

## The Heavens 431

Chapter 431: Grand Formation and Mutated Rain Swallows

Shang Xia couldn't deny that he was surprised to obtain the Yang Fire Stone that way.

That was because at that moment, Shang Xia collected the Spirit of the Four Seasons which he had estimated would be the most difficult of the ingredients.

As for the supplementary ingredients he required, he only managed to obtain the Jade Peach Blossom from Kou Chongxue. There were several others on their way from what he learned from his grandfather. Shang Ke sent a transmission from the Taihang Mountain not too long ago that he obtained the Glass Daisy Chrysanthemum and was locating the Dragon Headed Wintersweet.

Shang Xia was rejoicing inwardly that they managed to find so many herbs, but he also realized that Shang Ke wasn't working alone. Since he was running around the Taihang Mountain, Shang Pei had probably rendered her assistance.

Shang Ke didn't state where he went to look for the Dragon Headed Wintersweet in his transmission, but Shang Bo might know a thing or two about it. However, no one bothered telling Shang Xia anyway.

Despite their secrecy, Shang Xia knew that neither of those herbs would be easy to find. Shang Ke and Shang Pei might be experts in the Martial Extermination Realm but those were rank four herbs they were talking about. If finding them were so easy, Shang Ke wouldn't have hurried to the Taihang Mountain to join forces with Shang Pei.

The only thing Shang Xia felt gratified about was that enough time should have passed so that Shang Ke's refinement of the Lingkong Formless Extermination Origin would have been complete. With the strength of a second layer Martial Extermination Realm expert, Shang Ke's strength would reach a new level.

After joining forces with Shang Pei, as long as they didn't run into old monsters in the Martial Dipper Realm or became surrounded by a large number of Martial Extermination Realm experts, they wouldn't be in too much danger.

Of the various treasures and herbs Shang Xia needed to collect, the assistive treasures were the easiest to come by. At the moment, he had collected all of them other than the Yang Fire Stone. Lo and behold, it fell straight into his lap.

Well, that left his assistive ingredient, the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer's Yeast. That was the only thing Shang Xia hadn't heard of since he started collecting the stuff he needed. Luckily, Shang Bo promised to help him keep a lookout for it in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion.

With the promise Shang Bo made to him, Shang Xia realized something important. Since Shang Bo was planning to head to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion soon, the situation in the battlefield between the two worlds should be more or less stable. Otherwise, Deputy Patriarch Shang wouldn't dump his responsibilities to head out.

Also, Shang Bo might have promised to help him keep a lookout for the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer's Yeast in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, but that definitely wouldn't be his true purpose in heading there.

From what Shang Xia learned previously, the main purpose of any Martial Extermination Realm expert heading to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion was to train. Shang Bo's cultivation could be said to have experienced an explosive rise over a short ten-plus years. That was because Kou Chongxue brought him over to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion to train.

At the moment, Shang Bo's cultivation had reached an unbelievable level and it was possible for him to step into the Martial Dipper Realm with the right opportunities. Training in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion wouldn't be of much use to him at the moment. That was why it was a little strange for Shang Bo to be heading there.

With the current situation of the Tongyou City, Kou Chongxue should be trying to increase the strength of other Martial Extermination Realm experts. Shang Bo would probably be left to his own cultivation for the foreseeable future as even someone like Shang Xia knew that it wasn't possible for Shang Bo to enter the Martial Dipper Realm anytime soon. Since Ji Wenlong had just broken through, the Tongyou Institution's inventory of high-level herbs was probably wiped out already. Even if it wasn't, a huge portion would have already been used up. There wouldn't be enough resources for Shang Bo to advance in such a short period of time too.

Shang Xia wouldn't question his grandfather's purpose in going to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, but he also wouldn't place all his hope of obtaining the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer's Yeast on Shang Bo. That was why he had requested for Shang Quan to keep a lookout for it around the Observation Peak. They released news that the Shang Clan was willing to trade treasures of equivalent value to obtain the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer's Yeast, but there was no news of it so far.

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Looking at the rest of Sima Zhanxing's items, Shang Xia couldn't help but feel disappointed. Other than the Yang Fire Stone, nothing else seemed to catch his eye. In fact, the treasures Sima Zhanxing had seemed ill-fitting of his status as a Martial Extermination Realm expert.

Luckily, Shang Xia had expected as much. After picking out several treasures among them, he handed everything over to Shang Quan to deal with.

Sorting out the items he chose, Shang Xia discovered that the treasures Sima Zhanxing had on him were mostly special products from the Azure Spiritual World. Because some of them weren't of exceptionally high grade, Shang Xia felt that Sima Zhanxing had a purpose for collecting them.

That wasn't all. Sima Zhanxing also left behind a diary of what he had seen or experienced during his time in the Azure Spiritual World. There were some details in there that shocked Shang Xia. He even felt that the information the institution had on the Azure Spiritual World was inferior to what Sima Zhanxing had recorded.

Clearly, this member of the Rose Party went over with a clear agenda in mind. He might have used them to escape from the wrath of the Tongyou Institution, but it seemed as though he was also planning to use the chance to learn more about them.

Putting the diary aside, Shang Xia looked at the treasures that came from the Azure Spiritual World. He had seen some of them before, and he recognized several others. He discovered that the institution had been trying to nurture some of those treasures themselves, and there were some in stock in the institution's Warehouse Division. That caused suspicion to sneak up Shang Xia's mind.

With the amount of resources in the Tongyou Institution that came from the Azure Spiritual World, Shang Xia felt that there was no way they could have gotten everything from killing and plundering cultivators from the Azure Spiritual World. There had to be another avenue the institution was getting its supply. Unfortunately, at Shang Xia's current level of authority in the institution, he wasn't privy to such information.

The institution's sources might have been a secret Shang Xia was unable to access, but he was sure that the Azure Spiritual World had contact with the Tongyou Institution. In the gathering that happened not too long ago, Shang Xia was sure that there was a huge group of cultivators from the Azure Spiritual World who attended. He was extremely confident that he could pick them out one by one given enough time. If he could do it, there was no doubt the Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Tongyou Institution could also do it.

Thinking deeper into the matter, Shang Xia realized that the higher-ups of both parties reached some sort of silent agreement.

From a certain standpoint, the Tongyou Institution's view seemed to be shifting subtly. Which brought about Shang Xia's confusion. He knew that it was happening, but he had no idea why.

At the end of the day, everything could be chalked up to his low authority in the Tongyou Institution.

Fortunately, Shang Xia had a sneaking suspicion that all those secrets that he couldn't access would be unraveled the moment he entered the Martial Extermination Realm.

He had 3 more rank three talisman jades on him, and 3 more spatial cases. His days of crafting Bamboo Void Breaking Talismans were far from over.

After resting for a few days, Shang Xia planned to start his next round of crafting when he was interrupted by messy chirps that came from all over the Observation Peak.

With his eyes widening slightly, he dumped his brush back on the tablet before running out to take a look. The moment he did, he saw hundreds of Mutated Rain Swallows circling the skies above the Observation Peak.

As they flew around in a giant flock, they were led by a larger, fatter bird who was emitting golden streaks of lightning as he flew. He seemed to be slightly showing off as he soared through the air.

The Lightning Bird was back with his flock of Mutated Rain Swallows!

Even though Shang Xia had his suspicions, it seemed as though the Lightning Bird really managed to refine both the wind and lightning attributed extermination origins to enter the fourth rank. He couldn't help but be happy for the Lightning Bird from the bottom of his heart.

The appearance of a rank four spiritual beast with a flock of Mutated Rain Swallows quickly alerted the Observation Peak. Panic broke out immediately as many cultivators prepared for battle. Luckily, Shang Bo hadn't left and along with 2 other Martial Extermination Realm experts, they conveyed the news that the Lightning Bird was back to nest on the Observation Peak along with the Mutated Rain Swallows.

The panic quickly developed into newfound respect and trust in the Tongyou Institution.

Naturally, Shang Xia was discovered by the Lightning Bird the moment he emerged from his secret chamber.

A clear chirp tore through the skies as the Lightning Bird broke away from the flock. Turning into a streak of light, he landed on Shang Xia's shoulders.

After completing his breakthrough, the Lightning Bird definitely grew even bigger. However, he started to shrink when he was flying towards Shang Xia. By the time the Lightning Bird perched, he returned to his old tiny figure.

"Chirp, chirp! Chirp, chirp!" The now-little Lightning Bird chirped in excitement but Shang Xia could hear the slight arrogance he was feeling. The Lightning Bird seemed to be saying: "Look at me! I broke through to the fourth rank but look at you! You're still stuck in the Martial Intent Realm!"

Shang Xia chuckled in response, "Well, congratulations. Hahaha, don't be too excited about it. I'll be catching up to you soon!"

When the Lightning Bird flew down earlier, he attracted the gaze of many cultivators on the Observation Peak. However, he was too damn fast and not many people managed to see where he went.

Only several cultivators from the Talisman Hall who were close to Shang Xia's secret chamber noticed that the Lightning Bird was perched on Shang Xia's shoulders. They stared with wide eyes at the little bird that was emitting a greenish-golden glow.

That was a rank four spiritual bird they were talking about! It wasn't everyday they got to see one up close!

"Chirp, chirp, chirp! Chirp, chirp, chirp..." As the Lightning Bird called out several times, Shang Xia seemed to have caught the meaning behind his cries. After advancing, the Lightning Bird developed his intelligence and was finally able to convey his thoughts to Shang Xia a little more clearly than before.

Shang Xia thought about it for a moment before asking, "Are you concerned about Yan Ni'er and her children?"

"Chirp!" Flapping his wings violently, the Lightning Bird confirmed Shang Xia's guess and seemed to be hurrying him for an answer.

"Hmmm, I'll bring them over in a little bit and you can take a look for yourself. How's that?" Shang Xia replied after thinking about it for a second.

The Lightning Bird seemed satisfied with the answer and started chirping incessantly. Even the lower-leveled cultivators standing around could tell that the bird was extremely happy with Shang Xia's answer.

Leaping into the skies, the Lightning Bird made a perfect arc above his head before releasing several loud chirps. Without warning, he released several streaks of lightning that tickled Shang Xia.

Chuckling softly, Shang Xia circulated his inner qi and transformed it into a ball of lightning. Lightly tossing it at the Lightning Bird, the ball of lightning entered his body without much resistance.

“Chirp...” The Lightning Bird absorbed the ball of lightning instantly but before he could do anything else, a low chime seemed to fill the air above the Observation Peak.

Shang Xia felt his divine sense trembling slightly from the sudden disturbance, but he wasn't the only one who was affected. The flock of Mutated Rain Swallows quietened down suddenly, and Shang Xia raised his head to be greeted by pillars of heaven and earth qi extending around the Observation Peak.

Gasps quickly escaped the lips of everyone on the Observation Peak as a thin barrier of light seemed to extend out from those pillars of heaven and earth qi to encircle the Observation Peak.

The grand formation of the Observation Peak was completed at that moment!

Chapter 432: Lotus Extermination Origin

When the grand formation was fully operational, the Lightning Bird flapped his wings and rose into the skies to lead his flock to the central region of the formation.

Shang Xia looked in the direction the birds were flying and noticed a giant wooden pillar hundreds of feet tall erected in the middle of the Observation Peak. He didn't know when it was placed there, but he could tell from the size that many people would need to link hands in order to wrap themselves around it.

There were long and rough branches that extended out from the main pillar that slowly tapered off and split into many smaller and thinner branches, but there were no leaves to be found on it.

From far, the wooden pillar was no different from a dead tree.

The Lightning Bird and the flock of Mutated Rain Swallows quickly found their way over before looking for a suitable place to build their nest.

The moment the Lightning Bird landed on the pillar, runes lit up on multiple spots and a gust of wind swept across the originally peaceful Observation Peak.

With a loud cry coming from the Lightning Bird, the flock of Mutated Rain Swallows started chirping away.

When the cries reached their peak, a loud explosion rocked the space above the Observation Peak. Deep rumbling echoed through the lands and they slowly transformed into claps of thunder.

An eye-catching bolt of lightning tore across the skies before landing close to the edge of the grand formation that surrounded the peak. That wasn't all. A gale that emitted strange howls started to rise. When the winds left the Observation Peak, it tore a huge path of destruction behind it. A tree was snapped in half and the surface that was revealed was as smooth as a mirror.

Coincidentally, the tree was blown back into the Observation Peak and when it crossed the boundary marked by the grand formation, a bolt of lightning fell from the void to turn it into a bunch of ash. By the time the ash scattered across the lands, the space around the Observation Peak

seemed to undergo another transformation. The void was turned into a region of chaos and that was the moment everyone within realized how terrifying the new grand formation was.

Everyone was able to see what happened on the surface, but the inner workings of the grand formation weren't that obvious. They didn't know that the giant pillar of wood where the Lightning Bird decided to rest contained a separate space. It was where the core of the formation was located.

The instant the changes happened, Chu Jia, who was seated cross-legged beside the core of the formation, opened her eyes. The second they were open, the reflection of the formation core in her pupils turned blurry before disappearing.

The disturbance around the Observation Peak immediately stopped as everything returned to normal. The skies regained their color.

Beside her, Ma Mingzheng appeared and asked with concern, "How is it?"

The look in Chu Jia's eyes turned clearer by the second and a smile slowly appeared on her face. "I did it! I comprehended my third martial intent!"

Ma Mingzheng nodded, but his expression remained neutral as he brought up the next question. "What else?"

"The day I step into the Martial Extermination Realm is the day I become a rank four Formation Master!" Chu Jia grinned.

Only then did Ma Mingzheng clap his hands in excitement. "Great! That's great!"

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It was common for one to lose track of time in the battlefield between the two worlds.

Ever since the Tongyou Institution established the Observation Peak, half a year had passed. The 845th year of the Azure Origin World had long since rolled around.

With the successful deployment of the grand formation, the Observation Peak became a lot more secure than before. The formation would activate when the Observation Peak came under attack by external threats.

Since the formation was active, the Observation Peak became a lot more bustling than before. Those temporary structures were torn down completely as large scale construction began.

The situation in the battlefield between the two worlds became a lot more peaceful and so did Shang Xia's life.

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Ever since Shang Xia achieved the impossible and completed 8 Gale Thunderbolt Talismans in 2 months, the number of people who were willing to pay a huge price to get him to craft talismans increased at a tremendous rate. It was especially so after those talismans were incorporated into the grand formation.

Also, with Shang Xia's cultivation at the peak of the Martial Intent Realm, ordinary cultivation resources were of no use to him. As such, he didn't request too many of them from Shang Quan. Instead, the resources he wanted were all related to talisman crafting in one way or another.

Everything else that he passed to Shang Quan previously had been changed into gold coins or silver essence and other than a small portion of it being contributed to the clan, the rest were saved under Shang Xia's name.

Trading his old resources or those he plundered for cash was only one of Shang Quan's jobs. He was also trying to help Shang Xia look for rank four cultivation resources. Unfortunately, he didn't have much luck while doing so.

"Someone came over to request for talismans again!" Shang Quan reminded while bringing over a batch of resources.

"Hahaha, Uncle Quan, you can do as you see fit. There's only one rule that remains. I will only craft a single rank three talisman a month." Shang Xia chuckled in response.

Shang Quan sniggered softly. "Relax, I didn't forget that. Anyway, I'll deal with the rest of the problems and make the arrangements. There's nothing for you to worry about."

Because of the number of rank three talismans Shang Xia had experience crafting, the people who came knocking on the Shang Clan's door never stopped. There was also a need to mention that those talismans Shang Xia could craft were either extremely useful or extremely powerful.

Since he didn't wish to be bogged down by requests every day, Shang Xia simply threw the problem to Shang Quan. He waved his hand and slapped his butt before appointing Shang Quan as his representative.

With the authority given by Shang Xia, Shang Quan quickly received a huge amount of benefits. That was also why Shang Quan had no complaints when helping out.

"Is there still no news of the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer's Yeast or the Nine Leaf Lotus?" Shang Xia tossed out a casual question.

With a painful smile on his face, Shang Quan could only shake his head helplessly. "I can't reach Third Uncle at all. He probably didn't manage to find the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer's Yeast in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. Our Shang Clan looked through the entire battlefield between the two worlds and Tongyou City but failed to receive news on either of them."

A trace of disappointment flashed across Shang Xia's face, but the smile quickly returned. "Maybe I'm being too hasty. Haha, which expert who tried breaking through to the Martial Extermination Realm didn't use several years to prepare their advancement medicine? It has been less than a year since I entered the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm!"

At the start of the 845th year of the Azure Origin World, Shang Ke made a trip back to the battlefield between the two worlds in order to pass Shang Xia the Glass Daisy Chrysanthemum and the Dragon Headed Wintersweet.

That truly surprised Shang Xia and he quickly requested for Shang Quan to keep a lookout for the Nine Leaf Lotus.

With the addition of the herbs Shang Ke delivered, Shang Xia was only missing the brewer's yeast and the lotus.

Actually, Shang Xia had started inquiring about them a long time ago. After the gathering of Martial Intent Realm experts near the Yuxi Peak, Shang Xia released news that he was willing to purchase several treasures with graded weapons. Unfortunately, no one contacted him since then.

Shang Xia was initially still hopeful that he would get lucky and obtain it from the spatial cases he hadn't opened.

In the time that passed, he managed to craft another Bamboo Void Breaking Talisman with the 3 talisman jades in his possession and another 2 from 4 pieces of rank three talisman paper Shang Quan bought from elsewhere.

From a certain standpoint, Gale Thunderbolt Talismans were a lot harder to craft than Bamboo Void Breaking Talismans. However, the talisman paper made from Stormy Lightning Leaves alleviated a huge portion of the difficulty. That was why Shang Xia's success rate in crafting Gale Thunderbolt Talismans was much higher than Bamboo Void Breaking Talismans.

With the talismans, Shang Xia opened the spatial cases of the 3 disciples of the Changbai Holy Land. He managed to obtain a rank four treasure called the Scarlet Heart Cinnabar Wood and some rank three resources. The Scarlet Heart Cinnabar Wood could be considered pretty precious, but the rank three resources weren't too useful to him.

The only thing that was a cause for celebration was 2 more strands of extermination qi from Chu Chen's extermination qi gathering gourd.

With the one he obtained from Senior Brother Zhou in the past, he now possessed 4 strands of extermination qi! He would be able to make 4 attempts when crafting rank four talismans in the future!

After opening the spatial cases and not obtaining anything of use, Shang Xia decided to leave the battlefield between the two worlds and returned to the Tongyou City for a change of pace. At the same time, he wanted to see if he could repair his Scarlet Star Spear that was heavily damaged after his many battles in the battlefield between the two worlds.

He went to give Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui a quick heads up before he left the battlefield between the two worlds, but as he was walking out of the Talisman Hall, he was greeted with many reluctant looks by the rest of the members.

In the months that passed, the Talisman Hall's prestige made a huge leap forward due to Shang Xia's presence!

That wasn't all as Shang Xia decided to give several lectures on talisman crafting during his time there. Every time he held a lecture, everyone would feel as though they learned something new. Because he didn't expect anything in return for conducting those lectures, his reputation in the Talisman Hall shot up like a rocket.

Naturally, the support of Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui was indispensable. They were working behind the scenes to make Shang Xia the face of the Talisman Hall as they knew that the moment Shang Xia entered the Martial Extermination Realm, he would probably be the first rank four Talisman Master of the institution!

When Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui walked out of the Talisman Hall with Shang Xia to bid him a farewell, Shang Xia felt that the heaven and earth qi around the Observation Peak was starting to behave abnormally.

As the fluctuations quickly became stronger and stronger, Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui also discovered something off.

“This...” Fan Yuanhui stuttered. His cultivation was the lowest of the 3 and he was the most confused among them.

With Gong Hang’s wealth of experience, he seemed to understand what was happening. “That’s a sign of someone who’s about to break through!”

Shang Xia followed up immediately. “Haha, our Tongyou Institution is about to welcome another Martial Extermination Realm expert.”

“Who?!” Gong Hang and Fan Yuanhui yelled in unison.

“It’s coming...” Shang Xia didn’t reply as he concentrated his divine sense on the spot where the heaven and earth qi fluctuations were coming from.

As he spoke, a ray of light shot into the skies. The heaven and earth qi around the Observation Peak became a lot denser as a huge illusory lotus seemed to bloom in the air above.

“Oh? Could it be...” Shang Xia stared at the illusory lotus that was slowly fading as a name popped into his mind.

Chapter 433: Good Things Come In Pairs

Deacon Ge Qingzhu of the Tongyou Institution successfully entered the Martial Extermination Realm, increasing the number of experts by one!

Ge Qingzhu couldn’t be considered an extremely well-known figure in the institution before that, and most people had no idea of his existence. Fortunately, he ran into a massive fortuitous encounter in the battlefield between the two worlds. It was said that he obtained an entire pool of spiritual lotus, and taking advantage of the opportunity, his cultivation skyrocketed. After making all his preparations, he successfully entered the ranks of true experts of the institution.

Shang Xia had to praise Ge Qingzhu’s approach. He took everything step by step and succeeded with a stroke of luck. Everyone had their way of cultivation and there was no need for Shang Xia to envy any of them.

As such, Shang Xia made his preparations to leave while everyone was still captivated by the energy fluctuations in the air.

However, he was interrupted by Shang Tai before he could leave the battlefield between the two worlds.

Like Shang Quan, Shang Tai was also a second generation member of the Shang Clan who was born in a branch family.

Because Shang Quan felt as though he had reached a bottleneck in his cultivation several days ago, he chose to enter seclusion. He was making his preparations to enter the Martial Intent Realm and handed his responsibilities to Shang Tai.

Before Shang Xia returned to the Talisman Hall a few months ago, Shang Quan brought Shang Tai over to meet Shang Xia to make the introductions.

When he heard that Shang Quan was about to enter seclusion, Shang Xia picked out several training resources, that might be of use like rank two and three Monkey Wine, for him.

“Uncle Tai, did something come up?” Shang Xia asked when he saw the rush Shang Tai was in.

Shang Tai heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Shang Xia and he muttered, “Yan Qi... Yan Qi is back! He wishes to see you...”

“What happened to him?!” Without hesitation, Shang Xia started running in the direction of the Shang Clan’s territory on the Observation Peak.

Shang Xia was extremely clear about Yan Qi’s personality. If he really needed to report anything to Shang Xia, he would do so personally. He wouldn’t ask Shang Xia to look for him unless something unexpected happened...

“Um...” A strange expression appeared on Shang Tai’s face but he quickly continued, “You’ll know when you get there.”

Hearing that, Shang Xia became even more curious. Luckily, he wouldn’t take a lot of time to travel across the Observation Peak. He quickly returned to the Shang Clan’s territory.

The moment he returned, he caught sight of Yan Qi who had gone missing for a few months now. He instantly realized why Shang Tai wasn’t willing to tell him what happened on the way back.

Yan Qi used to be a buff young man with muscles bulging to the point where they were visible through his clothes. Now, he was extremely shriveled and his face was deathly pale. He had a listless gaze as he sat there waiting for Shang Xia to arrive.

“Seventh Uncle, this...” Shang Xia gasped in fright.

“Oh... It’s a long story...” Yan Qi perked up slightly when he saw Shang Xia. A trace of red finally returned to his face and after coughing lightly, he changed the topic. “I heard that you were missing some treasures to craft your rank four advancement medicine.”

Shang Xia didn’t push further about Yan Qi’s injuries since he wasn’t willing to talk about it at the moment. However, he couldn’t deny that he was feeling a trace of excitement when Yan Qi mentioned the treasures. “Seventh Uncle, do you have a plan to get them?”

Yan Qi nodded slowly before glancing at Shang Tai. “I heard from your Uncle Tai that you were missing some important treasures. I might have a way to get my hands on the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer’s Yeast.”

Shang Xia’s eyes lit up instantly. “For real? What do you need in exchange?”

Yan Qi released an awkward chuckle before muttering softly, “Actually, you only need to trade a rank four treasure for it.”

Shang Xia could tell that Yan Qi wasn’t exactly feeling very comfortable at the moment, but Shang Xia would believe whatever he said without hesitation. As such, he quickly replied, “I have some rank four treasures that I can’t make use of right now. One of them is called the Essence Bone Ember, and the other is a Scarlet Heart Cinnabar Wood. Choose whichever you wish!”

“Essence Bone Ember?! Young Master, you actually have Essence Bone Ember?!” A hopeful light flashed through Yan Qi’s eyes and excitement filled his heart. “If you really have that, it would be much easier to trade for a portion of Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer’s Yeast.”

Before he could complete his sentence, Shang Xia was already retrieving a sealed case from his spatial artifact. Yan Qi didn’t hesitate either as he took the case from Shang Xia.

He got to his feet before making his move. Without turning his head, he cried, “Young Master, please give me a little time. At the very latest, I’ll bring back a portion of Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer’s Yeast in 5 days!”

Yan Qi arrived and left like a gust of wind. With a look of confusion, Shang Xia could only turn to Shang Tai for an answer. “Uncle Tai, did Seventh Uncle tell you about what he experienced recently?”

Shang Tai glanced at Yan Qi’s figure that was some distance away before turning back to Shang Xia. He grunted softly and tried to evade the youngster’s gaze.

Shang Xia didn’t know if he was mistaken, but he felt that there was a trace of envy and embarrassment mixed within.

Shifting his body to the side slightly, Shang Tai replied, “Yan Qi didn’t say too much about it. Maybe it has something to do with the old patriarch’s order, but he went to contact the members of the four great races of the Liao Continent.”

“Four great races of the Liao Continent? Does it have nothing to do with the Changbai Holy Land?” Shang Xia frowned.

Shang Tai couldn’t help but burst into laughter from his response. “If he’s really communicating with the Changbai Holy Land, there’s no need to cover it up! We won’t need to send Yan Qi to do it either. After all, everyone else thinks that Yan Qi is a mere servant of our Shang Clan. They won’t pay too much attention to him.”

Shang Xia nodded subconsciously. Even though he never treated Yan Qi as a servant, everyone outside the clan might not think so.

With the news Yan Qi had brought him, Shang Xia knew that his trip back to the Tongyou City would be delayed once again.

Patiently waiting for Yan Qi’s return, a surprising event broke his dull and mundane life. An invitation was delivered to the Shang Clan and it was addressed specifically for Shang Xia.

“Huh? Ge Qingzhu?” Shang Xia received the invitation from Shang Tai while muttering to himself, “He just entered the Martial Extermination Realm and should be trying to consolidate his foundations. Why will he be looking for me?”

Shang Tai shook his head slowly and sighed, “I don’t know either. The person who came with the invitation left the moment I took it.”

Shang Xia might be curious about the reason behind Ge Qingzhu’s sudden invitation, but he wouldn’t turn it down. After all, he would still respect the new addition to the Martial Extermination Realm ranks of the institution.

Waiting till the next day, Shang Xia didn’t receive any news from Yan Qi either.

Originally, Shang Xia wanted to look for Shang Jian and Shang Xi to ask about matters regarding him, but as it turned out, Shang Jian had left for the Tongyou City a while ago.

According to him, Shang Dong and Shang Bei were about to break through and he needed to head back to protect them during their cultivation.

His plan to look for Shang Xi also fell through. She had been in seclusion the moment she got back from the gathering with the various Martial Intent Realm experts. She might have completed her third divine sense transformation and could be considered to be ahead of her peers, her cultivation was still far too lacking when she compared it with her abnormal nephew. She would be lying to herself if she said that she didn’t feel any pressure. She wanted to raise her strength as much as possible which led to her entering seclusion for such a long time.

Helpless, Shang Xia could only wait for Yan Qi to return alone. With nothing else to do, he started to head for the central region on the Observation Peak.

That was where the giant wooden pillar was located, and it was also the home of the Lightning Bird. With such a giant structure in sight, it wasn’t difficult for Shang Xia to locate it.

When Ge Qingzhu advanced into the Martial Extermination Realm, he broke through in a secret chamber not too far away from the pillar. Shang Xia knew that he would be cultivating there and decided to look for him.

When he arrived, many Upper Division Disciples greeted him respectfully before pointing out the way.

When Shang Xia arrived, he noticed that Ge Qingzhu hadn’t left seclusion for long. In fact, they were meeting in his cultivation chamber for the first time.

They met back at the gathering near the Yuxi Peak. However, there were too many people present and Ge Qingzhu seemed to want to hide his presence. As such, Shang Xia didn’t examine him carefully.

Now that Ge Qingzhu had advanced, his aura changed drastically. He looked a lot more elegant than before and emitted a feeling of being free from all restraints. Everyone would feel a little more comfortable just by looking at him.

“Shang Xia greets Mister Ge!”

There hadn't been a single deacon in the Tongyou Institution with a Martial Extermination Realm cultivation. As soon as one of them advanced, they would be quickly promoted to be one of the heads of a division. Their status would be comparable to the instructors of the teaching divisions and that was the reason Shang Xia didn't call him 'Deacon Ge' any longer.

Ge Qingzhu revealed a smile as he nodded as Shang Xia. No one knew if he was pleased with Shang Xia's presence or if it was just the way Shang Xia was addressing him.

"Young Talisman Master Shang, do you still need a Nine Leaf Lotus?" Ge Qingzhu got straight to the point.

Shang Xia clearly didn't expect Ge Qingzhu to be so direct and his eyes widened in surprise. After getting over his initial shock, he quickly regained his composure and replied, "This disciple is truly in need of the lotus. However, the Nine Leaf Lotus has to be harvested in the Summer!"

Instead of replying to his question directly, Ge Qingzhu continued, "Young Talisman Master Shang, you must be curious about why I denied having the lotus back at the gathering..."

Shang Xia was taken by surprise once again, but he quickly burst out chuckling, "Mister Ge, you definitely had your reasons for doing so."

Nodding slightly, Ge Qingzhu explained, "A Nine Leaf Lotus is a treasure that would be of use to someone entering the Martial Extermination Realm."

Shang Xia immediately understood that Ge Qingzhu probably required the lotus to craft his advancement medicine, but his confusion quickly set in. Since Ge Qingzhu sent him an invitation, he wouldn't call Shang Xia over just to tell him that he used up the Nine Leaf Lotus.

Shang Xia's heart trembled slightly in anticipation of what he was about to hear. He couldn't help but feel slightly more excited.

Ge Qingzhu chuckled in response, "Looks like you already guessed it. I obtained two Nine Leaf Lotus back then and I didn't say anything before advancing in case I needed the second one."

Shang Xia nodded slightly in acknowledgment.

Pausing for a second, he continued, "Fortunately, I got lucky this time. Now that I succeeded, there is no need to hide the second Nine Leaf Lotus. I wouldn't mind trading it with you."

Shang Xia finally calmed himself and after a short moment of silence, he asked, "Mister Bu, have you harvested the other lotus?"

"The rumors out there were actually correct. I obtained a pool of spirit lotuses, and that meant that I know its location. I haven't harvested the lotus, but Summer is coming soon..."

Chapter 434: Ready, Set

"Mister Ge, what request do you have? I'll fulfill it as long as it is within my power."

Shang Xia calmed himself down as he spoke.

A satisfied look appeared on Ge Qingzhu's face and he muttered, "Actually, I do have something I need your help with. However, now isn't the time."

Seeing the look of surprise on Shang Xia's face, he added another explanation, "I'm afraid you need to be in the Martial Extermination Realm before you can help me with it. It might not pose any danger to you, but you might find it a little difficult to accomplish. You might even need to use a lot of time to complete it."

With things progressing up to that point, Shang Xia couldn't say anything else. In order to obtain the Nine Leaf Lotus, he had to agree.

Making a promise to Ge Qingzhu, he received Ge Qingzhu's agreement to bring him to the pool of lotuses the moment Summer arrived.

With the arrangement with Ge Qingzhu, Shang Xia realized that the Tongyou Institution managed to gain control of the lotus pool Ge Qingzhu discovered. However, the new Martial Extermination Realm expert seemed to be in control of the allocation of resources there.

Even though there was still some time before he could get his hands on the Nine Leaf Lotus, Shang Xia was still pretty pumped.

With the issue of the Nine Leaf Lotus dealt with, Shang Xia could only wait for Yan Qi to return with news about his Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer's Yeast.

The saying of good times coming in pairs didn't come from nothing. When Shang Xia left Ge Qingzhu's place and returned to the Shang Clan's territory on the Observation Peak, he was quickly greeted with the news that Yan Qi had returned.

Running over to the main hall at top speed, Shang Xia saw Shang Tai conversing with Yan Qi.

The moment he entered the hall, Yan Qi bowed respectfully only to be waved off quickly by Shang Xia. An expectant smile appeared on Shang Xia's face. "How did it go? Did you manage to obtain the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer's Yeast?"

Yan Qi's expression froze slightly before he handed the case containing the Essence Bone Ember back to Shang Xia. "Young Master, my apologies. An accident occurred."

Looking at the case that Yan Qi held out, a wave of disappointment washed over Shang Xia. There was news from Yan Qi, but it wasn't what he was expecting. However, he knew that he couldn't hold something like that against Yan Qi. Forcing a smile, he asked, "It's alright. Why don't you tell me what happened?"

"I brought the Essence Bone Ember Young Master gave me to make the trade and I thought that it would be extremely easy to obtain the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer's Yeast. I slipped up when talking to them and revealed that you also had the Scarlet Heart Cinnabar Wood and the other party who was interested in the trade immediately rejected the case of Essence Bone Ember. Instead, they wanted me to obtain the Scarlet Heart Cinnabar Wood if I wanted to make the trade." Yan Qi explained.

Shang Xia received the case and glanced at the contents before sighing, "What's up with that? From what I know, the Essence Bone Ember and the Scarlet Heart Cinnabar Wood are of the same rank. They are both rank four spiritual treasures, and the Essence Bone Ember is much more valuable!"

Yan Qi chuckled bitterly while shaking his head. “They were unwilling to tell me the reason and I wasn’t in a position to ask about it.”

Shang Xia kept the case containing the Essence Bone Ember before taking out another case containing the Scarlet Heart Cinnabar Wood. “By the way, are you communicating with the four great races of the Liao Continent?”

Yan Qi received the case before revealing a thoughtful expression. “Young Master, the old patriarch didn’t allow me to talk about this. I didn’t tell you anything about this and you guessed it all on your own...”

Yan Qi then nodded slightly while keeping a straight face.

Shang Xia knew that he shouldn’t continue his line of questioning and muttered, “Seventh Uncle, you need to be careful.”

Yan Qi cupped his fists towards Shang Xia and said, “The next time I return, I will definitely bring the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer’s Yeast with me.”

After sending Yan Qi off, Shang Xia saw that Shang Tai had yet to leave and he quickly asked, “Uncle Tai, how is Uncle Quan’s progress of breaking through to the Martial Intent Realm?”

Shaking his head, Shang Tai sighed, “Brother Quan returned to the Tongyou City and I have no idea how he is actually doing right now. I only saw him before he entered seclusion, but he seems pretty confident of his accumulations in the battlefield between the two worlds in the years that passed. He once said that he was around 80 percent sure that he could advance. Who knows? He might already be consolidating his foundations back in the Shang Clan Manor as we speak.”

Shang Xia nodded in acknowledgement. “That would be for the best...”

Originally, he wanted to take his leave now that he asked the questions that were on his mind. However, he noticed the unnatural expression on Shang Tai’s face and he realized that his uncle probably still had something to say to him.

“Uncle Tai, what’s the matter?”

Hesitating slightly Shang Tai finally sighed, “I might be mistaken, but from what I observed on the Observation Peak, the Tongyou Institution seems to be making some sort of secret plan. They even seem to be getting ready for something.”

“Uncle Tai, did you discover something out of the ordinary?” Shang Xia frowned. He knew that as the person in charge of the Shang Clan in the battlefield between the two worlds at the moment, Shang Tai probably came into contact with many things on a daily basis. He might have figured something out through all the tiny traces of information he came across.

Taking some time to arrange his thoughts, Shang Tai continued, “All the Martial Extermination Realm experts on the Observation Peak seemed to have gone somewhere. I suspect that all of them have already left the battlefield between the two worlds.”

A deep frown appeared on Shang Xia’s face. “Do you mean that our Observation Peak is like an empty shell right now?! Is the institution playing some empty city stratagem with our opponents?!”

“No, no, no!” Shang Tai shook his head, but his expression sank slightly the next second as he couldn’t be sure of what was actually happening. “At the very least, we’re not employing some empty city stratagem. The experts of the four great races of the Liao Continent and the Changbai Holy Land have also become a lot quieter. It’s as though we’re all trying to protect the peace of the battlefield between the two worlds for the time being.”

A guess had long since formed in Shang Xia’s mind about the sudden change that was happening to the battlefield between the two worlds. Since a long time ago, the fights had stopped. Shang Xia was even thinking the higher-ups of both worlds had reached some sort of agreement.

Now that Shang Tai brought the matter up, his guess was basically verified.

“Uncle Tai, start gathering the power of our clan and start placing a stronger emphasis on the Yuxi Peak.” Shang Xia said all of a sudden.

Nodding quietly, Shang Tai acknowledged the order. However, he couldn’t help but ask, “Our experts have always been stationed near the Yuxi Peak. Are you...”

“I plan on entering the Yuxi Peak soon.” Shang Xia admitted.

With a shocked expression finding its way onto Shang Tai’s face, he yelled, “Shang Xia, you cannot act recklessly! Less than 10 people from our side and the Azure Spiritual World entered the Yuxi Peak since the abnormality was discovered and not a single one of them returned. Not even Martial Extermination Realm experts dare to take their chances to enter the forbidden region!”

Shang Xia shook his head slightly and sighed, “The Yuxi Peak might hold the key to my breakthrough to the Martial Extermination Realm. I have to make a trip over.”

Shang Tai wanted to say something else, but Shang Xia quickly interrupted him. “Uncle Tai, there’s no need for you to worry. Even if things reach the worst-case scenario, I have a way to retreat unharmed. No matter what you say, my decision is made. The moment Seventh Uncle returns with the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer’s Yeast, I’ll make my move. Uncle Tai, there’s no need to try to dissuade me any further.”

Knowing that he didn’t possess the ability to change Shang Xia’s mind, Shang Tai muttered helplessly, “Since that’s the case, I can only report this matter to the patriarch...”

...

This time, Yan Qi didn’t make Shang Xia wait for a long time. He returned on the third day after Shang Xia passed him the Scarlet Heart Cinnabar Wood. This time, the case that he passed to Shang Xia contained the Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer’s Yeast he so desperately needed.

At that moment, Shang Xia could be said to have collected all the components required for his rank four advancement medicine, the Four Seasons Samsara Wine.

Of course, he couldn’t actually break through immediately. He still had to invite an alchemist to brew his advancement medicine. Rank four alchemists weren’t exactly impressive because of their ability to craft medicines. They were actually well respected due to their expertise in crafting specific advancement medicines for cultivators.

Naturally, Shang Xia had no use for their abilities as he had a complete advancement medicine himself. With detailed instructions, a rank three alchemist could actually produce the advancement medicine he required.

Unfortunately, the grade of the alchemist couldn't really affect Shang Xia at the moment as the Shang Clan hadn't been able to produce a rank three alchemist. As such, regardless of whether Shang Xia had to look for a rank three or four alchemist, he had to do it through the institution.

The moment he requested the help of an alchemist of the institution to craft the Four Seasons Samsara Wine, he knew that the institution would learn a huge part of how to craft it.

Well, Shang Xia wasn't too worried about it anyway. After all, the advancement medicine came from the institution anyway. He took an incomplete advancement medicine and completed it through the Crimson Soul Tablet.

At the end of the day, Shang Xia was the one who held the key to crafting the Four Seasons Samsara Wine. Other people might be able to make use of it in the future, but Shang Xia would naturally release a much weaker version after modifying it with the tablet.

Actually, the Four Seasons Samsara Wine that Shang Xia was crafting was too damn special to begin with. Just the herbs required was enough to show that it was no ordinary medicine. It was almost impossible to replicate Shang Xia's method of breakthrough in the future.

...

The Medicine Hall was a part of the Warehouse Division in the Tongyou Institution, and it was one of those that was held in the highest regard. The ability of their alchemists to craft advancement medicines wasn't the only reason. The other reason was because they had one of the only few rank four craftsmen in the institution! Ge Muchen, a rank four alchemist, was part of their ranks!

In the past, Ge Muchen ran into trouble when the world collided. Luckily, he was saved by Kou Chongxue and with that, he chose to enter the Medicine Hall of the Tongyou Institution to focus on his craft.

The rise of the institution, birthing so many Martial Extermination Realm experts, couldn't have been done without him.

Leaving the experts who just broke through recently aside, even Shang Bo's advancement medicine was made by Ge Muchen more than a dozen years ago!

Ge Muchen's abilities in the medical field might be great, but his path of cultivation seemed to be restricted by his talent. He might be a rank four alchemist, but he had yet to step into the Martial Extermination Realm.

According to rumors, Kou Chongxue tried to assist in his breakthrough personally, but they failed. That even resulted in Kou Chongxue suffering a backlash. The matter of Ge Muchen's advancement could only be dropped.

It was a pretty sad story actually. The rank four alchemist who was unable to enter the Martial Extermination Realm produced a steady stream of rank four advancement medicine for others to advance and medicine to treat the injured. He allowed the Tongyou Institution to grow strong, but he couldn't do so himself.

Due to the passage of time, Ge Muchen was getting old and because he injured his foundations because of the failed breakthrough back then, he didn't have much time left. At the moment, he was the spiritual support of the Medicine Hall.

Other than Grandmaster Ge Muchen, there were 4 other rank three alchemists in the medicine hall.

From that point alone, one could see how much deeper the Medicine Hall's accumulations were compared to the Talisman Hall or Formation Hall. Their strong foundations could be attributed to Ge Muchen's teachings.

At the moment, there were 2 rank three alchemists on the Observation Peak. One of them was a veteran alchemist called Ge Wangchuan. From his name, it wasn't difficult to discern that he was related to Ge Muchen. It was also said that he was going to inherit Ge Muchen's inheritance when he was ready.

The other rank three alchemist was new, and he was Liu Zhifang from the Liu Clan of the Tongyou City. He was part of the same generation as Liu Zhiyuan and Liu Zhidao, the two Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Liu Clan and that proved the deep foundations behind the great Liu Clan.

When they heard Shang Xia's request, their expression turned exceptionally ugly.

Chapter 435: Appearance of the Four Seasons on the Yuxi Peak

"Do you really need it urgently?" Liu Zhifang finally broke the silence after glancing at Ge Wangchuan.

As Alchemists of the institution, they rarely took on a role as teachers. However, Shang Xia would still address them respectfully as teachers when he met them.

Regardless of how Shang Xia addressed them, Both Liu Zhifang and Ge Wangchun knew that they couldn't easily offend the person before them.

Ge Wangchun couldn't be considered too related to Shang Xia as he didn't interact much with each other. However, Liu Zhifang was an expert of the Liu Clan of the Tongyou City. With the relationship between the Shang Clan and Liu Clan, Shang Xia should actually call him 'Martial Uncle'. As such, neither party would want to offend the other if they could help it.

After hearing what Liu Zhifang said, Shang Xia knew that the two of them were facing some difficulties and might not be able to fulfill his request. He chuckled softly in response, "What's the matter? Teacher Ge and Teacher Liu, are you busy right now?"

Liu Zhifang laughed helplessly, "We just received an order to craft a rank four advancement medicine. The order came from Grandmaster Muchen himself and he appointed the two of us to work on it. Brother Ge and I can't possibly reject him."

"Grandmaster Muchen? Since he gave the order, I won't put you in a spot. However, can I have the privilege of knowing who is able to get Grandmaster Muchen to give the order personally for the preparation of their rank four advancement medicine? Also, didn't Grandmaster Muchen stop crafting advancement medicines for others in the recent years?" Shang Xia asked.

Ge Wangchun finally spoke. “Uncle Muchen really hasn’t personally refined any medicine in a long time. Patriarch Kou allowed him to rest easy due to his old age, but Uncle Muchen promised this medicine to the person a long time ago. Actually, Uncle Muchen wanted to personally head up to craft the medicine but the person wasn’t willing to let Uncle Muchen tire himself out and thus handed the advancement formula over to us. The two of us naturally won’t turn the request down.”

Before Shang Xia could ask, Liu Zhifang added at the side, “You definitely know that person. It’s Formation Master Chu Jia from the Formation Hall.”

“It’s her!” Shang Xia immediately understood the ugly expressions of the two when he approached them earlier.

Back when Shang Xia crafted 8 Gale Thunderbolt Talismans, he caught the Formation Hall off-guard. They even lost their cool and collected demeanor as they had to carry out mass modifications to the grand formation.

They worked tirelessly to finally complete the modification of the grand formation right before the stipulated deadline by the institution.

The hell they were put through caused the rage of the Formation Masters to direct all their rage and frustration towards Shang Xia.

Rumors came from the Formation Hall soon after, indicating the Chu Jia would likely become a rank four Formation Master in the near future. Moreover, she was extremely displeased with Talisman Master Shang Xia.

No one knew if the news was real, but the further the rumors spread, the worse it became

Due to how some people put it, the rumors quickly developed into a battle between the Formation Hall and the Talisman Hall. According to those shit-stirrers, Chu Jia was competing with Shang Xia on who would be able to enter the Martial Extermination Realm first. After all, that would mean that a rank four Talisman Master or Formation Master would be produced first in the institution.

Clearly, Ge Wangchun and Liu Zhifang were affected by the rumors. What was even more coincidental was that they had just promised to refine Chu Jia’s advancement medicine when Shang Xia came knocking on their doorsteps. That caused the two of them to feel extremely torn apart.

It didn’t matter if it was Chu Jia or Shang Xia. The two of them possessed extreme potential. Moreover, both sides had impressive backgrounds. They were also looked upon highly by the higher-ups of the institution. Ge Wangchun and Liu Zhifang didn’t wish to offend either one of them!

However, they quickly heaved a sigh of relief when they saw that Shang Xia didn’t react much when they mentioned Chu Jia’s advancement medicine.

The two of them might not exactly be nameless figures in the institution, but offending someone like Shang Xia and Chu Jia was enough to make them think twice.

Shang Xia thought for a moment before he continued. “Teacher Ge and Teacher Liu, when will you be able to complete her advancement medicine?”

Liu Zhifang sank into silence for a moment. Eventually, he coughed lightly, “If you are really in a rush, you can try going back to the Tongyou City to look for Teacher Lei and Teacher Feng. You can definitely raise your request to them. How about it?”

As previously mentioned, there were 4 rank three Alchemists in the Tongyou Institution. Lei Xiang and Feng Yongchu remained in the institution while Ge Wangchun and Liu Zhifang were stationed in the battlefield between the two worlds.

Of course, the Tongyou Institution might have reopened a spatial tunnel to the battlefield between the two worlds, but it wasn't something Shang Xia could cross whenever he wanted to.

After all, usage of the tunnel required a huge amount of resources. Other than times of emergency, the spatial tunnel would be opened during specific periods in the year.

If Shang Xia wanted to return to the city before returning to the battlefield between the two worlds, it would take him more than a month.

If he failed to return by then, he would need an even longer time.

After thinking about it, Shang Xia shook his head and muttered, “Actually, I was only planning to let Teacher Ge and Teacher Liu know that I need my advancement medicine made. After all, I still have another herb I have yet to obtain.”

The two of them immediately agreed to help Shang Xia the moment he gathered everything he needed. After all, that would be the best case scenario for the two of them.

Shang Xia followed up once again, “I should be able to obtain the herb in 40 days or so. I wonder if Teacher Ge and Teacher Liu will be available then?”

“Of course!” Liu Zhifang answered for the two of them while heaving a sigh of relief.

Ge Wangchun added, “If nothing goes wrong, we should be done with her advancement medicine in a month. After that, Talisman Master Shang, you can bring your recipe over for us to take a look and make our preparations.”

Receiving the answer he wanted, Shang Xia thanked them before taking his leave. However, the smile on his face revealed a hint of mystery when he turned to look at the Medicine Hall while walking away.

After sending Shang Xia off, Ge Wangchun and Liu Zhifang felt a weight lifted off their shoulders. Of course, their expression remained as casual as could be.

Returning to the hall, they saw a lady who was emitting an air of laziness waiting for them.

“Is he gone?” She giggled softly and asked for fun. “Aren't you two going to thank me for not jumping out earlier and starting a play with Talisman Master Shang?”

It wasn't hard to guess who she was. Of course it had to be Chu Jia, the rank three Formation Master of the Tongyou Institution.

Previously, she had also been in the hall. However, she hid at the side using some sort of concealment formation. The conversation between Shang Xia and the two couldn't be hidden from her.

Ge Wangchun stared at her blankly for a second before sighing, “Little Grandaunt, don’t make things difficult for the two of us...”

Liu Zhifang chuckled bitterly at the side while shaking his head.

From the way they spoke for each other, it wasn’t difficult to tell that Ge Wangchun and Liu Zhifang were pretty good friends.

Chu Jia was obviously not bothered in the slightest as she snorted indifferently. “Do you really think that Young Master Shang didn’t know about my presence?”

Ge Wangchun’s eyes widened in shock. “What?! You were discovered? How is that even possible?”

Chu Jia muttered casually, “That fellow’s divine sense is a little perverted. I was planning to listen in on your conversation earlier and allowed my divine sense to leak out a little. He discovered me the moment I did that. If I didn’t adjust my concealment formation in time, he would have discovered where I was.”

A look of confusion appeared on Liu Zhifang’s face when he heard about her concealment formation, but he quickly became in awe of her mastery in the way of formations.

Ge Wangchun gasped. “He actually managed to discover your presence! Didn’t you say that anyone under the Martial Extermination Realm experts wouldn’t be able to discover your presence?”

The Medicine Hall might be crudely built at the moment, but there was naturally more than a single entrance.

Due to the rumors going around, Ge Wangchun and Liu Zhifang didn’t really wish for the two of them to meet. Unfortunately, Chu Jia adamantly chose to stay and she mentioned something about not being discovered by Shang Xia no matter what. Who would have thought that her presence would be leaked despite her confidence?

Noting Ge Wangchun’s displeasure, Chu Jia started to pout and use her most effective coy voice to respond. “Who would expect that fellow’s divine sense to be so powerful? Hmph hmph! His senses and divine sense is in no way inferior to an expert in the Martial Extermination Realm.”

Seeing as things had already progressed to that point, Ge Wangchun could only sigh in defeat. There was no use berating Chu Jia any further.

She quickly continued, “By the way, what did you say that his advancement medicine was?”

Liu Zhifang saw that Ge Wangchun wasn’t in the best of mood right now and he decided to take over the conversation. “We’ll only know when he hands us the formula. As for the extermination origin and the way he’s using to break into the Martial Extermination Realm, we won’t be able to get an exact explanation through the refinement of his medicine. We can probe around, but that’s about it.”

Chu Jia huffed lightly in response. “Hmph, a disciple of a great clan is truly blessed. Preparations to break through have been made for them unlike myself. In order to enter the Martial Extermination Realm, I had to collect resources for countless years while making my preparations...”

Hearing what she said, Liu Zhifang suddenly felt the urge to no longer talk to her.

However, she said something else after that which confused the two rank three alchemists present the next second. “I wonder if he can actually make it...”

...

Shang Xia stood at a certain distance away from the Yuxi Peak as he stared at the mountain that was surrounded by a multicolored mist. He didn't remember how many times he had gone over ever since the incident the other time.

Back when the gathering took place, Shang Xia left early to approach the Yuxi Peak only to cause a giant ruckus. Even so, he didn't stop his attempts to investigate the Yuxi Peak as he would approach it from time to time. He would get closer from time to time in an attempt to agitate the multicolored mist. He wanted to learn more about the connection between the Crimson Soul Tablet, his inner qi, and the Yuxi Peak.

With his multiple attempts at uncovering the truth, he discovered that the energy that was contained on the Yuxi Peak was undergoing some sort of transformation. He wasn't too sure about what was going on exactly, but at the very least, he could tell that the world origin, extermination qi, and heaven and earth qi that was contained on the mountain was starting to separate slowly. At the same time, the space surrounding the Yuxi Peak was slowly calming down.

At the same time, he felt that the extent to which he could affect the multicolored mist was decreasing every time he approached. Even though the feeling of attraction was still present, Shang Xia could close the distance between himself and the Yuxi Peak without causing any adverse reaction from the Crimson Soul Tablet.

Currently, Shang Xia was standing at the foot of the Yuxi Peak. He just needed to take another step before he would start ascending the mountain. It was where the screen of multicolored mist once was.

Not too far away, he could feel the presence of world origin tickling his senses.

Reaching out slowly, he tried to come into contact with the trace of world origin.

It seemed to react to Shang Xia as it was slowly drawn over to his finger. The moment they came into contact, it was sucked dry by his Crimson Soul Tablet.

A smile formed on his face, but his actions seemed to have angered the mountain as the multicolored mist started to fluctuate wildly at his intrusion. Chuckling softly, Shang Xia retreated quickly.

When he was finally a distance away from the Yuxi Peak, a voice rang behind him. "Looks like you've already made up your mind to enter the Yuxi Peak..."

Shang Xia wasn't surprised by the voice at all. He laughed in response, "Grandpa Ke, none of us weaker cultivators dared to approach the Yuxi Peak after the initial accidents. However, experts of your level should know a thing or two on what is contained on the Yuxi Peak, right?"

Falling silent for a moment, Shang Ke arranged his thoughts before speaking, "It's a chaotic mess of different qis up there. Martial Extermination Realm experts might have been able to force their way into the Yuxi Peak previously, but they wouldn't dare to remain for long. The chaotic qi on the Yuxi Peak has the ability to make Martial Extermination Realm experts lose control over their cultivation!"

Shang Xia seemed to have heard the meaning behind his words and he continued to ask, "What about now?"

“Now?” Shang Ke glanced at the Yuxi Peak and muttered, “It’s a mess up there. The situation at the top of the Yuxi Peak is really weird. It seems to experience all four seasons in the span of a day.”

Chapter 436: Four Seasons Samsara Wine

From the moment he arrived, Shang Ke could tell that Shang Xia hadn’t given up on entering the Yuxi Peak.

When he saw how Shang Xia was testing his limits at the foot of the mountain, he could feel Shang Xia’s resoluteness. He knew that there was no use trying to dissuade the youngster any longer. Since there was no stopping him, Shang Ke felt that he might as well introduce the situation on the Yuxi Peak to the best of his abilities.

To be truly honest, Shang Ke’s explanations were spurred on by Shang Bo’s intention.

The Yuxi Peak might be extremely mysterious and dangerous to any cultivator in the Martial Intent Realm or lower, but that wasn’t the case for experts in the Martial Extermination Realm. Was the Yuxi Peak dangerous even to them? Probably. However, it wasn’t anywhere as mysterious as it seemed.

In the half a year or so when Shang Xia had been examining the Yuxi Peak, the way he used his Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter wasn’t something he could hide from those Martial Extermination Realm experts who were stationed there. Because of that, most of them determined that he probably had some sort of special technique or monstrous treasure that could allow him to affect the chaotic qi covering the Yuxi Peak.

The Martial Extermination Realm experts who discovered him realized that even most of them weren’t able to do the same.

When the other Martial Extermination Realm experts observed him in secret, Shang Xia’s ability to detect them depended on how strong they were. However, he discovered Shang Ke’s presence the moment he arrived.

At the same time, he understood that his intention to enter the Yuxi Peak had already been noticed by many people.

His actions seemed to be overlooked by those who noticed it and Shang Xia knew that it might be related to both Shang Bo and Shang Ke’s protection. Another reason might be because he was extremely careful when testing the strange qi on the Yuxi Peak. He didn’t allow it to react as violently as the first time he came. Martial Extermination Realm experts who saw him around felt that there was no point in obstructing him and chose to remain at the sidelines. Well, that was until Shang Ke arrived anyway.

Shang Xia felt a lot better because of the lack of interference. At the very least, it looked as though he wouldn’t be facing many obstructions when entering the Yuxi Peak.

As for the possibility that anyone who could stand in his way hadn’t found a way to enter and leave the Yuxi Peak safely, Shang Xia tossed it to the back of his mind. Those who couldn’t enter and exit safely wouldn’t pose a threat to him regardless.

The Yuxi Peak seemed to be an opportunity that belonged to Shang Xia and Shang Xia alone!

After informing Shang Xia about several other matters regarding the Yuxi Peak, Shang Ke turned to take his leave. He didn't plan on staying in the battlefield between the two worlds for long.

Shang Xia wanted to ask about matters regarding the absence of Martial Extermination Realm experts on the Observation Peak because of what he learned from Shang Tai, but Shang Ke instructed him to focus on his task at hand instead. According to his Fifth Grandpa, there was no need for him to think of other things at the moment.

Despite what Shang Ke said, that seemed to be an answer to Shang Xia's question nonetheless. His guess was basically verified. The experts of the Tongyou Institution, along with the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the great families of the Tongyou City seemed to be planning something big. In fact, they seemed to have reached a tacit understanding with the experts of the four great races of the Liao Continent and Changbai Holy Land.

Since his question was answered, Shang Xia no longer bothered himself with it for the time being. Like how Shang Ke told him to focus on whatever he was doing, Shang Xia understood that his main goal was to make preparations for him to enter the Martial Extermination Realm.

In the following month or so that passed, Shang Xia no longer headed out unnecessarily. He remained in his secret chamber to temper his inner qi in preparation for his breakthrough. He wanted to ensure that he was at his peak state before his Four Seasons Samsara Wine was successfully produced.

As soon as Summer arrived, Ge Qingzhu delivered the Nine Leaf Lotus as promised.

"You're really daring... You seem to be taking a path that no one has tried before!" Ge Qingzhu mentioned after handing the herb over to Shang Xia.

Ever since he met Shang Ke the other day, Shang Xia realized that his path of cultivation had been somewhat uncovered by those Martial Extermination Realm experts. They might not know what he was doing exactly, but they seemed to be aware that he was trying to break through in an unconventional way. As such, he no longer bothered hiding his actions.

Thinking about the bottle of incomplete advancement medicine he obtained from the Scripture Depository back then, Shang Xia chuckled. "That might not be the case. Some people might have tried it before, but it's possible that none of them succeeded..."

Ge Qingzhu shook his head in response and sighed to himself, "That's a really bold move... Did no one try to stop you?"

Shang Xia's expression didn't change as he chuckled in response. However, a multitude of curses were running through his mind. The more he thought about it, the more he felt as though he was a fool. He thought that he had hidden his method of cultivation very well, but it seemed as though many people already knew what he was trying to do.

He had no idea how deep they had dug into his cultivation. He even wondered if his entire cultivation process had been uncovered!

Shang Xia didn't know the answer to the question, but he was actually starting to feel afraid of the implications if that was true. He didn't dare to ask his Grandpa Bo or even Kou Chongxue to verify the extent to which his cultivation process had been compromised.

The only thing he knew from all the responses he was getting was that he was truly going to step onto a lonely path of which there were no records of anyone succeeding.

While his thoughts were running wild, a snow-white lotus appeared on Ge Qingzhu's hand.

"This is something that might help you in your journey. It can help alleviate some of your inner injuries you might suffer if things go wrong. Please accept it. If you run into any huge issues in your cultivation, this lotus might save your foundations, giving you another chance to rise up in the future." Ge Qingzhu muttered.

Despite the causal way he put it, Shang Xia was extremely touched by his actions. After all, the lotus Ge Qingzhu was giving him was equivalent to a chance at a second life in case he failed while cultivating.

Shang Xia was stuck in a dilemma on whether to accept when Ge Qingzhu chuckled, "I told you to accept it, but I didn't say that you can keep it in the event that you succeed. If everything goes as planned, you have to return it to me when you step into the Martial Extermination Realm."

...

With the recipe that he copied off his Crimson Soul Tablet, Shang Xia headed straight to the Medicine Hall. He brought all the herbs required, but when he arrived, he saw a familiar figure standing in the middle of the hall. She seemed like she had been standing there for quite some time while expecting his arrival.

"Instructor Chu?" Shang Xia greeted without the slightest change in his emotions.

"My advancement medicine was completed some time ago but I came over just to wait for you." Chu Jia looked at Shang Xia with a mirthless smile on her face.

Shang Xia remained neutral as he muttered, "I'll have to congratulate Instructor Chu in advance for entering the Martial Extermination Realm then. Also for becoming the first rank four Formation Master of the Tongyou Institution."

"I'm going to enter the Martial Extermination Realm slightly before you. Aren't you affected by it in any way?" Chu Jia seemed a little disappointed when she noticed his casual response. However, she realized that whatever she said didn't allow her to convey her true feelings and she quickly added, "I heard that you were planning to break through to the Martial Extermination Realm with a method that has never been tested?"

A trace of shock flashed across Shang Xia's eyes. "I didn't think that Instructor Chu would be so well-informed..."

Shang Xia truly didn't expect that someone like Chu Jia who was making her preparations to break through to the Martial Extermination Realm, had also heard about what he was planning to do.

"I'm sure you learned that the institution is planning to make a huge move soon... However, from the looks of it, you won't be able to make it in time to take part in the operation. Hehe, I really look forward to working together with you in the future..."

Shang Xia was slightly confused, but just as he wanted to ask for more details, Chu Jia had already turned around to leave.

Not too long after she took her leave, Shang Xia caught sight of Ge Wangchun and Liu Zhifang. He quickly brought out the recipe. He handed it to them along with 8 rank four treasures and the other herbs required.

The moment Ge Wangchun and Liu Zhifang laid eyes on the advancement formula, their eyes widened in fright. That wasn't all. Their jaws dropped as they revealed an expression of disbelief when they saw the rank four treasures before them.

“8 rank four spiritual treasures?”

“This... You're advancement formula...”

The two of them gasped simultaneously. They glanced at each other subconsciously and saw the incredulous look in each other's eyes.

Shang Xia wasn't too surprised by their reaction. After all, ordinary rank four advancement medicine wouldn't require so many rank four treasures. Whatever the case, he only had one worry on his mind. “Teacher Ge and Teacher Liu, is there a problem with my advancement formula?”

After a short second where they communicated with their eyes, Ge Wangchun broke the silence. “There's no problem with it. However, Brother Liu and I refined several rank four advancement medicine in the past and we have never heard of any that required so many rank four treasures!”

Shang Xia chuckled wordlessly, and he made it clear that he wasn't planning to explain further. He provided the main ingredients that were required, but because he needed to hide some secret from the two of them, he didn't tell them about the brewer's yeast he was adding.

Liu Zhifang thought for a second and looked at the ingredients before him. He eventually muttered, “It's not impossible for us to craft your advancement medicine. However, we would need to expend a lot of time in order to do so. Moreover, refining this set of advancement medicine would greatly affect us both mentally and physically.”

Shang Xia thought for a moment and asked, “Do you need me to do anything then?”

“Talisman Master Shang, I believe you remember that there are 2 other rank three Alchemists in the Tongyou Institution. Lei Xiang and Feng Yongchu. As long as you manage to invite one of them over to help us, we would be able to get things done in half the time.” Ge Wangchun explained.

Shang Xia quickly mentioned, “This disciple will immediately get an elder from the Shang Clan to notify Teacher Lei and Teacher Feng so that one of them can come over to help you. However, I have another small request.”

When he saw their confused gazes, he quickly added, “Disciple's elder, Shang Tai, has some knowledge on medicine refinement. I hope Teacher Ge and Teacher Liu can allow him to assist you when you refine my advancement medicine. If he manages to learn a thing or two, we would be extremely grateful.”

Ge Wangchun and Liu Zhifang exchanged another gaze and they seemed to complete a round of quick communication before Ge Wangchun gave a reply. "It's not impossible for us to let him watch us refine the medicine. However, the institution has a rule and we will not explain everything we do. He will have to rely on himself to obtain insights when observing our refinement process."

Waving his hand before him, Shang Xia grinned, "That's great! I'll head back and tell him to head over right now. I managed to obtain some herbs during my adventures in the battlefield between the two worlds. I can't make use of them to their fullest potential and I'll ask him to bring them over so that Teacher Ge and Teacher Liu can use them to warm up for the refinement process."

...

When he was done, he sent the news back to the Shang Clan Manor. As soon as they received his report, they flew into action. Shang Ke personally went to the Medicine Hall in the Tongyou Institution to convince Feng Yongchu to head over to the battlefield between the two worlds to begin the refinement process of Shang Xia's Four Seasons Samsara Wine with Ge Wangchun and Liu Zhifang."

When Shang Xia returned to the Shang Clan's territory on the Observation Peak, he brought out several herbs that wouldn't be of use to him. He handed them to Shang Tai and informed him to bring them to the Medicine Hall. He also notified Shang Tai about the deal he made with Ge Wangchun and Liu Zhifang to let him observe the refinement process.

...

Two months passed in a flash and eventually, the 3 rank three Alchemists finally completed Shang Xia's Four Seasons Samsara Wine.

Throughout the process, Ge Wangchun provided some explanations to Shang Tai despite what he said about the rules of the institution. Eventually, Shang Tai also managed to add Shang Xia's Crimson Crystal Valley Brewer's Yeast during the brewing process.

Even though the advancement medicine was complete, Shang Xia couldn't use it immediately to advance.

As rank four advancement medicines were closely related to wines, they needed some time to ferment in order to bring out their best effects. Even though they weren't like actual alcohol that required years to ferment. Advancement medicine like that probably required a month at most. After a month, they would be able to bring out their optimal effects.

Naturally, rank four advancement medicines could last for an extremely long time.

Since the time the Medicine Hall started the refinement process of the Four Seasons Samsara Wine and with the time it took for the advancement medicine to be ready, 3 months had passed. When everything was ready, Shang Xia returned to the Yuxi Peak only to be met with a surprising figure.

Chapter 437: Four Seasons Extermination Origin, Martial Extermination, Four Constellation Realm

"Senior, why are you here?" Shang Xia couldn't help but stare at the person in shock.

Instinctively, he released his divine sense to ensure there was no one else other than the two of them.

The person who came chuckled in response. “Don’t bother. If there’s anyone present who manages to hide their presence from me, you won’t be able to detect them either.”

The person who arrived had a clear evaluation of Shang Xia’s divine sense. He knew that Shang Xia’s divine sense was a lot stronger than cultivators of the same level.

Retracting his divine sense, a brilliant smile formed on Shang Xia’s face. “Does everyone know that I’m planning to break through to the Martial Extermination Realm on the Yuxi Peak?”

“Brat, you got guts alright. However, I came into the battlefield between the two worlds for something important. I only came here to look for you because the Yuxi Peak was in my path.” He chuckled.

Regaining his ‘serious’ expression, Shang Xia muttered, “Senior, I know that you have a strong cultivation base, but the battlefield between the two worlds is currently populated with people from the Changbai Holy Land and four great races. The Changbai Holy Land is already starting to get suspicious that you killed Liang Shuangren with the experts of the institution. They might even be trying to uncover your secret identity at the moment. You shouldn’t show yourself in the battlefield between the two worlds at the moment...”

Clearly, the person who arrived was someone Shang Xia was truly familiar with. He was a spy of the institution who killed Liang Shuangren of the Changbai Holy Land. During the War of the Tongyou Mysterious World, he worked with Shang Xia to slay the Formation Master of the White Deer Paradise in the Changbai Holy Land!

He was none other than Youshang of the Azure Spiritual World!

When he heard what Shang Xia said, a crafty smile appeared on his face as he replied, “How do you know that this is my true appearance?”

Watching Shang Xia’s eyes widen in shock, Youshang continued, “I changed into my current appearance because I didn’t want you to misunderstand. Of course, the other experts of the Tongyou Institution are familiar with this face too. If I ran in here with a foreign face, I’ll probably be surrounded and attacked by the cultivators of the institution before I can run into you.”

Shang Xia was truly dumbfounded this time. However, he discovered something soaring through the air as Youshang tossed an item at him.

Reaching out to grab it, he discovered a scarlet crystal-like object in his hand.

“What is this?” Shang Xia asked.

“This is called the Scarlet Blood Cone. It’s a special treasure used in the Azure Spiritual World for cultivators to escape. You have to drip a drop of your essence blood on the cone in order to fully refine the treasure. In times of danger, pour your inner qi into the cone and it will turn into a cocoon of light that will wrap around you. Once you activate the Scarlet Blood Cone, you will be able to escape at an astounding speed. Even Martial Extermination Realm experts will find it difficult to catch up to you.”

Shang Xia understood how precious the treasure was the moment Youshang explained its use.

Since the first Martial Intent Realm cultivator went missing in the Yuxi Peak, many experts have been trying to uncover the mystery contained within. It was estimated that they were unable to leave after their strength was sapped away by the chaotic heaven and earth qi surrounding the mountain.

With the Scarlet Blood Cone, Shang Xia would be able to flee from most dangers he might run into. In fact, he might even be able to break through the spatial restrictions created by the extermination qi around the Yuxi Peak.

Looking at the precious treasure in his hand, Shang Xia's first instinct was to reject it due to how valuable it was. However, the power of reason won and he quickly thanked Youshang. "This... This is really precious. Many thanks, Senior Youshang!"

A satisfied smile appeared on Youshang's face and he left behind a final word of warning. "Take care of yourself and know your limits!"

As soon as the words left his lips, he turned into a streak of light that shot into the skies. By the time Shang Xia reacted, he was nowhere to be seen.

The moment he left, Shang Xia started to feel a disturbance in the void. The space behind him turned a little blurry as it transformed into the shape of a lotus flower. Ge Qingzhu's figure slowly emerged and his gaze swept across where Youshang once stood. Unfortunately for him, he failed to detect anyone's presence.

"Was someone here?" Ge Qingzhu asked with a curious look on his face.

Shang Xia chuckled in response, "If you didn't detect anything, how am I supposed to? I'm just a Martial Intent Realm disciple!"

Staring at Shang Xia with a deep gaze, Ge Qingzhu muttered, "Alright, you need to be careful."

After speaking, he retreated back into the void and disappeared. The heaven and earth qi in the surroundings stopped fluctuating and it was as though he was never there in the first place.

With the distance separating the Yuxi Peak and the Observation Peak, Ge Qingzhu might not have been able to detect Youshang's appearance. However, Ge Qingzhu arrived almost immediately after Youshang took his leave. With the speed at which he arrived, Shang Xia understood that Ge Qingzhu wasn't actually holing up in the Observation Peak. He set up camp somewhere he would be able to react to any problems on the Yuxi Peak or the Observation Peak.

That could also only mean one thing at that point. He was protecting Shang Xia in secret the whole time!

Moreover, Shang Xia could tell that there was something odd about his advancement to the Martial Extermination Realm. The institution and the Shang Clan seemed to be extremely indifferent about it on the surface. However, when he thought deeper into the matter, he realized that that wasn't the case at all! Whether it was Ge Qingzhu who was protecting him in secret or Youshang who delivered the Scarlet Blood Cone earlier, all of them seemed to be concerned about his safety.

What surprised Shang Xia even more was that Ge Qingzhu, who had barely entered the Martial Extermination Realm, was already looking out for him instead of consolidating his foundations. As for Youshang, that was a whole other story. Even a spy like Youshang who shouldn't be seen interacting with members of the institution came over personally.

Everything that happened made Shang Xai understand that the institution and the Shang Clan were probably trying to downplay the effects of his breakthrough. Perhaps it had something to do with the Yuxi Peak, or the way he was planning to break through was something they had never seen before, but they were trying to keep his breakthrough as low-key as possible.

“From a certain standpoint, I am blazing a new path of cultivation...” Shang Xia thought to himself. “Martial Extermination Realm... No. it should be called the Four Constellation Realm instead!”

With a burning sensation in his heart, Shang Xia stepped through the multicolored mist to enter the Yuxi Peak. It didn't take long before his figure disappeared completely in the mist.

...

That was the first time Shang Xia truly stepped onto the Yuxi Peak.

Previously, he had been circling its perimeter while testing his limits. He also used the Crimson Soul Tablet to agitate the world origin contained on the mountain. He was able to run away before things got serious, but he had never been able to cause a scene like what happened when he left the gathering of Martial Intent Realm cultivators.

Due to his repeated tests and attempts, his actions had long since been discovered by the institution. That was probably also the reason why they were so sure his breakthrough was going to be different from everyone else.

When he finally stepped through the screen of multicolored mist, the heaven and earth qi that surrounded the mountain didn't react explosively like how he thought it would. Instead, it became a dazzling scene that laid itself out before him.

He heaved a sigh of relief but he also understood that the supposed peace was because he had suppressed the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness with his divine sense. After a lot of experiments, he finally figured out a way to not cause the multicolored mist to go crazy!

Suppressing the Crimson Soul Tablet, Shang Xia was able to prevent it from clashing with the multicolored mist around the Yuxi Peak. However, he found a delicate balance such that the tablet would still be able to point him in the correct direction.

Now that he was on the Yuxi Peak, he could feel a subtle sense of danger all around him. It was true that the Yuxi Peak contained the secret to his advancement. However, all opportunities are served with a side of danger.

Slowly traversing past a dense forest, a massive lake that was filled with crystal-clear water revealed itself in front of his eyes. Resplendent rays of light reflected off the water's surface and dazzled him.

Staring at the picturesque scene before him, Shang Xia took a deep breath and enjoyed the dense vitality that filled the land.

Opening his arms, he raised his head slightly in enjoyment. Who would have thought that he would notice the problem the moment he tilted his head upwards? There was no sun in the skies!

There were times when the sun and moon would appear in the skies in the battlefield between the two worlds, but the heavens would remain in a state of boring gray most of the time. One wouldn't be able to differentiate day from night.

When Shang Xia raised his head to look at the skies, Shang Xia wondered where the source of light was coming from.

With his interest piqued, he quickly looked in the direction of the lake.

It didn't take long for him to discover something wrong. The rays of light seemed to be shining on a certain spot on the water's surface.

Only then did Shang Xia discover that the light wasn't reflecting off the lake's surface. The light came from an item under the water!

Muttering something unintelligible, Shang Xia turned to look at a cluster of reeds that were located closer to the source of light.

Jumping into the air, his toes tapped on the surface of the lake before he landed on the cluster of reeds.

When he leaped into the air, the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness trembled slightly.

At the same time, the tiny sword in his Spirit Extermination Gourd seemed to point directly downwards.

Without a doubt, there was a stand of extermination origin under the water!

Actually, it didn't matter that the two treasures reacted the way they did at that point. Standing on the clump of reeds, Shang Xia could clearly see the extermination origin under the water. It was glowing with a warm white light and he quickly identified it as the Mirroring Sun Extermination Origin.

Looking deep into the water, Shang Xia saw that there was a dense cloudy gray mass that remained under the water surface around the extermination origin. The light that emerged from the Mirroring Sun Extermination Origin was unable to pierce through the cloudy gray and Shang Xia quickly recognized what it was. It was a cloudy mass of world origin!

Chapter 438: Hehe, It's My Title Time

Not too long after entering the Yuxi Peak, Shang Xia realized that the heaven and earth qi in the surroundings were much denser than the battlefield between the two worlds.

He discovered the Mirroring Sun Extermination Origin not too long after he entered. According to Shang Xia's understanding, the Mirroring Sun Extermination Origin was probably related to Summer. It might be one of the Four Seasons Extermination Origins he needed.

Shang Xia wasn't in a hurry to collect it as he continued to walk along his path up the mountain. Extending his divine sense outwards, he discovered countless spiritual herbs and treasures. They might be in the maturing stage at the moment as the Yuxi Peak had only started to nurture them recently, but there were several lower ranked herbs that were ready to be harvested.

Shang Xia didn't need to use his brain to understand that the herbs were able to mature so quickly due to the presence of the dense heaven and earth qi in the air. Naturally, the special environment that was the current Yuxi Peak also had something to do with it.

As he strolled through a dense jungle again, Shang Xia could tell that both his Crimson Soul Tablet and the Spirit Extermination Gourd were reacting violently.

In order to look for the source of the disturbance, Shang Xia changed directions twice along the way. It didn't take long before he discovered another ball of messy extermination qi. From the looks of it, it had yet to become a complete strand of extermination origin.

Using his Spirit Extermination Gourd to suck it up, he discovered that the ball of extermination qi was actually made up of 3 strands of extermination qi. With the 4 he collected from the corpses of his opponents before, he had 7 strands of extermination qi at the moment.

Following the guidance of the Crimson Soul Tablet, Shang Xia eventually discovered another strand of world origin under a rock somewhere.

The strand of world origin might be far from comparable to the mass he absorbed back at the marsh in the battlefield between the two worlds, but it was enough to let the crack on the third face of the tablet recover slightly.

After taking so many detours, Shang Xia was no longer in the mood to look for all the small disturbances. Instead, he started to look for the strongest source of attraction while heading towards it.

With the feeling being similar to when he discovered the Mirroring Sun Extermination Origin, Shang Xia had high hopes for what he would find. He was confident he would run into another complete extermination origin.

As he traveled up the Yuxi Peak, Shang Xia discovered something strange. The Yuxi Peak had fallen in the War of the Tongyou Mysterious World two years ago. However, it seemed to be even larger and grander than before thanks to the bombardment of world origin and chaotic extermination qi.

As he approached the mid-point of the Yuxi Peak, he finally emerged from the dense forest.

As soon as he emerged, he was greeted by the sight of grass swaying in the warm winds.

Without the moistness of the forest, the atmosphere became a lot more comfortable. He felt as though he had entered a region of Spring as a warm breeze enveloped him.

If one were to look at the Yuxi Peak from afar, one would be able to see the distinction between the forest and the region Shang Xia was in. The forest was like a jade-green belt that wrapped around the Yuxi Peak.

The soft aura of Spring took over the moment Shang Xia left the forest.

Exhaling a turbid breath, Shang Xia stepped in the direction the Crimson Soul Tablet was directing him.

Walking a distance away, Shang Xia stared at a massive rock formation that was protruding from the main body of the mountain before stopping. He noticed a destroyed pavilion, but that wasn't what caught his eye. There was a ball of colorful qi hovering above the ruined structure and it was clear an extermination origin existed within it.

Sweeping his gaze across the extermination origin, Shang Xia's attention shifted yet again. He was distracted by the flowers beneath his feet.

He realized that he was currently standing in what seemed to be a medicine garden that contained several different types of spiritual grass and wood. However, that wasn't all. There was a thin layer of gray mist above the herbs and Shang Xia instantly recognized it as world origin.

There were hundreds of herbs around him that were swaying happily within the layer of gray gas. They would absorb it from time to time and an extermination qi would emerge from the herbs occasionally. Those extermination qi would float over to the fallen pavilion to enter the ball in mid air.

A name that was uttered by Kou Chongxue in the past flashed across Shang Xia's mind that instant. The name of the extermination origin that was nurtured above the pavilion escaped his lips. "Hundred Flower Essence Extermination Origin!"

Kou Chongxue mentioned the extermination origin in the past as it was related to his Eternal Spring Fate Dipper. That was why Shang Xia had a deep impression of it.

Even though the extermination origin was nurtured with the essence of countless spiritual herbs, it gave off a slightly hostile vibe that didn't allow anyone to approach it. After all, the essence that made up the extermination origin seemed really messy and chaotic.

Luckily for Shang Xia, he learned from Kou Chongxue that even though the extermination origin might resemble some strange poison from the weird colors and essence that came from so many different herbs, it was actually extremely amicable after absorption. It would be able to meld with his other extermination origins well and was thus a top choice for many Martial Extermination Realm experts.

The more important factor was that the Hundred Flower Essence Extermination Origin could extend one's lifespan.

One had to know that a cultivator would experience a fundamental transformation after entering the Martial Extermination Realm. The transformation could allow one to increase their lifespan significantly. With the Hundred Flower Essence Extermination Origin, they would be able to live even longer than that! A longer lifespan might not seem like much to the ordinary person, but to someone at the Martial Extermination Realm, they would be able to make many more choices for their future and their chances of running into great opportunities would increase.

Without a doubt, Shang Xia would be able to use the Hundred Flower Essence Extermination Origin. Looking a little deeper into it, the Hundred Flower Essence Extermination Origin could be considered the Spring Extermination Origin!

The only thing that was a pity would be that he wouldn't be able to absorb the world origin around the region. After all, the world origin would allow the herbs to grow to become high-ranked treasures. Also, with the world origin's nourishment, the herbs in the garden would be able to produce extermination qi endlessly. They might be able to nurture more Hundred Flower Essence Extermination Origin in the future.

The moment Shang Xia absorbed the world origin, he would be killing the goose that laid the golden eggs. It was a waste no matter how he looked at it.

With the discovery of the Hundred Flower Essence Extermination Origin, Shang Xia located 2 of the 4 Four Seasons Extermination Origin he required to break through. It didn't take long for him to do so and it seemed as though his journey would be pretty smooth-sailing.

After climbing up close to half of the Yuxi Peak, Shang Xia raised his head to look at the top as a trace of anticipation filled his heart.

Climbing even higher, Shang Xia discovered that the Crimson Soul Tablet and Spirit Extermination Gourd were starting to tremble slightly once again.

The only difference this time was that he didn't bother looking for the sources. After all, the treasures weren't reacting too strongly. The source of those disturbances was probably ordinary herbs and Shang Xia decided that it wouldn't be too appropriate for him to sweep all the treasures on the Yuxi Peak clean. After all, the Yuxi Peak once belonged to the Tongyou Institution and they might be reclaiming it in the near future.

Since Shang Xia was planning to make his breakthrough on the Yuxi Peak, it would no longer remain a forbidden region the moment he succeeded. The moment he stepped out of the Yuxi Peak, everyone would learn that it was possible to emerge alive. With the mystery exposed, strong experts would definitely charge into the Yuxi Peak one after the other.

After walking through the jade green grass that was swaying in the wind around him, Shang Xia felt the temperature slowly dropping. The patch of greenery before him was starting to wilt.

Trees started appearing in the distance as they formed a barrier of yellowish green and orange. When Shang Xia entered the mass of trees, he discovered fallen leaves and little squirrels who were stocking up food for what was to come.

The weak tremblings of his Spirit Extermination Gourd started to turn violent as it pointed him in a certain direction.

Shang Xia didn't hesitate to follow its guidance this time. It didn't take long for him to arrive before a thick patch of fallen leaves.

With the tiny sword in the Spirit Extermination Gourd pointing the way, Shang Xia was sure that there was an extermination origin concealed under the thick layer of fallen leaves.

Casually picking up a branch beside him, he flicked his wrist to push the fallen leaves away. A palm-sized maple leaf that was clearly different from the rest was revealed. It had an orange-amber hue and Shang Xia gasped softly. That was probably the first leaf that fell in the forest. It absorbed the essence of everything that came after it, turning into a strand of extermination origin.

Shang Xia stared at the maple leaf and wondered what was its actual name. He didn't know what to call it and he simply decided to reach out to grab it.

The moment he did, he discovered that the paper-thin maple leaf actually weighed a hundred pounds or more!

Also, he realized that his mind went blank the moment he touched the leaf. It was as though he had lost all ambition in life.

Luckily, his divine sense and willpower were strong enough to allow him to maintain his rationality. He quickly overcame the weird sensation that was overwhelming him and he coated his hand with a layer of inner qi so as not to allow the leaf to touch him directly.

The moment he did, the sense of desolation he felt disappeared.

Heaving a sigh of relief, Shang Xia felt a trace of delight forming in his heart. He casually held the stem of the leaf and waved it towards the forestry that surrounded him, causing a flurry of dried up leaves to fall.

“I have never heard of an extermination origin like that. This isn’t recorded in the records of the institution or the Shang Clan either. Could it be the first of its kind to appear?”

Looking at the maple leaf in his hand, Shang Xia thought to himself, “If that’s truly the case, I’ll give it a name myself! Yeah, that’s right... The falling of leaves signifies the start of Autumn... I’ll call it the Falling Leaf Extermination Origin!”

Unlike when he discovered the first two extermination origins, Shang Xia didn’t leave the Falling Leaf Extermination Origin alone. Instead, he kept it securely on him. When he was done, he started to move in the direction indicated by the Crimson Soul Tablet.

He discovered a gray cloud hanging between two trees, and without another word, Shang Xia poured his divine sense into his Crimson Soul Tablet. With a slight sense of control over the Crimson Soul Tablet, Shang Xia directed his perception towards the gray cloud that was dozens of feet tall.

His actions also proved that he was starting to gain control over the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness.

The moment his perception landed on the cloud, it started to roll about violently before falling straight towards Shang Xia.

As the gray cloud entered his body, Shang Xia felt a massive explosion happening in his sea of consciousness. When he finally inspected the situation within him, he discovered the crack on the third surface of the tablet recovering quickly.

Chapter 439: Shang Xia: Yes! I'm gonna breakthrough. \*Forgetting to collect the extermination origins from before\* : No you're not. Shang Xia: Watch me

As the Crimson Soul Tablet absorbed the world origin, the crack on the third face of the tablet restored itself quickly.

The crack closed up rapidly, it didn’t take long for only a little portion of it to be left on the third surface. Throughout the entire process, Shang Xia patiently observed what happened. He tried to pour his divine sense into the tablet to feel its changes.

The Crimson Soul Tablet resisted his divine sense during the process of its restoration, but Shang Xia didn’t plan on giving up. No one knew how long had passed, but the Crimson Soul Tablet seemed to be done. Shang Xia’s eyes snapped open only to realize that the gray cloud was nowhere to be seen.

After absorbing the huge cloud of world origin, the crack on the third surface of the Crimson Soul Tablet extended down less than a third of the way through.

Shang Xia estimated that in order to fully restore the third surface, he would need a similarly large amount of world origin.

After fixing the third face, there were two more to go...

He also discovered that even if he managed to absorb all the world origin he found on the Yuxi Peak, fully restoring the Crimson Soul Tablet wasn't going to be possible.

Shaking his head slightly, he chose to continue ascending the mountain.

Without stopping for any random herbs, Shang Xia's moved really quickly. He reached the snow-covered peak in a short while.

A bone-chilling wind tore through the air as it slammed against his body. At his current level, one could say that he wouldn't feel the cold even if he ran around buck-naked in the winter. However, the piercing wind that was racing across the land caused him to shiver involuntarily.

One could only imagine how cold it was at the top of the Yuxi Peak. At the moment, the top of the Yuxi Peak was like a world of snow and frost.

When Shang Xia arrived close to the top of the Yuxi Peak, he discovered a dark gray ice boulder that was half the size of an adult male before him.

"This looks like world origin sealed in ice... Actually, the world origin itself might have frozen over to create this huge ice boulder..." Shang Xia thought to himself. His thoughts didn't stop him from approaching the ice boulder. As he walked forward, he extended his divine sense to look at the source of the shockingly cold wind only to realize that he had been looking at it the whole time.

World origin wouldn't be able to cause such a cold wind to form... As such, there could only be one explanation.

Examining the ice boulder even closer, Shang Xia discovered a strand of extermination origin trapped within.

As he continued to close the distance between himself and the ice boulder, a strong gust of wind tore through the air. He felt a thin layer of frost forming on the surface of his skin and he quickly shattered it with his inner qi before forcing himself onwards.

As the frosty winds grew stronger and stronger, Shang Xia circulated his inner qi rapidly in order to prevent the chill from entering his body. Fortunately, the speed at which he was approaching the ice boulder wasn't affected.

Extending his divine sense to the best of his abilities, Shang Xia discovered that the frightening gale didn't exist anywhere else. It seemed to be concentrated on him and him alone.

"Damn it! It's targeting me specifically!" Shang Xia cursed inwardly. He didn't know why he was the target of the winds specifically, but something seemed to click in his mind. Could there be another Spirit of the Winter contained in the block of ice?

After all, he knew that only something sentient like the Spirit of Winter would be able to do something like that.

Shang Xia groaned silently after his realization. If he knew that he would be able to obtain a Spirit of Winter on the Yuxi Peak, his grandfather, Shang Bo, wouldn't have had to look for one. In order

to get a Spirit of Winter for him back then, Shang Xia even suspected that his grandfather used a lot of favors in order to obtain the treasure.

Well, hindsight was perfect. There was no point worrying about the matter now and Shang Xia wondered if the Winter Extermination Origin contained in the ice boulder was complete.

As previously mentioned, the bone-chilling wind might be strong, but they couldn't stop Shang Xia for long. He quickly approached the ice boulder and reached out to lay his hands on its surface.

The moment he came into contact with it, he felt an icy cold sensation rushing through his body. It was so cold that he felt his blood stop moving.

Shang Xia wasn't shocked by the sudden change. He simply started to circulate his inner qi to expel the cold air in his body. At the same time, he released his suppression of the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness as it devoured the world origin trapped in the block of ice.

The ice started to melt at a frightening rate and as the third face of Shang Xia's Crimson Soul Tablet started to restore itself, the ice boulder had shrunken to two-thirds its original size.

At that instant, a frosty extermination origin emerged from the massive block of ice. It seemed to fuse with the world origin that Shang Xia had been absorbing as it shot straight for his body.

If Shang Xia were to remove his hand from the ice boulder, he would definitely suffer some backlash by stopping the healing process of the Crimson Soul Tablet. However, he couldn't allow the extermination origin to fuse with the world origin either! The moment it did, it would be absorbed by the Crimson Soul Tablet and his chances of a breakthrough would be seriously affected.

There was no way Shang Xia would allow such a thing to happen, but luckily for him, he made his preparations.

As the extermination origin rushed towards his hand, Shang Xia popped open the cork of his Spirit Extermination Gourd with his other hand.

From his experience, an empty Spirit Extermination Gourd would be able to hold 3 strands of extermination origins in total. There should be no problems containing the Winter Extermination Origin!

It was a shame that things went wrong this time. The extermination origin seemed to be controlled by something as it refused to enter the Spirit Extermination Gourd. It continued to charge straight for Shang Xia.

Instead of panicking about the extermination origin fusing with the world origin he was absorbing, Shang Xia seemed to have turned extraordinarily calm. The Spirit Extermination Gourd disappeared as he took out a small wine bottle.

The intricately carved jade bottle held Shang Xia's advancement medicine, the Four Seasons Samsara Wine!

Shang Xia didn't hesitate to remove the seal of the wine bottle before pouring its contents into his mouth.

As the warm liquid flowered into his belly, Shang Xia felt warmth spreading through his body. A strange sensation started to rise from his dantian and before Shang Xia could fully savor the flavor of the wine, he felt lightheaded as his body felt like it was starting to boil.

The sensation didn't last for too long as it was quickly overwhelmed by a freezing sensation.

The difference in temperature caused beads of cold sweat to form on Shang Xia's forehead.

When he downed his advancement medicine earlier, the sensation he was feeling wasn't limited to his physical body. His soul was undergoing the same thing!

That was when Shang Xia understood that entering the Martial Extermination Realm didn't just consist of a physical transformation. However, just as the realization struck him, the freezing sensation became a hundredfold worse. It seemed to freeze his soul completely.

Fortunately, Shang Xia understood what was happening a second before it did and he didn't fall into a state of panic. Instead, he started to wait for the next change calmly.

Everything went as expected. It didn't take long for the wave of frost to disappear. His body and soul started heating up eventually and the cycle continued.

The transition of hot and cold in his body was similar to the procession of the seasons, and Shang Xia experienced it in an instant. Shang Xia barely had time to blink after ingesting his advancement medicine when a single cycle passed.

Having gone through that, Shang Xia quickly managed to calm down. Spreading out his divine sense the best he could, he discovered some disturbances coming from the middle and the foot of the mountain.

Not being bothered by them, Shang Xia turned his attention to the space around him. He discovered that there was also a disturbance somewhere close by and understood that the changes were caused by his imminent breakthrough.

According to the instructions on the Crimson Soul Tablet, Shang Xia needed to refine the Four Seasons Extermination Origins the moment he ingested his advancement medicine. He barely managed to absorb the Winter Extermination Origin in time, and he had the Autumn Extermination Origin somewhere on him. However, the Hundred Flower Essence Extermination Origin and Mirroring Sun Extermination Origin were still somewhere below. How was he supposed to refine all four of them at once?!

The thought barely entered his mind when a chilly sensation started to fill his body once again.

This time, it wasn't because of his advancement medicine. Instead, it was because the Winter Extermination Origin had entered his body through his palm. The effects of his advancement medicine only returned after the extermination origin entered his body. With the Winter Extermination Origin in his body, Shang Xia's inner qi started to transform within his dantian.

As the process continued, the chilly sensation in his body disappeared and was replaced by the warmth of spring.

Shang Xia realized that if he didn't refine the Hundred Flowers Essence Extermination Origin, he might actually fail his breakthrough! That would actually be the least of his problems as without the Hundred Flowers Essence Extermination Origin, the Winter Extermination Origin would be left

unchecked in his body. When that happened, his extermination origins would enter a state of disequilibrium. It might not be as deadly as martial dippers being in a state of disequilibrium, but it was possible his dantian would be damaged.

In a desperate attempt, Shang Xia waved his sleeve to summon the Jade River Sword.

Rousing the Winter Extermination Origin that had just entered his body, Shang Xia sliced the space before him to create a path in the void to the broken pavilion under the Hundred Flowers Essence Extermination Origin.

Reaching out quickly, the Hundred Flowers Essence Extermination Origin flew over to Shang Xia and entered his body. It started to resonate with the warm feeling spreading through his veins.

It didn't end there. Summer came after Spring, and as the sensation in his body grew hotter and hotter, Shang Xia sliced the space before him open again to appear above the lake that contained the Mirroring Sun Extermination Origin. Gesturing once, the Mirroring Sun Extermination Origin turned into a streak of light that was sucked into his body.

Chapter 440: Spring Summer Autumn Winter Spring Summer Autumn Winter Spring Summer Autumn Winter Spring Summer Autumn Winter Spring Summer Autumn Winter Spring Summer Autumn Winter

Shang Xia had been able to affect space ever since he reached the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm. When he absorbed the Winter Extermination Origin earlier, made use of its power to slice open space to arrive before the Hundred Flowers Essence Extermination Origin and Mirroring Sun Extermination Origin.

With three of the four extermination origins absorbed, Shang Xia felt the final calling and started to refine the strand of extermination origin on the maple leaf he had kept earlier.

Shang Xia glanced at the maple leaf in his hand and noticed that the intricate runes on it were starting to disappear as he started to refine the Falling Leaf Extermination Origin..

With no time to care about the leaf in his hand, he turned his attention back to his body.

Turning his attention to the Winter Extermination Origin that he absorbed earlier, he quickly identified it as the Freezing Soul Extermination Origin.

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The Freezing Soul Extermination Origin was of comparable quality to the Mirroring Sun Extermination Origin that signified the Summer season, and Shang Xia was extremely satisfied with it.

With the Four Seasons Extermination Origins in his body, the effects of the Four Seasons Samsara fully enveloped Shang Xia. Every cycle that passed allowed him to refine the extermination origins in his body a little more. Every time a new cycle began, each season in his dantian would last a little longer as the refinement of each extermination origin took a little more time.

Throughout the process, Shang Xia's inner qi was also starting to transform. His Triple Command Qi that filled his dantian started to transform into Four Constellation Origin Qi. Like every breakthrough he experienced, the inner qi in his dantian would eventually transform to complement his cultivation level.

Before his advancement, Shang Xia already had countless insights. The Four Constellation Realm he was shooting for seemed to be completely different from the Martial Extermination Realm that represented the Fourth Order of the Primary Realm coined by the Azure Origin World. Although they seemed similar in the sense that they required extermination origins, the principle behind how Shang Xia trained would be different from the rest.

As the advancement process continued, Shang Xia's understanding of his cultivation realm grew.

From what he knew, cultivators in the Martial Extermination Realm would have to refine extermination origins in order to improve their cultivation base. Usually, they would refine one strand of extermination origin when breaking through to the Martial Extermination Realm and when they had fully refined their first extermination origin, they would go on to refine a second one. They would be able to refine 4 extermination origins in total, but that was also their biggest obstacle. Experts in the Martial Extermination Realm in the Azure Origin World were restrained by the number of extermination origins they could locate! If they failed to find another extermination origin, their cultivation base would remain stagnant!

That applied to cultivators of the Azure Origin World, but Shang Xia was different. He refined 4 extermination origins at the same time.

If he used the same way to classify his cultivation level, that would mean that he would reach the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm the moment he completed his breakthrough. If one thought about it logically, that wasn't something that should have been possible.

If news of what he achieved was to spread across the lands, the Azure Origin World would actually fall into chaos. Shang Xia could tell that every single superpower in the Azure Origin World would set their eyes on him. They might even form a massive alliance to hunt him down to make him spill his secrets.

That was because the process of breaking through in the Martial Extermination Realm wasn't as smooth as everyone had thought. There weren't many inheritances on how to break through, and even extremely strong experts like Shang Bo and Ji Wenlong had to feel their way around when advancing from the first to the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm. If they knew of a way to break through to the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm, they would be able to avoid a lot of mistakes along the way!

Unfortunately for Shang Xia, he realized that his dreams of immediately reaching the peak of the small completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm weren't going to come true after half the medicinal effects of his Four Seasons Samsara Wine were used up. How could advancing his cultivation level be so simple?!

At the end of the day, the use of any rank four advancement medicine was to leave a seed of extermination qi in a cultivator's dantian so that they would be able to transform their inner qi in the future.

Shang Xia's Four Seasons Samsara Wine wasn't an exception. The only special property it had over other rank four advancement medicines was that it was able to leave four seeds of extermination qi in Shang Xia's dantian.

In Shang Xia's case, the seeds were of his Four Constellation Origin Qi and it was far from enough to allow him to refine all four extermination origins at once. They might not be a cheat code for him

to power up all the way, but at the very least, they formed a perfect guide for Shang Xia's cultivation in the Four Constellation Realm.

In the future, those seeds of Four Constellation Origin Qi would be nurtured into a towering tree through Shang Xia's hard work.

Of course, refining four extermination origins at once to enter the Four Constellation Realm had its drawbacks. Before Shang Xia could fully transform his inner qi into Four Constellation Qi, he would only be able to display the strength of a first layer Martial Extermination Realm expert!

Only when he completed the transformation of his inner qi would he receive a huge boost to his strength. The moment the transformation was complete, Shang Xia would immediately possess the strength of a fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm. He might step into the large completion stage of the Four Constellation Realm immediately.

The difference in strength might seem too extreme when described in words, but Shang Xia would be able to wield all four extermination origins in the Four Constellation Realm the moment he broke through. He might not be able to use them to their fullest potential, but he would be much stronger than cultivators at the first layer of the Martial Extermination Realm.

As for how much stronger he would be, that would depend on how much Four Constellation Qi he had.

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Thinking about the Spirit Extermination Gourd that contained several strands of extermination qi, Shang Xia discovered the true difficulty cultivators in the Azure Origin World were facing when breaking through. The strands of extermination origin contained within the gourd were mostly of different elements. In order to obtain a complete extermination origin, cultivators had two choices. One was to collect extermination qi from random sources to eventually form a complete extermination origin, and the other was to trade extermination qi with others to speed up their collection process. At the end of the day, all that meant was that they would have to collect enough extermination qi through different means to form a complete extermination origin.

Unless they were as lucky as Shang Xia who had the ability to find a forbidden region with multiple extermination origins, they were destined to remain in the Martial Intent Realm for a long time while collecting extermination qi.

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Shang Xia's ascension to the Four Constellation Realm could be said to be an extremely fortunate matter. He might not be able to utilize the full strength of all four extermination origins the moment he broke through, but he would be able to make use of them nonetheless, albeit to a certain extent. That would greatly aid his understanding of his extermination origins and allow him to comprehend his fourth martial intent in the future, allowing him to step into the grand completion stage of the Four Constellation Realm.

Shang Xia used the four seeds of Four Constellation Qi in his dantian to refine the Four Seasons Extermination Origins while using the extermination origins to nurture the Four Constellation Qi seeds with their power.

Even though half of the medicinal effects of his Four Seasons Samsara Wine had been used up, only a fifth of the runes of the maple leaf that contained the Falling Leaf Extermination Origin had disappeared.

Moreover, that was because the advancement medicine was extremely compatible with Shang Xia. If anyone else were to use the same advancement medicine, they might not be able to refine as much of the extermination origin as Shang Xia could.

Of course, no one was crazy enough to do what Shang Xia did. He was probably the first person in the Azure Origin World to refine 4 extermination origins at once! His actions could be considered reckless by most people, but they didn't understand that he had the Crimson Soul Tablet to guide him.

Without the Crimson Soul Tablet, Shang Xia wouldn't be able to make a perfect rank four advancement medicine anyway!

Now that half the medicine effects of the Four Seasons Samsara Wine was used up, Shang Xia counted that a total of 25 cycles had passed.

Allowing the process to continue, Shang Xia realized that all the medicinal effects were used up after the 49th cycle. The runes on the maple leaf that contained the Falling Leaf Extermination Origin had decreased by two-fifths, and that seemed to be however much he could refine. The same applied to the other extermination origins.

At the end of the 49th cycle, Shang Xia finally stepped into the Four Constellation Realm. Or in the eyes of others, he was now a Martial Extermination Realm cultivator.

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As the person who was cultivating within the Yuxi Peak, Shang Xia didn't know that the Yuxi Peak was experiencing a massive change the moment he ingested his Four Seasons Samsara Wine and started the breakthrough process.

The moment it started, the multicolored qi that surrounded the Yuxi Peak started to fluctuate wildly. The Yuxi Peak, shrouded in hazy light, became clear for all to see.

When Shang Xia sundered the space around the Tongyou Peak to absorb the Hundred Flowers Essence Extermination Origin, a multitude of lights emerged from the body of the mountain as though all the flowers had bloomed at the same time.

When he grabbed the Mirroring Sun Extermination Origin next, a pillar of light tore through the lake and emitted dazzling rays as it reflected off the water's surface.

Next came the Falling Leaf Extermination Origin that he had kept earlier. Even though he wasn't close to the forest experiencing the Autumn season, the leaves in the forest turned a shade darker before falling to the ground in unison.

Finally, came the refinement process of the Freezing Soul Extermination Origin. The layer of ice that covered the top of the Yuxi Peak started to melt rapidly as though a divine force was interfering with the course of nature.

That wasn't all. Throughout the advancement process, the Yuxi Peak went through rapid transformation that signified each season.

Such a huge commotion naturally attracted the attention of the cultivators in the battlefield between the two worlds. More than half of them noticed what happened and it didn't matter which faction they came from. All of their gazes were stuck to the Yuxi Peak.

There were even several Martial Extermination Realm experts who were starting to approach the mountain.

Among them, Ge Qingzhu was the first to arrive. He had a complicated gaze as he stared at the majestic structure before him.

Originally, he wasn't planning on revealing himself. He wanted to hide in the voice to observe the changes, but the commotion caused by Shang Xia's breakthrough was truly too large.

His breakthrough caused the screen of multicolored qi to retreat rapidly and cultivators around the Yuxi Peak quickly noticed the precious herbs growing on the mountain. They wanted to rush in there to collect as many as they could.

Ge Qingzhu could only show himself to control the situation. The moment he appeared, he stopped anyone from approaching the mountain. He even commanded the disciples of the institution to guard the area.

By the time he passed down his order, another Martial Extermination Realm expert of the institution, Zhang Haogu, arrived.

The moment Ge Qingzhu saw him, he cupped his fist in welcome. "Mister Zhang, I'm afraid the experts of the Liao Continent and Changbai Holy Land will be coming soon. Shall we head over to welcome them?"

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By the time Shang Xia returned to the top of the Yuxi Peak, he had completed his advancement. Looking at the only ice boulder that remained, Shang Xia reached out to touch it. The Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness quickly absorbed whatever world origin was left behind.

Raising his Spirit Extermination Gourd again, Shang Xia released a soft chuckle before waving his hand slightly to shatter whatever remained of the boulder.