

## The Heavens 511

Chapter 511: Kou Chongxue's Secret Stash

"Did you take a look at the information in the jade pendant?" Kou Chongxue spoke the moment he saw Shang Xia. From the time Shang Xia left previously, it seemed as though the patriarch hadn't moved a muscle.

With a weary heart, Shang Xia sighed, "Yeah, I saw it."

Kou Chongxue looked at the helpless expression on Shang Xia's face and broke out into hysterical laughter. It was as though he was relishing in Shang Xia's misfortune.

Glaring at the patriarch who was nearly doubled over in laughter, Shang Xia snapped, "Don't tell me you called me here to laugh at me."

Waving his hands casually, a ray of light shot towards Shang Xia.

He might not know what the item was, but he knew that Kou Chongxue wouldn't actually harm him. Reaching out, the ray of light started to condense in his palm. "This..."

Shang Xia looked at the cluster of soft light that had appeared in his hand and noticed that it was merely several specks that were emitting a soft glow. He felt a strange sense of attraction to it and something clicked in his mind. Excitement filled his heart as he raised his head to look at Kou Chongxue again.

"That's right. This is Star Essence. It's something that you need to repair your Abyssal Blade." Kou Chongxue confirmed his guess. "But... You better not get too excited. How much do you think this small bit of Star Essence will help? Do you know how long I had to stay out there in order to obtain this?"

His second sentence was like a bucket of cold water that was splashed over Shang Xia's head. Even though he was prepared for it, hearing that the amount of Star Essence wasn't enough from Kou Chongxue really stung.

With the small amount of Star Essence he had, he wouldn't be able to do much to his Abyssal Blade. Moreover, from what Kou Chongxue was saying, he had been gathering Star Essence for some time now...

"Ever since I discovered this jade pendant in the Taihang Mountains, I have been risking it all to collect Star Essence from beyond the heavens. It's been close to half a year but I only managed to obtain so little." Kou Chongxue paused for a moment before he continued, "Of course, this might be because I didn't venture too far. The efficiency of collecting Star Essence might have been greatly reduced because of that..."

Shang Xia sighed helplessly, "It's alright. If it's that difficult to gather Star Essence, why would you give them all to me?"

“Hmph, I was only afraid you wouldn’t recognize Star Essence if you ran into it in the future.” Kou Chongxue snorted derisively.

“Patriarch, do you mean...” Shang Xia hesitated for a moment as he asked.

He was interrupted by Kou Chongxue before he could finish. “It is difficult to extract Star Essence from beyond the heavens, but that doesn’t mean you can’t plunder them from other cultivators. It’s also possible that someone will obtain Star Essence without knowing what it is and you can trade it with them or something...”

With his spirits all perked up, Shang Xia asked, “Patriarch, do you know if any other ancestors have Star Essence on them?”

“How the hell would I know? Do you think I have great connections everywhere in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion? Or do you think all the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors in our Azure Origin World have the ability to travel beyond the heavens to harvest Star Essence? Even if they do, do you think they have nothing better to do than to waste their efforts to gather Star Essence they may or may not be able to use?” Kou Chongxue snorted in contempt. As he mocked the other Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors, he didn’t forget to make himself look good.

Raising his thumb, Shang Xia said something that Kou Chongxue was fishing for. “Guess you’re a pretty fucking awesome old man...”

Once he said that, it seemed as though the conversation of Star Essence had ended. Kou Chongxue started to talk about something else, “How is your cultivation these days in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion? Have you gotten used to the environment here?”

Shang Xia seemed like he adapted to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion not too long after he arrived and his inner qi wasn’t showing any signs of going out of control. However, that was only what it looked like on the surface. He might have been forcefully suppressing his inner qi and Kou Chongxue wanted him to properly familiarize himself with the environment before calling for him. After several days of cultivation, Shang Xia could finally say that he had completely acclimatized to the surroundings.

“Is something the matter?” Shang Xia asked.

“Obviously... It’s the matter about talisman crafting. Didn’t my clone already explain everything?” Kou Chongxue stated casually.

Helpless, Shang Xia could only respond accordingly, “Even if I want to craft rank four talismans, I need rank four talisman paper to do so! You’ve been here the whole time and you might not know about the situation back in the You Continent. I probably emptied out the You Continent of rank four talisman papers with what I did in the Tongyou Mysterious World. Even the greatest chef can’t cook a good meal without rice...”

“Are you sure you wiped the collection of rank four talisman paper clean?” Kou Chongxue muttered strangely.

“Do you think I can benefit from lying to you or something?” Shang Xia muttered. Before he could continue, he saw the crafty smile on Kou Chongxue’s face and his heart skipped a beat. “Patriarch Kou, don’t tell me that you...”

Kou Chongxue ignored him and gestured into the air beside him. “Old Man Ji, come here!”

Once again, a storm of heaven and earth qi appeared on the platform and Ji Wenlong’s clone appeared. He held a bunch of items in his hand and he casually waved his hand to toss it over to Shang Xia.

“Since our institution produced our own Talisman Grandmaster, Patriarch Kou and I have been looking for rank four talisman paper. You said that the You Continent was out of rank four talisman paper, but you forgot about us!” Ji Wenlong glanced at Kou Chongxue after speaking. “It’s true that his connections in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion aren’t too good... The matter of gathering rank four talisman paper fell on my shoulders...”

With the subtle slight from Ji Wenlong, Kou Chongxue could only shoot him a dirty look before revealing a self mocking smile.

Receiving the item from Ji Wenlong, Shang Xia discovered that it was an Embroidered Cloud Case that looked pretty large on the outside. However, it only contained 1 cubic feet of space. Despite that, it seemed to contain some special uses and Shang Xia quickly peeked at its contents.

“Hey! That’s a lot of stuff!” Shang Xia yelled. He noticed 30 rank four talisman papers, a block of solid rank four talisman ink, and other items that he would need when crafting talismans. Even the miscellaneous items looked pretty precious.

Ji Wenlong explained, “Back when you kicked up such a ruckus in the Tongyou Mysterious World, the entire city went crazy looking for rank four talisman papers. The two of us heard about it and you seem to forget that a bunch of Martial Extermination Realm experts went to the foreign continent. The treasures they have on them should be the best of the best among those in the You Continent.”

Shang Xia nodded his head slowly in response.

Pointing at the case in his hand, Ji Wenlong continued, “Of the 30 pieces of rank four talisman papers in there, we got a good half from them. Of the other half, your Patriarch contributed 5 pieces from his personal collection. I obtained the rest from other members of the Beyond Heavens Pavilion.”

Shang Xia thought about it for a second before speaking. “I managed to improve because of the talismans I crafted back in the Tongyou Mysterious World. With a one-third success rate, I should be able to craft 10 rank four talismans.”

“12.” Kou Chongxue, who hadn’t said anything for some time finally spoke up.

He directly set a target for Shang Xia this time and he didn’t seem to be taking no for an answer.

“What?” Shang Xia stared at him in fright. A look of displeasure appeared on his face. “That would mean that I would have to succeed 40 percent of the time! How long has it been since I became a rank four Talisman Grandmaster? Aren’t you just making things difficult for me?”

Any rank four Talisman Grandmaster would be confident enough to craft talismans for others once they achieved a one-third success rate.

A success rate of 40 percent might seem small, but it was an exceptional increase for a rank four Talisman Grandmaster. Every percent they raised their success rate was harder than becoming a rank four Talisman Grandmaster from a rank three Talisman Master.

One could even say that it was a cause for celebration if a Talisman Grandmaster raised their success rate by even a little bit!

Even though Shang Xia improved tremendously since he last crafted rank four talismans, he wasn’t confident enough to say that he could reach a success rate of 40 percent.

“Alright. I won’t change the minimum requirement for you. However, I can promise you that any talisman you craft after the twelfth will belong to you.” Kou Chongxue muttered.

Shang Xia pouted in response, “You’re just dangling a carrot in front of me to mess with me. It’s still a 40 percent success rate we’re talking about here!”

Ignoring Shang Xia’s complaints, Kou Chongxue continued, “Hah? Are you acting indignant with me right now? You used the institution’s resources to practice your talisman crafting art and you even crafted all the talismans you knew other than those recorded in the institution. Do you think I’m stupid or something?”

“That’s because I was trying to leave behind an example of every talisman for them to take reference to...” Shang Xia tried to argue.

Snorting derisively, Kou Chongxue continued, “Don’t think I don’t know anything about crafting talismans. You don’t have to leave any examples behind for anyone now that you’re crafting talismans. You just need to craft those you’re the most familiar with. This old man doesn’t believe that you can’t achieve a 40 percent success rate when crafting all the talismans you’re good at!”

Shang Xia wanted to say something else, but Ji Wenlong coughed softly at the side, “Ahem, Dao Comprehension Incense...”

What the fuck does this have to do with the Dao Comprehension Incense?!

That was what Shang Xia thought, but he couldn’t say it in front of the two of them. Unfortunately, his gaze betrayed his thoughts.

Ji Wenlong continued, “Yeah, yeah, if the Dao Comprehension Incense can only be used like how you used it, it won’t be called the Dao Comprehension Incense. When it is used, the Dao Comprehension Incense might seem effective for a set period of time. However, its lingering effects are what deserves praise.”

Seeing the look of contemplation on Shang Xia's face, Ji Wenlong's explanation didn't stop there. "If I'm not mistaken, your improvement in all aspects seemed really smooth after you used the Dao Comprehension Incense... It might not be as obvious as when you used the Dao Comprehension Incense, but it should be much smoother than if you cultivated previously, right?"

Shang Xia thought back to everything that happened and realized that Ji Wenlong was correct. Ever since his recovery session in the Taihang Mountains, he has experienced an all-rounded improvement.

Seeing the look on Shang Xia's face, Ji Wenlong knew that his prediction was spot on and he chuckled, "That was why your improvement in the way of talismans was so terrifying. Right now, you might have already achieved a 40 percent success rate. We need you to verify that for us."

Kou Chongxue added from the side, "You drank my Dao Comprehension Tea in the past and you should understand the difference between the tea and the incense."

Shang Xia knew that nothing he said would matter anymore and obtaining any more benefits from the two of them was a pipe dream now that they had given him so many talisman papers. He quickly came to a decision. "All of you have already said everything that should be said. I would be rude. I'll do my best!"

"At least you know what's good for you..." Kou Chongxue snarled before waving his hand like he was chasing a fly away.

Chapter 512: Blood Guidance

On Kou Chongxue's platform in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, Ji Wenlong stared at him and asked after Shang Xia had left. "Aren't you rushing things a little? It sounds like you're making things difficult on him on purpose."

"Hmph, there's no need to underestimate that brat. He called out all the difficulties here in order to fish for benefits from the both of us." Kou Chongxue snorted as he reached into the void beside him to pull out 5 rank four talismans.

If Shang Xia was still present, he would definitely be able to recognize that those were the talismans that he gave away to the other 3 great clans, Zhang Haogu, and Ge Qingzhu.

"You should send these talismans and the Abyssal Firmament Fate Dipper over to that place..." After speaking, the talismans flew over and landed in Ji Wenlong's hand.

With a deep frown on his face, Ji Wenlong muttered, "What's wrong? Are things not going well there?"

"All of us arrived a little later and a lot more hurriedly than anyone else. Our preparations cannot be compared to the others! Those that enter later would usually be suppressed by those who came before them and the situation is definitely worse than we think. This batch of rank four talismans is extremely important to the Martial Extermination Realm experts of our institution. They will be able to save their lives when the situation calls for it!" Kou Chongxue sighed.

...

Originally, Shang Xia thought that Kou Chongxue summoned him to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion to cultivate. It was that or he would be sent to the foreign continent beyond the heavens. Who would have thought that Kou Chongxue and Ji Wenlong managed to gather 30 pieces of rank four talisman papers for him to craft talismans?

Thinking about it, Ji Wenlong and Kou Chongxue were Martial Dipper Realm experts. They were monsters who stood at the peak of the power pyramid in the Azure Origin World. It wasn't a stretch to gather a batch of rank four talisman papers.

When he returned to his straw hut, Shang Xia felt a wave of helplessness slamming against his heart. However, he also knew how important the talismans were and he had to start as soon as possible.

After adjusting his condition for several days, Shang Xia felt that he had basically fused with the space around him. He was ready to start crafting talismans!

This time, he brought out an inkstone from his Spatial Pouch with an extremely serious look on his face. It was made from the boulder that sealed the Abyssal Blade before and because he got a craftsman from the Tongyou Institution to turn it into an inkstone, it managed to reach the standard of a mid-grade treasure! It had an amazing property of gathering spiritual qi in the air and it could distribute it evenly to the ink it contained. It could be considered an exceptional piece of equipment for crafting talismans!

Next, Shang Xia took out a chunk of rank three talisman ink he had been given by Kou Chongxue and Ji Wenlong.

Speaking of talisman ink, they were usually classified under 2 different amounts. A small bottle would contain enough ink to craft 5 talismans while a big bottle would contain enough ink to craft 10 talismans.

Regardless of the quality of the ink, it would only be enough to craft 10 talismans in total.

Whatever the case, Shang Xia took out a cup of spiritual water he obtained from the spiritual vein under the Changfeng City before pouring it onto the ink slab to dilute the ink. Lightning up a stick of incense, Shang Xia started to personally grind the ink. It was an intricate process, but it also helped him get ready for the process of talisman crafting.

When he was done, Shang Xia dipped his Purple Bamboo Brush into the ink to test it out a little. He discovered that it was much smoother than before and the extermination qi that flowed through it was a lot more well distributed.

Unlike before when he had to craft new talismans, there would be no huge fluctuation of success rates. It was a true test of his skills.

In the days he took to adjust his mental condition, he thought of which talismans he should be crafting.

As Kou Chongxue said, there was no need to craft all sorts of talismans. He just had to craft those he was familiar with.

One of those he chose was the Golden Sun Inferno Talisman. Even though it wasn't exceptionally powerful out of all the rank four talismans he could craft, it was good enough. It was mainly used as an area of effect attack as its effects were huge. In a battle between experts of the same level, it was the best talisman they could use to escape from encirclements or being trapped by their enemies.

As he crafted a bunch of them in the past, one could say that it was the talisman he was the most familiar with. His brush flowed like water and it didn't take long for him to craft his first talisman.

It didn't take long for him to use up 8 pieces of rank four talisman paper. He managed to craft 4 Golden Sun Inferno Talismans in total, and his success rate was a terrifying 50 percent. However, he didn't seem too pleased with himself.

Shang Xia was sure that if he continued crafting Golden Sun Inferno Talismans, his success rate would continue to increase. Unfortunately, he only had 30 pieces of rank four talisman papers to work with. He couldn't possibly only craft Golden Sun Inferno Talismans...

The next talisman he chose was the Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman. The difficulty of crafting it was a little higher than the Golden Sun Inferno Talisman, and Shang Xia used 7 pieces of rank four talisman paper to craft 3 of them. He managed to barely cross the requirement of 40 percent given to him by Kou Chongxue.

Only then did Shang Xia feel his improvement from the previous time he was crafting talismans in the Tongyou Mysterious World. At the same time, he confirmed whatever Ji Wenlong said. The effects of the Dao Comprehension Incense were long-lasting indeed and it also affected the way he crafted talismans.

Using up half the rank four talisman papers given to him, Shang Xia planned to craft 2 other types of talismans with the rest of the talisman paper he had.

The third talisman he chose was the Mist Concealment Dissipation Talisman as it was one of the easiest talismans to craft of the 11 rank four talismans he knew. The talisman didn't possess any offensive or defensive properties when used in battle, but it allowed cultivators to conceal themselves from everyone else. Regardless if they were setting up an ambush or running away, the Mist Concealment Dissipation Talisman would play a huge role in what they wanted to do.

Actually, Shang Xia wanted to choose the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman for his third talisman. Not only would the talisman increase an expert's flight speed and ability to tear through space, but it could also shatter restrictions and formations in their way. Moreover, it was the key to comprehending the rank five Abyssal Emptiness Talisman.

Unfortunately, Shang Xia did not possess any rank four Abyssal Ink and after thinking about how many talismans he could successfully make, he chose the Mist Concealment Dissipation Talisman.

The crafting process went exceptionally smoothly. Even though Shang Xia was more familiar with the Golden Sun Inferno Talisman and the Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman, the lowered difficulty of the Mist Concealment Dissipation Talisman made it much easier to succeed. With 7 pieces of rank four talisman paper, Shang Xia managed to craft 4 Mist Concealment Dissipation Talismans, surpassing a success rate of 50 percent!

When he was done, he used 22 pieces of rank four talisman papers to craft 11 rank four talismans. He merely needed to complete another one to hit the target Kou Chongxue set for him! With 8 more

pieces of talisman papers in his hands, it seemed as though he would definitely be able to surpass the requirements.

Since completing whatever Kou Chongxue had set out for him was basically set in stone, all he had to do was to see how many pieces of rank four talismans he would be able to keep for himself!

With his final 8 chances, Shang Xia surprisingly chose to craft Divine Restraint Talismans. The choice was obviously not the best if he wished to maximize the number of talismans he completed. Not only was the Divine Restraint Talisman the most difficult talisman of the 11 he knew, but it was also one of the most difficult talismans to craft among all the rank four talismans out there!

Now that his task was basically complete, Shang Xia didn't plan to craft as many talismans as he could so that he could keep some for himself. Instead, he chose to craft the most difficult talisman he knew so that he could increase his proficiency!

Moreover, Shang Xia could tell that the Divine Restraint Talisman was exceptionally powerful. Facing any ordinary Martial Extermination Realm expert, all one had to do was to use the Divine Restraint Talisman and the battle was as good as over!

“Eight pieces of rank four talisman papers... Even if I only manage to craft 2 Divine Restraint Talismans in total, it would mean that two enemies at the Martial Extermination Realm will die. Shit, this is basically free profit!” Shang Xia muttered to himself as he took out another chunk of solidified talisman ink. This time, he was using rank four talisman ink.

The ink he crafted was known as Blood Guidance and it contained some sort of essence blood. Shang Xia couldn't help but guess if the talisman ink came from the Azure Spiritual World. After all, the cultivators there were bloodline cultivators and it made sense for the valuable treasures they possessed to contain essence blood.

Not only was Divine Restraint Talisman extremely difficult to craft, but it was also extremely taxing on the creator. It would take him a long time to craft the talismans. Every time Shang Xia completed one of them, he would have to take a long break to recover.

When Shang Xia used up 22 pieces of rank four talisman paper previously, he barely used 100 days. However, using up the last 8 pieces to craft Divine Restraint Talismans ate up close to 50 more days of his time. The Divine Martial Calendar trudged on relentlessly and the 846th year crossed over to the 847th year...

In the end, Shang Xia managed to complete 3 Divine Restraint Talismans. Even though the success rate wasn't exceptionally high, it exceeded Shang Xia's lowest estimate of 2 talismans.

Now that he completed 14 talismans in total, he was touching on the 50 percent success mark. According to the agreement he had with Kou Chongxue, he could take 2 talismans for himself.

Sighing helplessly, Shang Xia chose a Mist Concealment Dissipation Talisman and a Divine Restraint Talisman before getting ready to hand the rest over to Kou Chongxue.

In the face of absolute power, one had to submit! Shang Xia could bitch all he wanted, but Kou Chongxue was a Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor and he was also the one who provided the resources! Shang Xia had to hand 12 rank four talismans in no matter what!



If they agreed on the regular success rate of a rank four Talisman Grandmaster, Shang Xia would at least be able to keep 4 talismans for himself...

If the Talisman Grandmaster was a stingy bastard, they would probably keep 6 to 7 talismans for themselves. No one would be able to fault them for it! That was the power and authority a Talisman Grandmaster possessed! Unfortunately, Shang Xia was no ordinary Talisman Grandmaster and the person watching over him was no ordinary expert asking him to craft talismans...

Now that he was done, he was in no rush to head over to the platform to hand the talismans over. Instead, he needed to rest to recover his inner qi. After all, crafting talismans non-stop was an exhausting process.

It took 5 months for him to use up all 30 pieces of talisman papers and even though he had been focused on talisman crafting the whole time, he spent any extra time he could find on perfecting his secret art.

Now, the time taken to complete one cycle of inner qi circulation had shortened a little more. He only needed to take a small step before reducing the time needed to 4 hours or less. When that happened, his secret art would finally be considered a complete product.

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When Shang Xia was finally done, he went over to the platform to hand the talismans over. Both Kou Chongxue's true body and Ji Wenlong's clone were present and they listened intently to Shang Xia's explanation of the effects of the 4 types of talismans Shang Xia crafted.

Actually, they understood the effects even without Shang Xia's explanations. They were 'listening' intently because they were absolutely gobsmacked by Shang Xia's higher-than 40 percent success rate.

It was especially so for Kou Chongxue. He basically watched the entire process of Shang Xia crafting talismans and knew that Shang Xia actually had 2 more rank four talismans on him.

Chapter 513: Convincing the Bossman

"You did well." After hearing Shang Xia's introductions, Kou Chongxue muttered softly with a trace of admiration in his voice.

Waving his hand, the 12 talismans flew over to Ji Wenlong.

"Hurry and send these to the foreign continent..." Kou Chongxue nodded at Ji Wenlong and commanded.

Clearly, Ji Wenlong was the person in charge of taking care of the path to the foreign continent.

"Are things really that urgent? It has barely been half a year since I last opened the spatial passage. Opening it so often will definitely affect its stability..." Ji Wenlong frowned.

Kou Chongxue sighed softly in response, "We can't care about that now... The continent is about to self-destruct. There might be a final burst of world origin and a huge battle will definitely take place. We entered later than the others and our preparations weren't as good. The moment the chaotic battle breaks out, we'll be forced away from the good stuff by the other parties there. This

batch of rank four talismans will allow us to display the might of close to 9 more Martial Extermination Realm cultivators. It's enough to scare the other powers away and make them wary of us."

Thinking about it for a moment, Ji Wenlong eventually agreed. "I'll get to it right away."

After he was done, his clone started to fade away with the talismans in hand.

Seeing as Ji Wenlong had disappeared, Shang Xia finally asked the question that had been burning in his heart for a long time. "Why don't the two of you act and join in the fight in the foreign continent?"

Having long anticipated Shang Xia's question, Kou Chongxue thought of his answer some time ago. He wanted to teach Shang Xia something about the foreign continent and he chuckled while explaining, "Brat, how do you know we didn't do anything? Are you able to find a way to carve out a spatial tunnel to the foreign continent and sustain it for a long time? Without the two of us, who's going to send our experts over to the foreign continent? If not for our guidance, how would we attract the broken pieces of the continent over to the Azure Origin World?"

"That wasn't my question! I mean to ask, why don't the two of you personally enter the foreign continent? Even if you did the same thing back in the Cloud Water Gorge by sending your clones down, it would be much better than not providing actual assistance!" Shang Xia replied helplessly. He knew that Kou Chongxue understood his question and was intentionally avoiding it.

Pressing his lips together, Kou Chongxue muttered, "I want to head in there and have a huge fight with the others. However, the foreign continent lost too much world origin and can't sustain the spatial barrier around it. How can it possibly withstand the strength of a Martial Dipper Realm cultivator like myself? If I step into the foreign continent, it's going to shatter immediately..."

Widening his eyes in shock, Shang Xia sucked in a cold breath. "You... You... You're already strong enough to destroy an entire continent just by stepping into it. This disciple really looks up to your amazing strength... Ahem..."

"Why the hell do you sound so suspicious?" Kou Chongxue frowned.

"No, it's nothing! I wanted to ask, why will that be the case?" Shang Xia replied hastily.

Kou Chongxue sighed in response, "Every single world has a limit to the burden it can withstand. No one knows why the world out there lost its spatial barrier and was revealed to the rest of the worlds. Because of its lost spatial barrier, its world origin is leaking excessively. There's no saving the continent. It's going to be destroyed eventually. Without the protection of the spatial barrier, the continent will only be able to withstand the might of Martial Extermination Realm experts at best. A Martial Dipper Realm expert would exceed the limit of what it can hold..."

Shang Xia thought about it for a second and asked, "Does that mean that the difference between the foreign continent out there and our Azure Origin World is a mere spatial barrier?"

Kou Chongxue stared at Shang Xia in shock and thought about it for a second before he replied. "Actually, before the fusion of our world and the Azure Spiritual World... Yeah, I guess you can say that. However, our Azure Origin World has its own foundations. From a certain standpoint, a

Martial Dipper Realm cultivator is the limit our world can produce. The stronger the world becomes, the more Martial Dipper Realm cultivators a world can contain. The number of Martial Dipper Realm cultivators a world can hold tells us how deep its foundations run.”

From that, Kou Chongxue revealed a lot of information Shang Xia previously didn't know.

Carefully thinking about everything he just learned, Shang Xia eventually asked, “Do you mean to say that worlds are split into different levels? Would that also limit the upper limit of cultivation there? Wouldn't that mean that both our Azure Origin World and the Azure Spiritual World are merely a little stronger than the foreign continent out there?”

“So... That would mean that if our worlds fuse, the world origin that is contained in both our worlds will also combine. Would that allow us to upgrade to become a higher-level world?”

“That is why even after so many years of fighting with the Azure Spiritual World, you chose to work with them now... That is because you finally learned the secret behind the fusion of the worlds...”

“Once our world grows stronger, that would mean that the limit of cultivation realms would increase from the Martial Dipper Realm to the next level! You would be able to break through then and grow even stronger!”

Shang Xia fired off without stopping.

No one knew when, but Kou Chongxue's back had straightened while he was listening to Shang Xia's rambling. A fire lit up in his eyes as he addressed Shang Xia. “You're more perceptive than I thought!”

“So what if I know all these now? It's something Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors like yourself have to deal with...” Shang Xia sighed.

Kou Chongxue sighed together with him. “Yeah... That's exactly why our worlds collided in the first place...”

With a frown on his face, Shang Xia asked, “Are you saying that the collision of our worlds is orchestrated by Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors? Could it be because of the Evil Remnants who make up the Rose Party...”

Kou Chongxue sneered when he heard what Shang Xia had said. “The five families that make up the Evil Remnants don't have a single Martial Dipper Realm expert among them. They can't even break through the spatial barrier around our world, how would they communicate with those outside? They're just the scapegoat those assholes put out there. They don't even know that they were used!”

Shang Xia sucked in a cold breath and continued, “When our worlds collided, the five continents that bordered the battlefield between the two worlds suffered serious damage and countless lives were lost... Our You Continent was nearly completely destroyed... Could everything be because of those Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors out there?”

“Do you feel extremely frustrated at their cold-blooded actions?” Kou Chongxue revealed a look of mockery as he continued, “Before anyone knew it, the fate of our continents were decided. In their eyes, everything that was destroyed and everyone that was killed were mere sacrifices in the grand scheme of things. The moment our worlds fuse, we would experience a qualitative upgrade. When that happens, our martial path will be extended to the next level and the limit to the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm will be broken. Because of that, a bunch of useless existences in those unlucky continents would be sacrificed without hesitation. Heh...”

Shang Xia’s voice dropped several tones as he growled, “You entered the Martial Dipper Realm over 20 years ago... It’s a little hard to believe that you only learned of this now...”

Glancing at Shang Xia from the corner of his eye, Kou Chongxue continued, “Obviously I knew about stuff like how worlds would be upgraded a long time ago. I always thought that the Azure Spiritual World was behind everything. At the very least, I thought that their Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors were the ones driving the whole matter...”

A lightbulb lit up in Shang Xia’s mind. “Is that why you established the Tongyou Institution to protect the You Continent from the Azure Spiritual World back then? Were you trying to prevent our You Continent from being annexed by them?”

“Yeah... Moreover, I did a really good job at it. In the end, I became an eyesore...” Kou Chongxue muttered.

Shang Xia seemed to understand a little more of what was going on with every additional statement Kou Chongxue made. “The higher-ups of our worlds have already reached a conclusion that our worlds would fuse no matter what... However, you were trying to stop it and got in their way. Is that why they sneak attacked you in the 843rd year of the Divine Martial Calendar?”

“Yes.” Kou Chongxue nodded.

Shang Xia wasn’t done. “Because of that battle, you learned everything that you told me earlier... That was when you realized there was no stopping the fusion of our worlds, right? Even as the Patriarch of the Tongyou Institution, you can’t stop them alone. Is that why you threw away your anger and worked with the Changbai Holy Land of the Azure Spiritual World?”

There was even a trace of anger in Shang Xia’s voice when he spoke of the cooperation with the Azure Spiritual World.

Breaking out into laughter, Kou Chongxue asked, “Do you think that I’m starting to collude with them?”

This time, the way Kou Chongxue was speaking to Shang Xia was surprisingly as equals.

Shang Xia calmly analyzed, “Since the Azure Spiritual World wasn’t the one who caused our continents to fall into disarray, there has to be an even stronger power behind everything. Those Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors who caused the whole series of events are the ones to blame but because of their terrifying strength, you won’t be able to gain the upper hand even with your shockingly powerful combat prowess. That is why you wish to enter the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm. Because of that, you need the help of as many people as you can get. That is why you

spared no expense to help Deputy Patriarch Ji and my grandpa and those around you to grow stronger.”

Clapping his hands, Kou Chongxue chuckled, “Amazing... Absolutely amazing! Who would have thought that you would understand everything that I’ve been doing?!”

“Since that’s the case, please allow me to head over to the foreign continent.” Shang Xia asked out of the blue.

“Absolutely not!” Kou Chongxue rejected him the moment the words left his lips. “You need to craft as many rank four talismans as you can in order to contribute to our efforts in the foreign continent.”

“Are you still able to get your hands on rank four talisman paper?” Shang Xia pulled a difficult question out of nowhere.

“No one said that you had to craft rank four talismans. Even rank three talismans can be extremely useful in the hands of Martial Extermination Realm experts when used correctly.” Kou Chongxue mentioned.

“Patriarch Kou, what do you think of my current strength?” Shang Xia changed the topic once again.

Staring at Shang Xia with a raised eyebrow, Kou Chongxue muttered, “You probably have the combat strength of a second layer Martial Extermination Realm cultivator. If you push it, you can probably reach the standard of a third layer Martial Extermination Realm cultivator.”

Unable to deny Kou Chongxue’s evaluation, Shang Xia continued, “What if I was using the Abyssal Blade?”

“This...” Kou Chongxue thought back to the time in the Cloud Water Gorge when Shang Xia released two slashes against Feng Yezi.

Even though his cultivation was still low back then and his slashes couldn’t affect Feng Yezi in the slightest, there was one thing he couldn’t deny. Those two slashes shocked every single Martial Dipper Realm expert present.

Taking the chance when Kou Chongxue was still impressed with him, Shang Xia added, “Patriarch Kou, you know the situation with the Martial Extermination Realm experts of our institution the best. Other than my grandpa and Deputy Patriarch Yun, is there anyone with a cultivation level of the third layer or above? The difference between a second layer and third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert is massive. Of everyone we sent into the foreign continent, they’re basically noobs led by 2 ultra-strong experts.”

Seeing as Kou Chongxue hadn’t said anything yet, Shang Xia continued, “Even if they receive a batch of rank four talismans, they would only be able to threaten experts in the second layer and below. If they run into a Martial Extermination Realm expert who refined 3 or more extermination origins, those talismans wouldn’t be extremely useful when dealing with the situation.”

“Alright, alright, go! Just take care of yourself and act appropriately!” Kou Chongxue finally relented.

Chapter 514: More Swords!

Taking everything he needed in his Spatial Pouch, Shang Xia entered seclusion for a short while in order to restore himself to his peak state. When he was done, he approached the Void Abyss to look for Ji Wenlong after obtaining Kou Chongxue’s permission.

Along the way, he played with the Spirit Extermination Gourd in his hand.

In the past, Kou Chongxue modified the gourd once and stored a jade green sword qi within. It contained enough power to rival one of Kou Chongxue’s strikes, but because of how Shang Xia used it previously, it became extremely blurry as though it was about to disappear.

After Shang Xia became stronger, he tried to restore the jade sword but to no avail.

Seeing as Shang Xia had volunteered to enter the foreign continent, he took the chance to pester Kou Chongxue to restore the jade sword. It once again regained the might of a full powered strike of a Martial Dipper Realm expert.

Of course, Kou Chongxue gave him a serious warning to not use the sword qi unless he was in trouble. Unless it was a matter of life and death, he wasn’t to release the full power of the sword qi. The moment he did, the entire continent would shatter.

With some pointers from the patriarch, Shang Xia learned how to separate the sword qi into two. He could release them separately, and every one of them would be comparable to a full powered strike from a fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm expert.

Obviously, splitting the sword qi would greatly reduce its strength. After all, a huge amount of energy would be wasted during the splitting process. Two strikes from a fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm expert were far from an attack from a Martial Dipper Realm expert.

Of course, with no other Martial Dipper Realm expert in play, those sword qis could be said to be Shang Xia’s strongest trump cards on the foreign continent.

When Ji Wenlong noticed Shang Xia, he sighed softly, “Kid, have you thought it through?”

It was clear he knew that Shang Xia was coming.

“Senior Ji, rest assured I know what I’m doing.”

“Alright.” Ji Wenlong didn’t try to dissuade Shang Xia. However, he handed the 12 talismans he crafted back to him along with several Embroidered Cloud Cases that were filled with resources. “Since you’re heading over, you can bring these to them.”

Accepting the items, Shang Xia couldn’t help but feel a little curious. “I heard the patriarch say that exposing our bodies to the space beyond the heavens poses great risks. How did you and Patriarch Kou open a path to the foreign continent then? Wouldn’t they have to pass through the space beyond the heavens?”

Without turning around to look at him, Ji Wenlong replied, “Do you know how those holy lands and secret regions were established?”

Shang Xia heard Kou Chongxue bringing it up before and he replied, “Disciple heard that they were situated at the weak spots in the spatial barrier around the world. After they take their positions, they would be able to absorb world origin from the world. At the same time, they will act as fortresses to protect those weak spots in the spatial barrier.”

Grunting with approval, Ji Wenlong continued, “Martial Dipper Realm experts might not be able to carve out the spatial tunnel through the space beyond the heavens with our own power, but we are able to do so with the assistance of the world origin from our holy land...”

Widening his eyes slightly, Shang Xia felt that he learned another secret. “Our Tongyou Mysterious World hasn’t upgraded to the Tongyou Paradise. Our foundations aren’t as deep as them. Is that why we chose to work with the Changbai Holy Land?”

Shang Xia might be forcing himself to remain calm, but his voice was a little harsh.

At the end of the day, the Tongyou Institution had been at war with the cultivators of the Azure Spiritual World for the past 20ish years. The number of lives both sides lost couldn’t be counted and the lives that were lost when the worlds collided were countless times more.

Shang Xia understood that the fusion of their worlds was inevitable and the culprit behind everything wasn’t the Azure Spiritual World from what Kou Chongxue was saying. He even learned about Kou Chongxue’s plan from the patriarch himself. However, it was a little difficult to get over his mental barrier that everyone from the Azure Spiritual World was an enemy.

Actually, Kou Chongxue and Ji Wenlong were both extremely surprised Shang Xia could still keep his cool after learning what he did.

Evidently, Kou Chongxue, Ji Wenlong, even Shang Bo and Yun Jing who established the Tongyou Institution might have learned of the matter not too long ago. That was why Kou Chongxue kept everything under wraps as best he could and he was unwilling to leak too much information on the matter to let more people join their cause.

Now that Kou Chongxue had personally revealed what was going on to Shang Xia, it meant that Shang Xia had formally stepped into the core of the Tongyou Institution.

Shaking his head slowly, Ji Wenlong replied to Shang Xia’s previous question. “That’s actually not true.”

Ji Wenlong saw the confusion in his eyes after turning around and his gaze shifted to the Void Abyss. A strange circular entrance to the void appeared.

Shang Xia’s spiritual perception wasn’t weak and he felt it the moment the entrance appeared. He could also tell that it was absorbing energy from the Void Abyss.

The world origin that came from the Void Abyss was much denser than anything Shang Xia felt in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. It also contained a foreign energy that Shang Xia had never felt before.

If he wasn’t mistaken, the strange energy was world origin from the Azure Spiritual World. Which was to say, the spatial tunnel was sustained from the world origin of both worlds!

“The longer I keep this open, the larger the disturbance. The consumption of energy is extremely high and I can’t keep it open for long.” Ji Wenlong explained while gesturing for Shang Xia to enter the tunnel.

Taking a deep breath, Shang Xia leaped into the circular shaped entrance immediately.

In that instant, a huge amount of world origin poured into his body. The space around him twisted unnaturally.

After he entered, Ji Wenlong waved his hand to shatter the connection that kept the entrance open and everything returned to normal.

At the same time the connection was cut off, Ji Wenlong felt a strange fluctuation nearby and a short cultivator appeared on the opposite side of the Void Abyss.

“Did you just open the spatial door?” Xu Bailing stared at Ji Wenlong with an expressionless face.

“Old Friend Xu, do you have any pointers for me?” Ji Wenlong didn’t deny it at all.

“If I’m not mistaken, didn’t you just open the spatial door half a year ago? Why did you open it again? It takes up a lot of world origin from the Void Abyss and aren’t you afraid that someone will detect the fluctuations here and disrupt what we’re doing?”

Ji Wenlong chuckled in response, “You’re thinking too much. I have my limits. Moreover, the patriarch’s true body is sitting right here. There won’t be any accidents!”

Xu Bailing nodded slowly and muttered, “Looks like Senior Brother Luo is right. The situation in the foreign continent isn’t too good. No wonder you have to send reinforcements so soon...”

Ji Wenlong’s expression didn’t change as he replied, “I believe you guys should be more concerned about yourselves. I heard that you guys are having an internal problem at the moment and it’s affecting the stability of your holy land. Wasn’t that why you guys agreed to work with us in the first place to open the spatial tunnel?”

Xu Bailing finally snapped and he snorted, “When did Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors start to spread rumors around? I heard that there was a Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor from your Azure Origin World who lowered himself like an animal to make a move on a junior. He’s truly a disgrace to all Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors. I believe you will agree with me, right?”

Just like that, the two of them probed each other with the sharpest words they could use before parting ways on bad terms.

Ji Wenlong’s figure appeared on Kou Chongxue’s platform not too long after.

“As the degree of fusion increases, all of us will know more about each other’s world... Isn’t that the case?” Kou Chongxue smiled at Ji Wenlong.

Clearly, he had seen everything that happened when Ji Wenlong opened the spatial tunnel earlier.

“The two of them seem to have realized something...” Ji Wenlong’s clone looked for a random place on the platform to sit down as he spoke to Kou Chongxue.



Completely unaffected, Kou Chongxue muttered, “So what?”

“Everyone else other than members of the institution is our enemy! They might have chosen to work with us, but they can’t wait to break the agreement we have. The moment something happens in the foreign continent, they’ll probably be the first to betray us!” Ji Wenlong growled.

The smile on Kou Chongxue’s face faded and it was replaced with a serious expression. “There’s no doubt about it. Those assholes won’t keep to our agreement. Neither party will allow the other to easily grasp their weakness. We can only see whose scheme is better when the time comes.”

Chapter 515: Chaotic Battle

“After that battle, the spatial barrier around our worlds will probably shatter, right?” Kou Chongxue muttered to himself as he got to his feet suddenly. He arrived at the corner of the platform and stared at the Void Abyss not too far away.

Ji Wenlong’s gaze followed where Kou Chongxue was looking, but his expression was one of unprecedented seriousness.

...

Shang Xia didn’t know anything that happened after he left. When he leaped into the spatial tunnel earlier, he tried turning his head to look in the direction of the Azure Origin World.

The sight that greeted him was shocking. He saw two worlds that were squished together like two yolks in an egg.

Is this... Is this the Azure Origin World and the Azure Spiritual World?

The Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World were like dual yolks as the spatial barrier around the worlds and the Beyond Heavens Pavilion resembled the egg whites that surrounded them.

Looking at them, they were pressed together to the point where they couldn’t be separated anymore. Even the Beyond Heavens Pavilion of both sides had connected with each other.

There was only one thing that was a little strange. Even though the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World were pressed close together, they were unable to touch.

After seeing the worlds, Shang Xia’s first thought was that they seemed a little too small.

As he traveled through the spatial tunnel, the worlds became smaller and smaller and they lost their luster.

Those worlds seemed to be hidden in a certain location among the stars and when Shang Xia finally turned back, he discovered that his surroundings had already changed. There was a strange sense of attraction that affected him.

Shang Xia never felt so close to the stars in his life and as he traveled through the tunnel, the massive stars in the distance seemed to fly directly at him. The spatial tunnel was like a massive river that tore through space as Shang Xia flowed through it without the slightest bit of resistance.

Extending his divine perception, Shang Xia had a feeling he was walking on a cliff's edge. Danger was all around, but luckily for him, as long as he didn't fuck around, he wouldn't run into any of them.

Shang Xia didn't retract his divine perception throughout the entire process. He felt the changes around him and managed to gain some slight comprehension of his surroundings.

No one knew how long the spatial tunnel extended, but Shang Xia felt some strange fluctuations coming from a certain direction and he quickly raised his head to take a look. He saw an ungodly large continent drifting slowly in space. As he got closer, the continent expanded in his vision.

At the same time, Shang Xia started to feel the spatial tunnel growing a little more unstable around him. He even needed to use his extermination qi to sustain the tunnel as he traveled through it. He was afraid that if he was slightly careless, he would be thrown into the vast expanse.

Forcing the spatial tunnel to remain stable, Shang Xia realized that even if he managed to arrive on the foreign continent, he wouldn't be able to land on his original destination. Because of the instability, he was bound to appear thousands of miles away.

Only then did Shang Xia notice that the foreign continent really didn't actually possess a spatial barrier like the Azure Origin World or the Azure Spiritual World.

Unfortunately, he wasn't able to spend too much time thinking about it as he passed through a formless screen. Chaotic qi appeared in his surroundings and slammed against him, greatly affecting his falling figure.

Feeling the thin barrier from before, Shang Xia understood that the foreign continent wasn't actually missing their spatial barrier. It was just too thin that it couldn't prevent anyone from entering. It couldn't stop the world origin from leaking either.

Stabilizing his figure as he continued to fall, Shang Xia lowered his head only to see massive craters that seemed to be caused by meteorites that fell from beyond the heavens.

Looks like an apocalypse happened...

Shang Xia thought to himself.

The closer he got to the ground below, the clearer he could see what was happening below.

The instant things became a little clearer, Shang Xia saw several large scale energy fluctuations in the surroundings.

Could it be a battle among Martial Extermination Realm experts? No! From the looks of it, it was an all-out brawl among multiple Martial Extermination Realm cultivators!

From the looks of it, the battle would be on Shang Xia's right after he landed.

Even though the destination of the spatial tunnel opened by the Tongyou Institution would differ slightly, the overall location would be pretty much the same. According to their plan, the experts of the institution would set up camp near the exit of the spatial tunnel. From there, they would expand their influence bit by bit and the entire process was similar to what they did in the battlefield between the two worlds.

The most important thing they had to do was to protect the area where their reinforcements would appear. They would spare no expense to hold the fort.

Seeing as a large-scale battle had broken out near the core of where the Tongyou Institution's experts were, Shang Xia understood that their enemies had come knocking.

If anyone were to tell Shang Xia that his current landing place was a coincidence, he would slap them into oblivion.

Touching his Spatial Pouch to ensure that it was with him, his hand eventually went over to the Embroidered Cloud Cases that Ji Wenlong entrusted him with.

Personally, he had 3 rank four talismans. The other 12 remained in those Embroidered Cloud Cases he brought with him.

If he ran into serious trouble the moment he arrived and failed to deliver those talismans to the experts of the institution, the ones who would be in trouble wouldn't actually be him. After all, he would have 15 rank four talismans at his disposal.

Of the 15 talismans, 3 of them were Divine Restraint Talisman. He had 4 Mist Concealment Dissipation Talisman, 1 Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman, 4 Golden Sun Inferno Talismans, and 3 Spiritual Protection Substitution Talismans.

Getting ready to be thrown into battle anytime, Shang Xia felt the guidance of the spatial tunnel around him disappear. He seemed to be hurled through the air like a cannonball and he had to endure spatial fractures that appeared around his body.

Clearly, he was discovered by his enemy.

Since he noticed the chaotic battle happening before he arrived, he took precautions and slapped a Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman before he emerged from the spatial tunnel.

With a barrier of extermination qi surrounding him, they prevented the spatial cracks from coming into contact with his body. However, the barrier gradually dimmed as it started to lose its power.

At the same time, a whitish-gold sword light tore through the void and locked onto Shang Xia. It cut down viciously but Shang Xia noticed it right away. The remaining extermination qi that formed the barrier around him gathered at a certain point and greeted the falling sword qi.

With the sound of metal scraping against each other, the energy that protected Shang Xia was completely used up. The Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman shattered.

Because some of its energy was used up earlier, the Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman couldn't stop the sword qi. As the sword qi slashed into the protective layer made from Shang Xia's extermination origins, all the energy it contained scattered.

Right after Shang Xia dealt with the sword qi, a roar tore through the skies. "Xiao Wubai, you're looking to die!"

Shang Xia could tell that the person who was yelling was Shang Ke, his fifth grandfather.

As Shang Xia retracted his extermination origins slightly, he released them with renewed vigor as the shattered void around him was quickly forced back into its original state.

Standing in mid air, Shang Xia's gaze swept across the dozen or so experts who were fighting not too far away.

The second he stood in place, at least 3 attacks came from different directions.

A short left Shang Xia's lips as he circulated his Heaven and Man Synergy Chapter to its limit. Retracting his aura to his limit, Shang Xia used the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman to tear the void that he just restored. Taking a single step in, he disappeared completely.

As the attacks lost their target, they could only strike the area Shang Xia had been in. As the shockwaves tore the void apart, Shang Xia was nowhere to be found.

...

There was one point Shang Xia guessed wrong even though he had to face so many attacks in the time he appeared. The chaotic battle that was taking place wasn't really directed at him.

5 months ago when the Tongyou Institution started their operations in the foreign continent, Shang Bo chose to enter seclusion in secret and Yun Jing became the only one in charge of matters.

At first, everything went smoothly as they carried out their plans for the foreign continent. However, the situation started to shift as a group of experts on the Manyu Continent started to band together in secret. Without any warning, they launched a large-scale attack on the Tongyou Institution.

The experts of the Tongyou Institution were caught off guard and the territory they painstakingly fought for was taken over. They had no choice but to return to where they were but luckily, all of them were Martial Extermination Realm experts. They reacted quickly and not too much was lost.

Even though they were in an extremely sorry state after the assault, they didn't take too much damage as they retreated successfully.

Their hard-fought territory was taken over and they were forced to retreat back to where they arrived. They only controlled a 200 to 300 mile radius, and after they gathered together, they realized that there was nowhere else to go!

The moment they lost the final region they controlled, they would lose their way of retreat. They wouldn't just waste the efforts of the past few years, they would be unable to return to the Azure Origin World forever! They might even be trapped on the continent until it was completely destroyed in the sea of stars after exhausting all its world origin.

In order to protect their way out of the Manyu Continent, the experts of the Tongyou Institution went all out. Similarly, in order to get rid of the outsiders, the experts of the Manyu Continent didn't hold back.

The chaotic battle erupted almost immediately.

The experts of the Manyu Continent wanted to kill the outsiders even if they knew that their fates were sealed.

During the climax of the battle, the spatial tunnel that appeared in the skies above attracted the attention of the experts present.

Realizing that the newcomer was most likely reinforcements sent by the outsiders, they quickly directed their attacks over.

That was the reason the spatial tunnel was affected near the end of Shang Xia's journey. When he popped out from the void, he was also immediately targeted by a few of them.

In order to attack Shang Xia, the experts of the Manyu Continent ignored their opponents and risked being suppressed to try to kill the other side's reinforcements before he could arrive.

#### Chapter 516: Die Bitch

Shang Xia never thought that he would be greeted with such a bombastic party the moment he arrived.

Without the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman, Shang Xia wouldn't have been able to avoid the assault of at least 4 Martial Extermination Realm experts at the same time.

Even if he managed to avoid the first wave of attacks, there was no way he would be able to dodge the second wave.

That was because those experts of the Manyu Continent were hell-bent on killing the reinforcements the Tongyou Institution sent. They were afraid that they would have to face a new batch of experts, but never in their wildest imaginations would they expect only one person to appear.

Shang Xia immediately chose to back down when faced with the attacks of so many Martial Extermination Realm experts. He chose to enter the void to avoid their combined attacks.

A Martial Extermination Realm expert had the ability to affect the void and create spatial paths, but without the help of a Martial Dipper Realm expert, entering the void and staying there was the same as seeking death.

Even though Shang Xia tried something like that back in the Abyssal Secret Region, the space there was extremely weak as the secret region was breaking down. He lowered the risks as much as he could. Even so, he emerged with countless wounds on his body and he looked to be in a sorry state.

Now that he was facing the combined wrath of several Martial Extermination Realm experts at once whose strength he had no clue of, he decisively chose to enter the void. Even though the Manyu Continent was walking down the path of destruction, it could still be considered a complete world. The space it contained was a lot more solid than the Abyssal Secret Region.

To Shang Xia, he would rather risk the void than risk being heavily injured by taking those attacks.

In the eyes of everyone present, it was the only choice Shang Xia could make if he didn't wish to die immediately.

Now that the experts of the Manyu Continent had seen the reinforcements of the Tongyou Institution, they no longer cared about him since there was only one person. They continued to focus on their original opponents.

The assault they launched on the Tongyou Institution was a chance that wouldn't come often. Moreover, they had no choice but to give their all to take the Tongyou Institution down. That was because they received a piece of intelligence that stated that there was a super expert from the Tongyou Institution who was hiding on their Manyu Continent to get ready to break through to the Martial Dipper Realm.

The current Manyu Continent could no longer bear the burden of birthing another Martial Dipper Realm expert. Their entire continent would be at risk and it would shatter into countless pieces that would disappear into the sea of stars.

To prevent their continent from destruction, the powers of the Manyu Continent formed a huge alliance to launch a deadly offensive on the Tongyou Institution.

To the members of the Manyu Continent who were split into countless different powers, it was a chance that was hard to come by.

After countless days of fighting, they finally gained the upper hand.

The experts of the Tongyou Institution were tenacious and they put up strong resistance. Even so, their fates were sealed from the way things were playing out.

What made it even better for the experts of the Manyu Continent to eliminate the Tongyou Institution was the fact that other powers were willing to provide them with a batch of cultivation resources. The batch of resources that was promised to them wasn't a small amount.

The White and Gold Swordsman was one of the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Manyu Continent who was part of the operation to destroy the Tongyou Institution. Even though he was only a second layer Martial Extermination Realm expert, the extermination origins he refined were extremely compatible with himself. He had a high-grade sword, the Hundred Gold Sword, as his main offensive weapon, and not many people in the same cultivation realm were his opponent. He could even rival those in the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm.

He was the one who went deep into the core territory of the Tongyou Institution. He suppressed Shang Ke with his oppressive strength and he was the one who released the sword qi at Shang Xia the moment he emerged from the spatial tunnel. Because of his frightening strength, Shang Ke didn't even have time to stop him.

Originally, Shang Ke was so angry that he sneak attacked the person the institution sent to back them up. When Shang Ke saw that the person who emerged was Shang Xia, the rage in his heart increased severalfold. He immediately clashed with the White and Gold Swordsman.

At the same time, the various attacks slammed into the space where Shang Xia was and his figure disappeared from view.

Shang Ke's divine perception had no way of telling that Shang Xia had jumped into the void to avoid the attacks and all he saw was Shang Xia disappearing after being 'struck' by those attacks. With anger filling his heart, he went crazy and he rushed at Xiao Wubai with the intention to risk it all.

Seemingly having confirmed that Shang Xia was dead, Xiao Wubai roared with laughter. He quickly avoided all the attacks thrown his way. With the absolute advantage, he wouldn't go crazy and risk a life-or-death battle with Shang Ke when he could wear the other party down slowly.

Shang Ke, who was an arrow at the end of his flight when fighting against Xiao Wubai, allowed his opponent to notice a battle not too far away where 3 experts of the Manyu Continent were surrounding a female cultivator. Xiao Wubai thought if he should jump in to lend a helping hand when he felt a strange fluctuation behind him.

"Huh?" With his years of experience, Xiao Wubai could tell that he was in danger. With his plentiful combat experience and cold sweat streaming down his back, the hair on his body stood erect.

Unfortunately, he wasn't able to react when the dull rumbling of lightning reached his ears. The void tore open and a blade light that was wrapped in lightning emerged and shot at Xiao Wubai with a shocking speed. The distance of a few miles was crossed in an instant as the blade light appeared before him. By the time he heard the thunder rumbling in his ears, the blade light had arrived!

That was one of Shang Xia's moves from his Twenty Four Solar Terms, Lightning Awakening!

The instant the blade light arrived, Xiao Wubai felt that death had come. In the final moment of his life, he didn't even have time to think about how someone could travel through the void with their physical body to arrive behind him without forming a proper spatial tunnel. Neither could he think of why the person who entered the void wasn't on the verge of death and had the strength to fire off an attack at him.

This... That wasn't an attack... He basically released his ultimate move!

Xiao Wubai couldn't care about Shang Ke who was right in front of him as he turned around to release a hurried slash from his Hundred Gold Sword.

With the shadow of death encroaching on him, he released everything he had and unleashed the strongest White Gold Sword Qi in his life.

The sword qi shone a musty white as it contained a frightening amount of power. It smashed into Shang Xia's Lightning Awakening and strands of lightning blade qi tore across space. Those strands of blade qi were intercepted by the sword qi Xiao Wubai released and they destroyed each other in mid air.

The space around them was destroyed as chaotic air whipped all around.

With a trace of fear lingering in his heart, Xiao Wubai nearly cried out loud as he felt that he had crawled back from the gates of the netherworld.

It seemed as though he managed to block the terrifying blade light that came from behind him.

He felt that the region of chaotic space that was created from the clash of their attacks could easily serve as a barrier that would stop any threat from reaching him.

He had always kept Shang Ke at the back of his mind and now that he had stopped the threat, he turned around to face his original opponent.

When he turned around, a youngster who was brimming with killing intent appeared in the chaotic space Xiao Wubai was so confident in. Holding a blade in his hand, he rushed at Xiao Wubai while swinging his blade.

"Die!" With the Abyssal Blade in hand, Shang Xia's yell seemed to strike directly at Xiao Wubai's soul.

The attack on his opponent's soul was something Shang Xia had been working on for a long time.

With his mental state in tatters, Xiao Wubai could no longer rely on his full strength to swing his Hundred Gold Sword any longer. Pouring whatever strength he had left into his weapon, he slashed at Shang Xia's Abyssal Blade.

“Clang!” The sound of metal scraping against each other filled the air and Xiao Wubai’s Hundred Gold Sword was severely damaged. It was also sent flying from his grasp.

An overbearing energy flowed directly into Xiao Wubai’s body and he was sent flying through the air. He felt his organs shifting as blood sprayed from his lips without any signs of stopping.

Luckily for him, a Martial Extermination Realm expert had a terrifying amount of life force. He managed to remain conscious through the entire process and he tried to use the chance when he was sent flying to escape.

“Hmph.” A soft snort rang in his ears and his figure stopped in mid air. Slowly lowering his head, he opened his mouth only for no words to emerge.

The tip of a spear poked out of his chest and it was torn away forcefully the next instant. Shang Ke’s extermination origins poured into his body and destroyed his innards and his life force with it.

#### Chapter 517: Prodigal Reinforcements

As a Martial Extermination Realm expert fell, the skies were filled with heaven and earth qi, and a natural phenomenon appeared where Xiao Wubai was killed.

“Kid...” Shang Ke stared at Shang Xia with shock in his eyes. However, his expression changed the next moment. “Why did you appear so suddenly?”

Shang Xia took out a piece of Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman, a Golden Sun Inferno Talisman, and a Mist Dissipation Concealment Talisman and passed them to Shang Xia.

Receiving them carefully, he sighed, “Hoho? That’s a lot of rank four talismans.”

“Fifth Grandpa, how is Grandpa Bo?” Shang Xia couldn’t wait for Shang Ke to finish admiring the talismans and he asked.

Staring at Shang Xia in shock, Shang Ke quickly regained his composure. “Not to worry. We might look like we’re losing right now, but we won’t affect your grandpa’s cultivation.”

Briefly introducing the talismans and their uses to Shang Ke, Shang Xia turned serious. “You can rest assured that we’ll be turning the tides really soon.”

After speaking, he disappeared into the void once again. Even Shang Ke was barely able to notice how he moved.

“Entering the void with his physical body... This kid...” Shang Ke sighed to himself. Taking out a copper flask, he took a violent swig. Blood returned to his face as he muttered solemnly, “Using rank four Monkey Wine to restore some inner qi... This is a fucking waste of resources...”

After speaking, he turned into a streak of light before slapping a Mist Dissipation Concealment Talisman on his body.

The surrounding air was already filled with chaotic heaven and earth qi due to the battles going on everywhere, but a strange mist emerged. Within the mist, Shang Ke’s presence was greatly reduced.



Even experts at the same level wouldn't be able to detect him easily. His figure turned blurry and it was hard to actually see where he was.

Noticing the state he was in, Shang Ke felt a lot more confident in his plans. Touching the other two rank four talismans Shang Xia gave him, he started to close in on another battle nearby.

He needed to end as many fights as he could as the Mist Dissipation Concealment Talisman would only work for a limited time. The stronger the shockwaves that struck him, the faster the Mist Dissipation Concealment Talisman would be exhausted.

The other person who was moving as quickly as he could was Shang Xia. With the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman he used earlier, he managed to enter the void with his physical body. He avoided the combined attacks of several Martial Extermination Realm experts and even took the chance to ambush Xiao Wubai. Working together with Shang Ke, they managed to kill the White and Gold Swordsman. Because of that, the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman nearly lost all its energy.

After giving Shang Ke the talismans, Shang Xia extended his divine perception to cover 30 miles around himself. Due to the chaotic battle that was taking place, the shockwaves greatly affected his divine perception. Luckily, he managed to gain a quick understanding of the situation.

When he tore apart the void once again, he was a little more familiar with the process. He made his preparations and chose the weakest part of the void to tear open in order to reduce the consumption of the remaining energy in his Abyssal Void Shattering Tisman.

It was great that he did as the moment he emerged from the void, the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman was exhausted and it shattered completely.

Shang Xia thought back to the talisman and made some quick evaluations. The talisman was crafted from ordinary rank four talisman paper and ordinary rank four talisman ink. If he used rank four Abyssal Talisman Paper and rank four Abyssal Talisman Ink to craft it, the talisman might be usable for a much longer time.

After noticing everything that was going on, Shang Xia understood that things weren't looking too well for the institution. With Shang Bo in secluded cultivation and Yun Jing being surrounded by 3 experts of the Manyu Continent, Liu Qinglan was actually the fighter in the institution with the greatest combat capabilities despite her cultivation being at the second layer Martial Extermination Realm.

She might not be the only one with the cultivation level, but no matter who she was compared to, none of them was a better fighter than the instructor of the Upper Division.

When the battle erupted previously, Liu Qinglan had been racing around to help everyone she could. That also meant that she had to fight multiple opponents and exhaust her inner qi. After she got tired, 2 Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Manyu Continent set their sights on her and launched a furious offensive, pushing her into an extremely dangerous situation.

When she was barely holding on against the attacks of two experts from the Manyu Continent, the void split open not too far away from them.

The disturbance obviously attracted the attention of the 3 and they quickly turned to look at the newcomer. Who would have thought that the newcomer was a massive asshole who revealed a crafty grin while tossing an item at the experts of the Manyu Continent the moment he appeared?

The smile on Shang Xia's face turned a little nasty when he looked at the experts of the Manyu Continent.

In the next instant, a massive fireball that seemed to contain the power of the sun appeared above the 3 of them. They were engulfed in a sea of flames that concentrated its power on the 2 experts of the Manyu Continent. Because of its wide area of effect, even Liu Qinglan was affected.

That was a Golden Sun Inferno Talisman! Liu Qinglan was no stranger to the talisman as some of them arrived as part of the previous delivery of resources half a year ago. She heard that those talismans were crafted by Shang Bo's grandson and learned that their Tongyou Institution produced their very own Talisman Grandmaster!

When the previous batch of rank four talismans were delivered, there were 5 in total and they were placed to great use. The Tongyou Institution might have been caught off guard by many things in the foreign continent, but they were able to remain standing due to those talismans. With those rank four talismans, they injured many cultivators of the Manyu Continent and forced them to retreat.

If they had to complain about anything, it was that there were far too few rank four talismans.

Now that Shang Xia appeared and threw out a Golden Sun Inferno Talisman before anyone could react, the experts of the Manyu Continent were caught off guard.

Speaking objectively, even Liu Qinglan was surprised by the sudden change in events. However, she gathered her thoughts quickly and charged into the sea of flames.

"Oh?" Shang Xia didn't expect Liu Qinglan to act in such a tyrannical fashion. The moment she leaped into the sea of flames, he knew what she wanted to do.

The power contained in a Golden Sun Inferno Talisman was frightening, but even if Shang Xia caught them by surprise, it wouldn't be enough to take the lives of both experts from the Manyu Continent.

Seeing as Liu Qinglan had dove into the sea of flames, it was evident she wanted to harvest both their lives. Even if she was injured to the point where she would lose her ability to fight, she felt that it would be worth it if she managed to kill both of them.

Obviously, Shang Xia wouldn't watch as Liu Qinglan risked her life to kill both of them. In the blink of an eye, he rushed into the sea of flames behind her.

His speed had already reached a terrifying level. In a battle among Martial Extermination Realm experts, the moment one side caught the other side's weakness, they would act swiftly to end the battle. With Shang Xia's speed, it went without saying that he would be able to deal with either of Liu Qinglan's enemies the moment he spotted them.

A miserable cry came from the sea of flames and a soft grunt followed.

From the sound of it, one of the experts of the Manyu Continent was dead but Liu Qinglan suffered some injuries after killing him.

“You’re seeking death!” Shang Xia roared and rushed in a certain direction. The flames that were within a 30 feet radius of him became forcefully suppressed as he shot forward.

A miserable figure was trying his best to escape from the sea of flames as Liu Qinglan’s body trembled unsteadily as she forced herself to remain standing.

As Shang Xia brushed past her, he gestured lightly and a gentle force pushed her out of the sea of flames.

At the same time, Shang Xia circulated his Four Constellation Qi along with his Mirroring Sun Extermination Origin to send a trace of life force into Liu Qinglan’s body to stabilize her injuries.

Despite doing all that, Shang Xia didn’t slow down in the slightest. With the Abyssal Blade in hand, he quickly closed in on the escaping Martial Extermination Realm expert. He didn’t hesitate to slash at his target.

The expert who ran out of the sea of flames was no inexperienced fool. He felt a sense of danger coming from behind and he quickly tossed an item in that direction.

Surprisingly, it was a rank four talisman and it quickly ignited behind him to form a three-layer barrier that spun around the Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Manyu Continent.

Raising an eyebrow in surprise was all the response Shang Xia had. His blade didn’t slow down in the slightest.

This time, he unleashed a new move, Autumn’s Separation!

The triple-layered barrier was sliced cleanly in two under Shang Xia’s horrifying blade qi which was boosted by the power of the Abyssal Blade.

Cutting through the barriers took some energy, but the remaining blade light cut accurately into the man’s back.

“AH!” A severed arm flew through the air as blood sprayed out from his wound uncontrollably. The cultivator screamed as he tried to press his other hand against the wound. Despite his reaction, his speed wasn’t affected in the slightest as he disappeared before Shang Xia could release another strike.

It hadn’t been long since Shang Xia appeared and of the 2 enemies Liu Qinglan was facing, one was dead and the other was heavily injured. The phenomenon that occurred after the death of a Martial Extermination Realm cultivator suppressed the sea of flames that was produced by Shang Xia’s Golden Sun Inferno Talisman.

Turning back, Shang Xia could see that Liu Qinglan wasn’t in a great state at the moment. Her injuries might not be serious, but because of the continuous battles she had been taking part in, she was completely exhausted. She wouldn’t be able to fight anytime soon.

“How are you?” Shang Xia asked as he approached her. He was actually really respectful when addressing her. After all, she was part of the first batch of students his Grandpa Bo personally taught when the institution was first established.

Liu Qinglan forced a smile in response. "I won't die anytime soon. Don't bother about me, go help the rest!"

Shang Xia understood that the situation was extremely dire and after examining her once more, he chose to leave behind a Mist Concealment Dissipation Talisman and a flask of Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine.

Even though he obtained quite a bit of Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine, he used up a huge portion of it to treat his injuries and restore his inner qi. If he was being honest, it was a colossal waste of resources.

The spatial fluctuations in the area became more intense as the battles raged on and Shang Xia didn't dare to enter the void without an Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman. As such, he stuck a Mist Concealment Dissipation Talisman on himself and traveled tens of miles to the next battlefield.

There, Shang Lubing was running away desperately from another Martial Extermination Realm expert. There was another expert coming from another direction to try to stop Shang Lubing, but the old expert was extremely agile. He was able to scurry away every time they closed in, not allowing them to trap him.

All of a sudden, Shang Lubing froze in mid air before flying in a certain direction.

Seeing as his movements finally became slightly more predictable, the two experts who were trying to box him in nearly broke out into celebration. They hastily tried attacking him from both directions.

From their speed, the two of them would be able to intercept him before he arrived at his destination. When that happened, they would finally be able to fight him 2 against 1.

When they were closing in on him, Shang Lubing did the unthinkable. Not only did he not slow down, he even accelerated towards them.

"Are you tired of living?" One of them roared as he gathered energy to attack Shang Lubing who was running straight to his death.

Who would have thought that a terrifying wave of heaven and earth qi would emerge in front of them the moment they were assured of victory?

Chapter 518: This Guy Can't Be Stopped?!

Shang Lubing seemed to have lost control of his emotions as he rushed at the two of them.

Excited that their target was finally running to his death, the two of them got ready to harvest the life of the expert from the Tongyou Institution.

The two of them didn't realize that Shang Lubing was looking at them like he was looking at two dead men.

Shang Xia, who was hidden with the Mist Dissipation Concealment Talisman appeared behind them as his Abyssal Blade drew a beautiful arc through the skies. Even though his slash looked simple, it contained a terrifying amount of power!

Unlike the attack he unleashed against Liu Qinglan's opponents back then, he released another move this time. However, the name just appeared in his mind not too long ago and in order to differentiate it from his previous attack, he called it the Spring Equinox.

If Autumn's Separation was a single blade light that split its target in two, Spring Equinox allowed him to split his blade light in two before attacking multiple opponents!

Because of how simple the strike was, Shang Xia gave it an uncomplicated name. However, the strike was anything but.

With the sudden change in the situation, the two experts who wanted to pincer Shang Lubing entered Shang Xia's direct line of fire. The tables turned instantly!

The question the two of them should be asking themselves at that moment was how Shang Xia appeared 1000 feet behind them without either of them noticing.

If the two of them continued with whatever they were planning, they might be able to heavily injure Shang Lubing. However, they would have to pay the price of having their backs completely exposed to Shang Xia.

At the critical moment, they changed their approach. One of them continued to rush at Shang Lubing while the other turned to deal with Shang Xia.

Their choice was appropriate for the situation they were in as they could prevent either side from capitalizing on their weakness if they weren't prepared. Unfortunately, their approach couldn't make up for their lack of strength.

The choice they made had long since been anticipated by both Shang Lubing and Shang Xia.

If the two of them split up the moment Shang Xia appeared, they might be able to avoid their sorry fates. At the very worst, one of them would be slain while the other one would be able to get away.

Right now, Shang Xia and Shang Lubing had the same goal. They wanted to eliminate the fighting strength of the experts of the Manyu Continent.

Killing one of them was far from enough. If they were going to make a move, they were going to kill both of them!

"Die!" Shang Lubing roared as his extermination origins split off into two directions. He forced the space around them to freeze so neither of them would be able to run.

From his actions, it was clear that he gave up on defending himself.

He was basically sacrificing himself to give Shang Xia a chance to kill the enemy!

"DIE!" Shang Xia's Abyssal Blade tore through the air as three blade lights emerged.

"Are you fucking crazy?!"

"Hmph, at the very worst, we'll die together!"

The two experts from the Manyu Continent roared and they knew it was too late for them to do anything. The expert who was rushing at Shang Lubing increased his speed and he seemed as though he would drag Shang Lubing to hell with him.

Facing the maniacal attacks of the expert from the Manyu Continent, Shang Lubing noticed Shang Xia's actions and he roared with laughter at the fact that his death would be duly compensated with the lives of 2 experts of the Manyu Continent at the Martial Extermination Realm.

At the very last second, a talisman drifted before Shang Lubing and turned into streaks of light that surrounded him. Heaven and earth qi condensed around him to form sturdy shields. A total of three barriers appeared in front of Shang Lubing.

A copper axe arrived the moment the barriers formed and shattered the first layer instantly. It slammed heavily into the second layer but failed to destroy it.

The space beside Shang Lubing tore apart but before breaking through the second and third barriers around him, it lost all its power and started to seal up.

Shang Lubing, who had gathered some of his inner qi to put up his last bit of resistance, blinked forcefully before tugging at his beard. He was shocked that he wasn't killed, but he was greeted with an amazing sight. Both experts of the Manyu Continent released miserable cries as their bodies were split in two by Shang Xia's blade light. They fell towards the ground below as their life force was drained.

"Senior Shang, are you alright?" Shang Xia kept his blade before approaching Shang Lubing.

With a trace of regret in his eyes, Shang Lubing sighed, "I was ready to die with them..."

"Hahaha! A Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman for the life of Chief Shang Lubing... It's a worthy trade indeed!" Shang Xia chuckled in response.

Pressing his lips together, Shang Lubing realized that he was supposed to thank the kid for saving his life but he changed his tune right before the words left his lips. "Shit! Your strike was really ruthless. It nearly sliced me in half too!"

Glancing at the two who fell, Shang Xia muttered, "Even though my blade light can split, it might not be enough to kill them... Let's call that move Spring Equinox..."

"So... With that logic, is there also a move called Autumn's Separation?" Shang Lubing asked.

Shang Xia laughed in response, "That's a move where I can't split the blade light in two..."

Nodding seriously, Shang Lubing continued, "So that's the case... Anyway, the two of them should be close to death after falling down from here."

Shrugging nonchalantly, Shang Xia snorted, "That's not my problem."

Since the experts of the Tongyou Institution were still in the midst of battle, the two of them exchanged simple pleasantries before they had to deal with other matters.

Seeing as Shang Xia was in great condition, Shang Lubing simply told him to take care of himself before taking his leave.

Because of his seniority and years of experience, Shang Lubing was like Liu Qinglan. He had been running around the battlefield to help out wherever he could. He even managed to hold off 2 Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Manyu Continent. His contributions were extremely significant.

It hadn't been long since Shang Xia entered the Manyu Continent and the time taken to boil a pot of tea hadn't passed when he jumped into 3 different battles. Shang Ke, Liu Qinglan, and Shang Lubing were saved from a sticky situation regardless of the method Shang Xia used. It didn't matter if he carried out sneak attacks or joined forces with them directly, but they managed to kill 2 second layer Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Manyu Continent and 1 first layer Martial Extermination Realm expert. One more was seriously injured. On the side of the Tongyou Institution, Liu Qinglan was too exhausted to fight and would have to retreat from the battlefield for some time.

No matter how strong both sides were, 5 Martial Extermination Realm experts were forced to leave the conflict. The overall situation was immediately affected as Shang Lubing and Shang Ke quickly inserted themselves into other skirmishes to stabilize the situation. The pressure on the other Martial Extermination Realm experts of the institution was greatly reduced.

With the sudden change, the situation seemed to tilt in the favor of the institution.

Shang Xia basically shifted the tides of battle himself!

Of course, he had to pay the corresponding price after doing so much. Of the 15 talismans he brought with him, he used up 2 Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman and he gave the last one to Shang Ke.

Of the 4 Golden Sun Inferno Talismans he brought, he used 2 of them. The only Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman he brought was also gone. As for the Mist Dissipation Concealment Talismans, he brought 4 of them but he was down to his last one.

The only talismans he hadn't used or given out were the Divine Restraint Talismans!

He might have used a shit ton of rank four talismans, but Shang Xia felt that it was more than worth it.

The reason he went to help Shang Ke, Liu Qinglan, and Shang Lubing was that they were in range of his divine perception when he first entered the Manyu Continent. Another reason was that other than Yun Jing, the 3 of them were the strongest experts the institution possessed!

The moment he freed the 3 of them from their predicament, they would immediately be able to hold off 4 to 5 experts of the other side. It was a shame Liu Qinglan was too exhausted to continue. With Shang Lubing and Shang Ke running to help the others, they fell short of his original estimates. At most, they would be able to hold 3 Martial Extermination Realm experts back.

Whatever the case, Shang Xia had surpassed everyone's expectations.

When it came down to it, Shang Ke and Shang Lubing were both experts in the second layer of the Martial Extermination Realm. Shang Lubing possessed stronger combat abilities with his additional experience, but Shang Ke had 2 additional rank four talismans on him and was still a force to be reckoned with in the chaotic battle.

Even with his advantages, Shang Ke knew that he had already used up all his potential when he entered the Martial Extermination Realm when he was only at the large completion stage of the

Martial Intent Realm. He knew that fighting cultivators of the same level was pretty pointless and with the concealment provided by the Mist Dissipation Concealment Talisman, he went to the outer regions of the battlefield to mount a sneak attack on Gu Shou's opponent. As Gu Shou's opponent was only at the first layer of the Martial Extermination Realm, the combined strength of Shang Ke and Gu Shou was enough to kill him.

It was a shame the expert from the Manyu Continent detonated his dantian during the final moments of his life and heavily injured Gu Shou who was already exhausted from the long battle.

Even though Gu Shou had entered the Martial Extermination Realm 2 years ago, the Inner Division Instructor suffered serious injuries before and his foundations were already damaged.

Now that he suffered another heavy injury, his path of cultivation had basically ended. Even if he managed to recover in the future, he wouldn't be able to improve!

Because he had to check on Gu Shou after he was injured, Shang Ke was slightly delayed when going out to help the others. He couldn't possibly leave Gu Shou alone in case anything happened. He decided to settle Gu Shou down in a safe location before returning to the battles.

Unfortunately, the phenomenon that appeared during the fall of a Martial Extermination Realm expert attracted the attention of those from the Manyu Continent. Gu Shou and Shang Ke's movements were discovered and they were pursued relentlessly.

Shang Ke was prepared and activated his Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman in time and defended himself from the first round of attacks.

Gu Shou wasn't so lucky. Because of the shockwaves, he was thrown through the air like a lump of meat. By the time he landed, his body was split into countless pieces and heaven and earth qi started to fluctuate wildly in the area he was killed.

The first casualty of the Tongyou Institution was Gu Shou, the faithful Inner Division Instructor!

With anger clouding his judgment, Shang Ke used the advantage he had from the Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman to rush his opponent. However, the expert from the Manyu Continent wasn't a pushover. He managed to hold their ground against Shang Ke.

The two of them decided to not fight in the air as they landed on the ground to carry out their offensive on each other. As soon as the battle started, two mountain peaks crumbled and a massive river collapsed. At the same time, 7 to 8 massive rifts tore through the forest around them.

It quickly became clear that Shang Ke wasn't his opponent. The moment the effects of his Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman ran out was the time he would suffer a fierce counterattack.

Even under such fearsome circumstances, Shang Ke continued to tangle with the experts of the Manyu Continent. Even if he was enraged by Gu Shou's death, he wouldn't do something like that for nothing.

Just as the battle was approaching its climax, Shang Ke took out the Golden Sun Inferno Talisman and threw it in his opponent's face.

The power it displayed was slightly above average, but it was extremely effective in covering a huge area!



The massive sea of flames engulfed the expert from the Manyu Continent and attempted to incinerate his body.

The moment the expert from the Manyu Continent emerged from the sea of flames, Shang Ke charged at him with the intention of stalling him as long as possible.

Because of the effects of his Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman, Shang Ke wasn't affected by the sea of flames and retained his combat capabilities.

#### Chapter 519: Divine Restraint Talisman

With the protection barriers around him, Shang Ke tossed out a Golden Sun Inferno Talisman when they were locked in close quarters combat and they were engulfed in a sea of flames at the same time.

The expert from the Manyu Continent didn't expect Shang Ke to fight so shamelessly and he desperately defended himself from the flames while trying to retreat.

Shang Ke wouldn't let him do as he wished. Putting his life on the line, he rushed at the expert from the Manyu Continent.

The expert from the Manyu Continent might be a little stronger than Shang Ke, but that was about it. Because of the sudden explosion caused by the Golden Sun Inferno Talisman and Shang Ke's relentless attacks, he was caught off guard and his weapon was sent flying with a flick of Shang Ke's spear.

It was a shame the barriers around Shang Ke lost their energy and dissipated after he did that.

That might be the case, but the expert from the Manyu Continent was on his last legs. The layer of protection around him made from his extermination origins was starting to falter.

The residual flame from the Golden Sun Inferno Talisman might not be able to harm him directly, but he couldn't stop the heat from affecting him. Countless blisters formed on his skin due to the heat.

With his weapon flung away, the expert from the Manyu Continent was in no state to continue the fight. Releasing a fist at Shang Ke haphazardly, he didn't care how it affected his opponent as he turned around to flee the scene.

Easily shattering the energy flying at him, Shang Ke's spear shot directly at his opponent's back.

At the crucial moment, the expert from the Manyu Continent twisted his body unnaturally and the spear missed his heart. However, it still tore a hole through his body under his left rib, blowing apart several of his inner organs. Even his bones were revealed after Shang Ke pulled back his spear.

That wasn't all. Shang Ke's extermination origin entered his opponent's body and wreaked havoc everywhere. The expert from the Manyu Continent spat out a mouthful of blood with pieces of his organs mixed into it.

"Argh!" The expert from the Manyu Continent released a miserable cry before pressing his hand against his wound. He was a step away from leaving the sea of

flames and at the very last second, a sharp whistle tore through the air and a chilly breeze ripped through the land and suppressed the sea of flames.

The expert from the Manyu Continent who was a step away from escaping froze and his eyes widened in fright. However, it wasn't long before the light drained from his eyes.

As his body flopped, the tip of a spear could be seen sticking out from his chest. It managed to hold the corpse slightly upright as Shang Ke stared strangely at his enemy.

At the very last moment, Shang Ke tossed his spear with some inspiration from Shang Xia's third martial intent, the Divine Killing Spear!

"... You... You played dirty... I... I... I won't accept this!" The expert from the Manyu Continent spat as blood dripped from his chin. He forced himself to turn to stare at Shang Ke and he growled as his vision grew blurry. "You got lucky... Our world is about to fall and we barely have any resources... Otherwise..."

"You're right. Your cultivation is slightly higher than mine but why would I not use the rest of my advantages to kill you?" Shang Ke sighed while shaking his head slowly.

There was no saving the Manyu Continent. They couldn't produce a Martial Dipper Realm expert and because of the leaking world origin, they barely had any resources left. They could only pass down whatever weapons and talismans they had left as they weren't really craftable with the state of the world.

That was a reason many of the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Manyu Continent were using low-grade weapons. The number who could use high-grade weapons was few and there was practically no one who could act as tyrannically as Shang Ke who used 2 talismans in succession.

Adding the talisman he used previously, Shang Ke killed 2 Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Manyu Continent. One was at the first layer of the Martial Extermination Realm and another was at the second layer.

Because of the battle, the Tongyou Institution lost a first layer Martial Extermination Realm cultivator, Gu Shou. Shang Ke didn't know if the institution actually benefited from the exchange.

Whatever the case, he knew that Gu Shou was a spent force. He had been holding on desperately and it was a matter of time before he was defeated. Even if he managed to live, he would take a long time to recover. In the end, his foundations would be heavily affected and he wouldn't be able to improve.

However, a dead Martial Extermination Realm expert and a seriously injured Martial Extermination Realm cultivator were 2 different concepts. At least one of them was still alive and kicking!

Thinking about the resources they commanded on the Manyu Continent, Shang Ke sighed to himself. Actually, even if he managed to save Gu Shou earlier, they wouldn't have enough resources to keep him alive. Even Shang Ke himself had become like Liu Qinglan. He was exhausted and he wouldn't be able to fight in the near future.

When Shagn Ke was evaluating his situation and feeling extremely vexed, the situation changed once again.

Shang Lubing deserved his reputation as a wily old fox. The way he responded to the battlefield was several times better than Shang Ke or Liu Qinglan!

After Shang Xia left earlier, Shang Lubing was free to rampage around the battlefield. With his plentiful experience and ability to adapt, he was running circles around the experts of the Manyu Continent! At the same time, he was buying time for the experts of the Tongyou Institution.

He might be saving fires everywhere he went, but he was just a side character. The person who held the key to saving the members of the Tongyou Institution was Shang Xia!

After leaving Shang Lubing, Shang Xia didn't rush to the outer regions of the battlefield. Instead, he used the final piece of Mist Dissipation Concealment Talisman to rush into the core of the territory controlled by the Tongyou Institution.

The battle taking place there was the key to everything. At the same time, it was also the most violent one that was taking place. The outcome of the battle would decide the fate of the Tongyou Institution.

3 experts of the Manyu Continent with cultivation bases in the third layer Martial Extermination Realm and above were working together to deal with Deputy Patriarch Yun Jing!

When Shang Xia arrived, he discovered that the number of experts the Manyu Continent sent to deal with Yun Jing wasn't a mere 3. There were 4 of them!

The fourth person was using his extermination origins to suppress a certain location not too far away from the battle and Shang Xia made his way over undetected. When he arrived 3 miles away from the battlefield, he finally saw what the fourth expert was doing. He was actually dealing with a protection formation!

A name immediately popped up in Shang Xia's mind. There was only one person in the Tongyou Institution at the moment in the Manyu Continent who had the ability to lay down a formation to distract a third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Manyu Continent, Chu Jia!

Shang Xia quickly realized what was going on. It was no wonder he hadn't seen a large-scale protection formation around the Tongyou Institution's territory when he entered.

He thought that the experts of the Manyu Continent managed to break through the protection formation a long time ago with their numbers advantage. However, it seemed as though there was something strange about the formation Chu Jia made. She seemed to have planned for things to go bad and there was another protection formation where she was.

Sneakily approaching the region, Shang Xia didn't make his move immediately. Instead, he started to observe the surroundings.

He noticed that Deputy Patriarch Yun Jing, the patriarch of the Great Yun Clan of the You Continent, had already refined her fourth extermination origin.

Under the combined assault of a fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm expert and 2 third layer Martial Extermination Realm experts, she seemed to be in a sorry state. However, her life wasn't in danger.

Shang Xia also knew that it wouldn't be easy for him to insert himself into a battle of that level to immediately turn the situation around.

In order to increase the chances of succeeding, Shang Xia knew that he had to go closer.

Circulating his Heaven and Man Synergy Chapter to his limit, he concealed his presence even further. With the talisman, he basically erased his existence from the world.

Under such circumstances, Shang Xia also found it difficult to fly through the air. His speed would be greatly affected, but luckily he had the Auspicious Cloud Cape to help hide his presence while boosting his movements.

Throwing it on, the region around him started to turn foggy as the cape became a sea of mist that hid his presence. He then traveled carefully across the chaotic energy fluctuations of the battle.

His Auspicious Cloud Cape couldn't compare to the Tranquil Cape when it came to hiding presence, but he wouldn't be able to move if he used the Tranquil Cape. At the very least, he could approach the battlefield with the Auspicious Cloud Cape on his back.

Just like that, he quickly advanced by close to 300 more feet. When he was barely a mile away from the fight, the strong shockwaves battered against him. He risked being revealed to those fighting nearby.

Shang Xia knew that he couldn't waste any more time. Even though he risked being discovered, he sent a voice transmission to Yun Jing. At the same time, the mist around him condensed to form the cape behind him as a four colored extermination light gathered around him. Bursting forth with the greatest speed he could muster, he charged straight into battle.

...

When he sent the voice transmission to Yun Jing earlier, the fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Manyu Continent detected a strange fluctuation in the range of his divine perception and he yelled, "Who goes there?! Get the hell out here!"

His words served as a warning for his companions, but his sudden yell shocked everyone else.

Even Yun Jing was taken aback when she received Shang Xia's voice transmission earlier.

Her shock was one thing, and the surprise the experts of the Manyu Continent felt was another. However, none of those mattered as Shang Xia didn't give Yun Jing time to hesitate as he carried out his plan instantly. Neither did he give the experts of the Manyu Continent time to react.

...

By the time Shang Xia's presence was revealed, he was already charging at one of them!

Everyone widened their eyes in fright. Even Yun Jing couldn't believe how close Shang Xia had gotten to them! The newcomer managed to get so close without any of them discovering his presence!

Their shock that Shang Xia managed to get so close was quickly replaced by fright. They were frightened by how quickly he was flying!

Kou Chongxue had once said that because of the way he entered the Martial Extermination Realm, he could rival a third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert even though he hadn't refined his extermination origins to a high level.

However, that was before factoring in the Abyssal Blade!

A battle among Martial Extermination Realm experts might span several dozen miles. However, the true exchange would be contained within a radius of 1000 to 2000 feet.

Shang Xia moved extremely quickly, but Yun Jing wasn't slow either. Neither were the Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Manyu Continent. Of the 3, one of them broke off and tried to intercept Shang Xia.

It took a long time to describe everything that happened, but with their speed, everything happened in the blink of an eye. Even though a Martial Extermination Realm expert was flying at him, Shang Xia made a surprising decision to hide his Abyssal Blade!

Instead, a talisman fluttered through the air and landed directly on the forehead of the cultivator from the Manyu Continent.

"Gotchu..." Shang Xia muttered and the cultivator from the Manyu Continent widened his eyes in shock as his body and mind froze.

#### Chapter 520: Defeat

How long could a Divine Restraint Talisman stun a third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert?

That was the real question, but Shang Xia didn't really give a damn. As long as he stopped moving for the time it took to blink, it was more than enough!

The Divine Restraint Talisman didn't just stop his opponent's movements. It directly froze their divine perception and soul. With their mind going blank, they wouldn't be able to react to anything that was thrown their way.

Actually, even if they could break out from the mental stupor immediately, they wouldn't be able to move their bodies because of the effects of the Divine Restraint Talisman.

Facing the immobilized Martial Extermination Realm expert of the Manyu Continent, Shang Xia's Abyssal Blade slashed directly through his body. His head was separated from his body but not a drop of blood could be seen.

A thin layer of frost could be seen where his head was severed as it restricted his blood from spraying out of his wound.

That was a move Shang Xia developed from the 18th of the 24 solar terms, Frost Descent!

The other experts of the Manyu Continent couldn't believe what they were seeing. They couldn't understand why their companion stopped moving at the very last second and allowed the enemy to decapitate him instantly.

Thinking back to what happened, they seemed to recall seeing a talisman appearing before their companion froze in mid air. Anything that could stop one's thoughts and body had to be a powerful talisman.

"Don't let him use that talisman again!" The stronger of the two remaining experts of the Manyu Continent roared.

Before his other comrade could do anything, Yun Jing, who had been suppressed the whole time, sprang into action.

As a Deputy Patriarch of the Tongyou Institution and one of the patriarchs of the five great clans of the Tongyou Institution, Yun Jing didn't seem to stand out from any of the others.

Putting it simply, she gave off the impression that she didn't possess terrifying combat abilities!

She would be taking care of the institution most of the time in Kou Chongxue's place and from Shang Xia's perspective, she was more of an administrative deputy patriarch unlike Shang Bo and Ji Wenlong.

She might be able to use the Hidden Frost Sword to control the situation inside the Tongyou City and the regions around it, and she was also able to hold the Tongyou Institution's position in the battlefield between the two worlds previously. However, everyone's attention was placed on the Hidden Frost Sword instead of Yun Jing's true abilities.

One had to know that even Liu Jitang, the previous Deputy Patriarch who was killed in the Coral Forest, had the guts to come up with a huge scheme to get his hands on the Zhu Family's inheritance. That alone proved his confidence in his own strength. Because of that, his presence also overshadowed Yun Jing.

Other than Liu Zhiyuan who was recently given the position of Deputy Patriarch, if everyone had to rank the original group of Deputy Patriarchs of the Tongyou Institution, Yun Jing would be ranked dead last.

With Shang Bo's extreme increase in strength and Ji Wenlong's ascension to the Martial Dipper Realm, the distance became even bigger. Even Kou Chongxue, the patriarch himself, managed to gain the Origin Water Fate Dipper and become a third element Martial Dipper Realm expert. Yun Jing's lack of achievements caused everyone's impression of her to fall even further.

However, reality seemed a little different. Yun Jing could hold off the combined attacks of 3 Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Manyu Continent who were at the third layer or higher!

Now that Yun Jing made her move, Shang Xia realized that his evaluation of her was too far off the mark. She seemed to be in a bad state as she fought the 3 of them, but she was in no danger at all! She had merely been stalling them so that they wouldn't be able to affect the other battles.

She didn't expect Shang Xia to appear so suddenly and change the tides of the battle, but she wasn't going to hold her punches now that he was here.

Deputy Patriarch Yun Jing, who had been dragging the battle out to look for opportunities to deal with her opponents, received the greatest chance she would get to end the fight! She could finally reveal her strength without any reservations!

Her extermination origins emerged from her body and formed a massive pillar of four colored light. It covered half the skies and from afar, it looked like a beautiful lady spider who was flaunting her pretty figure.

Not only did Yun Jing refine four extermination origins. From the aura she had released, she completely suppressed the fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Manyu Continent.

The four colored lights started to fuse and they seemed to trap her in their midst.

Shang Xia couldn't help but suck in a cold breath. Even when Shang Bo first appeared to display his strength at the fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm, he didn't seem stronger than the current Yun Jing!

Despite everything that was happening, Shang Xia felt that something was wrong. He failed to put his finger on what was going on until he discovered that Yun Jing's tyrannical might could only suppress one person. She left the third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert alone.

"..." Shang Xia's Abyssal Blade cut through the air as it sent a ray of blade light at the other guy.

Even though the weapon in the hands of the third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert of the Manyu Continent wasn't as good as Shang Xia's Abyssal Blade, he was still strong enough to repel the attack coming his way. Shang Xia's combat abilities might be terrifying because he refined 4 extermination origins at once, but his opponent was no weakling. He was a true blue third layer Extermination Realm expert.

"Hah, seems like you really think highly of me." Shang Xia grunted once. He wasn't talking to his opponent. Instead, his words were directed at Yun Jing.

Shang Xia might be comparable to a third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert if he gave it his all, but killing someone at that level the moment he appeared caused a chill to run down Yun Jing's spine despite her cultivation level.

However, the method he used couldn't be replicated easily. He caught his opponent by surprise this time and he used a powerful talisman to do so. He couldn't do that in all his battles.

Now that he didn't use another Divine Restraint Talisman, Shang Xia wielded the Abyssal Blade to its maximum potential and perfectly unleashed his Twenty Four Solar Terms. He quickly suppressed his opponent and it was a one sided battle. The expert from the Manyu Continent could barely hold on.

At the moment, Shang Xia was looking for a chance to use the Divine Restraint Talisman again. The talisman might be extremely powerful, but it had many limitations.

Like rank one and two restraint talismans, he had to stick it directly on the body of his target. In the case of the Divine Restraint Talisman, the user would have to use his divine perception to suppress the opponent's soul. Naturally, the talisman would greatly boost the suppression but that was the best way to use the Divine Restraint Talisman.

With what happened earlier, the experts of the Manyu Continent knew that Shang Xia had some terrifying trump card hidden. He might not know what it was, but he knew that he shouldn't tangle with Shang Xia in close combat especially since he was at a disadvantage. That wasn't all. His divine perception and gaze were locked firmly on Shang Xia. He was afraid that he would suffer the same fate as his dead comrade if he became a little careless.

Because of how careful he was, Shang Xia was unable to find a chance to release his Divine Restraint Talisman. His combat abilities were limited since he was finding an opportunity to release his talisman and he could only run away while enduring some attacks.

What Shang Xia didn't know was that even his current strength had exceeded Yun Jing's expectations. Realizing that he would be fine, she no longer bothered about him and focused on suppressing her current opponent.

Now that Shang Xia had joined in the battle, the longer things dragged out, the worse it would get for the members of the Manyu Continent.

Chasing after Shang Xia, the expert from the Manyu Continent yelled at his other companion who was suppressing the member of the Tongyou Institution in the protection formation. "Elder Zhuang, stop what you're doing and help me get rid of this kid!"

"Are you sure?" The figure in the distance didn't seem willing to help, but he wasn't exactly unwilling either.

"Elder Hu's caught up with something. We'll join hands to get rid of this kid right now before going over to support him! Ignore the formation master for now! She won't be able to do anything in such a short amount of time."

The cultivator chasing after Shang Xia seemed extremely anxious as he felt Elder Hu's aura growing weaker by the second. His opponent, the Deputy Patriarch of the Tongyou Institution, seemed to be getting stronger and stronger!

If things kept up, Elder Hu wouldn't be able to last for long.

"Fine!" Elder Zhuang leaped into the air as his extermination origins surrounded him. Instead of intercepting Shang Xia, he went for Yun Jing.

"Since Mister Ren is currently at an advantage, I'll go save Elder Hu first!" Elder Zhuang left behind a simple statement before racing towards the other battlefield.

Shang Xia's opponent cursed under his breath but his comrade had already left. He could only hope that all of them manage to deal with Yun Jing before coming back to give him a hand.

As soon as Elder Zhuang joined the battle, the tides turned yet again.

Shang Xia thought that since they had already obtained the advantage earlier, all they had to do was wear their opponents out and they would win eventually. However, he was in for a rude awakening after Elder Zhuang left. Even though they had a rank four Formation Grandmaster on their side, the protection formation wouldn't be restored anytime soon. As long as the other party kills or seriously injures Yun Jing before the protection formation is restored, they would still win!

Even if the protection formation was restored after, they could band together to destroy it in an instant.

The Martial Extermination Realm expert who was chasing Shang Xia also stopped suddenly. He didn't attack Shang Xia immediately as he was still a little afraid of the way his comrade was killed.

Seeing as his opponent was a wuss, Shang Xia charged at him instead.

Mister Ren might feel a little uncomfortable now that Shang Xia was rushing at him, but he wasn't afraid of clashing with his opponent. He wasn't willing to give up a chance to take this strange foreigner down, but he was also wary of the weird talisman his opponent could use.



He thought he guessed correctly when Shang Xia tossed a golden talisman at him the next moment.

With alarm bells ringing in his head, he couldn't be bothered to fight the person in front of him. He retreated as quickly as he could and he even gathered his divine perception back into his body in case his opponent had some weird ability to affect it.

The very next moment, the golden talisman turned into a ball of fire that filled the area with a ferocious sea of flames. It surrounded Mister Ren immediately.

"Hmph, it's just a fire talisman!" Mister Ren immediately relaxed when he detected the amount of power it contained. He couldn't help but curse under his breath, "What do you think you can achieve with this?"

Mister Ren released his extermination origins to suppress the flame around him while making his way forward. A path was forcefully carved out from the sea of flames.

Before he could emerge from the sea of flames, Shang Xia tossed a golden talisman in his direction.

A second sun appeared in the skies before Mister Ren extinguished the first sea of flames.

Terrifying amounts of energy blasted against Mister Ren and he felt that it became even hotter than before. The path he carved out earlier reignited and his advance wasn't as smooth as before.

Superimposing 2 Golden Sun Inferno Talismans on top of each other might not cause their power to double, but it was enough to stall Mister Ren in the sea of flames.

Shang Xia didn't expect the talismans to keep him down anyway. Like when Shang Ke unleashed it on his enemy previously, his main aim was to drag the battle out.

With his Four Seasons Extermination Origins surrounding his body, Shang Xia pushed himself to his limit as he sent an attack at Elder Zhuang.

"Anyone who stands in my way will die!" Elder Zhuang growled in mid air as he released a horrifying punch into the void. Fist intent ripped through the air and flew straight at Shang Xia.

At the same time, Shang Xia sent out a formidable palm strike that contained his comprehension of his Four Seasons Extermination Origins.

When the attacks clashed, the skies above them changed color as cracks appeared in the void around them. A massive shockwave sent both of them flying.

Elder Zhuang was thrown thousands of feet away before he managed to stabilize his footing. By the time he gathered his thoughts, he noticed that the foreign cultivator he sent flying earlier was thrown into the heart of the battlefield between the 2 fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm experts.

"Shit! He tricked me!" Elder Zhuang's expression changed drastically as a bad feeling welled up in his heart.