

The Heavens 411

Chapter 411: Spirit of Autumn

“Why are you looking for the Spirit of the Four Seasons? Are you planning to craft a divine weapon?” A look of amusement flashed in Zhang Haogu’s eyes as he looked at Shang Xia.

“Craft a divine weapon?!” Shang Xia exclaimed in shock. “So... the Spirit of the Four Seasons is used in the refinement of divine weapons?!”

Zhang Haogu stared at him for a moment before he explained, “That isn’t a secret among qualified blacksmiths. Every single divine weapon possesses its own weapon spirit and a Spirit of the Four Seasons is nurtured by the world. They are exceptional treasures during the process of divine weapon refinement.” Examining Shang Xia even more closely, Zhang Haogu continued, “That is why if you really wish to learn about the Spirit of the Four Seasons, you should go ask a high-level blacksmith. Any one of them who is capable of crafting divine weapons will gather spirits like that.”

Shang Xia didn’t think that the biggest headache he had would be solved with a short conversation with Zhang Haogu.

Even though Shang Xia was feeling excited about the information he just learned, he felt a trace of worry rising in his heart. “This disciple heard that any of the four spirits are precious objects. Since they are used in the production of divine weapons, high-leveled blacksmiths won’t give them to me so easily...”

“Are you really planning to use it to refine divine weapons?!” Zhang Haogu asked while chuckling.

Clearing his throat, Shang Xia admitted in a straightforward fashion, “Nope. I’m making preparations to create my advancement medicine.”

Zhang Haogu’s eyebrows shot up in surprise. “Oh? That’s new. It’s not often someone uses Spirits of the Four Seasons to craft advancement medicines.”

Shang Xia chuckled softly but didn’t reply.

Seeing as he had remained silent, Zhang Haogu continued, “Relax. Spirits of the Four Seasons might be rare, but divine weapons aren’t created that often. Look at our Azure Origin World! How many divine weapons are there in total? Even if the high-leveled blacksmiths collected the spirits, they wouldn’t have much use for it. Moreover, there are more spirits out there that can be used. As long as you trade them something of some value, they will probably agree.”

Watching Shang Xia’s expression transform to one of shock, Zhang Haogu couldn’t help but laugh, “What’s the matter? Don’t you believe me?”

Shang Xia shook his head hastily. “Of course not. It’s just that I didn’t think it would be so easy.”

“I heard that Patriarch Shang went around collecting rank four herbs the moment he returned. Is he trying to find the spirits that way?” Zhang Haogu questioned.

Shang Xia replied truthfully, “Grandpa Ke heard that Patriarch Kou has the Spirit of Spring with him and he’s planning to ask the patriarch for it. However, the herbs might not have anything to do with it.”

Actually, Shang Ke wasn’t just collecting the herbs for Shang Xia. He was also gathering them for Shang Jian when he made his breakthrough later.

Shang Xia might reveal some information about himself, but he wouldn’t explain things that had to do with Shang Jian. No matter how much he trusted Zhang Haogu, Hiding a portion of the Shang Clan’s strength was always better.

If people were to learn that there was another member of the Shang Clan who was starting to make preparations to charge into the Martial Extermination Realm, things might blow out of proportion.

After all, the moment Shang Xia and Shang Jian succeeded, there would be four Martial Extermination Realm experts in the clan. Their strength wouldn’t lose out to the Zhu Family before the collision of the worlds!

Zhang Haogu nodded slightly and muttered, “Actually, Patriarch Kou planned to use the Flower Spirit to repair his Hidden Frost Sword if it suffered any injuries. However, his sword is one of the few offensive type divine weapons in our Azure Origin World and even in the Azure Spiritual World! Ordinarily, they would be the ones damaging other divine weapons, not the other way around. From what I heard, the patriarch looks highly upon you. You also have Deputy Patriarch Shang Bo backing you up... I don’t think it will be difficult for you to obtain it.”

Shang Xia scratched his head and chuckled softly. Another thought flashed across his mind and he asked another question, “Instructor Zhang, you just called Patriarch Kou’s Spirit of Spring the ‘Flower Spirit’. Does that mean that the other spirits also have their own name?”

Zhang Haogu shook his head and explained, “The Spirits of the Four Seasons are nurtured by the world and they are a general term that refers to any spirit that contains the essence of the seasons.”

“Would that mean that as long as a spirit is born in their respective season, they can be considered a Spirit of the Four Seasons?” Shang Xia muttered after thinking about it for some time.

“Somewhat...” Zhang Haogu replied.

After receiving Zhang Haogu’s guidance, Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief and a wide smile formed on his face. Taking out a spirit restraining pouch, something could be seen thrashing about inside. Shang Xia handed it over to Zhang Haogu and asked, “Instructor, I managed to obtain this from some strange windy region in the battlefield between the two worlds. The companion I was traveling with said that it was the Spirit of Wind. I wonder if Instructor Zhang can identify if this is one of the Spirits of the Four Seasons?”

“Oh?” Examining the pouch, Zhang Haogu quickly formed his conclusion even though he didn’t open the seal. However, he had to add, “How did you manage to run into it? Not to mention capturing the highly elusive Wind Spirit...” He shot Shang Xia a suspicious glance and he continued, “It’s difficult for even Martial Extermination

Realm experts to capture it. Did you really do it yourself? Oh right, what was that about your companion?"

"Of course I didn't do it myself..." Shang Xia quickly explained how he found the Lightning Bird and the flock of Mutated Rain Swallows again.

The old instructor couldn't help but sigh, "The windy region contained in a deep valley? Lightning and wind extermination qi contained in the air? I'm surprised that a place like that even exists in the battlefield between the two worlds! Looks like something changed since the Origin Tide."

Turning to Shang Xia, he couldn't help but praise him again. "Kid, you are truly lucky. The Lightning Bird probably made its nest there because of the extermination qi contained in the air. From how you said it captured the Spirit of Wind, it should be close to a rank four spiritual beast."

Initially, the Lightning Bird and Shang Xia were enemies. However, the two of them went through many trials together and they assisted each other in many ways that benefited each other. Eventually, they developed enough trust for each other and the two could be considered good friends.

Even though Shang Xia had guessed how strong the Lightning Bird was, he couldn't help but feel a burst of joy in his heart when he heard Zhang Haogu mentioning it.

Noticing Shang Xia's reaction, Zhang Haogu sighed involuntarily. Turning to the pouch in his hand, he muttered, "It's not difficult to tell which essence it contains. As long as we draw out a small strand of its energy and release it on some flower and grass, we'll know."

As soon as the words left his lips, Zhang Haogu pointed casually at the opening of the pouch. At the same time, a thin copper strand emerged from his fingertip and spun around the pouch. It quickly suppressed the Spirit of Wind that wanted to escape.

In the split second he did that, a soft wind emerged from the pouch and blew against the grass under his feet.

Under Shang Xia's shocked gaze, the grass that was swaying in the wind a moment ago started to wither. It didn't take long before they were dead.

"Spirit of Autumn?" Shang Xia didn't need Zhang Haogu to make the evaluation.

Sealing the pouch, he handed it back to Shang Xia. "Looks like you're really lucky. You basically got your hands on the Spirit of Spring and Spirit of Autumn already."

Keeping the bag, Shang Xia brought up yet another topic. "Instructor Zhang, you said that the Lightning Bird is starting to advance and it's trying to absorb wind and lightning extermination qi. Is it possible for it to refine both types of qi at the same time?"

Glancing at Shang Xia from the corner of his eye, Zhang Haogu immediately saw through Shang Xia's intentions. "You're thinking of asking if it's possible for cultivators to do the same. Hahaha, you wish to know if it's possible to refine multiple strands of extermination origins at once, right?"

Shang Xia didn't deny but he also didn't mention the method recorded on his Crimson Soul Tablet.

"No one tried whatever you're thinking of before. However, it should be possible in theory. The only problem is that it's too big of a risk for a cultivator to refine multiple

strands of extermination origin at the same time. Moreover, it's not easy to retrieve several extermination origins at the same time. Even holy lands wouldn't dare to dream of doing something like that. Even if they manage to gather a few of them, they wouldn't allow someone who's about to advance to behave recklessly. The moment they try refining multiple extermination origins and they start to clash, the cultivator would lose control of their inner qi and explode."

An amused expression remained on Zhang Haogu's face as he continued, "Youngsters like you are daring and are willing to try anything. It's good to be confident in your abilities but taking things step by step is the way to go. Being bold but knowing your limits is the most important thing. You're still really young but you're already much stronger than your peers. You don't have to be in such a rush!"

Shang Xia chuckled bitterly. "Instructor Zhang, of course I understand where you're coming from. However, I'm afraid I'm truly out of time!"

Shang Xia wasn't wrong. However, he didn't expect anyone to understand the situation he was in. Even Zhang Haogu, the member of the institution Shang Xia trusted the most in the battlefield between the two worlds wouldn't be able to comprehend his current plight!

After a short period of silence, Zhang Haogu broke the silence with a soft chuckle. "Since that's the case, do what you need to do. No matter what, instructors and deacons of the institution are still here to take care of things. You do what you need to. There's no need to force any of you to do anything at the moment."

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When Shang Xia was done with his questions, Zhang Haogu started allocating him his job for real. He strolled around the territory with Zhang Haogu and with the instructor's introduction, Shang Xia quickly learned about the other Talisman Masters he was working with. There were two others who were rank three Talisman Masters and they were Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui. Other than the two of them, there were also seven rank two Talisman Masters.

Those were the important craftsmen but there were also more than ten rank one Talisman Masters ready to deal with the grunt work. Counting everyone else in the Talisman Hall like the Ink Craftsmen, Talisman Paper Craftsmen, Brush Makers, and the other miscellaneous workers, there were close to 300 people who made up the Talisman Hall!

All of them were gathered there at the moment and Shang Xia could tell that more than 90 percent of members in the Tongyou Institution who had anything to do with talismans were present.

Chapter 412: This Is Madness!!!

It didn't take long for Shang Xia to familiarize himself with the Talisman Hall with Zhang Haogu's introductions.

The two other rank three Talisman Masters, Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui, quickly stood beside Shang Xia to run him through the tasks they were assigned to do.

After getting a basic rundown on the area, Shang Xia couldn't help but ask the question that had been stewing in his heart for some time now. "Why do we need to make a Formation Talisman?"

Activating a Formation Talisman might be quick, but it won't last for long. A Formation Talisman alone is too weak and will be prone to destruction due to its formless nature. If we're really pressed for time, why don't we create talismans and seal them in jade or gold? At the very least, using beast skin or wood would allow the talisman to be much more durable than a Formation Talisman."

Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui stared at each other for a second before turning to look at Zhang Haogu in unison. Their reactions were the same as Shang Xia as they tried to look for an answer.

Clearly, the two of them were equally as curious.

Zhang Haogu chuckled bitterly and explained, "We don't have time on our side. Laying down a grand formation like the one back on the Tongyou Peak isn't really feasible at the moment."

"Is the Azure Spiritual World about to attack us again?" Shang Xia gasped. No one could blame him for thinking like that. After all, the Tongyou Institution relied mostly on luck to gain the upperhand when they fought their way back to the battlefield between the two worlds. The members of the Azure Spiritual World might not be willing to accept the loss and allow them to do as they wished.

Moreover, it was no secret that the Tongyou Institution's strength was weakened after the war. The departure of many Martial Extermination Realm experts was no secret. To the Azure Spiritual World, the Tongyou Institution was like an empty fort!

The Changbai Holy Land might be shameless and the four great races of the Liao Continent might have a bone to pick with them, but everyone had to admit that their foundations were terrifying. It wouldn't be a problem to send out a few more Martial Extermination Realm experts into the battlefield between the two worlds to wreak havoc.

If that were to happen, the Tongyou Institution would truly be in trouble. They would be forced into a corner and they would have to defend themselves desperately with whatever they had!

That was most likely the reason they were trying to lay down a large scale formation as soon as they could. It didn't matter how they did it.

"Yeah. We thought about that." Zhang Haogu didn't deny it, but he quickly followed up, "But that's not the main reason."

Perhaps it was because Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui were present, but Zhang Haogu stopped there. He didn't go into details, but Shang Xia had his guesses.

The conversation continued among the four of them but a young cultivator approached them in a hurry.

"Instructor Zhang, Teachers..." The youngster appeared before them before long and greeted three of them.

Before taking on his position as the head of the Scripture Depository, Zhang Haogu was a well received instructor in the institution. Many disciples knew him and called him by his past title. Also, Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui were rank three Talisman Masters and have taught in the institution. Some of the younger disciples and teachers received their teachings in the past and that was how they were addressed.

Staring at Shang Xia, the young cultivator was too stunned to speak.

Shang Xia glanced at the newcomer and found him slightly familiar. They seemed to have entered the Tongyou Institution at the same time and they were actually classmates.

However, the time Shang Xia spent in the institution was far too little and he didn't know which outer division the disciple came from. He didn't even know the other disciple's name.

An awkward feeling overcame Shang Xia and he could only chuckle helplessly while avoiding the disciple's gaze. Now that the two of them were meeting again, Shang Xia was already in the Upper Division. Who would have thought that this Upper Division Disciple would also be feeling uncomfortable?

In less than two years, the once leader of the outer divisions had already turned into a legend!

Actually, the disciple who came had also reached the Upper Division. That was how he was able to report to Zhang Haogu anyway. Regardless, things were a little awkward at the moment due to the fact that even though their statuses were almost the same, one of them was a mere messenger while the other could joke around with Zhang Haogu and the two rank three Talisman Masters.

Seeing as the disciple was getting distracted, Zhang Haogu frowned slightly in displeasure. "What's the matter?"

The young cultivator snapped back to reality and made his report. "Instructor Zhang, Teachers, The Formation Hall came over to ask us to hurry up. They said that even if we're unable to create the Formation Talisman, they hope that we can complete one set of auxiliary talismans."

The expressions of the high-leveled experts present immediately twisted in distaste.

"What the hell! Do they think it's that easy to create thousands of talismans?!" Gong Hang, who looked the most easily annoyed out of them all, yelled.

Zhang Haogu waved his hand casually to stop Gong Hang from saying any more. He looked at the disciple who came and spoke in an even tone, "How many talismans do they need this time?"

"This... According to Teacher Chu Jia, the Formation Hall's preparation to lay down the core of the formation should be complete. As long as we complete another 24 rank three talismans, 108 rank two talismans, and 500 rank one talismans, they should be able to complete the initial process. When that's done, we can start crafting the rest to supplement the construction of the main formation." The disciple completed the report.

On the side, Fan Yuanhui snorted coldly, "Hmph, the Formation Hall actually sent the little lass over this time. What's her problem? Is she trying to make our lives difficult?"

Gong Hang sneered at the side, "The formation we're planning to lay down should be similar to the one around the Tongyou Peak. Of course the Formation Hall knows what they have to do. They probably made preparations to complete the formation core a long time ago. Now that we're changing the main protection formation to a Formation Talisman, we're the ones doing the bulk of the work. We have to produce thousands of talismans all of a sudden. Obviously, we won't be able to keep up immediately! What is the point of hurrying us all day long?"

“No matter what, completing the grand formation is of utmost importance. Since they’re completing the foundations of the formation, we’ll just give them the talismans they need.” Zhang Haogu muttered.

After he spoke, he turned to Shang Xia and smiled, “Moreover, we have another rank three Talisman Master now. We should be able to speed up our production soon.”

When they heard what he said, Gong Hang forced a smile to remain polite while Fan Yuanhui shook his head doubtfully.

Luckily, Zhang Haogu didn’t seem to notice the look on their faces as he addressed the disciple who came over to make the report. “Please go over to the Formation Hall and tell Teacher Chu Jia that we heard her request. We’ll complete one set of auxiliary talismans soon.”

Acknowledging Zhang Haogu’s orders, the disciple turned to take his leave.

When the disciple was gone, Zhang Haogu turned to look at the three of them and revealed a bitter smile. “Looks like we’ll have to depend on the three of you ?no.”

Gong Hang was the oldest of the three rank three Talisman Masters present and the talismans he made were also of the highest quality. He quickly took on the position of their leader and mentioned, “Let’s not waste any more time. I’ll work together with Teacher Fan to start on the production of rank three talismans. Talisman Master Shang, do you need to familiarize yourself before you begin?”

SHang Xia chuckled in response, “Nope. Since we are in a hurry, I can start immediately.”

Gong Hang nodded and continued, “Alright. Since that’s the case, we’ll have to trouble you to start with several rank two talismans.”

Raising his eyebrows in surprise, a strange light flashed through his eyes but he didn’t say anything else.

Instead, it was Zhang Haogu who spoke up. “Huh? He’s a rank three Talisman Master. Why don’t you get him to craft rank three talismans? Didn’t Chu Jia say that we need 24 rank three talismans for the first batch? Didn’t the two of you only complete ten or fewer of them?”

Gong Hang maintained a smile on his face, but the look in his eyes was one of mockery when he looked at Shang Xia. It was as though he was trying to tell Shang Xia to not waste resources when it came to crafting talismans.

Unlike Gong Hang, Fan Yuanhui didn’t seem to be afraid of offending Shang Xia as he sneered, “Heh, we believe that Young Talisman Master Shang managed to craft a rank three talisman, and we admit that he’s a genius for being able to do so at such a young age. However, we need to take success rate into account. Even though the Formation Hall isn’t asking for so many talismans at the moment, it’s not easy to craft a single rank three talisman. If we waste too many resources, the formation around our Observation Peak might not be completed on time.”

How could Shang Xia not understand that the two of them were looking down on him, especially after what Fan Yuanhui said.

The two rank three Talisman Masters might seem polite to him on the surface, but they were doubting his abilities as a rank three Talisman Master! They might have thought that the Shang Clan

provided him with a ton of resources in order for him to improve, allowing him to become a rank three Talisman Master despite his low success rate in crafting talismans.

They even thought that he joined the Talisman Hall in order to gain more resources from the institution.

Rather than allowing him to waste resources, they might as well send him off to craft rank two talismans. In their eyes, it didn't matter if Shang Xia had a low success rate in crafting rank three talismans. The kid was a rank three Talisman Master no matter what and crafting rank two talismans shouldn't be a problem for him. They could save resources used for rank three talismans and greatly increase the production of rank two talismans, killing two birds with one stone!

At least, that was what they thought.

A deep frown could be seen on Zhang Haogu's face and even though he was extremely displeased with their attitude, he couldn't deny that they had the Tongyou Institution's interests at heart.

Moreover, even Zhang Haogu himself hadn't seen Shang Xia in action before.

All of a sudden, Shang Xia chuckled in amusement, "Oh right, how many rank three talisman papers do the Talisman Hall have?"

Gong Hang could hear the indignation in Shang Xia's voice, but he couldn't care too much. When he saw how Zhang Haogu was staring at him, he couldn't help but reply, "We have 29 pieces of rank three talisman paper and there'll be more coming soon. From the standard of our talisman paper makers, they should provide us with 6 to 7 pieces after some time."

Zhang Haogu's eyes widened slightly and he asked, "Are we running out of resources already?"

Gong Hang wanted to grumble about the allocation of resources and how it was slowing them down, but Shang Xia interrupted him before he could say a word. "How rank tree talismans have we completed?"

With the sudden interruption, Gong Hang was really getting annoyed with Shang Xia but he couldn't snap at the youngster as Zhang Haogu was still present. He could only sneer softly, "We completed 8 talismans in total..."

"Oh." Shang Xia muttered and started to think out loud. "We need 24 talismans for the first batch and since you already completed 8 of them, we need 16 more. Since we have 29 more pieces of rank three talisman paper and there should be 6 to 7 more of them coming, we'll have around 34 pieces..."

Turning to Zhang Haogu, Shang Xia chuckled, "Formation Talismans are a little easier to create compared to talismans of the same level. We should be able to complete the 24 talismans with the resources we have."

"Oh?" Zhang Haogu's eyes lit up after hearing what Shang Xia said.

"Humph! You're overestimating yourself!" Fan Yuanhui snapped suddenly.

Chapter 413: Shang Xia's Confidence

“You’re overestimating yourself!” Fan Yuanhui couldn’t help but snap at Shang Xia, “Kid, I know that you managed to craft a few rank three talismans by relying on your luck, but you better not speak without thinking! It’s possible to craft 16 pieces of Formation Talisman with the resources we have ordinarily, but we’re in a rush right now! Do you think we have the luxury to take our time when crafting talismans?”

Facing Fan Yuanhui’s angry response, Shang Xia seemed completely unaffected. He waited for Fan Yuanhui to be done before chuckling softly, “It’s difficult for the two of you to complete the 16 talismans required, but I’m here now.”

“You?” Fan Yuanhui sneered in response. He was too lazy to follow up with more insults and chose to remain silent.

At the side, Gong Hang added, “It’s good for youngsters like you to be confident in yourself. However, you need to be realistic. It’s not difficult for a rank three Talisman Master to craft a rank three talisman successfully and quickly with a little luck, but the real problem lies in your true success rate. It also depends on how much inner qi and divine sense you exhaust when crafting rank three talismans and how long you take to recover. Also, if you can maintain the same state when crafting talismans after you recover.”

“With the large amounts of rank three talismans we’re crafting, we might not be able to recover to our optimal condition after every talisman. Even so, we need to maintain our success rate and it’s extremely difficult to do so!”

Gong Hang looked at Shang Xia and said earnestly, “After all, every time you cut off a portion of your divine sense, you need a lot of time to recover. It’s extremely taxing to craft a rank three talisman!”

Even though Gong Hang didn’t put it as bluntly as Fan Yuanhui, he was obviously disguising his ‘teachings’ to look down on Shang Xia.

Zhang Haogu might be knowledgeable and knew a little about talisman crafting, but he wasn’t a true talisman master. Seeing as the two of them were trying to dissuade Shang Xia from starting with the rank two talismans, he felt that he had to take their views into account.

A soft laughter emerged from Shang Xia’s lips suddenly and he took out a few pieces of rank three talisman paper. “Why don’t you give me a chance? I have 6 pieces of rank three talisman papers here. I’ll use them to complete 3 Formation Talismans. If I fail, I’ll give these to the Talisman Hall.”

“Young Master Shang, are you really planning to give it a shot?” Gong Hang muttered in a low voice. He wasn’t willing to see Shang Xia waste his own talisman papers for the sake of the Talisman Hall, but he didn’t wish to offend Shang Xia even further now that things had come down to this.

Moreover, Gong Hang’s relationship with Shang Ke wasn’t bad to begin with. He was the one who crafted the Suspended Spear Talisman Shang Ke requested in the past.

Fan Yuanhui didn't seem too convinced but he eventually broke the silence. "Let him do as he wishes. After all, it isn't difficult for him to bring out 6 pieces of rank three talisman paper with the Shang Clan's foundations. He'll give up after he fails."

"Since you wish to try, go ahead and enter. However, I'll have to let you know that due to our tight timeline, you'll need to complete the talismans in a month." Gong Hang gestured to one of the secret chambers and sighed.

Entering the secret chamber, Shang Xia heard Gong Hang's voice behind him. "This is the secret chamber I use to craft talismans. Everything you need should be in here. If Young Master Shang would like to use your own equipment, that would be great. Otherwise, feel free to let me know of any other requests you might have. I'll get someone to prepare anything else you need."

Gong Hang brought Shang Xia around and introduced the place to him.

Looking around, Shang Xia laughed happily, "This is amazing! It's much better than when I tried crafting talismans. If there's nothing else, I'll start right now."

Gong Hang stared at Shang Xia in shock as he didn't think that Shang Xia would be ready so quickly. He might be a little concerned, but he took his leave nonetheless.

Watching the entrance seal up and the restrictions on the walls activate, Zhang Haogu, who was outside, frowned. "How many talismans do you think he'll be able to make?"

Gong Hang sighed softly, "Mister Zhang, we're not trying to make things difficult for him, but this isn't the time to nurture talents by letting him use all the resources he wants."

"Heh, I'm quite confident in the kid's abilities. He might actually be able to complete 3 talismans in a month." Zhang Haogu added when he heard how neither of them had dared to give a response.

Shaking his head, Gong Hang muttered, "Actually, he doesn't need to complete 3 talismans. As long as he manages to finish 2, I would gladly welcome him to assist us. After all, we will need to complete 49 talismans in the second batch..."

"?? Hehe, I'll admit that I was wrong if he manages to complete a single one." Fan Yuanhui snorted in disdain. "Luckily for us, even if he fails, our progress won't be too affected. After all, he'll be returning the talisman papers he wasted. Then again, if he completes a Formation Talisman, he'll actually make our lives easier. However, this secret chamber..."

Gong Hang chuckled in response, "It's alright. A secret chamber can be built in 3 days or so. We'll just give him this one. No matter what, he's a rank three talisman master now. It's perfect timing as I need some time to recover from all the talismans I made in the past few days. Our progress won't be affected at all."

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When Gong Hang left the secret chamber, Shang Xia looked around the place again before getting ready to craft the rank three Formation Talisman.

Along with the activation of several low-leveled talismans, the restrictions within the secret chamber were fully activated and he could start the process without fear of being distracted.

Even though he hadn't crafted a Formation Talisman before, it was recorded in the Zhu Family Talisman Scripture. He had studied it again and again, and he was pretty familiar with it.

Of course, that didn't mean that the Formation Talisman recorded in the Zhu Family Talisman Scripture was the exact same one he was going to be crafting. After all, he needed to ensure it complemented the core of the formation laid down by the Formation Hall.

Regardless, the principle of crafting the Formation Talisman didn't change. As long as there wasn't too much of a difference, many Talisman Masters would be confident enough to make one.

The example of the Formation Talisman provided by the Tongyou Institution might be slightly different from the one recorded in the Zhu Family Talisman Scripture, but Shang Xia felt that it wouldn't be too difficult to make one.

Also, he wasn't kidding when he said that Formation Talismans were much easier to craft than other talisman types. That was also one of the main reasons he dared to try his hand at them.

Looking at the mid-grade brush that was held on a brush holder above the jade platform he was supposed to do his crafting on, Shang Xia knew that it belonged to Gong Hang.

The brush might be of a higher grade than what he was using, but he didn't plan on touching it.

One needed time to get used to the brush they used and with only one month to craft 3 talismans, Shang Xia couldn't waste a second. As such, he quickly pulled out his Flying Goose Brush.

The 6 pieces of talisman paper provided by the Talisman Hall were extremely ordinary and he placed them on the table beside him.

The only thing he was surprised by was the pine-soot ink stone that Gong Hang left behind. After he ground it into ink, it would be of the third rank. With rank three ink at his disposal, Shang Xia felt a lot more confident.

There were also many pieces of auxiliary equipment all around him.

At the end of the day, Shang Xia had to admit that the secret chamber Gong Hang allowed him to use had surpassed his expectations. At the very least, it didn't seem like Gong Hang was making things hard for him.

However...

Shang Xia's gaze eventually landed on a censer not too far away. The incense that was burning inside was barely passable to Shang Xia.

Retrieving a jade box from his Embroidered Cloud Case, Shang Xia tossed its contents into the censer to let it burn.

That was the Intent Guarding Incense Shang Xia got the recipe for a long time ago. It was one of the treasures he used when breaking through to the Martial Intent Realm, but he discovered that it had many other helpful properties. It could allow one to focus a lot better and when used during the talisman crafting process, it would allow him to remain at his most optimal condition.

The only problem was that the Intent Guarding Incense wasn't cheap to create. It ached his heart whenever he used a portion of it.

After a period of research by Shang Xia, he swapped out several precious ingredients and simplified the crafting process. Even though the effects were reduced, it allowed the incense to be produced at a much more sustainable rate.

He revealed the simplified recipe to Shang Quan a long time ago and the money-making uncle immediately saw the benefits it could bring. At the moment, the Shang Clan had been producing all they could and were even starting to separate them into batches with different qualities.

As the smoke filled the air, the entire chamber entered a state of tranquility.

Shang Xia didn't stop there. He poured a little liquid from a gourd onto the ink slab beside him and pure waves of heaven and earth qi filled the air.

"Huh?" Shang Xia's eyes lit up when he felt the change. He didn't expect the liquid to be diluted Spring Water! Was it possible for it to be Inexhaustible Spring Water? One had to know that he needed a pot of Hundred Year Old Inexhaustible Spring Water to create his advancement medicine!

It seemed as though he would have to ask Zhang Haogu about it when he was done with the crafting process.

Adjusting his state of mind, Shang Xia started to analyze the template of the Formation Talisman provided by the institution.

Grinding the pine-soot ink stone, Shang Xia could feel that he was starting to reach his peak state. His Flying Goose Brush tapped lightly on the surface of the ink slab and he placed all his concentration on the talisman paper before him. He muttered something to himself as he immersed himself in the process of crafting the Formation Talisman.

Very quickly, he entered a mysterious state under the faint incense smoke and his brush danced ferociously in his hands. The feeling wasn't foreign to Shang Xia at all as he experienced something similar when crafting his previous batch of rank three talismans.

Chapter 414: Be Free

From the time he placed his brush down on the paper to the time his first rank three Formation Talisman was complete, barely three days had passed.

If he managed to keep it up, he would be able to finish 10 rank three Formation Talismans in a month! Of course, that wasn't how things worked.

...

A rank three Talisman Master would have to separate a part of their divine sense and seal it into the talisman they were making in order for it to be classified as a rank three talisman.

An exceptional rank three Talisman Master would only be able to create 6 talismans in a month before their foundations were injured.

However, Shang Xia seemed to have surpassed that benchmark. After creating his first talisman, he discovered that he would be able to craft 7 more of them at the rate he was going without injuring his foundations.

After experiencing so many wars waged against the Tongyou Institution, Shang Xia's divine sense grew stronger than the ordinary cultivator. Moreover, he had the Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter for a little extra boost.

With his current abilities, Shang Xia was able to split off eight portions of his divine sense easily.

No matter what, strong divine sense was the hallmark of any outstanding Talisman Master.

Both Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui felt that Shang Xia had already exceeded his limits by attempting to craft six rank three talismans in one short month. After all, he would have to split his divine sense regardless of whether his talismans were a success or not.

They would never expect for Shang Xia to be a rank three Talisman Master who defied all logic. Not only did he possess extraordinarily strong divine sense, but he had also come up with his own unique way of crafting talismans!

It started from several strokes of inspiration he had in the past, and after entering his unique state of crafting talismans, Shang Xia could reach an unprecedented state of focus. That also resulted in him being more successful in his craft!

Unfortunately, he hadn't reached the level where he could control when he was able to fully enter his unique state of mind. The only thing Shang Xia could count on was the ability to recall the wondrous state of mind when crafting talismans as he tried his best to enter it again. With repeated practice and tests, Shang Xia somehow managed to capture its essence. Even though he wasn't able to fully immerse himself, he was able to recreate nearly 60 percent of it.

60 percent was more than enough for Shang Xia to be confident enough to craft the rank three Formation Talismans!

Since he had studied the creation of rank three Formation Talismans again and again in the Zhu Family Talisman Scripture, the creation of his first rank three Formation Talisman went rather smoothly.

Due to the reduced difficulty of crafting rank three Formation Talismans and Shang Xia's impressive skills, he used two and a half short days to seal a portion of his divine sense into the talisman.

Since that was done, the talisman could basically be deemed a successful product.

After some slight touch-ups, Shang Xia realized he succeeded on his first try!

...

With the completion of his first talisman, Shang Xia felt his ego inflating slightly despite his usual mindset.

It seemed as though a rank three Formation Talisman was truly much easier to create than other rank three talismans...

Taking a break for one whole day to adjust his condition, Shang Xia quickly started on his second talisman.

The reason why Shang Xia's way of talisman crafting was unique was because he had a special cadence. He needed to be aware of where his brush was on the paper at all times and how long it would take for him to complete each stroke. Even lifting his pen was a special process that contributed to his overall success. While he was keeping track of all that, he would also have to separate a part of his divine sense to seal it into the talisman. The process was a lot more complicated than it seemed and not only did he have to concentrate on different things, he couldn't make a single mistake. Otherwise, all his efforts would come to naught.

His first successful run told him that his method was feasible, and the second time he tried it allowed him to notice exactly how complicated it was.

He might have gotten a little overconfident due to his first success, or it might also be because he hadn't truly grasped the key to crafting the Formation Talismans. Because of a small mistake, he hesitated slightly when completing his stroke and the talisman paper he was working on went up in flames.

After failing on his second attempt, 6 days passed.

Taking a 3 day break, Shang Xia concluded everything he had learned in his previous attempts. Adjusting his mental state, he ensured it was at its peak before starting his third attempt on the tenth day.

This time, he didn't face many obstacles. In two and a half short days, he completed his second rank three Formation Talisman.

Feeling pretty good about himself, Shang Xia felt that his current state of mind was ready to start again. However, he decided against it as he forced himself to take a short break for 2 days.

No matter what, he already completed 2 rank three Formation Talismans. He only needed to finish one more and with 3 more chances, he was pretty confident in himself.

On his fourth attempt, Shang Xia made a careless mistake halfway through and caused the destruction of another rank three talisman paper.

Normally, failure when crafting rank three talismans was commonplace. Not even Shang Xia could ensure that he would succeed every time. However, things were different that time as it was because of the ink he ground personally.

In the past, Shang Quan was the one who created the talisman ink he used. All he needed to do was to dab a little to start his crafting process. That also meant that Shang Xia had never ground his own talisman ink.

Because there was no one to help him in the secret chamber, Shang Xia ground his own ink from the pine-soot ink stone before adding some diluted spring water.

No issues popped up in his past three attempts and Shang Xia didn't expect himself to make a mistake. Unfortunately, he made the ink a little too concentrated this time. Because of how thick the ink was, some of the runes he drew became a little too thick. Heaven and earth qi that flowed through it exceeded the limit of what the talisman paper could withstand and ended his fourth attempt.

It seemed as though he had to be extremely careful when it came down to crafting any rank three talismans!

Sighing softly, Shang Xia took a short break before he started again.

It was already the eighteenth day of their agreement and Shang Xia was already using his fifth piece of talisman paper.

There was finally no mishap as he completed his third successful talisman on the twentieth day of their agreement.

With ten days left, Shang Xia was in no rush to leave the secret chamber. Instead, he stayed in there for a few more days on purpose.

Due to his divine sense being much stronger than experts at the same level, he was able to craft talismans at a much faster rate too. However, Shang Xia didn't wish to reveal his secret so easily and decided to head out after some time.

He might have intentionally delayed his departure from the secret chamber, but those outside would be taken aback nonetheless when he emerged.

As for the last piece of rank three talisman paper, Shang Xia kept it in his Embroidered Cloud Case as a reward for his successful work.

Since he only needed to hand three completed talismans over, he wasn't going to make more of them just for the sake of acting cool. No one could blame him for trying to conserve resources. After all, obtaining rank three talisman paper was something Shang Xia had a huge problem with. He had no choice but to think for himself when it came down to using resources.

As for the pine-soot ink stone that Gong Hang left behind, Shang Xia only left whatever was left of it there as he couldn't bring himself to be such a cheapskate and take it for himself.

When he released the restrictions on the secret chamber and made his preparations to emerge, someone quickly made a report to Zhang Haogu, Gong Hang, and Fan Yuanhui.

The three of them rushed over at top speed and several other members of the Talisman Hall who knew about the bet had already gathered around.

"Didn't they say it would take a month? Why is he out on the twenty-fifth day?" Zhang Haogu felt a little uneasy as truth be told, he wasn't too confident in Shang Xia.

After all, no matter how talented Shang Xia was, there was no denying that he had only stepped onto the path of a Talisman Master for a short period of time! How could he compare himself to Gong Hang or Fan Yuanhui who had been doing it for tens of years?

Gong Hang chuckled, "Perhaps Young Master Shang managed to finish his task early."

"Hmph, do you think it's possible?" Fan Yuanhui glanced at him coldly in response.

"No matter what, it will be a blessing for our Talisman Hall if he manages to finish his task." Gong Hang muttered.

Fan Yuanhui sneered, "There's another possibility and he might have destroyed all of his talisman paper... Why didn't you think of that?"

"This..." Gong Hang swept his gaze across his surroundings and didn't really know how to respond.

All of a sudden, a clear voice rang through the air from inside the chamber. “Teacher Fan, are you really so pessimistic about my abilities?”

The youngster emerged from the secret chamber after he spoke and not a trace of emotion could be seen on his face.

The moment Shang Xia emerged, Gong Hang’s gaze never left his face.

Other than the fact that his face was a little pale from not being in the sun for so many days, Gong Hang couldn’t detect a trace of fatigue from the overexertion of divine sense Talisman Masters would suffer from after crafting so many talismans.

A trace of disappointment flashed through Gong Hang’s eyes as the final bit of hope he had in Shang Xia died. After all, he felt that there was no way a Martial Intent Realm cultivator could remain unaffected after six attempts to craft a rank three talisman.

Unless... Unless he was cheating!

Gong Hang sighed softly, “Young Master Shang, can I ask how many talismans you managed to complete? Let me make this clear. All the talisman paper provided by our Talisman Hall has its own unique marker.”

Raising his eyebrows in shock, the corners of Shang Xia’s mouth curled upwards to form a sneer as he muttered, “Teacher Gong, do you suspect that I swapped it out for completed talismans even after failing? I’m sorry to disappoint you!”

Waving his sleeves, three pieces of rank three Formation Talismans appeared before their eyes. “Please, feel free to check for any traces of cheating.”

Chapter 415: Hundred Year Old Inexhaustible Spring Water

The three talismans were eventually passed to Zhang Haogu.

As the Martial Extermination Realm expert who was temporarily in charge of the Talisman Hall, Zhang Haogu was obviously able to tell if those talismans were real. However, he still turned to Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui to ask, “What do the two of you think about this?”

! What were they supposed to say?

A bitter smile appeared on Gong Hang’s face as he realized that he had thoroughly offended Shang Xia with everything that he said before when the youngster threw out the three pieces of Formation Talisman.

With Shang Xia’s current status, nothing could be worse than someone looking down on him and suspecting that he had cheated by swapping out the talismans for completed ones. When Gong Hang mentioned that the talisman papers provided by the Talisman Hall were marked earlier, he had already made the assumption that Shang Xia wasn’t the one who created those talismans.

As a rank three Talisman Master himself, Gong Hang was more than capable of telling if a talisman was freshly created or not. The markings on the talisman paper wouldn’t matter!

Moreover, those markings left on the paper weren’t used to see if Shang Xia was cheating in the first place. They were there to ensure that disciples or other members of the institution didn’t try stealing the talisman papers to sell them to external cultivators.

Hastily, Gong Hang tried to salvage the situation. “Haha, the new generation will always surpass the old. They have reached the standard of a rank three talisman and they can definitely be used. Looks like I was too ignorant previously. I apologize to Young Master Shang for the disrespect I have shown.”

After he spoke, this old Talisman Master whose head was filled with white hair, gave Shang Xia a deep bow.

Jumping in fright, Shang Xia didn’t know how to respond.

“This... Teacher Gong, it’s nothing much! If you do this...” Before Shang Xia could complete his sentence, he saw Fan Yuanhui cupping his fists and doing the same.

“Teacher Fan, this... Teachers, I can’t take this!” Helpless, Shang Xia could only turn to Zhang Haogu with a pleading gaze.

To be really honest, Shang Xia was truly feeling a little irritated when they suspected him of cheating earlier. He even thought of storming off in a huff after showing them the completed talismans. After all, the Talisman Hall was the one who came begging him for help. They were the ones who needed to come up with the talismans for the grand formation and in Shang Xia’s words: This granddaddy here doesn’t need to put up with this!

However, all the words became stuck in his throat the moment Gong Hang lowered his head. All the anger in his stomach disappeared in an instant.

Zhang Haogu eventually broke the silence and chuckled softly, “Gong Hang, Fan Yuanhui, there’s no need for this. I didn’t think he was able to complete the talismans. After all, it’s good for youngsters to suffer some setbacks in their lives. I thought that it would be great even if he managed to complete a single talisman! Who would have thought that he would give us such a huge surprise?”

Turning to Shang Xia, Zhang Haogu continued, “Hehe, you really shocked us this time. I hope you won’t bear a grudge because of this. After all, you will need to work together with Teacher Gong and Fan to finish up all the talismans we need.”

Since Zhang Haogu had already spoken, there was nothing much left for Shang Xia to say. He nodded obediently in response, “This disciple understands. I’ll do my best.”

A smile appeared on Zhang Haogu’s face and he seemed gratified with Shang Xia’s reply. He then followed up quickly, “Alright, I’ll get someone to send another six pieces of rank three talisman paper over.”

Turning to Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui, Zhang Haogu asked again, “So, what do you two think of this?”

With things progressing up to that point, Gong Hang wasn’t going to obstruct Shang Xia any longer. Instead, he heaved a sigh of relief. “It’s a great idea. To be honest, the Formation Hall has been pestering us a little too much lately. Both Teacher Fan and I didn’t get much time to rest. With Talisman Master Shang taking over a portion of the responsibilities, the pressure on us will be alleviated. At the very least, we’ll be able to take longer breaks to recover our divine sense.”

Fan Yuanhui's gaze also landed on Shang Xia and he asked seriously, "You completed three Formation Talismans in 25 days. Will you be able to withstand the exhaustion?"

Shang Xia understood that Fan Yuanhui had his interests at heart when he asked the question, but the question still sounded a little off-putting. Regardless, he chuckled in response, "I'll be fine. I might be a little tired, but after taking a short break for 3 to 5 days, I should be ready to craft more talismans."

Fan Yuanhui nodded slightly and no longer spoke.

"It's good to be young! Your extraordinary talent is also really amazing!" Gong Hang quipped at the side. No one knew if he was admiring Shang Xia's talent or envious of his young age, but it seemed as though his praise was sincere.

All of a sudden, Zhang Haogu slapped his forehead and chuckled bitterly, "Oh right! I completely forgot about that! You need some time to recover your divine sense! Alright, we'll begin the next cycle in 5 days! One month would have passed since you started on the first batch, just like what we agreed on!"

"Sure." Shang Xia nodded in response.

The limit for most rank three Talisman Masters was six attempts in a single month and that was why they agreed to the bet previously.

However, that was the limit for normal rank three Talisman Masters. The exhaustion Shang Xia was feeling was much less than what he portrayed.

After all, he completed the talismans several days ago. There was also the matter of him only attempting the crafting process 5 times.

That was also before taking into account Shang Xia's terrifying recovery speed...

With everything decided, Gong Hang seemed to have thought of something and he brought up another question. "Talisman Master Shang's addition will greatly benefit our Talisman Hall, however..." Gong Hang stared at Zhang Haogu, Fan Yuanhui, and Shang Xia before he continued, "It's just that all our resources were calculated according to how much Teacher Fan and I would use. With Talisman Master Shang added into the mix, our resources will deplete at a much quicker rate. If the institution isn't able to keep up, I'm afraid there won't be enough resources for us to craft talismans."

Zhang Haogu was also feeling a headache coming as he didn't know how to solve the problem on such short notice.

At the end of the day, the Tongyou Institution's foundations were truly too shallow. Otherwise, they wouldn't be in such a mess.

After thinking about it for some time, Zhang Haogu asked, "What do we lack the most?"

"Talisman paper." Gong Hang replied without a shred of hesitation. "Our supply of Talisman Paper isn't enough. In the 20 odd days that passed, Talisman Master Shang used a total of 6 pieces. Both Teacher Fan and I used 5 pieces each and our talisman hall only managed to produce 6 pieces in total. Right now, we are only left with 19

pieces of rank three Talisman Paper. From what I heard, the ingredients used to make rank three talisman paper have been used up and we might need a period of time before the institution manages to resupply us.”

Fan Yuanhui added, “Actually, rank three talisman paper isn’t all we’re lacking. We’re running out of rank two talisman papers too.”

A deep frown appeared on Zhang Haogu’s face and he muttered, “If we’re really out of choices, we can only start buying them from elsewhere.”

That might be an idea, but the Tongyou Institution would definitely be paying out of their noses if they tried to acquire the talisman papers from elsewhere.

Hearing the problem, Shang Xia gasped slightly as he thought of something. He turned to Zhang Haogu and asked, “Instructor Zhang, do you remember the place I told you about where I found the Spirit of Wind?”

“What about it?” Zhang Haogu raised an eyebrow in confusion.

Shang Xia quickly revealed the presence of the ancient tree and the Stormy Lightning Leaf that grew on it along with the matter of Ren Huan’s desire to join the Talisman Hall.

As soon as he heard what Shang Xia said, Zhang Haogu nearly broke out laughing. “Are you telling me that Ren Huan, a talisman paper maker, not only wants to join our institution, but he also has a batch of ingredients used to craft rank three talisman paper?! What are you waiting for? Call him over and process his application! We’ll make a detailed investigation of his background after we deal with this matter. However, for him to be able to join our Tongyou Institution in this expedition, the Outreach Division should have done their fair share of work. His identity shouldn’t be much of a problem.”

Shang Xia nodded and thanked Zhang Haogu. “This disciple will contact him immediately and tell him to head over here as soon as he can.”

“Oh right. You can tell him that we’ll compensate him for the Stormy Lightning Leaves and anything else he might provide.” Zhang Haogu added.

When he was done speaking to Shang Xia, he turned to the other two and asked, “What do you think?”

When they heard the news about Ren Huan, the two of them were clearly much more relieved. After exchanging a glance, Gong Hang chuckled, “This is definitely a pleasant surprise, however...”

A helpless chuckle escaped Gong Hang’s lips when he saw Zhang Haogu’s gaze on him. “It’s just that the Stormy Lightning Leaves will make great rank three talisman papers that boost the properties of lightning and wind. It’s a waste for us to turn them into Formation Talismans...”

“Since time is of the essence, we can only take the loss...” Fan Yuanhui sighed softly after hearing what he said,

However, Shang Xia quickly added, “Why don’t we tell the Formation Hall about this and get them to add the properties of wind and lightning into the grand formation? Otherwise, it will truly be a waste of more than 30 Stormy Lightning Leaves.”

Zhang Haogu and Gong Hang stared at Shang Xia like they were seeing a crazy monster, but Fan Yuanhui agreed immediately. "I think that's a good idea! We've been taking instructions from the Formation Hall all this time and they're doing whatever they want. Now, it's time for them to come up with something new."

Fan Yuanhui's sudden approval of Shang Xia's idea truly caught him by surprise. Before he could say anything else, Zhang Haogu chimed in. "We'll talk about this after we see Ren Huan."

With everything settled, there was no longer a need for the four of them to be gathered together.

Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui immediately returned to their secret chambers to continue their talisman crafting process, and Zhang Haogu started to take his leave. No matter what, Zhang Haogu was a Martial Extermination Realm expert and he was the head of the Talisman Hall. Not only was he responsible for the safety of the Observation Peak, but he also had to take care of the resource gathering process of the Talisman Hall. He could be said to be the busiest out of all of them!

At the moment, Shang Xia was the person with the most free time on his hands, especially after getting a 5?day break.

Seeing as Zhang Haogu was about to leave, he quickly stopped the instructor. "Instructor Zhang, do you know where the spring water used to complete our ink comes from? Also, do you know when the spring was formed?"

Glancing at Shang Xia suspiciously, Zhang Haogu muttered, "There's an age requirement?"

Zhang Haogu was no amateur cultivator. He had been through many things and he understood that Shang Xia wouldn't say something if it held no purpose. Of course, he wouldn't force Shang Xia to reveal the true reason behind his question if the youngster wasn't willing to talk about it.

"Yes. This disciple needs a pot of Hundred Year Old Inexhaustible Spring Water."

Shang Xia continued.

Zhang Haogu laughed heartily in response. "You're a lucky one alright. There's a spring located in the mountains behind the institution and it definitely existed for more than a hundred years."

Chapter 416: Wily Old Fox

After Shang Xia completed the recipe of his rank four advancement medicine, he felt that he wouldn't be able to progress into the 'Four Constellation Realm' any time soon.

Who would have thought that he would already locate several hard to find treasures right off the bat?

Of the main ingredients he required, he already obtained the Spirit of Autumn and it was trashing away in his spirit restraining pouch somewhere in his inventory.

If things progressed normally, Shang Ke would be able to obtain the Spirit of Spring from Kou Chongxue. Since he was asking for the Spirit of Spring, it wouldn't be too much to bring a Jade Peach Blossom that was harvested in the spring.

The more important thing was that after Zhang Haogu's explanation, Shang Xia knew how to locate the Spirit of Summer and Spirit of Winter!

Of the assistive treasures he would require, he already solved the problem of the Hundred Year Old Inexhaustible Spring Water. He obtained a stalk of Windchime Grass back when he was adventuring with Ren Huan and since it was at the fourth rank, it had more than reached the criteria he needed.

He wasn't afraid of the difficulty of crafting his advancement medicine. He was afraid that he wouldn't know how to start looking for the treasures he needed.

After they sent out the summons, Ren Huan quickly arrived.

The talisman paper maker was obviously taking note of the situation in the battlefield between the two worlds. From how quickly he arrived, it was clear he hadn't returned to the Tongyou City.

When Shang Xia brought him over to introduce him to the temporary head of the Talisman Hall, Zhang Haogu, the instructor quickly expressed their desire to use the Stormy Lightning Leaves Ren Huan obtained.

As Shang Xia had spoken about it to him earlier, he wasn't caught off guard and he quickly agreed.

However, those 43 pieces of Stormy Lightning Leaves he retrieved from the tree had to be split with Shang Xia. Thus, he only agreed to provide the 22 pieces that belonged to him.

As for those that belonged to Shang Xia, he had already started to turn them into rank three talisman paper. 3 of them were complete and Shang Xia decided to hold off handing over the 18 that were left. He wanted to observe the situation before making any decisions.

With the addition of Ren Huan, a talisman paper maker who could craft rank three talisman paper, along with the 22 pieces of Stormy Lightning Leaves he brought with him, the shortage in the Talisman Hall was slightly alleviated. The production of rank two and rank one talisman paper would also speed up accordingly.

As for the price Zhang Haogu agreed to pay Ren Huan for those 22 pieces of Stormy Lightning Leaves, that was a deal only known to Zhang Haogu and Ren Huan.

However, Shang Xia could tell that Ren Huan wasn't getting the short end of the stick. More importantly, Ren Huan could be considered to be a part of the Tongyou Institution from that moment on. From the grin on the fatty's face that didn't seem to fade, Shang Xia understood that he managed to obtain some benefits from Zhang Haogu.

Fulfilling his promise to Ren Huan, Shang Xia decided to use his next four days of freedom to return to the Shang Clan's territory on the Observation Peak to take a good rest.

Before he left the Talisman Hall, he received a secret transmission from his Grandpa Ke: Shang Lubing managed to obtain a piece of rank four Brewer's Yeast in the Redwood Forest.

Speaking of the Redwood Forest, Shang Xia felt that he obtained the most valuable items there after getting the flask of rank four Monkey Wine.

Even if they emptied the other trees to collect all the wine present, the value would pale in comparison to what he collected!

Who would have thought that there would be even more precious treasures in there?

To refine rank one advancement medicine, one could easily boil some herbs with ordinary water. It would become a little more difficult when it came to rank two advancement medicines as those would usually be in a powder form. When it came to rank three advancement medicines, they would

usually be in the form of acupuncture needles, and they would need to be administered properly on specific acupuncture points. Rank four advancement medicine was a little more advanced than that. Rank four advancement medicine would usually come in the form of wine, and brewer's yeast was a component that couldn't be neglected.

Of Shang Xia's rank four advancement medicine formula, the assistive ingredient was also a brewer's yeast, and it was called the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer's Yeast.

Shang Ke didn't send Shang Xia the secret transmission for nothing. Even though he didn't know if the brewer's yeast Shang Lubing obtained was what Shang Xia needed, he managed to negotiate with Shang Lubing for the Shang Clan to obtain a portion of whatever they retrieved from the Redwood Forest.

It seemed as though his shameless decision was correct. No matter how small the portion of benefits from the Redwood Forest was left for the Shang Clan, they would be able to apply for a portion of the brewer's yeast for Shang Xia!

Even if it wasn't the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer's Yeast, Shang Xia would be able to trade it with others in the future.

With the news he received, he no longer headed for the Shang Clan's territory on the Observation Peak. He made a quick turn and went past the Talisman Hall again to head for the Contributions Division.

It didn't take long for Shang Xia to locate Shang Lubing who had just returned from the Redwood Forest.

The moment Shang Lubing saw Shang Xia's shit-eating grin as he approached, he couldn't help but sigh, "Damn it! Did your Grandpa Ke send you?! That old fellow is really getting greedier as he grows older..."

"Hehehe, Chief Shang, this disciple here heard that you managed to obtain a piece of rank four brewer's yeast. Why don't you let me take a look to broaden my horizons?" Shang Xia cackled mischievously.

Shang Lubing had no intention of hiding it and he quickly opened a jade case. Pushing it over to Shang Xia, he growled, "Hmph, broaden your horizons my ass. Just tell me if you want a portion of it. However, your Shang Clan's share of the Redwood Forest isn't enough for you to obtain the entire piece. If you want the complete brewer's yeast, you need to trade it with treasures of equal value."

"Scarlet Gold Silk Brewer's Essence!" Shang Xia seemed a little disappointed when he recognized the object contained in the jade case. It wasn't the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer's Yeast he needed.

However, Shang Xia also realized why all the wine he obtained in the forest had a deep hue of red. The rank four Monkey Wine he obtained even had traces of gold in them. That was probably because of the Scarlet Gold Silk Brewer's Essence used during their fermentation process.

Shang Xia couldn't hide his feelings from the crafty old man at all. A sneer left Shang Lubing's lips. "What's the matter? Is it not good enough for you? Since that's the case, I'll keep it for myself. Oh

right, we managed to obtain several other treasures from the Redwood Forest. You can take a larger portion since you don't want the brewer's yeast."

As soon as the words left his lips, Shang Lubing reached out to retrieve the jade case from Shang Xia.

"Old man, wait a second!" Shang Xia yelled in fright but when he saw the crafty grin on Shang Lubing's face, he knew that had been duped.

Snapping the case shut, Shang Xia grumbled resentfully, "What do you want for it?"

Turning serious, Shang Lubing replied, "Damn kid, give the institution half of all the rank one, two, and three Monkey Wine you obtained from the forest."

Shang Xia jumped into the air like a cat whose tail had been stepped on and roared, "Absolutely not! I only managed to get a little of each. How can I give away half of them so easily?!"

"Heh, damn brat, if you only managed to get a little bit of Monkey Wine, just hand them over. It's not like you'll make a loss by trading it for the rank four brewer's yeast." Shang Lubing sneered.

With his eyes widening in shock, he realized that he made yet another stupid mistake. His reaction alone told Shang Lubing that he had a lot more Monkey Wine than he let on.

"Enough. This old man can tell how much wine you obtained after looking at the empty trees used to contain them. There's no need to hide anything from me. Hurry up and hand it over." Shang Lubing muttered.

However, Shang Xia hadn't given up on his negotiation tactic. "Half is too much! I'll give you a third. Also, there's no need to mess around with me. You can't tell how much wine is in those empty trees. After all, most of them weren't full. The Mutated Monkey Tribe used a portion of it too and I didn't actually obtain a lot of it."

Sucking in a deep breath, Shang Lubing continued, "Monkey Wine of the first, second, and third rank are of no use to you! What the hell does a cultivator like you at the peak of the Martial Intent Realm need them for? However, the institution will be able to boost the cultivation of our students if we manage to get our hands on it. Ever since we started mass recruitment, the number of students who entered our Tongyou Institution grew greatly. Do you know how much resources are being used at the moment? I heard that you agreed to help the Talisman Hall recently. I bet the resources there are running out too."

"Alright, alright! Stop!" Shang Xia couldn't help but interrupt Shang Lubing's attempt to act poor in front of him and he quickly summarized, "I'll give you 60 catties of rank one Monkey Wine, 30 catties of rank two Monkey Wine. I don't have much rank three Monkey Wine left and I'll be able to take out..."

"15 catties!" Shang Lubing interrupted him midway through his sentence. "I didn't throw this number out of nowhere. This is a modest amount I estimate students of the various divisions would require..."

“12 catties... No more...” Shang Xia sighed in defeat.

“Deal!” Shang Lubing yelled happily and revealed a sinister grin. “Who would have thought that you would have so much rank three Monkey Wine on you... I even thought that getting 8 to 10 catties would be a steal... Hahaha!”

Mother...

Shang Xia felt a wave of discomfort after hearing what Shang Lubing said.

Right before he could leave the Contributions Division, Shang Lubing’s voice entered his ears. “Oi kid, I didn’t take advantage of you if that’s what you’re thinking. A rank four brewer’s yeast is extremely valuable. You won’t be able to buy it even if you had money. If we truly released the news of the Scarlet Gold Silk Brewer’s Essence, how much do you think you will need to pay in order to obtain it?”

Shang Xia fell silent after thinking about it.

However, Shang Lubing wasn’t done. “Also, this old man might not know what ingredients you need for your advancement medicine, but if this brewer’s yeast isn’t what you need, you can always trade it for others. From what I know, there are a lot of private deals happening on our Observation Peak recently.”

Turning around to thank Shang Lubing, Shang Xia took his leave.

When he finally left, he saw a familiar figure rushing towards the Contributions Division.

When they saw each other, Shang Xia didn’t think too much of it and nodded slightly before taking his leave.

However, the lack of reaction didn’t seem to apply to the other side. Dou Zhong stared at Shang Xia’s leaving figure as a deep frown formed on his face.

When he finally approached where Shang Lubing was, he saw the old man pasting spirit sealing talismans on several jade bottles. He couldn’t help but ask, “Master, this...”

The smile on Shang Lubing’s face didn’t fade as he chuckled, “Oh right. Here’s some rank three Monkey Wine. It should be greatly beneficial for your cultivation. There should be around three catties in here. Drink a little when you’re cultivating. The wine in here should be enough for you to complete your second divine sense transformation.”

Looking at the jade bottle in his hand, Dou Zhong asked, “Master, I saw Shang Xia when I came over earlier. Was he the one who delivered these wine?”

Raising an eyebrow, Shang Lubing glanced at his disciple before muttering, “Delivered? That damn brat used it to trade for a rank four brewer’s yeast. Hehe, I let him off easy by only requesting a little bit of wine from him...”

“Rank four brewer’s yeast?” Dou Zhong was shocked and the gaze in his eyes turned empty. He muttered softly, “Is he already making preparations to break through to the Martial Extermination Realm?”

Falling silent for a second, Shang Lubing thought for a second before he responded, “Even though he didn’t say anything about it, the method he is using to break through might be extremely difficult. He might be stuck at the peak of the Martial Intent Realm for a long time...”

Chapter 417: Clan’s Supply Drop

When Shang Xia returned to the Shang Clan’s territory, he didn’t manage to see his Grandpa Ke.

From what Shang Quan was telling him, the patriarch hadn’t been back for a long time. Even as the person in charge of taking care of the Shang Clan’s matters, he had no idea where Shang ke was. He wasn’t able to learn anything about what the patriarch was doing either as all his questions were ignored.

Shang Xia had a feeling his Grandpa Ke hadn’t been back as he was running around looking for the herbs he needed to craft his advancement medicine.

Even though he didn’t reveal the full recipe to Shang Ke, Shang Xia mentioned about the Spirit of the Four Seasons before.

Enough time had passed for Shang Ke to have met with Kou Chongxue to ask for the Spirit of Spring and the Jade Peach Blossom. Since Shang Ke hadn’t returned, Shang Xia could only assume that he managed to find news on the other spirits.

Just as he was about to make his way back to take a nice rest, he discovered Shang Quan’s unnatural expression.

Shang Xia couldn’t help but chuckle with amusement. “Uncle Quan, what’s wrong, is there something you can’t tell me?”

Breathing deeply, Shang Quan eventually muttered, “Yan Qi... Your seventh uncle went missing...”

“What?!” Shang Xia turned to stare at Shang Quan as his brows furrowed deeply.

“What happened?! Do we know why he went missing?!”

Shang Quan hesitated slightly but shook his head.

“Uncle Quan, is there something you can’t say?” Shang Xia growled unhappily.

With a helpless look on his face, Shang Quan eventually sighed, “The old patriarch hasn’t been dealing with matters regarding the clan for a long time now. I can’t get a hold of Patriarch Ke at the moment and there’s no one to deal with this. I reported Yan Qi’s disappearance to them, but I didn’t receive a reply. I was planning to get some of the disciples of our clan and other experts from the institution to help look for him, but most of them were too lazy to bother. There were some who said that they would keep a lookout, but they don’t seem to be serious about it.”

Shang Xia immediately understood the meaning behind Shang Quan’s explanation.

Yan Qi was a Martial Intent Realm expert, and he was a strong fighting force of the Shang Clan. However, he had the bloodline of those from the Azure Spiritual World and was discriminated against by the cultivators of the Azure Origin World. There were even members of the Shang Clan who were avoiding him.

Even though he managed to gain Shang Bo and Shang Xia’s trust in the recent years, he was still treated as an outsider by many members of the Shang Clan.

Now that Yan Qi was missing in the battlefield between the two worlds, no one knew if he was killed or if he had surrendered and returned to the Azure Spiritual World.

It would be fine if he was killed. However, if he ran away to the Azure Spiritual World, he might be running headfirst into a trap!

Shang Xia thought about it for a second and growled resolutely, “Seventh Uncle won’t go to the other side. We have to look for him! I’ll think of a plan.”

Shaking his head, Shang Quan muttered, “Actually, I think that Yan Qi’s disappearance has something to do with...” He might not have said who it was related to, but he pointed to the space before him and tapped the air lightly.

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback and he seemed to have thought of something. However, he remained silent and nodded before choosing to return to his room.

After two days had passed, Shang Xia, who didn’t actually exert himself much from his previous talisman crafting phase, was fully rested again.

It was hard to keep track of how long had actually passed in the battlefield between the two worlds. However, the Tongyou Institution lived up to their reputation as they developed a way to record how much time had gone by.

Even though there was still a day left until he needed to start the next batch of talismans, Shang Xia returned to the Talisman Hall a day early to familiarize himself further with things there.

He might have joined them formally, but he didn’t know much about how things were run there. He didn’t even know who his fellow members were!

As a rank three Talisman Master, Shang Xia couldn’t possibly rely on others to introduce him wherever he went. Not to mention the fact that he was probably one of the best rank three Talisman Masters in the institution at the moment. He also needed to look at the inheritance he had been promised. After all, he had been looking forward to them for quite some time now.

However, someone stood in his way the moment he was about to leave.

“Oh? Aunt Xi, when did you come back?” Shang Xia stared at Shang Xi in shock. He also noticed the change in her aura. She seemed to have difficulty suppressing her strength and he chortled with amusement, “You seem like you’re going to undergo your third divine sense transformation, congratulations!”

Shang Xi nodded and said, “I found an opportunity to break through because of the battles I’ve been through. I came back in order to enter seclusion to complete my third divine sense transformation.”

“You came to look for me because...” Shang Xia raised an eyebrow and got to the main point.

“Stinking brat, I heard that you were starting your preparations to break through to the Martial Extermination Realm.” Shang Xi muttered while rolling her eyes.

Shang Xia wasn't surprised that his aunt received the news. He laughed along with her, "I'm afraid it's not going to be easy. I have no idea how long I'll take to be able to finish my advancement medicine."

Tilting her head to the side, Shang Xi asked, "Is it because of your extermination origins?"

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback and understood that Shang Ke probably briefed her about the details regarding his breakthrough and he couldn't help but ask, "Aunt Xi, did you run into Grandpa Ke before coming here?"

"I didn't see him. However, he sent me a transmission talisman telling me to warn you to avoid the Yuxi Peak at all costs." Shang Xi shook her head while saying.

Only then did Shang Xia recall that Shang Ke had told him that it was possible for world origin to exist on the Yuxi Peak. However, he also told Shang Xia that the situation there was unclear and not to head over recklessly.

Now that Shang Ke told Shang Xi to relay the message to not head over to the Yuxi Peak at all costs, it was probably a lot more dangerous than he had expected.

That quickly piqued Shang Xia's interest. "Is it really dangerous in there?"

Shang Xi glanced at him from the corner of her eye and warned him seriously, "From what I know, at least two Martial Intent Realm experts and several Martial Extremity Realm disciples have already entered. Not a single one of them managed to return."

"I wonder what mysteries are contained within..." Shang Xia thought out loud.

Hesitating slightly, Shang Xi continued, "The Yuxi Peak is extremely weird right now. It seemed to be surrounded by some sort of weird power. Someone guessed that there might be world origin in there. There might also be extermination origins contained on the Yuxi Peak. With the addition of heaven and earth qi from precious herbs, the true qi, and blood qi used by cultivators of both worlds, the entire area is like a giant tank of destructive power. Anyone who enters will be unable to emerge unscathed."

"Didn't the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the institution try to discover what is happening within?" Shang Xia asked.

"That's what makes it weird." Shang Xi muttered, "Not a single one of them went over personally to check the area out. That can only mean two things. Either nothing there interests them or they're not confident of emerging from the Yuxi Peak. From the looks of it, the second possibility is more likely."

Shang Xia's expression flickered unsteadily when he heard her explanation. If there really was world origin there, he had to make a trip over no matter how dangerous it was. Now that there were rumors of extermination origins being there too, he was even more interested in going there.

Even though Martial Extermination Realm experts might be afraid of the Yuxi Peak, Shang Xia had the Crimson Soul Tablet and the Spirit Extermination Gourd. He wasn't actually too afraid of the dangers there.

“Are you even more tempted to go to the Yuxi Peak after hearing what I said?” Shang Xi snorted coldly when she noticed the look in his eyes.

“Yep!” Shang Xia thought about how to phrase his words before he continued, “I have to go there eventually. However, I need to deal with the matters in the Talisman Hall first.”

Shang Xi nodded in response. “It’s important to finish what you have to in the Talisman Hall. I learned about the matter of the grand formation around our Observation Peak not too long ago. The Yuxi Peak isn’t going to run away anytime soon. You can head over when you have the time.”

Before Shang Xia could leave, he was called back by Shang Xi again. “What other ingredients do you need for your advancement formula? Do you need my help to look for them?”

After thinking about it for a short while, Shang Xia told her about everything else he needed other than the Spirit of the Four Springs, Jade Peak Blossom, Windchime Grass, and Spring Water.

Noting them down, Shang Xi said seriously, “I’ll keep a look out for all of them. As long as I receive news of any of them, I’ll let you know immediately.”

Shang Xia didn’t stop there. He continued, “Aunt Xi, I also need to ask you to help with something else. I heard that there are many private gatherings among Martial Intent Realm cultivators around our Observation Peak. Even though I told Uncle Quan to help keep a lookout, he’s no Martial Intent Realm cultivator at the end of the day. I can only hope that you can help me with it.”

“Private gatherings?” Another voice arrived before Shang Xi could say anything. Shang Jian emerged from another entrance and looked at the two of them. “What a coincidence. There will be a private gathering in exactly one month. It’s a little more difficult to enter this gathering than those before as only Martial Intent Realm experts who have completed their third divine sense transformation and above will be allowed in.”

Shang Xi was also tempted by the news and she asked, “Is this gathering meant to deal with herbs or ingredients required for breakthrough to the Martial Extermination Realm?”

Shang Jian nodded while chuckling, “Seems like it. Anyone who can attend the gathering this time has to be someone who has the qualification to break through to the Martial Extermination Realm. Everyone only has one goal there and that is to get ready to break through. Most of the treasures traded there should be related to advancement medicine or the like.”

Shang Xia’s expression was solemn as he thanked Shang Jian for the information. “Second Uncle, many thanks for letting me know.”

“You’ll learn about it even if I didn’t tell you today. Now that you know, you can start making your preparations.” Shang Jian waved his hands casually and said.

When he was done, he asked Shang Xi about the herbs Shang Xia required to advance before gasping in surprise. “Why does the Nine Leaf Lotus sound so familiar? I heard a piece of news earlier but I don’t know if it’s real. It’s said that Deacon Ge Qingzhu in the institution managed to

harvest a pond full of lotuses. He obtained a lot of lotus seeds, roots, and the like. I don't know the details, but you can try asking to see if he has what you need.”

Shang Xi thought about it for a second before muttering, “There seems to be a deacon with that name in the institution...”

Shang Xia's ears perked up and he hopped away quickly. “Alright! Anyway, I'll head back to the Talisman Hall now.”

Looking at Shang Xia's hastily leaving figure, Shang Jian asked, “Seventh Sister, do you know what type of advancement medicine he's using to break through?”

“That damn kid has a lot of secrets on him. Haha, there's no need for us to dig into his matters. Whatever the case, he'll always be our nephew.” Shang Xi muttered softly.

Shang Jian also followed up with a chuckle. “That's true. Oh right. I think Fifth Uncle has already left the battlefield between the two worlds.”

Raising her eyebrows in shock, Shang Xi gasped, “Oh? Do you know where he went?”

“I wasn't too sure. However, he should be looking for those herbs you told me about earlier.”

Shang Xi was extremely sharp. She quickly thought of a matter and seemed to have made a connection. “Oh, right! It should be autumn outside the battlefield between the two worlds now, right?”

Shang Jian smiled in response. “Haha... There might not be any Dragon Headed Wintersweet at the moment, but there might be some Glass Daisy Chrysanthemum in the Taihang Mountains. Third Sister is somewhere in the area right now and we can't forget that she owes the little kid a little too much...”

Chapter 418: Thousand Mechanisms Spirit Recovery Powder

Shang Xia returned to the Talisman Hall a day before the agreed time as he wanted to ensure everything was in place. Also, he wanted to look through the inheritance of other rank three talismans the institution possessed.

Of the various talismans they had in their records, Shang Xia was actually the most interested in the Bamboo Void Breaking Talisman.

The talisman that could allow him to open a low-grade spatial artifact without destroying its contents was something Shang Xia wanted to get his hands on for a long time now.

However, there was one more pressing matter at hand. Shang Xia had to look for Ren Huan to get a few rank tree talisman papers before anything else.

When he finally arrived back at the Talisman Hall, he was quickly noticed by someone. This time, the look on their faces was filled with a lot more respect than before.

He emerged from his secret chamber 4 days ago and took out 3 complete Formation Talismans. A 50 percent success rate for a young Talisman Master like him was considered a terrifying statistic, and it was truly a frightening achievement!

For those who thought that he had cheated, the talismans Shang Xia crafted were verified by Gong Hang, Fan Yuanhui, and even the Martial Extermination Realm Zhang Haogu! There was no way for anyone to doubt him.

Members in the talisman hall would ordinarily be ranked according to their abilities. As Shang Xia was a rank three Talisman Master, he was a respected expert in the Talisman Hall.

However, no one could deny that he was a little too young at the moment. He was an Upper Division disciple at the end of the day and almost everyone in the Talisman Hall could be considered his senior. As such, the respect they were showing was filled with a sense of awkwardness.

Shang Xia wouldn't bother with the way they thought about him. He responded to all the greetings he received pretty casually.

As he walked across the Talisman Hall, he discovered that his desire to look for Ren Huan couldn't be fulfilled at the moment.

"Huh? He was summoned by the Formation Hall?" Shang Xia looked at another rank three craftsman, Craftsman Qiao, in shock.

Craftsman Qiao had a deep foundation in the Talisman Hall as his skill of crafting talisman papers was really impressive. At the moment, he was in charge of all the talisman paper craftsmen and Shang Xia naturally went to him in order to find Ren Huan.

"Mister Qiao, do you know why they're looking for Brother Ren Huan?" Shang Xia asked politely.

A bitter smile appeared on Craftsman Qiao's face and he replied, "Talisman Master Shang, I truly have no idea. The members of the Formation Hall wouldn't tell me something like that!"

"Who else knows about this? Did they go through Teacher Gong Hang or Teacher Fan when they summoned him?" Shang Xia continued asking.

"We even disturbed Teacher Gong and Teacher Fan who were in the process of crafting talismans to head over. That's not all. Head Zhang went over to the Formation Hall too." Craftsman Qiao replied.

A despondent look appeared on Shang Xia's face and he muttered, "Alright. I will have to trouble Craftsman Qiao to send some items into my secret chamber if there isn't anything else. I plan to start crafting another batch of talismans tomorrow."

Craftsman Qiao chuckled in response, "Of course. It's my duty to do so. Talisman Master Shang, rest assured that everything you need will be there."

Before Shang Xia could take his leave, he thought of something else and asked, "Oh right, I need to ask you another question so please enlighten me."

"Of course. Ask me anything, I'll help you to the best of my abilities."

Shang Xia chuckled in response. "Mister Qiao, do you know of a Deacon called Ge Qingzhu?"

Craftsman Qiao smiled when he heard the question. “Talisman Master Shang, are you also aiming for the lotus Deacon Ge obtained?”

Shang Xia raised his eyebrows in shock. “Oh! Looks like there are a lot of people looking for him...”

Craftsman Qiao chuckled in amusement, “Of course there are. It even caused Deacon Ge to hide from everyone he knew. No one is able to find him.”

...

After Craftsman Qiao took his leave, Shang Xia decided to look for the Bamboo Void Breaking Talisman inheritance from the institution alone. However, he eventually decided against it with Zhang Haogu, Gong Hang, and Fan Yuanhui being too busy to help him with it. He could only return to his secret chamber like an obedient talisman master ready to start his craft.

Craftsman Qiao worked extremely quickly too. Not too long after Shang Xia entered his secret chamber, a group of disciples arrived with a huge batch of ingredients.

Shang Xia understood that normally, rank three Talisman Masters would only attempt three talismans in a month. Only when time was of the essence would they increase the number of attempts by one. However, they wouldn't be able to keep it up for multiple months as that might adversely affect their divine sense. After the increased production, the rank three Talisman Master would also take a longer break in order to restore himself to his peak.

As times were desperate at the moment, Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui were crafting talismans with all they had. As soon as they restored their divine sense, they would start crafting the next talisman.

The two of them might be familiar with crafting rank three Formation Talismans and the difficulty of those talismans was lower than other rank three talismans, but Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui were definitely going to suffer some hidden injuries due to their rapid pace of production.

Under such circumstances, the two of them would start to make use of certain medicines or herbs to help recover quicker.

When Shang Xia completed his bet with them and allowed them to see the error in their ways, it wasn't all bad for them. The burden they had was greatly alleviated with Shang Xia's addition to the rank three Formation Talisman crafting gang.

After the disciples left, Shang Xia looked through everything they brought. He quickly discovered a round-shaped jade case that contained some sort of recovery medicine.

That was a rank two medicine provided by the Talisman Hall to the rank three Talisman Masters and it was called the Thousand Mechanisms Spirit Recovery Powder. Not only could it hasten the recovery of divine sense, it could also strengthen it slightly.

Even though the medicine was merely of the second rank, the effects it had on divine sense made it extremely precious.

Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui were only able to keep up their monstrous pace of crafting talismans because of the Thousand Mechanisms Spirit Recovery Powder provided by the Talisman Hall.

After Shang Xia adjusted his condition to his peak state, he activated the restrictions around the secret chamber and started his second batch of Formation Talismans.

...

When Shang Xia had seclusion, Shang Ke finally arrived on the Taihang Mountain range and was greeted by Shang Pei who had hastily made her way back from the southern border with the Si Continent.

“How are things? Did you run into any danger on the way here?” Shang Ke couldn’t help but ask anxiously when he saw the dust-covered Shang Pei who seemed like she just tore herself out of trouble.

“Heh, it’s just a bunch of dumbass lower bandits. There’s no need to care about it.” Shang Pei waved her hands casually before handing him a sealed wooden box. “Luckily, I managed to get it. Here. A stalk of Glass Daisy Chrysanthemum harvested in the Autumn.”

Shang Ke knew that the dangers she ran into were far from what she was letting on, but since she wasn’t willing to say much about them and managed to return safely, Shang Ke didn’t think to press into the matter. He smiled in response, “Alright! We managed to gather another herb Little Xia needs to break through! Everything else can only be obtained in the winter. Let’s just hope that we manage to find a Dragon Headed Wintersweet then...”

Shang Pei muttered, “Dragon Headed Wintersweet usually grows in the Yang and Jing Continents. Even though I heard of traces of them appearing in the Xu and Yan continents, they’re pretty rare. It won’t be easy to find them.”

Shang Ke nodded slightly before sighing softly, “Luckily for us, we still have nearly three months before winter falls. Let’s head over to the Jing and Yang Continent separately and see what we can find.”

...

The Formation Hall wasn’t too far away from the Talisman Hall, and because the grand formation of the Observation Peak had to be laid down as soon as possible, the Formation Hall was even more bustling than the Talisman Hall.

In one of the newly built halls in the central region of the Formation Hall, several people were crowded around a sand table placed in the middle. A miniature version of the Observation Peak could be seen with countless markings everywhere.

“Head Zhang, why are you requesting for us to add the properties of wind and lightning into the formation all of a sudden? Aren’t you making things difficult for us?” Ma Mingzheng was the person who spoke, and he seemed to be the person in charge of the Formation Hall for the time being. He was also a rank three Formation Master, and he was responsible for the grand formation on the Tongyou Peak previously.

Zhang Haogu sighed helplessly, “I’m more anxious than any one of you here to finish the grand formation! However, we’re strapped for time and it won’t be easy for us to finish so many Formation Talismans. Luckily, Mister Ren over here has a bunch of Stormy Lightning Leaves we

can use. If we turn these leaves into rank three talisman paper, they can boost the properties of both wind and lightning. If we can imbue the properties into our grand formation, we won't have to waste the resource!"

"If we really try to incorporate the power of wind and lightning into the grand formation, all our past preparations will need to undergo large scale changes! Even the completed formation core will have to be modified. It's too troublesome!" Ma Mingzheng explained.

The words barely left his lips when Gong Hang added glumly at the side, "If you're unwilling to modify the formation, we won't have enough talisman paper to complete our task. The deployment of the grand formation around our Observation Peak will be delayed accordingly. However, if you work a little harder and add the properties of wind and lightning into our grand formation, we would be able to finish our task alongside yours. Our grand formation would be a lot stronger than before. I believe you understand the reasoning behind our request."

Widening his eyes in shock, Ma Mingzheng rebutted, "Mister Gong, the way you're putting it..."

"Alright, relax, relax!" Zhang Haogu quickly interrupted to prevent a huge argument from breaking out. He then turned to Ma Mingzheng to ask, "Brother Ma, is there no other way about this?"

Ma Mingzheng and Zhang Haogu were from the same generation anyway, and so was Gong Hang. However, Zhang Haogu entered the Martial Extermination Realm and became the head of the Scripture Depository. He was also the head of the Talisman Hall at the moment and his status was far from the other two.

Even so, he didn't wish to put on airs in front of the two of them and he didn't adopt a superior tone when talking to the both of them.

Luckily, both Gong Hang and Ma Mingzheng wouldn't ignore Zhang Haogu's authority just because he was talking to them nicely.

When Ma Mingzheng was still thinking about how he should reply,. Another voice came from the side. "It's not impossible to add the properties of wind and lightning into the grand formation. However, I need to see how much power of wind and lightning is contained in the Stormy Lightning Leaf before we do anything. If it's strong enough, we can definitely justify modifying the formation. Anyway, you lot from the Talisman Hall won't be able to finish the talismans any time soon. We won't be wasting any time even if we did some work on the formation. However, if the power of wind and lightning isn't strong enough, it won't be worth it for us to change the formation."

Turning to look at the source of the voice, Zhang Haogu saw Chu Jia staring at the sand table with a deep frown on her face. Ma Mingzheng nodded after hearing what she said and he seemed to agree.

Shooting a glance at Ren Huan, Zhang Haogu signaled for him to hand a piece of completed rank three talisman paper over.

As the three rank three Formation Masters of the Tongyou Institution examined the talisman paper, Zhang Haogu fell deep into thought. He heard that Ma Mingzheng's position was about to be taken over, and from what he had just seen, things were likely as he had heard.

Chapter 419: Someone Came Knocking

"It's not enough." After Chu Jia examined the talisman paper made from the Stormy Lightning Leaf, she shook her head. As the Formation Master most likely to enter the fourth rank in the future, her words carried a lot of weight.

Gong Hang's expression turned a little ugly after hearing what she said. However, Zhang Haogu wasn't too disappointed when he heard Chu Jia's evaluation. In a calm voice, he asked, "According to Instructor Chu's estimations, how many talisman papers like that do we need before it can reach your standards?"

Chu Jia was a talented Formation Master of the Tongyou Institution, and she had been promoted to an instructor recently. Her position was similar to Zhang Haogu's own before he advanced.

After thinking for a second, she muttered, "Instructor Zhang, this isn't about the quantity of talisman paper made from the leaves. It's about the strength of wind and lightning contained in them."

Perhaps some of them around had no idea what she was talking about, but Chu Jia surprisingly decided to explain a little more. "Even if we start the transformation process and modify the grand formation, we would only be able to modify a third of it. Even if we use 17 Formation Talismans made from this talisman paper, the effects won't be too visible. Unless..."

"Unless?" Zhang Haogu followed up quickly.

"Unless we have a corresponding rank three talisman of the wind and lightning attribute to supplement it. Moreover, it will bring about a substantial boost to the grand formation." Chu Jia concluded.

"Rank three Wind and Lightning attributed talismans?" Zhang Haogu muttered out loud before turning to Gong Hang. "Do we have a wind and lightning attribute talisman inheritance?"

"We have an inheritance for a wind talisman, and a lightning talisman. As for a talisman with both attributes..." Gong Hang muttered. At the end, he could only shake his head helplessly.

Seeing his reaction, Chu Jia shot Zhang Haogu a helpless gaze.

When everything thought that the situation had been concluded, a surprising figure strolled into the hall. The moment they saw Shang Bo's face, everyone snapped to attention.

"Deputy Patriarch Shang!"

"Head Instructor!"

Everyone bowed in unison as they greeted him respectfully.

Signaling for everyone to be at ease, he turned to Chu Jia and spoke, “Shang Xia managed to find the Lightning Bird and its flock of Mutated Wind Swallows. This old man made a trip over the other day and discovered that the Lightning Bird is at the edge of breaking through. It doesn't seem hostile towards me and I can tell that it will be willing to return to nest on our Observation Peak.”

He then made some simple introductions of the Lightning Bird to everyone present before he continued, “There aren't any more tall mountains in our territory and we need to construct a region that contains the power of wind and lightning for them to nest. If we can integrate it into the formation, we can use the power of wind and lightning to nurture the nest during times of peace. When we need to activate the formation, we can draw on their power to face the threat. No matter what, our Tongyou Institution will benefit from it.”

Zhang Haogu's interest was piqued after he heard about the Lightning Bird and he continued, “When the Lightning Bird breaks through in the future, wouldn't that mean that our Observation Peak will possess a guardian beast of the fourth rank and its flock?!”

Shang Bo nodded happily. That was his intention in the first place.

Everyone's gaze returned to Chu Jia since she seemed to be the person in charge of the formation now. Without a doubt, none of them would be willing to give up a chance to make the Lightning Beast and its flock nest on the Observation Peak.

Chu Jia understood the principles and importance of it but if they were truly going to do it, the modification they talked about earlier wouldn't be enough. They were going to have to undergo an actual large scale project.

Everyone present was extremely patient as they stayed silent to wait for Chu Jia to give an answer.

No matter how everyone present was probably her senior, none of them tried pestering her to give an answer. An unknown amount of time had passed before she finally released a soft sigh. “It would be great if we manage to make the Lightning Bird and its flock make their nest here...”

Only then did audible sighs fill the air. Ma Mingzheng and Bai Luming, who were a little more familiar with Chu Jia, understood since she was able to give a reaction like that, she should probably have an idea on how to proceed.

“However...” Chu Jia spoke up again, causing everyone's heart to thump violently again. “We most definitely need more Formation Talismans crafted with these paper. Also, I need to meet Shang Xia! Hmph! We came up with a proper plan to lay down the grand formation and he's making a mess of it now. We even need to change the formation core that has already been completed. I know that he managed to comprehend a lightning-attributed martial intent called the Chaos Essence Lightning Palm or something. I wonder if he can produce a wind and lightning attributed talisman. Heh, watch me suck all his lightning essence dry!”

The smile on Chu Jia's face became more sinister the more she spoke, and everyone else could only stare at each other in confusion. The atmosphere quickly became weird.

Hey my great grandaunt, why are you talking about messing with Shang Xia when this monstrous grandpa is standing right in front of you?! What the f...

Who would have thought that Shang Bo would nod in agreement. “Yes! That’s the spirit! Go ahead and do what you need to. I’ll give you all the support you need.”

Puffing her chest up, a triumphant smile plastered itself onto her face as she stomped away.

Zhang Haogu looked at everyone around who was coughing and yawning to pretend not to see Chu Jia’s antics and he quickly broke the awkward silence. Even so, he couldn’t help but shoot Shang Bo a strange gaze. “Old Man Shang, isn’t your grandson twenty years old or slightly younger this year? Instructor Chu is already thirty... Don’t you think the age gap is a little...”

Shang Bo returned Zhang Haogu’s suspicious gaze with one of his own and snorted, “Old Man Zhang, is your brain filled with filth? You don’t seem to act like a teacher at all!”

Grunting softly, Zhang Haogu turned away from Shang Bo and chose to remain silent.

The next moment, Shang Bo’s mischievous voice rang in his ears again. “Heh, after a cultivator enters the Martial Extermination Realm, their longevity will increase greatly. A difference of ten or so years can’t be considered huge at all! Don’t you think that those two little brats will enter the Martial Extermination Realm in the future?”

Zhang Haogu couldn’t be bothered with Shang Bo any longer and he simply turned the other way.

...

Obviously, Shang Xia wouldn’t know that trouble was approaching rapidly. At the moment, he had just applied the Thousand Mechanism Spirit Recovery Powder onto his temples and he was feeling a wave of comfort washing through his mind. He could clearly feel his divine sense recovering quickly.

“Damn. I was careless. I was too careless!” Shang Xia grumbled softly while massaging his temples. He stared at the final piece of rank three Formation Talisman he managed to craft with a bitter smile on his face.

Under his feet sat 3 pieces of broken talisman paper. Initially, Shang Xia thought that he would have an easy time crafting the Formation Talismans with his experience. Unfortunately, reality gave him a huge slap in the face.

He would need three days in order to complete one proper talisman and he couldn’t lose focus the entire time. However, most Talisman Masters would be distracted by many things during the entire process. That was where their strong divine sense and willpower came in. They would usually block anything that would interfere with the crafting process, but there were some things that they couldn’t fully prevent.

This time, Shang Xia only managed to finish three Formation Talismans in the twenty odd days that he was in seclusion. The six pieces of rank three talisman paper he was provided with were used up, and he quickly recovered his divine sense with a few days of rest.

Only then did he emerge from his secret chamber.

During his last few days of rest, not only was he trying to recover, he was also reflecting on his actions and dwelling on the lessons he learned.

Who would have thought that the moment he stepped foot outside his secret chamber, Chu Jia was standing there waiting for him.

The two of them were rank three masters in their respective halls and should be on equal footing with each other.

It was pretty unfortunate for Shang Xia as he was still a student in the Upper Division at the moment. Chu Jia was an instructor of the institution, and she could be considered his teacher.

There was no way a student could refuse to see his teacher, right? Moreover, he was actually curious about the reason the genius Formation Master was looking for him.

One had to know that not everyone could be taught by Chu Jia in the institution. One had to be in the Inner Division at the very least, but there was one legendary figure who hasn't attended any lessons ever since he was in the Outer Division.

The only interaction said legend had with Chu Jia was their interaction in the Coral Forest and that was the only impression they had of one another.

Now that Shang Xia was meeting Chu Jia again, he discovered that this weird Formation Master's cultivation had already reached the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm. Which was to say that her cultivation level was similar to him, and they were both ready to break through to the Martial Extermination Realm.

Regardless, Chu Jia had always been a lazy bum. If she could get someone else to do something, she would definitely do so. As long as her eyebrows weren't on fire or something similar, she wouldn't deal with it herself.

The only reason the Formation Hall could operate effectively and finish the formation core was because Ma Mingzheng had been nagging her every single day. Because of that, she finally focused and completed the blueprint of the new grand formation so everyone could start work on the rest. That was probably also the reason she was extremely annoyed with Shang Xia now that she had to make large scale changes and increase her workload.

The instant Shang Xia saw Chu Jia, he wanted to make a slight bow to respect her status as a teacher. Before he could even start the motion, Chu Jia leaped in front of him and glared at him from head to toe. "You... You're making things difficult for me on purpose!"

Reeling back in fright and shock, Shang Xia asked, "Instructor Chu, what do you mean?"

"Hmph, hmph!" Twisting around violently, she crossed her arms before walking back to where she appeared from. A faint fragrance was left in the air.

When Shang Xia was utterly confused and wanted to ask about the situation, she stretched out a single hand to stop him. "Do you know how to craft a rank three talisman with the properties of wind and lightning?"

Raising both eyebrows in shock, Shang Xia didn't give her a straight reply. Instead, he asked a question of his own, "Instructor Chu, why are you asking about that all of a sudden?"

"Hmph, you don't need to know my reasons. Just tell me if you know how to make one."

Shang Xia might be feeling a trace of annoyance creeping up on him, but at the end of the day, she was still his senior and she was a teacher to boot. He couldn't help but answer, "I know of a talisman that possesses both the elements of wind and lightning. However, I haven't tried making it."

He wasn't bullshitting. Of the rank three talismans recorded in the Zhu Family Talisman Scripture, one of them did indeed possess what Chu Jia wanted. It was something Shang Xia had recalled after getting Ren Huan to craft talisman paper from those Stormy Lightning Leaves.

"Great!" Clapping, she hopped into the air out of the blue, surprising Shang Xia yet again.

She seemed to ignore the strange looks Shang Xia were shooting at her and she continued, "No matter what type of method you use, you need to create seven of those in the next two months. Otherwise, Hehe... You can't blame me if the grand formation doesn't possess the power of wind and lightning."

Chapter 420: Grandpa's Gift

"I don't care how you do it. In 2 months, you need to finish 7 of those talismans. Otherwise, the grand formation will not be able to be deployed on schedule. If that happens, you'll be responsible for everything instead of our Formation Hall!" Chu Jia turned to leave as soon as she spoke. She didn't even bother looking at Shang Xia again as she left the Talisman Hall.

"7 rank three talismans in 2 months?! Hey, are you serious?!" Shang Xia frowned when he looked at Chu Jia's graceful figure sauntering away.

"Heh, you can tell everyone that you are unable to do it. No one is forcing you to finish those talismans!" Chu Jia's voice rang through the air as she continued to take her leave. "I sure hope that you can't do it. That will save me a lot of trouble since I won't have to change the formation any more."

Not too long after Chu Jia had left, Shang Xia's divine sense discovered several people approaching.

He could easily identify Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui, but the third presence was a little hazy. Even so, it failed to avoid his detection and it should probably be Zhang Haogu who advanced not too long ago.

Even though he managed to detect the three of them, Shang Xia had a feeling that he was missing something. A trace of curiosity couldn't help but form in his heart. Increasing the strength of his divine sense, he tried to look for the thing that was eluding him but failed nonetheless.

With the three of them getting closer and closer, the feeling of something else being there became all the more intense. With no other choice, Shang Xia could only wait for them to arrive before looking for the thing he was looking for.

Just as he got out to look at who was coming, he saw four people walking towards him. Other than the three he detected, he discovered what he was missing. The other was his Grandpa Bo.

Gasping in fright, he was met with a smile that wasn't really a smile from his grandfather. Turning to look at Zhang Haogu, he saw the old instructor looking at him with a regretful gaze. It seemed as though the two of them had noticed the interaction between himself and the grandaunt from the Formation Hall earlier. Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui were approaching without too many weird expressions on their faces.

“Grandpa! Instructor Zhang, Teachers...” Shang Xia greeted immediately.

As the four of them arrived one after another, Shang Bo and Zhang Haogu casually glanced at the same region before finding a seat and acting like nothing happened.

When everyone was present, Zhang Haogu broke the silence. “Did someone come over here to make your life difficult earlier?”

A bitter smile appeared on Shang Xia's face and said everything he experienced earlier. At the same time, he realized that the four of them had probably waited for her to leave before coming to look for him.

“Oh? Talisman Master Shang, you actually know how to craft a rank three talisman that contains the element of wind and lightning?”

“Wait, you need to craft 7 of them in 2 months? Is Formation Master Chu crazy?! Even if she wants an ordinary talisman, crafting 7 of them in 2 months is crazy!”

Shang Xia barely finished his recount when Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui revealed gasps of shock.

Zhang Haogu shot a curious gaze at Shang Xia and silenced the rest before telling him what happened during their negotiations in the Formation Hall. When he was done recalling what happened, he asked, “What is the name of the talisman you want to craft anyway?”

“It's the Gale Thunderbolt Talisman.” Shang Xia replied.

“How difficult is it to create?” Zhang Haogu asked again.

Pausing for a second, Shang Xia replied, “It's extremely difficult. I know the theory behind it, but I haven't tried crafting it for myself.”

The look of disappointment that filled Zhang Haogu's face in the next second couldn't be concealed. Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui shook their heads and sighed collectively.

Zhang Haogu soon continued, “However, from what I understand from Instructor Chu's personality, she probably requested seven of them because she's too lazy to modify the formation. In order to not let everyone think that she's the one who refuses to make the modifications, she threw out an impossible task. At the very least, she can let us back off ourselves.” Pausing for a moment, he fell into deliberation before he added, “If that is truly the case, we probably don't need 7 Gale Thunderbolt Talismans. You probably only need 5 of them to fulfill her request. Even if you don't finish 5 of them, 3 or 4 of them might be enough for the time being.”

With his eyes widening in shock, Shang Xia gasped, “Can she even do that?!”

Zhang Haogu could only chuckle bitterly in response.

With Chu Jia's talent for cultivation and formation building, the Tongyou Institution was expecting for her to become a rank four Formation Master in the future. That was why they had been more than accommodating to her laziness and attitude.

That was also why Ma Mingzheng had been given the task to nag at her all day long despite being her senior.

Gong Hang chimed in from the side, "Even if it's just 3 to 5 pieces, it's not something Talisman Master Shang can come up with in 2 short months! He hasn't even tried it before. How much time would he need to come up with the first successful talisman? That's not even considering the success rate of crafting a new talisman altogether. It's difficult to even hit the minimum of 3 pieces we need..."

Fan Yuanhui added, "The Gale Thunderbolt Talisman contains the power of wind and lightning. The difficulty far surpasses other rank three talismans! It's impossible for him to complete it in 2 months! It would be an amazing feat if Talisman Master Shang manages to complete a talisman in a month. Hmph, we'll tell the Formation Hall to wait for 3 months if they wish to obtain any of these talismans!"

As the words left his lips, a wave of heaven and earth qi emerged from his feet. Soon after, a ball of light that was the size of a palm appeared before them.

"What's going on?!" Fan Yuanhui leaped backward in shock as he glared at the location where the ball of light originated from.

Fan Yuanhui might be surprised, but Shang Xia quickly realized what was going on. His taut nerves quickly relaxed and he saw that Shang Bo and Zhang Haogu didn't seem surprised at all. They seem to have already expected something like that to happen.

Chu Jia, who had left a long time ago, was nowhere to be seen. However, her voice emerged from the ball of light. "Hmph, I'm obviously capable of turning 3 pieces of that Gale Thunderbolt Talisman into something that can change the grand formation, but using 5 and 7 pieces will be much better and allow me to increase the power in the formation. Also, if your Talisman Hall dares to drag it out for an extra month, I won't do it anymore!"

The ball of light scattered the moment the final words came out of her mouth. It turned into a butterfly that fluttered over to Shang Xia's ears. When it arrived, her whisper entered his ears. "This time, this grandaunt here isn't messing around with you! You heard me!"

When the butterfly scattered, everyone present fell silent.

Everyone seemed to be thinking of ways to solve the problem, but Shang Xia was thinking about how she managed to lay down a formation without him noticing anything. The formation she laid down was extremely small, and it seemed to assimilate itself with the restrictions all around. He didn't even notice it initially.

After a short period of silence, Shang Bo, who had remained silent all that while, finally spoke up. "3 Gale Thunderbolt Talismans in 2 months... Are you confident of doing it?"

Shang Xia sighed helplessly, "I haven't tried making it before. How can I be confident of doing it?"

Actually, there was another way about it and it had already crossed the minds of those present. It was just that no one was willing to bring it up. That was to buy 3 Gale Thunderbolt Talismans from somewhere else.

Getting a single piece was possible, but getting their hands on 3 of them was a problem. Moreover, looking for it from outside sources will definitely raise some eyebrows. They might be able to guess what the Tongyou Institution was up to and that might allow their opponents to come up with ways to break the formation.

“Alright. You can give it a shot. If you are really unable to do so, I’ll just have to head to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion and buy it from other powers...” Shang Bo got to his feet and looked at those present. “Do you have anything else to bring up?”

Zhang Haogu got to his feet next. “This old man still needs to go speak to the Formation Hall about some matters. Teacher Gong and Teacher Fan still have to continue crafting talismans. Anyway, I’ll take my leave first.”

Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui bade their farewells and left quickly.

When the three of them were gone, Shang Bo finally chuckled happily, “Damn kid, you really caused a lot of trouble in the past few days. Because of you, your Grandpa Ke harassed nearly every single Martial Extermination Realm expert in the battlefield between the two worlds.”

Shang Xia couldn’t help but roar with laughter. He also followed it up with a question. “Didn’t Grandpa Ke already leave the battlefield between the two worlds?”

Turning a little more serious, Shang Bo grunted softly, “Yeah.”

A look of embarrassment appeared on Shang Xia’s face. “Is he... Is he still running around to look for herbs I need?”

“Not really. He’s just looking for them while doing something else...” Shang Bo chuckled.

Seeing as his grandfather was unwilling to go into more details, Shang Xia cleverly decided to stop asking about it.

“Oh right. Just try your best to complete the Gale Thunderbolt Talisman. There’s no need to feel too pressured to do it.” Shang Bo continued, “Actually after Ji Wenlong entered the Martial Dipper Realm, our Tongyou Institution... No. Our You Continent will be more or less capable of holding our own even after the spatial barrier disappears.”

Thinking about it for a second, Shang Xia asked, “This... Our Observation Peak is trying to lay down a grand formation because our worlds are about to complete the fusion process?”

“Yeah. It’s good for you to know about it now.” Shang Bo nodded.

While he spoke, Shang Bo took out a jade case that had several layers of restrictions on it and handed it over to Shang Xia. “There should be several treasures here you can use to craft your advancement medicine. Your Martial Uncle, Patriarch Kou, gave you the Flower Spirit. Oh, I mean,

the Spirit of Spring. There's a piece of Jade Peach Blossom in there too. Also, there's an ancient tree bark in there that came from the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. It should be the Spirit of Winter you're looking for."

"Spirit of Winter? Where did you get that?" Shang Xia was truly surprised by the gift.

Originally, he asked Shang Ke to look for Kou Chongxue to get his hands on the Spirit of Spring. He was surprised that Kou Chongxue was willing to part with it. Who would have thought that Shang Bo would also get his hands on the Spirit of Winter?

With the Spirit of Autumn he already had, the Spirit of the Four Seasons that Shang Xia felt would be extremely difficult to get was nearly complete!

Shang Bo laughed when he heard the question. "Your grandpa has been in the Martial Extermination Realm for tens of years now. Wouldn't I have collected some precious treasures along the way? I also know several important figures..."

Shang Xia understood that in order to get the Spirit of Winter, his Grandpa Bo definitely relied heavily on his connections and even paid quite a huge price to do so. Gratefulness filled his heart as he thanked his Grandpa Bo sincerely, "Grandpa, thank you!"