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Shang Xia managed to maintain the special state he was in for close to 15 days.

In the days that passed, Shang Xia used 6 pieces of rank four talisman papers to successfully craft 3 rank four talismans.

He managed to achieve a 50 percent success rate, but it was different from the time he did the same in the Shang Clan.

Back in the Shang Clan, Shang Xia managed to achieve such a high success rate because he obtained the high-grade Purple Bamboo Brush. Back then, he crafted two pieces of Golden Sun Inferno Talismans and one Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman.

Those were talismans he had crafted before.

Now, with the exception of the Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman, Shang Xia managed to craft one Space Shattering Golden Blade Talisman and another Snow Spike Ice Radiance Talisman.

What he did was much more difficult!

Finally, when the miraculous feeling disappeared, Shang Xia felt a wave of lethargy wash over him. He needed some time to restore himself to his peak state and he quickly lit up a stick of Idleness Incense.

According to the Talisman Hall, it was a new rank three incense they managed to create. It was useful for restoring and rejuvenating one's divine perception. The effects might not be as pronounced for someone like Shang Xia who had an exceptional amount of divine perception, but it was useful nonetheless. It allowed him to quickly enter his slumber.

At that moment, all Shang Xia wanted to do was to take a good rest.

Just like that, Shang Xia slept for 2 straight days and nights. By the time he woke, he felt completely refreshed. The divine perception he exhausted while crafting talismans was close to fully recovered.

Shang Xia wouldn't start crafting talismans immediately. He would only resume after returning to his peak state.

Stopping the restrictions that filled his secret chamber, Shang Xia once again emerged to enjoy the view of the Tongyou Mysterious World.

He circulated his Four Seasons Samsara Art as he walked out and continued his recovery process.

When he had finally completed one cycle of his inner qi circulation, Shang Xia discovered that the time he required was greatly reduced.

One had to know that crafting talismans was the only thing that could come between Shang Xia and his cultivation. He thought that his continuous attempt to craft talismans would affect his cultivation a little, but he didn't think that he would actually improve slightly!

That caused Shang Xia to think a little deeper into the matter. Could crafting talismans actually cause his cultivation to improve?

Back when he was only a rank three Talisman Master, Shang Xia's divine sense was extremely strong and he was able to craft rank three talismans without rest for several days. Of course, there was a limit to how much he could do. He required close to 4 days to complete one talisman.

After entering the Martial Extermination Realm, the difficulty of crafting talismans went up and he would require 7 days to craft a single talisman. Thanks to his superior cultivation method, he could reduce his inner qi consumption and complete one talisman in 6 short days.

Now that he entered the Tongyou Mysterious World, the rich heaven and earth qi allowed him to recover even faster.

With the multitude of factors added together, Shang Xia could maintain his terrifying pace of crafting one rank four talisman every five days!

That was the absolute peak state he could be in and unless he was able to maintain a 100 percent success rate, he would never be able to keep himself in that perfect state forever.

That was why Shang Xia would use 6 pieces of rank four talisman paper in 15 days in the first place while failing several times.

After a long 5 day break, Shang Xia finally resumed on the 21st day after he crafted his first Space Shattering Golden Blade Talisman.

Luckily, the break he took wasn't completely void of good news. The Talisman Hall sent over another batch of liquid rank three ink and even though they weren't as useful as the hardened batch he used previously, they were still rank three ink nonetheless. Ink

that had been left in the liquid form couldn't be kept as long, but Shang Xia wasn't exactly in a position to choose the form of ink they gave him currently.

Choosing a new type of talisman called the Mist Concealment Dissipation Talisman, Shang Xia decided to start on it. It was just a fancy concealment talisman used by Martial Extermination Realm experts at the end of the day but was still considered pretty useful. It had the ability to hide one's divine perception, and Shang Xia wondered if he would be able to detect when someone used the talisman in his detection range. After all, his divine perception used to be stronger than others.

By the time he started the crafting process again, Shang Xia had already forgotten the miraculous state he had been in previously. Luckily, the experience and lessons he had when he succeeded before stayed with him. His abilities to craft talismans continued to improve.

That might be the case, but Shang Xia failed not too long after he started crafting the Mist Concealment Dissipation Talisman. He had been working on it for half a day before he failed. It was true that the longer one worked on the talisman before failing, the greater their loss, but it was a step in the direction of success.

Being able to reach that point alone was evidence that Shang Xia's ability to craft rank four talismans was already improving.

Unfortunately, his improvement didn't translate directly into success as he failed twice more when crafting the Mist Concealment Dissipation Talisman.

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Feeling slightly dispirited by the failure, Shang Xia decided to take a 3 day break.

When he finally restarted the crafting process, Shang Xia didn't make the same mistake. With 3.5 days of progress, he completed the Mist Concealment Dissipation Talisman.

The institution had a total of 8 rank four talisman inheritances. Shang Xia completed 4 of them so far and managed to use 10 pieces of rank four talisman papers. A total of 33 days had passed since he started crafting rank four talismans, and he felt that it was good progress.

Taking 2 days off to rest, Shang Xia continued to develop his martial arts. During that time, he also received good news from the institution. The Talisman Hall managed to work together to complete a small bottle of rank three Abyssal Ink.

The quality might not be the very best, but Shang Xia felt that it wasn't time to complain about anything.

Ever since he started crafting talismans, the Talisman Hall had been pushed to their limits to craft rank three talisman ink. Shang Xia didn't dare to waste any time as he started to craft the rank four Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman.

This time, his luck wasn't too bad. He wasted 2 pieces of rank four talisman paper before succeeding on his third attempt. This time, the talisman papers he used weren't rank four Abyssal Talisman Paper and even though he succeeded, Shang Xia felt that the success rate was slightly affected.

It was a shame he couldn't do much about it.

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The sixth talisman was somewhat of a special case compared to the previous ones. It was called the Thousand Mechanism Extermination Guidance Talisman and it wasn't exactly powerful.

Instead, it was used to extract extermination qi from chaotic heaven and earth qi so that cultivators could refine them easily.

After extracting the chaotic extermination qi from wherever it was, it would still need to undergo several layers of refinement and purification. As such, the Thousand Mechanism Extermination Guidance Talisman wasn't really useful for Martial Extermination Realm experts.

Shang Xia was taken aback by the utility of the Thousand Mechanism Extermination Guidance Talisman, but he wasn't exactly too surprised that the institution actually had a talisman like that.

He thought back to the windy tunnel back in the battlefield between the two worlds where he obtained the Spirit of Wind previously and realized that using the talisman there would bring about impressive results as all the extermination qi in the air were wind attributed anyway.

It seemed as though he was even luckier when crafting the Thousand Mechanism Extermination Guidance Talisman. He succeeded on his second attempt.

Even though he successfully crafted it, he had no idea how effective it would be when extracting extermination qi. He didn't know how long the effects of the talisman would last either.

Without a reason or a need to test out the talisman, Shang Xia could only leave it to anyone else who wished to play with the Thousand Mechanism Extermination Guidance Talisman.

With 6 of the 8 rank four talismans recorded in the institution, Shang Xia was only left with the Needle Extermination Light Talisman and the Divine Restraint Talisman.

He left the two of them to the end as he felt that those 2 talismans would be the most difficult to craft.

The Needle Extermination Light Talisman possessed the properties of extreme poison and a sky full of light needles would appear after the talisman was used. It could shatter a cultivator's extermination origin defense and it would definitely catch one's opponent by surprise.

Moreover, one would need to use their extermination qi to maintain the effect of the talisman. After piercing into their target, the poison needles wouldn't disappear. Instead, the poison would fuse into the target's blood and affect the heart. During the entire process, the user has to maintain those poison needles no matter what. Otherwise, a backlash might occur and cause the user to lose control over their inner qi and experience cultivation deviation.

Crafting the talisman itself wasn't free from harm either. If they failed, one would have to ensure that the poison light needles that appeared wouldn't harm themselves!

During the crafting process, Shang Xia became exceptionally serious. He could usually complete a rank four talisman in a little under 4 days, but he used 6 long days in order to craft the Needle Extermination Light Talisman.

Because he failed 3 times before successfully crafting a Needle Extermination Light Talisman, he used close to 20 days before he was done.

The Needle Extermination Light Talisman was the talisman that wasted the most rank four talisman papers so far and Shang Xia decided to take a long 5 day break after he was done. Ensuring he was in his optimal state, he finally decided to craft the Divine Restraint Talisman.

The moment he started, he realized that the Divine Restraint Talisman was definitely the most difficult rank four talisman he ever attempted to craft.

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Chapter 502: Talismans, Talismans Everywhere! You Get a Talisman, I Get a Talisman, Everyone Gets a Talisman!

Restraint talismans weren't anything rare in the Azure Origin World.

Rank one and rank two restraint talismans were seen all the time and users would slap it onto their target directly.

A rank three restraint talisman could be activated from a distance away, but not too far. At the very least, one would have to ensure that their target wasn't moving before using it on them.

Due to the frequency of how cultivators would be moving all of the time, it was extremely difficult to use a restraint talisman on them. Unless they directly slapped it on their opponents, there was not much point in using them.

Rank three restraint talismans were usually used in sneak attacks to force their targets into situations where they could be slain in one move or something like that.

From what Shang Xia understood, the Tongyou Institution didn't possess a recipe for rank three restraint talismans. As such, he never had the chance to craft one.

It couldn't be denied that a restraint talisman was useful, but the weakness was painfully obvious. Moreover, talismans couldn't work on stronger cultivators. Rank two restraint talismans couldn't affect a Martial Intent Realm expert, and similarly, rank three restraint talismans couldn't work on Martial Extermination Realm experts.

The talisman was greatly unlike those of other types. If Shang Xia tossed out 5 rank three Golden Spear Talismans at a Martial Extermination Realm expert, they would have to run no matter how much they didn't feel like it. Similarly, a rank two Golden Sword Talisman might be able to affect a Martial Intent Realm cultivator when used properly.

Whatever the case, it was a little strange for the institution not to possess a rank three restraint talisman inheritance when they had a rank four one. It was true that coming up with a rank three restraint talisman from rank one and two ones was extremely difficult, but the reverse wasn't true. With a rank four restraint talisman, it was much easier to deduce a rank three restraint talisman. Of course, that was only true for a rank four Talisman Grandmaster like Shang Xia. The institution was probably waiting for an opportunity for Shang Xia to come up with it when he had nothing else to do after crafting his rank four talismans.

The production of the rank four Divine Restraint Talisman was no easy task as Shang Xia had deduced before. However, he knew that the power contained in the talisman was terrifying.

Other talismans might possess strong offensive or defensive abilities and allow one to turn the tides when the situation becomes desperate.

The Divine Restraint Talisman wasn't like that. It would come in handy very often as it could restrain Martial Extermination Realm experts when it was used. Even though the time it could immobilize the target depended on their cultivation base, a fight between Martial Extermination Realm experts could be decided in the blink of an eye.

Despite thinking over the way to craft the Divine Restraint Talisman over and over again, Shang Xia still felt that the difficulty of crafting the talisman had already exceeded his expectations.

The reason the rank four Divine Restraint Talisman got its name wasn't because it would only be able to physically restrain its target. The 'divine' in its name wasn't for show! It had the ability to freeze the soul!

Not only would the crafting process require an inordinate amount of inner qi to craft, but it would also require close to 3 times the amount of divine perception.

The second criterion would be enough to force many rank four Talisman Grandmasters away. [n/ovel/b/jn dot c/om](http://www.novelupdates.com)

The crafting process also posed a huge problem. Not only would the creator of the talisman not be able to use extermination qi from outside sources, but they would only be able to use their own extermination qi in order to craft the talisman. Only when the divine perception and extermination qi came from the same person would the talisman be fully effective.

One had to know that Shang Xia could craft rank four talismans in a little under 4 days if he was successful. A huge part of the reason he could continue to do so was because he had been using extermination qi from other sources so that he wouldn't have to exhaust his own extermination inner qi.

Now, Shang Xia had to change his approach and could only exhaust his divine perception and Four Constellation Qi produced by his extermination origins. Because of that, the time Shang Xia needed to craft the Divine Restraint Talisman would be greatly increased.

He wasted 4 pieces of rank four talisman papers before finally succeeding on the fifth try. Moreover, his success was mostly because of luck.

In order to craft the final rank four talisman recorded in the Tongyou Institution's records, Shang Xia used close to 30 days.

When he was finally done, Shang Xia felt a huge weight lifted off his heart. However, the lethargy he felt didn't disappear. He fell into a state of exhaustion he had never felt before.

Without having the chance to tidy up the area, Shang Xia sank into a chair nearby and fell asleep.

Just like that, 5 whole days and nights passed.

By the time he woke, he was a lot less tired than before. He felt slightly more energized, but that wasn't all. Circulating his Four Seasons Samsara Art, he found that his inner qi was flowing extremely smoothly through his body.

The time taken for him to complete one cycle had fallen even further. Upon further inspection, Shang Xia discovered that the degree of fusion between his divine perception and his inner qi became even stronger.

It didn't take long for him to discover what caused the change. It was the Divine Restraint Talisman he just crafted. During the crafting process, Shang Xia had been fully focused on ensuring his divine perception was properly fused with his inner qi in the talisman.

When he woke up from his slumber, he managed to subconsciously fuse them together.

The fact gave Shang Xia a pleasant surprise and he felt that the benefits were comparable to when he used a stick of Dao Comprehension in the past.

After circulating one cycle of his inner qi, Shang Xia discovered that the time he needed had already shortened to 5 hours!

Getting to his feet, Shang Xia looked at the messy chamber before him. Even though it was a mess, a sense of achievement filled his heart.

It had been a little more than 3.5 months since he started crafting rank four talismans in the Tongyou Mysterious World. He used 24 pieces of rank four talisman paper in total and managed to complete 8 different pieces of rank four talismans.

His success rate of crafting talismans was about a third, but Shang Xia felt that he had improved significantly since he first started. He was confident that he could do better and he currently had 11 pieces of rank four talisman papers left. Deciding against crafting more rank four talismans immediately, Shang Xia chose to calm down and digest his gains.

He felt that he needed some time to properly absorb what he learned during his talisman crafting process. At the same time, he needed to adjust his mental state.

He had been crafting talismans non-stop for the past few months and the Talisman Hall had also been sparing no expense in supplying him with resources. Taking a break would give them a chance to rest.

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Just like that, Shang Xia took a break for half a month. Of course, it wasn't that Shang Xia chose to do nothing during the entire time.

Other than recording his experience when crafting the different rank four talismans and some lessons he had learned, he continued to develop his Four Seasons Samsara Art.

Because of the increased degree of fusion between his divine perception and inner qi, he felt that he managed to grasp onto something special in the Four Constellation Realm.

He had recalled Shang Bo's advice to him a long time ago that the degree of fusion was the key to comprehending his fourth martial intent in the Martial Extermination Realm.

The stronger the fusion, the easier it would be for him to comprehend his martial intent in the future! Moreover, Shang Xia also realized that Martial Extermination Realm experts would be able to circulate their inner qi for one full cycle in around 4 hours or so. The better the cultivation method, the shorter each cycle would take!

Well, there were naturally exceptions. The amount of inner qi one could circulate was also a serious factor when it came to cultivation.

Now that Shang Xia shortened the time it took for him to circulate his inner qi to 5 short hours, he was getting closer and closer to his goal of 4.

With the rest of the time he had when not crafting talismans or cultivating, Shang Xia continued to play with the pieces of rocks he broke off from the boulder that held the Abyssal Blade before. Unfortunately, the gains he had didn't make up for the losses when trying to craft seals with those pieces of rocks.

When time was finally up half a month later, Shang Xia found that his mental state had finally returned to its peak. He got ready to craft more talismans to use up the rest of his talisman papers.

This time, he wasn't restricted by the type of talisman he needed to craft. Shang Xia felt that he could craft anything he liked now and his success rate would experience a sharp rise because of the experience he had. It was a shame he only had 11 pieces of rank four talisman papers and the increase in success rates wouldn't be too obvious.

Now that he was crafting any talismans he desired, he decided to go for the one he was the most familiar with, the Golden Sun Inferno Talisman. Succeeding on his first try

would also greatly boost his confidence, and going with something he was good at was a good choice.

It didn't come as a surprise that he completed the Golden Sun Inferno Talisman 3 days later.

With the Golden Sun Inferno Talisman complete, Shang Xia chose to start a different rank four talisman recorded in the Zhu Family Talisman Scripture. The new talisman was called the Thousand Yang Sword Talisman and even though it wasn't part of the talismans recorded in the institution, Shang Xia decided that it was a little bonus he was giving to the Talisman Hall.

After all, he was using their resources to strengthen himself.

The way to craft his Thousand Yang Sword Talisman was slightly similar to the Thousand Mechanism Extermination Guidance Talisman, but it was a lot easier. Even though it was a new talisman, Shang Xia quickly succeeded on his second attempt.

Next, Shang Xia chose the third and last rank four talisman recorded in the Zhu Family Talisman Scripture, the Extermination Lightning Attracting Talisman. It was the most difficult rank four talisman recorded in the scripture, and it caused Shang Xia to waste 3 pieces of rank four talisman papers before finally succeeding.

When he was finally done, Shang Xia had a total of 11 rank four talismans! With the talismans laid out in front of him, Shang Xia felt extremely content with his achievements.

What he didn't understand was what the number of rank four talismans he knew how to craft represented!

Chapter 503: Shocking the World

In the Tongyou Mysterious World...

Shang Xia's secret chamber was filled with multiple layers of restrictions, stopping anyone from coming close to it.

Those restrictions were powerful and they had the ability to shield strange fluctuations from emerging from the chamber. Even so, they couldn't fully prevent the energy fluctuations from exiting Shang Xia's secret chamber.

After the successful creation of every rank four talisman, a strange phenomenon would appear. Especially when they were in the Tongyou Mysterious World with such dense heaven and earth qi.

Back when Shang Xia crafted his first rank four talisman in the Changfeng City in Hai Min's courtyard, he caused a massive disturbance because he failed to place down enough restrictions. If not for Bu Jingshuang's quick reactions to activate the city protection formation, half the street in the city would have been incinerated by the ball of fire Shang Xia created.

Because of the secret chamber he was in, the restrictions greatly reduced the disturbance to the Tongyou Mysterious World every time he succeeded.

Even so, heaven and earth qi would still gather around his secret chamber to cause some slight commotion when he succeeded. Sometimes, a huge gust of wind would be swept up or the temperature around the secret chamber would rise sharply. There were also times when the region would be filled with a thin layer of mist and sounds of metal scraping would fill the air. Rumbblings of lightning could also be heard from time to time.

As the youngest Martial Extermination Realm expert in the Tongyou Institution and the only Talisman Grandmaster, Shang Xia's every action would be closely scrutinized. It was especially so when he had chosen to enter seclusion to craft talismans.

The Tongyou Mysterious World could act as a layer of protection from prying eyes, but there were still several experts training in there. They couldn't possibly train forever as they had to take breaks from time to time.

Every time they took a break in the Tongyou Mysterious World, they would gather together and Shang Xia would naturally be a part of their discussions. They spoke about Shang Xia's talisman crafting the most and they were even discussing how many he would be able to craft.

Too bad for them, the results would only be shown after Shang Xia emerged from seclusion.

Since the results weren't immediately available, there were several geniuses among the cultivators in the Tongyou Mysterious World who came up with betting on how long Shang Xia would take to craft a rank four talisman.

Arranging the time they cultivated, someone would keep an eye on Shang Xia's secret chamber to look for any strange signs of successful talisman creation. They even added those experts from the Talisman Hall into their plans. They went to ask if Shang Xia had been asking for more talisman papers in the meantime.

Because of the irregular breaks he had been taking, along with his cultivation, Shang Xia caused those watching him to misjudge the situation. When he resumed his talisman crafting journey, the phenomena that happened outside his secret chamber became a great source of entertainment for those outside.

Several instructors, custodians, and seniors of the institution had been taking part in the bets. As time went by, their initial excitement when he managed to craft a talisman turned into admiration. Then, admiration turned into shock as he succeeded frequently. Eventually, the shock wore off and they became numb to his success.

One day, Wu Tianfang even appeared to proclaim to the rest, "This... Everyone, it looks like we have witnessed a miracle happening in front of us."

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When Shang Xia took his breaks throughout the time he crafted talismans, he had long since noticed those people observing him. He didn't care too much about it though, and he took it as though they were merely curious about him.

After all, they were in the Tongyou Mysterious World. Anyone who had the qualifications to enter the mysterious world was definitely a member of the institution. No one would try harming him in the Tongyou Mysterious World and he couldn't care less about them.

Because he didn't care about them, their bets had already spread through the outside world. The members of the Talisman Hall started it when they came over to deliver resources, and the news quickly made its rounds around the institution.

Initially, not too many people paid attention. They merely took Shang Xia's success as some sort of passing comment but with more and more stories of how Shang Xia had been succeeding, cultivators started to pay more attention.

There were some cultivators who left the Tongyou Mysterious World from time to time and with their input, news of Shang Xia's success became even more widespread.

Quickly, a huge craze started over how often Shang Xia had been crafting rank four talismans in the outside world.

Shang Xia didn't know what was happening, and after completing an Extermination Lightning Attraction Talisman, Shang Xia received another delivery of resources from the Talisman Hall.

"Brother Ren, why are you personally sending the resources this time?" Shang Xia asked when he noticed who had come. He was surprised to see that they had sent Ren Huan, a good friend he had in the Talisman Hall, to deliver the resources.

As a rank four talisman paper craftsman, along with Shang Xia's trust, Ren Huan's position in the Talisman Hall wasn't low! He could stand shoulder to shoulder with the rank three Talisman Masters, Fan Yuanhui and Gong Hang!

Ren Huan stared at Shang Xia with a strange gaze before breaking out into a bout of laughter, "It's nothing much. I was just curious about your progress! You went into

seclusion for almost half a year now and I asked Lou Zizhang for the role of the delivery boy so I could come in here to take a look!”

Grunting softly, Shang Xia wondered out loud, “Lou Zizhang didn’t make things difficult for you, right?”

Shang Xia knew that Ren Huan’s authority out there wasn’t actually too impressive. Even if he was a rank four talisman paper craftsman, he wouldn’t be qualified to send resources into the Tongyou Mysterious World.

Sniggering to himself, Ren Huan replied, “Relax. Everyone knows that Brother Shang is my backer now. Moreover, they only allowed me to enter to deliver some items. I have to leave as soon as my task is complete. I won’t get to cultivate in the Tongyou Mysterious World. No one would take the risk to offend you by denying me entry for such a simple reason.”

Because a bulk of his attention was still placed on those pieces of rocks that he failed to turn into seals, Shang Xia didn’t hear the meaning behind Ren Huan’s words.

Unwilling to trouble Shang Xia, Ren Huan quickly changed the topic. He chuckled, “Guess what good stuff I brought you this time?”

Shang Xia’s attention turned to the fatty and he guessed, “Did you manage to make several more pieces of rank four talisman paper?”

Shang Xia realized that the lack of resources was what was stopping him from making progress and rank four talisman paper was exactly what he needed. Nôv(el)B\\jnn

Ren Huan shook his head in response. Without letting Shang Xia wait for a long time, he added, “I brought rank four talisman ink!”

“What?!” Shang Xia was pleasantly surprised. Leaping out of his chair, he stared at the fatty.

Nodding his head happily, Ren Huan continued, “You didn’t hear wrong. I brought rank four ink with me!”

“How is this possible?” Shang Xia asked, “Don’t tell me someone in the Talisman Hall became a rank four ink craftsman?”

“Rank four Grandmaster Alchemist, Ge Muchen, personally made this.” Ren Huan explained.

“Huh?” Shang Xia stared at Ren Huan in fright. “Senior... How did senior... No, Senior Ge is an alchemist! How does he know how to craft rank four talisman ink?”

Ren Huan shook his head and muttered, "Maybe rank four talisman ink is similar to making medicine... I don't know? All I know is that Master Ge Muchen appeared in our Talisman Hall's ink room all of a sudden and used the assistance of several rank three ink craftsmen to make this bottle of Abyssal Ink!"

Ren Huan carefully handed over a small jade bottle to Shang Xia as he spoke.

"Please thank Master Ge Muchen for helping me. No. After I leave the Tongyou Mysterious World, I'll personally go over and thank him!" Shang Xia said as he received the bottle of rank four ink. He stared at the bottle that was glistening reddish-black in color.

Shaking his head suddenly, Ren Huan continued, "Master Ge said that all you need to do is to focus on talisman crafting. He said that there was no need to pay him a visit to thank him. He won't be receiving visitors anyway."

Shang Xia stared at the fatty in shock and Ren Huan quickly added, "It's true! That's what he said!"

Shaking his head helplessly, Shang Xia could only keep the bottle before glancing at Ren Huan. He saw that the fatty seemed to be hesitating about something and he quickly broke out into a smile, "Brother Ren, you don't have to hide anything from me. Just speak your mind."

"Brother Shang, this... Our Talisman Hall basically used up all our resources." Ren Huan sighed.

Widening his eyes in shock, Shang Xia broke out into laughter the next moment. "Did Lou Zizhang send you to tell me this?"

Ren Huan shook his hands helplessly in response. "I know, I know. However, it's true that we're out of resources. Originally, we prepared 14 pieces of rank four talisman papers for you and no one thought that the other experts of the institution would be able to gather so many more when they heard that you were planning to enter seclusion. In the end, you managed to gather 35 pieces of rank four talisman papers! In the months that passed, Master Lou and Master Fan had been arguing all the time just to gather more resources for you!"

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After he finally sent Ren Huan away, Shang Xia decided to end his period of rest.

Now that he managed to obtain rank four talisman ink, he couldn't wait to start crafting even more talismans.

Rank four Abyssal Ink was naturally used to craft rank four Abyssal Void Shattering Talismans and Shang Xia could feel a sense of urgency deep in his heart. He could tell that something was about to go down and those talismans might be of great use in the near future!

In his state of excitement, Shang Xia managed to succeed on the first attempt.

After crafting his Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman, Shang Xia could tell that the talisman ink really made a difference. Compared to the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman that he made with rank three ink, his new talisman boasted stronger effects and could last a little longer!

Quickly continuing, Shang Xia managed to craft another Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman in 2 attempts.

Finally switching to a Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman, Shang Xia managed to complete one after wasting a piece of rank four talisman paper.

With two-thirds of his rank four Abyssal Ink left, Shang Xia felt that he could still attempt 10 pieces of rank four talismans before he ran out.

By that time, Shang Xia had already completed 14 rank four talismans, far surpassing a success rate of 33 percent if he factored in all the talisman papers he used.

Chapter 504: Presenting Talismans

Talisman Grandmaster Shang was finally about to emerge from seclusion!

The news caught the attention of many cultivators in the institution. Especially so for those who had been betting in the Tongyou Mysterious World. All of them wanted to know how many talismans Shang Xia actually managed to craft.

“Heh! Brother Huo, how many rank four talismans do you think Grandmaster Shang managed to craft?” Someone seemed to have received information that Huo Wuji had a pretty good relationship with Shang Xia in the institution and they decided to ask him for some insider information.

Chuckling in amusement, Huo Wuji replied, “Brother Shan, all of us have been watching Grandmaster Shang’s secret chamber. Don’t you have an idea of how many talismans he made?”

Deacon Shan broke into laughter the next moment. “No matter what, we’re separated by a layer of restrictions! There might be some talismans that manage to evade our detection... if that happens, we won’t be able to accurately tell!”

“Deacon Shan, looks like you bet quite a large amount if you’re so concerned about this...” Huo Wuji joked.

A helpless smile appeared on Deacon Shan’s face and he sighed, “I got carried away and bet nearly 10 pieces of gold in one shot!”

10 pieces of gold were the same as 10 gold coins. Cultivators weren’t usually willing to use the word ‘gold coins’ to quantify their money and they simply substituted them by calling gold coins pieces of gold instead.

10 gold coins were equivalent to 1000 silver essence. The amount Deacon Shan bet was more than enough to gather 2 portions of rank two advancement medicine!

As a deacon of the Tongyou Institution, 1000 silver essence wasn’t exactly a small amount. It was close to several months of his pay. Fortunately, the institution didn’t just pay them a standard amount every month. There were still bonuses and ways for them to earn a little more.

Huo Wuji grunted softly after hearing how much was on the line. “You’re really willing to party with your money...”

“What are we talking about? There are so many more people out there who bet more than myself... They even bet on the exact number of talismans he would manage to craft!” Deacon Shan muttered.

Wu Tingfang, who was nearby, interrupted, “How many talismans do you think Grandmaster Shang managed to craft?”

“We don’t know the exact number, only an estimate. At the very least, we know that he managed to complete 12 rank four talismans. Our highest estimate is that he managed to complete 17 of them!” Deacon Shan muttered.

“17?! That’s not possible!” Wu Tingfang shook his head. “Grandmaster Shang only has 35 pieces of rank four talisman paper to work with. If he really managed to complete 17 talismans, wouldn’t that mean that his success rate is over 50 percent? Those are rank four talismans we’re talking about! A rank four Talisman Grandmaster only needs to succeed a third of the time. A 50 percent success rate only applies to rank three talisman masters!”

Huo Wuji also agreed. “17 is pushing it a little. Even though I’m extremely confident in Grandmaster Shang’s skills, I wouldn’t dare to think that he managed to craft 17 rank four talismans.”

Deacon Shan added immediately, “Who knows, that might actually be the case! Didn’t you hear that the changes around his secret chamber have been getting more frequent in the past month? I heard that a rank four talisman paper craftsman and Grandmaster

Shang's friend came to deliver a bottle of rank four talisman ink a little more than a month ago. That might help to push his success rate to a whole new level!"

Huo Wuji and Wu Tingfang shook their heads slightly in disbelief.

Rank four talisman ink might be useful when crafting talismans, but crafting rank four talismans depended on the talisman masters themselves. External reasons were also important when it came to crafting talismans, but a mere bottle of rank four talisman ink wouldn't help too much.

"Actually, 17 rank four talismans might be a stretch, but it's not exactly impossible..." Someone else interrupted.

Turning around to look at the person who arrived, the 3 of them chuckled. "Chief Mu!"

Deacon Shan seemed extremely interested in any possibility that Shang Xia could craft more talismans than they had thought and quickly asked, "Chief Mu, why do you think that? Is there a reason you would believe that Grandmaster Shang would be able to craft the talismans? Please advise us..."

Mu Jianyin broke out into laughter and explained, "Even though our institution has around 8 rank four talisman inheritances, he might not have to make all of them."

A light lit up in Deacon Shan's eyes. "Chief Mu, do you mean..."

Mu Jianyin continued to laugh. "Every Talisman Master is good at something. The institution might have different types of talismans, but those talismans are not related to each other. No matter how talented one is, one might not be able to craft them all. He should be able to craft 5 or 6 of them... Alright, let's not look down on him. After all, we're in no position to ensure he crafts all of those talismans anyway."

Her explanation was correct. Regardless of who it was, none of them found it in themselves to disagree with her.

Mu Jianyin continued, "... Because of that, he might have familiarized himself with several types of talismans. If he focused on those, he would greatly increase the success rate of crafting rank four talismans."

Deacon Shan couldn't hold himself back and yelled in agreement, "That sounds reasonable!"

Mu Jianyin smiled softly and completed her explanation, "Of course, crafting 16 or 17 rank four talismans seems a little over the top. I believe he should be able to craft 14 of them or so..."

Deacon Shan failed to contain his happiness after hearing her explanation.

“Talisman Grandmaster Shang has already left the Tongyou Mysterious World and returned to the Talisman Hall!”

A yell came from somewhere, attracting the attention of everyone present.

Mu Jianyin followed the source of the voice and heard that it came from the outside world and quickly turned to leave.

She might not have entered the Martial Extermination Realm, but she was one of the four heads of the Outreach Division. Her status was a little higher than Huo Wuji and the others and it was a little more convenient for her to enter and leave the Tongyou Mysterious World whenever she wished.

Seeing how much of a rush Mu Jianyin was in, Wu Tingfang couldn't help but yell, “Chief Mu, did you also place some bets on the kid?”

She didn't turn around, but one could hear the awkwardness in her voice, “Haha, I also wagered a few gold pieces... I'll head back and take a look. I don't think it will take long for the truth to be revealed!”

...

After leaving the Tongyou Mysterious World, Shang Xia casually made his way back to the Talisman Hall. Along the way, countless people stared at him and some fearless ones even pointed at him as they spoke.

Too lazy to bother with them, Shang Xia quickly returned to the inner hall in the Talisman Hall where he discovered many people already waiting for him.

Other than Lou Zizhang and Fan Yuanhui, Gong Hang who had been in seclusion the whole time was also present. Everyone else in the Talisman Hall who had some sort of status was also present. Naturally, Ren Huan was also waiting expectantly for him and so was everyone else.

That wasn't all. Even Liu Zhiyuan, the head of the Warehouse Division and a deputy patriarch of the institution was present. He also brought important members of the halls affiliated with the Warehouse Division.

Zhang Haogu from the Scripture Depository was also present, but he came alone.

Other than the two Martial Extermination Realm experts who had been outside the Tongyou Mysterious World, Yuan Zhen and Qian Sitong had left their seclusion to head over. Shang Xia could feel that they were consciously trying to hide their auras as though they were hiding their cultivation level.

Spreading his divine perception out, Shang Xia could tell that other than those present in the hall, there were many who were paying attention to everything that was happening.

With his heart trembling slightly, Shang Xia chuckled, "What's the matter? What's with the huge lineup? Is this really important or something?"

Of those who were present, Shang Xia seemed to be one of the most junior members of the institution. However, regardless of whether it was his cultivation level or his status as a Talisman Grandmaster, no one else seemed qualified to talk to him other than Liu Zhiyuan and Zhang Haogu.

Even Qian Sitong and Yuan Zhen were desperately trying to suppress their presence.

Finally breaking the silence, Liu Zhiyuan took a step forward and laughed, "It's nothing too much! However, everyone here is a little curious about what happened during your seclusion in the Tongyou Mysterious World. We would also like to know Martial Nephew Shang's progress when it comes to talisman crafting."

"Oh?" Shang Xia grunted softly and continued, "It took half a year, but thanks to everyone's support, I managed to achieve what I had. I would like to thank everyone here before anything else."

After speaking, he cupped his fists and turned to everyone in the hall.

His actions were genuine as no one was clearer about it than he was. Almost everyone present had a hand in assisting his progress in the way of talismans.

Gong Hang, Fan Yuanhui, Lou Zizhang, and everyone in the Talisman Hall silently accepted his gesture.

As silence fell upon the hall once again, no one dared to breathe loudly. Only the Martial Extermination Realm experts dared to stare at Shang Xia with expectation burning in their eyes.

Realizing that the situation had returned to a relative calm, Gong Hang spoke suddenly, "Why don't you present the talismans you crafted? Let's not keep everyone in suspense any longer!"

The moment the words left his lips, attendants emerged from one of the side entrances. All of them held a jade platter in their hands and the first of them approached Shang Xia.

With a smile on his face, Shang Xia brought out a sealed case and placed it on the platter after personally opening the case to reveal its contents.

All of a sudden, Gong Hang's voice rang clearly through the air. "A rank four Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman!"

The moment he spoke, the attendant brought the platter around the hall to show off the talisman to everyone in the hall. When he was done, he went over for another expert to seal the case. Standing at the side, the talisman was displayed for everyone to observe and learn from.

In the middle of the hall, Shang Xia gestured for the second attendant. When he arrived, Shang Xia placed another talisman on the jade platter.

With a calm look in his eyes, Gong Hang declared, "A rank four Space Shattering Golden Blade Talisman!"

The attendant took the same route the first one did before arriving at the back of the hall.

Shang Xia continued to gesture for the next attendant as Gong Hang continued to introduce the talismans Shang Xia presented. "Rank four Snow Spike Ice Radiance Talisman!"

"Rank four Mist Concealment Dissipation Talisman!"

...

"It has already been four types of talismans! Grandmaster Shang managed to craft 4 different talismans!"

"Grandmaster Shang is truly talented indeed. He took out half of the talisman inheritances recorded by the institution."

"Shh, it's not over yet. Grandmaster Shang is gesturing for the next attendant!"

Voices spread through the hall and cheers could even be heard coming from outside.

...

Everyone stared at Shang Xia who was gesturing for the next attendant.

As the oldest and most experienced Talisman Master other than Shang Xia, Gong Hang was trying his best to maintain his indifference when introducing the talismans. Coughing lightly, he continued, "Rank four Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman!"

"Rank... Rank four Thousand Mechanism Extermination Guidance Talisman!"

Chapter 505: I'm Not Done

Among the experts who had gathered in the Talisman Hall, Mu Jianyin's expression seemed to be a little more awkward than the rest.

She previously estimated that Shang Xia would only be able to craft 5 or so unique talismans and that he had focused on crafting them in order to raise his success rate.

Now that the name of the sixth talisman had left Gong Hang's lips, Shang Xia had destroyed her initial estimations and she felt her face heating up slightly.

Even though Huo Wuji, Shan Tong, and the others weren't around, they weren't the only ones who heard her 'explanation' back in the Tongyou Mysterious World.

That wasn't all. Mu Jianyin's cultivation was close to the Martial Extermination Realm and she was a little stronger than most of the experts present. She could tell that Gong Hang was far from done!

...

"Rank... Rank four Thousand Mechanism Extermination Guidance Talisman!" Gong Hang hadn't stopped, and his voice seemed to crack a little. As he pulled his tone longer and longer, he sounded like he was singing rather than introducing those talismans.

Shang Xia had pulled out 6 different rank four talismans at that point!

Many experts of the institution couldn't contain the ripples spreading through their hearts and they started discussing among themselves. The whispers started to spread through the air and it echoed endlessly through the hall.

Even the Martial Extermination Realm experts turned deadly serious as they stared at Shang Xia in the middle of the hall as they awaited his next action.

Outside the hall, cheers broke out the moment Shang Xia brought out his sixth talisman and Gong Hang made the announcement.

...

In the inner hall, Shang Xia once again gestured towards one of the attendants who was holding a jade platter in his hand. A huge smile could be seen on Shang Xia's face as he placed another talisman on it.

"Rank four Needle Extermination Light Talisman!" Gong Hang announced.

His voice was raised by a few pitches, catching many people by surprise.

After getting over their initial shock, many of them sighed in admiration and maintained a smile on their face. They could hear that the old Talisman Master's voice was starting to break when he made the announcement.

The well-known talisman master who had been doing his best for the past twenty or so years had established the Talisman Hall and poured everything he had into it. At that moment, he was more excited than anyone present.

...

"That's the seventh rank four talisman!" No one knew who gasped loudly, but a single sentence was enough to suppress every other sound in the hall.

That wasn't seven rank four talismans they were talking about. That was the seventh unique rank four talisman Shang Xia brought out!

"Yeah... It's already the seventh rank four talisman... How many Talisman Grandmasters in our Azure Origin World grasped so many different types of rank four talismans?!" Someone muttered softly.

"Talisman Grandmaster Shang has only become a rank four Talisman Grandmaster for slightly more than a year!"

"Could there be... Could there be an eighth?"

...

With their jaws dropping to the ground, Shang Xia gestured for the attendant once again. He placed an eighth rank four talisman onto the jade platter.

"Rank... Rank four... Rank Four Divine Restraint Talisman!" Gong Hang gasped. His voice cracked this time.

Not a single person dared to joke about this time. Those standing around even seemed to forget to discuss among them sleeves. Looks of shock were plastered on their faces.

As the attendant walked across the hall with the completed talisman in his hand, it was so silent they could hear a pin drop.

"This... This is truly... This is too..." Deputy Patriarch Liu Zhiyuan was the person who finally broke the silence. He didn't know how to express himself at that very moment and he stuttered softly, "This is truly a blessing to our institution!"

"That's right!" The experts in the hall finally snapped back to reality and cheers started to fill the hall.

“Incredible!”

“This is amazing!”

“Eight unique rank four talismans.... How many Talisman Grandmasters will be able to do something like that?”

“No! From what I know, Grandmaster Shang didn’t only learn 8 inheritances from the institution. He probably knows even more!”

“Everyone, Grandmaster Shang definitely still has rank four talismans on him. Don’t you wish to find out how many he actually crafted?”

...

“He did it... He actually did it...” Mu Jianyin muttered softly to herself and a look of melancholy appeared in her eyes. It was as though she had recalled something that happened a long time ago.

Chief Mu Jianyin of the Outreach Division seemed to reach some sort of conclusion that very instant. All the excitement in her heart disappeared and despite the very heated discussions around her, she turned to leave.

There were many experts who stood beside her earlier who continued to discuss among each other, “Grandmaster Shang managed to craft all 8 talismans recorded in the Talisman Hall... I wonder how many talismans he actually crafted! He can’t possibly craft 8 rank four talismans with 35 pieces of rank four talisman papers, right?”

“What do you know?!”

“It’s amazing for Grandmaster Shang to grasp one type of rank four talisman after becoming a rank four Talisman Grandmaster. It’s amazing for him to learn how to craft 8 different talismans already!”

“Brother, you’re right. Other rank four Talisman Grandmasters might not be his match at all. The difficulty of crafting a different talisman is on a whole different scale when it comes to rank four talismans. A rank three Talisman Master might craft one talisman 100 times in order to know the process well enough to achieve a respectable success rate. However, a rank four Talisman Grandmaster might not be able to achieve a one-third success rate even if he attempts to craft a rank four talisman 100 times!”

“That’s a little low...”

“I heard that everyone would come knocking once a rank four Talisman Grandmaster’s success rate reaches one-third. Otherwise, they would have to look for resources to train themselves until they actually manage to reach such a high success rate. Of

course, they could also choose to work for a certain superpower to receive enough resources to train themselves. Those who try to gather resources for themselves would take an extremely long time to raise their success rate. On the other hand, working for a power means that they basically sold themselves away. They might be able to receive a huge amount of resources to craft resources and hone themselves, but they would basically become talisman crafting slaves for the next 20 years or so...”

“Then, Grandmaster Shang...”

“Obviously, he doesn’t fall into either category! Even if he was willing to craft talismans without end, no one would dare to treat him like a tool!”

“No... I mean... I’m trying to ask how high Grandmaster Shang’s success rate is!”

“...”

...

“Since everyone wishes to know and it’s not easy for so many of us to gather here...” Zhang Haogu’s gaze landed on Shang Xia and he chuckled, “Grandmaster Shang, I don’t wish to sound rude, but would you like to widen everyone’s horizons? Can you tell us how many rank four talismans you actually crafted during your time in the Tongyou Mysterious World?”

Shang Xia released a soundless laughter. By that time, he had no idea how many people in the institution had been betting on him or against him. However, from their reactions, he could tell one thing. The number of talismans he could craft had long since exceeded the reasonable betting scope those people were playing with. His achievements even brought the attention of the institution to himself.

It seemed as though the greater his success rate, the larger the intentions the institution would have for him!

Shang Xia knew as much as he wasn’t exactly bothered by it. His gaze turned to land on the attendants who were looking at him expectantly.

With a smile resurfacing on his face, he gestured to them.

The moment they received the signal, one of them brought another jade platter over to Shang Xia. They didn’t expect to see another different type of rank four talisman hitting the plate.

“Rank four Golden Sun Inferno Talisman!” Gong Hang’s voice rang through the hall. He was familiar with the talisman because of what he heard from Bu Jingshuang in the past.

“This is his ninth talisman!” A voice rang through the hall.

“That’s his ninth unique talisman!” Someone else corrected the person who spoke earlier.

Shang Xia waved his hand and placed yet another different rank four talisman onto the plate in the next attendant’s hand.

“This is the Thousand Yang Sword Talisman. It is also a rank four talisman.” Shang Xia mentioned after placing the talisman down. He was afraid that Gong Hang wouldn’t be able to recognize it as it was the first time it was appearing in the Talisman Hall.

“Rank... Rank four... Rank four Thousand Yang Sword Talisman!” The attendant repeated immediately.

Even though the voice was nowhere as commanding as Gong Hang’s deep and resounding articulation, no one in the hall was under the Martial Extremity Realm.

Another round of gasps filled the air while a third attendant approached Shang Xia.

“Rank four Extermination Lightning Attracting Talisman!”

“Eleventh... That’s the eleventh unique rank four talisman he brought out!”

A terrifying thought flashed through the minds of those present when they stared at Shang Xia expectantly.

Will there be more?

Under their strange gazes, Shang Xia waved his hand to call for another attendant.

As everyone was getting numb to the number of surprises they had received, the attendant announced, “This is another rank four Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman!”

The talismans were finally starting to repeat!

Those standing in the hall were surprised that Shang Xia was no longer bringing out new talismans, but a terrifying thought filled their minds. Nôv(e)B\jnn

Talisman Grandmaster Shang actually grasped the method to craft 11 different rank four talismans!

11 talismans!

A huge portion of rank four Talisman Grandmasters wouldn't even see 10 types of rank four talismans in their lives, much less learn how to craft 11 of them! Now, even those ordinary folks in the hall managed to see 11 different types of rank four talismans!

...

No one knew when, but the cultivators outside the hall had been cheering non-stop since Shang Xia brought out his unique talismans.

When the word 'another' finally emerged from the hall, someone outside was keeping track of the number of rank four talismans that appeared. "It's the 12th talisman!"

Soon after, Shang Xia placed another rank four Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman onto a jade platter.

"A third Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman!" The attendant yelled.

From outside the hall, an excited cry followed, "the 13th talisman!"

Shang Xia placed the last talisman he crafted onto the final platter and the attendant yelled after confirming with Shang Xia, "This is the final piece of rank four talisman, a rank four Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman!"

A heavenly roar came from outside the hall at that instant, "The 14th talisman! Wow!"

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Chapter 506: Returning Favors

Standing in the middle of the hall, Shang Xia looked around after handing over his 14th talisman. Of the 35 pieces of rank four talisman paper he used, he managed to craft 11 unique talismans and 3 repeated ones for a total of 14.

Even though several months had passed since Shang Xia started crafting talismans in the Tongyou Mysterious World, the rumors that surrounded his talisman crafting spree didn't seem to stop.

...

Of the 14 talismans that Shang Xia crafted, he had long decided to leave behind those that came from the institution's inheritance. Deep down, he and everyone else present knew that the 14 pieces of talisman papers provided by the Talisman Hall would never

be enough for him to craft all the talismans he did. They weren't even enough to craft the 8 talismans recorded in the institution's inheritance.

Because he used the talisman papers that had been given to him by the various factions and his friends, he was bound to owe some of them favors. However, now that he managed to craft so many talismans, leaving a portion of them in the institution would allow him to transfer a portion of the burden of favor to the Talisman Hall.

Everyone present knew what Shang Xia's intentions were if he chose to leave the talismans in the Talisman Hall for future generations of experts to study, but it was an open plot. The Talisman Hall would gain an exceptional amount of benefits and they were open to accepting Shang Xia's favor.

Now that he had settled the Talisman Hall, it was time to return all the favors he received.

Other than the 8 talismans that came from the institution, he had 6 more rank four talismans on him. Of them, he had 2 Abyssal Void Shattering Talismans, one Golden Sun Inferno Talisman, a Thousand Yang Sword Talisman, an Extermination Lightning Attracting Talisman, and a Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman.

Of course, there were a bunch of rank two and three talismans he crafted before working on the rank four ones and those weren't given to the institution.

Thinking back to the talisman papers he received, other than the 14 from the Talisman Hall, he received 21 from different sources. When he first gathered them all, he was even worried that all the rank four talisman papers in the You Continent had been swept clean.

Looking at a list he made for the source of the 21 pieces of rank four talisman papers, Shang Xia decided to return the favor by giving them 1 rank four talisman for every 3 talisman papers he received from them. The worth would be adjusted to however many pieces of rank four talisman papers they gave him.

There was also no question about it. He wouldn't have enough rank four talismans to go around and he decided to replace them with 2 to 3 rank three talismans depending on the situation.

With the plan in mind, Shang Xia brought out the Thousand Yang Sword Talisman and went to visit Liu Zhiyuan, the current patriarch of the Liu Clan and the head of the Warehouse Division in the Tongyou Institution.

Because Liu Zhiyuan and Zhang Haogu had been vying for their authority in the institution, Shang Xia was almost dragged into their power battle in the past. Luckily, he managed to remain neutral because of his personal strength and prestige. Liu Zhiyuan

decided to give in and he came over to express his goodwill to Shang Xia by giving him 3 pieces of rank four talisman papers.

Things might have been concluded between them on the surface, but Shang Xia knew that there were many underlying manners that he had to follow. Even if they ignored their status in the institution, the Liu and Shang Clans were great clans of the Tongyou City. They had to keep up appearances on the surface and Shang Xia was a crucial part of the show this time.

When Shang Xia paid his visit to the Liu Clan Manor, Liu Zhiyuan welcomed him enthusiastically. After a bunch of formalities, Shang Xia handed the rank four Thousand Yang Sword Talisman over as a signal of his goodwill and they parted ways happily.

Next came the Ji Clan. Shang Xia went to deliver a Golden Sun Inferno Talisman as thanks for their support.

The last of the great clans Shang Xia visited was the Yun Clan. The Yun Clan delivered 4 pieces of rank four talisman papers when Shang Xia said that he was going into seclusion, more than any other faction. In the end, Shang Xia gifted them with an Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman along with 2 other rank three talismans he crafted personally.

When he was done visiting the 3 great clans, Shang Xia didn't need to personally show his face to the rest of the factions anymore. He could send someone in his stead to give his thanks.

Even though rank three talismans couldn't be compared to rank four talismans, Shang Xia's compensation rate made up for the difference. He would give them 2 rank three talismans for every rank four talisman paper they provided him. At the end of the day, one rank four talisman was somewhat comparable to 6 rank three ones and Shang Xia felt that his rate of compensation was fair. For most Martial Extermination Realm experts, using a rank four talisman was a waste of heavenly resources.

The moment one tossed out a rank four talisman, they would lose it forever. At the very least, getting rank three talismans from Shang Xia made up for the difference in quality with quantity. Of course, having a rank four talisman would make all the difference when it came to a life or death situation... But that was another problem that honestly didn't affect Shang Xia.

He might have given the other great clans rank four talismans as thanks, but he didn't plan on substituting the rest of his favors with rank three talismans.

There were exceptions to every rule and one of them was Ge Qingzhu who was stationed by the institution in the battlefield between the two worlds. He might have only given Shang Xia two pieces of rank four talisman papers back when Shang Xia wanted to enter seclusion, but he assisted Shang Xia a lot during his quest to craft his Four

Seasons Samsara Brew in the past. He even gave Shang Xia a piece of the Nine Petaled Lotus Root which had the ability to take on some damage in Shang Xia's stead. It was a treasure that directly contributed to Shang Xia's escape from Feng Yezi back in the Cloud Water Gorge.

Because of that, Shang Xia especially left behind an Extermination Lightning Attracting Talisman that was one of the strongest rank four talismans he made for Ge Qingzhu. He looked for Shang Tai personally and requested him to hand the talisman over to Ge Qingzhu when he entered the battlefield between the two worlds again.

Next came Zhang Haogu of the Scripture Depository. The old master had given Shang Xia a lot of pointers and guidance. Shang Xia understood that he had to express his goodwill for the old master and he decided to give Zhang Haogu a piece of Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman in case anything happened.

Speaking of old friends, Bu Jingshuang was also one of those Shang Xia was extremely grateful for. The old man who helped him since they were preparing for the War of the Tongyou Mysterious World sent over 2 pieces of rank four talisman papers when he heard Shang Xia's intentions. Unfortunately, Shang Xia didn't plan to give him the last rank four talisman.

One of the reasons behind his actions was his reluctance to give away his last piece of rank four talisman. Next, Bu Jingshuang couldn't be compared to either Ge Qingzhu or Zhang Haogu. Not only did Shang Xia not owe Bu Jingshuang much, it was the other way around.

If one had to mention who was the most qualified to take on the role of the Changfeng City Lord, Shang Xia would rank way higher than Bu Jingshuang. One could even say that Shang Xia was the one who gave Bu Jingshuang the position of the Changfeng City Lord.

Because of their unique relationship, Shang Xia looked for Shang Quan to request for him to hand over 4 rank three talismans in appreciation of his contributions.

The next person who was on the list was Ren Huan, and with the relationship between the two, Shang Xia knew that there was no need for him to give the fatty a rank four talisman. Ren Huan wouldn't be able to make use of it to its fullest no matter how hard he tried. Giving him several lower-ranked talismans would benefit him a lot more.

After he was finally done, Shang Xia was left with 1 rank four Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman and a bunch of rank two and three talismans.

The reason he kept the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman wasn't because of other reasons. He was merely curious about the limits of the talisman.

One couldn't think that Shang Xia understood everything there was about the Abyssal Void Breaking Talisman even though he had crafted a few of them. He didn't know the true extent of the talisman's power and he had a sneaking suspicion that if he managed to uncover the truth of the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman, he would be pointed in the correct direction of the Abyssal Emptiness Talisman in the future. The gates of a rank five Talisman Grandmaster would slowly open before him.

Unfortunately, he had no idea where to even start.

Pondering endlessly over the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman, Shang Xia felt that the secret had to do with the Abyssal Talisman Paper he was supposed to craft it on. The Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman he kept for himself was crafted with rank four Abyssal Ink, but he didn't make it from Abyssal Talisman Paper.

The Talisman Hall had basically been emptied out by Shang Xia during his talisman crafting spree, and Shang Xia felt that they wouldn't be able to provide him with any rank four talisman papers in the near future, much less Abyssal Talisman Paper.

Having spent a larger half of the year in the Tongyou Mysterious World to craft talismans, Shang Xia felt an unprecedented sense of loss when he saw that he was only left with a single rank four talisman.

It might look like a massive loss, but Shang Xia knew that it was a trade off for his improvement in the way of talismans.

During the entire process, he also managed to make strong progress in his cultivation and he refined his Four Seasons Samsara Art to a whole new level. He could tell that he wasn't far off from reaching the large completion stage of his secret art, and that was a blessing indeed.

His personal cultivation also improved. Even though it wasn't that obvious as cultivation tended to stagnate slightly in the Martial Extermination Realm, Shang Xia could tell that he had grown stronger.

There was also the matter of world origin in the Tongyou Mysterious World. It might not be enough to tempt Shang Xia's Crimson Soul Tablet to start devouring wildly, it was enough for Shang Xia's comprehension of his Twenty Four Solar Terms Divine Blade Art. That was the name of his rank four martial arts, and it was making slow progress.

Those weren't all. Shang Xia actually gained a little knowledge on how to craft talisman seals. His progress in it might be the smallest of all of them, but there was still progress nonetheless.

At the very least, he managed to carve a seal out of the chunks of rock to create a prototype of the seal he had in mind. It was able to stamp out rank one talismans, but

the time those talismans could be maintained was short. It would quickly lose its effect and those rank one talismans it produced weren't of much use.

...

With Santa Shang Xia giving out all the goodies he had, he didn't expect Liu Zhiyuan and Zhang Haogu to come looking for him so soon.

The battle for power between the two of them seemed all the more obvious with the rest of the higher-ups of the institution missing. Of course, one had to know that Liu Zhiyuan was the one who had been launching an offensive to take back his authority in the institution. He wanted to have a larger say in the institution and the only person in his way was Zhang Haogu.

Now that the two of them had paid him a visit, Shang Xia felt a sense of pride filling his heart. However, he also seemed to understand that they had their reasons for doing so.

"The patriarch passed down his instructions. You are to head for the Beyond Heavens Pavilion as soon as possible!" Liu Zhiyuan got down to business the moment he saw Shang Xia. He sounded exceptionally serious.

Staring at Zhang Haogu who also had a serious expression on his face, Shang Xia understood that the situation wasn't as casual as he had hoped it would be. It seemed as though things were pretty serious.

"When should I leave?" Shang Xia asked.

"Right now. We need to head to the Tongyou Mysterious World right now!" Zhang Haogu muttered.

Shang Xia didn't ask anything about how to head over to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. Instead, he followed the two of them obediently.

The moment they emerged from the Talisman Hall, Liu Zhiyuan waved his hand and hid their presence. Throughout their journey to the Tongyou Mysterious World, no one noticed them.

Kou Chongxue's order arrived right after Shang Xia emerged from seclusion and if someone told him it was a coincidence, Shang Xia would smash his head into a block of tofu to kill himself.

When they entered the Tongyou Mysterious World again, Shang Xia was quickly brought to an unknown location by the two of them.

Standing at the side, Zhang Haogu explained, "You will learn that our Tongyou Mysterious World is broken up into different regions. Unlike the Coral Forest which was

split into four different regions, our Tongyou Mysterious World is a lot larger and it's split up like a pyramid. We're in the bottommost region at the moment and it's further split up into 3 different areas. Martial Intent Realm disciples of the institution would train there from time to time as they are unable to come into contact with world origin. The area they train in contains dense heaven and earth qi but that's about it." n/ô/vel/b//jn dot c//om

"Heading above the 3 areas, we'll arrive at the region Martial Extermination Realm experts of the institution train in. It's further split into two parts and one of them is used for seclusion. The other can be used to craft talismans, advancement medicine, or formation testing. Experts can even craft weapons there if they're talented enough. World origin is mixed into the heaven and earth qi and they're useful for Martial Extermination Realm experts like us."

Splitting the Heavens #Chapter 507: Upper Level of the Tongyou Mysterious World - Read Splitting the Heavens Chapter 507: Upper Level of the Tongyou Mysterious World

Chapter 507: Upper Level of the Tongyou Mysterious World

Now that Shang Xia had entered the Tongyou Mysterious World again, he discovered that he had missed the bigger picture the last time he was there.

Back then, he entered the Tongyou Mysterious World with a single purpose and it was to craft talismans.

In the months that passed, he didn't venture too far from his secret chamber even though he was already in the Tongyou Mysterious World. There were countless spatial restrictions around the area he was in and he only managed to observe a small portion of the Tongyou Mysterious World.

The rules the institution had for the Tongyou Mysterious World were too numerous to count and Shang Xia didn't wish to accidentally break some of them in the past. That was why he didn't mess around any way he liked back then.

Looking at Shang Xia, Zhang Haogu introduced in excitement, "Grandmaster Shang, this part of the Tongyou Mysterious World is where your secret chamber is located. However, the Tongyou Mysterious World is a little messy at the moment and this area seems a little affected. Luckily, this place won't pose any danger to any disciple who accidentally wanders in. At the very most, they'll lose their way and walk around for a bit before they are found."

Chuckling softly, Zhang Haogu continued, “Also, no one would randomly roam around the Tongyou Mysterious World for nothing. Only those who aren’t dedicated to their cultivation would lose their way here. They would waste their precious cultivation time if they venture off and get trapped in the illusions...”

Shang Xia nodded his head and laughed softly. Zhang Haogu placed it nicely, but there was one reason and one reason only people were ‘getting lost’ in the Tongyou Mysterious World. There weren’t enough members of the Formation Hall maintaining the place!

No matter which part of the organization of the Tongyou Mysterious World they were talking about, the Formation Hall had a hand to play in it.

Since the Tongyou Mysterious World was founded, the Tongyou Institution has carried out massive expeditions to regain their footing in the battlefield between the two worlds. A huge portion of the manpower from the Formation Hall was sent to the Observation Peak causing them to be unable to keep up with the arrangements to the Tongyou Mysterious World.

Since the grand formation had been completed around the Observation Peak, the newly ascended Chu Jia of the Formation Hall was immediately deployed away. The main pillar of strength of the Formation Hall was gone just like that, and the other members could only delay the arrangement of the Tongyou Mysterious World as they dealt with bigger problems.

With Zhang Haogu and Liu Zhiyuan leading the way, Shang Xia finally arrived before a patch of cloudy space.

The feeling he was getting from it was strange as he felt a faint sense of danger from within. However, he found it a little familiar at the same time.

Liu Zhiyuan and Zhang Haogu stopped in unison the moment they arrived before the cloudy space. Shang Xia, who was following closely behind them, broke out into laughter, “Let this disciple make a guess. Will going past this screen bring me to the upper part of the Tongyou Mysterious World?”

Liu Zhiyuan nodded without trying to build the suspense. He quickly explained, “That’s right. This leads to the upper region of the Tongyou Mysterious World. Actually, you can say that it’s the deepest layer of the mysterious world. When they split the regions initially, this place was meant for cultivators who had reached the third layer Martial Extermination Realm or above. You can even say that it was specially prepared for experts who had reached the Martial Dipper Realm.”

Hearing the words ‘Martial Dipper Realm’ come out of Liu Zhiyuan’s lips, Shang Xia suddenly realized why he was finding the cloudy space so familiar. He found it extremely similar to the region that existed outside the strange windy cave Shang Xia

discovered back in the battlefield between the two worlds. When he first saw it, Shang Xia felt an extreme sense of danger coming from it.

Now, Shang Xia was staring at something similar and was still getting a bad feeling. However, he felt that it wasn't actually as threatening as before. It seemed somewhat manageable.

Looking at how Zhang Haogu and Liu Zhiyuan didn't intend to continue, Shang Xia couldn't help but laugh, "Aren't you two planning to head in to take a look?"

Staring at each other, Zhang Haogu eventually broke the awkward silence. "Brat, are you messing with us? There's no need to try to watch us embarrass ourselves. We can't pass through this screen!"

Initially, Shang Xia thought that experts who hadn't reached the respective cultivation level were merely prohibited from entering the region because of a rule from the institution. Now, it seemed as though they were physically unable to pass.

He started to hesitate. "This..."

Glancing at Shang Xia, Liu Zhiyuan explained, "The Patriarch said to enter if you are strong enough. If you're not, wait here for him to pick you up."

Shang Xia didn't seem to care about the test by Kou Chongxue. Instead, he changed the topic and asked, "Is there a path connecting our Tongyou Mysterious World to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion?"

Zhang Haogu shook his head slowly and sighed, "The two of us have not been to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. We don't know much about the details. However, Patriarch Kou never seemed to use the Tongyou Mysterious World when he went to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion in the past."

Actually, Zhang Haogu was equally as curious and wanted to know how to get to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion.

Shang Xia nodded slowly in response and walked past the two of them. Staring at the screen of gray before him, he muttered, "Should I give it a try?"

Zhang Haogu and Liu Zhifei retreated immediately as Shang Xia continued to approach the screen.

Stepping through the chaotic space, Shang Xia couldn't see a path beneath his feet. Everything around him was a strange gray color. His extermination origin appeared under his feet the moment he stepped down and it seemed to form a steady platform to support his weight. At the same time, a frightening pressure pressed against Shang Xia from the unassuming gray space.

Shang Xia's extermination origins seemed provoked by the pressure coming from the chaotic space and a four colored extermination light started to expand around him, resisting the pressure coming from all directions.

Eventually getting used to the surrounding pressure, Shang Xia continued to take several steps out. With every step he took, the four colored extermination light supported him as it opened a path before him.

When Shang Xia got far out into the blurry space, the four color extermination light that came from his extermination origins started to form an image of a door which he finally stepped through...

Zhang Haogu and Liu Zhiyuan stared at Shang Xia's leaving figure as he went deeper and deeper into the chaotic space.

"How does he do it!" Liu Zhiyuan muttered. There was a trace of jealousy in his voice as he stared at the blurry figure getting further and further away.

To be really honest, he tried entering the chaotic space in the past. However... Well, everyone knew what happened.

Because of his advanced age, Zhang Haogu's blood didn't boil as hot as Liu Zhiyuan. Rather than jealousy, he seemed to admire Shang Xia's strength even more. He glanced at Liu Zhiyuan after hearing his question and he muttered, "His strength might have something to do with the way he advanced to the Martial Extermination Realm..."

"Is it about how he refined all four extermination origins simultaneously?" Liu Zhiyuan asked after hesitating slightly.

Looking at Liu Zhiyuan, Zhang Haogu muttered placidly, "Is there any other explanation you can think of?"

Liu Zhiyuan shook his head and sighed, "This is too... Even if he managed to develop four seeds of extermination origins before entering the Martial Extermination Realm, everyone's dantian is just so big! Even if he entered the Martial Extermination Realm with a different method, that wouldn't affect his improvement speed, right?!"

Zhang Haogu extended both his arms and shrugged his shoulders. "Who knows? It might be a special trait only those who refined 4 extermination origins together obtain. It might also be because of other factors. The only way to understand what's going on is to replicate the way he entered the Martial Extermination Realm..."

Staring at Zhang Haogu in fright, Liu Zhiyuan revealed a bitter smile and shook his head.

Refining 4 extermination origins at once was something only a madman would do! No one knew why Kou Chongxue even agreed to let the kid do something like that.

Shang Bo was another one they had to talk about after bringing up Shang Xia's breakthrough. He watched as his grandson tried such a dangerous method of breakthrough! Anyone who didn't know the full situation would think that Shang Xia wasn't related to Shang Bo at all!

Liu Zhiyuan balked silently as negative thoughts continued to fly through his mind.

...

Shang Xia didn't know how long he had been walking for, but throughout the process, he could feel the exhaustion of his extermination origins.

Just as he was about to use up all his strength and thoughts of how he wasn't qualified to pass through the chaotic space were forming in his mind, a burst of light caught him by surprise. He stepped out from the chaotic space and entered a sea of white.

There was a massive structure that looked like a building that had just been built standing in front of him. It seemed completely bare as Shang Xia scanned it from top to bottom.

The heaven and earth qi in his surroundings was also surprisingly thin. In contrast, the world origin seemed a little thicker than other regions in the Tongyou Mysterious World.

Heaven and earth qi which was 2 to 3 times thicker in the middle segment of the Tongyou Mysterious World than the outside world was evidently unable to fill the top segment. That might explain why Shang Xia was feeling a little suffocated when he made his way over earlier.

That wasn't all. Shang Xia felt his inner qi leaking out bit by bit as he stood there in the empty space. Even his extermination origins were showing signs of going berserk.

Those might be what he experienced, but Shang Xia couldn't help but admire the Tongyou Mysterious World.

Turning his attention inwards, he started to calm his inner qi down. He used the chance to familiarize himself with his surroundings.

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Throughout the process, Shang Xia discovered that his inner qi was starting to circulate faster. He also clearly felt a deeper understanding of his Four Seasons Samsara Art.

Everything he felt only meant one thing. His cultivation was already rising as he stood there.

His cultivation was one thing, but the Crimson Soul Tablet also started to tremble in his sea of consciousness.

Splitting apart a little bit of his consciousness, Shang Xia went to observe the tablet.

One had to understand that since his time in the Abyssal Secret Region, Shang Xia had been able to absorb world origin bit by bit. He tried refining it back then, but the Crimson Soul Tablet never reacted as strongly.

From what Shang Xia knew, the Crimson Soul Tablet wouldn't feel the urge to devour world origin unless it was exceptionally pure. He felt that the tablet was some sort of foodie who would only act up when the food was delicious enough.

It also showed that the Crimson Soul Tablet seemed to possess some sort of consciousness.

Because of those reasons, Shang Xia felt that he managed to form a deeper connection with the tablet. Back when he first transmigrated, he had already formed a link with the tablet. However, the connection was a little one sided as the tablet seemed to have no other choice. Now that Shang Xia had refined so much world origin, the feeling of familiarity he felt with the tablet became stronger and stronger.

Having discovered what had happened, a look of realization appeared on his face. Didn't it seem as though he was further refining the Crimson Soul Tablet as he fed it with world origin?

Chapter 508: Beyond Heavens Pavilion

Shang Xia continued to circulate his Four Seasons Samsara Art while feeling his extermination origins getting nourished by the Crimson Soul Tablet.

The feeling made him feel as though he was nourishing and refining the tablet further as it interacted with his extermination origins while he fed it world origin.

His thoughts couldn't help but wander as he thought back to the Abyssal Blade he had obtained back then.

After suppressing the weapon spirit in the Cloud Water Gorge, it also tried to absorb Shang Xia's extermination qi. As it did, Shang Xia's understanding of the blade grew deeper. Eventually, he managed to bring out the full power the blade could wield. As the weapon spirit was continuously nourished by Shang Xia's inner qi, it continued to grow stronger and so did the weapon.

The entire process looked like they were using each other and they were benefiting from said cooperation.

Of course, the Abyssal Blade was a little different. Even though he could refine it and nourish the weapon spirit, he was unable to keep it in his body. That seemed to be the case for divine weapons. He never heard of any divine weapons that could be kept in one's body and even Kou Chongxue's Hidden Frost Sword was no different.

That brought another question to Shang Xia's mind... In fact, the question has existed for a long time. He only managed to recall it now. What in the world is the Crimson Soul Tablet exactly?!

If it was a weapon, what grade would it have to be?! Since he could keep it in his body, the functionality already exceeded what divine weapons could do! Was it possible for the Crimson Soul Tablet to be better than divine weapons?

There was also a possibility that it wasn't a weapon!

Shang Xia never heard of any weapons that had the ability to refine and optimize martial intents and deduce advancement formulas.

When Shang Xia's thoughts were running wild, his inner qi finally stabilized, and the discomfort he felt finally disappeared.

A slight fluctuation appeared at the edge of his divine perception all of a sudden and he raised his head to take a look at it. He discovered a massive door that connected to the starry skies way above and a formless current emerged from it. It brought with it a majestic aura as it swept towards Shang Xia and he felt as though the world was crashing down on him.

Just as he was about to raise his defenses, the formless current started to condense into a human form.

As his facial features became visible, Shang Xia recognized Kou Chongxue, the legendary patriarch of the Tongyou Institution.

"Hahahaha!" Kou Chongxue released a bout of laughter before nodding in appreciation. "The atmosphere here mimics that of the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. Even though it's not as good, it's amazing that you managed to adapt in such a short amount of time."

Becoming a little serious, Kou Chongxue smiled and muttered in admiration, "Kid, you're actually pretty good!"

Shang Xia sized Kou Chongxue up and down. The moment the patriarch appeared, he had a sneaking suspicion that the person in front of him was the real deal. However, there was also a feeling that something was different about him.

Seemingly having discovered what Shang Xia was doing, Kou Chongxue no longer spoke after praising him. He simply stood quietly while maintaining a huge grin on his face.

After some time, Shang Xia muttered with a little uncertainty, "Fate Dipper Clone?"

Kou Chongxue nodded slightly in response, "There's not many people with your cultivation level who understand so much about Fate Dipper Clones..."

It wasn't the first time Shang Xia had seen Kou Chongxue. He might not have seen the real thing before but he somewhat understood the patriarch's temper and attitude to things. He felt that he didn't need to bow and scrape or act too reserved. Now that he was speaking to Kou Chongxue, he spoke casually. "I've seen so many of them and gotten used to it. Then again, did you arrive a long time ago and were waiting to watch me embarrass myself?"

Kou Chongxue didn't bother hiding his actions from Shang Xia. "The chaotic space was a test for you anyway. The moment you entered, I tried doing something to see where your limits lay. In the end, you surprised me."

Shang Xia chuckled in response, "Did I surprise you in a good way or were you surprisingly disappointed?"

"Make a guess?" Kou Chongxue laughed.

A helpless smile appeared on Shang Xia's face and he shook his head slightly.

Seemingly wanting to mess with Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue changed the topic suddenly. "Damn brat, I heard that you caused a huge ruckus in the institution recently. You managed to catch everyone's attention..."

Waving his hands, Shang Xia pretended to be taken aback by the sudden accusation. "There's no need to make fun of me. No one can hide anything from you anyway. You should know that I was helpless in the matter!"

"Hmm." Grunting slightly, Kou Chongxue didn't seem concerned at all. "At least you managed to widen their horizons and motivate them a little."

Shang Xia knew that Kou Chongxue was someone who spoke his mind and didn't really give a damn about status and he quickly asked, "So are you actually a clone?"

A light flashed in Kou Chongxue's eyes and he shrugged his shoulders. A ripple extended down his body and he chuckled in amusement, "What do you think of my Origin Water Fate Dipper Clone?"

Shang Xia knew that he was in no position to evaluate a Martial Dipper Realm expert's clone and he simply asked anything that came to mind. "Back during the fight in the Taihang Mountains, Ancestor Yun Lu's clone was destroyed again. Did you manage to obtain another fate dipper from him?"

"Are you crazy? Do you think it's that easy to steal fate dippers? The clone we destroyed last time was made out of his inner qi. He lost some dipper qi in the process but he will be able to recover after some time." Kou Chongxie sneered in response.

However, Shang Xia didn't seem to understand the entire situation and he continued to ask, "What's the difference between Ancestor Yun Lu's clone that was made out of dipper qi and the one back in the War of the Tongyou Mysterious World?"

He quickly received a reply from Kou Chongxue. "Clones are created using a Martial Dipper Realm expert's inner qi. It also contains a little divine soul. It might possess the cultivation of a Martial Dipper Realm expert and the corresponding fighting strength, but it's an exhaustible object at the end of the day. The clone will disappear once the dipper qi is used up. It wouldn't affect a cultivator's cultivation and they would suffer a period of weakness at best if the clone is destroyed. It wouldn't take long for their inner qi to be replenished."

"A clone that contains a fate dipper is a different story. Other than the fact that it can act as a secondary body, everything else will seem the same. They possess an independent ability to think for themselves. Brat, you should have already discovered it. If this clone of mine were to be destroyed, my cultivation would regress by a small realm. I would fall from the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm to the second."

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"So that's it!" Shang Xia's doubt was finally cleared.

"Kid, it's not time for you to be thinking about all these. I'm here to bring you to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion." Kou Chongxue changed the topic yet again.

Shang Xia frowned in response. "Aren't you bringing me to the foreign continent that exists outside the heavens?"

Glaring at Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue snorted loudly, "You're a damn Talisman Grandmaster. Just stay in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion and craft your talismans. That would be much better than you personally entering the foreign continent, no? Even if you go there, you might not be able to change the overall situation. It's a different story if you manage to craft several rank four talismans. You will be able to help out a lot more of our cultivators by doing so."

Shang Xia sighed helplessly, “Hah... Even if we talk about the entire You Continent, it’s going to be difficult to look for a single rank four talisman paper. How am I supposed to craft anything?”

A crafty smile appeared on Kou Chongxue’s face soon after. “You don’t have to worry about that. You’ll be getting busy once you arrive in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion.”

Gesturing for Shang Xia to follow, he turned to walk away.

Shang Xia chased after him with haste while yelling, “Where’s the Beyond Heavens Pavilion anyway? How are we going to get there?”

The words barely left his lips when he felt the space around him changing. Kou Chongxue’s figure that was walking in front of him seemed to carve a formless spatial tunnel out of nothingness, but Shang Xia had no idea where it led.

Without turning around, Kou Chongxue chuckled, “We’re already on the way there.”

Gasping in fright, Shang Xia hurried to follow behind Kou Chongxue. He tried to extend his divine perception to its maximum range to feel the changes around him. At the same time, he continued to ask Kou Chongxue questions. “Patriarch Kou, is it true that only Martial Dipper Realm experts can head to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion?”

“Yeah. It’s almost impossible for Martial Extermination Realm cultivators to break through the spatial barrier. However, the moment our Tongyou Mysterious World becomes the Tongyou Paradise, the barrier might become thinner and make it such that Martial Extermination Realm cultivators would be able to head over whenever they wish.” Kou Chongxue said after a short pause.

“Does that mean upgrading to become a paradise would weaken the spatial barrier around our world?” Shang Xia followed up with another question.

“You can say that...” Kou Chongxue smiled in response.

“Is that a good thing or a bad thing?” Shang Xia didn’t know if the spatial barrier actually benefited the Azure Origin World.

Still walking forward, Kou Chongxue replied without turning back. “A paradise is like a small bubble that exists outside the Azure Origin World. The more of them we make, the weaker the strength of the spatial barrier that covers our world. That is the reason we will face a huge obstacle when advancing. Once a paradise is created, it will weaken the spatial barrier around our world. At the same time, those paradises that have been established will serve as a line of defense for our Azure Origin World...”

Shang Xia nodded to indicate his understanding, but he didn’t know if Kou Chongxue could actually see it. Taking a short moment to organize his thoughts, Shang Xia

continued, "Patriarch, does that also mean that our Tongyou Mysterious World is established in a location where the spatial barrier around our Azure Origin World is the thinnest?"

Kou Chongxue explained, "Our location is where our Azure Origin World collided with the Azure Spiritual World. You can say that the entire region is a weak point in the spatial barrier to begin with."

Shang Xia seemed to have realized something after hearing what Kou Chongxue said and he became incomparably serious. "Patriarch, you said that paradises would become a line of defense for the weakened parts of the spatial barrier around our world. Does that mean that we'll be facing some sort of danger when the spatial barrier weakens?"

"Not bad... You actually managed to think of this." Kou Chongxue spoke while making his way forward. His voice continued to transmit into Shang Xia's mind. "You can start by thinking about where your Shang Clan's Providence Spear Art came from."

Shang Xia's eyelids jumped slightly and a thought flew through his mind.

All of a sudden, the sea of white they were walking through disappeared and Shang Xia discovered that he was standing right under the starry skies.

Not too far away from where his feet were situated, a massive ravine extended to infinity. It seemed to possess some sort of magical attraction that was pulling Shang Xia over and alarm bells started going off in his mind. He quickly pulled himself away from the strange feeling and retreated away from the endless ravine in the void.

Turning around suddenly, Shang Xia discovered Kou Chongxue laughing at him from not too far away.

Chapter 509: Opportunity

"That is called the Void Abyss and it's also what we dub the Dual World Vortex. It's also called the Region of Fusion Between the Two Worlds." Kou Chongxue continued to introduce the region to Shang Xia. "This is the place where our Azure Origin World meets the Azure Spiritual World. The world origin of our worlds is also experiencing fusion in this area."

"All of us came from the Azure Origin World and would naturally have the urge to return to the embrace of the world origin. Due to the heavy obstructions, cultivation wouldn't be able to come into contact with it until they reach the Martial Extermination Realm. Moreover, they would only be able to tap into a little bit. Anyone who comes here for the first time will definitely be attracted to the Void Abyss due to the fusion of world origins. If they fail to overcome the urge to jump into the Void Abyss, they will disappear and become world origin that returns to the world."

Shang Xia knew that Kou Chongxue obviously wouldn't sit by and watch if he failed to overcome the urge to jump into the Void Abyss. However, it was clearly a test for him.

If Kou Chongxue had to make a move, the old patriarch might start to view him in a different light. Luckily, he managed to save himself.

"Let's go. This old man's true body isn't too far away right now. You should head over and take a look at it." Kou Chongxue muttered.

Hurrying behind Kou Chongxue, the two of them trudged through space seemingly slowly. However, that was only how things looked on the surface. They traveled extremely quickly as they crossed a massive distance.

Throughout the process, Shang Xia noticed some differences between the Beyond Heavens Pavilion and the Azure Origin World.

Thanks to the Tongyou Mysterious World, Shang Xia felt a familiar feeling when he finally arrived in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. The thick heaven and earth qi made his surroundings slightly suffocating, but he adapted quickly.

Feeling the heaven and earth qi around him, Shang Xia could tell that it was several times denser than that in the upper region of the Tongyou Mysterious World. Moreover, he could also feel his extermination origins resonating with the world origin surrounding him. That wasn't all. As he continued to walk around, he subconsciously reached for his glabella.

"What's the matter? Are you losing control of your inner qi?" Kou Chongxue asked and slowed his pace slightly. Turning back to look at Shang Xia, a look of contemplation could be seen in his eyes.

Laughing softly, Shang Xia shook his head and explained, "Not really. However, my divine perception seems a lot more active than before."

"Is that it?" Kou Chongxue was a little surprised. He even felt a little curious about Shang Xia's condition. "Do you need to take a break?"

Shang Xia waved his hand and rejected the suggestion. "There's no need. It's just a little discomfort. I have everything under control..."

Shooting Shang Xia a deep glance, Kou Chongxue eventually nodded his head slowly. He continued to head to their destination and Shang Xia followed closely behind. Shang Xia laughed bitterly in his heart.

He didn't really lie to Kou Chongxue about the matter. The Crimson Soul Tablet's fluctuations actually caused his divine perception to be slightly affected.

The reactions of the Crimson Soul Tablet might be resonating with the world origin around him, but it wasn't pointing in a definite direction this time. That was because world origin was dense everywhere around him! The Crimson Soul Tablet was dying to emerge from Shang Xia's sea of consciousness but was forcefully suppressed at the moment.

Luckily, he had the ability to force it down. His better control over the Crimson Soul Tablet might have something to do with how it interacted with his extermination origins. Because of that, the tablet was stained with his brand allowing him to slightly affect how the tablet was used.

He was able to slightly influence the tablet, but he had to use his divine perception to forcefully tie it down at the end of the day. During the entire process, he could still feel it pulsating in his sea of consciousness.

As they continued to make their way forward, a massive platform appeared in their view. It was located 300 feet away from the Region of Fusion Between the Two Worlds. A slovenly dressed middle-aged man who was clad in white robes sat crossed-legged on the platform with his eyes closed.

The person sitting over there seemed to be the true body of the great Martial Dipper Realm Kou Chongxue, the legendary patriarch of the Tongyou Institution.

Even though it was his first time seeing Kou Chongxue's true body, Shang Xia felt a sense of familiarity with him. The clone might be leading the way, but Shang Xia didn't need to use his divine perception to know that the middle-aged man sitting over on the platform was the real Kou Chongxue.

When they finally arrived not too far away, the clone that was leading the way transformed into tiny streams that returned to the main body.

Everything that happened when the clone brought Shang Xia over was relayed into Kou Chongxue's mind and the patriarch opened his eyes in shock.

"Your method of advancing by refining 4 extermination origins at once isn't too bad!" Kou Chongxue yelled and gestured for him to approach. When he closed in on the platform, he continued, "You were able to pass through the barrier of the upper region of the Tongyou Mysterious World and shake off the attraction from the Region of Fusion Between the Two Worlds. Did you refine your extermination origins to around 60 percent of what they are?"

"A little closer to 50 percent..." Shang Xia replied vaguely.

Widening his eyes even more, Kou Chongxue looked more surprised. He sighed softly, "Looks like refining 4 extermination origins is more powerful than I had thought. Could that be the actual way to cultivate?"

Shang Xia remained silent as the patriarch thought out loud.

Raising his head to stare at Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue obviously wasn't going to let him keep quiet. "What do you think?"

"It's going to be a difficult problem for you to think about..." Shang Xia didn't give a proper reply and chuckled in response.

Staring at the kid who was barely older than 20 and had already stepped into the Martial Extermination Realm, Kou Chongxue fell silent for a moment. He felt waves battering against his heart.

Shang Xia said that he managed to refine his extermination origins to around 50 percent, but despite all his improvements, his refinement process barely reached the 35 percent mark not too long ago.

Ever since he entered the Four Constellation Realm, Shang Xia has been trying to develop his unique martial art. Without comprehending his martial arts, he wasn't able to refine his extermination origins properly, and neither could he progress as he wanted.

During the past year, Shang Xia's comprehension improved by leaps and bounds and he finally managed to raise his refinement rate to close to 40 percent.

As for the reason behind Kou Chongxue's estimation of his refinement completion rate, he had observed Shang Xia's strength in the Tongyou Mysterious World and felt that the kid was comparable to a third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert.

Facing Kou Chongxue's questions, Shang Xia decided to hide a little bit of his strength. However, that was already enough to shock the patriarch.

"So... Did you manage to develop your rank four secret art?" Kou Chongxue changed the topic and asked.

Ready for the question, Shang Xia also prepared his answer a long time ago. "I still have to refine and correct it a little, but it's getting there."

Shang Xia wasn't lying. After all, rank four secret arts would allow a cultivator to complete a cycle of their inner qi circulation in 4 hours. Shang Xia's Four Seasons Samsara Art was a little complicated and he needed a little longer to complete the process. He might be closing in on his goal, but it was still a little lacking.

That might be the case, but Kou Chongxue was still a Martial Dipper Realm expert at the end of the day. He quickly zoomed in on the key point. “You actually managed to develop your secret art so quickly?” A trace of suspicion could be heard in his voice.

“Yeah...” Shang Xia muttered softly and continued, “Disciple obtained a stick of Dao Comprehension Incense back in the Abyssal Secret Region. After burning it, I managed to reach a special state of comprehension. My thoughts became exceptionally clear and I quickly refined my secret art...”

“WHAT?” Kou Chongxue leaped to his feet from the platform and stared at Shang Xia with a trace of shock and loss.

At the same time, a strange fluctuation appeared in the distance and another figure appeared. Ji Wenlong quickly appeared and he addressed Shang Xia directly. “You managed to obtain a stick of Dao Comprehension Incense and you used it?! This... This... This is truly a waste of heavenly resources...”

Turning to look at Kou Chongxue once again, Shang Xia could see that the patriarch was about to start pounding his chest as he raised his head to stare blankly at the stars above.

With Ji Wenlong’s sudden appearance, it was obvious that he had been paying attention to their entire exchange.

With their reactions, Shang Xia obviously knew that the Dao Comprehension Incense wasn’t an ordinary treasure. It seemed as though he underestimated the treasure in the first place.

When Kou Chongxue finally got over his grief, he sighed softly and stopped Ji Wenlong from speaking any further in case they hurt Shang Xia’s feelings.

Even so, he couldn’t hide the look of regret and loss on his face. Only after some time became a little more serious as he gave an explanation. “If you left the Dao Comprehension Incense for your grandfather, our institution would definitely produce our third Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor! Who would have thought that you would... Well, never mind, if you’re the one who used it, at least the Dao Comprehension Incense wasn’t wasted.”

Shang Xia stared at Ji Wenlong in shock. A trace of delight started to form in his heart when he heard what they said. From their words, it seemed as though they were sparing no expense to push his grandfather into the Martial Dipper Realm!

If the Tongyou Institution produces their third Martial Dipper Realm expert, they would be comparable to the White Deer Paradise in strength almost in an instant. Their foundations might be a little weaker, but they would immediately become one of the top powerhouses in the Azure Origin World regardless.

Obviously, they were already getting ready for the fusion of the Azure Origin World and the Azure Spiritual World that was bound to happen.

With hopes of entering the Martial Dipper Realm, Shang Bo should have chosen to enter seclusion and cultivation relentlessly while strengthening his foundations. However, he chose to head over to the foreign continent nonetheless. That could only mean one thing. The foreign continent contained the key to his breakthrough!

Kou Chongxue and Ji Wenlong didn't know that Shang Xia had deduced so many things from all the information he had received, but Kou Chongxue interrupted his train of thought.

"Brat, hand it over!" Kou Chongxue sighed softly and chose not to think of the Dao Comprehension Incense.

"Huh?" Shang Xia raised his eyebrows in fright. He didn't know what they were talking about and looked at them with confusion in his eyes.

"What the hell do you think? Hand the Abyssal Firmament Fate Dipper Over! Without it, how is your grandpa going to enter the Martial Dipper Realm?" Ji Wenlong snapped. "Don't tell me you thought that the two of us were helping you to obtain the origin dipper..."

With a thousand alpacas running through his heart, Shang Xia nearly started cursing. That was actually his thoughts but he didn't think that the two of them merely left it with him for safekeeping.

Regardless, he could only hand it over like an obedient child. Was he supposed to watch as his grandfather failed to enter the Martial Dipper Realm just because he didn't have the origin dipper he obtained?

Chapter 510: Way the Restore the Abyssal Blade

"So this origin dipper is actually called the Abyssal Firmament Fate Dipper... Hehehe!" Shang Xia handed over the sealed origin dipper and Kou Chongxue retrieved it with a simple gesture.

He examined the Abyssal Firmament Fate Dipper in his hand and discovered that it was in perfect condition.

Ji Wenlong was still sulking at the side as he couldn't get the Dao Comprehension Incense out of his mind. "Damn it! If we still had the Dao Comprehension Incense, we'd be able to further perfect the rank five advancement formula Patriarch Kou has. With that, your grandpa would be able to enter seclusion to break through immediately..."

Realizing that he spoke his thoughts out loud, Ji Wenlong quickly turned silent and turned to look at Kou Chongxue.

A satisfied smile appeared on Kou Chongxue's face after he examined the origin dipper. He raised his head and looked at Ji Wenlong while sighing, "Don't worry about it. This kid knew that my advancement formula wasn't complete a long time ago..."

Seeing the awkward look that had appeared on Shang Xia's face, Ji Wenlong raised an eyebrow in surprise.

All of a sudden, Shang Xia recalled the first time he met Kou Chongxue and the time difference between that and when Ji Wenlong entered the Martial Dipper Realm. Since he made the connection about how his grandfather had entered the foreign continent in order to break through, he couldn't help but yell, "World origin! Patriarch Kou wants to use world origin to replicate how you entered the Martial Dipper Realm in the past! If I didn't guess wrong, Deputy Patriarch Ji, you also used that method to break through because you didn't have the Dao Comprehension Incense!"

Bursting into laughter, Kou Chongxue sighed, "Damn, you actually guessed it. However, the risks of that method are pretty huge. It would be much better to perfect the advancement formula..."

"Is there actually world origin on the foreign continent?" Shang Xia took the chance to push for an answer.

"No matter which world it is, even if it's on the brink of destruction and the world origin it contains has already withered to the point of no return, will possess enough world origin for someone to break through to the Martial Dipper Realm. The only question is if they would be able to find the world origin. As for the method they use to break through, that's another story altogether. Moreover..."

Kou Chongxue paused for a moment before shooting a glance at the Void Abyss nearby. A strange smile formed on his face as he continued, "Even if he can't find world origin in the foreign continent, the world origins of both worlds are contained here..."

Ji Wenlong gasped while looking at Kou Chongxue, "Isn't it a bit too early for him to learn all these things?"

The corners of Kou Chongxue's lips twitched awkwardly and he muttered, "That's why I called him over here... No one will be able to spy on us here..."

Shang Xia couldn't help but feel a chill running down his spine after hearing what Kou Chongxue said. The patriarch might have said that to make things a little less awkward, but there was definitely some logic behind his words. From what Kou Chongxue unintentionally revealed, Shang Xia knew that some people had their sights set on him at the moment.

“This little brat might seem young and has low seniority in his clan, but his cultivation level has undeniably reached the requirements. He definitely has the qualifications to learn about the high-level secrets of the institution.”

Shaking his head helplessly, Ji Wenlong turned to Shang Xia and sighed, “Kid, you’re on your own...”

Ji Wenlong’s figure started to dissipate after he was done speaking.

Shang Xia wanted to ask about the people who were eyeing him, but after thinking about how Kou Chongxue had called him over to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion where his true body was, it was clear that anyone who had the ability to plot against him was at the Martial Dipper Realm.

Since that was the case, there was no point asking since he wouldn’t be able to do a thing about them other than worry unnecessarily.

Choosing to change the topic, Shang Xia chuckled, “Patriarch Kou, I remember when you and Deputy Patriarch Ji arrived in the Taihang Mountains back then. It was such a majestic entrance and you suppressed all your enemies...”

“Don’t give me that bullshit. There’s no need to kiss my ass here. What do you want to ask?” Kou Chongxue interrupted him.

“Alright!” Shang Xia immediately got to the point. “When you two grabbed the inheritance light balls back in the Abyssal Secret Region, did you not manage to find any origin dippers among them?”

Shang Xia immediately ratted his intentions out.

Seeing through Shang Xia’s question, Kou Chongxue muttered, “Do you really think that the Abyssal Sect has a shit ton of origin dippers or something?”

“They wouldn’t just possess one Abyssal Firmament Fate Dipper, right?” Shang Xia pouted.

“Oh? Damn brat, do you think that Old Man Ji and I hid an origin dipper and aren’t giving it to Shang Bo?”

“No...? I wouldn’t dare...” Shang Xia muttered.

“Are you probing me right now? Are you trying to get me to give you an origin dipper?” Kou Chongxue raised an eyebrow and pouted.

“Patriarch Kou, you’re a genius! Actually...”

“Fuck you! Go away!” Kou Chongxue snapped at Shang Xia before he could finish his sentence.

“Alrighty then!” Turning around, Shang Xia pretended to walk away. After taking two steps, he turned around again. “Patriarch Kou, can’t you give some clues as to what you obtained from those inheritance light balls?”

Looking at the shameless expression on Shang Xia’s face, Kou Chongxue burst out laughing. He tossed a jade pendant over and waved his hand with practiced annoyance, “Find a safe place before taking a look at it. Anyway, don’t stray too far away. Always remain within a ten mile radius from my true body.”

With the jade pendant in hand, Shang Xia knew that he should make himself scarce. He bowed once before taking his leave.

After leaving the platform Kou Chongxue was on, Shang Xia started to make his way towards the Void Abyss. As he approached, he noticed fluffy clouds appearing in the distance and straw huts popping out from their surface.

Shang Xia could basically guess that those huts were where Martial Extermination Realm experts who were brought to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion used to enter seclusion.

There were simple restrictions around those huts, but it seemed as though none of them were active at the moment. [n/ô/vel/b//jn dot c//om](#)

Randomly choosing one of them, he entered only to see an empty but clean space. Clearly, the hut had been unpopulated for some time.

Walking towards the deepest pillar that held the grass hut up, Shang Xia pressed his hand against its surface and poured his inner qi into the structure. The restrictions around the hut activated immediately and separated the hut from the outside world.

The restrictions weren’t of much use and were more of a formality when he thought about it. Anyone who could enter the Beyond Heavens Pavilion was a Martial Extermination Realm expert. They could tear a restriction like that apart easily.

Locating a mat somewhere in the hut, Shang Xia chose to sit down on it before inspecting the pendant Kou Chongxue handed to him.

As his divine perception entered the pendant, information quickly streamed into his mind.

Shang Xia gasped in fright before turning serious as he read through the content.

Originally, Shang Xia thought that Kou Chongxue would record his gains from the Abyssal Secret Region in the pendant. At the very least, he thought that Kou Chongxue would give him a little bit of whatever he gained. After all, that was why he shamelessly pestered Kou Chongxue.

Who would have thought that the patriarch would actually give him something like that?! After reading the contents, Shang Xia felt a complicated feeling filling his heart.

The jade pendant didn't contain any special formula or recipes. Instead, it contained a conjecture. It was the experience of a Grandmaster Blacksmith from the Abyssal Sect. It contained his theory on how the Abyssal Blade should be repaired!

The way of crafting a divine weapon was extremely strange. Even Kou Chongxue didn't know how his Hidden Frost Sword became a divine weapon. After all, it managed to advance with him when he entered the Martial Dipper Realm.

The Abyssal Blade became a divine weapon in the past because of a coincidence. Throughout the entire process, too many indescribable things happened. As such, even the blacksmiths who were in charge of crafting the sword didn't know what happened.

Because of the Abyssal Sect's long history, the records the blacksmith had were starting to degrade. The Abyssal Blade was damaged because of an accident and they had been looking for a way to fix it ever since.

After suffering countless setbacks, one of the Grandmaster Blacksmiths leveraged the experience of his predecessors to come up with an idea they could use to fix the Abyssal Blade.

Unfortunately, the Abyssal Sect had already started to decline. The experts of the sect fell and they couldn't carry out the plan even if they used the full power of the sect. In the end, the idea of fixing the Abyssal Blade was sealed in the treasury.

"Star Essence!" Shang Xia couldn't help but repeat the name again and again after reading through the contents of the pendant.

According to the records, the Abyssal Blade required a lot more material to be repaired. However, Star Essence seemed to be the key ingredient.

If what was recorded was real, one had to travel beyond the heavens. At the very least, they would have to be in the Martial Dipper Realm. Also, Shang Xia wasn't a fool. He knew that extracting Star Essence wasn't going to be an easy task.

One would need an exceptionally long time in order to extract some Star Essence. The time period required could be several years or even dozens of years! That was assuming the entire process went smoothly.

The fact of the matter was that even Martial Dipper Realm ancestors couldn't be exposed for a long time under the sea of stars. Unless there were multiple Martial Dipper Realm ancestors who took turns to extract Star Essence, they wouldn't be able to gather so much in a short period of time.

It was no wonder the Abyssal Sect felt that the difficulty of restoring the Abyssal Blade was so damn high. Even if they were in their peak state back then, the Martial Dipper Realm ancestors would probably be cursing and swearing if all they had to do was to extract Star Essence.

After staying in his straw hut for several days and not being able to think of anything he could do with the information he learned from the jade pendant, Shang Xia decided to take things slow and started to cultivate.

The heaven and earth qi in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion was basically non-existent at that point. Instead, world origin was extremely concentrated and it was countless times denser than anywhere he had seen.

The Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness wanted to leap out a few times, and it seemed to be hurrying him up to cultivate. It wanted to use the world origin in the surroundings to restore itself as soon as possible.

Normally when a Martial Extermination Realm expert went into seclusion, they would be able to absorb both world origin and heaven and earth qi. A Martial Extermination Realm cultivator, or a Four Constellation Realm cultivator in Shang Xia's case, was supposed to start transitioning from heaven and earth qi to world origin.

Because of the dense world origin in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, it greatly benefited cultivators of the Martial Extermination Realm.

As Shang Xia went about his day to day life, he didn't just focus on circulating his inner qi. He placed most of his attention on perfecting his secret art.

...

One fine day, Kou Chongxue's voice tore through the restriction and rang in Shang Xia's mind. "Come meet me in the pavilion right now!"