fate Dipper to wield the Hidden Frost Sword made from the Origin Yang Mysterious Copper...

Taking a step forward, Kou Chongxue drew another line in the air in front of him after pulling his sword out from the White Deer Spring.

The number of Martial Dipper Realm experts in the Azure Origin World was slightly more than the number of fingers on both hands, and anyone who reached that level could be considered to have reached the peak. None of them had any guides on how to improve. If they wished to progress, they could only pioneer their own path!

Kou Chongxue's sword art was something he created himself after entering the Martial Dipper Realm, the Origin Yang Thousand Peak Sword!

He got his inspiration for the first move contained in his sword art from the winding Thousand Leaf Mountain Range, and that was where the name 'Thousand Peak' came from. Since his sword was made from Origin Yang Mysterious Copper, he conveniently added the words Origin Yang in front of his technique!

Even though the subsequent moves had nothing to do with the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range any longer, the name stuck.

As he unleashed his rank five sword art, the space in the White Deer Paradise seemed to split apart and the energy contained similarly dissipated. It was as though half the air in a balloon vanished.

The energy and foundations of the White Deer Paradise continued to pour out of the White Deer Spring and the scene greatly resembled what happened in the Tongyou Mysterious World when Yun Lu appeared.

The energy that disappeared earlier quickly returned, and this time, it seemed to form a huge torrent in the skies that came crashing down on Kou Chongxue.

The slovenly dressed Patriarch Kou who looked like half a slob released an unbridled aura as a sharp light flashed in his eyes. He swung his sword seemingly in an attempt to fight against the combined strength of the White Deer Paradise alone.

However, the White Deer Paradise evidently wouldn't allow Kou Chongxue to do as he pleased this time.

The jade hill Hua Lu tossed out earlier descended once again. This time, it had the assistance of the power contained in the White Deer Paradise. There wasn't a chance for him to dodge this time.

Turning serious, Kou Chognxue whose sword was about to draw another nice arc through the White Deer Paradise felt it clash with the jade hill.

The resulting explosion rocked the White Deer Paradise as the jade hill broke apart slightly. It was blown away by the impact.

Hua Lu's weapon wasn't a divine weapon at the end of the day. It wasn't able to challenge Kou Chongxue's Hidden Frost Sword in the slightest!

However, it managed to force Kou Chongxue to take half a step back! He stood at the eye of the formation in the White Deer Spring, and a staff fell from the void!

The person who made his move this time was Yun Lu, whose cultivation was forced to regress due to Kou Chongxue!

Ancestor Yun Lu seemed to have grasped his timing really well as his sudden strike caught Kou Chongxue when the latter hadn't fully stabilized himself. However, he was destined to be disappointed.

Kou Chongxue might be in a foreign territory, but his individual combat strength was stronger than Hua Lu or Yun Lu! He wasn't afraid of Yun Lu's sneak attack at all! Instead, he was a little more wary towards attacks like the one Hua Lu unleashed earlier that caused him to lose his footing.

That was because it exhausted a lot of his energy! Kou Chongxue might have gained the upper hand earlier, but in exchange, he used up quite a bit of energy to resist that attack.

Against targeted strikes like that from Yun Lu, Kou Chongxue could easily deal with it with his fighting techniques. Moreover, he could conserve a lot of strength due to his wealth of battle experience that allowed him to resist Yun Lu's strikes with the least amount of energy! He might look like he was at a disadvantage, but he could last a long time in one-on-one battles like that.

Time was the most important thing to him right now!

Did he barge into the White Deer Paradise to look for a fight? No!

Was it to vent his frustrations on Yun Lu? Of course not!

He was there to steal the foundations of the White Deer Paradise because of what they did to the Tongyou Institution!

Not only would he be able to regain what they lost, but he would also be able to weaken the White Deer Paradise who declared themselves as the institution's enemy the moment they pulled their shitty move!

Winning a small skirmish against Yun Lu or Hua Lu didn't interest Kou Chongxue in the slightest!

The longer he dragged things out, the longer the foundations of the White Deer Paradise would flow back to the You Continent! That was his goal.

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In the spirit cave under the City Lord Manor in the Changfeng City, the rumbling sound became stronger and stronger as a sudden pressure descended on Shang Xia and Third Sister Hai.

It was as though a ferocious beast was about to emerge!

Forgetting everything she wanted to say, Third Sister Hai screamed at the top of her lungs in order to beat the noisy rumbling that came from the distance. "What the hell is going on?! You know what's happening, right?!"

A mischievous look appeared on Shang Xia's face as he roared with laughter, "It's here! A great opportunity!"

Before Third Sister Hai could say anything, she discovered that the water in the underground river had started flowing in reverse!

Waves battered against the walls as the water level started to rise quickly. It didn't take long for the spirit cave to be flooded too.

At that moment, a white streak drilled its way into the deep pool in the spirit cave as dense white mist emerged. It quickly escaped from the holes in the ceiling as they turned into streams of energy

that rose towards the rose-colored bridge in the air. It quickly traveled in the direction of the Tongyou City before pouring into the Tongyou Mysterious World.

Unlike the time when the Tongyou Mysterious World was sucking up energy from the Origin Tide crazily, the energy that came from the White Deer Paradise was much more mellow. It became a warm and pure stream of energy that strengthened the Tongyou Mysterious World. It wasn't as tyrannical as the energy from the Origin Tide and cultivators could even absorb it to cultivate.

The tyrannical and chaotic energy that came from the Origin Tide had its own uses. It was much more difficult to absorb to be used in cultivation, but it proved to possess miraculous properties that could create miracles.

An example would be how Ji Wenlong completed the deduction of Kou Chongxue's incomplete rank five advancement formula previously. Also, it could produce loose strands of extermination origin, treasures, and other impressive stuff.

As the white mist filled the spirit cave, it quickly became extremely dense as it choked the unprepared Third Sister Hai.

Due to the small space in the spirit cave, the dense mist quickly caused visibility to drop to the point where they couldn't see their fingers if they placed their hands before them.

After finally getting rid of the suffocating feeling, Third Sister Hai greedily transformed the mist around her into inner qi before yelling, "Is this the opportunity you're talking about?"

Shang Xia, who was sucking in the pure energy in the air as quickly as he could, roared with laughter, "Yeah! The opportunity is right in front of you! Too bad you might not be able to make use of it!"

Shang Xia's words caused her mind to spin. She was already at the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm. As long as she took another step...

However, she didn't possess any rank four advancement medicine! Her cultivation couldn't increase any further, and she couldn't absorb the energy around her endlessly!

She could only watch as the energy flowed out of the spirit cave due to her bottleneck!

On the other hand, Shang Xia wasn't restricted by his cultivation base. With the help of the energy around him, he quickly approached the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm.

Chapter 344: Shang Pei

During his third divine sense transformation when he faced Li Tianshou and the rest, he comprehended his seventh move, Celestial Disruption.

In order to escape from the spirit cave that was swelling with chaotic world origin the White Deer Paradise stole from the Tongyou Institution, Shang Xia came up with his eighth move, Startling Moon.

To prevent Gao Yun, a third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert from escaping, Shang Xia comprehended his ninth and most frightening move, Piercing Sun.

Like building a skyscraper, Shang Xia comprehended the last three moves in quick succession.

According to the Shang Clan's inheritance, Shang Xia's cultivation would rise every time he came up with a new move for his Providence Spear Art.

Because he did it so quickly, he didn't get an opportunity to allow his cultivation to rise as he had no time to properly replenish his body of Origin True Qi!

Kou Chongxue saw through him and that was why he said that it would be a great opportunity for him.

Since he already experienced his third divine sense transformation, Shang Xia gained a greater control over the heaven and earth qi around him. His speed of absorption would naturally increase because of it.

As such, the amount of Origin True Qi in Shang Xia's dantian increased at a terrifying speed. His senses became much clearer than before and he truly broke through his bottleneck to enter the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm.

Since he had everything prepared, the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness emerged once again. Dense words filled the tablet and it didn't take long for the third crack to form.

The world origin around him poured into his body at a terrifying rate, and before he could inspect the words on the Crimson Soul Tablet, he discovered that the third crack was starting to recover slightly.

He realized that the world origin that entered his body in such a crazed fashion wasn't being refined completely by him, instead, it was pouring into his sea of consciousness and assimilating into the Crimson Soul Tablet. His eyes widened in shock. It seemed as though he had discovered the method to prevent his soul from crumbling! World origin was the solution!

...

Third Sister Hai was truly feeling regretful at that moment. If she didn't barge into the spirit cave, she wouldn't have experienced the rush of world origin! It wouldn't affect her if she didn't know that she was missing a huge opportunity, but she did! Watching the world origin and pure heaven and earth qi flowing around her with no way to make use of it, she couldn't be more annoyed.

Moreover, she wasn't willing to leave just like that.

She would be unhappy if she remained, but she was also reluctant to leave... It seemed as though there was no solution here.

With nothing left to do, she could only turn to look at Shang Xia.

Feeling his cultivation soaring, she could only sigh softly in her heart.

"If only I returned a little earlier in the past..."

Chuckling in anguish, Third Sister Hai quickly tossed those useless thoughts away. She wondered what was happening to herself.

She couldn't understand why she was thinking about the past at that moment!

Am I getting old?! What is with me...

No one knew how long had passed, but Shang Xia's absorption seemed to stop abruptly. He seemed to be completely stuffed from the world origin and heaven and earth qi that entered his body.

With Third Sister Hai's cultivation at the grand completion stage, she naturally discovered Shang Xia's entry into the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm.

Unless he comprehended his third martial intent, he wouldn't be able to enter the grand completion stage!

That was to say, Shang Xia would be suffering the same fate as her. He wouldn't be able to absorb any more energy around him and could only watch as it flowed out of the spirit cave.

When she thought about that, a trace of joy appeared in her heart. She wouldn't have to suffer alone! However, the next thought that flashed through her mind caused her to turn sullen again. The kid in front of her was tens of years younger than her, but he had already entered the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm! She was merely a step ahead of him!

Thinking properly about his age, she realized that he shouldn't have crossed his eighteenth birthday. The brat that was five years younger than her daughter actually reached a terrifying height in his cultivation!

The Providence Spear Art where one could only reach the peak state of comprehension after coming up with nine moves based on their understanding had been mastered by the kid! Comprehending his third martial intent shouldn't be a problem for the kid, and he would be able to step into the grand completion stage easily! Moreover, the day that happened wouldn't take long...

The more she thought about it, the worse her mood became.

She felt that she could only take comfort in the fact that he was currently stuck at a bottleneck like herself and was unable to absorb more energy. However, he quickly proved her wrong. Energy started pouring into him endlessly again.

"This isn't possible!" With her eyes widening in shock, she nearly jumped in fright. "He clearly just entered the large completion stage a moment ago! Is he able to comprehend his martial intent so quickly?! Doesn't he need to consolidate his foundations and fuse the nine moves into one before attempting to comprehend his third martial intent?! Is there no need to test out everything he comprehended?"

Seeing how the world origin was practically flooding into his body, she couldn't help but start creating explanations for Shang Xia's situation herself. Maybe it's because the kid achieved the legendary perfect comprehension of the Providence Spear Art by creating nine moves...

Her conflicting emotions that made it such that she couldn't make up her mind to leave or stay was quickly replaced by her curiosity to see how much Shang Xia could progress.

A sudden change occurred, and Shang Xia opened his eyes suddenly. His gaze seemed to pierce through the thick mist to land on Third Sister Hai.

"Brat, why did you stop?" Third Sister Hai's voice rang in his ears. She was able to detect him with her divine sense even though she couldn't physically see him. "Didn't you say that this is a rare opportunity?"

“Senior, you should be someone from my Shang Clan, right?” Shang Xia ignored her question and asked one of his own.

For a long time, no other sound came from the other side of the mist. Shang Xia didn’t find it odd at all as he continued. “This junior is called Shang Xia. My grandfather is Shang Bo and he was the patriarch until a little while ago when he gave up his position to take on his role as a deputy patriarch of the Tongyou Institution. I wonder which generation senior is part of and how I should address you.”

After some time, Third Sister Hai’s voice rang softly in his ears. “Is your grandfather really no longer in charge of the clan? Will he no longer interfere with the decisions in the clan?”

Chuckling softly, Shang Xia replied. “My Fifth Grandpa, Shang Ke, is the current patriarch of the Shang Clan. Grandpa Bo has passed down his authority completely.”

“Brat, do you plan to marry my daughter Hai Min and raise her kid with her?” Third Sister Hai threw a bomb out before he could react. The way she changed the topic was unexpectedly wild.

“Huh?” Shang Xia jumped in fright after hearing her question and he was dumbstruck for a moment by the sudden questioning.

“Hmph!” What’s the problem? Are you not planning to admit it if I didn’t ask about it explicitly?” Third Sister Hai snapped. “You should have discovered that Hai Min was my daughter a long time ago!”

Before Shang Xia could organize his thoughts and think of something to say, Third Sister Hai continued. “Damn brat! Why aren’t you learning how to be a proper man? Do you think that you’re still three years old? Huh? Do you think you can play family with Hai Min and Yuanyuan and leave whenever you wish? Why are you acting like your father?!”

Finally catching an opportunity to speak, Shang Xia yelled, “Senior, this is a misunderstanding! We chose to rent a courtyard in order to hide our identities in the Changfeng City! Nothing happened between the two of us! We definitely didn’t go overboard with our actions!”

“Hehe, the two of you lived together for such a long time and you’re telling me it’s a misunderstanding? My daughter isn’t ugly by any means and you’re a damn brat with raging hormones. I refuse to believe you can restrain yourself! Unless... Unless you have some problems there...”

Shang Xia wanted to double down that he didn’t do anything as that was the truth, but he was flabbergasted by what she said. He would rather be misunderstood than have people think that he had ‘issues’.

Seeing as he had turned quiet, Third Sister Min roared, “What now? Can’t you argue anymore?”

“Actually, it’s not impossible for us to become related in that way.” She threw yet another curveball at Shang Xia.

He was clearly disturbed by her unhinged behavior and manner of speech, but she didn't give him a chance to interrupt.

“Well, I would be considered your aunt... Since that's the case, Hai Min would be your cousin. That's nothing you should be worried about anyway. My father was cousins with your grandfather and they're not directly related. There shouldn't be the issue of interbreeding within the family even if...”

Shang Xia was finally unable to stand her going off about all those nonsense and he interrupted her with a roar, “What do you mean shouldn't be an issue?! Why are you being so casual about this?!”

“Asshole! Are you trying to abandon her after what you've done?! Are you planning to shirk your responsibility now?” Third Sister Hai growled as a chilly light flashed in her eyes.

Her image in Shang Xia's mind was taking a 180 degree turn now. Never in his wildest imagination would he expect the third in command of the Eighteen Horsemen of the You Continent to behave like that. From the looks of it, she had already made up her mind to play matchmaker for the both of them. He quickly retorted, “Wait! This junior and Hai Min will deal with our own problems! You don't have to interfere in this! Senior, why don't you tell me your true identity so I can verify it first?”

He clearly said that for the sake of it. By the time she revealed her technique earlier, he could basically confirm that she was part of the Shang Clan. After all, the Providence Spear Art and the Triple Providence Chapter that made up the Shang Clan's 'Providence Inheritance' was too special. Only core members of the Shang Clan would be able to gain access to it.

Moreover, there seemed to be some restrictions that prevented others from cultivating the Providence Inheritance. In essence, members of the Shang Clan might not necessarily train in the Providence Inheritance, but anyone who received the Providence Inheritance was definitely a member of the Shang Clan!

After a short pause, Third Sister Hai's hoarse voice came from the other side of the mist. “Your grandfather's generation had five members in total. My father was their second brother and your grandfather was ranked third. Today, only your grandfather and Uncle Ke are left. Your father was the fourth descendant in his generation and there's Second Brother Shang Jian, Seventh Sister Shang Xi, Ninth Brother Shang Yang. I can be considered their third sister. Shang Xi is your blood-related aunt, and you can consider me your distant aunt, Shang Pei!”

Chapter 345: “The Honorable Tongyou Institution”

Since the battle in the Tongyou City had ended, the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the other institutions eventually decided to leave.

However, many of them quickly discovered that the rose-colored bridge that was connected to the hole in the Tongyou Mysterious World's protection barrier stood firm in mid air.

Yu Chengjin and the others realized that something was still happening and after a short discussion, they decided to pay a visit to Kou Chongxue to ask him about the Tongyou Institution's plans for the immediate future.

Who would have thought that countless gates would appear in the void at that moment as the disciples of the institution started to make their way back into the institution. They started to clean up the ruined mess that stood before them.

By the time Yu Chengjin and the others arrived, Shang Bo and Yun Jing had recovered enough to receive them. They were waiting at the entrance of the Tongyou Mysterious World. However, both sides hadn't exchanged greetings when a milky white pillar of light pierced into the air in the distance.

Both sides witnessed how the skies above were starting to fluctuate slightly as the white glow extended all the way onto the bridge.

"This..." An Baimei recognized the source of the white light immediately. The corners of his mouth arched downwards and he didn't know whether he should continue talking.

The milky white glow flowed along the bridge before entering the Tongyou Mysterious World, replenishing the energy it had lost.

Even though An Baimei didn't say anything earlier, those present were Martial Extermination Realm experts. They could obviously feel the heaven and earth qi in their surroundings getting denser.

Naturally, the dots were quickly connected in their minds and they immediately identified what the stream of energy was. In fact, they could even guess where it came from.

The Martial Extermination Realm experts who were present felt their expressions changing slightly. Most of them communicated with their eyes and rueful expressions quickly appeared on their faces.

"Hehe... Patriarch Kou being injured and lurking about death's door.. I wonder how many of those old men are feeling their faces stinging right now."

"Looks like the White Deer Paradise is going to suffer quite a bit this time. It's the true manifestation of going out for wool and coming home shorn!"

"Patriarch Kou really made a grand entrance this time. He even plotted against the White Deer Paradise... They're going to be in some serious trouble now!"

"..."

Shang Bo and Yun Jing could only pretend to ignore the discussions they were having.

With the world origin pouring into the Tongyou Mysterious World, Shang Bo and everyone present took the chance to absorb whatever leftover energy they could to replenish the energy they lost during the battle that passed.

Too bad for them, Kou Chongxue only allowed a small portion of energy to leak from the Tongyou Mysterious World. Most of the energy was channeled directly into the Tongyou Mysterious World.

Watching the energy stream into the Tongyou Mysterious World seemingly without end, the Martial Extermination Realm experts from the other powers eventually turned impatient.

Yu Chengjin was the first to ask, “Brother Shang, Sister Yun, will we be able to be fortunate enough to meet Patriarch Kou today?”

“Apologies. Our patriarch’s injuries just took a turn for the better. However, he is unable to meet with you guys at the moment. Please forgive us.” Shang Bo replied.

All of them present wasn’t ballsy enough to irritate Kou Chongxue, and none of them dared to say anything in response.

Yu Chengjin continued, “Does Patriarch Kou have any intentions of replacing the White Deer Paradise and taking control of the You Continent as the Tongyou Paradise?”

Yun Jing chuckled in response. “Brother Yu, I know what you’re getting at. Our Tongyou Institution didn’t forcefully upgrade ourselves into a holy land with the energy from the origin tide, and we have no intentions of doing so with the energy obtained from the White Deer Paradise. Also, as a member of the alliance among our five border institutions, our Tongyou Institution will not forsake any one of you.”

“Great. That’s good to hear.” Yu Chengjin cupped his fists together and heaved a sigh of relief. “The Tongyou Institution is truly honorable. All of us are very grateful to the institution’s stance.”

An Baimei and the others seemed to have received the reply they wanted and they cupped their fists together in unison. “The Tongyou Institution is honorable indeed!”

...

In a secret region in the Tongyou Mysterious World, Kou Chongxue stood side by side with Ji Wenlong.

The yells from the experts outside eventually entered their ears, and Ji Wenlong looked at Kou Chongxue and chuckled weirdly, “Are you really going to give up this chance to rise to the level of a holy land?”

Coughing once, Kou Chongxue replied, “Do I look like such a short-sighted person? Why would I weaken the spatial barrier just to increase our strength slightly?”

Evidently doubtful that the Madman of the You Continent was actually so selfless, Ji Wenlong continued, “Are you sure it’s not because the world origin from the White Deer Paradise isn’t enough to push us into the ranks of holy lands?”

“What nonsense are you spouting now? Hmph, those three assholes of the Ji Continent are nothing but a fart in this granddaddy’s eyes! I’ll beat them up whenever I wish! I...” Kou Chongxue snorted in contempt.

Before he could complete his sentence, Ji Wenlong interrupted him, “Isn’t your clone about to be forced out of the Ji Continent?”

Kou Chongxue’s expression sank and a helpless expression appeared on his face. “Well... I mean, my clone is fighting in their territory after all. Even if I want to beat them up badly, I have to show some restraint. Moreover, Xuan Lu might be coming back soon. He might even bring some other experts over to block off my path of retreat. I have to escape in case I get trapped in there!”

“Hurry up and retreat then. We can’t help you with anything now.” Ji Wenlong sighed.

“Hmph... Look at yourselves. I can’t put my hope in any of you! Heh... The three of you can’t even compare to a single brat at the Martial Intent Realm...” A shit-eating grin appeared on Kou Chongxue’s face as he gloated.

Ji Wenlong naturally wouldn’t bother himself with how Kou Chongxue spoke to him. After all, they had been working together for such a long time and Ji Wenlong wasn’t much of a cultured soul himself. After thinking about it for a second, he was still in a state of disbelief as he asked the question that had been bugging him for quite some time now. “So... Is it really true that the suggestion that you should use the water attribute to balance out the instability caused by your Primal Yang Copper Fate Dipper and your Eternal Spring Fate Dipper?”

A helpless sigh escaped Kou Chongxue’s lips. “Of course it’s not that simple! The method the kid proposed was a little crude, but I can tell that he’s on to something. There’s a long way to go if I wish to truly fix the problem. If I’m a little careless, the imbalance will cause me to experience cultivation deviation! I can only say that I’m really lucky to be able to regain some combat capabilities now...”

“Even so, that’s shocking enough! You need to prepare yourself. After the battle today, those people from the Beyond Heavens Pavilion will probably come knocking. They definitely want to obtain your secret as to how you did it.” Ji Wenlong warned.

A cold snort left Kou Chongxue’s lips. “Wouldn’t that be better? This old man still has a lot of grievances I need to take out on them!”

Ji Wenlong turned around and his expression sank. “You better control yourself a bit. All you’re doing now is to borrow the prestige you had before. Don’t overdo it. Our institution isn’t able to hold out in case another attack comes...”

It would be better if Ji Wenlong didn’t say anything. Now that he mentioned it, Kou Chongxue flew into a fit of rage. “Look at yourselves! How am I supposed to rely on you? As long as one of you manages to refine a fate dipper and step into the Martial Dipper Realm, I won’t have to deal with everything myself! Hmph...”

Ji Wenlong wanted to refute, but Kou Chongxue simply waved his sleeves in annoyance. “What are you still standing here for? You derived the rest of my rank five advancement formula with the energy from the origin tide. The shattered fate dipper we obtained in the battlefield between the two worlds is almost fully restored too. I drew over the White Deer Paradise’s hundreds of years of accumulation. If you really wish to risk it and step into the Martial Dipper Realm, there’s no better time.”

A smile appeared on Ji Wenlong’s face and he turned around to step into a sealed secret region in the Tongyou Mysterious World.

Looking at his fading figure, Kou Chongxue yelled, “Oi, don’t die!”

Ji Wenlong didn’t bother turning his head to look at the patriarch. The only thing he did was to gesture with his hands above his head.

...

In the spirit cave under the Changfeng City. Shang Xia spoke to Shang Pei through the mist. “Third Aunt, do you have some sort of misunderstanding with my Grandpa Bo?”

Shang Xia noticed the abnormality when she addressed Shang Bo as ‘your grandfather’ instead of Third Uncle. It wasn’t difficult to connect the dots especially since she addressed Shang Ke as ‘Fifth Uncle’.

Clearly, something happened between the two.

Shang Pei paused for a moment before sighing, “Misunderstanding? If only it was that simple...”

“Is your situation the same as Second Uncle, Shang Jian?”

Shang Xia thought back to Shang Jian who returned to the clan recently. Ever since he was born, he hadn’t seen the man before. In fact, he didn’t know he had a second uncle until the other day.

Shang Pei was the same. He had no idea she existed until recently.

Shang Xia found it weird. The two of them were clearly core members of the Shang Clan. There was no way he would have no idea who they were!

Questions started forming in Shang Xia’s mind. What could cause Shang Jian and Shang Pei to run away from the family to the point where no one talked about them?

“I know what you wish to know. However, these are things that happened twenty years ago. It’s a grudge that’s between members of the older generation of the clan. You kids shouldn’t take part in it. After all, twenty years have passed. There’s nothing time can’t heal.” Shang Pei sighed. However, she quickly added, “Since Fifth Uncle is the patriarch of the clan now, I can go back whenever I wish! Hmph... Even if I do return, I’ll only go back for a short look!”

Shang Xia frowned. “You don’t wish to stay? Second Uncle has a huge family. He has already returned and settled down in the clan. Oh, Ninth Uncle is back too!”

A trace of anger could be heard in Shang Pei’s voice as she grumbled, “I’m not suited to remain in the Tongyou City. I’ve already gotten accustomed to my life as a bandit. I can do whatever I want without caring about the repercussions! I’m only going to go back for the rank four advancement formula. Actually, if not for the fact that I was looking for you, I wouldn’t have been caught by Yang Hu.”

“Looking for me?” Shang Xia gasped in shock. When he eventually snapped back to reality, he recalled the fact that he had been missing in the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range for some time now.

It seemed as though Shang Ke wasn’t able to send anyone out of the city to look for him due to the situation in the Tongyou City and he had to enlist some outside help.

Well, that pretty much led to everything that happened after he went missing.

Chapter 346: It’s Good That You Got Something, How Dare You Be Picky?!

“So... You were planning to return to the Tongyou City to attack the barrier of the Martial Extermination Realm?” Shang Xia asked. “Today, our Shang Clan has two rank four advancement formulas. Do you know which one is more compatible with you? Did you also manage to find a loose strand of extermination origin?”

“How should I know?” Shang Pei snapped. However, she realized something special about what he said. “Wait. Does our Shang Clan actually have two different rank four advancement formulas?! Are you sure it’s not two bottles of advancement medicine?”

“Hehe nope. I’m not talking about medicines here. We have two complete rank four advancement formulas. One of them was provided by the institution, the Multi Illusion Wine. Because Grandpa Bo gave up his position as our Shang Clan Patriarch to focus on the institution, they gave the formula to us. The second is the Hundred Days Longevity Intoxication. Only several other core members know that we have this second formula. The former will be greatly beneficial to cultivators who train in illusory type skills. The latter is more useful for cultivators who have wood attributed extermination origins.”

Seeing as Shang Pei was remaining silent, Shang Xia continued, “Aunt, which advancement formula do you think suits you more?”

“How... How would I know?” Shang Pei sighed. “You might not know this, but advancement formulas are hard to come by! Many cultivators just use what they can find. It’s good to be able to use an advancement formula, why would we be choosy about it?”

Shang Xia laughed out loud. “How can that be... Since you have an option, you should choose the one that suits you the best. Moreover, your entry to the Martial Extermination Realm would be a significant milestone for our Shang Clan!”

“Why is that?” Shang Pei frowned.

“Today, my grandfather and Grandpa Ke entered the Martial Extermination Realm. If someone from the second generation also manages to advance, the image of our Shang Clan will be greatly boosted! We will finally possess some semblance of a great clan!”

Shang Pei coughed once and muttered, “Actually...”

“?” Shang Xia tilted his head to the side when he noticed that she didn’t complete her sentence.

“Nothing...” Changing the topic all of a sudden, Shang Pei started to talk about something else. “Fifth Uncle is really a great guy... With our Shang Clan’s accumulations, it’s amazing if we manage to produce a set or two of rank four advancement medicines. Obtaining a strand of extermination origin is the difficult

thing. For him to call me back now, it might be because the creation of the Tongyou Mysterious World allowed several strands of loose extermination origins to be produced...”

Shang Xia nodded. “Yes. It’s definitely possible for that to happen... After all, the eruption of an Origin Tide usually means that some good stuff will be born.”

“Even so, there must be many people in the institution who are waiting to receive an extermination origin. My turn won’t come so soon...”

Shang Xia didn’t reply as he knew that whatever she said was true.

“Originally, my best chance of entering the Martial Extermination Realm is in this place. With the amount of energy here, the optimal conditions are right in front of me... What a pity!”

Pressing his lips together, Shang Xia whispered, “Actually...”

A soft chuckle escaped Shang Pei’s lips and she chided, “Brat, why are you copying me now? If you have something to say, spit it out!”

“I was trying to tell you that it might not be too late...” Shang Xia sighed.

Silence descended and neither of them spoke a word for some time.

Only after a short while did Shang Pei’s voice ring through the air again. “What do you mean?”

“I have a set of rank four advancement medicine and a complete rank four advancement formula with me... Moreover, the spirit cave we are in was used to nurture the Yin Water Mysterious Extermination Origin. I collected it in my Spirit Extermination Gourd. I don’t know if you wish to take the risk...”

Footsteps rang through the spirit cave all of a sudden.

With the sound of water splashing, a figure appeared in front of Shang Xia. She extended her face as close to Shang Xia as possible before growling, “Do you know what you’re talking about right now?”

The smile on Shang Xia’s face became wider and he continued, “The White Deer Paradise planned to give Yang Hu A rank four advancement formula, the Exquisite Muddled Liquid. He gave his son the medicine, the Exquisite Muddle, and planned to use the extermination origin here to boost his son into the Martial Extermination Realm!”

“Do you have all of those?” Shang Pei gasped.

Nodding slowly, Shang Xia grinned. “Yup. I have it on me right now. “

“Aren’t you afraid that I’ll rob you right now?” An aggressive light flashed through Shang Pei’s eyes and she growled.

Shang Xia maintained his happy grin and he snorted. “Why would an elder snatch something that belongs to her nephew? Moreover... Hehe. Third Aunt, you don’t seem to be my opponent right now.”

A trace of irritation filled her heart and she snapped. “Do you think I’ll be afraid of you? A Martial Intent Realm cultivator who just reached the large completion stage?”

The smile on Shang Xia’s face didn’t fade as he continued to look at her.

With her expression sinking slightly, she straightened her back and groaned. “Alright, What plans do you have? You can’t possibly be thinking of giving me something so important without anything in return.”

“I harbor no evil intentions. I feel that a chance like this won’t come around often and you shouldn’t miss it. It’s one thing for me not to possess an advancement medicine or knowledge about an extermination origin, but now that I have it, there’s no need to waste such a good chance. Moreover, we’re all from the Shang Clan. I’m not giving away benefits to random people!” Shang Xia explained.

“Is that it?” A frown appeared on Shang Pei’s face.

Shang Xia nodded sincerely. “Yep.”

Taking a long breath, Shang Pei sighed, “Looks like he was right. He was talking about you when he said that I might run into a huge opportunity...”

“Who?” The grin on Shang Xia’s face faded a little. “Are you talking about Youshang?”

“Brat, seriously, what do you think of my daughter? She might have been married in the past, but...” Shang Pei changed the topic again.

Waving his hands in dismissal, Shang Xia snapped, “This isn’t a deal between us! I’m giving you the items for free! This doesn’t concern Hai Min at all!”

After he spoke, he retrieved the advancement medicine before taking the Spirit Extermination Gourd. He placed it before him immediately.

.

“Shang Xia, are you really not going to reconsider?” Shang Pei muttered.

Just as Shang Xia extended his hands to take back the items he placed on the ground, Shang Pei moved a little more quickly than him. She grabbed the advancement medicine and gourd.

Her footsteps rang through the spirit cave as her voice rang in Shang Xia’s ears. “Regardless of whether I succeed, you need to take care of Hai Min and Yuanyuan. Also...”

Pausing for a second, a soft whistle flew towards Shang Xia.

Grabbing the item, Shang Xia discovered a six sided object that seemed to resemble a type of key.

“This is a key to a secret region in the Taihang Mountains. In the past, I discovered it with my husband. The two of us didn’t know what was good for us and we thought

that we ran into a huge opportunity. We rushed in there without much thought and I was the only one who managed to emerge. In the future when you explore the secret region, please bring his corpse out..." Shang Pei sighed.

Shang Xia replied, "Aunt Pei, you can go there yourself after you advance!"

"No. Everyone can only enter the secret region once. I already wasted my chance."

Shang Xia muttered, "What did you discover when you entered?"

Hesitating slightly Shang Pei eventually replied. However, she didn't seem sure about her answer. "There seems to be a damaged divine weapon in there..."

"Divine weapon?!" Shang Xia jumped in fright.

It was actually a divine weapon!

Even if it was damaged, a divine weapon was something that had a soul! It was extremely rare. It would definitely be stronger than high-grade weapons.

Thinking about high-grade weapons, Shang Xia couldn't help but turn to look at his Scarlet Star Spear.

It was extremely well-made for a mid-grade weapon, and it could definitely be upgraded to a high-grade spear in the future.

The matter of the upgrade was also starting to become urgent. After Shang Xia comprehended and unleashed his eighth and ninth moves, tiny cracks appeared on the spear.

Those cracks were the effect of his tyrannical Origin True Qi, but Shang Xia could tell that they would affect his weapon if he allowed the problem to fester.

In other words, even mid-grade weapons couldn't withstand his qi anymore!

He needed to change his weapon as soon as possible. It had to be something that could withstand his tyrannical qi!

With the information he gained from Shang Pei, he finally discovered a ray of hope of solving his problem. While he was thinking of all the possibilities, a dense fragrance filled the spirit cave.

Gathering his thoughts, Shang Xia knew that Shang Pei was about to attempt to charge into the Martial Extermination Realm!

She was much more decisive than Shang Xia had thought.

The moment she ingested the advancement medicine, a terrifying aura filled the spirit cave. The Yin Water Mysterious Extermination Origin assimilated into her body, causing great changes to her dantian. A huge amount of energy in the spirit cave poured into her body without any restraint.

The thick mist that filled the cave instantly thinned, and the streams of energy that were being transferred to the bridge became redirected to her. Earlier, Shang Xia's cultivation caused two streams to close completely as he sucked away enough energy from them. Now, four more strands were directed at Shang Pei. The energy that flowed back to the institution became a lot slower than before!

Chapter 347: A Step Into the Grand Completion Stage

After entering the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm, Shang Xia seemed to finally take a break. He looked like he had given up on absorbing more energy as he conversed with Shang Pei, but in actuality, the energy that was flowing into his body didn't stop.

The way he was absorbing it was truly special. Even though Shang Pei had been standing in front of him earlier, she didn't notice a thing.

Well, that might have something to do with the beneficiary of the world origin he was absorbing. Every bit absorbed went to his sea of consciousness to repair the Crimson Soul Tablet.

Since he utilized the Crimson Soul Tablet to deduce his martial intent after entering the large completion stage earlier, the third crack appeared on it. However, the crack seemed to recover after he absorbed the world origin around him.

Realizing how important the world origin was, Shang Xia started to use his divine sense to direct the world origin pouring into his body to head up into his sea of consciousness!

The crack was still extending slowly, but the size of the crack was much smaller than the first two.

After his martial intent was displayed on the surface of the Crimson Soul Tablet, the crack immediately stopped. It didn't stop there. The tiny crack that just formed started to seal up as more world origin poured into it.

The speed at which it was recovering was slow, and Shang Xia had been absorbing world origin to seal the crack while he spoke to Shang Pei earlier. When Shang Pei took her advancement medicine, the words fully appeared on the tablet.

Martial Intent: Heaven Startling Spear

Prerequisite Secret Art: Providence Chapter

Prerequisite Martial Art: Nine Providence Spear

Requirement: Sufficient Heaven and Earth Qi

Medicine Required: Startling Soul Needles

Special Requirement: Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter

Success Rate: 75 - 85%

That was the martial intent derived by the Crimson Soul Tablet. Since one's martial intent was an all-rounded upgrade of all the techniques they had learned in their current realm, Shang Xia didn't find it surprising that the prerequisite martial art was called 'Nine Providence Spear'.

The rest of the requirements made sense too. It went without saying his secret art was a requirement for him to comprehend his martial intent. It also went without saying that he required a ton of heaven and earth qi.

Currently, he was submerged in a sea of world origin. The heaven and earth qi around him was especially dense, and that requirement wouldn't be a problem. The amount used by Shang Pei to charge into the Martial Extermination Realm barely created a dent in the total amount that would be transferred back to the institution. She was absorbing a huge amount of it now, but there was a limit as to how much she could take in. Since he was merely comprehending his third martial intent, he

would naturally use less energy than Shang Pei! There would be more than enough energy for him in the spirit cave!

However, the only problem was the medicine required. He didn't know what the Starting Soul Needle was. He didn't know if it was a physical object or a method of acupuncture! Was it also possible to be a type of injection he hadn't heard of?

After racking his brains, he felt that the latter possibilities were a little more likely.

He shifted his gaze involuntarily to Shang Pei who was cultivating in the other corner. This Third Aunt Pei of the Shang Clan had been roaming the world for close to twenty years. She should be much more experienced than himself and she might know a thing or two about the Startling Soul Needle he was looking for.

Moreover, Shang Xia knew that the medicine required was something that could increase his success rate, but it wasn't strictly necessary!

For example, the medicine he used when comprehending his first martial intent in the Martial Realm was only used to treat his injuries!

The medicines he used while comprehending his Yin Yang Sword Formation, which he later renamed to the Seven Laceration Sword, in the Martial Extremity Realm, had nothing to do with his second martial intent! They were only used to widen his meridians and make them stronger!

The only thing that Shang Xia found truly surprising was the Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter. When he glanced at it, the Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter seemed to appear in his memories automatically. To understand why it appeared in his mind automatically, one would have to go back to the root of cultivation.

The worth of every special requirement was actually close to the martial intent he comprehended. For example, the Blood Collection Lightning Art he learned when comprehending his Chaos Essence Lightning Palm. It allowed him to temper his body to be strong enough to withstand the power contained in his martial intent. One had to know that the higher one's cultivation realm got, the stronger their souls and body would become.

However, if they wanted to increase the strength of their physical body or soul even further, they would have to pay a huge price.

The Blood Collection Lightning Art allowed a cultivator in the Martial Realm to increase the strength of their physical bodies, and that was already a huge benefit.

After he handed it the guide to comprehend the Chaos Essence Lightning Palm and the assistive technique that was the Lightning Collection Blood Art to the institution, he realized that there would be a much higher demand for the Lightning Collection Blood Art than the full guide.

When he was comprehending his Yin Yang Sword Formation in the Martial Extremity Realm, he managed to develop a special skill to craft Yin Yang Sword Talismans! Because of that, Shang Xia's skill of crafting talismans increased at a terrifying pace. It also greatly increased his fighting capabilities after he created those special talismans of his.

He discovered their secret a long time ago. He could vaguely feel that those talismans he created could help cultivators in the Martial Extremity Realm to easily comprehend a sword intent!

Of course, it could only help those who were comprehending one of the seven sword intents Shang Xia comprehended. Even so, it was shocking enough!

With those considerations in mind, Shang Xia was expecting great things with his Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter!

Carefully examining the Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter that appeared in his memories, a strange expression formed on his face. He discovered that he had unknowingly comprehended it ever since he entered the Martial Intent Realm.

Back when he just stepped into the Martial Intent Realm, he discovered that he could affect the heaven and earth qi around him to a certain extent. After his second divine sense transformation, he could fuse his divine sense with the world around him. That allowed him to hide himself while spying on his opponents. Not even Martial Extermination Realm experts would be able to discover his presence when he did that.

Even though it hadn't been long since he completed his third divine sense transformation, Shang Xia discovered something even more special. Not only did his control over the heaven and earth qi around him increase, he discovered that he seemed to have touched on a new realm. He was able to capture minute changes that others might not even discover had happened to predict what would happen in the near future!

That was how his ninth move, Piercing Sun, nailed Gao Yun who was flying away!

Shang Xia noticed where Gao Yun was going and accurately predicted where he would be the next second before shooting out the spear and sending the man to the underworld.

It was a feeling he got after making a good deduction of how the heaven and earth qi was moving in the air.

According to the Crimson Soul Tablet, the feeling was because of the synergy between himself and the world around him.

Of course, the Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter wasn't as simple as that. Even though Shang Xia knew that he could save a lot of effort in comprehending his martial intent now that he was in sync with the world around him, he found it a little questionable. Was he going to become some sort of divine spear entity that could predict the future? That didn't seem too likely.

That thought merely existed for a second in his mind before he tossed it to the back of his head.

He knew that with the assistance given by the Crimson Soul Tablet, entering the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm wouldn't be too difficult! With another thought, the worlds on the tablet started to change.

Martial Intent: Heaven Startling Spear

Prerequisite Secret Art: Providence Chapter

Prerequisite Martial Art: Nine Providence Spear

Requirement: Sufficient Heaven and Earth Qi

Medicine Required: -

Special Requirement: Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter

Success Rate: 75 - 80%

The change used a lot less energy than before. According to the tablet now, Shang Xia discovered that even without the Starting Soul Needle, the success rate was merely lowered by a small 5 percent!

Which also meant that he could try comprehending his martial intent that very moment!

It might seem like a good idea, but Shang Xia eventually managed to suppress his urge. A huge part of the reason was that he was trying to repair the Crimson Soul Tablet with the world origin around him and once he started cultivating, the tablet would stop being restored immediately as he would use up the energy that entered his body at a rapid pace.

The cracks that were forming around the tablet had already crossed his bottom line. He didn't wish to rush things and doom himself for eternity! The third crack signified that the tablet was about to be destroyed. If he didn't do anything about it when he could, he might not find another suitable opportunity to fix it!

Secondly, he didn't wish to interrupt Shang Pei. The amount of energy he would absorb might be inconsequential, but he would interrupt the flow of heaven and earth qi in the spirit cave which might disturb her.

With the path laid out for him, Shang Xia could comprehend his martial intent any time he wanted to! There was no need to risk it all at that moment.

If his impatience caused Shang Pei to fail and the recovery of the Crimson Soul Tablet to stop, the losses would seriously outweigh the gains.

As for why Shang Xia gave Shang Pei the opportunity to break through at that moment... He had his reason. Shang Pei knew that she would owe Shang Xia big time after that, but the opportunity was laid out right in front of her! She had to take it!

The reason behind Shang Xia's generosity was simple. Shang Pei knew exactly what he wanted and she didn't bother placing down any barriers around herself. She allowed him to observe every second of her breakthrough in order to draw on her experience in the future! She knew that Shang Xia was trying to learn a little more so that his breakthrough would be smoother in the future.

Chapter 348: Full Retreat

With the fearsome amount of world origin and pure heaven and earth qi around them, Shang Pei's breakthrough didn't experience any obstruction at all.

The aura around her started to rise as a deep green light started to fill the spirit cave. The milky white mist in the air was starting to be stained deep green, and Shang Xia understood that she had already crossed the most dangerous part of her breakthrough.

Of course, that didn't mean that she had successfully broken through. A cultivator would need some time to properly breakthrough and consolidate their foundations. However, the most dangerous period was when they just ingested their advancement medicine and started to refine their extermination origin.

Their dantian would experience a fundamental transformation, and a cultivator would become the weakest at that moment. Their requirement for heaven and earth qi would be terrifying, and if they

were unable to balance the amount they absorbed with what they could take in, they might experience cultivation deviation!

Luckily, Shang Pei managed to cross that stage without much difficulty. She was in the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm when she broke through, and she was able to quickly consolidate her foundations!

Throughout the entire process, Shang Pei could tell that her dantian was slowly transforming. She could also tell that Shang Xia had been observing the change with his divine sense. She did nothing to hide it.

The transformation she experienced might be very different from what Shang Xia would when he entered the Martial Extermination Realm in the future, but no one could deny that he was gaining valuable experience.

As the amount of world origin rushing into the spirit cave lowered in intensity, the spirit cave was no longer bursting with energy like before. Luckily, she had already completed the most dangerous part of her breakthrough.

Since there was nothing much for him left to observe, Shang Xia turned his attention away from Shang Pei. Instead, he started to wonder how Kou Chongxue was doing.

...

In the White Deer Paradise...

Under the suppression of both Hua Lu and Yun Lu, Kou Chongxue discovered that the situation was slowly starting to turn against him.

He was trying his best to deal with the two of them. However, they had already grasped the best way to fight with him. They were working together seamlessly to use the assistance of the White Deer Paradise to suppress Kou Chongxue's tyrannical strength.

Under such circumstances, they could only force Kou Chongxue back bit by bit. Since Kou Chongxue wasn't at his peak state, he couldn't last for long under their suppression.

The battle between both sides was dragged out with Kou Chongxue defending with everything he had. Those from the White Deer Paradise could only watch as their foundations drained out of the White Deer Spring. It might be bad, but it was the best they could do for now!

Their attacks against Kou Chongxue became stronger as they wanted to drive him out as quickly as they could in order to lessen their loss.

With his many years of experience, Kou Chongxue could feel the subtle shift in the space around him and discovered that a massive calamity was about to descend. The White Deer Paradise seemed to be plotting against him as the two ancestors suppressed him!

Turning away from the White Deer Spring, Kou Chongxue decisively gave it up! He turned to flee out of the White Deer Paradise.

His movements were too quick. None of them expected him to run without the slightest bit of warning!

According to Yun Lu and Hua Lu, Kou Chongxue would be able to hold on for a lot longer! In their eyes, he would want to take away as much world origin as he could. Who would have thought that he would turn to run when the battle was at its climax?!

“Where the hell are you going?!” Yun Lu roared as his figure appeared to block Kou Chongxue. A rod came crashing down from the void towards his head.

“Do you think our White Deer Paradise is a place you can come and go as you please?!” Hua Lu’s voice came from the skies as the jade hill that appeared earlier reappeared in the skies above Kou Chongxue.

The only difference was that she didn’t smash it at him. She tossed it towards the entrance in an attempt to seal it off!

“Haha! You guys are definitely plotting against me!” Kou Chongxue roared with laughter. “Are you planning to trap me here so you can slowly wear me down? You must be dreaming!”

A trace of danger filled Kou Chongxue’s heart as he was talking. It seemed as though he was right! They definitely prepared some sort of devious plan to deal with him! There was no way he could remain in the White Deer Paradise.

Twisting his body around, his clone turned into a streak of light that returned to his Hidden Frost Sword. A blinding glow appeared around the blade of the sword and it turned into a streak of light that tore through space to appear in front of Yun Lu.

“Bang!” A crisp blast rang through the White Deer Paradise as Yun Lu’s staff was broken in half.

That wasn’t all. The Hidden Frost Sword made a beautiful arc through the skies and slashed at Yun Lu’s face.

Grunting in fright, Yun Lu could only raise his broken staff to protect himself. He didn’t even dream of suppressing the Hidden Frost Sword with his broken weapon.

However, it was a beautiful feint as Kou Chongxue controlled the sword to turn away at the last moment to brush past Yun Lu.

“Stop him!” Yun Lu yelled when he discovered that he had misjudged the situation. He slammed his broken staff down in an attempt to pincer Kou Chongxue with Hua Lu’s weapon at the entrance of the White Deer Paradise.

“Kou Chongxue, there’s no escape! Leave your clone behind!” Hua Lu snorted as she directed her weapon to work together with Yun Lu to stop Kou Chongxue. The jade hill started moving again as it came crashing down on the Hidden Frost Sword.

If it truly managed to come into contact with the Hidden Frost Sword, Kou Chongxue would truly be in trouble. Hua Lu was borrowing the power of the White Deer Paradise to suppress him and even if his true body arrived, he might not be able to fight back against the pressure that came from the entire White Deer Paradise alone!

“Kou Chongxue, give up!” Yun Lu snorted as he raised his caution level to the max. He knew that Kou Chongxue would pull some moves out of desperation and he had to stop it.

A mocking laughter tore through the White Deer Paradise at that moment and Kou Chongxue’s voice boomed in the ears of both Martial Dipper Realm ancestors. “Too naive!”

Their hearts sank once they heard what he said.

Before they could realize what they left out earlier, Kou Chongxue roared in a sinister manner, “Explode!”

Boom!

A massive explosion tore through the White Deer Paradise as it trembled violently.

The world origin that stopped leaking out of the White Deer Paradise due to Kou Chongxue running away from the White Deer Spring caused the explosion. The eye of the formation shattered beyond belief from the explosion.

It seemed as though Kou Chongxue’s methods were truly vicious. He directly caused serious damage to the White Deer Paradise with that explosion. A giant hole appeared in the White Deer Paradise as energy poured out of it unceasingly. Kou Chongxue seemed to have unleashed a giant waterfall of energy over the Ji Continent with whatever he just did.

“Kou Chongxue!”

“My White Deer Paradise will not stop until we kill you, you madman!”

Hua Lu and Yun Lu roared as curses flew out of their mouths. They had no choice but to stop whatever plan they had to force him to stay. They quickly controlled the world origin in the White Deer Paradise to patch up the hole. No matter what, they couldn’t allow the White Deer Paradise to suffer more damage.

“Hahahahahahaha, Yun Lu, Hua Lu, blame yourselves for plotting against my Tongyou Institution. You brought this upon yourself!” Kou Chongxue’s annoying laughter came from the Hidden Frost Sword as it flew out of the White Deer Paradise. Without the support of the world origin, Hua Lu’s jade hill couldn’t stop him. He flung it away before shooting through the exit.

A ray of gray light emerged from the void as it tried to strike the Hidden Frost Sword.

It was too bad Kou Chongxue already expected as much. His fate dipper clone condensed above the blade before swinging his sword at the incoming gray light.

When they came into contact with each other, a huge blast covered the skies. “Old man Xuan Lu, I knew it! Haha! Who would have thought that you wouldn’t improve even after so many years? You’re still the same as before... What a disappointment!”

Raising his head, a trace of mockery could be seen in his eyes. Even so, his clone shifted slightly in mid air as he got ready to deal with any sudden change in the situation.

A figure clad in gray robes appeared not too far away and a strange look could be seen on his face when he looked at Kou Chongxue. “Kou Chongxue, you must be insane to come knocking in my White Deer Paradise. Did you solve the problem with your fate dippers?”

“Xuan Lu, I knew you were part of those assholes who came to attack me!” A frosty light flashed through Kou Chongxue’s eyes and he sneered in response.

“Everyone knew what happened to you. There’s no need to go around biting everyone you see. However, if you wish to blame me for what happened to you, I won’t deny it.” Xuan Lu growled.

The sneer on Kou Chongxue’s face grew wider but he stole another glance at the gray whip that Xuan Lu was holding in his hand before a trace of hesitation appeared in his eyes. Turning around, he started to flee again.

“Do you think you can escape after coming all the way here?!” Xuan Lu snorted once before swinging his whip again. It extended towards the Hidden Frost Sword in an attempt to trap it in mid air.

Who would have thought that Kou Chongxue would transform into a stream of light that fell into the White Deer River right before Xuan Lu’s whip could wrap itself around him?

With his eyes widening slightly, Xuan Lu’s figure flashed and he appeared above the White Deer River. “Illusory arts?!”

Muttering softly to himself, Xuan Lu’s expression quickly sank. “No... This somewhat resembles the aura of the Water Origin Fate Dipper!”

Two other figures tore through the skies to arrive beside Xuan Lu at that moment.

“Senior Brother Xuan Lu?” Hua Lu’s eyes lit up when she saw him. “Where’s that damn thief?”

Xuan Lu’s face sank once again and he looked at Yun Lu who was much weaker than before. “You separated your Water Origin Fate Dipper from yourself?!”

Chapter 349: Admiration and Recognition

“You separated your Water Origin Fate Dipper from yourself?!”

Facing Xuan Lu’s questioning, Yun Lu could only lower his head as the look in his eyes dimmed. He sighed softly, giving Xuan Lu all the response he needed to know.

A trace of anger filled Xuan Lu’s heart. That was a fate dipper they were talking about! No matter how powerful the White Deer Paradise was, it wasn’t something they could waste as they wished! Losing a fate dipper was something that caused Xuan Lu’s heart to ache!

After all, the number of fate dippers a Martial Dipper Realm expert possessed directly affected their strength. Yun Lu was originally a third element Martial Dipper Realm expert. His cultivation was second only to Xuan Lu in the White Deer Paradise, and he would be considered a powerful expert in their Azure Origin World. Even in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, he would be considered a powerhouse!

Now that he had lost a fate dipper, his foundations would definitely be affected. That would in turn affect the foundations of the White Deer Paradise. It was no wonder Xuan Lu was feeling so distressed.

While a multitude of considerations was happening in Xuan Lu's mind, Yun Lu was also complaining silently. If Xuan Lu wasn't in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion when the fight started, the three of them would be more than enough to keep Kou Chongxue from doing as he pleased in the White Deer Paradise!

Naturally, everything was clearer in hindsight. Who would have thought that their mission would fail and Kou Chongxue would show up personally? He even possessed so much fighting strength!

"Things are getting troublesome..." Xuan Lu didn't bother blaming Yun Lu for what had happened. Instead, he looked around at the White Deer Paradise and he sighed, "We might not know what method he used to recover from his supposed irreversible state of injury, but now that he can fight again, the Beyond Heavens Pavilion is going to get busy... Since he obtained the Water Origin Fate Dipper, he might even grow stronger than before... Hehehe. Looks like we not only got out foundations stolen from us, we even helped our enemy grow stronger! We're going to turn into a laughing stock in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion!"

Hua Lu's expression became a little awkward when she saw the look on Yun Lu's face and she quickly chirped in. "Senior Brother, even if Kou Chongxue recovered, our White Deer Paradise wouldn't be the only one panicking. When the event happened years ago, those experts in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion were also responsible for it. They could deal with him once, and we can definitely deal with him again!"

Xuan Lu glanced at her before chiding her mercilessly. "Do you think Kou Chongxue is mentally challenged or something? Will he allow himself to fall twice in the same place? Moreover, it's not like he doesn't have allies in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion either!"

Xuan Lu felt his anger and irritation dissipating slightly when he looked at Hua Lu, his precious junior sister who eventually managed to enter the Martial Dipper Realm successfully. His tone lightened up slightly as he continued, "When they ambushed him the first time, many of them had their reservations. After learning that his injuries were in an irreversible state and that he had become a cripple, many of them were pressured into leaving him alone. Even though all of them have no idea of the extent of his recovery, we cannot deny that Kou Chongxue has regained his ability to fight. He will definitely be able to make use of his connections and favors in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion once he truly sets his mind to it."

Hua Lu was so surprised that she couldn't say a word in response.

Only after some time did Yun Lu speak up. "Senior Brother Xuan Lu, what do we do now?"

"Protect the sect. I'll have to make another trip to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion." Xuan Lu sighed.

However, Hua Lu interrupted, "Senior Brother, are you really going to leave now? What if Kou Chongxue..."

With his patience worn thin, Xuan Lu snapped, “If the two of you allow him to barge in even after your preparations, forget about defending the White Deer Paradise. Just disband the sect and go into seclusion.”

After he spoke, his figure started to blur and he disappeared.

Seeing the look of worry on Hua Lu’s face, Yun Lu quickly reassured her, “Junior Sister, rest assured. Kou Chongxue was only able to enter earlier because he took advantage of the route we used to channel the world origin. We were caught off guard. The two of us are more than capable of stopping him. After all, we’re stronger than you think!”

“Senior Brother Yun, actually... I’m quite envious of him...” Hua Lu sighed all of a sudden.

Raising an eyebrow in shock, Yun Lu asked, “Why is that?”

“Look... Kou Chongxue can enter our Ji Continent as he wishes.” Hua Lu sighed.

Even though Yun Lu’s expression changed slightly, he didn’t say anything in response. He knew what she was driving at. Kou Chongxue merely sent a clone over with his Hidden Frost Sword and beat them to the point a massive hole was blown in their holy land. If he recovers fully and kills his way over, what were they supposed to do?

Hua Lu didn’t seem to see the ugly expression forming on Yun Lu’s face and she continued, “Compared to that guy, the two of us are trapped in this place all our lives. Even if we wish to leave, we can only remain in the confines of our Ji Continent or the Beyond Heavens Pavilion...”

“Junior Sister, don’t say any more...”

“I know.” Hua Lu smiled before she continued, “I have no other intentions. I had the chance to be like him in the past. However, I was too afraid to fail and chose to borrow the power of our White Deer Paradise to advance...”

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...

It was true that Kou Chongxue had borrowed the power of the Water Origin Fate Dipper. Not only was he able to prolong the time he could stay in the White Deer Paradise, but it also allowed him to leave in one piece!

As the Hidden Frost Sword returned from the way it came from, it destroyed everything in its path. He didn’t wish to leave a way for those from the Ji Continent to intrude into the You Continent.

In the spirit cave under the Changfeng City... Shang Xia, who had been observing Shang Pei while restoring his Crimson Soul Tablet, could feel the subtle changes happening in the water level when Kou Chongxue smashed a hole through the White Deer Paradise earlier. The surge in world origin caused Shang Xia’s thoughts to run wild.

Did the old patriarch demolish the White Deer Paradise or something? Why the hell did the world origin increase suddenly?!

Well, he wasn’t wrong.

When his thoughts were still running wild, a sharp whistle filled the underground cavern as the Hidden Frost Sword returned.

Even though the Hidden Frost Sword hadn't arrived, the sharp ringing was already causing Shang Xia's mind to buzz.

Not too afraid for himself, Shang Xia couldn't help but worry about Shang Pei who was undergoing her breakthrough. His divine sense surrounded her in an attempt to isolate her from the disturbance.

Despite his efforts, Shang Pei revealed a bitter look as the aura she emitted fluctuated unsteadily.

Strengthening the barrier of divine sense around her, Shang Xia tried to isolate the sharp ringing as much as he could. Her pained expression slowly eased, and Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief. It seemed as though his Shang Clan would be able to produce yet another Martial Extermination Realm expert.

Also, Shang Xia realized that the terrifying events were about to draw to a close now that Kou Chongxue was returning. Pressing his lips together, Shang Xia rubbed his chin with slight discontent.

The third crack on his Crimson Soul Tablet hasn't fully healed. Close to a third of it still remained on the surface of the tablet.

Shang Xia couldn't help but feel slightly reluctant that everything was about to end. He used so much world origin in the spirit cave, but he wasn't able to fully restore the damage to the tablet! He didn't know when another chance would come, but he knew that it wouldn't be anytime soon.

He also discovered that with his increase in cultivation level, any change he wanted to make on the Crimson Soul Tablet took up a lot more energy than before. If he didn't hasten the recovery of the tablet, it would probably crumble the next time he deduced the road for his future cultivation! When that happened, his fate could be imagined.

The more he thought about it, the cloudier his expression became. He didn't realize that the whistling had already stopped and the water had already returned to its original state.

When he finally snapped back to reality, he discovered that Kou Chongxue's clone had appeared in the spirit cave. He held his sword behind him as he stared at the kid.

"Patriarch!" Leaping to his feet, Shang Xia gave the man a greeting.

Waving slightly, Kou Chongxue's gaze landed on Shang Pei not too far away. "You actually gave someone else your Yin Water Mysterious Extermination Origin and the set of advancement medicine... Looks like your relationship isn't as simple as it seems..."

His words seemed really casual, and Shang Xia didn't know if it was because his trip to the Ji Continent yielded great results or if he couldn't be bothered with a mere Martial Extermination Realm expert.

Shang Xia quickly explained himself, "This... This is disciple's third aunt. She's not some random person I came across..."

“Oh?” Turning to look at her carefully, he seemed to have unlocked a memory that was deep in his mind. “I think I have some impression of her. She fell out with your grandfather in the past and ran away from home. Wow... You actually found her?”

Shang Xia didn't understand Kou Chongxue's stance on the matter but he didn't dare to lie either. “Third Aunt has been part of the Eighteen Horsemen of the You Continent the whole time...”

Nodding slowly, Kou Chongxue sighed. “Then I guess it's not a waste that you gave her those stuff then.”

Shang Xia felt a trace of relief washing over his heart as though he avoided some sort of calamity after hearing what Kou Chongxue said.

However, it didn't seem as though he was placed in any sort of dangerous situation... Could it be?! Was it because of his Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter?

Patriarch Kou seems angry that I gave her the extermination origin and advancement medicine! It didn't matter that she was my third aunt... He only backed off after hearing that she was part of the Eighteen Horsemen...

He only said that it wasn't a waste after hearing that, and it seemed as though he had finally approved of his actions... It seemed as though Patriarch Kou had some knowledge of the Eighteen Horsemen of the You Continent...

Kou Chongxue's voice boomed in his mind all of a sudden. “Large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm! Your body is bloated with inner qi and you seem to have touched on your martial intent... Show me your comprehension!”

Chapter 350: Divine Killing Spear

“Alright, give me your all! Show me what you comprehended!” Kou Chongxue didn't know of the existence of his Crimson Soul Tablet, and that Shang Xia could comprehend his third martial intent any time he wished.

However, he could feel everything else. He could tell that Shang Xia was a mere step away from entering the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm!

Under such circumstances, Kou Chongxue was more than willing to give Shang Xia some pointers for him to take the last step!

He might have the guidance of the Crimson Soul Tablet, but Shang Xia knew that it wasn't every day that a Martial Dipper Realm expert would give him pointers. Not to mention the person giving him pointers was the tyrannical Kou Chongxue. He was more than happy to display everything he learned.

Glancing at Shang Pei, Shang Xia realized that the spirit cave wasn't big enough for him to display his technique without disturbing her.

Kou Chongxue naturally noticed his hesitation and he smiled. “Relax. Just give it your all.”

Shang Xia didn't have a reason to doubt the patriarch and the Scarlet Star Spear quickly appeared in his hand. Grunting softly, Shang Xia's spear stabbed at Kou Chongxue.

A frown appeared on Kou Chongxue's face as he waved his sleeve in front of him.

The spear Shang Xia sent out contained the essence of his first three moves and the moment it was unleashed, his inner qi almost flowed in reverse. Luckily, his Origin True Qi wasn't any ordinary type of qi. He quickly managed to calm his flow of qi.

Kou Chongxue snapped at him, "Hmph, that's just controlling your inner qi better than other Martial Intent Realm cultivators. Your spear might be fast, but the energy contained in it isn't properly concentrated! What are you playing at? Do you think you're an ordinary cultivator? Again!"

Shang Xia glanced over at Shang Pei and after realizing that she wasn't affected by the fluctuations of heaven and earth qi, his divine sense gathered on Kou Chongxue's clone.

Naturally, the Martial Dipper Realm Kou Chongxue escaped the lock-on almost immediately. However, he gasped in shock before distorting away. His sleeve which hadn't completely emerged from the void flickered once before slowly gathering again.

Shang Xia was honestly disappointed when he saw what happened. After all, he was using his sixth move, Flow Recompensation as the base of his move. He fused both his fourth and fifth moves together with it. With the properties of the Woundless Spear, he was certain that he would be able to injure even Martial Extermination Realm experts. However, he couldn't even touch the patriarch's clothes.

Of course, the backlash came quickly. A small wound appeared on his shoulder and dyed his robes red.

Kou Chongxue's surprised gasp came from another direction. "This... This... This is a sure-hit skill!"

With his pride greatly damaged, Shang Xia sighed, "Didn't I miss? What are you talking about?"

Kou Chongxue laughed hoarsely in response. "Damn kid, don't you know that this is just a clone? What am I supposed to do? Find some blood and let it flow out from wherever you hit me?"

Shang Xia recalled the flickering earlier around near Kou Chongxue's left arm.

"This move is strange indeed. It's almost invincible. You will definitely injure whoever you aim at, and the power contained in it is nothing to scoff at. It will definitely rank in the highest ranks of martial intents. However, you left out your divine sense. You haven't unleashed its full potential!"

One had to say that Kou Chongxue's evaluation was spot on. It seemed as though the old patriarch was pretty familiar with the Shang Clan's Providence Spear Art.

Without Kou Chongxue urging him on a second time, Shang Xia unleashed his next move. The spirit cave and the space contained in it trembled violently.

"Nice!" Kou Chongxue's eyes lit up and he couldn't help but praise Shang Xia's third move.

When Shang Xia was starting to worry that he was going to disturb Shang Pei's advancement, Kou Chongxue casually waved the Hidden Frost Sword to separate the space around her from them.

After combining his seventh to ninth move, Shang Xia was finally able to affect space. That shocked Kou Chongxue so much that he gasped earlier. However, Shang Xia noticed that Kou Chongxue's casual slice affected the space way more efficiently and forcefully while also shattering the effects of his third strike.

"That's an intricate move. It's able to affect space like Martial Extermination Realm experts. You're much stronger than Shang Bo when he was at your cultivation level!"

Despite Kou Chongxue's praise, Shang Xia wasn't feeling it.

The three moves he unleashed weren't his martial intent, but he wasn't planning on hiding his true comprehension from Kou Chongxue. He truly wanted the patriarch's pointers, and those moves contained the essence of his Nine Providence Spears.

After all, he didn't wish to rely on the Crimson Soul Tablet too heavily. Deepening his comprehension would never go wrong. Another reason was that he was feeling a little threatened by the number of cracks that had formed on the tablet.

He wanted to deepen his comprehension as much as he could in order to reduce the burden on his Crimson Soul Tablet when he comprehended his martial intent in the future!

The three moves he released against Kou Chongxue weren't useless after all. It allowed him to deepen his understanding a little more. He had a sudden realization that the more refined his technique was, the stronger his Heaven Startling Spear would be when he comprehended it.

His dantian started to rotate as the inner qi in his body circulated crazily. His spear started to buzz as he raised his spear again. Stabbing outwards, the space that Kou Chongxue separated popped like a bubble.

"Huh? This appear..." Kou Chongxue revealed a look of shock as he drew three horizontal lines in the air. Three individual screens that separated the space between them formed.

However, Shang Xia's spear seemed to ignore every single obstruction in its way as it continued to stab at Kou Chongxue.

The casual smile on Kou Chongxue's face had disappeared and it was replaced with a solemn expression. He wasn't admiring the move and giving his criticisms like before. Raising his sword, he slashed at the spear that was headed his way!

The fourth move Shang Xia displayed actually struck Kou Chongxue's sword physically!

"Bang!" A crisp ringing sound filled the spirit cave and two of the three screens Kou Chongxue made earlier shattered. The last one twisted violently, but it eventually managed to keep its shape.

Lowering his sword, the space around Kou Chongxue fluctuated violently before condensing slowly. He stared at Shang Xia as a thoughtful light flashed in his eyes.

“Your spear...” Instead of completing his sentence, Kou Chongxue changed his line of questioning. “How many moves did you come up with from your comprehension of the Providence Spear Art?!”

“Nine.” Shang Xia didn’t plan on hiding it anyway.

“It’s no wonder... Have you thought of a name for the move you just used?” Kou Chongxue asked.

Forcing a smile, Shang Xia muttered somewhat sheepishly, “Heaven Startling Spear...”

Gruntly softly, Kou Chongxue fell deep into thought for a moment before he continued, “You can sunder the soul and destroy their physical bodies with that spear you just unleashed... Why not call it the Divine Killing Spear?”