

The Heavens 371

Chapter 371: Opening the Spatial Tunnel (cont)

The first group of experts was still waiting for the signal to enter the spatial tunnel as the Martial Extermination Realm experts did their thing.

However, they weren't exactly idle. The world origin that escaped from the spatial barrier turned into pure heaven and earth qi that filled the air.

Shang Xia wasn't the only one who came into contact with world origin in the past. There were many cultivators who were stuck at their respective bottlenecks and they absorbed as much heaven and earth qi as they could during the process.

When that was happening, Shang Xia discovered someone peculiar. The heaven and earth qi that came from the chaotic world origin seemed to be affected by some sort of suction force and a huge portion of them were pulled into the depths of the Tongyou Institution.

He could tell that the Tongyou Mysterious World was the one that produced the suction force, but surprisingly, it wasn't absorbing the heaven and earth qi for itself. Instead, it was increasing the density of the heaven and earth qi in the institution.

With the departure of those in the Martial Extermination Realm, the atmosphere became a lot more relaxed. There were many who started absorbing heaven and earth qi but there was also a portion of them who started chatting with each other.

Shang Xia's attention was focused on the beam of light that emerged from the Tongyou Mysterious World, but he managed to catch some of what those around him were saying.

"Senior Brother Yuan, is the spatial barrier becoming weaker?"

"Senior Brother Qian has been roaming outside for quite some time now. Did you hear something about it?"

Shang Xia felt his heart trembling slightly and he could guess who those people referred to.

'Senior Brother Yuan' was probably Yuan Zhen of the Protection Division and 'Senior Brother Qian' was probably Qian Sitong of the Outreach Division. Yuan Zhen was the more recognizable of the two as Qian Sitong was usually stationed outside the institution to look for intelligence. It was said that he's been roaming around the various continents of the Azure Origin World when he wasn't back in the institution.

The discussion among them quickly entered Shang Xia's ears again.

"Nonsense! I only heard about the weakening of the spatial barrier from the higher ups of the institution. However, those also seemed like rumors that were floating around. Brother Yuan, you're the head of the Protection Division and should know a lot more about this..."

“AI... Brother Qian must be kidding. Only the true experts of the institution would be able to confirm this. I’m not in the Martial Extermination Realm and the institution wouldn’t tell me these things for no reason.”

“Brother Yuan, you mean...”

“I’m close to breaking through to the Martial Extermination Realm. Why don’t we join forces and fight together in the battlefield between the two worlds?”

After a short period of silence, the eighth blast came from deep within the spatial tunnel before Qian Sitong gave his answer. “I’m honored that Brother Yuan is willing to work with me but there are so many other experts in the Martial Intent Realm who are going to take part in the war. Why did you choose me as your ally?”

“Brother Qian, is there a need to ask something you already know the answer to?”

“Hehe... It hasn’t been long since I returned and there are some things I don’t know. I hope Brother Yuan can enlighten me...”

“Brother Qian, you’re being dishonest here. Why would you remain in the institution after the war? As one of the heads of the Outreach Division, there is no way you haven’t heard of it.”

“Brother Yuan, you seem to be mistaken. I really don’t know anything! I received Deputy Patriarch Yun’s order to remain here as we’re lacking in manpower to start another war after opening the spatial tunnel again.

Yuan Zhen frowned and snapped, “Since Brother Qian is unwilling to admit it, I’ll lay it out for you. I hope this can allow you to see my sincerity.”

“Alright!”

“Brother Qian, do you know what happened after the war for the Tongyou Mysterious World? Each of the four great clans managed to obtain an extermination origin. Other than the Shang Clan, the other clans had already produced another Martial Extermination Realm expert.”

“I know about that. I can see three more additions to those in the Martial Extermination Realm from the four great clans.”

Yuan Zhen didn’t stop there. “That’s not the point here. Anyway, Zhang Haogu and Gu Shou also managed to enter the Martial Extermination Realm. As for the Shang Clan, it doesn’t matter whether or not they produce another Martial Extermination Realm expert. They already have two to begin with.”

Qian Sitong muttered, “I heard that if not for Gu Shou suffering from serious injuries in the Coral Forest, the Shang Clan Patriarch wouldn’t have been the one to break through...”

A sneer appeared on Yuan Zhen's face. "See, I knew you had an idea of what happened. Anyway, I'm trying to say that it's unfair that the four great clans managed to get one strand of extermination origin each while our institution only received two."

Qian Sitong didn't reply immediately. Instead, he paused for a second and continued, "That's actually a little unfair. Even though the four great clans greatly contributed to the institution's victory, it's a little unfair for all the benefits to go to them... Looks like there are some problems with the higher ups of the institution..."

Chuckling softly, Yuan Zhen added, "That was what I thought too. However, Deputy Patriarchs Ji and Yun did the same thing as Deputy Patriarch Shang and relieved themselves of their position in their respective clans to focus on the institution. As the Division Masters of the Protection Division and the Outreach Division, Deputy Patriarch Ji and Deputy Patriarch Yun seem to be planning to pass down their positions to worthy individuals too..."

The last part of his revelation seemed to have truly shocked Qian Sitong. After a period of silence, Qian Sitong finally snapped back to reality. "Is this true? If what you say is truly the case, the institution's act of giving each great clan a strand of extermination origin wouldn't be exaggerated at all!"

"Heh, Brother Qian, the position of the Division Master..."

"Haha, I'm not qualified to take on the position as the Division Master of the Outreach Division! At least not yet. However, Brother Yuan Zhen, it wouldn't be a stretch if you were to take over the Protection Division!" Qian Sitong roared with laughter suddenly.

With his tone dropping slightly, he growled, "Brother Qian, do you think the position of a Division Master in our Tongyou Institution would go to anyone under the Martial Extermination Realm?"

Sighing softly, Qian Sitong finally gave Yuan Zhen the reply he wanted. "Brother Yuan, I understand. Now that we're going to attack the battlefield between the two worlds..."

"This will determine if we can advance into the Martial Extermination Realm and take on the roles of the Division Masters of our respective divisions! What do you say?" Yuan Zhen growled once again.

"Here's to our pleasant cooperation!" Qian Sitong muttered softly.

Even though they didn't transmit their voices directly to each other, they surrounded themselves with a barrier made from their divine senses. Not many people would be able to eavesdrop on them.

However, they would never expect that there would be someone who could listen in to their entire conversation without alerting either one of them!

Shang Xia discovered that since he comprehended the Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter, the degree of fusion with the world around him increased. He was able to bypass their divine sense barrier without much problems and he also discovered a more terrifying fact. The greater his insights into the Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter, he would be able to transform the aura around him to disguise himself!

The ninth burst of light emerged from the Tongyou Mysterious World, shooting straight into the spatial tunnel when their conversation concluded. A loud blast unlike any of the eight that happened before it resounded in the ears of everyone present.

Snapping back to reality, Shang Xia realized that the time had come.

A thick stream of heaven and earth qi poured out from the tunnel all of a sudden as the density of heaven and earth qi in their surroundings increased several folds.

Shang Bo's voice came from within the tunnel and raised the curtains of the impending battle. "The spatial tunnel has been connected! Everyone, enter the battlefield between the two worlds and get ready for battle!"

As soon as he spoke, huge energy fluctuations came from within the spatial barrier.

Chapter 372: Going In

When the Tongyou Institution carried out their plan to establish the Tongyou Mysterious World, they naturally evacuated everyone from the battlefield between the two worlds.

During the great war for the Tongyou Mysterious World, they closed off the spatial tunnel to avoid facing the Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Azure Spiritual World. That resulted in the battlefield between the two worlds falling into the hands of the four great races of the Liao Continent in the Azure Spiritual World.

They were naturally unwilling to let the Tongyou Institution enter the battlefield between the two worlds to fight with them for benefits again.

After the spatial tunnel was shut off, the Azure Spiritual World had been preparing to launch a frightening offensive on the Tongyou Institution the moment they reopened the spatial tunnel. As such, the war that was about to happen didn't come as a surprise!

The experts of the Azure Spiritual World heard the commotion when the Tongyou Institution carved the spatial tunnel out with the power from the Tongyou Mysterious World, and they were more than ready to start the battle.

They knew where the tunnel would connect and they had long since reinforced the area to suppress the members of the Tongyou Institution the moment they crossed over.

With Shang Bo in the lead, close to ten Martial Extermination Realm experts emerged from the tunnel. Their main objective was to slaughter and make a powerful entrance for the rest of the members of the Tongyou Institution to enter.

When those back at the entrance of the tunnel heard the commotion coming from within, they finally revealed looks of fear and worry. A moment later, the fluctuations coming from the battlefield between the two worlds seemed to die down a little.

Those waiting at the entrance seemed to have discovered something and many people cheered. "We forced those bastards from the Azure Spiritual World to retreat!"

From the sounds of battle coming from within the tunnel, it seemed as though the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the institution were smoothly fighting their way deeper into the battlefield. However, it could also be a trap laid down by the other side to bait their experts deeper into foreign territory.

There were many Martial Intent Realm experts who started making their way into the tunnel, but they were stopped by Peng Lanqing.

“Stop right there!”

When they turned to stare at him with expressions of confusion, he quickly explained his actions. “The shockwaves of the battle caused by those at the Martial Extermination Realm are massive. Not to mention there are definitely more than ten of them fighting in there now. If we run in now, we might be killed before we know what happened. It would be an unnecessary loss!”

Instructors of the institution were on the same level as deacons of the various divisions and due to the emphasis and nurturing the institution had on instructors, they seemed to possess authority higher than others at the same level.

Peng Lanqing might be an instructor of the Outer Division, but even deacons like Qian Sitong, Yuan Zhen, Song You, and Yu Duhe respected him enough to listen to his orders.

The reason behind that was simple. Deacons of their various divisions might be important in their own right, but instructors were the ones who taught many students of various generations in the institution. Many of those who became deacons would even address Peng Lanqing as their teacher when they saw him around.

In the absence of Martial Extermination Realm experts, Peng Lanqing’s words would be the law.

After several minutes had passed and the energy fluctuations were no longer as violent as they were, everyone could feel that the battle was no longer concentrated at the other end of the spatial tunnel. Everyone turned to stare at Peng Lanqing as if waiting for an order.

His gaze never left the spatial tunnel and after he was satisfied that the other side was safe, he roared loudly without turning his head. “Deacons, heads, and instructors of the institution, follow me into the tunnel! Everyone is to follow behind at a safe distance!”

As soon as he spoke, he rushed into the tunnel.

Yuan Zhen, Qian Sitong, Song You, Yu Duhe, and various other experts of the institution followed closely behind him. Behind them were the others in the first group.

Sun Haiwei’s voice suddenly rang in Shang Xia’s ears as they were making their way into the tunnel. “Junior Brother Shang, are you really not going to stick with us after we enter the battlefield between the two worlds?”

After thinking for a second, Shang Xia found no reason to lie to her. He replied to her sincerely, “I am thankful for Senior Sister Sun and Senior Brother Tian’s kind intentions. However, my objective is to train myself and to look for opportunities now that we are entering the battlefield between the two worlds. We won’t be able to help each other out in any aspect when we look for our opportunities and it will be better for me to move alone!”

Seeing as he had already made up his mind, Sun Haiwei and Tian Mengzi knew that there was no point in saying more. As such, they nodded to acknowledge his stance before wishing him luck.

Nodding back at them, Shang Xia unleashed his Irregular Steps and disappeared from his original position.

Tian Mengzi and Sun Haiwei looked at each other and seemed to be at a loss for words. Only after some time did Tian Mengzi break the silence. “Haiwei, how strong do you think he is right now?”

After a short moment of hesitation, Sun Haiwei muttered, “He’s using some sort of secret technique to mask his cultivation and it’s not easy to see through it. From his confidence and his objective, he has definitely completed all three divine sense transformations. He should be in the large completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm, but it’s also likely that he has already stepped into the grand completion stage.”

“So... If he’s at the large completion stage, do you think he’s planning on using this opportunity to comprehend his third martial intent and step into the grand completion stage?” Tian Mengzi sucked in a cold breath. “That’s a little too fast, isn’t it? I feel that he should have just entered the large completion stage... He might cultivate quickly, but he wouldn’t be at the stage of comprehending his martial intent! I heard that the Shang Clan Spear Art is really unique anyway. Everyone has their own comprehension and they will have to come up with their own moves. I wonder how many moves Junior Brother Shang came up with...”

“I heard that Deputy Patriarch Shang Bo developed seven moves with his comprehension before stepping into the Martial Extermination Realm. With Junior Brother Shang’s monstrous talent, he should also have developed seven moves at the very least.” Sun Haiwei tilted her head to the side and muttered to herself.

Sighing, Tian Mengzi continued, “If he already developed seven moves, wouldn’t that mean that he would be at least the same level as Deputy Patriarch Shang when he advances? Many people out there are saying that Deputy Patriarch Shang Bo is a talent comparable to Patriarch Kou. It’s said that his combat abilities have already surpassed Deputy Patriarch Ji even though they’re at the same level. Wouldn’t that mean that after our Tongyou Institution takes over the entire You Continent, the Shang Clan might possibly become the next powerhouse like the Zhu Family?!”

Sun Haiwei lowered her voice and sighed, “Deputy Patriarch Shang Bo has already given up on his position as the Shang Clan Patriarch. Strictly speaking, we cannot consider him when we think about the Shang Clan’s influence...”

Shaking his head slowly, Tian Mengzi was clearly unconvinced that Shang Bo would really give up all connection with the Shang Clan. Like the other deputy patriarchs who stepped down from their roles in their clan. If a calamity struck and threatened the survival of their clan, there was no way they would stand by idly at the side.

“Enough of that nonsense. We’re already falling behind a little. We need to get in there and help the rest out!” Sun Haiwei snapped at him suddenly after discovering that they were near the back of the group that was headed into the battlefield between the two worlds.

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Even though Shang Xia was at the back of the group when they started moving, he managed to overtake many people with his Irregular Steps.

He didn't forget to spread his divine sense around to scout for any trouble while looking for traces of world essence as he made his way forward.

Unfortunately, the world essence around him was too thin and there was no point in absorbing them.

Seemingly having thought of something, Shang Xia slowed down and pressed his hand on the spatial barrier and tried to communicate with the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness. He wanted to see if it could absorb world origin from within the barrier, but evidently, it wasn't possible.

Since he wasn't able to pierce through the barrier and absorb the world origin himself, the tablet was obviously unable to. The Crimson Soul Tablet had the ability to suck up world origin, but it needed Shang Xia as a medium.

After thinking about it, he slammed his palm heavily into the barrier, causing it to tremble slightly. His action attracted the attention of many experts around him.

"Hmph, you're overestimating yourself." Song You sneered as he passed Shang Xia.

However, there was someone else who stopped to turn to Shang Xia. "The spatial barrier around the tunnel has been reinforced by formations and the energy of the Martial Extermination Realm experts who passed by. You can't break it unless you enter the Martial Extermination Realm. Also, the stability of this spatial tunnel will affect the success of our operation of establishing ourselves back in the battlefield between the two worlds. Please don't try anything to jeopardize our mission."

Turning to look at him, Shang Xia noticed that the person who gave him the explanation was a middle-aged man who seemed to be sporting a little pot-belly.

Realizing how inappropriate his actions were, Shang Xia quickly thanked the man. "Many thanks for senior's explanations. I was too rash and didn't consider the severity of my actions. How can I address you?"

"Hahaha, I am Mu Jiansheng of the Mu Family. I believe you should come from the Shang Clan?" The pot-bellied man chuckled in response.

It's him!

Shang Xia gasped silently before bowing his head slightly. "As it turns out, you're Uncle Mu! I am indeed from the Shang Clan. You can call me Shang Xia."

The middle-aged man's gaze lingered on Shang Xia as a look of satisfaction appeared on his face. "Not bad, not bad at all! You deserve your reputation indeed. I heard that you were promoted with my daughter and you're both in the Upper Division now. I believe the two of you will interact more in the future."

"Naturally..." Shang Xia released an awkward laugh and started to shift his gaze.

"This is going to be a dangerous battle. You should take care of yourself. Staying alive trumps everything, do not go out of your way to take any unnecessary risks." Mu Jiansheng gave Shang Xia another piece of advice before rushing towards the battlefield between the two worlds.

Seeing that the man had left, Shang Xia slowly retracted his hand that was still on the spatial barrier. Several cracks that he was hiding earlier started to restore itself.

Chapter 373: Charge!

As soon as he stepped out of the spatial tunnel, Shang Xia felt a rush of heaven and earth qi hitting him in the face.

His divine sense allowed him to sense the occasional fluctuations of heaven and earth qi and looking into the distance, he could see the phenomena that occurred when Martial Intent Realm experts died.

Even further out, there was a massive pillar of bloody light that filled the skies. That was a sign of the death of a Martial Extermination Realm expert. In the short minutes that passed, a Martial Extermination Realm expert had already fallen!

If things were like before, the experts of both worlds would probably call a ceasefire. After all, the death of a Martial Extermination Realm expert would signify a huge loss in battle power for either side.

Now, the death of a Martial Extermination Realm expert only served to raise the bloodlust of those who were fighting.

Feeling a sudden sense of danger, Shang Xia turned to stare in a certain direction. A yell came from the distance. "Be careful!"

Shang Xia could also hear a satisfied chuckle tens of feet away.

A smile appeared on Shang Xia's face as he casually twisted his right wrist. A ray of reddish-gold lightning emerged from his index finger and shattered the silver pellet that was flying at him into dust.

The person who cautioned Shang Xia a moment ago wasn't the only one who was shocked. It seemed as though the opponent who sent out the sneak attack was equally as frightened as he stopped fighting and turned to escape.

"Hehe, do you think you have a chance to run away now? It would be rude of me to not repay the favor..." Shang Xia sneered as a metal bow appeared in his left hand. An arrow was already nocked and he drew the bow without hesitation. His divine sense locked onto the escaping figure as he released the bowstring. A loud whistle tore through the skies as a black light sped into the distance.

The person who sneak attacked Shang Xia earlier seemed to realize they would be unable to dodge the arrow no matter what. Turning around hastily, he slammed a blown lash downwards with all his might.

With a loud snap, Shang Xia's arrow exploded into several tiny fragments.

However, the sneaky attacker wasn't able to escape unscathed. He was sent flying through the air. Before he landed, he spat out several mouthfuls of blood.

The person who warned Shang Xia earlier seemed to have sensed an opportunity and he leaped forward, smashing a palm into the head of the cultivator of the Azure Spiritual World.

Shang Xia felt a sense of disappointment when he saw what happened earlier. He found it to be a pity as the arrow he shot out was clearly not what he expected. Since his strength took a huge leap forward, the bow seemed to be a little weak.

If only he had a mid-grade bow, the arrow would have killed the cultivator of the Azure Spiritual World.

Of course, that could only remain as a thought for the time being. Shang Xia hadn't really seen mid-grade bows being used and bows seemed to be a less common weapon in general.

Regardless, severely injuring that cultivator from the Azure Spiritual World seemed to be a massive achievement. He saw many shadows scattering into the distance while he kept the bow.

The person who warned Shang Xia earlier quickly made his way back with a slingshot in his hand and a storage case. "Young Master Shang, I managed to kill that person easily thanks to you. I believe that his items belong to you..."

Shang Xia didn't accept the items. Instead, he raised his eyebrows in confusion. "Do you know me? How may I address you?"

When the first group entered the spatial tunnel earlier, they further split themselves up into four different groups. Shang Xia, Sun Haiwei, and Tian Mengzi were part of the fourth squad that entered, but with his movement skills, Shang Xia entered the battlefield between the two worlds at the same time as the third squad.

The cultivators that made up the third batch were a little different. They were mostly made up of scattered cultivators who had a good track record with the institution and Shang Xia didn't recognize most of them. He was truly taken aback when the man called him 'Young Master Shang'.

"You can call me Che Yihang. I'm a wandering cultivator who lives outside the city. I've seen you back in the Changfeng City and that's how I know you." Che Yihang laughed. He quickly continued, "I was fighting with him earlier and I had been suppressed the whole way. He managed to find an opportunity to carry out a sneak attack but Young Master Shang's skills are immaculate. You managed to react quickly, allowing me to reverse the situation and kill him easily!"

Shang Xia nodded slightly and continued, "Alright, since we killed him together, I'll only take the slingshot. You can keep the storage case."

Reaching out to grab the weapon, Shang Xia left the case for Che Yihang.

A look of joy appeared in his eyes and he chuckled happily, "Then... Many thanks! I won't stand on ceremony then."

Keeping the case carefully, he looked carefully around him and muttered, "The cultivators of the Azure Spiritual World seem prepared. They attacked me the moment I left the spatial tunnel. Luckily for me, you helped to take care of that guy. The others who were with him seem to have escaped..."

"Since they're nearby, I should take the chance to kill a few more of them." Shang Xia muttered before turning to leave.

“My strength is limited and I will be a liability if I follow you. I should travel with the experts of the institution. Farewell!” Che Yihang waved his hand at Shang Xia’s leaving figure.

Both of them unleashed their movement skills as they traveled in opposite directions.

When they were a fair distance away from each other, Shang Xia turned to look in the direction Che Yihang left and a smile appeared on his face. It seemed as though he was pretty self-aware. He didn’t bother dragging things out when taking his leave either.

Glancing at the slingshot in his hand, Shang Xia whistled softly. It was another low-grade weapon and even though it seemed intricately crafted, it wasn’t exactly an exceptional weapon. It couldn’t even be compared to the bow he was using earlier. In his hands, the slingshot was nothing more than scrap metal.

Naturally, that only applied to Shang Xia. He was the only one in the Martial Intent Realm who could scoff at a low-grade weapon. Anyone else would treat it like a precious treasure.

One could tell how important a low-grade weapon was from how Wu Tingfang wanted to trade a near-complete set of rank two manuals for it.

Refocusing on his objective, Shang Xia reminded himself that his main objective was to look for remnant world origin. Of course, that was his end goal. He didn’t mind clearing out the trash around the exit of the spatial tunnel to ensure that cultivators who entered later would be able to stay relatively safe.

He would benefit the most when the institution suppressed those from the Azure Spiritual World. Only then would he be able to travel around with the reassurance that he had enough time to look for the world origin he desired.

He wasn’t delusional in thinking that they would eventually be able to suppress those from the Azure Spiritual World. In fact, it was because he was confident in the strength the institution possessed. Well, most of it stemmed from himself in the first place.

With his current combat capabilities, he knew that it was close to impossible for anyone under the Martial Extermination Realm to pose a threat to him. Since it was more likely for him to be randomly attacked by Martial Extermination Realm experts when the situation was chaotic, he decided to quell the chaos to the best of his abilities. Since he was a near-invincible existence around the exit of the spatial tunnel, he would force the situation to stabilize! When the Tongyou Institution had complete control over their territory, he would be able to leave with the reassurance that the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Azure Spiritual World would be dealt with by those of the institution.

Looking into the distance, he wondered who was the Martial Extermination Realm expert who fell.

Deciding on the direction he wanted to start his massacre, he no longer held back and ran over at top speed.

His divine sense was a lot stronger than cultivators at the same level and with his comprehension of the Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter, he could sense where other cultivators were with a higher level of accuracy.

After traveling out a little, he quickly discovered energy fluctuations in the air and locked on to a battle that was happening not too far away.

Hiding his aura, he sneaked over without being discovered. His divine sense was also operating at full capacity and he tried to observe the battle with it. Surprisingly, one of the cultivators who was locked in battle was someone he was familiar with.

There was no need to think about who he should help at that point. Leaping up close to twenty feet into the air, Shang Xia managed to hover in the air by manipulating the heaven and earth qi around him.

No longer hiding his presence, his divine sense descended in a giant wave and crashed into the cultivator of the Azure Spiritual World.

“What?!” The cultivator of the Azure Spiritual World was clearly an experienced fighter. The moment a third divine sense appeared, he already started to make his retreat. Unfortunately, it was too late.

Raising his head, he saw a figure suspended in mid air and his heart turned cold. “**Martial Extermination!**”

Shang Xia might be no Marital Extermination Realm expert, but he was damn close to one. The heaven and earth qi around him swarmed into his bow in an endless tide as a chilly light emerged after he released the bowstring.

The streak of light pierced through the cultivator from the Azure Spiritual World like he was nothing. Just like that, a Martial Intent Realm expert from the Azure Spiritual World who experienced a second divine sense transformation was killed.

Since Shang Xia wasn't a Martial Extermination Realm expert, he couldn't remain suspended in mid air without the help of heaven and earth qi. The heaven and earth qi that supported him in the air went into the arrow he shot, and he promptly started falling to the ground.

Casually sending a slap towards the ground before he could slam into it, he managed to land gracefully.

“Oh my, is this the Sixth Young Master of the Shang Clan? I am Zhao Fengchun and I thank Young Master Shang for the assistance!” Zhao Fengchun couldn't help but cough twice after he spoke.

Shang Xia cupped his fists towards the man and replied casually, “Oh, Senior Zhao! Are you alright?”

“Young Master Shang, rest assured I can still fight. There's no need to worry about me!” Zhao Fengchun tossed some medicine into his mouth while laughing.

Instead of approaching, Shang Xia simply bade his farewell from where he was. “Since that's the case, I shall not bother you any further. Senior Zhao, please take care. I shall take my leave.”

Waving his hand, he disappeared into the distance.

Zhao Fengchun slowly recovered from the battle earlier and his pale face finally regained some color after the medicine took its effects. His expression sank while looking in the direction Shang Xia disappeared. “The four great clans are truly colossal existences. Even the third generation member of their clan is far stronger than me. My Zhao Family might have birthed an expert in the Martial Extermination Realm, but look like we’re far from being able to match up with any of the four great clans. Oh right... Young Master Shang looked pretty familiar... Have I met him before?”

A trace of curiosity flashed in his eyes but seeing as he was unable to think of where he met Shang Xia, he decided to continue on his way.

Chapter 374: Back to the Battlefield Between the Two Worlds!

With his cultivation base at the Martial Intent Realm, Zhao Fengchun wasn’t exactly a weakling. After all, anyone who could hold their ground against cultivators of the Azure Spiritual World was definitely an expert in their own right.

However, all of them seemed to be as weak as ants when Shang Xia appeared. With a single arrow, he killed the cultivator from the Azure Spiritual World.

There was a certain part of his successful kill that could be attributed to his sneak attack as the cultivator from the Azure Spiritual World was focused on fighting Zhao Fengchun. However, that highlighted another problem. Neither of them discovered Shang Xia’s presence even though he got in range to attack them!

Shang Xia’s successful impersonation of a Martial Extermination Realm expert also had something to do with it.

After killing the man, Shang Xia quickly went to look for other targets. He needed to sweep away the obstacles around the spatial tunnel for the Tongyou Institution to gain control of the area.

The battlefield between the Tongyou Institution and those from the Azure Spiritual World had already expanded to cover hundreds of miles from the exit of the spatial tunnel.

When the Martial Extermination Realm experts entered earlier, they launched a ferocious assault on those from the Azure Spiritual World. By this time, they entered deep into the battlefield between the two worlds. As Martial Extermination Realm experts, they could travel several miles in the blink of an eye. It made sense for them to push deep into the battlefield between the two worlds quickly.

Due to the shockwaves of the battle between the Martial Extermination Realm experts, the cultivators of the Azure Spiritual World didn’t gather close to the exit of the spatial tunnel. They remained scattered hundreds of miles away and gathered after the Martial Extermination Realm experts left. They had to remain scattered as they were afraid that the Martial Extermination Experts of the Tongyou Institution wouldn’t play by the rules and target them if they were in a huge group.

Unfortunately for them, by the time they closed the distance to the exit of the spatial tunnel, the Martial Intent Realm experts of the institution arrived.

“Hah... Luckily they didn’t lay down any formations or traps around. Otherwise, we’re going to have a hard time establishing ourselves in the battlefield between the two worlds.” Shang Xia sighed inwardly. However, he soon realized that it was not impossible for those from the Azure Spiritual World to lay down traps for them.

Even though the battlefield between the two worlds would experience frequent shifts and one wouldn't be able to tell where they were exactly in the battlefield between the two worlds, Shang Xia could tell that it wasn't where he entered for the first time.

It was a weird feeling that wasn't baselessly supported by his instincts. With his much higher cultivation base, he was able to touch on the principles of space and discover that he was in a different region compared to before.

Regardless, it wasn't time to think about all of that now. After helping Zhao Fengchun kill his opponent, Shang Xia's original plan was to go around like a firefighter and do the same, slowly increasing the advantage the cultivators of the institution had.

However, the members of the Azure Spiritual World clearly wouldn't allow him to do as he wished. They sent someone out to stop him. When he was hundreds of feet away from another group of cultivators from the Azure Spiritual World cries of beasts could be heard as they started rushing towards Shang Xia.

"Grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm?" Shang Xia stared in that direction in shock. Of course, he didn't feel the slightest amount of fear. He was merely surprised by their presence.

He could see that there was an expert eyeing him coldly in the distance, but in Shang Xia's eyes, the other party was nothing more than a circus clown.

He didn't hide his disdain either. The cultivator from the Azure Spiritual World could tell that Shang Xia was looking down on him and a sense of humiliation washed over him. Anger filled his heart as he released a heaven-shaking roar.

His aura increased slightly as he seemed to ignite his bloodline. The phantom of a giant creature appeared behind him as it leaped at Shang Xia.

Not fazed by the appearance of the creature, Shang Xia continued in the same direction and the distance between them quickly shrank to 50 feet.

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The cultivator from the Azure Spiritual World leaped into the air and sent his fists flying in Shang Xia's direction. The space seemed to tremble and it seemed as though it was about to crumble under the might of his punch.

Shang Xia felt an immense pressure descending on him as his opponent approached.

Regardless, his expression didn't change as he watched the incoming attack. With his palm facing inwards, he chopped down casually as reddish-gold bolts of lightning emerged from his fingertips. They slammed heavily into the creature that was lunging at him and due to the impact, Shang Xia frowned slightly before taking a step back.

The cultivator of the Azure Spiritual World burst into laughter before increasing his speed once again to advance ten feet closer to Shang Xia.

Sighing softly, Shang Xia seemed to blame himself for being overconfident.

After all, the opponent was at the same cultivation level as himself. They were both in the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm and he was too naive to think that his first martial intent could stop the other side's all-out attack.

By the time he realized that his opponent had entered his attacking range, he saw a giant palm condensing in the sky before it started to descend on him.

Raising his eyebrows slightly, Shang Xia muttered, "Are you from the Changbai Holy Land?"

"Hehe, it's too late for you to realize that now!" Shang Xia's opponent snorted before revealing a haughty look. He didn't seem surprised that Shang Xia managed to uncover his identity, but he seemed extremely confident of killing Shang Xia now that they were so close to each other.

"Well... It's not really too late." Shang Xia muttered as the Scarlet Star Spear appeared in his hand. He stabbed it straight towards his opponent.

The massive palm that was created from heaven and earth qi tore apart like paper. Before the cultivator from the Azure Spiritual World could react, a spear that was made from heaven and earth qi appeared right in front of him.

That was Shang Xia's fourth move, Void Evasion!

"What the hell is that spear technique?!" The cultivator from the Changbai Holy Land yelled before retreating hastily. He released 12 palm strikes in a row before finally shattering the spear. He was forced back from the impact, and his fingers were painted a bloody red.

"Who are you?! What freakish spear art is this?!" The cultivator from the Changbai Holy Land stared at Shang Xia in fright.

As a direct disciple from the Changbai Holy Land, his cultivation had reached the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm. No matter what, he could be considered to be an apex existence in the Martial Intent Realm. It made no sense for him to be beaten so badly!

Shang Xia's gaze turned a little serious after he saw how his opponent stopped his Void Evasion Spear.

However, he didn't hesitate as the Scarlet Star Spear trembled in his hands. It flew out even quicker this time as he unleashed his seventh move, Celestial Disruption!

A sea of starlight appeared before the eyes of the cultivator from the Changbai Holy Land and several streaks of light started to speed towards him.

The pressure of a thousand mountains came crashing down on him and he discovered that there was no way for him to evade!

Helpless, he gave his loudest roar before mustering all his inner qi to create another passive palm with the heaven and earth qi around him.

The palm was called the Heaven Supporting Divine Palm and it was his third martial intent. It seemed to contain tyrannical might as it tried swatting the streaks of starlight flying his way.

Blocking all the starlight that came from Shang Xia's Celestial Disruption, it managed to neutralize his seventh move.

“Shang Clan Spear?! Who the hell is Shang Bo to you?!” It seemed as though the cultivator from the Changbai Holy Land was pretty familiar with the powerhouses from the Tongyou Institution.

He couldn't confirm if Shang Xia was using the Shang Clan Spear Art earlier, but now that Shang Xia had unleashed Celestial Disruption, he found the moves familiar.

Ignoring the man, Shang Xia released another move.

This time, he unleashed his eighth move, Startling Moon!

“Preposterous! Do you think I'm going to let you do as you wish?” The cultivator from the Changbai Holy Land roared after noticing that Shang Xia had ignored him. He gathered his energy to send out another Heaven Supporting Divine Palm!

Chapter 375: Bamboo Void Breaking Talisman

Noticing how Shang Xia wasn't paying attention to him and how he released move after move, the disciple of the Changbai Holy Land was extremely helpless. He could only release his second Heaven Supporting Divine Palm

Unfortunately for him, Shang Xia didn't repeat the same move as before.

Back in the Changfeng City, Shang Xia managed to break through the protection formation around the spirit cave with his eighth move. The effect of Startling Moon could even affect a cultivator's divine sense!

The disciple of the Changbai Holy Land didn't manage to fully form his Heaven Supporting Divine Palm due to the intense pain that made him feel as though his soul was tearing apart.

Just like that, the threat of his Heaven Supporting Divine Palm lost more than 30 percent of its power.

After entering the Martial Intent Realm, a cultivator would mainly focus on using their divine sense in battle as it was a lot more versatile than inner qi.

Shang Xia's Startling Moon specially targeted their divine sense and he was confident that would be enough to deal with his current opponent. From what he could sense, the disciple of the Changbai Holy Land had a martial intent that barely allowed him to withstand his seventh move.

With Shang Xia's eighth move against the weakened Heaven Supporting Divine Palm, the outcome was basically decided. Shang Xia's spear tore through the palm like it was nothing before heading straight for his opponent's chest.

As a direct disciple of the Changbai Holy Land, he would be embarrassing himself if he didn't possess any life-saving methods. Even though Shang Xia's spear was arriving, he calmly shattered a jade pendant he hung by his waist and a ray of mysterious light appeared to destroy the spear coming his way.

Giving Shang Xia a deep stare, the disciple of the Changbai Holy Land turned to make his escape.

Shang Xia wasn't surprised by the sudden change in events. After all, he knew how difficult killing someone from a holy land was. It wasn't as if he hadn't killed anyone from the Changbai Holy Land or White Deer Paradise before.

That was also what allowed Shang Xia to make up his mind. There was no way he could allow his opponent to escape!

Other than himself, the disciple of the Changbai Holy Land would be easily defeated by others from the institution!

Unleashing his Irregular Steps, he gave chase.

The distance between them was kept at a steady thirty feet and no matter how much he pushed himself, he was unable to close the distance any more.

Shang Xia's movement technique might be impressive, but it was a rank two movement skill at the end of the day. Shang Xia might be using it even though he had advanced to the Martial Intent Realm, but his movement skills were barely passable when compared to those used by direct disciples of those great powers.

The only reason he was able to ensure that the distance between them didn't widen was because he was supporting himself with his Origin True Qi!

As they ran through the battlefield between the two worlds, Shang Xia pushed his palm forward and a giant lightning web traveled through the air towards the fleeing disciple of the Changbai Holy Land.

The strange like that emerged from his pendant a moment ago reappeared, wiping Shang Xia's lightning net away.

A cold snort emerged from Shang Xia's lips as he released his divine sense to pressure his fleeing opponent.

Cursing Shang Xia a thousand times over in his mind, the disciple of the Changbai Holy Land didn't know how Shang Xia's divine sense was so much stronger than his. Of course, he wasn't afraid that he would be overpowered. The distance between them caused Shang Xia's divine sense to weaken a lot. If they were closer to each other, he might be a little afraid. With 30 feet separating them, all Shang Xia could do was to lock onto him.

It didn't take long for them to cover a distance of more than a hundred miles from where they once were. By that time, they were quite a distance away from the exit of the spatial tunnel.

Throughout the process, they discovered many battles going on around them. However, the two of them chose to ignore everything.

Who would have thought that two crazy idiots would be stupid enough to get in their way? One of them was another Martial Intent Realm expert from the Changbai Holy Land, and the other was a deacon of the institution!

The other disciple of the Changbai Holy Land wasn't weak at all! His weapon was also of exceptional quality. With additional treasures to increase his strength, he wasn't at a disadvantage when faced with an experienced deacon of the Tongyou Institution. It would be difficult to determine a victor in a short period of time.

The deacon of the Tongyou Institution discovered that the disciple of the Changbai Holy Land might be lacking in experience, but he was quickly getting the hang of it as they fought. If the battle dragged on, he might actually fall to a disadvantage.

Luckily for him, the disciple of the Changbai Holy Land seemed too inexperienced and he was in a rush to finish off the deacon. He seemed to be in a hurry, and his gaze swayed from side to side as if to look for backup.

The two of them discovered a dust cloud in the distance and they discovered two figures flying in their direction at exceptional speed.

There was no way of hiding such a huge commotion and when the young disciple of the Changbai Holy Land saw the first person to emerge from the dust cloud, his eyes lit up. He forced the deacon away before yelling loudly, "Senior Brother Chu Chen, it's you! I am Jiang..."

"Fuck off!" Chu Chen yelled. While he made his escape, he felt as though a poison viper had locked on to him. As long as he became careless, the person chasing behind would be able to capitalize on his mistake and send him to the depths of hell! Why would he care about helping his junior disciple now that his life was on the line? If not for the fact that he was too preoccupied with the threat behind him, he might have killed his junior disciple who was standing in his way.

The disciple of the Changbai Holy Land didn't think that he would be dealt with so crudely by his senior brother and he stood at the side, stunned.

His jaws were agape as Chu Chen blew past him. Without even turning his head, Chu Chen continued into the distance.

"What's wrong with Senior Brother Chu? He's in such a hurry... It's like he's being chased... Wait. Chased?!" Gasping in fright, his expression changed.

He turned to look behind Senior Brother Chu Chen and he was smacked in the face with a powerful gust of energy. He stumbled a little and he saw a foreign figure racing after Chu Chen.

"Senior Brother Chu... How... How is he the one being hunted down?! How can anyone under the Martial Extermination Realm threaten him?!" No matter how stupid he was, he could tell that there was a problem.

However, he seemed a little reluctant to accept the fact that Chu Chen was being hunted down by a disciple of the Tongyou Institution.

In the Changbai Holy Land, Chu Chen could be considered a Martial Extermination Realm seed! He was a genius who stood at the top of the Martial Intent Realm. No one in the same realm was his opponent! Now, he was running for his life!

If not for the fact that he witnessed it by himself, the other disciple of the Changbai Holy Land wouldn't believe it.

Seems like I'm forgetting something...

By the time he realized, it was too late. He suddenly recalled that he was locked in a huge battle with a deacon of the Tongyou Institution and due to the distraction, he lost whatever advantage he managed to build earlier.

Ge Qingzhu, a deacon of the Tongyou Institution, slammed his bamboo staff downwards and all the disciple of the Changbai Holy Land could do was to evade desperately.

In a battle at their level, his reaction was too damn late.

The Bamboo Staff fell and narrowly missed his head as he twisted his body, but it slammed directly into his shoulders. Just like that, half his body was crippled.

Releasing a wretched scream, he turned to flee.

Ge Qingzhu naturally wouldn't allow his opponent to escape like that. He had long since prepared for his opponent to flee after landing his attack.

His staff swept out horizontally as several rods made from heaven and earth qi appeared in the air. It sealed off his opponent's route of retreat and after several muffled cries, his staff slammed directly into his opponent's neck, sealing off his screams once and for all.

Only then did Ge Qingzhu manage to catch his breath. After ensuring there was no one around him, he turned to look in the direction where Chu Chen ran to. He muttered to himself, "That... That looked like Deputy Patriarch Shang's grandson! According to the rumors I've heard... He seemed to pop out of nowhere to take on the position as the head of the disciples!"

"Damn... From his reaction earlier, the person who was running away should be a direct disciple of the Changbai Holy Land..." Ge Qingzhu sighed softly. "He's definitely living up to his father's name!"

When he finally caught his breath, he turned to look at the corpse at his feet. Rubbing his chin, he sighed. "This brat looked extremely happy to see the direct disciple of the Changbai Holy Land earlier. He also seemed eager for the direct disciple to recognize him... Could he have some sort of treasure he was planning on giving his senior brother?" Ge Qingzhu's eyes lit up and he started to search the body.

Finding a tiny storage box, he happily stuck a talisman onto it. The talisman turned into a streak of green light that entered the storage case and it popped open without much trouble.

A pained expression could be seen on Ge Qingzhu's face when he looked at the talisman that no longer glowed. "I hope it's worth it to use a Bamboo Void Breaking Talisman on this! It's a rank three talisman that is usually only made by rank four talisman masters! If I don't get anything good..."

Looking through the items in the storage case, Ge Qingzhu's expression sank. Even though not many items were destroyed, it seemed as though he didn't manage to profit from it.

"I made a loss! This is a great loss!" Ge Qingzhu cursed softly. "Why the hell is he so happy to see his senior brother anyway? It's not like he has anything good!"

His gaze landed on the corpse again and he decided to search even more thoroughly. It just didn't make sense!

Finally discovering something strange about the disciple's robes, he tugged at the corpse's lapels and discovered a silk fabric looking scroll.

"Is this... A map?" Ge Qingzhu took a closer look at it and his gaze landed on the location indicated on it. There was an image of a tiny pond and there seemed to be an exquisite lotus drawn on it. There was even an annotation at the top with the words 'Ruyi Lotus'.

"Ruyi Lotus?! That's a rank four herb! It might even be the main herb for a rank four advancement medicine. No wonder.." A light flashed through Ge Qingzhu's eyes and he muttered to himself, "This evens out the cost of my talisman, right?!"

Chapter 376: Eat my Talisman

"Such a shame. If that dumbass took another step forward, he would have been able to obstruct this guy from running away!" Shang Xia sighed to himself. From the interaction earlier, Shang Xia finally learned the name of the person he was chasing. It seemed as though the direct disciple of the Changbai Holy Land he was hunting down was called Chu Chen!

It wasn't as though Shang Xia didn't have a way to damage Chu Chen. However, his divine sense was stretched a little thin now that they were so far away and Chu Chen had the treasure from the Changbai Holy Land that was stopping most of Shang Xia's attempt at slowing him down. He didn't feel confident in any of his methods to obstruct his opponent from leaving.

At their level, Shang Xia knew that he only had one chance to cause considerable damage to the other party. If he failed, his target would get away.

That was why he was hesitant to shoot an arrow or unleash another move. After all, he would have to stop to do it. If he missed or if he failed to overpower the strange light protecting Chu Chen, he would lose his chance to kill the man.

"After this, I'm definitely looking for a better movement art!" Shang Xia cursed inwardly.

Even with his Origin True Qi to assist him, he could tell that the Irregular Steps were truly not good enough for him at his current level.

If they were to fight for real and if they had similar combat abilities, Shang Xia would fall to a disadvantage quickly due to his poor movement skills.

In the blink of an eye, they crossed dozens of miles.

Shang Xia's divine sense started to pulsate and he could feel danger closing in.

All of a sudden, one of the hills that was in the distance collapsed and it seemed to have been crushed by a giant palm made from heaven and earth qi.

"Shit! There are Martial Extermination Realm experts fighting here!" Shang Xia roared in his heart. His movements slowed slightly as a wary look appeared in his eyes.

Chu Chen, who was still focused on running away, didn't seem to notice the danger as he continued on his way. In an instant, the distance between them increased to around 40 feet from the original 30.

Shang Xia knew that Chu Chen definitely sensed the change in his surroundings. He was just choosing to ignore the Martial Extermination Realm battle on purpose. He also discovered Chu Chen's plan. The disciple of the Changbai Holy Land seemed to want to escape Shang Xia by heading towards the battlefield of Martial Extermination Realm experts.

He might be planning to shake Shang Xia off using the shockwaves of the battle.

The plan seemed dangerous, but it was the only choice he had!

Chu Chen understood that if he allowed Shang Xia to keep up the chase, there would come a time when he would run out of inner qi. That would be the moment he died! After all, there was no question about it. Shang Xia was definitely stronger than him. By extension, his inner qi reserves should be deeper too. Running away forever wasn't an option.

Since his fate would be sealed the moment Shang Xia caught up, he chose to risk it all for a chance to live.

There was also another reason Chu Chen was running in the direction he chose. It was where the sign of a Martial Extermination Realm cultivator falling was seen!

If Shang Xia was able to catch sight of that when he left the spatial tunnel, those from the Azure Spiritual World definitely knew where it was. They might even know who was killed!

For Chu Chen to dare to bring him over, he might even be sure that the expert who died belonged to the Tongyou Institution!

After all, the death of a Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Tongyou Institution would mean that the Azure Spiritual World stationed experts nearby.

Seemingly having read Chu Chen's mind, Shang Xia no longer hesitated. He decided to end things immediately.

With a flick of his wrist, a talisman that shone a bright gold flew towards his target.

When it was almost 20 feet away from Chu Chen, Shang Xia activated it with his Origin True Qi. A golden spear that was surrounded by lightning tore through the air as it shot at the fleeing Chu Chen.

Shang Xia was extremely confident of activating any talismans as long as they were 50 feet from him, and the distance between them hadn't increased beyond that.

The Golden Lightning Spear Talisman might not be comparable to an attack from Shang Xia, but it could be used much more flexibly.

With Shang Xia's divine sense to guide the talisman, he could easily pinpoint where Chu Chen was running to.

Chu Chen felt the threat even without turning his head.

His figure darted from side to side and he managed to avoid the spear at the last second. Releasing a desperate counterattack, he managed to scatter most of the lightning around him.

A rank three talisman might prove to be fatal when used against ordinary Martial Intent Realm experts, but it was nothing a direct disciple of the Changbai Holy Land in the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm couldn't deal with.

However, the short distraction allowed Shang Xia to fulfill his goal of closing the distance between them. Once again, the distance closed to around 30 feet.

Chu Chen didn't forget to glance at Shang Xia with a look of mockery. It seemed as though he was feeling a lot more confident now that he was closing in on familiar territory. However, he was met with a terrifying sight. Shang Xia was holding his spear and he seemed to be unleashing some sort of spear technique!

"Heh, we're separated by more than 30 feet, hehe..." He felt that with the distance between them, there was no way Shang Xia could do anything to him. However, as a direct disciple from the Changbai Holy Land, he had his fair share of life and death situations. He might be skeptical that Shang Xia could damage him, but he still started to take precautions. His inner qi started circulating in his body as he prepared to take on Shang Xia's attack.

Who would have thought that the strike he was expecting wouldn't come? He could only catch the blurry action of Shang Xia when he casually swiped the spear in the air.

Before he could make sense of what was going on, he felt a chill running down his spine. A sharp pain that originated from his leg shot through his body and he slowed down significantly.

That was Shang Xia's fifth move, the Woundless Spear!

At the same time, a wound appeared on Shang Xia's right shoulder and stained his robes red.

Shang Xia ignored the wound completely as he closed the distance between them even more. In the blink of an eye, the distance that separated them barely spanned 10 feet!

"Die!" Shan Xia roared as his spear stabbed forward at an incredible speed. Heaven and earth qi gathered around his spear to form the giant phantom of one and it seemed to leap through the air to stab Chu Chen.

"Hold it!" A roar came from above as the soundwave rocked Shang Xia's divine sense.

Chapter 377: Why Should I Listen To You?

"Hold it!" A booming voice tore through the skies and caused Shang Xia's divine sense to tremble.

A Martial Extermination Realm expert arrived, and he was approaching quickly!

With a chill running through his heart, Shang Xia felt a huge pressure descending on himself. It was like a massive hammer that was slamming down from the heavens.

That wasn't all. The sound wave smashed directly into his divine sense and he felt a sharp pain shooting through his mind.

Chu Chen, who had been locked on by Shang Xia earlier, took on Shang Xia's strike with all that he had. He might have suffered a huge loss, but he managed to open up the distance between himself and Shang Xia.

When he thought that he could finally breathe easily now that backup had arrived, Shang Xia's divine sense reappeared. He felt the hair on his neck standing on end as the feeling of danger came back.

"Be careful!" The voice that sounded before came from the skies again, but it sounded a lot more angry and worried than before.

With his life on the line, Chu Chen, a direct disciple of the Changbai Holy Land, no longer bothered about appearances. He did a miserable roll on the ground and a spear light shot past him. When he got to his feet and started running again, half his face was stained red with blood.

Compared to the fear he was feeling in his heart, Chu Chen was more curious as to how Shang Xia managed to send out another attack even after a Martial Extermination Realm expert had interfered.

Unfortunately for him, he would have to bring his question to his grave.

Just as he thought that Shang Xia had sent out his last attack, he suddenly discovered the tip of a crimson-colored spear growing larger in front of his eyes.

His consciousness was exterminated in the blink of an eye and the last sound to enter his ear was a roar that seemed to grow ever more distant.

...

Sima Zhanxing was about to lose his mind. In the Azure Spiritual World, had to rely on the great races in the Liao Continent to survive. He might be a Martial Extermination Realm expert, but he was nothing without the backing of the Rose Party. It was especially so when he was a member of the Azure Origin World trapped in the Azure Spiritual World with no way of returning. In the time he spent there, he experienced a great deal of discrimination and distasteful behavior.

The Changbai Holy Land had been pushing for the deterrence of the Tongyou Institution's return to the battlefield between the two worlds. However, Sima Zhanxing seemed to be even more fervent in his assault against the Tongyou Institution when compared to those from the four great races of the Liao Continent.

When the Martial Extermination Realm experts of both sides clashed, he didn't care about the repercussions and obstructions he would face as he searched for Liu Qinglan to prove himself. He wanted to defeat someone from the Tongyou Institution in order to prove his worth to the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Changbai Holy Land.

He discovered how wrong he was when he finally located her. He discovered that she had already refined her second extermination origin and he was horribly defeated by the opponent he was slightly stronger than a year ago!

No matter how talented he was, it was difficult to progress in a world where he had no support and no chance to look for resources! He was basically stuck at the same level he was when he last fought the members of the Tongyou Institution!

He was even thanking his lucky stars that his cultivation base didn't weaken!

Under the ferocious assault of Liu Qinglan's newly improved nine-segmented whip, multiple wounds formed on his body and he was beaten up really badly. If things were to keep up, he would probably die in her hands.

Just as he was falling into a state of despair, a Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Changbai Holy Land, Pan Yunbi, appeared. He managed to save Sima Zhanxing from his miserable fate.

Pan Yunbi's appearance changed the tide of battle completely. Sima Zhanxing was elated at her appearance while Liu Qinglan felt her heart going cold.

Her feelings didn't stem from Pan Yunbi's cultivation base. Pan Yunbi was also a second layer Martial Extermination Realm expert, and she wasn't too much stronger than her. Instead, it was that Pan Yunbi actually came to back Sima Zhanxing up. Her presence alone meant that there was a Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Tongyou Institution who fell!

It was true that Pan Yunbi was also a second layer Martial Extermination Realm expert and wasn't too much stronger than Liu Qinglan, but one couldn't forget that she came from a holy land. With the inheritances she had and Sima Zhanxing's assistance from the side, they quickly gained the upper hand.

Sima Zhanxing and Liu Qinglan seemed to take each other's place as Liu Qinglan was being trashed mercilessly. If things kept up like that, it wouldn't take long before Liu Qinglan became the second Martial Extermination Realm expert from the institution to fall.

Both sides might seem to have prepared a grand lineup for the war with a huge number of Martial Extremity and Martial Intent Realm cultivators who were ready to rush into the battlefield between the two worlds, but the true experts who would decide the outcome of the battle were the Martial Extermination Realm experts on both sides.

If another Martial Extermination Realm expert from the institution fell, the battle would tilt heavily in favor of the Azure Spiritual World!

Sima Zhanxing felt an opportunity coming his way as he worked with Pan Yunbi. If he managed to gain her trust with his flawless cooperation, he would finally be able to find his footing in the Azure Spiritual World! As long as the Changbai Holy Land stood up for him, the awkward situation with the four great races would be solved immediately! If he worked his way up and gained enough merits, the Changbai Holy Land might even send him back to the Azure Origin World!

He pushed himself to his limit while working with Pan Yunbi to suppress Liu Qinglan.

Facing their aggressive assault, Liu Qinglan was forced into a passive state and she could only defend herself the best she could.

If the situation were to keep up, she would exhaust herself before long and her fate would be sealed.

Just as Sima Zhanxing and Pan Yunbi were about to achieve their goal, two sneaky figures entered the range of their divine senses.

They didn't pay attention to the two figures initially after discovering that they were merely Martial Intent Realm experts. They were hell-bent on killing Liu Qinglan as that would allow them to gain a huge advantage over the Azure Origin World.

However, Pan Yunbi's actions turned a little sluggish and she seemed to examine the two figures closer. Out of nowhere, she snapped at Sima Zhanxing. "Go! Go save the person running away and kill the little ass that chasing him."

A look of fury appeared on her face as she growled to herself, "Hmph, useless trash!"

Sima Zhanxing was a Martial Extermination Realm expert at the end of the day. His expression sank after hearing her insult. Too bad for him, he couldn't do anything about it. He was hoping for the Changbai Holy Land to take him in, or at least, speak up for him against the four great races. He had to accept her insults whether he liked it or not, and his sunken expression quickly disappeared. A smile appeared on his face and he acknowledged her order, "I'll go immediately! Please be careful here."

As he turned to leave, he realized how much he had changed over the past year. He was the young master of the Sima Family in the Azure Origin World! He was well-respected all his life, but now, he had to take the scolding of someone who wasn't too much stronger than him and he couldn't show the slightest trace of displeasure!

The extermination origin under his feet glowed even more intensely as he raced over to the two little ants running around on the ground below.

When he noticed the figures running down below, he realized that he had misunderstood Pan Yunbi earlier. He also understood why she had commanded him to save the person running away.

From the looks of it, the cultivator running away was a direct disciple of the Changbai Holy Land and she was probably scolding him, right?!

That's probably it... He's really useless if he needs a Martial Extermination Realm expert to save his ass...

The more he thought about it, the better he felt about himself. At the very least, he felt that Pan Yunbi wasn't referring to him earlier.

After finally comforting himself, another disturbing thought flashed through his mind. When did I become so insecure?! What the...

He didn't exactly manage to answer his own question when he felt a familiar presence among the two.

"It's him!" Excitement replaced all the self doubt in his heart when he noticed Shang Xia. "Shang Xia! The grandson of deputy patriarch Shang Bo. Hahaha! That's the genius the institution has been placing heavy emphasis on!"

Happiness flashed in his heart when he thought about the person he was about to kill.

"Hold it!" ...

...

Well, the things that played out next caused a fire to burn in his chest. Even after being discovered by Sima Zhanxing, Shang Xia managed to kill Chu Chen!

What the hell... Is he crazy?!

Rushing down towards the two of them his extermination origin shot at Shang Xia. Unfortunately, it was too late. Chu Chen was as dead as could be!

Chapter 378: Third Martial Intent?

Shang Xia knew that even if he turned to run now that Sima Zhanxing was here, he wouldn't be able to escape.

Since that was the case, he might as well kill Chu Chen and deal with things from there. He would have to fight Sima Zhanxing anyway and if he were to die eventually, Chu Chen would be waiting in the underworld for him.

Also, Shang Xia didn't think that it was truly scary to go up against a first layer Martial Extermination Realm expert. He was no stranger to Martial Extermination Realm experts! He went around messing with them when he remained hidden in the Changfeng City all the way up to the war for the Tongyou Mysterious World. He had assisted in the killing of a Martial Extermination Realm expert and that wasn't all. He even killed one personally!

It was true that a cultivator would experience a fundamental transformation when they entered the Martial Extermination Realm. The transformation would allow them to manipulate heaven and earth qi as they wished and touch on the true mysteries of the world and cultivate using world origin. However, that didn't mean that they were unkillable!

Sima Zhanxing had arrived after Chu Chen was sent to the underworld. The extermination origin under his feet shot towards Shang Xia and it seemed to rob its surroundings of heaven and earth qi. For the first time in his life, Shang Xia discovered that the heaven and earth qi around him had been sucked dry and he couldn't feel their existence.

He didn't feel so much suppression when Youshang and Gao Yun fought above the City Lord Manor in the Changfeng City, and he didn't feel it when Youshang, Bu Jingshuang, and the black robed mystery man surrounded Liang Shuangren back in the depths of the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range. When Shang Pei advanced into the Martial Extermination Realm, she didn't showcase such power either.

Something finally clicked in Shang Xia's mind when the strange feeling overwhelmed him when he faced Sima Zhanxing. Those Martial Extermination Realm experts before didn't bother using their full strength on a Martial Intent Realm ant like him! Of course, there was also the reason of there being Martial Extermination Realm experts on his side that lightened the suppression on him.

Shang Xia realized that Martial Extermination Realm experts weren't as weak as he had thought! Everything he knew in the past was a serious misconception!

Well, whatever the case, it was too late for regrets now. He would finally have a chance to experience how strong a Martial Extermination Realm expert truly was!

Shang Xia understood that there was no retreat. There was only one thing he could do and that was to advance desperately! Only then would he manage to find a glimmer of hope to stay alive!

Feeling the torrential pressure that was coming his way, Shang Xia sucked in a deep breath before drawing a horizontal arc before him.

He released his eighth move once again, Starting Moon!

Shang Xia was clear that the first six moves were probably useless against an expert at Sima Zhanxing's level.

Celestial Disruption, Startling Moon, and Piercing Sun were the only moves that could affect a Martial Extermination Realm expert.

Startling Moon could affect space itself, and it was effective in disturbing a Martial Extermination Realm expert's divine sense. It allowed Shang Xia to carve out a small space for himself when faced with Sima Zhanxing's attack.

"Huh?" Sima Zhanxing gasped when he noticed how Shang Xia took his attack. Confusion filled his heart, but at the same time, he became extremely frustrated with himself for being unable to take down a Martial Intent Realm expert.

Behind him were Liu Qinglan and Pan Yunbi. They definitely noticed what happened.

"Why the hell are you here kid? Why aren't you running? Oh, never mind!" Liu Qinglan's voice rang through the air, but there was a trace of helplessness in it.

As the words left her lips, a massive explosion rang through the air. The skies seemed to split into two as a massive pillar of light tore into the heavens. A small strand flew straight for Sima Zhanxing's back.

After Shang Xia forcefully blocked Sima Zhanxing's attack, Sima Zhanxing wanted to release a follow-up strike but was interrupted by the sudden threat from behind.

Another shrill voice boomed through the air as the strand of light shot at Sima Zhanxing. "Hmph, Liu Qinglan, can you afford to be distracted when fighting me?!"

Two balls of light appeared in the air as they made a pincer attack in the air at a seemingly random spot in the void.

Liu Qinglan's figure emerged from the location and a deep frown could be seen on her face. Her eyelids jumped as she looked at the situation where Shang Xia was before she sent out a flurry of attacks. Her whip danced in mid air and several blasts rang through the air. They smacked both light balls coming from her left and right and the void trembled violently.

Even though neither of them seemed to be at an advantage at that moment, Pan Yunbi clearly had the upper hand as she managed to seize the initiative to attack. Liu Qinglan could only defend passively.

Without Liu Qinglan to distract him, Sima Zhanxing turned his attention back to Shang Xia.

Just when he turned around to end the Martial Intent Realm ant, he discovered a massive spear that was intricately formed with heaven and earth qi shooting towards him.

Shang Xia unleashed his ninth move, Piercing Sun!

Sima Zhanxing's expression changed as a huge hole was punched through his extermination origin!

At that moment, he realized that Shang Xia could actually pose a threat to his life.

Facing a Martial Extermination Realm expert, Shang Xia didn't just plan on staying alive. He was even planning to turn the situation around and threaten Sima Zhanxing's life!

Unfortunately for him, Sima Zhanxing was much more prepared than Gao Yun. Facing the giant spear that had broken through his extermination origin, Sima Zhanxing circulated his inner qi and shattered the void in front of him with a single punch. Several cracks in the void obstructed Shang Xia's spear and it eventually whittled it down to nothing.

Shang Xia's Piercing Sun was nullified by Sima Zhanxing's punch!

However, defending himself came at a cost. When Sima Zhanxing pulled his fist back, he noticed that three of his fingers had been sliced cleanly off!

"You actually managed to wound me! Is that the martial intent you comprehended after practicing the Providence Spear Art?!" Sima Zhanxing finally turned serious as he spoke seriously to Shang Xia. "Your Shang Clan Spear Art definitely lives up to its name. Your move was extraordinary and you should be proud of yourself!"

"Hmph, useless trash!" A soft voice came from the void and rang in his ears again. Pan Yunbi's voice rang loudly in Sima Zhanxing's mind.

With his facial muscles twitching uncontrollably, Sima Zhanxing suppressed the humiliation in his heart and he growled at Shang Xia, "You might be a super talent carefully nurtured by the Tongyou Institution, but it ends here!"

Channeling all the rage he felt, Sima Zhanxing's extermination origin reappeared and he sent a punch towards Shang Xia. The weight of a mountain tried to press Shang Xia down into the ground as his divine sense came crashing down.

Unfortunately, Shang Xia stood as straight as a rod as he stared at Sima Zhanxing without batting an eyelid.

"Did I say that that was my third martial intent?"

Chapter 379(1:): This Is My Third Martial Intent!

As one of the most talented disciples of the Sima Family, there was no need to question how strong Sima Zhanxing was.

Before entering the Martial Extermination Realm, he also managed to comprehend his third martial intent. He only stepped into the Martial Extermination Realm after entering the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm.

Sima Zhanxing had been comparing Shang Xia's ninth move to the martial intent he comprehended.

In fact, he was already surprised when Shang Xia unleashed Startling Moon.

Even though Startling Moon didn't pierce the void directly, it managed to affect it nonetheless. It was an incredible feat for someone in the Martial Intent Realm.

Hm... This brat's move is slightly weaker than my third martial intent!

That was Sima Zhanxing's evaluation of Shang Xia's eighth move after seeing it earlier.

When Shang Xia unleashed his ninth move, he managed to tear a hole through Sima Zhanxing's extermination origin and the void around him. That led to Sima Zhanxing associating the move with Shang Xia's third martial intent!

He was completely shocked at the discovery as he heard about how strong the Shang Clan Spear Art was and the strength displayed by Shang Xia had far surpassed it.

“His martial intent actually touched on what Martial Extermination Realm experts can do. However, he’s a Martial Intent Realm cultivator at the end of the day. He won’t be able to send out attacks like that infinitely. Hah, the only thing that allows him to stand out is the speed of his attacks. I have to end it now to give a proper explanation to Elder Pan.” Sima Zhanxing muttered to himself. With the power contained in Piercing Sun, Sima Zhanxing knew that Shang Xia couldn’t unleash it in succession. He definitely had to gather a lot of inner qi to release that strike again and he wouldn’t be able to do so in a short amount of time.

“I’ll take him down immediately and return to assist Elder Pan!” Sima Zhanxing growled inwardly as his extermination origin emerged to coat his fist. He unleashed the rank four martial art he created ever since stepping into the Martial Extermination Realm, Spirit Gathering Fist!

The history of cultivation in the Azure Origin World barely went back eight hundred years. The number of Martial Extermination Realm experts who had appeared since then was limited and the number of inheritances they could pass down was even lesser. With the various powers keeping a tight leash on the outflow of such inheritances, the number of people who could learn rank four techniques was few and far between/

Cultivators in the Martial Extermination Realm would have to develop their own techniques in order to fight more effectively.

Naturally, developing a new technique from nothing wasn’t easy. However, it went without saying that once they succeeded, their technique would be slightly stronger than martial arts from inheritances. After all, the technique one developed would be most suited to themselves.

As a genius cultivator from the Sima Family, Sima Zhanxing had access to the family’s records and inheritances. However, no matter how talented he was, he wouldn’t be able to access the family’s rank four inheritances and martial arts before stepping into the Martial Extermination Realm.

He broke through in the Coral Forest, and the Rose Party suffered a huge loss soon after. They beat a hasty retreat with those from the Four Spiritual Peak and he had to seek refuge from the four great races of the Liao Continent! He didn’t have time to return to the family to receive the inheritances!

Since he was unable to receive resources for cultivation in the Azure Spiritual World, he poured his heart and soul into creating a rank four martial art for himself, the Spirit Gathering Fist!

The name came from the extermination origin he refined in the Coral Forest, the Spirit Gathering Seasonal Extermination Origin.

There was something strange about his extermination origin and he could gather the heaven and earth qi around him for a short period of time, depriving others of it.

The effects caused Shang Xia to think back about the Dual Seasons Land in the Coral Forest. Heaven and earth qi was plundered from ordinary herbs and used to nurture precious herbs. Sima Zhanxing’s extermination origin seemed to possess an extension of that ability.

With the effects of his extermination origin, Sima Zhanxing developed a rank four martial art for himself!

As he punched towards Shang Xia, the heaven and earth qi around them gathered around his fist and increased the amount of power it possessed. A sharp whistling tore through the air.

One had to say that his extermination origin truly possessed tyrannical might. Even against cultivators at the same level, he would be able to reach an advantageous position with the effects his extermination origin possessed.

As the fist traveled closer and closer, Shang Xia could feel the heaven and earth qi around him draining quickly. However, he wasn't flustered in the slightest.

Staring directly at Sima Zhanxing, Shang Xia muttered, "Who told you that that was my third martial intent?"

As an incredulous look started to form on Sima Zhanxing's face, Shang Xia tightened his grip on his Scarlet Star Spear once again. The inner qi in his body entered the spear in an endless tide and his divine sense wrapped around it.

In that instant, Shang Xia could feel the subtle change around him. He became one with the spear, reaching an extreme state of mind.

Facing the rank four martial art, Spirit Gathering Fist, Shang Xia didn't feel the slightest amount of fear as he unleashed his third martial intent, Divine Killing Spear!

He only used the move once before, and it was against Kou Chongxue's Martial Dipper Realm clone!

The second time he used his third martial intent was in actual combat against the Martial Extermination Realm Sima Zhanxing!

As the tip of his spear came into contact with Sima Zhanxing's fist, the expected explosion followed by a massive shockwave of heaven and earth qi was nowhere to be seen.

Their surroundings became eerily silent as the huge fist formed with heaven and earth qi had a huge hole blasted through the middle.

The fist didn't stop because of that. Instead, it continued on its way towards Shang Xia.

The spear didn't stop after punching a hole through the fist. It sailed through the air towards Sima Zhanxing!

Shang Xia knew that he couldn't avoid the punch as he used everything he had to unleash his third martial intent. He didn't hesitate to throw out a Tranquil Water Screen Talisman to protect himself.

As a water screen appeared above him, it managed to stop the fist for a short second. However, that was it. The fist shattered the water screen before falling down on Shang Xia once again.

Very quickly, Shang Xia tossed out the second and last Tranquil Water Screen Talisman he had on him to create another water screen.

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This time, it stopped the fist for a little longer. The fist expended a huge amount of energy to shatter the water screen, but it continued on nonetheless. At the end of the day, Shang Xia's talismans were merely rank three ones and they couldn't stop Sima Zhanxing's rank four martial art.

Luckily, the two water screens weakened the fist by a huge amount! However, that wasn't what Shang Xia cared about. Instead, they managed to buy him a lot of time!

In the few short seconds that passed, Shang Xia managed to regain a small amount of inner qi to unleash his eighth move, Startling Moon.

Of his seventh, eighth, and ninth move, it went without saying that Piercing Sun possessed terrifying offensive ability. It wouldn't be useful to protect himself at that point. Startling Moon was the only one that could break Sima Zhanxing's Spirit Gathering Fist currently.

After taking on Shang Xia's Divine Killing Spear and being obstructed by two Tranquil Water Screens, the punch was showing a whole lot of weakness. Shang Xia's Startling Moon disturbed the void around him, eventually nullifying Sima Zhanxing's Spirit Gathering Fist!

The heaven and earth qi was dispersed above Shang Xia's head, and a massive dust cloud was blown into the skies from the disturbance.

As Shang Xia successfully protected himself from Sima Zhanxing's Spirit Gathering Fist, Sima Zhanxing was facing the kid's spear! He discovered that the Piercing Sun that he thought was Shang Xia's third martial intent before was a mistake!

Shang Xia's third martial intent actually had the ability to threaten him, a Martial Extermination Realm expert!

With a look of terror on his face, he discovered that he wouldn't be able to avoid Shang Xia's Divine Killing Spear! He would be forced to take it head-on.

He didn't even have the luxury of time to think about how Shang Xia could lock on to him with his divine sense to ensure that the spear didn't miss!

Since he didn't expect Shang Xia to be able to threaten him, he didn't take any precautions before. As he hastily summoned his extermination origin to defend himself, he suddenly discovered that his divine sense had been whittled down slightly and it was on the verge of crumbling! He didn't really possess the ability to save himself!

Everything clicked in his mind. The Divine Killing Spear truly deserved its name. Disrupting one's divine sense and preventing them from protecting themselves. That was the true terror of Shang Xia's third martial intent!

Chapter 380: Beyond Heavens Pavilion

If anyone were to look at the Azure Origin World from space, they would see two massive masses that seemed somewhat joined together but separated by a layer of formless gray gas.

There seemed to be a strange world boundary separating the two giant masses and other than that, there seemed to be a massive spatial barrier that separated continents on both worlds.

Above the giant land masses seemed to exist a strange world boundary and cultivators who could move around there were basically Martial Extermination Realm experts.

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Everyone there was a Martial Extermination Realm expert at the very least, but not every Martial Extermination Realm expert had the authority to enter the region. It was the region all of them had heard of before, the Beyond Heavens Pavilion!

The Beyond Heavens Pavilion might lie high above the two worlds, but due to the gravitational forces of the two worlds, the core of the Beyond Heavens Pavilion seemed to resemble a void whirlpool. Even though it wasn't impossible for people to pass through the whirlpool, the risks they would have to take weren't small. As such, the core of the Beyond Heavens Pavilion was known as the boundary between the two worlds.

If a true expert who had reached a certain level of cultivation were to stand close to the whirlpool and look down, they would be able to see void boundaries appearing from time to time. Those void boundaries that existed seemed to be similar to the battlefield between the two worlds.

There was a figure sitting not too far away from the whirlpool and his clothes seemed extremely untidy. He seemed pretty unkempt as he pressed his short sword against his body while downing another swig of wine. Smacking his lips together, he turned to look at the people sitting on the other side of the whirlpool. There was an old bearded expert and a short man who sported a long-ass mustache who were seated quietly on that side. Each of them seemed to be waiting for each other to do something.

The three of them looked at each other quietly and a strange scene played out. There were various spots of light not too far away watching the three of them silently.

All of a sudden, a stream of foreign qi emerged from the whirlpool, causing the heaven and earth qi to turn a lot denser than before.

“Haha! World origin is returning. Another Martial Extermination Realm cultivator from your Azure Origin World probably died. Kou Chongxue, two of them have already died since the battle started. I'm afraid you're going to lose!” The person who spoke was the short man who sported the mustache and his voice rang loudly in the ears of everyone present. Even though he was short, his voice boomed really loudly through the air.

Kou Chongxue, who was seated opposite him, downed another swig of his wine before muttering softly, “Shorty Xu, the battle has yet to end. Why are you acting so impatiently? Are you in such a hurry to lose? Did your brains turn to mush during your cultivation?”

“You!” The short man roared with rage and got to his feet, but he was stopped by the bearded old expert.

“Martial Nephew Xu, can't you see that Kou Chongxue is trying to rile you up?” The bearded old man chuckled in amusement.

With his expression changing, the short man glared at Kou Chongxue before sitting down once again. He snorted coldly and no longer said another word.

The old bearded expert turned to Kou Chongxue and muttered, “Patriarch Kou, your strength is truly as tyrannical as the rumors say. You managed to suppress the two of us alone and that alone is truly respectable. However, my Changbai Holy Land has been in existence for hundreds of years

and our foundations are solid. If you keep this up and let the battle run wild, twenty years of your hard work will go down the drain! Can't you just wait for our worlds to fuse naturally and upgrade the Tongyou Mysterious World into a holy land? Why are you taking such a huge risk?"

Kou Chongxue chuckled softly and his gaze turned a little hazy. "The outcome of the battle can't be decided with just two deaths. Then again, what makes you so confident that the person who died came from my Azure Origin World? Even if there are no traces of bloodline cultivation from the person who died, you can't be sure that he's an ally of my Azure Origin World."

Snorting coldly, the short man replied, "Since that's the case, we'll keep watching!"

After he spoke, he became silent again with the old bearded expert beside him.

He might be done, but the old bearded expert was not. He glanced at the space behind Kou Chongxue and asked, "Patriarch Kou, you made a huge show of suppressing the three deers of the White Deer Paradise back in the Ji Continent and now, you're holding the two of us back alone in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. Aren't you afraid that the White Deer Paradise will take the chance to mess with your Tongyou Institution?"

Kou Chongxue released a bout of hearty laughter, "If the three of them dare to break the rules again, I won't hold back any longer. From what I see, the three of them know what is important. Like we say, even enemies will have to stand together when faced with an external threat."

A cold snort came from behind Kou Chongxue as soon as the words left his lips.

The old bearded expert smiled and he seemed to have thought of something as he continued. "Oh right. I forgot to say this before but I would like to congratulate you on your recovery."

A light flashed through Kou Chongxue's eyes and he sneered softly, "Old Man Luo, do you think I'm stupid? There's no need to beat about the bush."

"Indeed. I hope you can answer my questions then. Firstly, How did you enter the battlefield between the two worlds in the past without being detected by us?"

Even without extending his divine sense, Kou Chongxue could tell that many people were paying attention to their conversation. However, he didn't plan to hide it anyway. He spoke casually. "Easy. When I was injured, my strength didn't reach the threshold of the Martial Dipper Realm. That's how none of you detected my presence in the battlefield between the two worlds."

"Impossible!" The short mustached man yelled all of a sudden. "If you had been hiding in the battlefield between the two worlds all along, your recovery would cause all of us to discover you. However, you only managed to display your strength at the Martial Dipper Realm after your Tongyou Institution moved the Coral Forest out of the battlefield between the two worlds and after Ancestor Yun Lu arrived. Something sounds fishy about this!"

Glancing at the shorty from the corner of his eye, Kou Chongxue muttered, "Well, if you think it's impossible, I have nothing more to say. Why do I have to explain my methods to you?"

Rage filled the short expert's heart but he felt a palm pressing him back down to the ground. The old bearded expert looked at Kou Chongxue with a deep gaze before he entered the conversation

again. “Patriarch Kou, you might be terrifyingly strong and exceptionally lucky to the point where we have to admit defeat. However, now that you found a way to restore balance to your fate dippers, do you know what it truly means to everyone in the Martial Dipper Realm?”