

The Heavens 531

Chapter 531: Working Together Once Again

Shang Xia clearly didn't expect he would meet Youshang in the Manyu Continent, and neither did he expect the person Yun Jing told him to find would be the strange senior he met in the past.

A chuckle left Youshang's lips when he saw the shock on Shang Xia's face. "What's the matter? Is this strange to you?"

Shang Xia nodded in response.

One not only had to borrow the power of a world to open the spatial tunnel, but they also needed the help of a Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor!

If Kou Chongxue and Ji Wenlong weren't behind sending Youshang to the Manyu Continent, that would mean that he managed to gain the trust of another Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor!

One had to know that the Martial Extermination Realm expert standing before him was a true blue spy for the Tongyou Institution! It was shocking enough for him to remain undetected in the Azure Spiritual World, much less gain the support of a Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor there.

Seeing the look of admiration on Shang Xia's face, Youshang seemed even more pleased with himself. However, he quickly got back to the topic at hand. "Did Yun Jing tell you to find me? What did she tell you to tell me?"

Shang Xia found it slightly strange that Youshang knew what he was doing there already but he did whatever Yun Jing told him to do regardless. He told Youshang about Ren Bainian's conjecture that there might be a third faction on the Manyu Continent and explained the situation.

When he was done, Shang Xia stared at him with a look of confusion. "Actually, that's all Deputy Patriarch Yun Jing told me to convey. She didn't say anything else."

Shang Xia noticed that Youshang seemed to be deep in thought after his recount earlier. Unfortunately, Youshang's expression didn't allow Shang Xia to grasp what he was thinking of.

While observing Youshang's lack of reaction, Shang Xia seemed to have thought of something and he couldn't help but ask, "Don't tell me Deputy Patriarch Yun hopes for you to go undercover and infiltrate the third faction if there really is one?"

It sounded absurd, as every world had its unique cultivation method. No one could fake their cultivation method and Youshang's use of the Azure Spiritual World's cultivation style would be exposed immediately!

From Ren Bainian's description of the group of foreign experts, they seem to disguise themselves as cultivators of the Manyu Continent. However, they were still exposed by Ren Bainian the moment he laid eyes on them.

Youshang, who had been thinking about something, raised his head abruptly and stared at Shang Xia with a strange smile on his face. The aura around him started to change and the qi of a cultivator from the Azure Spiritual World started to transform. It didn't take long for him to give off the aura of a cultivator from the Manyu Continent.

If Shang Xia wasn't as familiar with Youshang as he already was, he would start to suspect that the man was actually a cultivator from the Manyu Continent!

Shang Xia's jaw dropped as he stared at the horrifying scene in front of him.

Moreover, Shang Xia felt a trace of the Azure Origin World's unique aura of cultivation when Youshang was changing his aura earlier.

In other words, Youshang wasn't just able to replicate the unique cultivation aura of the cultivators from the Azure Spiritual World. He could do the same for cultivators from the Azure Origin World.

However, that wasn't the main point. When Youshang was changing his aura, he failed to conceal his true strength. Shang Xia managed to detect a terrifying fact. Youshang had already entered the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm!

Thinking back to the events in the Changfeng City during the War of the Tongyou Mysterious World, Youshang was only a second layer Martial Extermination Realm cultivator!

It seemed as though Shang Xia wasn't the only one who experienced a meteoric rise in strength in the past 3 years. There were also others who were progressing at a rapid pace.

As the heaven and earth qi fluctuations around Youshang finally stabilized, a mischievous look could be seen in his eyes when he opened them again. "Do you want to work together with me again?"

Staring at him in shock, Shang Xia quickly recovered as a crafty smile appeared on his face. "Of course!"

...

Shang Xia was still curious why he would be able to see Youshang in the Manyu Continent, but as they ran through several snowy peaks, Shang Xia's thoughts started to wander elsewhere. He could feel a faint presence of world origin where they were.

Back in the Azure Origin World, Shang Xia volunteered to enter the Manyu Continent for one main reason. He heard that during the destruction of the Manyu Continent, world origin would emerge and spill out of the world.

That was a great opportunity for him to obtain world origin! It wasn't something that would happen often, but he was slightly disappointed after he arrived. The heaven and earth qi was abnormally dense due to a final burst from the Manyu Continent, but Shang Xia couldn't sense much world origin among it during his cultivation sessions.

If he had to wait till the destruction of the Manyu Continent to obtain world origin, things would get a little messy. It wouldn't take a genius to know that the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors of the various powers would appear the moment the Manyu Continent was destroyed. They would be the ones taking part in the battle to obtain world origin and when that happened, Martial Extermination Realm experts like himself wouldn't be able to meddle in the slightest.

Shang Xia didn't hold high hopes for obtaining world origin when the Manyu Continent was destroyed and he chose to focus on the Tongyou Institution's mission. It could be said that his contributions were already at a terrifying level after saving them from complete annihilation.

He might not be thinking about world origin any longer, but the presence of some on the snowy peaks made him rethink his choices.

Looking at Youshang who was flying in front of him, Shang Xia couldn't help but ask, "Senior, where are we going?"

Without turning his head, Youshang replied, "There were people flying around this area recently. This time, I won't let them run away! I'll teach them a good lesson!"

"Senior, are you in charge of protecting this region?" Shang Xia asked.

"What do you think?" Youshang chuckled in response.

A thought flashed through Shang Xia's mind suddenly and he seemed to recall a matter that had been on his mind since he entered the Manyu Continent. "Senior, are you... Are you protecting someone in this region?"

Pausing for a second, he continued, "Is my grandfather cultivating in seclusion here?!"

Shang Xia had long since suspected that Shang Bo wasn't cultivating in the core region of the Tongyou Institution. Otherwise, he would have been alerted by the massive shockwaves during the assault back then. There were maybe 30 or more Martial Extermination Realm experts fighting during the massive offensive launched by the experts of the Manyu Continent! No matter how strong Chu Jia's protection formation was, it wouldn't be able to block off the powerful shockwaves!

Shang Xia was waiting expectantly for Youshang's reply, but the extermination light under the older cultivator's feet dimmed the next instant as he growled, "We're here. This should be the area..."

Shang Xia raised his eyebrows in surprise and released his divine perception. It quickly expanded to cover a radius of 50 miles from him and Youshang seemed to notice the powerful divine perception fluctuation as he turned to stare at Shang Xia in shock.

"There's no one here!" Shang Xia spoke before bringing out another Spirit Extermination Gourd. After using a secret art to gather the thin extermination qi in the air, he spoke again. "There seems to be a trace of a frost extermination in his region."

Nodding slightly, Youshang smiled, "You're right. However, the extermination qi hasn't reached its peak density. Occasionally, there would be a wave of frost covering the snowy peaks. When that happens, the extermination qi in the air would become tens of times denser than now."

"Is there really such a blessed land in the Manyu Continent?" Shang Xia gasped.

In the next second, Shang Xia realized something. He asked curiously, "Why hasn't the Manyu Continent produced a Martial Extermination Realm expert in the past 10 years even though there is such an amazing place for cultivation? The extermination qi here is pretty thick too!"

"Did you forget something?" Youshang replied casually. "Did you refine extermination origins first when entering the Martial Extermination Realm or did you do something else? Maybe you forgot how you consumed your rank four advancement medicine?"

Shang Xia finally discovered the problem. “Senior, are you saying that they aren’t able to gather enough herbs to create any advancement medicine?”

Extermination origins were born from world origin and they would appear under specific conditions. Ordinarily, extermination origins would only be produced in regions where there was world origin.

That might be the case for extermination origins and extermination qi, but nurturing herbs wasn’t that easy. It took a long time for the herb to be ready for collection but the Manyu Continent wouldn’t be emitting heaven and earth qi for long.

After satisfying his curiosity, Shang Xia saw Youshang hovering in mid air and he asked, “Senior, is the person you wish to deal with going to appear here?”

“No. He’s already here.” Youshang chuckled.

With his eyes widening in shock, Shang Xia expanded his divine sense once more to do an even more detailed sweep of the area. However, he still failed to detect traces of anyone.

Seeing the look of disbelief on Shang Xia’s face, Youshang couldn’t help but chuckle. “The snow is extremely thick here. There might be dozens of feet of snow covering him and if he managed to find a naturally formed mountain cave to seek refuge in, you won’t be able to find him.”

Shang Xia finally understood why he couldn’t sense anyone. Worry soon set in. “Did that person discover our presence?”

Youshang shook his head in response. “Probably not. Go hide somewhere. Find a chance to make your move when we start fighting later.”

Shang Xia nodded once before draping the Auspicious Cloud Cape over himself. Soft mist filled the area and Shang Xia’s figure started to turn blurry.

“Huh?” Youshang couldn’t help but turn to look at where Shang Xia was standing. He clicked his tongue several times while muttering to himself, “Damn, this brat really has a lot of good shit on him. That treasure is almost comparable to the Tranquil Cape!”

Shang Xia couldn’t hear what Youshang was mumbling and he continued to keep himself hidden while asking, “Senior, what is the other party’s cultivation level and strength?”

Coughing once, Youshang replied, “He’s extremely powerful. When the time comes, you need to go all out. Before he leaves this region of snow-covered peaks, we need to look for a chance to seriously injure him. If an opportunity arises, don’t hold back!”

Shang Xia agreed readily but Youshang turned serious and gave him another warning. “Of course, your safety comes first. Only go all out and try to injure him without risking yourself.”

Thinking back to the aloof Youshang of before, Shang Xia discovered that he had become a lot more talkative. He might be slightly naggy, but Shang Xia understood his good intentions.

As Youshang continued to remind him to be careful, Shang Xia also understood that the opponent they were dealing with his time might be a handful.

Acknowledging Youshang's warnings, Shang Xia lightly touched his sleeves. Not only was his Abyssal Blade in there, but the last piece of his Divine Restraint Talisman was also ready to be utilized.

With Shang Xia hiding properly, Youshang made his move.

A copper colored spear appeared in Youshang's hand as blood light started to swirl around its tip. It was as though a strange beast had taken over the body of the spear.

When the power stored in the spear reached its peak, Youshang stabbed ruthlessly at the ground below. The beast that was made from blood extermination emerged with a heaven shaking roar before burrowing deep into the ground.

"Crash!" A loud disturbance came from deep in the ground and rumblings filled the air. A total of 8 mountain peaks beneath Youshang collapsed as landslides spread for tens of miles. The entire mountain range quaked violently.

The mountain peaks that were covered in snow for tens, even hundreds of years, crumbled. Flurries of snow filled the air before slowly starting to expand outwards.

"It's coming..." Youshang, who was still standing in the air, muttered.

There was actually no need for his reminder. Shang Xia discovered the other party with his divine sense the moment the snow collapsed. A powerful aura emerged from below and charged into the air above with frightening speed.

"Bang!"

Snow, dirt, rocks, and everything that could gather below erupted with a massive explosion.

The rocks that flew from below had the ability to seriously injure a Martial Intent Realm cultivator. Even ordinary Martial Extermination Realm cultivators would have to retreat.

"Who! Who are you?!" An enraged cry tore through the air and the avalanches that were happening all around sped up because of it.

That wasn't all. The loud roar slammed into Shang Xia's divine perception and it was like a giant tornado that continued to batter his consciousness.

The person locked onto Youshang instantly and rushed at him with a horrifying momentum.

From the way he emerged, it wasn't difficult to tell that the person possessed a powerful divine perception. He even had an exquisite art that allowed him to affect others' divine perception.

Chapter 532: Everyone Has Their Own Considerations

When the horrifying divine perception arrived 3 feet away from Youshang, it was stopped by a formless barrier.

As it continued to increase in power as it smashed against Youshang's barrier, the barrier retracted slightly. It failed to affect Youshang directly, but he was still forced to retreat. Moving back several feet, Youshang gnashed his teeth together as he forced himself to maintain the barrier. Even so, it wasn't difficult to see that he was having a hard time doing so.

Eventually, he managed to resist it with all his might.

During their clash, the shockwave blew the clouds in the air away. Only the region around Youshang seemed immune to the shockwaves. Clouds remained around Youshang and they seemed to grow denser with every passing second. Eventually, they turned into a dark thundercloud.

“It’s you again!” Realizing his divine perception wasn’t able to injure the other party, the expert who emerged from underground stabilized himself in the air around Youshang without any injuries either.

From the trace of anger in the other party’s voice, anyone could tell that the two of them knew each other. As if that wasn’t enough, they definitely had some enmity against each other.

“Brother Su Jinyuan, we meet again!” Youshang cupped his fists towards the other party and chuckled after he caught his breath.

“Hmph!” The other party harrumphed coldly before he growled, “I told you before, this region of snow-covered peaks is large enough for the both of us. I only wish to train here for some time! Didn’t we come to an agreement not to mess with each other? I didn’t expect you to go against your words! Are you really trying to find trouble with me?”

Youshang raised an eyebrow in response. “Hold up, hold up, you definitely proposed an arrangement where we wouldn’t interfere in each other’s business, but I didn’t agree! It’s your wishful thinking that I wouldn’t attack you!”

A sneer appeared on Su Jinyuan’s face and he mocked, “Is that so?! Looks like I really forgot that you didn’t agree with me back then. Right, I also forgot that you were beaten by me and were running for your life back then. You probably didn’t hear my suggestion properly in your haste to escape.”

Rumble...

A deep sound came from the thunderclouds beside Youshang and traces of reddish-gold lightning churned within.

As the 2 high-level Martial Extermination Realm experts continued to probe each other, Su Jinyuan’s aura continued to expand. Even though Youshan remained motionless under the horrifying pressure that was descending on him, he was pushing himself to the limit.

The mist around Youshang seemed to be compressed by Su Jinyuan’s aura as they gathered close to him. Thick thunderclouds filled the air as it created a majestic sight above the snowy peaks.

Youshang snorted after hearing Su Jinyuan’s mockery. “You can talk all you want. I enjoyed myself thoroughly in the last battle we had and I gained some insights because of that. My cultivation has grown stronger since then and I’m back to ask for more guidance!”

After he spoke, he pointed his Ancient Copper Spear at Su Jinyuan.

The spear seemed to resonate with the rumbling thunderclouds around Youshang as lightning bolts surrounded the tip of the weapon. It was as though he could command the power of lightning.

Because of his actions, Youshang, who had been forced into a passive state since Su Jinyuan's appearance, finally seized the initiative by using his weapon and the lightning around him.

"Whatever." Su Jinyuan snorted loudly. "Since this is what you want, we'll decide a victor today! Only one of us will be leaving alive."

After he spoke, Su Jinyuan swiped his hand in the space before him as a 3 foot long sword appeared in it. His sword seemed to possess its own spirituality as it spun around his head with its tip pointing at Youshang's position.

His weapon seemed to possess the special characteristics of a divine weapon and he was even able to control it with a rarely-seen sword controlling art.

It was obvious that Youshang had taken a beating from the man before. However, that also allowed him to understand Su Jinyuan's fighting style. When the sword appeared, Youshang sprang into action. He needed to make the first move in order to gain the upper hand.

As his Ancient Copper Spear emitted a brilliant radiance before piercing into the void, streaks of lightning danced around its surface as they followed the trajectory of the spear. Those lightning bolts weren't there for decoration either. They allowed Youshang to increase the speed of his spear by at least 30 percent.

The distance of several miles was covered in an instant as the tip of Youshang's spear arrived before Su Jinyuan in the next second. By the time his spear emerged from the void, the skies around them had already turned a deep crimson red.

Facing Youshang's sudden attack, Su Jinyuan didn't panic in the slightest. A cyan colored extermination origin above his head entered his sword.

The sword started to tremble slightly as it released a hum that caused the hearts of those around it to tremble. It disappeared suddenly and the sound of metal scraping against each other tore through the skies the next moment. His surroundings were dyed a blood-red like the air above and a giant tear appeared in the space before him.

Ten miles away, Shang Xia was hiding in whatever cloud that remained. He started to accumulate the power of lightning in the thunderclouds in the area with some assistance from the world around him while observing the battle.

When the cyan colored extermination origin appeared above Su Jinyuan's head, Shang Xia's eyes widened to the size of saucers.

There was only a single strand of cyan colored extermination origin above Su Jinyuan's head, but Shang Xia wasn't stupid enough to think that the man was a first layer Martial Extermination Realm expert. He recognized that Su Jinyuan was a terrifying expert who had already managed to fuse his extermination origins together to enter the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm!

When Shang Xia discovered Youshang's strength to be in the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm, he had already prepared himself to face a strong enemy. Despite all the mental preparations he made, he couldn't help but sigh to himself after noticing Su Jinyuan's cultivation level.

Ignoring Shang Xia's feelings for the time being, Youshang wasn't exactly in a great situation. His strike was easily nullified by his opponent and his Ancient Copper Spear was sent flying through the air.

An arm emerged from nowhere and grabbed the end of the spear. With a slight tremble, Youshang's spear resembled a python as it made a beautiful arc through the air before crashing down on the flying sword.

Su Jinyuan turned serious as Youshang went to retrieve his spear. He became slightly more cautious as his hand started to move in his flowy robes. His sword controlling art was displayed to its greatest extent as his sword danced in the air like a butterfly fluttering through space. It avoided the attack from the spear while finding gaps in Youshang's attack to launch a decisive counterattack.

The clash of weapons caused a flurry of echoes to ring through the air. Only the phantom of a spear was left in mid air as the space surrounding Youshang and Su Jinyuan fractured to a frightening extent. Horrifying heaven and earth qi storms that were kicked up from the battle ravaged everything for dozens of miles.

With a loud roar from Youshang, he tried another approach. He ignored the never-ending sword qi around him and shook his spear once. Four extermination origins that covered his spear split away and stabbed at Su Jinyuan from every direction.

His sudden strike placed great emphasis on power but he would have to take on his enemy's attack head-on. It seemed as though he was on the losing end when unleashing it, but if he managed to injure his opponent with it, the relentless attacks would stop and he would immediately gain an absolute advantage over his enemy. When that happened, he would be able to unleash a ruthless counterattack against his opponent.

Youshang was betting on the fact that with Su Jinyuan's cultivation and strength being higher than his in all aspects, he would retract his energy to defend himself against Youshang's technique. After all, such a way of fighting didn't benefit the stronger party at all.

Unfortunately, he heard a cold snort along with a chuckle from Su Jinyuan. At that moment, Youshang knew that he was wrong.

Su Jinyuan seemed extremely confident that he could take on Youshang's desperate attack without suffering any sort of injury!

Raising his arms, his hands finally poked out from his sleeves as he controlled his sword with all his might. The sword qi that surrounded Youshang started to condense into 1 massive cyan colored sword that stabbed straight for his head.

Youshang's plan to force Su Jinyuan to retract his energy failed, and now, he would have to take on a terrifying blow from his opponent!

The world around them turned silent in that instant. The four different spear lights made from Youshang's extermination origins, along with another giant spear above him that was sustained with his inner qi clashed with Su Jinyuan's giant sword in an instant. 2 of the 5 spear qis were destroyed immediately and another 2 shattered the next moment. Finally, only the spear above him was left and he raised his Ancient Copper Spear along with it to resist the cyan sword crashing down on him.

The robes he wore were turned into shredded confetti under the earth-shattering might of Su Jinyuan's blow. Youshang looked as rugged as could be but his spear continued to resist nonetheless. He didn't back down as his posture remained steady but he was forced to retreat several feet as he forcefully blocked the sword. The space around him distorted violently but eventually, the cyan sword ran out of energy and dissipated.

Releasing a clear ring, Su Jinyuan's sword returned to his side.

"Haha, you can't control your extermination origins perfectly yet and you tried to use them individually to attack me. Looks like you were planning to use this battle to train yourself!" Su Jinyuan chuckled but he didn't remain idle. His sword started to split apart in the skies above him and at first, it separated to become 2 swords. Then, they split again, and again, and again! By the time he was done talking, the entire sky was filled with sword lights that were pointing straight at Youshang.

Facing the skull-numbing sight, Youshang wasn't afraid in the slightest. He snorted coldly, "We're all walking down the same road of cultivation. Why shouldn't I try to take this chance to make the final step to enter the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm?"

"Since we all have our reasons, let's just enjoy the battle to our fullest! Experience my Star River Sword Art!" Su Jinyuan gestured once and the sword lights that filled the air flew at Youshang like meteors through space. They came in all directions with the intention of swallowing Youshang in a river of sword lights.

Youshang reached his peak state after fighting for so long and as he tightened his grip on his Ancient Copper Spear, it started to dance about in the air before him.

Every time he moved, the tip of his spear would leave behind a brilliant ray of light in the air.

As Youshang's movements sped up, the light rays that appeared before slowly dissipated before regenerating as more light rays were produced. Eventually, they seemed to form a ball of light around him. When he was ready, he took several steps back and the ball of light extended in a single direction to create a vortex.

When the sword lights approached Youshang, they would be sucked into the vortex he created before disappearing completely.

It was too bad for him that the sword lights Su Jinyuan summoned seemed endless. Youshang might be able to hold on for now, but he couldn't last forever. Eventually, his energy would run dry from maintaining the vortex and he would fall into a disadvantageous position.

If Su Jinyuan kept it up, it was a matter of time before he won. However, he didn't seem satisfied with the current situation. He retrieved a fist-sized pearl from his sleeves and it shot out a strange light that ignored all obstructions to head straight for Youshang's eyes.

Chapter 533: Yeet My Blade

The battle between Su Jinyuan and Youshang was reaching its climax when Su Jinyuan brought out some weird pearl that shot a suspicious radiance at Youshang's eyes.

At the final moment, Youshang wielded his spear with one hand while raising his sleeves to cover his eyes. Unfortunately, the radiance was a lot stronger than Youshang's clothes. With a low 'clang', Youshang spat out a ball of golden light at the last second to scatter the radiance.

"Hehe, Brother Su, that's a wrong path you're going down if you're trying to comprehend your martial intent." Youshang seemed composed after stopping Su Jinyuan's sneak attack. Not a trace of panic could be heard in his voice. Instead, he sounded like a completely different person.

Su Jinyuan wasn't disappointed that his sneak attack failed. Instead, he chuckled casually, "Heh, I nearly fell for your schemes. Our battle had been going on for a while now. I'm afraid I'll soon be besieged on all sides. Moreover, it's not like I gained nothing with my previous attack. At least now I know that you've been hiding your identity. Looks like you don't have good intentions either."

Youshang didn't bother with whatever Su Jinyuan said at the end. Instead, he replied sarcastically, "Brother Su, you're confusing me. This is the Manyu Continent and as the Master of the East, you have both the geographical advantage and the support of the people. Why would you be besieged on all sides? Unless... You're hiding a secret..."

Shang Xia's heart trembled slightly when he heard what Youshang said. From what Youshang was saying, he seemed pretty sure that Su Jinyuan wasn't a member of the Manyu Continent. He wondered if Youshang managed to confirm that Su Jinyuan was one of the members of the mysterious third faction because of what he said when they first met.

Shang Xia experienced a large-scale battle against the experts of the Manyu Continent when he arrived. After that, there was an exchange with Ren Bainian. He was familiar with the aura of experts from the Manyu Continent but he couldn't feel any difference coming from Su Jinyuan.

He didn't know how Youshang managed to determine that Su Jinyuan was a foreign cultivator but all of that didn't matter. Shang Xia had been gathering energy the whole time he was ready to launch his sneak attack once the opportunity came.

The situation got worse after their short conversation. They didn't stop fighting even as they talked earlier and the battle became even more dangerous and intense.

The two of them might be fighting in mid air, but the shockwaves of their battle greatly affected the mountain range below. Dozens of miles around their battlefield, the mountain peaks that used to exist had been flattened completely.

Without a change in expression, Su Jinyuan spoke, "What are you talking about? I don't understand. Right now, our Manyu Continent is on the verge of destruction and the foreign powers are waiting to divide our assets. All of us can't do anything but wait to be devoured by the others. We're a pile of scattered sand at the moment. There's no advantage for me to make use of it any longer."

Youshang hissed in response, "Brother Su, why are you trying so hard to defend yourself? Your explanation is just making it more obvious."

After he spoke, Youshang didn't bother with the sword qi around him. Pushing forward with the giant vortex at the tip of his spear, he charged straight at his opponent.

Su Jinyuan's sword revealed itself again as it clashed with the approaching Youshang.

At the same time, he pointed at the pearl he brought out earlier. It emitted a resplendent ray of light that shot at Youshang's head.

This time, he didn't really bother if the light ray the pearl emitted struck Youshang. Instead, he casually retrieved another ornament from his belt and tossed it into the air. The ornament turned into a battle axe that was 3 feet long and it cleaved down at Youshang without mercy.

Youshang was clearly able to handle the sneak attack from the pearl even under the assault of Su Jinyuan's sword. However, the axe this time seemed a lot more powerful than the ray of light. Even if Youshang was prepared to charge forward with everything he had, he changed his decision at the last second and chose to protect himself.

A sneer appeared on Su Jinyuan's lips as he gestured to the air. With his weapon controlling art, his sword and battle axe flew at Youshang.

"Fellow cultivator, how will you deal with this now?" Su Jinyuan roared with laughter. For the first time, he finally moved as he stepped in Youshang's direction.

Unfortunately for him, the heavens above seemed to explode the moment he took his first step. Whatever he wanted to say next was drowned in the deafening rumble that came next.

Raising his head, a reddish-gold lightning bolt tore through the heavens and appeared right above him.

"How daring..." Su Jinyuan snorted coldly but he didn't panic.

The pearl that was used against Youshang appeared above his head the next moment to greet the lightning bolt that was striking down. Surprisingly, the pearl only managed to stop the lightning bolt for a moment before it was sliced in two.

"Who's there?!" Su Jinyuan's expression finally changed when the pearl was split in two. He immediately realized that the lightning bolt that fell on him wasn't Youshang's doing. Instead, it came from someone hiding in the thunderclouds.

Also, the reddish-gold lightning bolt that fell didn't just contain the power of lightning. Its flashy appearance only served to hide the terrifying blade light beneath!

With the lightning bolt and blade light still descending on him, Su Jinyuan raised his palm in front of his chest. With a loud cracking sound, another object cracked and a barrier of light appeared around him.

"Bang!" The lightning bolt slammed into the barrier and scattered in all directions. It failed to do a thing to the barrier but the lightning wasn't what Su Jinyuan was concerned about. He was defending himself against the hidden blade light that was concealed in the lightning earlier.

That was Shang Xia's Lightning Awakening, a move in the series of his Twenty Four Solar Terms.

Su Jinyuan might have defended against the blade light that appeared out of nowhere, but it cost him dearly. Most of his attention was drawn away from Youshang and the pressure lessened immediately.

By the time Su Jinyuan had dealt with Shang Xia's strike, Youshang roared as his Ancient Copper Spear slammed heavily into the battle axe and sent it flying. Without caring if his weapon would be damaged from the violent way he was using it, he closed the distance even more as he struck a heavy blow on Su Jinyuan's sword. Now that he was closer to his opponent, he didn't hesitate to stab his spear at the man again.

"With your strength, there's no way you're a nameless figure. Why do you have to hide and launch sneak attacks?" Su Jinyuan yelled in the direction Shang Xia was hiding before dealing with Youshang's new assault.

This time, he tossed out a talisman that turned into a wheel of light that spun rapidly to approach Youshang.

A rank four talisman was obviously unable to stop an expert at Youshang's level for long. Su Jinyuan also didn't expect his talisman to do much. He only wished to use it to buy some time for himself to catch his breath after receiving Shang Xia's hidden attack.

The moment Shang Xia made his move earlier, both sides knew that the situation had shifted.

Shang Xia's grasp on the battle to launch his blade light at the most opportune moment, along with his ability to sense the flow of battle, in addition to the strength he exposed, Su Jinyuan understood that determining a victor against Youshang and the other party wasn't going to be his main problem. Whether or not he would be able to escape was the issue at hand!

Youshang also realized what happened and the moment Shang Xia made his move, he, who had been suppressed all that time, didn't take the chance to catch his breath. Instead, he risked it all to close the distance between himself and Su Jinyuan in order to prevent him from escaping immediately.

No matter what, Su Jinyuan was terrifyingly strong. From the treasures he had used so far, it was also obvious that he wasn't poor at all!

He used a rank four talisman to buy him a moment from Youshang and he quickly tossed out another talisman. The second talisman turned into thin smoke that surrounded him. With the second talisman, his evasion arts became 30 percent more effective and it increased his chances of escaping by 30 percent.

Using the talisman was one thing, but increased chances didn't mean that he would definitely be able to escape!

The thunderclouds in the air shattered suddenly and Shang Xia, who had been accumulating the power of lightning the whole time revealed himself. He turned into a streak of light that could cross dozens of miles in an instant.

He might be moving extremely quickly, but there was something even faster. Shang Xia released a refreshing slash that seemed to sunder the shackles of the world.

It was another move he developed with the inspiration from the 14th Solar Term, Fiery Demise!

The talisman Su Jinyuan used earlier was vaporized under Shang Xia's blade.

Staying calm, Su Jinyuan knew that he still had the barrier of light around him and would be able to block one of the two strikes headed his way.

Tapping the air in front of him, the battle axe that was sent flying by Youshang earlier started to make its way back to him.

As the axe was returning, Shang Xia arrived. With a flip of his wrist, Shang Xia revealed a rank four talisman in his hand. That was his last Divine Restraint Talisman and it didn't seem to be a waste to use it on an expert like Su Jinyuan.

Due to the extreme chaos that was happening all around, Su Jinyuan failed to notice the strange aura around the talisman in Shang Xia's hand. The next moment, a burst of light blinded him and his thoughts froze for a second.

In the split second Su Jinyuan's thoughts froze, Shang Xia's Abyssal Blade made a horizontal slash that sent Su Jinyuan's sword flying.

Without the sword in his way, Youshang released a roar and his blood exterminations condensed at the tip of his spear. As they converged, there were signs of them fusing. Now that Shang Xia had sent the annoying sword flying, his spear stabbed directly into the barrier of light around Su Jinyuan.

Alas, Su Jinyuan's cultivation at the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm wasn't for show. He recovered in the blink of an eye and he no longer bothered with his weapon he recalled earlier. Biting down viciously on his tongue, he spat out a mouthful of blood onto the light barrier around him.

When he didn't run away immediately after using his talisman, allowing Shang Xia to destroy it with his blade technique, there was only one way things would turn out. With escape no longer an option, it was a battle to the death.

His blood landed on the barrier at the same time Youshang's spear arrived.

Youshang's spear landed on a pretty tricky spot as it stabbed straight into the point Shang Xia's blade light landed earlier. A piercing scrape rang in the ears of everyone present and layers were scraped off Youshang's Ancient Copper Spear. However, he managed to break through the barrier eventually as his spear stabbed straight for Su Jinyuan's body.

The calm and collected Su Jinyuan moments ago was nowhere to be seen at the moment. He was forced to retreat by Youshang's spear and he looked to be in an extremely sorry state. He couldn't even hold his weapons properly!

He might have suffered some light disadvantages from their joint attack, but Su Jinyuan didn't dare to turn and run. He noticed that Shang Xia was waiting for him at the side. It seemed as though the young cultivator was waiting for him to run so that he could launch another devastating blow and he quickly decided against showing his back.

At the moment, there was only one option left for him since he couldn't run. He if held on desperately against their combined attacks, it would be a matter of time before he was exhausted.

"Why are the 2 of you making things difficult for me? Even if you can kill me, you'll have to pay a huge price to do so!" Su Jinyuan still held on to the last bit of hope that they would let him go.

The only reply he received was Youshang's frenzied attacks. The barrier of light around him shattered completely and he knew that there was nothing else left to say. He unleashed a maniacal offensive of his own.

Shang Xia, who had been waiting for his chance, made his move again.

As his Abyssal Blade rose into the air, a flurry of blade lights emerged and it fell like snow around Su Jinyuan. They formed a massive cage that tried to box him in.

That was a move Shang Xia used previously against another enemy, Lesser Snow.

"AHAHAHA!" Releasing a burst of crazed laughter, the last hope of leaving alive evaporated from Su Jinyuan's mind. He could only give it his all and hope that he heavily injures his opponents before leaving the world of the living. He rushed at Youshang with all his might but he caught sight of a strange frosty glow not too far away.

In the next instant, he realized that he had chosen the wrong target and despair filled his heart.

When Shang Xia unleashed Lesser Snow, he didn't stop when the blade lights fell. Instead, he used all his might to throw his divine weapon at his target!

Who would have thought that Shang Xia would treat his divine weapon like a common concealed weapon and toss it at his enemy?!

Chapter 534: Transforming Extermination Qi

Who would have thought that Shang Xia would throw a divine weapon out like it was some sort of throwing knife?

There wasn't a need to mention Su Jinyuan, their enemy. Even Youshang, someone who had fought together with Shang Xia in the past, didn't think that the kid would do something like that.

What they didn't know was that throwing his weapon was a pretty normal fighting style of Shang Xia's. Back in the Martial Intent Realm, he developed Piercing Sun, the final move of his Nine Providence Spears. Basing his martial intent, the Divine Killing Spear, off those moves, he had thrown his spear multiple times in the past, killing his opponents from far away.

With his previous experiences, Shang Xia was no stranger to throwing his weapon. His Abyssal Blade spun with a frightening speed and turned into a wheel of light that flew accurately at Su Jinyuan.

Even a broken divine weapon was a divine weapon. The might the Abyssal Blade possessed wasn't something that experts at their level could ignore!

Originally, Su Jinyuan was focused on Youshang. However, he felt a powerful wave of energy slamming against his divine perception as they were fighting.

Shang Xia might have converted his Divine Killing Spear into the Divine Killing Blade, but the properties remained the same. He could still attack one's soul and this time, he was using a divine weapon to unleash the attack.

After the barrier of light around Su Jinyuan was torn apart by Shang Xia and Youshang earlier, he hastily summoned another one to protect himself. It was a lot weaker than before, but it was better

than nothing. However, it was basically a sheet of paper in the form of the spinning wheel of light made from the Abyssal Blade. It shattered instantly and a chilly intent flashed through Youshang's eyes as he launched a fierce offensive. Caught up in Youshang's attack, Su Jinyuan was sliced in two by Shang Xia's Abyssal Blade. Even his blood didn't have time to start flowing out from his body after it was cut apart.

Youshang, who was ready to fight Su Jinyuan to the death earlier, felt a wave of relief wash over him after seeing he was cut in two. Surprisingly, he heard Shang Xia's anxious cry the very next moment. "Be careful!"

"Crack... Boom!" The tiny sword Su Jinyuan had been controlling earlier appeared in Youshang's vicinity at an unknown time. The instant Su Jinyuan's life force was exterminated, the sword self-destructed and dozens of pieces of sharp fragments flew in all directions. Some of them went straight for Youshang.

Even with Shang Xia's reminder and his desperate last-second defense, two of the shards still pierced through his protection barrier. One stabbed into his right chest and the other buried itself deep in his left side. Just a little more and his entire belly would be sliced open.

As for the fragments that were flying in Shang Xia's direction, they were easily countered with a Four Seasons Palm.

In order to prevent any other accidents, Shang Xia didn't immediately head to assist Youshang. Instead, he suppressed the battle axe to prevent it from exploding too.

When he was done, he arrived beside Youshang to ask, "How are you feeling?"

By the time Shang Xia arrived, Youshang had already tapped a few pressure points near his injuries. He stopped the bleeding quickly and forced a smile, "I'm alright. At least I won't die anytime soon."

The injuries looked devastating, but for a Martial Extermination Realm expert who had extremely powerful life force, those injuries were nothing more than superficial scratches.

What was scary about the explosion wasn't the physical wounds they caused, but the extermination qi the fragments contained. Those fragments contained Su Jinyuan's strange extermination qi, and they quickly spread through Youshang's body. It was difficult to close the wounds he sustained, and the strange extermination qi even started to devour Youshang's life force.

With his strength, Youshang could forcefully counter the foreign extermination qi with his own but the process was a painful one. Moreover, if he didn't fully get rid of Su Jinyuan's extermination qi, his injuries would never truly recover.

As they exchanged a few words, Shang Xia had already looted Su Jinyuan's corpse. When he was done, he tossed a fire talisman to burn the body. Grabbing Youshang, he covered them both with his Auspicious Cloud Cape before leaving.

Finally arriving back at the mountain peak Youshang brought him to when they first arrived, Shang Xia placed the man down on the ground only to see that Youshang had already managed to suppress the extermination qi that wanted to run rampant through his body. However, suppression didn't mean that Youshang got rid of them. He was barely holding on.

Turning to Shang Xia, Youshang growled, “This is going to be a little tricky...”

“Do you need me to do anything?” Shang Xia asked.

Shaking his head, Youshang muttered, “It’s possible for me to recover from this, but we’re not going to make it in time for what comes next.”

Shang Xia thought about it for a second before suggesting, “Why don’t we return to the Tongyou Stronghold? We have more than 10 Martial Extermination Realm experts there. They refined all sorts of extermination origins and have different types of extermination qi. They should be able to help.”

Youshang rejected his suggestion without hesitation. “It’s not suitable for them to learn about my identity right now.”

Thinking for a moment, Shang Xia asked, “Then... Why don’t you let me give it a shot?”

Shang Xia knew that his latest suggestion was a little inappropriate. Getting rid of a foreign extermination qi required a lot of experimentation and tests before deciding if it was feasible. That was also why Shang Xia suggested for Youshang to go to the Tongyou Stronghold.

If they did it in such a haphazard way, Shang Xia might not be able to cleanse all of Su Jinyuan’s extermination qi from Youshang’s body. Instead, he might even introduce some of his own, making the situation worse.

Youshang glanced at Shang Xia. With a look of surprise on his face, he didn’t reject the suggestion. Eventually, he nodded his head and said, “Alright.”

He led the way to one of the naturally formed caves somewhere on the mountain. Even though it was naturally formed, it was obvious that modifications had been made. It was Youshang’s cultivation chamber, and they quickly settled down.

After a short inspection, Shang Xia looked at Youshang again and received a nod in reply. Slowly pointing at Youshang’s right chest, a trace of Four Constellation Qi entered the wound.

A grunt left Youshang’s lips and he furrowed his brows, revealing an expression of pain.

Shang Xia couldn’t help but ask, “Are you alright? Can you hold on?”

Nodding slightly, Youshang closed his eyes and inspected the condition inside his body.

No one knew how long had passed, but Youshang released a shocked yelp before opening his eyes to stare at Shang Xia in fright. “It’s actually effective... How the hell did you do that?”

With his jaws dropping, Shang Xia asked in disbelief, “Wait... You didn’t believe that I would succeed in the first place?! Why did you let me do it then?”

Chuckling in amusement, Youshang explained, “During the battle, I noticed that your self-created blade art possessed exquisite properties. That served to prove that you have near-perfect control of your extermination qi. Under such circumstances, even if you fail to get rid of Su Jinyuan’s extermination qi, it’s unlikely for you to make my injuries worse.”

A look of contemplation remained on Youshang’s face after he gave his explanation.

Shang Xia didn't try to act humble or anything as he continued the treatment. Pointing at his wound again, Shang Xia released even more Four Constellation Qi. At the same time, he gave Youshang a casual explanation of the properties of his inner qi.

Shang Xia might only have refined 50 percent or so of his extermination origins, but his control over his inner qi had already reached an astounding level. However, those weren't the main points when it came to treating Youshang's injuries. His Four Constellation Qi had a special property that allowed him to erode Su Jinyuan's extermination qi from Youshang's wounds!

Examining the special properties of Shang Xia's Four Constellation Qi in his body, he started to use his inner qi to coordinate with Shang Xia to hasten his recovery. At the same time, he muttered softly, "Your method of refining four stands of extermination origins to break through to the Martial Extermination Realm seems to give you a huge edge over the rest, but replicating the method is going to be extremely difficult. Without even mentioning the risks involved, gathering a set of Four Seasons Extermination Origins is going to be a tall task. What's more, you seem to have developed your own understanding of your cultivation realm and created a completely new path of cultivation. Your method is really different from what the Azure Origin World developed, and if anyone wishes to take the same path as you, I'm afraid that they will have to understand the theory behind your cultivation."

Shang Xia was in complete agreement with Youshang's deduction. However, there was something Youshang didn't know. Shang Xia's cultivation method might be new in the Azure Origin World, but he didn't come up with it from scratch...

Shang Xia's Four Constellation Qi was extremely effective in getting rid of Su Jinyuan's extermination qi. With Shang Xia's help, Youshang only required 3 days to fully nullify the foreign extermination qi in his body.

With his cultivation at the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm and his terrifyingly strong life force, it became much easier for his injuries to heal. Also, he managed to quickly recover a portion of his combat abilities because of that.

The first thing he did after getting rid of the foreign extermination qi was to circulate his inner qi. The aura he emitted fluctuated slightly and it seemed to experience unstoppable transformations.

Under Shang Xia's shocked gaze and perception, Youshang's aura became similar to Su Jinyuan.

If not for the fact that Youshang's injuries didn't allow him to display his full strength, Shang Xia would have thought that Su Jinyuan, the large completion stage Martial Extermination Realm expert, had been reborn!

"Are you planning to pretend to be Su Jinyuan to infiltrate their faction?" Shang Xia could easily guess Youshang's intentions at that point. He continued, "Deputy Patriarch Yun got me to tell you everything Ren Bainian revealed back then. Is this what she wanted you to do?"

Youshang decided to stretch his body to learn how much his injuries were limiting his movements before chuckling, "Actually, she wanted me to make the choice."

Shang Xia slightly disapproved of his actions to impersonate Su Jinyuan, but seeing as Youshang had already changed his aura, it was obvious he made his choice. Shang Xia could only ask, "How were you sure that Su Jinyuan was a part of the mysterious third faction anyway?"

"What do you think of Su Jinyuan's strength? Does he seem like an aboriginal expert of the Manyu Continent to you?" Youshang couldn't help but laugh in response.

Widening his eyes in surprise, Shang Xia shook his head slightly and realized his mistake. He chuckled in response, "Yeah, doesn't seem like it."

Shang Xia might not have spent a lot of time on the Manyu Continent, but he had quite a good grasp of the situation. It was especially so after Ren Bainian revealed more information on them. He knew that other than their personal cultivation, the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Manyu Continent didn't possess much of anything else. From weapons, treasures, talismans, and medicine, it could be said that the experts of the Manyu Continent were severely lacking in them. That also severely limited their fighting prowess.

In the battle with Su Jinyuan, things were obviously different.

Su Jinyuan's cultivation was already tyrannically strong from the beginning. He could easily suppress Youshang when they were fighting.

The extraordinary treasures and talismans that he used during the battle also threw Shang Xia and Youshang into a difficult situation. If not for the fact that the Shang Xia and Youshang Duo was extremely formidable with both their strength somewhat similar to Su Jinyuan, they wouldn't have won. They only won because they managed to exhaust Su Jinyuan. Su Jinyuan's failure to capitalize on his opportunity to escape was also another matter. Finally, he was caught off guard by Shang Xia's divine weapon and the way it was used, resulting in the outcome of the battle.

No matter how they looked at it, Su Jinyuan didn't seem to be a local of the Manyu Continent.

Youshang added suddenly, "Actually, there's another method to ascertain if he's part of the mysterious third faction."

"What is it?" Shang Xia frowned.

Raising a pouch that was secured with a golden thread, Youshang muttered, "We just have to take a look at what is inside this spatial item!"

Staring at Youshang in fright, Shang Xia gasped, "This... This... Is this Su Jinyuan's Spatial Pouch?"

Youshang shook his head in response and explained, "Doesn't look like it. You can open it and take a look for yourself."

Tossing the pouch to Shang Xia after he spoke, Youshang said, "Try to use your Four Constellation Qi to break the restrictions on it."

Chapter 535: Halftime Substitution

Eroding extermination qi and destroying restrictions were 2 completely different concepts.

However, Shang Xia was confident in his ability to destroy restrictions after he shattered the protection barrier around the Jingxiu Peak in the past. In fact, he was even more confident when it

came to dealing with restrictions than when he got rid of Su Jinyuan's extermination qi in Youshang's body previously.

After he caught the pouch Youshang tossed over, Shang Xia carefully inserted his Four Constellation Qi into it as he carefully scoped out the restrictions on it.

The pouch was about the size of his palm, and he obviously couldn't shatter its restrictions like how he destroyed the protection barrier around the Jingxiu Peak. He had to ensure that the items inside remained intact and he had to ensure he controlled his Four Constellation Qi perfectly.

Shattering the restrictions on the pouch was a matter of time and before long, a soft glow enveloped the pouch as the restrictions were eaten away.

"Hey, the space inside is barely 3 cubic feet large. It's not a Spatial Pouch..." Shang Xia quickly examined the pouch now that the restrictions had been dealt with.

The pouch was a spatial artifact that was comparable to Shang Xia's Embroidered Cloud Case and after tipping it around, the pouch's contents scattered all over the ground.

Shang Xia and Youshang casually looked at everything on the ground and Youshang reached down to carefully pick up a jade bottle. "This item is really useful for me to recover. I'll be keeping it."

Shang Xia nodded while laughing. "From how urgently you picked it up, it seems to contain something amazing..."

Youshang casually shook the bottle in his hand and gloated slightly, "Don't blame me for not remaining you. This bottle contains Clear Awakening Nectar. It's extremely useful for Martial Extermination Realm experts who are trying to fuse their extermination origins. It is also useful for comprehending one's martial intent in the Martial Extermination Realm."

Shang Xia gasped in shock before nodding his head. "Ohhh, I get it! It's similar to Patriarch Kou's Enlightenment Tea and the uses are similar to the Dao Comprehension Incense."

Youshang carefully kept the bottle and chuckled, "Hehe, how can you compare Kou Chongxue's Enlightenment Tea to the Clear Awakening Nectar? Well, as for Dao Comprehension Incense, it has long since disappeared from our Azure Origin World..." Youshang's expression froze suddenly and he turned to Shang Xia with an incredulous look in his eyes, "... Wait, this doesn't make sense... Where the hell did you hear about the Dao Comprehension Incense?!"

A mischievous smile formed on Shang Xia's face and he refused to say anything.

Youshang felt as though someone was bashing his soul and he whispered, "Did you... Did you find a stick of Dao Comprehension Incense?"

With the same shit-eating grin on his face, Shang Xia nodded.

"You used it?!" Youshang's voice trembled subconsciously and it nearly cracked.

With a soft chuckle, Shang Xia nodded yet again.

"You... You..." Youshang stammered while pointing at Shang Xia. Eventually, his voice crumbled. "Damn brat, you're truly a lucky soul."

“Hehe.” Shang Xia couldn’t help but mock Youshang after seeing how pleased he was at obtaining the Clear Awakening Nectar. “Well, I can’t let all you seniors get all the glory and benefits, right?!”

Youshang released a long sigh as he grumbled to himself, “If I had a stick of Dao Comprehension Incense, I might have already completed the fusion of my extermination origins. In fact, I might have already entered the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm after grasping my martial intent. It would be a mere step away from the Martial Dipper Realm!”

When he was done complaining, he couldn’t help but glance at Shang Xia while lamenting, “You used the Dao Comprehension Incense too damn early! If you wait till you’re about to break through to the Martial Dipper Realm, you might be able to use it to deduce a brand new rank five advancement formula!”

The smile on Shang Xia’s lips didn’t fade and he didn’t seem to regret it in the slightest.

Shang Xia entered the Martial Extermination Realm after refining the Four Seasons Extermination Origins simultaneously. He hadn’t even refined them fully, but they were showing signs of fusing already. Entering the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm wouldn’t prove to be a problem at all.

As for his fourth martial intent, Shang Xia was even less worried about it. Other people might face difficulties comprehending their martial intent in the Martial Extermination Realm, but all Shang Xia had to do was to obtain enough world origin to repair his Crimson Soul Tablet after he deduced his fourth martial intent.

That was also the same case for his rank five advancement formula. Instead of waiting for the last moment to use the Dao Comprehension Incense, Shang Xia felt that all his problems could be solved with enough world origin. Collecting more world origin was the true way to go!

Moreover, the effects of the Dao Comprehension Incense weren’t wasted as Shang Xia used it to develop his Four Seasons Samsara Art to the large completion stage. He also managed to experience a sharp increase in skill when it came to talisman crafting because of it.

After learning that Shang Xia not only found a Dao Comprehension Incense, but used it, Youshang’s excitement from obtaining the Clear Awakening Nectar was greatly reduced. There was a trace of resentment in his eyes when he looked at Shang Xia as he wanted to blame the kid for being too damn lucky. The rest of the items Su Jinyuan possessed also became a little less appetizing in his eyes.

“I didn’t think that this guy would have the habit of recording down what he learned. Look, he wrote down his experiences of entering the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm and everything he had been doing to comprehend his martial intent. Go make a copy of it, it might be of use to you. I’ll keep the original copy.” Youshang said to Shang Xia before going on to the next most precious item.

“There might not be a lot of herbs here, but it’s enough to assist in one’s cultivation... What?! You have rank four Hundred Flowers Spiritual Wine and rank four Monkey Wine?! Damn it! There isn’t a lot of medicine here in the first place. You’re not getting

any!” Youshang felt his eyeballs popping out of their sockets after Shang Xia revealed his own treasures halfway through their conversation.

“Hey, there are a few low-level talismans here. They seem to be made differently from how we do it in the Azure Origin World... You can have all of them...”

“Hmm, at least he has a few inheritances on him. There’s the ‘Flying Sword Art’ and the ‘Artifact Controlling Art’... What’s the difference between them?! I’ll keep them for research anyway. Oh yeah, go ahead and make a copy for yourself.”

“Su Jinyuan is really rich... He even has 3 weapons that range from the low to mid-grade on him! No expert of the Manyu Continent will be able to bring out so many graded weapons! Hmm, I’ll keep them for now and you can keep the battle axe he used earlier. The axe is a peak-tier high-grade weapon by the way. It’s a pity his Qingfeng Sword exploded earlier. If I wasn’t mistaken, he was planning to upgrade that sword to a divine weapon. He used at least 5 different spiritual treasures on it which allowed it to possess such power. Oh yeah, the pearl that you sliced in half is also a decent treasure. The treasure that allowed him to summon the light barriers around him is also pretty good...”

Shang Xia finally found the chance to interrupt Youshang on his rambles and he yelled, “Senior Youshang, why don’t you keep the battle axe?”

Waving his hands dismissively, Youshang muttered, “Forget it. I didn’t plan to cover up this huge battle that happened. It’s normal for the battle axe to go missing and my injuries will make it more convincing when I pretend to be him. However, it’s a shame Su Jinyuan specialized in the sword...”

Thinking for a second, Shang Xia brought out a soft sword from his sleeves and said, “Senior, if you have a use for it, please take my soft sword.”

Youshang stared at the sword in Shang Xia’s hand and revealed a look of shock, “The Jade River Sword!”

Shang Xia chuckled in response, “Senior Youshang, you actually know its name?”

Sniggering softly, Youshang muttered, “Yeah, I heard of it in the past.”

“I see! After seeing your domineering spear art, I feel that it has some resemblance to the Shang Clan Spear Art. Clearly, you’re no stranger to my clan’s inheritance. Did my grandfather give you pointers in the past?”

“Yeah, yeah! The seniors of the Tongyou Institution taught me in the past.” Youshang laughed.

“About the sword...” Shang Xia raised an eyebrow and asked.

“I’ll keep it for now in case I have to use it. I’ll return it to you in the future.” Youshang received the sword and said.

Shang Xia quickly asked another question, “Senior Youshang, your spear seems heavily damaged in the last battle. I’m afraid it will greatly affect your fighting abilities...”

“Don’t worry about it. There’s no lack of this material in the institution. I’ll let Yun Jing know and get Kou Chongxue to send some material over. I’ll get someone to fix it soon.” Youshang dismissed.

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback by the revelation. He couldn’t help but think of the giant bronze door he had seen in the Coral Forest. Youshang’s spear seemed to be made from the same material as that...

After splitting Su Jinyuan’s items, the only thing left was the pouch. Youshang chose to keep it eventually.

Shang Xia started at Youshang whose aura was completely similar to Su Jinyuan at the moment despite his slightly unsteady qi and asked, “Senior, what are you going to do after this? Are you really going to pretend to be Su Jinyuan and infiltrate the mysterious third party?”

“I’ll play it by ear. I need to get into contact with them before looking for a way to weasel my way into their core...” Youshang muttered casually.

Shang Xia nodded in affirmation. “That would be great...”

Just when Shang Xia thought it was over, Youshang threw another bomb at him. “Oh right, I’m afraid you won’t be able to go back for some time. I need you to guard this area in my place.”

Chapter 536: I Spy With My Little Eye

“I’m afraid I need you to guard a 50 mile radius of this place for some time.”

Youshang ordered before he took his leave.

Shang Xia guessed that something like that might happen, but he had to ask, “Senior, is my grandfather cultivating in seclusion here?”

Youshang shook his head and sighed, “Even though I wish to give you a confirmation, I truly have no idea. All I received was a transmission from Yun Jing to guard the area. She didn’t tell me who I was protecting and I didn’t ask further.”

Shang Xia could only nod and laugh, “From the looks of it, Senior hasn’t been disturbed by anyone during your time here.”

“That’s not actually true. Everyone is just very wary of each other. They would leave after probing me slightly. The Snowy Peaks Mountain Range is large and even though some areas might be better than others, it’s not worth fighting to the death for. The only reason we killed Su Jinyuan wasn’t to steal his territory. It was just that his death would aid in our mission.” Youshang explained.

Shang Xia asked another question, “Senior, if you leave now, are you going to change your name and appearance again? How should the Deputy Patriarchs of the institution and I contact you?”

Youshang chuckled mysteriously in response. “We’ll play everything by ear. It’s too early to contact each other anytime soon. In the future, I’ll take the initiative to get in touch with all of you if anything comes up. There would be no need for you guys to look for me anyway.”

After he spoke, Youshang turned to leave. He didn’t hesitate at all.

Staring at Youshang’s figure that was getting further away at a frightening speed, Shang Xia muttered softly, “Take care!”

Even though Youshang indicated for Shang Xia to protect a certain region before he left, Shang Xia noticed that the region was close to 50 miles in diameter. The boundary that contained the region he had to defend wasn’t exact, and Shang Xia decided to make a physical trip around the area.

Because of his increase in cultivation, the area his divine perception could cover became larger proportionally. He could easily examine a 50 mile radius around himself and he didn’t need to run around the mountain every day in order to make his inspections. As such, he could free up a lot of time for cultivation.

Because it was his first time flying about the region to look for any anomalies, he also expanded his divine perception to his limit to try to look for traces of his grandfather.

He might not know if Shang Bo laid down countless restrictions to prevent his aura from leaking out, or if he found a truly secret place to train, but he failed to discover anything.

To be truly honest, if Shang Xia really wanted to find anyone in the Snowy Peaks Mountain Range, he could do what Youshang did when they first located Su Jinyuan. He just needed to slam a Four Seasons Palm into the ground below and disturb the entire region. Anyone in seclusion wouldn’t be able to withstand the fluctuation even if they were protected by several layers of restrictions.

Of course, there was no reason for Shang Xia to do that.

Not too long after Youshang left, Shang Xia sent a secret transmission from the Tongyou Stronghold.

In his report, he recorded in detail everything that happened after he met Youshang. He also told Yun Jing that he had taken over the protection of the region. At the same time, he asked if that was where his grandfather was.

It didn’t take long for him to receive a reply. It was sent personally by Yun Jing, and after opening it, Shang Xia saw that she was ordering him to do whatever Youshang said. She also reminded him to not forget about his cultivation during his time there. However, she didn’t send any cultivation resources or anything.

There was also news about the Manyu Continent in her reply. Ever since Ren Bainian brought them news of the mysterious third party, the Tongyou Stronghold changed their approach. They started to interact with the natives with the help of Ren Bainian, a local Martial Extermination Realm expert! Because of that, the Tongyou Institution managed to gain an initial understanding of the situation.

No matter how long the report he received of the situation on the Manyu Continent, he could summarize it in one word, ‘Chaotic’.

After the Manyu Continent’s assault on the Tongyou Institution, the thin balance that existed on the Manyu Continent was completely shattered.

The experts of the Manyu Continent clashed with the various foreign factions and experts were dying left and right. However, the various foreign factions were like the Tongyou Institution and only sent Martial Extermination Realm experts over. As such, the ones who were at a disadvantage were the aboriginals of the Manyu Continent! They were the ones who suffered the greatest loss.

With doomsday hanging over their heads like a blade ready to descend at any moment, rumors were spreading like wildfire. The low-leveled aboriginals of the Manyu Continent developed a hatred for foreign powers like never before.

The locals who had already submitted to the foreign powers were also part of those who reacted to the rumors. Betrayal, suspicion, testing, revolts, crazed retaliations... Those were what happened on a daily basis. Before the Manyu Continent faced destruction, it was as though doomsday had already arrived.

Behind the veil of chaos, the situation seemed to become a lot more confusing than they had thought.

Yun Jing could only vaguely put her conjecture in words and Shang Xia couldn't gain any insights from what she said. He could only use them to update himself on the current situation.

In her reply, she also told Shang Xia to report everything that happened in the region under his charge from time to time. She would also inform Shang Xia of the changes in the Manyu Continent when he was there.

After reading her reply several times over and not obtaining any other information, Shang Xia tossed it to the side and no longer bothered with it.

He was planning to use Youshang's cave as a place for cultivation but after inspecting the area, he discovered a better place to cultivate.

Heading towards a tall mountain peak in the distance, Shang Xia could tell that the density of heaven and earth qi wasn't exactly much greater than the other spots. It was also located near the border region of the Snowy Peaks Mountain Range and the extermination qi he could gather was relatively thin. Those were obviously not the reasons Shang Xia found the place a good place to train. Instead, the vegetation and climate that spanned from the base to the top of the mountain seemed to resemble the changes in the seasons.

It was a place he had found unintentionally when making his way around the region and he immediately thought of the Yuxi Peak back in the battlefield between the two worlds when he saw it.

The Yuxi Peak might be taller than a lot of mountains out there, but it was far from comparable to the one he had chosen.

The changes in the seasons on the Yuxi Peak could be attributed to the presence of the Four Seasons Extermination Origins it held, but the mountain Shang Xia chose was different. It truly experienced the difference in seasons due to its sheer size. Because of the elevation of the mountain, different parts experienced different climates.

When Shang Xia arrived at the peak of the mountain, he extended his divine perception to cover the entire structure. Next, he sent his extermination origins to the respective areas that suited them and he felt himself becoming one with the mountain the next instant.

Circulating his Four Seasons Samsara Art, he felt as though he was experiencing the changes in seasons at the same time. The way he refined his extermination origins, absorbed heaven and earth qi, and swallowed world origin was as though he was the mountain itself.

In other words, his speed of cultivation would far surpass what he could do ordinarily.

Even in such an environment where there was thin heaven and earth qi and world origin, Shang Xia felt that it was theoretically possible to increase his cultivation speed to four times its original level.

Of course, that was only in theory. Reality was a bitch and there was no way Shang Xia could increase his cultivation speed to the maximum.

Even so, Shang Xia could tell that he would be growing a lot stronger in the near future.

...

Scanning the surrounding dozens of miles with his divine sense, Shang Xia finally received another transmission from Yun Jing after several days.

This time, she sent him 2 different pieces of important news. The first stated that the Manyu Continent was experiencing an epidemic, causing massive amounts of death in the general mortal population. From the looks of it, the epidemic was also spreading extremely quickly.

The other was the situation of the Manyu Continent after the huge unrest among the cultivators. A huge portion of aboriginal cultivators came into contact with the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World as they wanted to seek refuge after the Manyu Continent was destroyed.

None of them could do a thing about the first piece of information. There was no need to mention Shang Xia as even the strength of the Tongyou Stronghold wouldn't be able to assist the Manyu Continent in stopping a major pandemic that had already spread across a huge portion of the continent.

The second matter didn't actually affect the Tongyou Stronghold much either.

The reason was simple. Because of the joint assault on the Tongyou Stronghold, more than 10 Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Manyu Continent were killed. The aboriginals held a massive grudge against the institution and not many would try to seek refuge with them.

Also, the Tongyou Stronghold was established in a secluded part of the continent. The aboriginals were no fools. They managed to obtain information about the Tongyou Institution through various means and discovered that the Tongyou Institution was considered a weak faction among everyone who came. As such, they weren't willing to throw in their lot with the Tongyou Institution of the You Continent!

Of course, the Tongyou Institution's strict attitude when it came to interacting with the local powers was also a huge factor in why they didn't accept a lot of people. Even with Ren Bainian's clan who had successfully submitted to the institution, Yun Jing and Liu Qinglan didn't go around promoting the Tongyou Institution to every power out there. They even ensured that Ren Bainian acted cautiously when engaging with his fellow local cultivators so that he wouldn't divulge too much information about the Tongyou Stronghold.

Shang Xia agreed with their approach entirely.

Regardless if it was the You Continent, the Tongyou City, or the Tongyou Institution, they were truly too damn small. Their accumulations were also too shallow. It wasn't possible for them to accept so many experts anyway.

After understanding the recent happenings in the Manyu Continent, Shang Xia went to the top of the mountain he was currently on and whipped his Auspicious Cloud Cape behind him. It turned into a massive cloud that shrouded the top of the mountain.

Shang Xia returned to his cultivation as he became one with the mountain again as the different seasons experienced on different parts of the mountain became even more obvious.

The longer Shang Xia cultivated on the mountain, the further the cloud from the Auspicious Cloud Cape spread. Eventually, half the mountain was covered in dense clouds.

Chapter 537: Improving Once Again

Shang Xia had a guess when he first started cultivating there. Under ideal circumstances, he would be able to raise his cultivation speed to 4 times its original. He was extremely excited about the possibility, but he clearly understood that there were too many criteria he needed to clear in order to cultivate so quickly. It was extremely difficult for him to even reach a 3 times efficiency in cultivation but that itself was a shocking feat.

One had to know that ordinarily, anywhere that could increase cultivation speed by 10 to 20 percent was already considered a prime location that could incite great wars. An example of such was the battlefield between the two worlds.

A location that could increase cultivation speed by 30 to 40 percent was where powers established themselves, like the region where the Tongyou Institution was built.

If a faction found a secret region that could increase cultivation efficiency by 50 percent, they would definitely defend it with their lives. They would obtain a blessed land of cultivation and they could immediately call themselves a holy land.

It was practically unimaginable for Shang Xia to be able to raise his cultivation speed by 3 times!

With the help of his Four Seasons Extermination Origins and his powerful perception, Shang Xia merged himself into the mountain with his understanding of the Heaven and Man Synergy Chapter. Because of that, he could absorb a massive amount of heaven and earth qi and world origin. Whatever he lacked in quality he made up for in quantity.

That might be the case, but he wasn't able to reach a 3 times increase in cultivation speed as he had hoped. Instead, he forcefully maintained it at around 2 times his normal speed.

2 times the speed of cultivation might shock ordinary people, but for Shang Xia who had extremely high hopes for himself, it was a little disappointing.

There were many factors that caused the 'weak' increase in cultivation speed, but 2 main reasons stood out.

The first was that the heaven and earth qi in the region was just too damn thin. One had to know that he went through a complicated process to refine 4 extermination origins at once. Because of that, his speed of cultivation had been limited since a long time ago.

The second reason was that even though the mountain was massive and could absorb a lot more heaven and earth qi and world origin than a tiny Shang Xia, it was a problem for Shang Xia to properly control the flow of energy due to the huge area it covered.

Actually, the second reason could be solved easily. He could just lay down a giant formation around the mountain to replicate what happened to the Yuxi Peak. That would stop the energy in the surroundings from leaking.

Even though he couldn't completely prevent heaven and earth qi and world origin from being wasted, it would be able to increase the speed of his cultivation regardless.

However, a formation that could cover the entire mountain he was on was bound to be a grand formation. It wasn't possible to lay one down willy-nilly, and it would require a huge amount of resources. Even without mentioning whether it was worth it or not, Shang Xia wouldn't be able to lay down such a huge formation even with the aid of the institution.

He also discovered another huge problem after he started cultivating. Moreover, that was something he was absolutely helpless about.

He discovered that his way of cultivation would cause great damage to the mountain. His Four Seasons Samsara Art might be extremely special as it possessed extraordinary properties, it came at a price. He could cause the unending cycle of the four seasons in the various locations on the mountain, but that went against the natural laws of the world. Shang Xia might be able to replace the cycle of time in those regions and cause the various life forms to wither before regaining their vitality for various cycles, he wasn't able to fully replicate the cycle of life and death. Since it wasn't perfect, it greatly damaged the vitality of the area and it was almost impossible for it to ever return to its natural state.

After prolonged cultivation, Shang Xia might experience a huge increase in strength. However, the entire mountain would have its vitality completely exhausted. It would turn into a massive piece of rock at best with no ability to support life. In the coming tens, even hundreds of years, it wouldn't recover.

Using the vitality of the mountain in exchange for personal strength seemed like a reasonable trade on the surface. After all, with Shang Xia's current strength, he could level a mountain like that with a single thought. However, there was a tiny voice in the back of his mind telling him that it was best to avoid doing things like sucking the vitality from things.

That was also a reason Shang Xia was unable to unleash the full power of his extermination origins to refine his Four Seasons Extermination Origins.

While holding back slightly, Shang Xia managed to raise his cultivation speed to twice its original level and the speed at which he refined his Four Seasons Extermination Origins increased to a great extent. His cultivation and combat abilities naturally followed.

2 months passed just like that and throughout the period, Shang Xia would patrol the surrounding dozens of miles every 3 to 5 days or so. The rest of his time was spent cultivating in the huge mountain that was covered in a thick layer of clouds.

Not everything was peaceful during his time there. During his first month there, he ran into an expert of the Many Continent on one of his patrols.

The 2 sides moved extremely quickly and by the time Shang Xia discovered that the other side had entered his range of perception, he couldn't react in time and the distance between both sides had closed to around 30 miles. At that distance, the other party also detected Shang Xia's presence.

The expert of the Manyu Continent slowed down immediately and Shang Xia tried changing his direction subtly. However, he didn't deviate too much from his original path as he planned to mark out his territory.

From the other party's reaction, Shang Xia could tell that the other party was starting to retract their aura. However, they maintained a distance of 30 miles or so as they flew. Eventually, they flew in a semi circle around the region Shang Xia was protecting before the expert from the Manyu Continent left.

Neither of them communicated with each other throughout the whole process. Instead, they merely probed each other with their divine perception. After the expert of the Manyu Continent left, Shang Xia finally realized what had happened. The other party might have been sent there to feel him out.

The expert who came might possess the same aura as experts from the Manyu Continent, but no one could be sure that he wasn't a part of the mysterious third party!

If Youshang's judgment was correct, Su Jinyuan was a member of the mysterious third faction that entered the Manyu Continent. With his cultivation at the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm, there was no way he would be a nameless expert. The moment anyone noticed his death, they would carry out a detailed investigation immediately! Every single Martial Extermination Realm expert on the Snowy Peaks Mountain Range was a suspect.

Luckily, when they joined hands to kill Su Jinyuan back then, they crossed a huge portion of the mountain range to do so. Their battle took place extremely far away and Shang Xia's ability to conceal his strength was no joke. He was sure the experts on the other side wouldn't be able to discover his strength just by probing him the way they did earlier.

They might not be able to determine if Shang Xia was involved in Su Jinyuan's death, but if Shang Xia's guess was right and they were really investigating the matter, one thing was certain. Youshang wouldn't be able to impersonate Su Jinyuan any longer!

Thinking of the possibilities, Shang Xia's heart sank. Of course, with Shang Xia's understanding of Youshang, even if his disguise was seen through, he would be able to escape unless they laid out an elaborate trap for him.

The appearance of the strange 'expert from the Manyu Continent' caused Shang Xia to experience several days of unrest. After realizing that everything remained as peaceful as it was, Shang Xia tossed his worries to the back of his mind as he focused on his cultivation.

During the second month of his cultivation, Shang Xia ran into 2 Martial Extermination Realm experts. One of them was scared away by Shang Xia before they could get close. The other exchanged a blow with Shang Xia before leaving in defeat.

The person who came to blows with Shang Xia was a member of the Azure Origin World and Shang Xia had no idea where the other party came from. He also didn't know if he managed to recognize Shang Xia.

Other than those interesting encounters, Shang Xia received 2 transmissions from the Tongyou Stronghold during his time there.

The first informed him about the chaotic situation on the Manyu Continent and the fact that the Tongyou Stronghold was about to expand their territory. They planned to increase the scope of their grand formation from the 1200 mile mark to the 1500 mile mark.

If everything went well and the expansion continued smoothly, they would be able to expand their territory to cover an area of 2000 miles before the destruction of the Manyu Continent. When that happened, the Tongyou Institution would be able to obtain a massive island after the Manyu Continent crumbled.

Shang Xia couldn't help but look at the dense clouds around him and his gaze swept over the region he was defending.

Without a holy land to guide the huge landmass after the destruction of the Manyu Continent, the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors would have to take on the entire burden themselves. Shang Xia felt that Kou Chongxue and Ji Wenlong made their estimations a long time ago and after careful consideration, they chose to maintain the Tongyou Stronghold at 1200 miles.

Now that they were expanding again, there were 2 possibilities. One of them was that the Tongyou Institution managed to gain the assistance of another Martial Dipper Realm expert, and the other was that the Tongyou Institution had upgraded themselves to the Tongyou Paradise.

The possibility of the latter happening wasn't too large, and that left the other explanation.

Currently, Shang Bo was the only expert of the Tongyou Institution who had hopes of breaking through to the Martial Dipper Realm. Shang Xia thought that he had been protecting the region his grandfather was in seclusion all along but he hadn't detected anything.

That begged another question. How in the world would Kou Chongxue and Ji Wenlong know about Shang Bo's current situation if Shang Xia failed to detect anything? Moreover, they were confident that they could expand the size of the Tongyou Stronghold's territory.

Clearly, Shang Bo had another way of contacting Kou Chongxue and the rest who were outside the Manyu Continent. Also, there was no way Shang Xia would fail to detect any large scale fluctuations if his grandfather experienced an increase in cultivation around the Snowy Peaks Mountain Range.

Since Shang Xia brought the Abyssal Firmament Fate Dipper to the Manyu Continent under Ji Wenlong's orders, Shang Bo had to be on the continent.

Adding up every single factor and explanation, Shang Xia knew that there was only one possibility. Shang Bo wasn't cultivating in the region he was protecting. It didn't matter if it was Youshang or Shang Xia. Both of them were mere pawns tossed out by the institution to bait the enemy.

Being the institution's pawn again...

A deep frown formed on Shang Xia's face. If everything he thought about was true, that would mean one thing. It was pretty obvious at that point, but Shang Bo's whereabouts were only known by 3 people! Kou Chongxue, Ji Wenlong, and Yun Jing!

At the end of the day, those old fellows were still keeping their own secrets!

Now that Shang Xia had reached his own conclusion, he suddenly lost the urge to cultivate. With a trace of irritation in his heart, he unleashed the fruits of his comprehension as he chopped downwards. Snow descended upon the layer of dense clouds and it grew heavier and heavier. Each snowflake was like a blade that fell mercilessly to the ground below.

With the inspiration taken from the 21st solar term, Shang Xia developed another move, Greater Snow!

Chapter 538: Unstoppable Process

Standing quietly on the peak of the mountain, Shang Xia stared past the dense layer of clouds and observed the situation dozens of miles away.

The flurry of snow descended as they exhibited the frightening power of his blade art.

The Abyssal Blade might not be in his hand, but his blade art seemed to be contained in every snowflake that fell.

Sighing softly, the entire region seemed to be affected as the falling snow scattered in all directions. They started to fall everywhere, bringing the essence of frost to the entire land. Even so, it didn't seem like the chill wanted to swallow everything in its path.

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It might exude a somber aura, but it didn't possess the intent to annihilate everything in its way.

His previous move, Greater Snow, ended when the snowflakes were summoned and fell to the ground. Now that they were flying through the air with a chilly blade intent filling the world, Shang Xia chose to classify it as another move. He gained inspiration from the 23rd solar term, and he named the move Elementary Frost!

Extending his arm out in front of him, Shang Xia understood that as long as he made a gentle swipe, he would be able to raise the power of frost to its limit instantly. He could freeze everything in his surroundings and end all life.

After unleashing Elementary Frost to shower the world with a hint of frosty intent, Shang Xia gained inspiration from the last of the 24 solar terms and immediately developed his next move, Extreme Frost!

In the end, Shang Xia decided against sending his blade intent into the area around him. He slowly lowered his hand.

Turning around, he retrieved a Spirit Extermination Gourd he placed 2 months ago and shook it casually.

Hearing the sloshing within, Shang Xia could tell that there should be close to 20 strands of extermination qi contained in the gourd.

If he separated them and purified them properly, he might be able to obtain close to 10 different types of frosty extermination qi. He could easily use them to craft talismans in the future.

Most cultivators gathered extermination qi the same way as Shang Xia. After separation and purification, they would fuse strands of similar extermination qi together. After a long time and multiple fusions, they would finally obtain a complete strand of extermination origin.

That was the main method cultivators gathered extermination origins.

Shang Xia's method of refining naturally born extermination origins was extremely rarely seen!

Speaking of the collection of extermination qi, Shang Xia couldn't help but think back to the second transmission he received. He learned that Liu Qinglan was entering seclusion to refine her third extermination origin!

If they had to talk about the extermination origin she was going to refine, a huge reason she obtained it was because of the institution's collective efforts to gather a wind-attributed extermination origin from the extermination qi in the special valley Shang Xia discovered back in the battlefield between the two worlds. After purification, they were close to obtaining a complete extermination origin. The other strands of extermination qi were obtained from trades in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion.

...

A clear distinction had always existed among the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the institution. Thinking back to the earliest times, the gap was extremely large.

Taking Kou Chongxue out of the equation as he was a Martial Dipper Realm expert, the various Deputy Patriarchs were third layer Martial Extermination Realm experts at the very least. The rest of the Martial Extermination Realm from the Tongyou Institution were in the first layer!

That was back when Shang Xia stepped into the battlefield between the two worlds for the first time and since then, Liu Qinglan became the first to refine her second extermination origin. Bu Jingshuang, Shang Lubing, Shang Ke, and several others eventually caught up, but now that Yun Jing had entered the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm, the divide grew even larger.

There wasn't a single third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert in the Tongyou Institution!

As for Shang Xia who refined 4 extermination origins simultaneously and had a weirdly powerful combat strength, he could be taken out of the equation directly.

Stepping into the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm from the second was a monumental task. It was a massive test for any cultivator trying to break through. One could even say that the moment Liu Qinglan succeeded, the Tongyou Institution would finally be able to claim that the new generation had finally matured.

Liu Qinglan's attempt to break through was actually of supreme importance to the Tongyou Institution.

Shang Xia secretly did some calculations and felt that with Liu Qinglan's current accumulations and the institution's help, she wouldn't face many problems when stepping into the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm.

However, if she chose to break through at that moment, the Tongyou Stronghold on the Manyu Continent would lose a key expert.

The more Shang Xia thought about it, the more he realized that there was definitely a deeper reason behind Yun Jing's actions of letting Liu Qinglan make her breakthrough at that moment.

"In other words, Kou Chongxue, Ji Wenlong, and Yun Jing feel that the Manyu Continent would be pretty peaceful in the coming future. At the very least, nothing

huge should happen when Liu Qinglan breaks through and consolidates her foundations. Also, the continent shouldn't be in danger of destruction any time soon.

Rubbing his chin, Shang Xia looked at the mountain beneath his feet that was experiencing the different seasons endlessly and thought to himself, *this is a great chance for me to put everything down and cultivate in peace.*

Keeping his Spirit Extermination Gourd, Shang Xia started to walk down the mountain.

The huge cloud layer fluctuated behind him as they gathered to form the Auspicious Cloud Cape again. The rest of the clouds that gathered there dissipated slowly.

As he made his way to the foot of the mountain, the vegetation that grew everywhere folded away from him as they created a path he could walk through.

Even though the mountain looked unaffected by Shang Xia's Four Seasons Samsara Art, he knew that the life force contained within the mountain had been greatly exhausted after experiencing close to 60 seasonal cycles.

If he continued to train on the mountain, the entire region would be sapped of life force before long.

From a certain standpoint, the Four Seasons Samsara Art is a way to steal essence from nature. Shang Xia knew that he couldn't go too far with it.

Before completely sapping the life away from a location, Shang Xia could stop and look for another place to train.

Speaking of cultivating, in the short 2 months that he stationed himself on the mountain, Shang Xia managed to refine his Four Seasons Extermination Origins by 10 more percent even though he had to patrol the area from time to time.

He refined more than 60 percent of his extermination origins by that point and his strength experienced a huge increase.

That wasn't all. In the time he spent there, he continued to refine and perfect his Four Seasons Samsara Art. He needed even less time to complete one cycle of inner qi circulation and it was quickly approaching the 3 hours mark.

As he tried looking for suitable locations to cultivate, he heard a dull noise coming from the ground below. Soon after, the entire region started to quake.

Turning all around him, Shang Xia noticed that the trembling had spread to countless mountain peaks and some spots had started to crumble.

Was an earthquake happening?

Pausing in mid air, Shang Xia could feel that the heaven and earth qi in his surroundings was growing denser by the second. Extermination qi had also leaked out from the ground and so did world origin. The Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness reacted the instant it felt the increase in world origin.

Extending his divine perception to its limit, Shang Xia tried to find the source those energies were pouring out from but he soon learned that it was coming from everywhere!

“Looks like this isn’t a sign of someone entering the Martial Dipper Realm. This doesn’t seem to be caused by shockwaves of a battle either. The Snowy Peaks Mountain Range is truly experiencing an earthquake!” Shang Xia muttered to himself. “That’s a pity... It’s impossible to gather all the leaking world origin... Even with the Crimson Soul Tablet, it’s not likely I would be able to absorb everything...”

Shang Xia might have been grumbling to himself, but his expression was solemn.

The Manyu Continent might not be crumbling immediately, but the earthquake he was seeing was undoubtedly a sign of things to come. He could tell that the day the Manyu Continent crumbled was marching closer and closer.

When the trembling finally stopped, the Snowy Mountain Peak was in an extremely sorry state. Luckily, the area Shang Xia had been sent to protect showed no signs of movement.

Shang Xia’s suspicion that his grandfather wasn’t there became even deeper.

Well, the large scale destruction also affected Shang Xia’s plans for future cultivation. He wanted to find another mountain that could experience all four seasons at once, but because most of them had crumbled, it was going to be more difficult to look for a suitable location.

When he was thinking about how to find another place to train, his train of thought was interrupted by violent energy fluctuations in the distance. A loud blast tore through the air soon after.?

There was no doubt about it, there were people fighting in the distance. From the power of the shockwaves, Shang Xia could tell that the battle was happening hundreds of miles away and none of those involved were weak.

Shang Xia had half a mind to check it out, but he eventually shelved the thought. He decided to send a transmission back to the Tongyou Stronghold to ask about matters there before deciding on his next course of action.

While waiting for his reply, Shang Xia went even further out to look for a suitable cultivation spot. Unfortunately, he found nothing.

He was even starting to regret sending out the transmission too early. If he knew that it was so difficult to find a proper spot for seclusion, he would have told Yun Jing that he was going much further out.

Whatever it was, he failed to find a suitable mountain that was experiencing all the seasons at once. However, the heaven and earth qi and world origin became a lot denser after the earthquake. That itself improved the whole area for cultivation.

Helpless, Shang Xia decided to make do with a random spot. Just as he chose a site to enter seclusion, he was interrupted by a massive explosion and an intense heaven and earth qi fluctuation.

Instinctively, Shang Xia turned to look in the direction of the battle and saw a giant light pillar extending to the skies.

Before he could react, a sharp thump came from the space between his eyebrows. The Crimson Soul Tablet nearly forced its way out.

Was that... Was that world origin?!

Chapter 539: Beak, break, break!

Was that... Was that world origin?!

Shang Xia stared at the pillar of light with an expression of disbelief.

He wondered if his earlier estimation was wrong and if the Manyu Continent was about to meet its end.

No longer concerned with finding a spot to cultivate, Shang Xia rose into the air and a multicolored light surrounded him. His Auspicious Cloud Cape boosted his speed and he flew towards the pillar of light.

After refining another 10 percent of his extermination origins, Shang Xia discovered that every single aspect of his experienced an improvement.

His speed when he flew was much faster than before!

Soaring close to 300 miles without slowing down, Shang Xia realized that the location where the battle was taking place was a lot further than he had estimated.

He also discovered something while making his way over. The closer he got to the pillar of light, the denser the world origin around him.

That was enough to motivate Shang Xia to increase his speed even more. He couldn't believe how much world origin was spewing out from the light pillar every second. All of it was going to waste!

What made Shang Xia even more anxious was the fact that the pillar of light was extremely massive. It could be seen thousands of miles away and it wouldn't take long for the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Manyu Continent to start gathering. When that happens a chaotic battle might break out eventually.

The only thing Shang Xia was curious about at the moment was what caused such a huge disturbance.

When his thoughts were spinning rapidly through his mind, Shang Xia discovered another presence with his divine perception. It was rushing straight at him and it wasn't hard to tell that it was a Martial Extermination Realm expert.

Instinctively, Shang Xia slowed down and concealed his aura to make himself look like a cloud that was drifting slowly in the wind.

As the expert approached, a look of surprise appeared on Shang Xia's face for a split second before a strange look took over. The person who was approaching was someone he was familiar with!

The next second, Shang Xia became slightly more solemn. Right after he detected the familiar presence, he also discovered someone chasing behind.

"Hehe, little lady, you can't escape from me. If you keep this up, there won't be a need for me to continue chasing you. You'll run out of energy soon. When that happens, anyone can trample on you. Why don't you just stop right now so that you have a little energy left? We'll have a great 300-round battle and I'll let you feel what heaven is like. How about that?" The brute chasing behind her looked somewhat decent and

dignified, but he spouted a bunch of nasty bullshit while chasing behind her. A strong contrast was formed between his appearance and his manner of speech.

The lady who was escaping with all her might had a darkened expression, but she continued to soar through the skies. She ignored whatever the man was saying.

“Hehe, you’re really heartless. Your grandmother’s life is in danger right now and you can obviously help her if you return. However, you chose to escape alone, leaving your grandmother there to die. What has this world come to? Does familial ties mean nothing anymore?” His words rang through the air, stabbing straight into her sore spot.

The lady stopped abruptly and turned to glare at the brute behind her.

“Oh? What’s the matter? Have you decided to stop running and throw yourself into your big brother’s strong arms? Are you finally ready to become my thirteenth concubine?” The brute with tanned skin teased, but his gaze was cold. Despite his disgusting manner of speech, he was ready to fight any time.

Opening her palms, a pair of crescent knives appeared in the hands of the female cultivator and she cried, “Yeah, you’re right!”

Pointing one of her knives at the man, her chilly voice rang through the air. “Since I can’t run away, I’ll just risk my life and bring you down with me! That beats being captured alive after I run out of energy!”

“Hehe, young lady, you finally came to your senses. Looks like you’re worthy to be trained by me!” The tanned brute roared with laughter as a cruel glint flashed through his eyes.

With a soft grunt, the female cultivator swung her Silver Moon Crescent Knives and they turned into a silvery light wheel that rushed at the tanned brute.

“Nice!” The tanned brute released a loud roar as a pitch-black spiked mace that was 5 feet in length appeared in his hand. It came crashing down mercilessly on the silvery light wheel in the next instant.

The deafening sound of metal scraping against each other rang through the air and the silvery light around her blades dimmed. Suffering a backlash from her failed attack, her hair scattered behind her and she looked extremely haggard.

Of course, the tanned brute had to pay a price for blocking that attack too. Blood stained his arms and he was obviously cut by the random blade lights that emerged earlier.

Unfortunately for the female cultivator, the injuries the tanned brute suffered were merely superficial injuries. It couldn’t greatly affect his combat abilities.

“Hahaha! Young lady, you sure are feisty, I love it!” The tanned brute roared before charging at the female cultivator again. Taking the chance where she was stuck by

the backlash and was motionless in mid air, his extermination origins gathered around himself and he shot towards her.

As her defenses were affected earlier and her inner qi was in a state of disarray, she could only put up a desperate defense against her enemy.

Once again, loud metal scraping sounds rang through the air and her Silver Moon Crescent Knives were sent flying. The web between her forefingers and her thumb were torn to shreds and she was thrown hundreds of feet into the air before she stabilized herself.

“Pfff...”

Spitting out a mouthful of blood, the light barrier around her formed by her extermination origins shattered. Even the extermination light that was keeping her in the air started to flicker as she stumbled unsteadily through the air. It was as though she was going to fall back to the ground the next instant.

The tanned brute lowered his head to look at a wound on his chest where blood was slowly seeping from before raising his head to look at the female cultivator hundreds of feet away. A trace of coldness flashed through his eyes and he growled, “Young lady, you managed to force me into such a state even though you just entered the Extermination Realm. It’s really scary for you to become my enemy, but that’s exactly what I like. Heheh, rest assured, I’ll take really good care of you from now on!”

The injuries on his body didn’t scare him in the slightest. Instead, he seemed even more pumped up for the battle with her. Licking his lips, he raised his spiked mace before slamming it down in her direction.

A horrifying qi caused the space between them to twist and it went straight for her head.

By the time he unleashed his attack, the female cultivator looked extremely exhausted. Her body was also riddled with injuries and she was nearly out of energy. His strike looked ruthless, but it was obvious he was holding back as his intentions of capturing her alive were as clear as day.

Facing his attack, the female cultivator knew that there was no escape. Unwilling to be humiliated after being captured alive by the tanned brute, she released the newly formed barrier of light around herself and she chose not to resist. The strike coming at her was more than enough to eliminate her existence completely.

As she was prepared to meet her end, a soft sigh rang beside her ears. “Why are you making things so hard on yourself?”

Her eyes were closed as she prepared herself for death to arrive, but her eyes snapped open in shock after hearing the sigh. She seemed a little dazed, but she saw a figure standing in front of her to block the spiked mace from turning her into mush.

“Be careful!” The female cultivator found the voice somewhat familiar, and she yelled instinctively.

The extermination qi around her feet disappeared suddenly as she ran out of energy and she started to fall from the skies. She was prepared to hit the ground below, but she found herself falling into a ball of fluffy clouds.

It might seem slow, but everything happened in the blink of an eye. The tanned brute stared at Shang Xia who was standing in his way and his eyelids jumped nervously. However, he maintained his domineering attitude when speaking to him. “Heh, young man, are you trying to learn from those stories out there where the hero saves the damsel in distress? Are you not afraid that you’ll lose your life in the process?”

Shang Xia didn’t even bother looking at the man as his gaze was firmly fixed on the light pillar in the distance. He replied casually, “Oh by the way, do you know what happened there? I just came from another direction and I have no idea what’s going on.”

After Shang Xia spoke, the tanned brute’s eyelids weren’t the only things that were twitching. His temples were pulsating as he felt completely humiliated by how he was ignored by the other party. Suppressing his rage, he examined Shang Xia again. Even though he looked like someone who just entered the Martial Extermination Realm from his age alone, there was a strange veil that was preventing the tanned brute from seeing through Shang Xia’s cultivation level. With his many experiences toeing the line of life and death, Shang Xia was giving off a strong sense of danger.

“You can go take a look yourself. I’m a little busy and I shall take my leave.” The tanned brute chose to back down after listening to his instincts and got ready to escape.

The female cultivator behind Shang Xia yelled all of a sudden, even though it seemed a little inappropriate for her to do so. “Be careful of him! He’s working with a few others and they ambushed my grandmother earlier...”

Shang Xia’s voice rang through the skies the next moment. “Oh yeah... Both of you came from the direction of the light pillar. It doesn’t matter who I ask...”

As soon as the words left Shang Xia’s lips, the tanned brute felt an unprecedented sense of danger. He pushed himself to his limit as the extermination light beneath his feet burst forth with great intensity. The space around him twisted as he tried to make his escape.

However, Shang Xia clearly understood his intentions. There was no way he would allow the tanned brute to escape so easily.

Waving his hand casually through the air, a flurry of snow started to fall and they formed a cage in mid air, trapped the tanned brute within.

Unwilling to give up just like that, the tanned brute slammed his spiked mace into the layer of frost that was forming around him in an attempt to shatter the snowy cage.

Every time he seemed close to destroying it, another wave of snow would blow over to form several more layers. Even though he was making a little progress of freeing himself from the cage, he exhausted a huge amount of inner qi every step he took. Before he could get 3 miles away from Shang Xia, his body was already covered in a thick layer of snow.

Only then did the female cultivator regain some of her energy. With an extermination light appearing under her feet, she rose into the air once again.

When she arrived beside Shang Xia, a complicated expression could be seen on her face. She obviously recognized him and she only turned to look at the tanned brute after some time. Staring at the man who was struggling to escape, she gave Shang Xia a quick reminder. “You need to be wary

of him. Not only has he refined 2 extermination origins, but he's also extremely crafty. He doesn't hold back either and he has a ton of sinister ideas up his sleeves. Be careful that he turns around to..."

Before she could finish, a loud roar emerged from the tanned brute's lips. He turned around abruptly and swung his spiked mace in Shang Xia's direction.

Not a trace of panic could be seen on Shang Xia's face and he even had the energy to turn to smile at the female cultivator. "Looks like you're right!"

"You..."

She was shocked to see how nonchalant Shang Xia was acting and she wanted to remind him that there was an attack flying his way as they spoke.

Before she could say anything, a jaw dropping scene greeted her. The tanned brute shattered into a thousand pieces without any warning!

Chapter 540: Yan Ming and Yan Su'er

That's it?! He shattered?

The person who had forced her into desperate straits just exploded into a thousand pieces in front of her!

The female cultivator was in a state of disbelief. It was especially so when the person who caused the abrupt change was the person standing beside her.

"How... How did you do that?" The female cultivator turned to look at Shang Xia. She even warned him to be careful earlier.

"Um..." Shang Xia closed his palm and gestured to grab the items and a flurry of snow swarmed towards him. The spiked mace that flew through the air after the tanned brute's death appeared in Shang Xia's palm before he turned to smile at the female cultivator. "It's a blade art I came up with. This move is called Lesser Snow..."

Shang Xia paused for a second and realized such a gentle name seemed inappropriate for a move that killed his opponent in such a nasty way. He quickly added, "Actually, you can call it 'Lingering Death' too..."

The female cultivator raised her hand to tuck her messy hair behind her ear and the heroic air she was emitting earlier changed to one of charm as she laughed, "It's been a few years since we last met. I didn't think that you would become so strong in such a short amount of time..."

Obviously, the female cultivator wasn't a random nobody. She was Yan Ming, the cultivator from the Wind Swallow Race. When Shang Xia first entered the battlefield between the two worlds, she was the person who hunted him down and forced him into a corner.

She was also the granddaughter of the mighty Yan Su'er, the leader of the Wind Swallow Race.

Shang Xia raised an eyebrow slightly and he deliberately brought up what happened back then.

"Hey, hey, hey, I didn't forget what happened back in the battlefield between the two worlds. I was really pitiful when you tried chasing me down back then..."

Giggling softly, no one knew what Yan Ming was thinking about. However, her face flushed red the next moment while she turned serious. “Thank you!”

Shang Xia waved his hand to scatter the phenomenon in the air that appeared after the tanned brute’s death before chuckling softly, “I think this counts as me requiting your evil deeds with kindness, don’t you think?”

Yan Ming clearly knew he was joking around with her and she chose to ignore what he said. Instead, she asked another question. “Why are you here?”

Staring at the pillar of light in the distance, Shang Xia replied, “Any fool can see that something big is going on here. Why shouldn’t I try to grab some benefits?”

Examining Shang Xia from top to bottom, Yan Ming yelped suddenly, “Don’t tell me you’re also here to protect your grandfather from breaking through to the Martial Dipper Realm.”

Staring at her in shock, Shang Xia eventually revealed a smile. “What do you mean ‘also’? Oh? Looks like Senior Yan is also in seclusion here. Hmm... Wait a second, did Senior Yan cause that huge commotion over there?”

Shang Xia stared at the pillar of light in shock.

Seeing as Shang Xia had already guessed what happened, Yan Ming didn’t deny what happened. Instead, she tried to change the topic again. “Is Senior Shang really in the area?”

Shang Xia glanced at her from the corner of his eye before shaking his head. “Hehe, I can guess what you want to do, but I’m sorry. I really don’t know where my grandfather is.”

A look of disappointment filled Yan Ming’s face but she held on to the last thread of hope as she asked again, “Can you contact the high-leveled experts of your Tongyou Institution to help my grandmother? My Wind Swallow Race will definitely return the favor in the future.”

Shang Xia stared at her with a strange look on her face. “Why don’t you look for the Changbai Holy Land for help? There are other great races of the Liao Continent too. Even though my Tongyou Institution joined hands with the Changbai Holy Land because of the Manyu Continent, we’re from different worlds at the end of the day. Even if we agree to help, are you really going to trust us so easily?”

Biting her lips, Yan Ming seemed to have made up her mind. “Yes, we’ll trust you!”

Curiosity filled Shang Xia’s heart after he heard her answer. “Have you thought it through? Senior Yan is probably trying to break through to the Martial Dipper Realm during her seclusion here, right? Do you think my Tongyou Institution will be willing to witness the birth of a Martial Dipper Realm expert from the four great races of the Liao Continent?”

Yan Ming growled, “Are you willing to help or not? If you don’t wish to help us, there’s no need to waste my time! Of course, I’ll still repay the favor for saving my life in the future, but that’s a separate matter!”

“You have to tell me what’s going on if you wish to ask for help. Do you think anyone will help you without any details on the situation?” Shang Xia snorted softly.

With anxiety filling her heart, Yan Ming had to admit that what Shang Xia said made sense. The Tongyou Institution, Changbai Holy Land, and the four great races might have formed an alliance, but every side still had their guards up when facing the other parties.

After staying silent for some time, Yan Ming sighed and told Shang Xia everything that happened.

The Changbai Holy Land wanted to nurture a third Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor during their trip to the Manyu Continent. Obviously, the difficulty of producing a Martial Dipper Realm expert was through the roof. The resources they would need to provide would also be a terrifying amount.

Even with the Changbai Holy Land's foundations and accumulations, they wouldn't be able to give out too many chances like that.

Under such circumstances, the Changbai Holy Land could only choose someone with the greatest foundations and hope to break through to the Martial Dipper Realm.

When the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Changbai Holy Land broke out into a massive conflict of who should be given the chance, the higher-ups of the Changbai Holy Land had their own plans. In order to pull the four great races of the Liao Continent over to their side, they decided to choose someone among us with the highest potential to break through. Yan Su'er, who possessed the strongest individual strength of those in the four great races, but led the weakest of the races, was chosen.

The Changbai Holy Land wasn't afraid of sending their experts into the Manyu Continent, and there were also experts of the four great races among them. However, Yan Su'er didn't trust any of them.

After obtaining some information on where the greatest concentration of world origin would be from the Changbai Holy Land, Yan Su'er secretly chose the Snowy Mountain Peaks and silently brought Yan Ming over to protect her.

Shang Xia basically understood what had happened up to that point after hearing her explanation and he asked, "Are you afraid that the Changbai Holy Land or the other races were the ones who leaked her location, causing her to come under attack?"

Yan Ming didn't reply, but it was clear those were her thoughts.

"How many people came to attack her? Do you know their origins?" Shang Xia asked again.

Only then did Yan Ming reveal a strange expression while breaking down the situation for Shang Xia. "There were 4 of them who came and they seem to be local cultivators of the Manyu Continent. 3 of them were in the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm or higher, and the last one died in your hands..."

Yan Ming couldn't hide her thoughts from Shang Xia and another question quickly emerged from Shang Xia's lips. "Do you think something strange is going on?"

With a frown on her face, she muttered, "When we entered the Manyu Continent, the Changbai Holy Land gave us an estimation of the strength of the local cultivators. They seem pretty weak and they don't have a lot of high-level experts. Even if they fight against cultivators of the same level, they might not gain the upper hand easily. However, those experts who came to ambush my grandmother... They don't seem weak at all!"

Shang Xia's heart trembled slightly and he seemed to have thought of something. "How is your grandmother right now?"

"She made a lot of arrangements before and their ambush failed. They changed their approach and surrounded her but she forced a path through their assault for me to escape. Not too long after I ran, the pillar of light appeared." Yan Ming explained.

Slightly taken aback, Shang Xia muttered, "So... The light pillar was really created by Senior Yan?"

Yan Ming shook her head and sighed, "I didn't see her do it and I have no idea."

Shang Xia nodded and no longer harped on the topic. He stood in his spot for some time with no reaction and no one knew what he was thinking about.

Looking at Shang Xia who didn't seem like he was going to do anything, anxiety ate away at Yan Ming's heart. She couldn't hold back and she yelled, "If you're still holding a grudge against me for trying to kill you back then, you can do whatever you want to me! I'm begging you, please send a transmission to your seniors and request them to save my grandmother!"

Shang Xia seemed to snap back to reality after she yelled at him, but a trace of mischief filled his heart. "Oh? Are you really going to let me do anything I want to you?"

Glaring at Shang Xia who had a look of schadenfreude on his face, she eventually chose to lower her head. "As long as you can save my grandmother..."

She didn't complete the last of her sentence as a resolute look remained on her face. She might have chosen to give in, but that was her last attempt at not humiliating herself.

Breaking out into laughter, Shang Xia saw that Yan Ming was about to fly into a fit of rage because of her shame and he gestured for her to relax. Pointing to her sides, he asked, "Take a look at where we are."

Raising her head in shock, Yan Ming gasped, "This... Where the hell are you going?! Hurry up and stop!"

Because of her exhaustion from the last battle, Yan Ming released her control of her extermination origins and returned to the support of the cloud beneath her feet after the battle.

During their conversation, the Auspicious Cloud Cape that had transformed into the ball of cloud they were standing on had been advancing towards the pillar of light.

Because of her worry for her grandmother, Yan Ming only cared about asking Shang Xia to contact the Tongyou Institution for support. She didn't pay attention to her surroundings and didn't notice they were moving.

After receiving Shang Xia's reminder, she finally realized that they were rapidly closing in on her grandmother's battlefield.

Looking at Yan Ming who was about to break out into full-blown panic, Shang Xia chuckled, "Where else do you think I'm going? Obviously we're going to see if we can help your grandmother out."

“Are you tired of living? There are at least 3 experts there with cultivation of the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm or higher. You might not be weak, but how much help will you be?”

Shang Xia sniggered softly and didn't give her a proper explanation. Instead, he continued to make his way over. They were close enough to start hearing the loud explosion in the distance due to the battle and Yan Ming tried to force herself to calm down before persuading Shang Xia again, “I managed to survive the pursuit because of your help, and I know that you're pretty strong. You could kill a second layer Martial Extermination Realm expert, and I believe you're thinking of obtaining some world origin from the pillar of light. However, you need to understand that the gap between a second layer Martial Extermination Realm expert and a third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert isn't small! One can only be considered a high-level expert after refining 3 extermination origins or more and the gap isn't something that can be crossed with some amazing martial art or better weapons!”

“Shang Xia, are you even listening to me?! The best way to help is to contact the experts of your Tongyou Institution. Even if it's just for the world origin spewing out from the pillar of light, you should still call them! You can't overestimate yourself! This... This is for your own good...!”

Shang Xia's smile never faded since he informed her that they were heading to the battlefield. Yan Ming, who still held onto the hope of persuading him to turn back, started to grow anxious the closer they got. In the end, her emotions got the better of her and she started to scream at Shang Xia.

“Hehehehehe...” Shang Xia couldn't help but chuckle and it quickly erupted into laughter.

Seeing how casually Shang Xia was treating it, Yan Ming finally snapped. “What the hell are you laughing at?! Can your laughter defeat high-level experts in the Martial Extermination Realm?!”

“Well, it might.” Shang Xia replied nonchalantly before jumping off the cloud. His voice rang beside her ears while he left. “Stay here! Do not leave the cloud no matter what.”

“Hmph! I'm not going to stop you from rushing to your own death if that's what you want.” Yan Ming snorted coldly before turning her head away.

However, she quickly turned back. Extending her divine perception, she made a tiny gap in the giant cloud she was on before staring in the direction Shang Xia had gone.