

The Heavens 451

Chapter 451: Establishing Prestige with One Palm

“You should worry about your problems instead of the Jingxiu Peak.” A voice rang in Lin Zhixuan’s mind and Lin Zhixuan’s mind only, waking him up from a daze.

“Brother, what should we do next?”

By the time Lin Zhixuan turned around, he saw Lin Zhishi stumbling towards him unsteadily. There was a look of fear in his younger brother’s eyes.

Lin Zhishi continued, “You can’t be thinking of returning to the Jingxiu Peak now that that person is headed there, right? He’s a Martial Extermination Realm expert for god’s sake! Since you’re not on the Jingxiu Peak at the moment...”

Lin Zhishi seemed afraid that his brother would want to return to the Jingxiu Peak and he tried to hold his shoulder to prevent him from making any stupid decisions.

Lin Zhixuan’s body seemed to turn powerless as he stumbled slightly towards Lin Zhishi.

The concern in Lin Zhishi’s eyes disappeared as a vicious look replaced it. A weird blue dagger appeared in his other hand before stabbing violently towards Lin Zhixuan’s chest.

“Ai...”

A long sigh filled the air as Lin Zhishi discovered that there was an iron-like grip on his wrist.

“You... Brother...” By the time Lin Zhishi raised his head in panic, he was greeted with a look of disappointment and sadness in his brother’s eyes.

Instinctively, he tried to struggle free as his other hand grabbed at Lin Zhixuan’s neck with his claw-like fingers.

With a loud crack and snap, Lin Zhishi felt the poison-coated dagger clattering to the ground as his wrist was dislocated. Two of his fingers on the hand that was trying to reach for Lin Zhixuan’s neck were twisted at a weird angle.

“Ah!” Searing pain tore through Lin Zhishi’s body as beads of cold sweat dripped down his forehead. Fear filled his heart as he knew what was about to come.

“Second Brother, most of the things you know came from me. You even followed in my footsteps when cultivating. Why are you even dreaming of killing me with the same methods I taught you?” The look of sadness and pain in Lin Zhixuan’s eyes disappeared and all that was left was a ferocious gaze.

“Big... Big brother, please don’t kill me!” Lin Zhishi tried his best to stumble away from Lin Zhixuan while crying out miserably.

A chilly light flashed through Lin Zhixuan’s eyes and he growled softly, “My wife’s pregnant? Hmph, is she pregnant with your child?!”

“How do you... No! Of course not! It’s your child!” Lin Zhishi stammered in fright.

Shaking his head, Lin Zhixuan sighed, “Do you know what happened ten years ago? I suffered a series of heavy internal injuries while fighting against my enemies. Ever since then, there was no chance for me to leave behind an heir.”

Lin Zhishi’s jaws dropped in fright as he stared at his older brother as though that was the first time he had learned about his brother’s condition.

A sense of detachment was the only emotion left on Lin Zhixuan’s face when he addressed Lin Zhishi again. “No matter what, the baby will be of our Lin Family’s bloodline. It’s no different for your son to be my son. Second Brother, you can rest assured that I’ll send my wife over to the underworld to meet you after I return to the Linfeng Stronghold. You won’t be lonely down there.”

“You... You... You intentionally...” Before he could finish his sentence, Lin Zhishi turned around to run.

Unfortunately, a huge hand appeared on his neck the next second. With a loud snap, his body turned limp and he fell to the ground.

“This place is about to turn messy soon... Looks like I have to think of another way to survive this...” Lin Zhixuan glanced at the Jingxiu Peak for the last time before taking his leave.

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Not too far away from Lin Zhixuan and Lin Zhishi, Shang Xia extended his divine perception to look at the inevitable battle that would take place after he left. After all, he pretty much expected it after leaving behind his warning. After the fight concluded, Shang Xia turned his attention back to the Jingxiu Peak.

Looking at the picturesque scene before him, Shang Xia felt that the Jingxiu Peak deserved its reputation. The sights that greeted him were out of that world. Clouds were drifting around the mountain peak as colorful flowers bloomed across the land. Butterflies and bees flittered from flower to flower, enhancing their beauty.

It was no wonder Shang Ke and Shang Pei went to the Jingxiu Peak to look for the Glass Daisy Chrysanthemum back then. It only made sense that a place like that would contain high grade herbs.

Also, Shang Xia’s actions seemed a little unorthodox. Since he learned the whereabouts of the Youyan Stronghold, his first instinct should be to head over there to look for Shang Pei.

Going against all conventional approaches, Shang Xia seemed to want to attack the Jingxiu Peak alone. His actions might seem like he was backdooring his enemies when they were away, but he was putting Shang Pei’s life at risk to do so.

Whatever the case, Shang Xia had plans of his own. He didn’t know what was happening down at the Cloud Water Gorge at the moment and he felt that the situation wouldn’t be too different for those trying to hunt her down. Otherwise, Shang Pei would have been defeated a long time ago.

Even if he rushed over to the Cloud Water Gorge immediately, he might not be able to locate Shang Pei before others did. Moreover, he would be running around like a headless fly. The longer he ran around the Sixth Pass, the more danger he would be in anyway.

Making the calculation in his mind, Shang Xia decided to raise hell in the Jingxiu Peak as that would bring about an immediate reaction. Since Duan Liufeng had been commanding the Jingxiu Peak for so long, Shang Xia refused to believe that he wouldn't react now that his home was under attack.

It wasn't hard to see that Duan Liufeng was concerned about the fate of the Jingxiu Peak. Since he had been in command for so many years, he didn't seem like the type to abandon his subordinates. There was also the matter of getting Martial Intent Realm cultivators to defend the mountain during his absence. The importance he placed on the Jingxiu Peak was commendable, to say the least.

If Shang Xia turned his territory upside down, he might be able to affect the situation down at the Cloud Water Gorge.

That wasn't all. Duan Liufeng called several friends at the Martial Extermination Realm to attack Shang Pei in the Cloud Water Gorge and with the Jingfeng Peak in ruins, they would have to worry about their own territories.

Shang Xia might have broken through to the Four Constellation Realm some time ago, but he hadn't been able to go all out. The exchange he had with the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Ji Continent didn't count as he wasn't the slightest bit exhausted from the small skirmish they had.

The protection formation around the Jingxiu Peak seemed like a good candidate for him to test out his strength.

He might have entered the perimeter of the Jingxiu Peak for some time now, but none of the experts responsible for securing the Jingxiu Peak detected his presence.

Since no one had been alerted to his presence, Shang Xia acted before they had the chance to react. A vicious palm landed on the protection barrier around the mountain.

A giant palm condensed from a four colored light appeared close to the body of the mountain and it crashed mercilessly against the protection barrier. Cracking sounds filled the skies as several rays of light emerged from the location of impact.

“Pop, pop, pop...”

Unexpectedly, there wasn't a massive explosion when Shang Xia struck the barrier. Space fluctuated violently, but that was it.

A giant palm was imprinted into the light barrier and it wasn't because the barrier was bent from the force. Instead, the giant palm seemed to carve itself directly through the protection screen.

Unfortunately, that was the extent of the damage. Shang Xia was unable to break the protection formation with a single move.

The experts stationed on the Jingxiu Peak weren't there for decoration. The moment the protection barrier was struck, they reacted. Streams of inner qi rushed into the skies as it started to repair the barrier.

Shang Xia didn't unleash a second attack on the barrier after failing to break it with the first. Instead, he fell into deep contemplation.

The attack he released earlier allowed him to reflect and understand his Four Seasons Extermination Origins a little better. He discovered that his attacks possessed some properties of corrosion and fusion, which allowed him to greatly damage the protection formation earlier.

With his experimental attack earlier, he also learned that the corrosive properties imbued in his attacks had something to do with a terrifying aspect of the world. It didn't just corrode the protection barrier by eating into its energy. The way it corroded the barrier seemed to have something to do with the flow of time!

As the four seasons cycled endlessly, they brought about life as much as they took it away.

When his palm struck the protection barrier earlier, Shang Xia realized that his extermination origins didn't exactly fully fuse with each other. The palm might seem impressive as it was made up of a four colored extermination light, but it was much weaker than it was supposed to be.

The formidable might contained in his Four Constellation Qi and Four Seasons Extermination Origins wasn't raw power! Instead, it was the endless progression of time!

Like his discovery of how to use his extermination origins efficiently while flying, they seem to possess the same principles.

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Shang Xia quickly came up with another idea. Instead of releasing all four extermination origins at once, he would use them one by one, cycling one after the other. Circulating them endlessly, Shang Xia wondered how strong his attack would be.

Deciding to test it out immediately, Four Constellation Qi filled his body as his extermination origins trembled. Another giant palm appeared in the air before slamming heavily into the protection formation.

This time, the palm wasn't made up of a four colored light. Instead, It flashed a different color from time to time.

As the different colored lights flickered faster and faster, the palm became a shade of fleshy beige.

“Crack... Pop!”

The area smacked by Shang Xia's palm popped like a bubble. A huge hole appeared in the protection barrier. That wasn't all. Shang Xia's attack didn't stop there as it struck the body of the mountain. An imprint that spanned a quarter of the Jingxiu Peak's height was stamped into it.

With the power contained in the palm, destruction was the only thing it caused. Fallen trees and shattered boulders lay in its wake.

The pretty flowers and flourishing greenery that existed on the Jingxiu Peak were replaced with a scene that came out of a nightmare. Shang Xia's palm was like a giant scar that was carved deep into the mountain to scare anyone who laid eyes on it.

The effects of his palm continued to affect the Jingxiu Peak. The mountain quaked violently and structures fell constantly. Rockslides appeared in every direction and there were even cultivators whose cries were silenced forever as they were swallowed by the merciless sea of rock and mud.

Cultivators on the Jingxiu Peak who survived the destruction weren't the only ones who were taken aback by the sudden assault. Shang Xia was equally dumbstruck. He didn't expect to do so much damage with a single strike!

Naturally, such a powerful palm strike came at a price. Shang Xia exhausted two-thirds of his current reserve of Four Constellation Qi. He wouldn't be able to use another attack like that in a short period of time.

Chapter 452: Six Sided Lantern

800 miles away from the Jingxiu Peak in a location that was covered in dense clouds the whole year round...

Because of the many tiny streams that ran through the region, it was named the Cloud Water Gorge in the Sixth Pass of the Taihang Mountains.

In one of the taller mountains in the region, 3 Martial Extermination Realm experts stood side by side as they looked around the ruins of a stronghold as though they were looking for something special.

Of the 3, one of them was a female cultivator with a long sword strapped behind her back. A reddish-green silk ribbon hung from her head and she had a voluptuous body. A charming light swirled around her pretty eyes.

She held a six-sided lantern that contained a ball of flickering flames in front of her. If anyone were to look carefully, they would discover that the clouds that had been parted around her were moving in rhythm to the flickering flames.

Close to ten feet around the 3 of them had been cleared of clouds and fog and from the looks of it, the lantern was an indispensable part of the reason.

That was also the reason why the other 2 Martial Extermination Realm experts had to gather around the female cultivator to conduct their search.

"From the traces left behind, the leader of this stronghold, Hai Pei, should have long since abandoned the area to bring her subordinates away." One of the white robed experts beside the lady spoke. He looked slightly older than 30, but the weathered look on his face revealed an appearance that had been through the vicissitudes of life.

"We should be closing in on her location. Since she's concerned for the life of her subordinates, she will never leave the Cloud Water Gorge. It's a matter of time before we find her." The middle aged cultivator on the other side spoke up. He had a short beard hanging off his chin and he seemed more like a scholar than a cultivator.

The female cultivator muttered, "I am not interested in your grudge at all. I only wish to hear if that secret region truly exists and the way to enter."

The middle aged scholarly looking cultivator chuckled in response, “With Heroine Feng’s treasure to help us, Hai Pei lost her greatest advantage in the Cloud Water Gorge. The moment we find her, we’ll surround her immediately. She will have no choice but to give us what we want. When that happens, Heroine Feng will be able to learn everything you wish to know.”

A light flickered in her eyes and she giggled in delight. “Why do the two of you seem so indifferent to the secret region? Does it not actually exist?”

The scholarly-looking cultivator was about to reply when his expression twisted slightly.

The change in his expression couldn’t go unnoticed, especially when the others were also Martial Extermination Realm experts. The older-looking cultivator asked, “Master Duan, is something the matter?”

A look of confusion appeared on Duan Liufeng’s face and his expression flickered slightly. Grunting once, he replied, “Someone attacked an imprint I left behind in the Jingxiu Peak... My territory is under attack!”

The 3 of them saw the look in each other’s eyes and many possibilities appeared in their minds.

“Do you know what is happening back at the Jingxiu Peak right now? Or do you know how strong the attacker is? Could the assault be related to Hai Pei?” Heroine Feng asked.

A bitter smile appeared on Duan Liufeng’s face. “I might be able to detect what is going on back there if we were outside the Cloud Water Gorge, but it doesn’t matter. I expected something like this to happen and got the Martial Intent Realm cultivators under my command to gather on the Jingxiu Peak. With the protection formation, it should be able to hold out against a Martial Extermination Realm expert’s bombardment for quite some time. Moreover, there should be several Martial Extermination Realm experts in the area and they shouldn’t sit idly by and watch as my Jingxiu Peak falls.”

The two other Martial Extermination Realm experts nodded slightly in response.

Actually, the two of them expected as much. They knew that Duan Liufeng wouldn’t leave his base undefended before starting the operation to attack the Cloud Water Gorge.

The situation was as he had described. Duan Liufeng had been in command of the Jingxiu Peak for several years and the mountain had produced a ton of precious resources. There were even herbs that could only be found on the Jingxiu Peak. Even if the Martial Extermination Realm experts in the surrounding area didn't rush to its defense, they would try to dissuade the attacker from causing more damage.

Heroine Feng smiled. “Even though what you said might be true, I feel that we need to pick up the pace. It’s not good to have your base at the mercy of others. Master Duan, I believe that you think the same way, right?”

“Many thanks for your understanding!” Duan Liufeng cupped his fists and thanked.

It was a shame that as soon as their short conversation ended, Duan Liufeng’s expression changed drastically. A dual colored extermination light surrounded his body and a terrifying storm swept

across his surroundings. The grass under his feet grew at a terrifying rate and everything else around him turned to dust.

“He lost control of his extermination origins!” The two of them retreated slightly as they quickly raised their guards.

A frown appeared on the female cultivator’s face and she stared at him intently.

She noticed that other than the furious expression that was starting to appear on his face, he seemed as cool-headed as could be. He didn’t seem to be experiencing cultivation deviation. Instead, he looked as though he was merely venting his frustrations.

“Master Duan...”

She quickly discovered that the grass had stopped growing and Duan Liufeng became a lot calmer than a second ago.

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The expression on Duan Liufeng’s face was as ugly as could be, but he didn’t lose his composure. He waved his hand once and turned the overgrown grass under his feet into ash.

“Could it be...”

A scary guess appeared in the mind of the older-looking cultivator.

Forcing a smile, Duan Liufeng muttered, “I apologize for worrying you two. I didn't suffer from cultivation deviation and I’m fine. You should have guessed from my reaction that the protection formation around the Jingxiu Peak has been broken...”

Even though the two of them guessed as much, hearing him admit it was a different story altogether. They couldn’t believe their ears.

After all, Duan Liufeng had mentioned that the Duanfeng Peak would be able to sustain itself for some time. Who would have thought that he would be slapped in the face so quickly? The protection formation was shattered by the time they were done talking.

Thinking back to the effort he placed when grooming the Jingxiu Peak, Duan Liufeng felt extreme heartache. He wanted to fly back there immediately to deal with the problem.

The older-looking cultivator muttered, “Could there be more than one Martial Extermination Realm attacking the Jingxiu Peak?”

The female cultivator added, “Perhaps, there’s a mole working on the inside...”

Their guesses clearly showed that they didn’t believe a single person would be able to destroy the protection formation around the Jingxiu Peak so easily. The three of them fell silent at the same time.

Turning to look at Duan Liufeng, the female cultivator maintained a neutral expression as she asked, “Coming into the Cloud Water Gorge to attack Hai Pei was your idea, Master Duan Feng. Now that your territory is under attack, what do you plan to do?”

Duan Liufeng’s expression flickered unsteadily but when he saw the look on their faces, he gritted his teeth and growled, “Since the Jingxiu Peak has already fallen, there’s no difference even if I rush

back immediately. Since that's the case, we'll finish what we started. We'll discuss future plans after killing Shang Pei!"

"However, I'm just afraid that the people who attacked my Jingxiu Peak will attack your respective factions."

The two of them exchanged a gaze and understood what Duan Liufeng implied. They replied in unison, "Master Duan, you might be right, but like you said. We should finish what we started. It will be a pity if we give up on killing Hai Pei now. Moreover, we might run into an ambush if we beat a hasty retreat now."

"Master Duan might have invited us to deal with Hai Pei, but news of our involvement shouldn't have leaked to the outside world. Hai Pei doesn't know that the two of us are involved and if the person attacking the Jingxiu Peak is related to her, they might not be aware of our presence. They won't be able to locate our territories either."

He might be imagining it, but Duan Liufeng could hear the mockery in their words. It seemed as though the two of them were taking joy in his misfortune.

Without any path of retreat, Duan Liufeng was stuck in an awkward situation since he said whatever he said earlier. Gritting his teeth, he realized that he could only regain a little bit of his losses after killing Hai Pei. At the same time, only by going all out and killing her would he be able to pacify the anger burning inside him.

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The once majestic Jingxiu Peak was in a terrible state after what Shang Xia unleashed on it.

The destruction was caused by Shang Xia's endless cycling of his Four Seasons Extermination Origins, but the extent of the damage might have something to do with Lin Zhixuan's absence.

Whatever the case, the protection barrier was shattered and the Jingxiu Peak was like a naked woman laid bare in front of Shang Xia.

The moment the protection barrier was compromised, the cultivators living on the Jingxiu Peak started running away desperately. There were a ton of them who plundered the faction's resources while doing so.

Due to the sheer size of the Jingxiu Peak, Shang Xia couldn't stop everyone himself. He couldn't carry out a massacre either and he could only allow them to run away.

He might have allowed them to do as they wished while running away, but his divine perception locked on to the top of the Jingxiu Peak the moment he broke the barrier. He could allow them to loot the general warehouses or herbs field, but the top of the Jingxiu Peak was where the true valuables were kept. Everything there belonged to him now that he broke through the protection barrier, and he wouldn't allow anyone to touch them!

Shang Xia's figure blurred slightly and he appeared at the top of the mountain before anyone could discover him.

"Hehe, this is the place alright..." After entering a manor at the top of the mountain, he quickly discovered 3 individual courtyards separated from each other. A precious

herb was growing in every single one of them and all of them were of the fourth rank. Unfortunately, the time wasn't ripe and none of the three could be harvested.

One of them was something Shang Xia was familiar with, the Glass Daisy Chrysanthemum, and from the markings on the soil around the stalk, Shang Xia estimated that the stalk his Grandpa Ke brought back had been harvested from the same area.

It was a pity the season wasn't right to harvest the Glass Daisy Chrysanthemum.

The other two herbs were a rank four Empty Jade Bamboo and the other was a rank four Azure Range Black Pine. They were unique herbs that had their own uses, and they were obviously very precious.

It was too bad Shang Xia wasn't able to bring the herbs away at the moment. The only way for him to take those herbs for himself was if he conquered the Jingxiu Peak directly!

The thought barely formed before it was thrown to the back of his mind.

Chapter 453: Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine

The herbs might be precious, but Shang Xia had no way of bringing them away.

Unless he knew of a way to transplant them perfectly, otherwise, he would greatly damage the herbs by harvesting them out of season.

He knew that he couldn't remain on the Jingxiu Peak for long anyway. He needed to locate Shang Pei urgently!

Searching through Duan Liufeng's cultivation chamber twice, Shang Xia discovered several random treasures. It was a pity none of them truly interested him.

Shang Xia tried to look for other secret chambers or hidden tunnels that might contain a secret stash, but he was bound to be disappointed.

Didn't Duan Liufeng manage the Jingxiu Peak for tens of years?! How can he be so damn poor?!

Shang Xia scoured the place reluctantly. He quickly discovered a tiny inconspicuous structure in the huge manor. The fragrance of wine quickly drifted into his nose.

There was actually a fermentation room located in the manor!

Forcing his way into the room, Shang Xia discovered a full set of equipment for refining wine lying around. From the looks of it, it had been some time since the equipment had been used.

Shang Xia realized how much he had messed up by allowing everyone to run away. He should have captured a few members familiar with the Jingxiu Peak when he came earlier! Now, he had to look for everything himself!

Extending his divine perception to the room, Shang Xia carefully examined everything within. He quickly discovered a sealed redwood case under a piece of limestone on the stove.

Prying open the case, Shang Xia discovered a jade board that contained the recipe for a wine called the Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine.

“Don’t tell me this is the recipe for another rank four advancement medicine!” Shang Xia felt a trace of excitement filling his heart.

He might have several rank four advancement formulas back at the Shang Clan, but he knew how precious one was! Every single rank four advancement formula was a testament to the foundation of a strong faction.

However, he felt his excitement quickly dying down after reading the recipe.

The recipe was for making rank four wine. It wasn’t a recipe for an advancement medicine, and Shang Xia discovered that the effects of the Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine were way different from the Monkey Wine.

Whatever the case, the crafting process seemed slightly similar. The rank of wine created would be decided by the amount of time it was left for fermentation. Its effects might not be as good as Monkey Wine, but they were pretty similar in the sense that rank one, two, three, and four Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine could be used by cultivators of corresponding levels.

It seemed as though Duan Liufeng had planted many flowers and herbs on the Jingxiu Peak in order to nurture his wine. Also, the creation process of Duan Liufeng’s Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine was probably related to the extermination origins he had refined and some secret herbalism art he had practiced.

It was too bad a portion of herbs growing on the mountain was destroyed when Shang Xia forced his way into the Jingxiu Peak. As the cultivators made their escape, there were even more herbs that had been trampled and looted. The Jingxiu Peak barely had half of the herbs originally growing on it.

Luckily for Shang Xia, his invasion of the Jingxiu Peak wasn’t wasted now that he had obtained the recipe for Duan Liufeng’s Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine.

Just as he was about to leave, something caught his eye. Shang Xia saw traces of excavation in the courtyard that contained the wine-brewing hut.

Lightly tapping his feet on the ground, an underground hole was blasted into the ground.

Shang Xia extended his divine perception into the hole and his discovery caused his eyes to light up. The corners of his lips curled upwards to form a brilliant smile.

He discovered 3 vats that were supposed to contain rank one Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine, but 2 of them were already empty.

There were also 3 large jars of rank two Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine, but barely half was left.

Another 3 earthen jars of rank three Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine were present, but fortunately, two jars were filled to the brim while the last was bone-dry.

As for rank four Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine... There were 3 bottles sitting in the middle of the room and they had obviously been properly sealed by Duan Liufeng before he left. All three bottles were full, and Shang Xia nearly broke out laughing with joy.

Considering the volume contained in each storage instrument, Shang Xia profited big time. A bottle could hold a catty of wine, while an earthen jar could hold 10 catties. Those large jars that contained

rank two Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine could hold 30 catties, and the vats of rank one Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine contained 100 catties each.

When Shang Xia thought about rank four wine, he recalled that he had a tiny portion of rank four Monkey Wine on him. He was planning to drink it after entering the Four Constellation Realm in order to hasten his cultivation speed. Too bad he hadn't developed his personal rank four martial art. There was no point in drinking his Monkey Wine as he couldn't cultivate quickly without it. Drinking the wine would be a godly waste of resources.

Anyway, Shang Xia quickly kept the 3 bottles of rank four Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine into his Embroidered Cloud Case along with the 2 filled earthen jars of rank three Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine.

He only managed to store the large jar of rank two Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine into another Embroidered Cloud Case, but there was nowhere left to store the rest.

Even though it was a pity, he couldn't do much about it.

Sighing softly, he emerged from the wine-storage hole in the ground before taking a single step to arrive in the skies above the Jingxiu Peak. "Since fellow cultivators have already arrived, why don't you show yourselves?" Shang Xia muttered.

He folded his hands before him as his chilly gaze flashed across the space before him. His voice rang loudly in the void.

Shang Xia's divine perception could detect an area of 10 miles around him. It was a range only possessed by experts who were about to reach the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm.

Back when Shang Xia had started his attack on the Jingxiu Peak, he had long since been detected by other experts. It seemed as though those experts were finally unable to sit still after realizing that Shang Xia had been plundering the Jingxiu Peak.

Actually, the reason they took so long to arrive was that they didn't expect Shang Xia to blow the protection formation apart with two palm strikes.

They were planning to appear to 'mediate' the problem between Shang Xia and the Jingxiu Peak after Shang Xia exhausted himself by blasting the protection barrier. After all, all of them had some sort of relation with the Jingxiu Peak. Duan Liufeng's Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine was extremely famous throughout the Taihang Mountains, and he was only able to complete the fermentation of his wine every 7 years.

Duan Liufeng was no fool. He's got on good terms with many experts in the Sixth Pass with his Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine. Now that the Jingxiu Peak was under attack, even if the other Martial Extermination Realm experts didn't head over to defend the Jingxiu Peak with their lives, they would try to soothe the situation over at least. At the very least, Duan Liufeng thought that they would be able to dissuade the attacker from causing more damage. It was a shame things didn't work out the way he thought.

Shang Xia barely called them out when a Martial Extermination Realm expert appeared in the eastern direction of the Jingxiu Peak. The person who appeared was skinny to the point where his bones were protruding out of his skin, and he yelled, "Who the hell are you?! Why did you attack Master Duan's Jingxiu Peak?"

“Heh, don’t you know that you’re supposed to introduce yourself before asking for my name?” Shang Xia sneered.

As a foreign cultivator, Shang Xia knew that the experts in the Sixth Pass wouldn’t be too friendly to him. That was precisely why he had to appear extremely tough during their first interaction. It would be for the best if the experts of the Sixth Pass would show some restraint after his initial show of strength.

A trace of rage flashed in the skinny expert’s eyes and he was about to start yelling at Shang Xia when he felt a terrifying pressure coming from the youngster standing in the air. A frightening aura battered against him and he desperately roused his divine perception to defend himself. He was suppressed so heavily that he couldn’t utter a word. The blood also drained from his face as he stared at Shang Xia in fright.

“As a foreign cultivator, not only did you attack the Jingxiu Peak in Master Duan’s absence. You even dare to disrespect fellow cultivator Zhong Gu in front of us. Do you really think that there’s a lack of experts from our Sixth Pass to deal with you?” Another old expert donned in hemp cloth made his appearance. A pure stream of energy went towards Zhonggu in an attempt to assist him.

Shang Xia quickly retracted his divine perception that was locked onto Zhonggu, further displaying the control he held over his strength.

Zhonggu, who was desperately defending against the endless pressure on his body, flew several feet into the air when the pressure disappeared abruptly. He only managed to regain his balance after some time, causing him to humiliate himself in front of the other experts.

The stream of energy the hemp clothed expert sent out was utterly wasted and he too looked like a fool.

In just a short second, Shang Xia managed to mock 2 Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Sixth Pass and establish his might.

“Young man, your inheritance is impressive and I believe you hail from an impressive background. Aren’t you afraid of angering all of us by humiliating the two of them?” A calm but strict voice came from behind him.

Turning around, Shang Xia saw a shorter-looking cultivator glaring at him from several miles away.

The person who appeared seemed to be well recognized in the Sixth Pass and the moment he appeared, the skinny expert and the hemp clothed expert cupped their fists in his direction. “We greet the Yin Cave Master!”

Soon after, two more Martial Extermination Realm experts appeared around him.

With the exception of Shang Xia, there were 5 Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Sixth Pass present around the Jingxiu Peak.

Looking at the formation of the 5, they perfectly encircled Shang Xia. It seemed as though they were going to gang up on him the moment he said something wrong.

Looking at the shorter-looking cultivator, Shang Xia gasped, "I didn't expect the Yin Cave Master to come. Cave Master Yin Wanxiang, I have been looking forward to meeting you. I attacked the Jingxiu Peak in order to save my fellow cultivator. I mean no disrespect to anyone else."

Shang Xia seemed to restrain himself a lot more now that Yin Wanxiang had arrived.

Since he had already shown them that he wasn't a pushover, there was no need for him to maintain his tough front. Not to mention the fact that Yin Wanxiang was a third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert... Shang Xia wasn't willing to offend him because of a small conflict like that.

Shang Xia was wary of Yin Wanxiang's cultivation level, but Yin Wanxiang was also sizing him up all the same. In fact, Yin Wanxiang seemed a little more wary of Shang Xia's identity.

Nodding slightly, Yin Wanxiang revealed an expression as if he had expected as much. After all, he guessed that the foreign cultivator had arrived in the Sixth Pass to rescue a fellow comrade. However, he continued to ask, "Regardless, you don't look like you're trying to save someone after all the destruction you caused. You destroyed the Jingxiu Peak, wasting Duan Liufeng's hard work just to save someone? Who could it possibly be?"

Shang Xia smiled in response, "Yin Cave Master, you're a wise man. Can't you guess who I'm really trying to save?"

"Are you talking about Hai Pei from the Youyan Stronghold?" Yin Wanxiang's eyelids jumped slightly as he replied.

"Exactly."

Chapter 454: Fire Sale

In mid air, Shang Xia stared at the 5 of them around him with his arms folded in front of him.

"Last year, Hai Pei brought along another companion to infiltrate the Jingxiu Peak to steal a stalk of Glass Daisy Chrysanthemum Duan Liufeng had been carefully nurturing. May I ask if you're the one who came with her?" Someone among them asked.

After some introductions by Yin Wanxiang, Shang Xia learned that the person who asked the question was Jiang Weiyun of the Flowing Cloud Lagoon. As the leader of the Flowing Cloud Lagoon, the other experts of the Sixth Pass would refer to him respectfully as Lagoon Master Jiang.

Shang Xia chuckled in response, "I wasn't the one who came to the Taihang Mountains the previous time. A senior in my clan came instead."

The expressions of the experts from the Sixth Pass changed the moment the words left his lips.

A simple reply from Shang Xia managed to reveal a lot of information. Everyone felt their brains spinning rapidly as they tried to make sense of what they had learned.

The appearance of this young Martial Extermination Realm would mean that Hai Pei had 2 other companions in the Martial Extermination Realm. In some barren land, a faction with that amount of fighting strength could be considered the strongest power in the region!

Moreover, it was possible that their faction had more than 3 Martial Extermination Realm existences!

Now, everyone started to get a little curious about Hai Pei's identity.

From the way Shang Xia addressed the other person who appeared in the Taihang Mountains a year ago, they seemed to hail from an exceptionally strong faction!

Finally came the question that truly mattered. What the hell was Hai Pei doing in the Sixth Pass of the Taihang Mountains with such tyrannical backing?!

Shang Xia looked at their reactions after speaking and he was greeted with a round of silence. Even though all of them were experts in the Martial Extermination Realm, they had many considerations running through their minds.

Naturally, Shang Xia wouldn't be able to experience the conflict they were facing at the moment. They couldn't possibly turn to leave after hearing what he said, but they couldn't possibly start attacking the youngster either!

Eventually, Gu Lingyu, the only female cultivator among the 5, broke the silence. She was the Valley Master of the Mermaid Valley, and her status was comparable to Jiang Weiyun who spoke earlier. She sounded a little annoyed when she addressed Shang Xia. "Even if all of you hail from a powerful faction, you can't go around stealing resources from the Jingxiu Peak as you wish!"

"Hehe, since when did the Sixth Pass care about reason?" Shang Xia burst out laughing.

"You..." Glaring at Shang Xia, Gu Lingyu couldn't refute his argument.

Finally, Yin Wanxiang interrupted, "Fellow cultivator, you don't seem concerned about offending us. Aren't you afraid that we'll join hands to kill you right here and now? Even if you come from a powerful faction that has the power to hunt us down after today, you'll still be dead."

Killing intent filled the skies above the Jingxiu Peak the moment he spoke. It was especially so for Zhonggu and the hemp clothed expert.

Completely unaffected by their change in mood, Shang Xia took a step in Yin Wanxiang's direction and snorted, "You can try to kill me. Let's see if you have the ability to make me leave my life behind today."

A strange light surrounded Shang Xia's body and the aura that rolled off him became extremely weird. None of them could see through his cultivation base as the situation above the Jingxiu Peak became even more tense.

Resisting the pressure coming from all 5 experts from the Sixth Pass, Shang Xia managed to maintain his composure as a cold light flashed in his eyes.

Shang Xia couldn't be more clear about what was happening at the moment. The longer he could hold out against their combined might, the less likely it was for them to try anything funny. Moreover, he could take the chance to scare them off and steer them away from their questionable thoughts.

He was right. A moment later, Jiang Weiyun coughed lightly and addressed the others. “Everyone, is there really a need for us to form a grudge against him? The Jingxiu Peak has already fallen and there’s nothing we can do to change that. Even if we kill him, we can’t restore the Jingxiu Peak to its original state.”

He spoke in such a timely manner that the others were quickly able to use it as an excuse to change their attitude towards the matter.

Shang Xia quickly felt the pressure on him receding. Even though it seemed like the danger had passed, Shang Xia still kept his guard up while looking at the others. Naturally, he wouldn’t try anything stupid at that juncture. He obediently restrained his divine perception and inner qi like the others.

As a smile returned to his face, Shang Xia cupped his fists towards the others. “Thank you all for not making things difficult for me today. I am in a hurry to save my fellow comrade in the Cloud Water Gorge and I shall be leaving soon. As soon as I completely destroy the Jingxiu Peak, I’ll take my leave.”

The moment he completed his sentence, he raised his arm and drew a short horizontal line in the air before him.

The expressions of the 5 changed immediately. Everyone except for Gu Lingyu managed to restrain themselves and she cried out in fright, “Hey, stop right there!”

Unfortunately, her yell came a little too late. Shang Xia’s strike was like a formless blade that tore into one of the faces of the Jingxiu Peak, causing massive landslides that destroyed yet another portion of herbs.

A look of mockery flashed in Shang Xia’s eyes, but he managed to change it into one of shock before addressing Gu Lingyu, “Valley Master Gu, is something wrong? Why would you stop me from destroying the Lingxiu Peak?”

Gu Lingyu didn’t know how to put it but luckily, Jiang Weiyun piped up from the side, “The Jingxiu Peak is filled with precious herbs. Isn’t it a waste to destroy it all?”

Shang Xia complained helplessly, “I don’t have a choice, do I? Now that I have attacked the Jingxiu Peak, I have already angered Duan Liufeng. There’s no point for me to leave the herbs here so that he can return for them in the future. I don’t have a habit of giving free benefits to my enemies after all...”

Shang Xia could feel slight fluctuations in the air and realized that the Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Sixth Pass were communicating with each other in secret.

It didn’t take long for Yin Wanxiang to speak up. “This... It’s truly a waste for you to destroy heavenly resources like that. I hope you can do it for my sake, but please stop destroying the Jingxiu Peak. Of course, we won’t make things difficult for you either. You might not know, but Duan Liufeng has been friendly with a lot of powers in recent years. Your faction might possess an array of experts, but you might not be able to do anything to Duan Liufeng if he cashed in on all his connections. As they say, it’s better to squash enmity than to keep it alive. If you can leave without

destroying the Jingxiu Peak today, we might be able to help you mediate your conflict with Duan Liufeng. What do you think?"

The other experts from the Sixth Pass remained silent, indicating their support for whatever Yin Wanxiang said.

Shang Xia snorted inwardly. There were too damn many resources on the Jingxiu Peak that he couldn't bring away and those Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Sixth Pass probably wanted to split it after he had left. They were clearly trying to benefit from the remnants of the Jingxiu Peak at his expense, and Shang Xia wasn't dumb enough to let them do as they wished.

Observing the 5 experts around him, Shang Xia could tell that Yin Wanxiang, Jiang Weiyun, and Gi Lingyu were on the same side. Zhonggu and the hemp clothed cultivator seemed to not be a part of their group, but from how they were communicating with each other and the fact that they appeared to stop Shang Xia earlier, it wasn't difficult to conclude that the two of them were on better terms with Duan Liufeng. Naturally, their friendship with Duan Liufeng was limited to a certain extent. Otherwise, they would have joined him in hunting down Shang Pei in the Cloud Water Gorge.

Since everyone was planning to put up a show, Shang Xia was obviously willing to play along. After 'thinking' for some time, he seemed to realize that it wasn't right to destroy the Jingxiu Peak. "Hmm, you're right! However, I can't possibly take advantage of your goodwill to help me mediate my conflict with Duan Liufeng. Why don't you buy the remnants of the Jingxiu Peak from me at a low price and get Duan Liufeng to pay you guys back for your service? That way, I won't have to destroy the Jingxiu Peak and you guys can get Duan Liufeng to owe you a favor. At the same time, I'll use the resources to placate the Youyan Stronghold Leader so that she won't continue to make things difficult for Duan Liufeng. You guys won't have to act as a mediator between us and you can even gain some benefits from the transaction. What do you say?"

Before they could say anything, Shang Xia continued, "Naturally, if you guys are unwilling, there's nothing more to say. I'll destroy the Jingxiu Peak right now!"

He raised his hand and pointed at the 3 courtyards in the manor at the top of the Jingxiu Peak where the rank four herbs were located as soon as he spoke.

If not for the fact that he couldn't bring them away, he wouldn't even bother giving them a choice to stop him from destroying the Jingxiu Peak.

"Please stay your hand!" Yin Wanxiang yelled.

Like an obedient child, Shang Xia lowered his hand slowly. The smile on his face remained as he stared at the cultivators around him.

With their years of experience, how could they not understand Shang Xia's intentions? Luckily, none of them wanted to tear open the final layer of pretense.

"Young friend, what would it take for you to leave the Jingxiu Peak alone?" Yin Wanxiang returned to his original cold appearance quickly and Shang Xia couldn't help but praise his award-winning performance.

Chuckling softly, Shang Xia replied, "Since it's a fire sale, I won't ask for too much. Yep. The 3 rank four herbs should be worth a complete rank four advancement formula. The other herbs on the Jingxiu Peak are probably worth an extermination origin. As for the rest of the mountain..."

A light flashed in Shang Xia's eyes as he looked at the 5 of them. "Forget it. I'll throw in the rest of the mountain for free."

Zhonggu roared angrily as soon as he heard Shang Xia's terms. "A rank four advancement formula and an extermination origin?! Why the fuck don't you go rob other factions for it?"

A crafty smile appeared on Shang Xia's face and he looked at the Jingxiu Peak under him. "What the hell does it seem like I'm doing now?"

"You..."

With a smile returning to his face, Shang Xia forced himself to look a little more serious. "Since we're conducting a proper exchange, I'm not forcing you to buy it from me. Brother Zhonggu, you can choose not to accept. I'll just destroy the Jingxiu Peak as per my original intentions."

Before Zhonggu could yell at Shang Xia again, he was interrupted by Fang Ruhai, his companion in the hemp clothes.

Jiang Weiyun played the good guy card once again and he took over the negotiation process.

"Young friend, you're obviously not wrong to say that this is a proper exchange, however, all proper exchanges go through rounds of negotiations! That's a rank four advancement formula and extermination origin you're asking for. Even if we had it, we might not be able to give it to you."

"Oh? What are you willing to give me then?" Shang Xia asked.

Once again, the five of them started to communicate with each other in secret.

A look of irritation appeared on Shang Xia's face now that they were eating up his precious time to save Shang Pei. In her current situation, she could be attacked by a group of Martial Extermination Realm experts at any time!

Sensing Shang Xia's irritation, the five of them quickly threw out their offer. "We're willing to give you a high-grade weapon and a mid-grade weapon in exchange."

A snort left Shang Xia's lips as the Scarlet Star Spear appeared in his hand. Stabbing it into the void in front of him, he sneered, "Do I look like I lack weapons?"

The moment his spear appeared, waves battered against the hearts of the 5 Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Sixth Pass. They knew that Hai Pei was also a spear user! Moreover, the person who barged into the Jingxiu Peak with her a year ago also used the spear! Now, the youngster who was claiming that he was here to save her also wielded a spear...

That further confirmed the guess in their mind. The only thing they couldn't think of was a faction in the Azure Origin World that focused on the way of the spear.

Shang Xia didn't realize that his unintentional actions increased his bargaining power.

After another round of discussions, Shang Xia agreed to their second offer.

In the end, he obtained an extermination origin and a damaged White Bone Talisman Brush in exchange for leaving the rest of the Jingxiu Peak alone.

Chapter 455: Forced to Reveal Himself

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In one of the rocky fields in the Cloud Water Gorge, Feng Chenyi, the female expert with the Hexagonal Lantern raised it high in the air.

An orange flame flickered in the lantern as the dense clouds that covered the rocky field were forced dozens of feet away.

Duan Liufeng and Yu Hanglong, the two experts beside her, stood at her side as they surveyed the surroundings cautiously.

“Youyan Master, what’s the point of hiding now that things have progressed to this point? You can only hide your tracks temporarily with your Tranquil Cape. You can’t hide forever.” Feng Chengyi yelled and her voice rang through the air. It definitely passed through the dense clouds, but she didn’t remain where she was. She signaled for the others to advance slowly.

The clouds parted whenever the three of them moved in a certain direction, but the orange flame in the Hexagonal Lantern all of a sudden. Feng Chenyi’s gaze turned sharp and it landed on a strange rock not too far away from them.

The shape of the rock seemed a little odd and under the illumination of the Hexagonal Lantern, the texture of a cloth-like cape was revealed.

“There!” Feng Chenyi pointed at the rock while Yu Hanglong chopped down without hesitation.

The cape fluttered in the wind as a figure leaped out from it. Even though the figure was several feet away from the trio, a spear emerged from the void above Feng Chenyi’s head and stabbed straight for the lantern.

It seemed as though her Hexagonal Lantern didn’t just force the clouds away. It was also able to see through the Tranquil Cape’s disguise.

Of course, Shang Pei knew that too and her main goal was to break the lantern as soon as possible.

Feng Chenyi didn’t even need to move when a whip emerged from Duan Liufeng’s waist. Two strands of extermination origin swirled around it as the phantom of a branch extended out of the void to protect Feng Chenyi and her lantern.

Even though Shang Pei’s spear tore through Duan Liufeng’s protection, it was directed away from Feng Chenyi and her Hexagonal Lantern.

Failing to kill Feng Chenyi or dealing with the Hexagonal Lantern even with the help of the Tranquil Cape, Shang Pei also had to defend herself from Yu Hanglong’s attack now that her position was revealed. It seemed as though she had fallen into their trap.

Shang Pei hadn’t entered the Martial Extermination Realm for long, but she had a lot of experience in fights. After all, she was a member of the Eighteen Horsemen of the You Continent who managed to walk sideways in the Ji Continent. She had plenty of life and death experience and she made a forward roll now that she was in danger. The Tranquil Cape extended behind her like a long snake as she ran for her life. It didn’t take long for her to disappear into the dense clouds.

“Shit! We let her escape again...” Duan Liufeng snapped his whip while cursing.

Of the three of them, his territory, the Jingxiu Peak, was the only one that had fallen. He wanted nothing more than to kill his enemy and return to salvage whatever remained.

“Master Duan, it won’t be that easy for us to kill a Martial Extermination Realm anyway.” Feng Chenyi tried to calm him down.

Yu Hanglong came back with some pleasant news all of a sudden. “I slashed through her Tranquil Cape earlier. Even without Heroine Feng’s lantern, she won’t be able to hide her tracks from us!”

Duan Liufeng’s expression lightened up a lot after hearing what he said. “So... We’re the ones holding all the advantage then?”

Feng Chenyi glanced at him and seemed to guess his intentions. “Are you thinking of splitting up to search for her tracks?”

“It’s not exactly a bad idea. Without the Tranquil Cape, all of us are equally as blind in the strange clouds here. We’re the ones with a numerical advantage...” Yu Hanglong muttered.

Feng Chenyi didn’t reject the suggestion. Instead, she turned to shout at the dense clouds around her. “Youyan Master, if you still don’t show yourself, we will have no choice but to start hunting down your subordinates.”

Duan Liufeng and Yu Hanglong widened their eyes in shock after hearing what she said. Slapping his forehead, Duan Liufeng cried, “Why didn’t we think of this earlier?!”

Feng Chenyi glanced at him without saying a word.

To their surprise, a cry came from the dense mist around in front of them. “You’re despicable!”

As soon as her voice appeared, Yu Hanglong transformed into a streak of light that flew in the direction of her voice.

The sound of metal scraping rang through the air and the other two quickly caught up with him. Unfortunately, by the time they arrived, all they saw was Yu Hanglong standing there alone with a scene of destruction all around him.

The corners of Yu Hanglong’s lips curled upwards and he chuckled happily, “She’s not going to be able to escape now...”

...

Shang Xia left the Jingxiu Peak under the cautious gazes of the 5 Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Sixth Pass. He flew at a casual pace when he left for the Cloud Water Gorge, as though he wasn’t really concerned for the life and death of the Youyan Master.

Actually, Shang Xia’s heart was burning with anxiety. He had to force himself to slow down in order to not reveal his true feelings to the bunch of cultivators from the Sixth Pass.

Back when he broke a hole in the protection barrier of the Jingxiu Peak, he used up two thirds of his inner qi.

He couldn’t reveal the slightest weakness in front of the 5 of them! If they were to join forces to attack him, he would be in deep shit! He only managed to fool them earlier by relying on his

extraordinarily strong divine perception. During the face-off earlier, he was desperately trying to restore his inner qi.

Luckily, the heaven and earth qi around the Jingxiu Peak was sufficiently dense. He managed to hasten the rate of his recovery back then.

Even though he managed to restore some of his inner qi, he had less than half his reserves when he left earlier.

Now that he had left the Jingxiu Peak, he finally processed what had happened. Excitement and fear filled his heart in equal parts after he realized what he had done. Regardless, he continued to recover his inner qi the best he could. In the best-case scenario, he would be able to recover to his peak state before arriving in the Cloud Water Gorge.

It might seem like he made a loss selling whatever was left on the Jingxiu Peak to the 5 of them for an extermination origin and a talisman brush, but Shang Xia had no choice. Saving Shang Pei was a priority and he couldn't waste his time negotiating with them.

Luckily, he obtained some treasures when he looked through the place earlier. His main intention when attacking the Jingxiu Peak wasn't for valuables either, and getting the extermination origin and brush at the end was just a little bonus.

The extermination origin he obtained was called the Smoky Earthen Fire Extermination Origin and it was something Yin Wanxiang obtained from a dangerous region that contained a lot of volcanoes.

Yin Wanxiang lived up to his strength as a third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert. He didn't fuss around and paid Shang Xia the extermination origin immediately. It seemed as though he was a lot richer than Shang Xia had thought.

According to Yin Wanxiang's introduction, one had to talk down the path of controlling fire and poison in order to refine the Smoky Earthen Fire Extermination Origin. Otherwise, the properties of the extermination origin would cause a huge backlash to the person who absorbed it.

Of course, after refinement, the cultivator would be able to control an additional earthen attribute. Their ability to control fire and poison would also greatly increase.

Shang Xia was also pleasantly surprised to obtain the White Bone Brush from Zhonggu.

The brush was originally a high-grade treasure, but because of some damage, the shaft of the brush cracked and some essence leaked out causing it to regress to a mid-grade treasure.

Even so, a mid-grade talisman brush was pretty valuable.

There was also a reason Zhonggu managed to get his hands on the brush. Because of its regression, the Talisman Master who used the brush no longer wanted it. Eventually, it ended up with the skinny old man.

Naturally, Shang Xia intended to restore the brush to its peak state now that he obtained it.

He had another mid-grade brush, but it belonged to the Tongyou Institution at the end of the day. As a rank four Talisman Master, it was a little embarrassing to not possess his own equipment. That was also one of the major reasons he picked the White Bone Brush out of everything they offered.

800 miles wasn't too far for a Martial Extermination Realm, especially Shang Xia whose speed was faster than normal. It didn't take long for him to approach a region covered in dense clouds.

Now that he arrived, Shang Xia didn't rush to enter the Cloud Water Gorge. He flew around it and scouted the area in order to learn more about the strange clouds that surrounded the gorge.

The Cloud Water Gorge could be considered a special region in the Sixth Pass.

Cultivators who entered wouldn't be able to see 3 feet away from themselves and their divine sense would be greatly restricted. Even Martial Extermination Realm experts wouldn't be able to feel more than 500 feet away from themselves with their divine perception.

That was why Shang Pei attacked only after she was discovered by the Hexagonal Lantern. She couldn't detect her enemies before that!

Yu Hanglong discerning Shang Pei's location from her voice earlier was another matter altogether.

Looking at the Cloud Water Gorge, Shang Xia noticed that the clouds that filled the region weren't exactly stuck in place. It seemed to pulsate slightly, but the extent of its expansion and retraction was limited.

Experts in the Sixth Pass had speculated the reason behind the changes in the Cloud Water Gorge, but an actual reason had never been established.

When Shang Xia observed the Cloud Water Gorge from the outside, he realized that there were several people who had their eyes on the region too.

A bad feeling appeared in Shang Xia's heart and he quickly grabbed one of those who were watching the Cloud Water Gorge to understand their intentions. As it turned out, those people had been deployed to deal with members of the Youyan Stronghold who tried to escape.

Questioning the person he caught even further, Shang Xia discovered that he hadn't received news from their leaders that the leader of the Youyan Stronghold was surrounded.

Since those who went into the Cloud Water Gorge to attack Shang Pei hadn't emerged, it could only mean that she was still holding out well. It seemed as though Shang Xia wasn't too late.

Shang Xia didn't take long to find out the names of the Martial Extermination Realm experts who went into the Cloud Water Gorge to surround Shang Pei. One of them was a female cultivator called Feng Chenyi whose background was unknown. From what he learned, she seemed to be an expert from a faction outside the Taihang Mountains.

The other was Duan Liufeng, and Shang Xia didn't really need an introduction to the guy.

Finally, the last cultivator who went in was a Martial Extermination Realm called Yu Hanglong. Yu Hanglong sounded a little familiar to him and if Shang Xia wasn't mistaken, he was an asshole who came over during the War of the Tongyou Mysterious World to take advantage of the situation.

Chuckling softly, Shang Xia ended the life of the cultivator he captured. Since they were there to deal with the Youyan Stronghold, there was no need to let them live.

With his inner qi basically recovered, Shang Xia no longer felt the need to wait. He quickly rushed into the dense clouds that surrounded the Cloud Water Gorge.

Chapter 456: Headless Fly

He stepped into the dense clouds without hesitation and everything outside a 30 feet radius disappeared.

His vision was extremely limited and a cloudy fog remained before his eyes.

Weirdly enough, Shang Xia was able to extend his divine perception close to 1000 feet around himself. Even though 1000 feet was far from Shang Xia's usual detection radius of 10 miles, it was a lot more than what ordinary Martial Extermination Realm experts could do in the Cloud Water Gorge.

The Cloud Water Gorge's restriction on one's divine sense or perception was strong, but that wasn't the only reason why it managed to gain its fame as a forbidden region in the Sixth Pass of the Taihang Mountains. There were other dangers associated with the Cloud Water Gorge and people who didn't have business there wouldn't dream of entering for fun.

One of the true dangers the Cloud Water Gorge posed was that the space within was restricted. Martial Extermination Realm experts would lose the ability to fly after they entered. They would have to travel through the gorge on their feet like low-leveled cultivators. Next, the entire region was a maze. Due to the weird geography of the valleys and mountains in the region, the Cloud Water Gorge was like a maze covered in mystery. With their divine senses sealed and vision limited, it would be extremely difficult for anyone to find their way out. Finally, there were the threats of spiritual beasts! No one knew when they would be attacked by spiritual beasts hiding in the clouds and fog.

Shang Xia was desperate to save Shang Pei, but he knew that he couldn't get careless. He surveyed the area around him carefully after entering the Cloud Water Gorge.

After realizing his divine perception was limited, Shang Xia tried to fly. Unfortunately, he felt the space under his feet falling apart after he rose a mere inch in the air.

Forcefully pushing himself 3 inches into the air, Shang Xia discovered that the weird fog around him had gathered around his body. They seemed like a massive blanket soaked in water pushing him back into the ground and Shang Xia could feel himself getting weak by the second as he maintained his flight. Even so, he tried pushing himself a little further. As the pressure increased, he felt his inner qi draining at a terrifying rate.

Without a choice, he fell back onto the ground and the pressure on his body disappeared abruptly. An ambiguous look appeared on his face as he wondered to himself, "Looks like it's not impossible to fly in the Cloud Water Gorge... It's just a lot more taxing than usual..."

That was different from what he heard before entering the Cloud Water Gorge!

Getting familiar with the feeling of being in the Cloud Water Gorge, he started to make his way into its depths.

In spite of being in a rush, Shang Xia didn't charge ahead recklessly. He moved at a reasonable speed. Because of how quickly experts in the Martial Extermination Realm traveled, he was afraid that he would run off a cliff if he wasn't careful. Under the dense coverage, even those who emerged from the strange region would find it difficult to make a complete map of it.

Even if there were bits and pieces of the Cloud Water Gorge recorded by whoever was lucky enough to emerge unscathed, anyone who got their hands on those maps would discover that the landmarks in there were completely different from what was recorded.

That was the main reason the situation in the Cloud Water Gorge was hidden from the experts of the Sixth Pass despite its many years of existence.

As Shang Xia made his way deeper into the Cloud Water Gorge, he discovered some similarities between the Cloud Water Gorge and the battlefield between the two worlds. Like the battlefield between the two worlds, the Cloud Water Gorge seemed to experience shifts in space from time to time. If not for the fact that the Tongyou Institution and the four great races of the Liao Continent established a territory in the battlefield between the two worlds, there would be no way to map out anything reasonably.

Of course, there were also several stark differences. Unlike the Cloud Water Gorge, the battlefield between the two worlds wasn't filled with clouds and fog that restricted one's divine sense.

Not too long after Shang Xia entered the Cloud Water Gorge, he heard the sound of rushing water. Despite it sounding pretty nearby, Shang Xia failed to discover the presence of a stream or lake within a 1000 feet radius.

He didn't know if he was mistaken about the sound of rushing water or if his divine perception was unable to pick it up.

Determined to get to the bottom of the matter, Shang Xia started walking in the direction of the sound. However, he was forced to stop as the earth started to shift beneath his feet.

The clouds surrounding him twisted violently as a result of the shift and he discovered his divine perception warping along with it.

Retracting his divine perception quickly to only cover a 500 feet radius around him, Shang Xia discovered that the ground beneath him was starting to crack. The sound of rushing water became even louder and he realized that his ears weren't playing tricks on him. There was a stream, but it was located under the earth!

Unwilling to make any sudden movements, Shang Xia stood where he was. He could feel the crack extending his feet and after tracking it with his divine sense, he discovered that it extended past his range of detection.

He could see the crack beside him growing deeper and deeper as the sound of rushing water became softer.

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During the time he remained motionless, a massive valley formed beside him.

Before he could admire the great change that took place, he felt a familiar rush of world origin coming from deep underground.

Widening his eyes in shock, Shang Xia's expression flickered unsteadily. However, he managed to remind himself of his real purpose of entering the Cloud Water Gorge. Suppressing his urge to jump down the cliff face he was standing on, he traveled deeper into the Cloud Water Gorge.

Naturally, his actions didn't stop him from thinking about the world origin he felt. The strange properties of the Cloud Water Gorge, Shang Pei's decision to establish herself there, and many other reasons flew through his mind.

Shang Xia's curiosity towards his mysterious third aunt was piqued once again. It seemed as though Shang Pei was also hiding some secrets.

...

When Shang Xia was looking for traces of Shang Pei, a flying sword tore through the fog in a secret location. A spatial passage appeared as Yu Hanglong stepped out. His divine perception covered dozens of feet around him as he scouted the area.

When he was certain that there was no danger, he tossed a small sword in the air. Spinning around slightly, it pointed at a rock face nearby.

Chuckling softly, a cold light emerged from his robe. It shattered the rock face before revealing a secret tunnel that led into the mountains behind.

Yu Hanglong's figure blurred as he rushed into the tunnel.

In the next second, he emerged from the other side.

Scanning the area with his divine perception, he was shocked to discover no one there. "No one's here?!"

The traces along the tunnel and cave showed that there were definitely signs of human life. However, the entire area was empty at the moment and no one could be seen. It was clear that anyone living there had left. From the tracks they left behind, Yu Hanglong could tell that it hadn't been long since they left.

"Is this another one of her ploys?!" Yu Hanglong snorted. However, he didn't believe that he was wrong this time. After he destroyed her Tranquil Cape earlier, he believed that she wouldn't have the time to deal with her subordinates.

"Did they manage to leave by themselves?!" Yu Hanglong thought for a moment before shaking his head slightly. He knew that her experts were mere Martial Intent Realm cultivators. Without the protection of a Martial Extermination Realm expert, they would definitely lose their way in the Cloud Water Gorge. When that happened, their fates were sealed. At best, only a few of them would be able to emerge from the Cloud Water Gorge alive.

"Whatever... I was planning to capture a few hostages... Let's just hope the other two have some gains..." Yu Hanglong glanced at the hidden tunnel before leaving.

Rumors had it that Hai Pei, the leader of the Youyan Stronghold, had a special treasure that could locate regions in the Cloud Water Gorge that wouldn't shift easily. That was also why she could establish a stronghold there.

However, that wasn't the reason why all of them were hunting her down. Duan Liufeng seemed to be seeking her out for revenge after she stole a Glass Daisy Chrysanthemum from his Jingxiu Peak. Feng Chenyi wanted to learn about a secret region. Yu Hanglong was the one who wanted to know her secret for establishing a stronghold in the Cloud Water Gorge.

Tossing his small sword in the air, it pointed in another direction and Yu Hanglong's figure disappeared the next second.

Unfortunately, the small sword didn't lead him far. After some time, it spun around aimlessly in mid air. Yu Hanglong stood under his tiny sword and waited patiently.

Not too much time passed when a small butterfly the size of a palm appeared beside his tiny sword.

"Oh? Brother Yu, did you manage to find those people from the Youyan Stronghold?" A voice emerged from the dense clouds nearby before Duan Liufeng's figure emerged. He seemed to be dragging someone behind him.

"Brother Duan, your Butterfly Trace Incense is really impressive." Yu Hanglong replied before approaching Duan Liufeng. "It's a shame those freaks of the Youyan Stronghold left before I could find them. I failed to... Huh?"

Seeing the figure behind Duan Liufeng, Yu Hanglong cried out in surprise, "Isn't this Fifth Brother Cen of the Eighteen Horsemen of the You Continent?! Brother Duan, where did you find him?"

...

After entering the Cloud Water Gorge, Shang Xia discovered that the heaven and earth qi in the air was much denser than the outside world.

He failed to find Shang Pei's tracks as he ventured deeper into the Cloud Water Gorge, but the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness reacted twice on his journey.

One had to know that after Shang Xia's slight restoration of the tablet, it seemed to become a little less responsive. It seemed to understand that it was no longer on the verge of breaking into pieces and unless it could discover a huge portion of world origin, it wouldn't bother Shang Xia.

Without question, Shang Xia ignored the callings of the Crimson Soul Tablet to look for Shang Pei.

Unfortunately, he was like a headless fly running around the Cloud Water Gorge. A greater half of the day had passed, but he couldn't even find traces of Shang Pei!

Just as Shang Xia was praying for luck to take over, the aura of a Martial Extermination Realm expert entered the range of his divine perception.

Chapter 457: Seal Talisman

Shang Xia's divine perception might be able to cover a radius of 1000 feet in the Cloud Water Gorge, but he knew that it would twist along with space.

Even though he felt someone's aura within the radius of his divine perception, he didn't know if they were actually 1000 feet away from him. However, that was the first clue he had gotten since entering the Cloud Water Gorge. He wasn't willing to give up any chances of finding Shang Pei and he started to move towards the person he felt.

As he ran in the direction of the person he felt, he no longer bothered if he was going to run off a cliff. All he wanted to do was to locate the person in the dense clouds.

After running for some time, Shang Xia realized that the feeling had disappeared. Despite unleashing his Irregular Steps with his Four Constellation Qi, he failed to discover any traces of the person he felt earlier.

Not willing to give up, Shang Xia forged onwards only to be disappointed by his lack of findings.

Wait... Distortion of divine perception?

The thought barely flashed through his mind when an idea formed in his head. He ran back to where he detected the presence. Naturally, due to the shifting of space in the Cloud Water Gorge, his surroundings changed slightly. He might not be at the exact location where he discovered the foreign aura earlier, but he was close enough.

Shang Xia felt that if he wasn't imagining things earlier, the person should be moving quickly through the Cloud Water Gorge. Since they were probably both Martial Extermination Realm experts, Shang Xia decided to retrace his steps to look for that person.

"I won't go towards where I felt it earlier. I'll try going to the left!" To be fair, Shang Xia's way of thinking wasn't logical at all. However, he wasn't planning to be. He had thrown everything to luck and he hoped that the person he detected wouldn't be moving too quickly.

After estimating the distance traveled by Martial Extermination Realm experts, Shang Xia ran 200 feet to the left from his original position before stopping. It came as no surprise that there was no one there.

Going back to his original position, Shang Xia went 300 feet to the right.

"Boom!" A massive shockwave tore through the air and it was quickly dissipated by the thick fog. However, Shang Xia was sure he wasn't hallucinating and he knew that there were people fighting nearby.

With his vigor invigorated, he started running in that direction. He didn't even bother hiding his aura as he ran as he wanted nothing more than to look at what was going on.

As he approached the battle, Shang Xia could hear the manly yells and beastly growls.

By the time he recognized the sounds, he had already entered the range of their battle.

Since he wasn't hiding his aura, he was discovered immediately. Since neither party knew if Shang Xia was part of their group, they attacked him indiscriminately.

Sweeping his divine sense over them, Shang Xia discovered that they weren't Shang Pei at all. With the frustration and annoyance of being unable to locate his aunt festering deep in his heart, he discovered two streams of attack flying towards him. Venting all his emotions at once, he released two separate Chaos Essence Lightning Palms in response.

A huge explosion ensued and reddish-gold lightning bolts filled the space before him. A young man who didn't look 30 and a withered tail was sent flying from the impact.

"Chaos Essence Lightning Palm!" The young man yelled as a trace of joy could be heard in his voice.

“It’s you?” Shang Xia finally recognized the young man and a smile slowly made its way onto his face. “Give me a moment while I deal with that creature...”

Even though he hit the young man with his Chaos Essence Lightning Palm earlier, Shang Xia knew that he wouldn’t die so easily. Turning around, he attacked the giant alligator who was fighting the young man earlier.

The giant alligator might seem pretty large, but it was a rank three beast at the end of the day. It knew it couldn’t put up the slightest resistance against Shang Xia.

However, the beast was a crafty one. Realizing that it wasn’t a match for the Martial Extermination Realm expert, it dived into the stream behind it. It was truly unfortunate that Shang Xia injured its tail earlier. Without its tail, it couldn’t swim as quickly as before.

Shang Xia leaped into the air and skimmed the top of the water as he ran after the alligator.

“Wait, don’t go into the water!” A soft voice came from behind, but the warning came a little too late.

Shang Xia slapped the surface of the stream, causing a jade-colored light to flash across the water. The water that was rushing happily within the stream turned into a block of ice and the giant alligator was no exception. Shang Xia finally unleashed his Winter Extermination Origin, the Freezing Soul Extermination Origin!

Flicking his wrist to reveal the Jade River Sword, Shang Xia sent a ray of sword light into the head of the frozen alligator. His Seven Laceration Sword Intent immediately turned the brains of the creature to mush.

Before anyone could react, he had already returned to shore.

The frozen stream didn’t remain that way for long. By the time Shang Xia landed back on shore, the ice shattered into countless pieces. The body of the alligator also became food for whatever creature that lived under the water.

Turning behind him, he reminded Ninth Brother Huang to avoid the stream in case he was attacked by the creatures beneath again.

Walking back to collect Ninth Brother Huang, Shang Xia went to look for a safe region to settle him down. After finding a place, Shang Xia placed the injured Ninth Brother Huang down only to see him staring at Shang Xia with a strange gaze.

“You can still fly in the Cloud Water Gorge?”

Shang Xia didn't bother replying as he stared at the heavily injured Ninth Brother Huang.

“You... You actually entered the Martial Extermination Realm... Oh, are Hai Min and Yuanyuan doing alright?” Ninth Brother Huang threw out another question that seemed a little questionable but served nicely to confuse Shang Xia.

Not knowing how to reply, Shang Xia could only change the topic forcefully. “You’re not bad yourself. You managed to develop your divine sense and enter the Martial Intent Realm. If you

hadn't, you would have long since succumbed to your wounds... Where's the rest? Where's my aunt?"

After the events that happened in the Changfeng City during the War of the Tongyou Mysterious World, Shang Pei's identity as a member of the Eighteen Horsemen of the You Continent was no longer a secret. After the battle, members who didn't betray the institution were actually given the choice to return to the You Continent and even the institution.

However, all of them made the same choice after hearing about Shang Pei's plan to establish herself in the Taihang Mountains.

Evidently, Ninth Brother Huang wasn't doing too well from his internal injuries. However, he couldn't help but chuckle bitterly in response to Shang Xia's question. "All of us chose to scatter throughout the Cloud Water Gorge... We don't know how many of us will be able to live and your aunt's situation isn't looking too good. We abandoned our hideout and left because she didn't return at our appointed time."

"What do you mean?" Shang Xia turned serious.

With a bitter expression on his face, Ninth Brother Huang continued, "We've been running around the Ji Continent in the past under the banner of the Eighteen Horsemen. We know that every cultivator's weakness is their companions or people they care about."

"Is that why all of you chose to run away individually? Are you afraid of being taken hostage and being used to threaten my aunt?" Shang Xia asked. No one could tell his true emotions from the way he spoke.

Because of his injuries, Ninth Brother Huang was finding it a little taxing to speak. However, he still gathered whatever energy he had left to reply, "The Cloud Water Gorge is an extremely strange place. Even if we left together, we will definitely be separated eventually. As long as those hunting down Chief Shang don't find us, we'll be alright!"

The confusion Shang Xia was feeling only grew stronger after hearing what Ninth Brother Huang said. "Since you'll be separated in the Cloud Water Gorge, how did you guys gather together from the start? Also, what's the principle behind your meetings at a specific place and time? That's not possible with whatever you're saying... I heard that you guys formed the Youyan Stronghold in the Cloud Water Gorge. Is establishing a stronghold a way to stop the strange spatial shifts in this place?"

Thinking for a second, Ninth Brother Huang eventually explained, "Chief Shang has a special treasure that resembles a seal. None of us knows how she got it but that's how she managed to overcome the strangeness of this place. Of course, the treasure also restricted the area of our movements. We need to obtain a talisman stamped with her seal if we wish to venture further away and it would only remain effective for some time."

"So... All of you were able to gather together because of that seal... Is that why you guys scattered eventually?" Shang Xia kind of understood what was going on with his explanation.

Nodding slightly, Ninth Brother Huang continued, "Something like that. However, we didn't fully exhaust the power of our seals. As bandits who experienced tons of dangerous situations back in our time, all of us felt that something was wrong and decided to leave early."

The words 'seal talisman' caused Shang Xia's heart to tremble slightly, but it clearly wasn't the time to think about talismans.

"So that's what happened..." Shang Xia nodded slightly. He quickly continued, "How should I go around looking for her then?"

"You can use this." Ninth Brother Huang handed over a special talisman that had another special seal stamped on it.

A frown formed on his face as he inspected the talisman. "Didn't you say that the power contained within it was exhausted?"

"After the power in the talisman is exhausted, we won't be able to prevent the space around us from shifting. However, the seal talisman has some sort of connection to the main seal with Chief Shang. It will react and point you in her direction once you get close enough." Ninth Brother Huang explained.

Shang Xia gasped in shock. "Is this why you guys dared to venture off into the Cloud Water Gorge yourselves?"

Ninth Brother Huang nodded and sighed, "However, it's a little difficult for our seal talismans to detect Chief Shang's main seal. It would be easier for her to look for us..."

"I have one last question." Shang Xia asked.

"What is it?" Ninth Brother Huang was slightly taken aback by his abrupt question.

"How long can you last in the Cloud Water Gorge in your current state?"

"Huh?" Ninth Brother Huang raised both eyebrows in shock.

"What else do you think we've been having such a long conversation? I'm trying to give you more time to restore your inner qi here. Are you hoping that I'll bring you along while trying to locate Shang Pei? Don't you know that you'll just be a liability in a battle of that scale?"

Chapter 458: Self Annihilation

After Ninth Brother Huang was sneak attacked by the alligator earlier, he suffered heavy internal injuries. Right after that, he had to take on another Chaos Essence Lightning Palm from Shang Xia.

Even though Shang Xia looked like he was having a nice chat with Ninth Brother Huang after saving him, he had been examining Ninth Brother Huang's injuries carefully. Only when he was sure the fellow's foundations weren't damaged, Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief. He brought out a tiny flask of rank three Hundred Flower Spiritual Wine and a rank three talisman he crafted casually before handing them to Ninth Brother Huang.

The main use of the Hundred Flower wine was to assist in one's cultivation, but it wasn't exactly useless when used as a recovery tool. The flask of wine Shang Xia gave him could allow him to recover a certain portion of his fighting strength. With a rank three talisman in hand, he would be able to escape even if he ran into cultivators at the same level.

Holding the seal talisman in his hand, Shang Xia knew that he wouldn't have to run around the Cloud Water Gorge like a headless fly any longer. At the very least, he would be able to detect Shang Pei if she was nearby.

Of course, finding Shang Pei's seal with the seal talisman was like looking for a needle in a haystack. He would have to explore the massive Cloud Water Gorge while waiting for his seal talisman to respond. It wasn't going to be easy, but at least he would know when he finally located Shang Pei.

...

After searching around for slightly more than 2 hours, Shang Xia discovered that his luck wasn't as bad as before. He could feel a faint sense of attraction when he filled the seal talisman with a strand of inner qi.

With his spirits lifted, he rushed in the direction with renewed vigor.

Running in that direction, Shang Xia could feel the distance between them increasing slightly, but Shang Xia didn't hesitate to continue his chase.

Feeling the signs of attraction, Shang Xia continued to make his way into the depths of the Cloud Water Gorge.

The speed at which it was moving away from him grew slower. It was as though Shang Pei was stopping to rest while running away. However, it couldn't be denied that she was traveling away from him.

There was no way she would be moving away from him twice unintentionally. It was extremely likely that she had felt the presence of the seal talisman and she didn't wish for the user to find her.

Only members of the Youyan Stronghold had the seal talisman, and in order not to drag them into the mess, Shang Pei chose not to meet up with them. She didn't wish for them to face the wrath of the Martial Extermination Realm experts hunting her down.

Realizing her intentions, Shang Xia stopped running in her direction immediately.

...

Shang Pei, who had felt the presence of the seal talisman, traveled deeper into the Cloud Water Gorge so that they wouldn't be able to catch up to her. Every time she ran in the opposite direction, she would exert a lot of energy traveling through the dense fog.

Her brotherhood with her fellow members of the Eighteen Horsemen of the You Continent held indescribable importance in her heart. She didn't wish to implicate them in whatever shitstorm was going to unfold when the Martial Extermination Realm experts clashed.

She wouldn't regret her decision no matter what.

As she was moving away from the seal talisman that was moving in her direction, she ran into a great opportunity...

...

Sucking in a deep breath, a four colored light emerged from Shang Xia's body and surrounded him. When he was ready, he flew quickly in the direction of Shang Pei's seal and a massive whirlwind was swept up because of his actions. A massive shockwave tore through his surroundings as he flew across the land. The fog where he traveled was blown away, but it didn't take long for dense fog to return.

Shang Xia discovered that due to the suppression of the weird clouds in the Cloud Water Gorge, the fastest he could travel while ensuring his personal safety was at a speed comparable to a Martial Intent Realm cultivator unleashing their movement art. That was the speed at which he was traveling earlier, and that was probably the reason Shang Pei had been avoiding him. Now that the distance between them wasn't increasing anymore, Shang Xia felt that he had to catch up to her no matter what. He might not know what was going on or why she stopped, but it was the best chance he was going to get.

What if he could show her he wasn't one of the members of the Youyan Stronghold?

Disregarding the consumption of his Four Constellation Qi that seemed stronger than the inner qi of other Martial Extermination Realm experts, Shang Xia could achieve temporary flight! With the speed he was displaying, it was possible Shang Pei might understand that the person coming to help her was another Martial Extermination Realm expert.

...

It didn't matter if it was Duan Liufeng, Yu Hanglong, or Feng Chenyi. All three of them had been underestimating Shang Pei's strength all along.

It was especially so after Feng Chenyi brought out her Hexagonal Lantern and Yu Hanglong shredded her Tranquil Cape. All of them felt that she had lost her greatest advantage against them.

That was precisely the reason they had the guts to split up to look for her. As Feng Chenyi and Duan Liufeng went to hunt her down, Yu Hanglong went off to do something else. Because he destroyed her Tranquil Cape earlier, he managed to capture a trace of her aura. He managed to use it to locate the hideout of the other members of the Youyan Stronghold. His intention was to capture them all in order to force her to submit, but he arrived a little too late. The members of the Youyan Stronghold had already left.

Who would have thought that Duan Liufeng would be able to capture one of the members of the Youyan Stronghold while hunting down Shang Pei?

The two of them met up with each other, but they soon discovered that Feng Chenyi, the cultivator with a mysterious background, had been sneak attacked by Shang Pei. If not for the fact that they arrived in the nick of time, the Hexagonal Lantern that provided them with the largest advantage against Shang Pei in the Cloud Water Gorge would have been destroyed.

When they arrived to save her, the battle was at its peak and Yu Hanglong launched a ferocious offensive to save Feng Chenyi. If not for the fact that Shang Pei reacted quickly, she would probably suffer under the assault. Her attempt to take one of them out before the others arrived failed!

Seeing as she was about to force them all back and escape, Duan Liufeng roared, “Hai Pei, why don’t you take a look at this?”

Slamming a figure down in mid air, the seal that was placed on him disappeared. The figure grunted in pain.

Hai Pei’s movements froze and she stared at the figure who rolled to Feng Chenyi and Yu Hanglong’s feet.

Duan Liufeng saw Shang Pei’s figure fading into the fog behind, but she didn’t disappear fully. They locked onto her presence when Duan Liufeng yelled, “Hai Pei, are you going to abandon your comrade? If you dare to leave, I’ll kill him immediately.”

Duan Liufeng approached Yu Hanglong and nodded at the two of them to give them a signal.

Yu Hanlong maintained his expressionless face while Feng Chenyi’s failed to hide her fury after being sneak attacked. She was clearly still angry at being suppressed by Shang Pei whose cultivation level was lower than herself.

“Fourth Brother Zeng, how are you?” Shang Pei didn’t answer Duan Liufeng and the others immediately. Instead, she addressed the figure on the ground.

Shang Pei’s voice was hoarse, and it seemed to ring in all directions.

Fourth Brother Zeng knew exactly what situation he was in now that he had been captured. Without caring about his injuries, he yelled, “I’m alright! Chief, you don’t have to worry about me! Leave!”

“Hmph, you’re still so stubborn when you’re looking at the gates of hell...” Duan Liufeng’s expression sank and he kicked Fourth Brother Zeng in the stomach. As Fourth Brother Zeng doubled over in pain, Duan Liufeng stared at the dense fog in front of him and growled, “Hai Pei, we might hate each other, but it hasn’t reached the point where we have to kill you. Why don’t we start talking terms?”

After a moment, her voice rang through the air. “What do you want?”

“Alright.” The corners of Duan Liufeng’s lips curled upwards and he looked at the other two. “Firstly, hand over your rank four advancement formula.” Next, Brother Yu is interested in your secret of establishing the Youyan Stronghold in the Cloud Water Gorge. Lastly, we heard that you hold the key to enter a secret region. Hand them all over and we’ll promise not to kill your fellow cultivator. We’ll leave the Cloud Water Gorge as long as you fulfill your promise and we won’t mess with you in the future.”

Duan Liufeng eagerly awaited Shang Pei’s reply.

After waiting for some time, they realized that they couldn’t feel her presence any longer! They were even suspecting that she had run away.

The more he thought about it, the more Duan Liufeng thought that something was wrong. Feeling a sense of irritation, he sneered, “You really deserve your reputation as the Eighteen Horsemen of the You Continent... Brotherhood means nothing to you...”

Before Duan Liufeng could finish speaking, he heard several coughs coming from Fourth Brother Zeng.

Feng Chenyi's expression changed slightly and she cried, "Not good, he wants to kill himself!"

Fourth Brother Zeng spat out a mouthful of blood and he croaked using his last bit of energy, "Don't... They're lying..."

Duan Liufeng tried to save Fourth Brother Zeng by pouring his inner qi into the lower-leveled cultivator. Unfortunately, Fourth Brother Zeng had detonated his dantian. There was no saving him now.

No one thought that he would react so decisively. None of the 3 Martial Extermination Realm experts thought that he would choose to sacrifice himself to not be used to threaten the leader of the Youyan Stronghold...

"Mother f..." Duan Liufeng wanted to destroy Fourth Brother Zeng's corpse in a fit of rage, but he was interrupted by Yu Hanglong.

"Be careful!" Yu Hanglong released a sword light that clashed with a phantom spear that was coming from the void. A loud blast filled the air.

Duan Liufeng was caught off guard and he stumbled backwards from the impact. Fortunately for him, the shockwave wasn't strong enough to injure someone at his level.

Kicking the body on the ground, he lashed his whip out at the dense fog where Shang Pei was hiding.

Chapter 459: First Blood - Feng Chenyi

Duan Liufeng, Yu Hanglong, and Feng Chenyi weren't weak by any means. None of the 3 had cultivation bases lower than Shang Pei.

However, Shang Pei was confident of defeating any one of them in a solo battle in the Cloud Water Gorge. If not for Yu Hanglong's interference, Shang Pei was extremely confident that she could heavily injure him when he was trying to destroy Fourth Brother Zeng's corpse.

It was a shame they had quick reactions.

When Fourth Brother Zeng detonated his dantian earlier and sacrificed himself, Duan Liufeng wasn't the only one who was flustered by the loss of his bargaining chip. Shang Pei nearly lost her sense of reasoning and wanted nothing more than to charge out there to take revenge on his behalf.

Of the remaining members of the Eighteen Horsemen of the You Continent who followed her to the Taihang Mountains, Fourth Brother Zeng felt the most distant. Even so, he resolutely detonated his dantian after realizing he was used as bait.

Guilt and rage overwhelmed Shang Pei at that instant. She felt that she had to do something in his honor. That was why she sent out the final strike earlier.

The moment she missed, her position was revealed. The three of them quickly surrounded her and it wouldn't be easy to escape this time.

If not for the fact that they wanted to obtain her valuables and knowledge, the three of them would have ended the battle a long time ago.

Facing the relentless attack of 3 Martial Extermination Realm experts, Shang Pei didn't lose her composure. She had gone through countless life-or-death situations while roaming the Ji Continent in the past and her willpower wasn't something ordinary experts could compare to. Even at such a disadvantage, Shang Pei was able to grit her teeth while resisting the best she could. She was looking for a chance to break through their encirclement the moment they made a mistake.

The seal she carried on her reacted once again while she was fighting, causing her heart to sink. It seemed to be traveling in her direction at a terrifying speed, but Shang Pei didn't have time to think about how fast it was. She tried desperately to break through the encirclement as she dragged the battle away from the direction of the seal talisman.

She might not know who among the members of the Youyan Stronghold was traveling in her direction, but she knew that she couldn't place their lives at risk.

She barely increased the distance a little but before she could heave a sigh of relief, she felt the presence of the seal talisman once again. Without a doubt, the person holding the seal talisman was looking for her.

Shang Pei couldn't help but curse in her heart. She wondered if the person who was running towards her had a death wish. Sixth Sister Gu, you fool, this better not be you!

She tried to increase the distance between them with the implied meaning to not look for her, but the pressure coming from their combined assault increased once again. It became even more difficult for her to pull the battlefield in her desired direction.

Even so, she didn't stop trying.

Her actions seemed a little unnatural but in the eyes of Duan Liufeng and the others, she was merely struggling against the inevitable.

Shang Pei desperately defended herself when she realized that something was wrong. From the reaction her seal had towards the seal talisman, the person rushing in her direction was moving too damn quickly.

This... This isn't a speed achievable by Martial Intent Realm cultivators! It... It has to be a Martial Extermination Realm expert!

To get their hands on a seal talisman from the members of the Youyan Stronghold... Is that expert coming to help me?

Shang Pei's heart trembled lightly. As a foreign cultivator to the Sixth Pass of the Taihang Mountains, she didn't manage to form great relationships with the experts who had already established themselves there. That was also one of the reasons she chose to settle down in the Cloud Water Gorge.

Now that reinforcements were coming, she felt that it had to be someone unrelated to the Sixth Pass! She racked her brain to think of who it could possibly be when a name flashed through her mind.

She recently called for Shang Xia to meet her in the Sixth Pass, and if he was the newcomer, that would mean that he had entered the Martial Extermination Realm!

Of course, it was possible that the person approaching was someone who had a grudge against her. However, her situation couldn't be any worse. Even if another enemy appeared, the situation wouldn't change much.

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As she continued to fight back, a multitude of thoughts ran through her mind. The more she thought about it, the more likely it became for the newcomer to be Shang Xia. After all, he seemed to be flying towards her at a terrifying speed. There was only one reason for anyone to act so recklessly. They were probably allies who posed no threat to each other.

If an enemy obtained the seal talisman and used it to track Shang Pei down, they would definitely approach cautiously so as not to fall into a trap she set up.

With the distance between them closing rapidly, Shang Xia could detect the battle with his divine perception. Increasing his speed, he not only wanted to catch her opponents off guard. He also wanted her to act according to the situation. It would be great if they could cooperate seamlessly to deal with the 3.

No matter what, there were 3 of them. Shang Xia and Shang Pei would be outnumbered if they were to engage in an all-out confrontation.

Only by cooperating with each other would they be able to bring out the greatest effects of Shang Xia's arrival.

After Shang Pei concluded the identity of the newcomer, a wave of relief swept through her heart. She had seen Shang Xia in action before and she knew how he killed a Martial Extermination Realm expert when he was only in the Martial Intent Realm. She was confident in his abilities now that he had broken through.

Even though excitement was starting to fill her heart, there was one more thing Shang Pei couldn't understand. It was why Shang Xia wasn't restrained in the Cloud Water Gorge.

Despite the question floating about in her mind, she didn't have time to worry about it as he was arriving soon.

Under Duan Liufeng, Feng Chanyi, and Yu Hanglong's shocked gaze, Shang Pei changed her approach. No longer trying to break out of the encirclement, Shang Pei started a ferocious counterattack.

She changed her fighting style without warning, catching them off guard. Afraid that she was attacking in a fit of desperation, they quickly lessened the pressure on her. Yu Hanglong and Duan Liufeng saw a chance to critically injure her but chose to give up at the last second. They didn't wish for her to die before giving up all her secrets!

Instead of fighting all 3, Shang Pei focused her attention on Feng Chenyi and unleashed a devastating offensive against her.

She no longer bothered defending herself as she unleashed the full might of the Shang Clan's Spear Art. It was the same technique Shang Bo had created but it underwent some modifications by Shang Bo and Kou Chongxue before being passed down to the rest of the Shang Clan.

Their modifications allowed the original spear art developed by Shang Bo to reach a whole new level of complexity.

Facing Shang Pei's maniacal assault, Duan Liufeng quickly ran beside Feng Chenyi to share the pressure. Yu Hanglong leaped to the other side in order to prevent her from escaping.

At the moment, the person who was suffering the most was Feng Chenyi, and she cut a really sorry figure.

"Why are you guys acting like a wuss? As long as she's still breathing. She'll be able to tell us everything we want to know..." Feng Chenyi snapped.

However, all of them seem to detect a powerful aura at the same time. A foreign expert entered the range of their divine perception and it didn't bother concealing itself as he charged straight for them.

"Who are you?" Duan Liufeng roared in angrily. He didn't want anyone to interfere with their business now that they were at the critical stage of taking down the leader of the Youyan Stronghold, but he didn't want to cause any misunderstandings either.

The only reply he received was a blinding speck of light that emerged barely 300 feet away. The dense fog did nothing to hide its presence.

"Not good, the newcomer wields a spear! The two of them are on the same side!" Yu Hanglong roared. A sword light fell from the void towards Shang Pei as he decided to take her out before dealing with the newcomer.

Duan Liufeng, who had finally realized that things were going really wrong, tried to stop the spear light headed his way.

Shang Pei, who was unleashing an endless offensive against Feng Chenyi, turned around much to their surprise. Her spear slammed heavily into the sword light Yu Hanglong summoned and a loud blast filled the air.

The only person among them who couldn't react appropriately was Feng Chenyi. She had been locked in bitter combat with Shang Pei earlier and she was extremely sensitive to any changes Shang Pei made. She had been on the defensive the whole time and now that Shang Pei had ditched her to deal with Yu Hanglong's attack, she was temporarily stunned by the sudden change in the situation.

As rage filled her heart, she wanted to scream at Shang Pei for messing with her. However, Duan Liufeng's frightened cry brought her back to reality.

"Rank four talisman!"

By the time the blinding speck of light appeared in the fog, it was too late. Duan Liufeng was prepared to take on another spear wielder after hearing Yu Hanglong's yell, but he discovered that

the speck of blinding light had turned into a massive golden ball of fire. It tore through the dense fog as it shot straight for him.

Surprisingly, the element of fire greatly restrained Duan Liufeng's extermination origins. His expression turned serious and he knew he couldn't be careless.

Feng Chenyi never expected that they would be caught off guard despite holding the advantage. She faltered slightly when facing the danger coming from behind.

By the time she turned around to face the threat, it was a little too late.

Her Hexagonal Lantern emitted rays of brilliant light as the tiny flame flickering within turned into a massive ball of fire. Two giant suns could be seen in the middle of the Cloud Water Gorge at the moment.

In such a high-level battle, the victor was usually determined in a single second.

After tossing out his talisman, Shang Xia changed his angle of attack. Circulating his extermination origins, Shang Xia released his ninth move, Piercing Sun.

As his spear soared through the air, the 'mini sun' created by the flame in Feng Chenyi's Hexagonal Lantern was torn to bits. Her miserable cry came soon after. The dense fog that had been blown away by the appearance of the fireball quickly returned to engulf the area.

Even though an attack at that level struck Feng Chenyi, Shang Xia heard sounds of cracking coming from the space beside her. Her figure disappeared, only to reappear several hundred feet away from her original position. Ignoring her companions, she turned to flee.

Feng Chenyi might be able to escape the detection range of any ordinary Martial Extermination Realm expert in the Cloud Water Gorge, but she seemed to have run out of luck. Shang Xia was able to detect anything within a 1000 feet radius around him!

Tilting his body to the side, Shang Xia grabbed his Scarlet Star Spear before releasing a Void Evasion Spear into the void.

Even though he was using rank three techniques, his cultivation base was at the Four Constellation Realm. Ordinary rank three techniques would be able to threaten cultivators in the same realm, but Shang Xia wasn't using any ordinary techniques! He was using his Nine Providence Spear, and Feng Chenyi ate the attack before she had time to defend herself.

A wretched cry tore through the air as a giant spear created from Shang Xia's Four Seasons Extermination Origins tore a bloody hole through her chest. The destructive might quickly destroyed whatever was left of her life force.

Chapter 460: Killing Yu Hanglong Next

Everyone barely had time to blink since Shang Xia entered the range of their divine perception. In a short amount of time, Feng Chenyi was killed, immediately changing the situation on the battlefield.

Shang Xia predicted everything that would happen the moment he emerged. He anticipated how Feng Chenyi would react and took into account all possibilities before appearing. He was also extremely confident that Shang Pei's actions perfectly complemented his actions. Throwing out his

rank four talisman to hold Duan Liufeng back, Shang Xia circulated his explosive Four Constellation Qi to unleash the exquisite strike.

Naturally, releasing such a powerful attack came at a price. Shang Xia's divine perception and aura experienced wild fluctuations. He was comparable to a third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert when he released the strike earlier, but due to the expenditure, he couldn't maintain his frightening strength.

Even so, his combat abilities remained in the realm of Martial Extermination Realm experts.

With the user of the Hexagonal Lantern dead, the fog started to close in. The advantage Yu Hanglong and Duan Liufeng had disappeared quickly.

Only after the death of Feng Chenyi did Duan Liufeng manage to finally nullify Shang Xia's Golden Sun Inferno Talisman. After feeling Feng Chenyi's aura fading away, Duan Liufeng discovered that he used up a lot of inner qi in order to stop Shang Xia's talisman from injuring him severely. A feeling of light-headedness started to overwhelm him. He quickly understood that the situation had changed and they were royally fucked.

Earlier, they failed to take down the leader of the Youyan Stronghold despite fighting her three-on-one. Her backup arrived, and this didn't seem to be ordinary backup. The expert who came to assist her displayed terrifying strength by killing one of them not too long after arriving. Now that Yu Hanglong and Duan Liufeng were left, they weren't confident in their abilities to fight their two opponents.

The Taihang Swordsman, Yu Hanglong, also reached the same conclusion.

"Master Duan, we won't be able to get what we want today. We'll make our own retreat!" Yu Hanglong's voice barely left his lips when he drew a horizontal line in the void before him. A frightening wave of sword qi tore through the dense fog to force Shang Pei back.

"Don't let them escape!" Shang Pei roared. Going all out, she wanted to stop Yu Hanglong from running away even if it meant that she had to suffer a lot of injuries.

"You crazy bitch!" Yu Hanglong cursed angrily, but facing her ferocious assault, he couldn't turn to run. He could only continue to fight.

As the battle dragged on, Yu Hanglong felt the pressure on him increasing and he quickly changed his tune. "Master Duan, Hai Pei is going crazy! Please help me to get rid of her so we can break out of this damned ambush!"

Despite his loud yell, Duan Liufeng's reply never came. Yu Hanglong maintained the last bit of hope in his heart that his companion would help him out at the last second, but he couldn't feel the slightest fluctuation of heaven and earth qi even after some time.

The master of the Jingxiu Peak, the respected Duan Liufeng, ran away!

As the fog around them rose and fell as the battle raged on. Shang Xia locked on to Yu Hanglong's aura within the chaos and accurately sent a Celestial Disruption Spear into the mix. A multitude of spear lights surrounded Yu Hanglong, giving Shang Pei a chance to catch her breath.

At that moment, Shang Pei seemed to have lost control of her emotions from the death of Fourth Brother Zeng. When Shang Xia's spear light appeared, she wasn't appreciative at all. Instead, she snapped at him, "Why did you let Duan Liufeng get away?!"

Noticing the strange energy fluctuation around Shang Pei, Shang Xia could tell that she was on the verge of experiencing cultivation deviation. He quickly sent a voice transmission to her with his divine perception. "Third Aunt, we'll kill Yu Hanglong before dealing with Duan Liufeng!"

With a torrential wave of energy entering her mind along with Shang Xia's divine perception voice transmission, her clarity soon returned.

That was one of Shang Xia's secret techniques he learned after comprehending the Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter. He was able to attack his opponent's mind directly, but it could also act as a life saving method. When he allowed Shang Pei to calm down earlier, he took away the threat of experiencing cultivation deviation.

After calming down, she realized that she was acting too hastily earlier. If they split up earlier, they might not be able to kill any one of them.

Not to mention the fact that she was an arrow at the end of its flight. Even if she went all out and risked her life, she might not be Yu Hanglong's opponent. It would be great if she managed to stay alive when fighting him alone.

Shang Xia wasn't doing too well either. After his initial burst, he wasn't able to display the same fighting strength in a short period of time. As such, it was a much better choice to work together to kill one of the two before hunting down the other.

Shang Xia didn't make a random choice to kill Yu Hanglong instead of Duan Liufeng. He did so because he had no choice!

During the exchange earlier, he determined that Duan Liufeng was the weaker of the two. As such, Shang Xia wanted to rally Shang Pei to get the easy kill before moving on to Yu Hanglong. He didn't expect Duan Liufeng to be such a decisive wuss. After hearing Yu Hanglong's yell, he didn't hesitate to flee.

Shang Xia couldn't chase too far either. As he remained close to the battle between Shang Pei and Yu Hanglong, Duan Liufeng quickly left the range of his divine perception. Quickly making up his mind, Shang Xia returned to help Shang Pei.

With Shang Xia entering the battle, Shang Pei was finally able to catch her breath and calm down. He took the pressure away from the battle as she composed her rampaging extermination origin. While doing that, she quickly raised her vigilance towards her surroundings as she reminded Shang Xia softly, "Be careful! Duan Liufeng might return to catch us off guard."

A smile appeared on Shang Xia's face as he fought. "Aunt Pei, relax. He really ran away."

Shang Xia didn't say that blindly. Also, he didn't wish to brag, but his divine perception could reach much further than Martial Extermination Realm experts of the same level. He would be able to detect a sneak attack if Duan Liufeng returned.

After he was done, he turned his attention back to Yu Hanglong and chuckled, "Brother Yu, do you think he'll come back and save you?"

Yu Hanglong's expression was as ugly as could be. When he heard the mockery hidden in Shang Xia's voice, he gnashed his teeth and growled, "I don't care about that. I'm more interested in your identities!"

Shang Xia snorted in contempt. He wouldn't bother giving Yu Hanglong a proper reply as he continued to suppress the Taihang Swordsman with his exquisite spear art.

He hadn't trained in any rank four martial arts, but the Shang Clan's inheritance wasn't to be trifled with.

It was especially so when he unleashed his seventh, eighth, and ninth moves. When Shang Xia developed those moves, he was able to threaten a Martial Extermination Realm expert when he was merely at the peak of the Martial Intent Realm. Those moves could even be said to be comparable to ordinary rank four martial arts.

Along with his third martial intent, the Divine Killing Spear, Shang Xia's combat prowess was no joke. Even though he could only fight with the strength of an early-stage Martial Extermination Realm expert, it was enough to hold his own against an experienced cultivator like Yu Hanglong. It was especially so when his third martial intent had the ability to target one's divine perception directly. After he entered the Four Constellation Realm and deepened his understanding of his Man and Heaven Synergy Chapter, he started to get a feel for which direction he should start developing his rank four martial arts.

It also went without saying that the development of any technique required a platform of practice. Yu Hanglong couldn't be a better candidate for Shang Xia's whetstone.

The only thing Shang Xia wasn't satisfied with was the strange feeling of incompatibility between his Four Constellation Qi, his spear, and the last three moves of his Nine Providence Spear.

Even though the might of the moves grew along with his cultivation level, Shang Xia felt a little uncomfortable when using them. The feeling was unlike the time he was in the Martial Intent Realm where his spear flowed according to his will.

He had a feeling his Four Constellation Qi wasn't truly suited for using spear arts and that meant that it would be nearly impossible for him to walk the same path as his grandfather. Shang Bo created his technique after comprehending 7 moves of the Providence Spear Art, and Shang Xia comprehended 9. Even then, he might not be able to develop his rank four martial arts with his Nine Providence Spear as his foundation.

Yu Hanglong was no newbie cultivator. He had tens of years of experience roaming the Taihang Mountains and he could easily tell that Shang Xia wasn't comfortable using his techniques.

The flames of hope rose in his heart as he tried to look for an opportunity to break through Shang Xia's offensive. Unfortunately, it was much harder than he had thought as the youngster before him was much stronger than he expected.

It was especially so when the youngster grasped a way to attack his divine perception directly. Every time he tried to escape, his plans would be disrupted by a sudden blow to his divine perception.

Only after several failed attempts did Yu Hanglong realize what Shang Xia was doing. The blows to his divine perception seemed to grow stronger and stronger, and his opponent was obviously using him to train himself.

The moment his technique takes form... Shit! I can't drag this out anymore.

Yu Hanglong knew that it was impossible for him to leave unscathed. In order to escape from the two Martial Extermination Realm experts before him, he would have to pay a heavy price.

With his mind made up, Yu Hanglong's sword started to dance in mid air as the void started to shatter...

"Bear's Sword!"

The void shattered in a tyrannical manner as sword qi filled the air. A ray of sword qi that contained raw power sailed through the air.

Shang Xia was naturally unfazed. He unleashed his Startling Moon Spear as the spatial fractures in the air became even more chaotic. After that, he sent a Piercing Sun Spear straight at the incoming sword. No matter what, he decided to break Yu Hanglong's sword art before trying anything else.

Yu Hanglong didn't stop there. After releasing his Bear's Sword, he followed up with another move.

"Tiger's Sword!"

Another terrifying strand of sword qi emerged to greet Shang Xia's Piercing Sun Spear. As they clashed in mid air, they quickly nullified each other.

Yu Hanglong acted the same way Shang Pei did earlier. He went all out in an attempt to look for a gap in Shang Xia's offensive.

"He's trying to escape!" Shang Pei saw through his intentions and yelled to remind Shang Xia. She might not have suppressed her internal injuries, but she leaped into action. She raised her spear and released a barrage of attacks in Yu Hanglong's direction.

Obviously, Shang Xia understood that he couldn't retreat even the slightest bit at that moment. His Scarlet Star Spear flashed through the air like an arc of lightning as he circulated his inner qi to its limit. A four colored extermination light appeared in the air and formed a giant spear phantom that shot at Yu Hanglong to stop him.

Shang Xia didn't stop there. He slammed his divine perception into Yu Hanglong.

"Dragon's Sword!" Yu Hanglong could feel danger closing in on him and he had no choice but to release the strongest of his moves.

Like a giant dragon that swept through the lands, a sword qi that contained a terrifying might emerged from the tip of Yu Hanglong's blade. He leaped into the air and rose into the skies while riding on the dragon-like sword qi.

The Cloud Water Gorge seemed to possess the ability to suppress flight, but it couldn't do a thing to the sword qi that emerged.

With the assistance of his sword qi, Yu Hanglong managed to break through the encirclement.

“Hahaha!” As he shot through the air, Yu Hanglong imagined the helpless look in their eyes. He heaved a sigh of relief and roared with laughter, “Fellow cultivators, we’ll meet again! I won’t forget what happened today and you better... What? Oh no! Argh!”

Before he could finish speaking, he felt as though someone had driven a burning spike into his sea of consciousness.

He managed to shake the feeling off eventually, and his figure trembled unsteadily in the air. Fortunately, he didn’t fall off his sword qi and his escape attempt wasn’t really affected.

When he finally cleared his mind, he was greeted with an unbelievable scene. Shang Xia rose into the air with the Scarlet Star Spear in his hand. A four colored extermination light surrounded him as his figure shot through the air to arrive in front of Yu Hanglong. He didn’t waste any time. The moment he arrived before Yu Hanglong, Shang Xia unleashed his third martial intent, the Divine Killing Spear!

Question marks filled Yu Hanglong’s mind.

How can he fly?!

How can he locate me so accurately a thousand feet away?!

How... How did he overcome my Dragon’s Sword?!

Those questions remained in his mind as he fell slowly towards the ground below. Shang Xia’s sneer rang in his mind as he fell. “Dragon’s Sword? You just copied the geography of the Taihang Mountains when coming up with that move. No matter how majestic it might seem, the Taihang Mountains is limited by the Eight Passes at the end of the day.”