

## The Heavens 541

### Chapter 541: Opening Act

The four great races of the Liao Continent hoped that they could produce their first Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor. That person would be able to act as their spokesperson and protect their interests against foreign powers. As such, they chose Yan Su'er who had the highest individual cultivation among them.

In order to pull the four great races over to their side, Changbai Holy Land decided to choose Yan Su'er as their candidate. Of course, breaking through to the Martial Dipper Realm was extremely difficult and they required an expert with her cultivation.

The difference in foundations between the Tongyou Institution and Changbai Holy Land was clearly displayed at that point.

Nurturing a Martial Dipper Realm expert placed a huge burden on the Changbai Holy Land, but they could at least choose who they wanted to give the chance to. The Tongyou Institution was different. Shang Bo was given the opportunity to break through because he was the only one with the appropriate cultivation level.

Even though the Changbai Holy Land and other great races had a reason for her to succeed in her breakthrough, Yan Su'er didn't trust any of them.

She would rather bring her granddaughter who had just broken through to the Martial Extermination Realm to protect her in secret while laying down restrictions on her own than to let anyone else know where she was. She didn't even invite the experts of the Changbai Holy Land to protect her even though they were pretty strong and would provide an impressive layer of defense.

With the current situation she was facing, Yan Su'er couldn't take the slightest risk. Obviously, she didn't expect to fully rely on Yan Ming to protect her in case anything serious happened.

Because of that, she laid down countless restrictions and ways to protect herself. Everything she did saved her from the sneak attack from 3 Martial Extermination Realm experts of the third layer or higher.

Also, if Yan Su'er hadn't forced open a path for Yan Ming to escape, she would have been able to retreat the moment their sneak attack failed. She wouldn't be surrounded by them and have to fight a prolonged battle.

It seemed as though those weren't the only precautions she had taken. She might be surrounded by several high-level experts, but she managed to activate her restrictions to shatter the earth vein beneath her to cause the leakage of world origin.

Her actions were extremely risky. If she wasn't careful, she might cause a chain reaction that led to the destruction of the Manyu Continent. If that happened, she would immediately become public enemy number 1.

Yan Su'er might not have immediately caused the destruction of the Manyu Continent, but the leaking world origin would hasten the process no matter what. It might even affect the plans the various powers had for the Manyu Continent.

But with things progressing up to that point and her life in immediate danger, Yan Su'er couldn't care less. The experts who had surrounded her became extremely flustered with the appearance of the pillar of light.

Under such circumstances, they had to send their expert to suppress the pillar of light the best they could to prevent world origin from leaking. During the process of suppression, they also had to find a way to collect the world origin for themselves.

That greatly reduced the pressure on Yan Su'er and she managed to catch her breath and last all the way through the battle.

She tried breaking through their encirclement a few times, but the 3 of them were like glue that stuck to her.

The moment she tried to break through their encirclement, they would ignore the pillar of light and suppress her in unison.

Their actions seemed a little weird and Yan Su'er couldn't help but yell, "What enmity do you have with me?! Since you wish to harvest the world origin, why are you still so interested in keeping me here?"

The expert among them who wore a jade crown sneered in response, "World origin is important and we definitely have to obtain as much as we can. However, you shouldn't dream of escaping today!"

Yan Su'er could tell that the person who spoke was the weakest among the 3 with his cultivation at the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm and she retorted immediately, "Is there a reason for that? After I leave, you can join hands and suppress the pillar of light to obtain all the world origin you want. With me wasting your time here, you can only watch on as world origin is wasted.

The crowned cultivator growled in response, "Old lady, let me ask you a question. Did you kill Su Jinyuan?"

Yan Su'er was shocked by his response but she stared at them with a face full of doubt. "Who is Su Jinyuan? I have no idea who that is."

A chilly voice left the lips of the crowned cultivator. "Hmph, old lady, you're still refusing to admit it even though you're about to die. Don't think that we'll let you off just because you pretend to not recognize him."

Yan Su'er's pupils shrank and she retorted, "Why are you so sure that I was the one who killed your friend?"

"2 months ago, a massive battle broke out close to 1200 miles away. Brother Su disappeared right after that. You better not tell me you didn't know about the battle." The crowned cultivator sneered.

"2 months ago?" Yan Su'er turned serious as she thought back to what happened. It was true that a battle broke out and the disturbance was massive. As an expert who was about to break through to the Martial Dipper Realm, Yan Su'er naturally felt the shockwaves.

“I don’t care if you believe me or not, but I was in seclusion during that time. A battle did break out, but because it didn’t affect me, I didn’t check it out. I have no idea what happened.” Yan Su’er muttered.

“Hmph! You did a really clean job alright!” The crowned cultivator snorted in response.

Finally, the female cultivator among the 3 who wore feathered robes finally spoke up. “Wang Guan, why are you wasting your breath on her? She can’t kill Brother Su alone. There has to be other people involved in this!”

After she spoke, she launched another round of attacks on Yan Su’er.

Throughout the entire assault, Yan Su’er could tell that the female cultivator attacked the most enthusiastically. Even when the world origin started to emerge from the pillar of light, the female cultivator didn’t give 2 shits about it and continued to tangle with Yan Su’er.

As they fought, the feathered robes lady’s scream rang through the skies. “Tell us about your accomplices and I’ll give you a quick death!”

Yan Su’er waved her staff in the air and was forced to retreat slightly. Even so, she snorted coldly, “Oh? Do you really think you have the ability to kill me?”

The feathered robes lady wanted to say something else, but the last of the 3 experts finally spoke up. He was the strongest of the 3 and he had been splitting his attention between suppressing Yan Su’er and collecting world origin earlier. “Liu Yu, we dragged things out for too long. It’s impossible to hide the light pillar from the rest of the continent and there should be people rushing over soon. Take her down right now so we don’t waste our efforts.”

As soon as he spoke the other 2 reacted instantly. Wang Guan and Liu Yu no longer spoke to Yan Su’er. Their attacks intensified instantly.

When the strongest cultivator entered the fray, Yan Su’er felt the pressure rising immediately. She found it hard to move around and she was quickly falling to a disadvantage.

“End it fast!” The last expert was experienced. He knew that the longer things dragged on, the more possible it was for uncertainties to occur.

All of a sudden, a change occurred on the battlefield. A huge blizzard seemed to arrive as snowflakes filled the skies. Even though the snowstorm would slightly affect the battle, it was great cover for the light pillar in the distance.

If one could see the light pillar when they were 1000 miles away previously, they would only be able to notice the light pillar when they arrived 500 miles away from it now that snow was falling.

The strongest expert swung his Phoenix Wing Halberd at Yan Su’er and she was forced to retreat hundreds of feet before she stabilized herself.

Unfortunately, she entered Wang Guan and Liu Yu’s attack range the moment she found her footing.

Circulating her inner qi, a four colored extermination light surrounded her before splitting off and turning into a streak of light that shot straight for Liu Yu.

A huge portion of the light barrier around her disappeared and Wang Guan found an opening to toss a spirit binding rope at Yan Su'er.

When everything was going on, Yan Su'er's ears twitched slightly.

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A feeling of unease appeared in the heart of the strongest expert among the 3. Only after some time did he realize that something was wrong.

From the shockwaves of their battle, the space around them should be extremely unstable. With the countless spatial cracks that were forming, there was no way a blizzard would affect them.

Not only was the snow still falling as though nothing had happened, but it was getting more and more intense as it blew against them from all directions.

Not good! Someone is interfering with the battle!

The strongest expert might not have detected anyone in his surroundings, but he was extremely confident in his instincts. He yelled immediately, "Be careful, someone else is here!"

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Yan Su'er whose extermination origin barrier had been torn apart, quickly retreated.

Wang Guan who had been watching for a chance to strike roared with laughter after tossing out his Spirit Binding Rope. It spun around Yan Su'er and his intentions were clear. He wanted to capture her alive.

Seeing the rope spinning around her, Yan Su'er swung her staff at the very last moment, allowing her to escape her fate of being bound.

Only then did the warning from the strongest expert among the 3 arrive. The battlefield around Yan Su'er and Wang Guan crumbled instantly. Snowflakes swarmed them and the air around them gave off a strange whistle. Their vision was blocked by a screen of white and that wasn't all. The veil of snow seemed to possess a strange intent behind it as it affected the divine perception of everyone present.

"Who the hell are you?! You despicable being, how dare you carry out sneak attacks? Show yourself!" The strongest expert of the 3 roared and his Phoenix Wing Halberd swept out mercilessly. A huge flurry of snow was sliced cleanly in two and a gap formed. However, he was greeted with a frightening sight.

The snow in the surroundings seemed to have gained sentience as they spun around Wang Guan in a terrifying vortex.

Of course, Wang Guan was no weakling. He took precautions when he first heard the warning. However, he could only yell when faced with such a roaring mess of snow. He summoned his extermination origins to create a light barrier around himself while trying to scatter the mess.

As soon as he struck, the seemingly harmless snowflakes in his surroundings transformed into terrifying rays of pure blade light that slammed into the light barrier around him.

It shattered in an instant as even more snowflakes gathered around him.

Panicking, Wang Guan waved his arm to try to recall the Spirit Binding Rope as his last line of defense, but he felt a powerful resistance coming from it.

Peering through the gap in the snow around him, He saw Yan Su'er holding on to the rope even though blood was leaking from the corner of her lips. She refused to let him pull it back as another round of snow covered his body.

Shattering a jade pendant on his waist, another layer of light appeared around him to resist the blade light around him. Unfortunately, it didn't take long before it shattered.

When the third wave arrived, Wang Guan felt that the pure-white snowflakes falling on him were like the devils from hell.

“Senior Cen Yu, save me!” Wang Guan screamed in fright but he was quickly swallowed by the final wave of snow.

3 pillars of light appeared at the very last second to tear open the cocoon of snow from the inside, but the gaps were quickly filled with even more snow.

Everyone stared at the cocoon in shock. However, Cen Yu reacted quickly and he blasted apart the ball of snow, along with the thick snowstorm with a powerful swing of his Phoenix Wing Halberd. Destroying the thick layers of snow that covered Wang Guan, everyone was shocked to see that not a trace of the expert was left. Not even his bones remained.

“Who the hell are you?!”

Chapter 542: Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void

“Who the hell are you?!”?

Cen Yu scattered the snowstorm but failed to find the culprit. He roared with rage as he vented his feeling son Yan Su'er who just freed herself from Wang Guan's Spirit Binding Rope. “Hmph, whatever the case, you can go to hell!”

In his eyes, no matter what the situation was, the person who killed Wang Guan definitely had something to do with Yan Su'er.

He refused to believe that the person wouldn't appear if he forced Yan Su'er into desperate straits.

Earlier, Liu Yu had a chance to carry out a devastating attack on Yan Su'er. However, due to her shock at how Wang Guan died, she failed to act. Instead of fighting Yan Su'er, she quickly retreated to Cen Yu's side for protection.

Lin Yu was clear. Even if Wang Guan was completely unprepared for a sneak attack and she was the one carrying it out, she would never have been able to kill him so easily.

The newcomer was clearly stronger than her. Perhaps, only Cen Ye was able to fight evenly against him!

Cen Yu might be enraged by how Lin Yu retreated at such a critical time, but the situation had already blown out of proportion. He could only swing his Phoenix Wing Halberd down ferociously at Yan Su'er.

Finally given a chance to catch her breath, Yan Su'er regained her composure. No matter how sorry she looked from their previous assault, she was an expert at the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm at the end of the day. She was a force to be reckoned with and none of her opponents would look down on her.

Raising her staff in the air, a four colored extermination light gathered around her again. At the same time, a huge amount of heaven and earth qi was swept up as it blocked the falling Phoenix Wing Halberd.

Before Yan Su'er could heave a sigh of relief, a sharp snap came from her staff, and under her surprised gaze, the weapon she had been using for tens of years cracked.

Since her weapon broke, she had to take on a portion of the energy contained in the blow and she spat out a mouthful of blood. She was sent flying and she barely managed to stabilize herself in mid air.

Naturally, Cen Yu couldn't give up a chance like that to follow up. Now that he caused Yan Su'er to lose her combat strength, he was ready to rush up to carry on the fight. He didn't expect Lin Yu who finally regrouped with him to stare wide-eyed in another direction while stuttering, "Senior... Senior Cen, look over there!"

Noticing her reaction, Cen Yu didn't need to hear her reminder to turn in the other direction.

Several miles behind him, the majestic pillar of light had shrunk by a third! A figure could be seen not too far away from the pillar and he seemed to be absorbing world origin at a terrifying rate. He didn't seem to be controlling the world origin with any special methods but they were pouring into him endlessly.

"It's him!" Cen Yu's expression sank and he couldn't be bothered with Yan Su'er. Lightly tapping the space before him with his Phoenix Wing Halberd, a freakish flame bloomed in mid air. It expanded to form an entrance and he entered the void through the entrance he made. Lin Yu couldn't even react to stop him.

Passing through the void with his physical body!

That was something Shang Xia did in the past with the assistance of his Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman. Now, he finally saw someone who wasn't a Martial Dipper Realm ancestor doing the same!

Stopping the Crimson Soul Tablet from devouring world origin anymore, Shang Xia waved his Abyssal Blade and messed up the space around him. He also made use of the geography around him to summon a stronger snowstorm. This time, snow fell everywhere. Frosty qi pervaded the lands and the feeling of death entered the hearts of everyone present and it started to climb steadily. It was as though energy was being stored up somewhere.

Shang Xia retreated slightly and he quickly suppressed the resonance his Crimson Soul Tablet had with the pillar of light.

The next instant, Cen Yu's figure emerged from the void. Even though he looked a little haggard, he managed to lock on to Shang Xia the moment he appeared.

Cen Yu might be taken aback at how Shang Xia anticipated his moves, but the small distance Shang Xia retreated wasn't enough to escape from him.

A shrill whistle tore through the air and his Phoenix Wing Halberd trembled violently. A strand of extermination origin that was created after a cultivator fused all 4 extermination origins entered the halberd and Shang Xia saw a semi-illusory flame covering his weapon.

Drawing a horizontal line through the air with his halberd, the illusory flame remained burning even after his halberd was withdrawn. It resembled a massive wing made from fire in mid air.

Cen Yu drew another line in the other direction and in the next instant, the pair of wings appeared.

As soon as the fiery wings were formed, they seemed to resonate with the space around him. With a light flap, they tore apart the void and left behind a strange streak of light in mid air before rushing at Shang Xia.

“Martial intent?! That’s the martial intent of a Martial Extermination Realm expert!” Yan Su’er’s scream came from behind Shang Xia and the terror in her voice couldn’t be hidden.

Shang Xia also felt a sense of danger approaching.

Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void!

That was the name of the martial intent Cen Yu coined after he comprehended it to step into the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm.

The power in a martial intent was immense, and it was extremely difficult for experts in the Martial Extermination Realm to comprehend one. Even if they did, it would be difficult to unleash their martial intent to its full potential. They would require the assistance of a weapon that was extremely compatible with their cultivation in order to do so.

That might be the case, but unless Cen Yu was using a divine weapon to unleash his martial intent, he would greatly damage whatever weapon he was using. Even his Phoenix Wing Halberd, which could be considered a peak-tier high-grade weapon, could only release 5 Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void before it would be destroyed. Moreover, every time Cen Yu used his martial intent, it would grow weaker due to the declined durability of his halberd.

That was why Cen Yu didn’t dare to use his martial intent however he wished when he was in the fight before.

He chose to release his Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void at that moment not because he was afraid of Shang Xia’s strength. Instead, he wanted to end the battle as quickly as he could so that he could return to deal with the pillar of light.

Liu Yu, who was watching how Cen Yu released his martial intent, gasped in fright.

“Since Senior Cen has used his martial intent, that person is dead! Haha! No... Both of them are dead!” Liu Yu stared at Yan Su’er as though she was looking at a dead person.

She knew that there was no need for her to do anything useless at that point as Cen Yu’s Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void would destroy their opponents.

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Even without Yan Su'er's reminder, Shang Xia knew that he was in deep shit.

In the past, Shang Xia once heard Shang Bo mention how a cultivator's strength would take a huge leap forward when they went from the second layer to the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm. However, that was merely a small increase when compared to when they improved from the large completion stage to the grand completion stage! It could even be said that ascending to the grand completion stage would mean that the cultivator in question had experienced a fundamental transformation in their cultivation.

The transformation was possibly related to breaking through to the Martial Dipper Realm and from a certain perspective, one could call those in the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm 'Half-Step Martial Dipper Realm' experts.

Shang Xia never doubted his grandfather. That was because Shang Bo had also comprehended his martial intent and became a Half-Step Martial Dipper Realm expert. After experiencing the increase in strength, he was more than qualified to make those judgments.

Staring at the flaming wings headed his way, Shang Xia felt a sense of danger like never before. The wings looked utterly magnificent, but no amount of beauty could cover up the threat it posed.

When Shang Xia was planning to go all out to defend himself, the world seemed to stop. With a frosty expression on his face, Shang Xia slowly pushed his palm out before him.

Shang Xia renamed the strike to the Four Constellation Palm from the Four Seasons Palm and the moment he sent it out, the space before him distorted violently. It didn't stop there as the space started to fracture before eventually crumbling altogether.

Shang Xia witnessed everything that happened clearly and the next moment, his Four Constellation Palm which contained the might of his Four Seasons Extermination Origins clashed with the fiery wings in the shattered void.

The earth shattering explosion that everyone expected to happen didn't. Instead, both attacks slowly ate each other up. The void suffered yet another blow and it was a mind-numbing scene to watch it collapse on itself again.

Unfortunately, Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm wasn't enough to stop Cen Yu's attack and the pair of wings continued to fly at him. Although after their exchange, the wings no longer looked as lively as before.

Despite not being able to stop the attack, not a trace of despair could be seen on Shang Xia's face. Instead, a trace of hope appeared.

That was because in the short second the collision between both attacks happened earlier, Shang Xia saw that his Four Constellation Palm definitely stopped the fiery wings for a split second.

What did that mean?!

That meant that even though Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm was suppressed, it wasn't destroyed immediately.

Even though the effects of the two weren't really different as his Four Constellation Palm disappeared without stopping the fiery wings, they actually represented very different things.



If his palm was destroyed in an instant without hindering the fiery wings, that would only mean that the principles behind his Four Constellation Palm were far worse than Cen Yu's Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void. However, because it was able to stall for a split second, Shang Xia knew that the difference between them lay in their cultivation realm and the power they unleashed.

Like how Yun Jing and Youshang were both surprised when they saw his Four Constellation Palm back then, they felt that it had the capability of turning into Shang Xia's martial intent.

In other words, Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm was comparable to Cen Yu's Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void. The only difference lay in their difference in their cultivation realm.

Because Shang Xia understood the principles behind cycling his extermination origins and the true meaning of the four seasons, he quickly released a second and third palm in succession.

Unfortunately for Cen Yu, it was impossible for him to release so many Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void at once.

At the same time, he actually wasn't too bothered by Shang Xia releasing multiple palm strikes. Instead, he knew that the old lady would do something as she was also trapped within the range of his attack.

A loud chirp filled the skies all of a sudden and Shang Xia felt a familiar blood extermination soaring into the skies. The phantom of a giant rain swallow appeared several feet behind Yan Su'er and it flew past Shang Xia and slammed heavily into the fiery wings that had been weakened by Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm earlier.

#### Chapter 543: Greater Frost, Freezing A Thousand Miles

As an old monster who has lived for over a hundred years, Yan Su'er didn't need to hear Shang Xia preaching about how they would both be in danger if one of them were to die.

Moreover, Yan Su'er also recognized Shang Xia and his intentions the moment he arrived.

The Azure Spiritual World and the Azure Origin World had been fighting for the past 20 years or so. The enmity that existed between them couldn't be eliminated in such a short amount of time, but because of that, they had a great understanding of how cultivators of the other world fought. Even though Shang Xia and Yan Su'er were working together for the first time, their cooperation was seamless!

Yan Su'er's cultivation was at the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm, but she knew the difference between herself and someone in the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm. She also knew how powerful Cen Yu's martial intent was.

The crimson wind swallow slammed into the fiery wings. Even though it was quickly incinerated and failed to push the wings back, it managed to waste a lot of its energy.

Unlike Shang Xia's palm strike which was on the same level as Cen Yu's Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void and could resist it head-on but failed to because of its lack of energy, Yan Su'er's crimson wind swallow contained a huge portion of her inner qi. It greatly exhausted the power contained in the fiery wings.

At the end of the day, Shang Xia's move was impressive, but his foundations were nowhere as solid as Yan Su'er. After all, Yan Su'er was merely a step away from reaching the same level as Cen Yu.

Shang Xia retreated slightly and with Yan Su'er's assistance, he managed to buy a little time to send out another Four Constellation Palm.

This time, the fiery wings became a lot more illusory than before. However, becoming less corporeal didn't mean that it disappeared. From the looks of it, it wasn't as nimble as before.

That wasn't the end. Shang Xia saw Yan Su'er spitting out a mouthful of blood mist not too far away. Her blood extermination congealed before her and it was countless times smaller than the phantom of the wind swallow that appeared earlier. Compared to the illusory wind swallow earlier, it was much more solid and it seemed to possess its own consciousness. It dove into the void before slamming into the fiery wings in the void.

A look of shock appeared on Shang Xia's face when he noticed the tiny blood swallow flying past him. He could tell that the blood swallow contained a huge amount of Yan Su'er's essence blood. It was impossible to recover essence blood and it would definitely harm her foundations.

Also, Shang Xia could tell that the tiny blood swallow was created by a fusion of Yan Su'er's extermination origins. In fact, Yan Su'er seemed to touch on the gateway of the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm after sending out her attack.

With the fiery wings greatly exhausted, there was no suspense as the blood swallow destroyed them completely during their collision.

From the time Cen Yu unleashed his Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void, to the time Shang Xia and Yan Su'er joined hands to destroy it, merely a moment had passed.

Despite the short time it took, Shang Xia and Yan Su'er paid a huge price in order to resist his attacks.

Yan Su'er greatly exhausted her inner qi and she even damaged her foundations by sending out the last strike. As for Shang Xia, he used up a great deal of his inner qi and he entered a state of weakness. He could still fight, but he wouldn't be able to display the strength he had at his peak state.

If an expert who just entered the Martial Extermination Realm were to attack them now, Yan Su'er could only allow herself to be killed.

Luckily, something like that didn't happen.

Liu Yu fucked up yet again. She was extremely confident that Cen Yu would be able to kill both of them when he unleashed his martial intent, the Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void. She never expected him to fail and missed another opportunity to kill her enemies.

Shang Xia clearly wouldn't give them a chance to capitalize on the weakness any longer as he grabbed Yan Su'er to fly away.

After realizing what had happened, Liu Yu, who was hell-bent on killing Yan Su'er earlier, charged at them. She tried to make up for all her mistakes and she wanted to stop them from running away.

Too bad for her, Shang Xia's Abyssal Blade came crashing down while he made his escape.

The blade intent and death aura that had been gathering in the area erupted at once. Blade lights filled the air around them and their space around them turned blurry. Any signs of vitality from the world were extinguished as frost covered thousands of miles around them.

Shang Xia unleashed the latest blade art he comprehended, Extreme Frost!

If he could rank the power Extreme Frost possessed to be 10/10, Shang Xia's use of Elementary Frost before and the favorable conditions with snow all around them only served to boost the might of his move. Adding everything up, Shang Xia's Extreme Frost would be ranked 12/10 on the power scale!

Extreme Frost was his final insurance against Cen Yu's Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void. If Yan Su'er hadn't risked her life and comprehended her final technique, Shang Xia would have used Extreme Frost to destroy the fiery wings.

However, it seemed as though there was a better use for it now. Liu Yu failed to read the situation and delivered herself directly into his range of fire.

As they said, "I won't beat the hard workers and I won't beat the lazy bums. I'll just beat the one who overestimates themselves!"

When Liu Yu finally approached Shang Xia and noticed his falling blade, she discovered what was going on. At the end of the day, Liu Yu was a fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm expert. She was no fool! Realizing she wouldn't be able to resist the terrifying blade art that had been unleashed, panic filled her heart and she desperately tried to resist while screaming, "Senior Cen, please... Please save me!"

"Hmph!" Cen Yu nearly spat out a mouthful of blood in anger. With a useless teammate like Liu Yu, who needed enemies?! He wanted nothing more than for her to be swallowed by the terrifying blade lights so that she couldn't annoy him and mess up his plans any longer.

However, that was merely a thought. He chose to save her in the end.

After unleashing his martial intent, Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void, earlier, his body would have to bear a huge burden. If he forcefully made another move, he might risk his inner qi getting out of control.

Regardless, he couldn't watch on as Liu Yu was slain by the other party's blade art without doing anything!

In his mind, he was cursing her to no end. If she acted dumb the whole way and remained by his side silently, the situation would be much better!

There was only one slightly more fortunate point about everything that was playing out currently. Luckily for her, she hadn't moved too far away from Cen Yu, giving them enough time to react.

In order to save Liu Yu, Cen Yu had to take on the blade strike Shang Xia had been gathering for some time now.

While making his move, Cen Yu found it extremely strange. He couldn't understand how the young cultivator was able to release so many palm strikes earlier and even a final blade strike under the pressure of his divine perception.

Cen Yu might not have seen through the principles of Shang Xia's Four Seasons Samsara Art and how it could cycle without end, but he could tell that Shang Xia's extermination origins were pretty special.

It was a pity he wouldn't get a chance to clear things up.

As his Phoenix Wing Halberd tore through the air with a whistle, the space that had been frozen by Shang Xia's frosty qi shattered instantly. The powerful frosty aura immediately receded but Cen Yu felt a strong backlash from his continuous overexhaustion. Even his innards felt like they had shifted.

"Divine weapon!" A strange light flashed in Cen Yu's eyes and a wave of impulse filled his heart. However, both Shang Xia and Yan Su'er were nowhere to be seen. He eventually suppressed his thoughts on the divine weapon seeing as his enemies were gone.

"Pfft..." Blood sprayed from Liu Yu's lips when the blade intent finally faded. She had been holding on forcefully all along as she fought back against Shang Xia's Extreme Frost. Fear lingered in her heart even after she was saved by Cen Yu.

"Where did they go?!" Liu Yu roared with reluctance as a ruthless light flashed in her eyes.

Too lazy to glance at her, Cen Yu felt a wave of exhaustion overwhelming him. A huge part of it was because of his shitty teammate. Turning around, he returned to the pillar of light that had become significantly thinner.

Liu Yu also started to make her retreat, and she glanced at the clouds in the air while muttering something to herself. Only after a period of time did she quickly rush after Cen Yu.

Earlier, when Shang Xia grabbed Yan Su'er, the cloud Yan Ming was on started approaching them at a rapid speed. After Cen Yu shattered the layers of frost created by Shang Xia's Extreme Frost, the 2 of them were swallowed by the fluffy cloud created by the Auspicious Cloud Cape. The next moment, they blended in with the clouds in the distance and disappeared.

After they arrived tens of miles away, Shang Xia was no longer in a rush to leave. Instead, he controlled the cloud to drift casually through the air.

He started to adjust his condition and recover his exhausted inner qi while resting on the cloud.

Earlier, the battle was extremely risky. Shang Xia and Yan Su'er's lives were threatened and Shang Xia used up a great deal of his inner qi. Luckily, he didn't suffer any injuries or long lasting effects and he would be able to restore himself to his peak state after recovering his energy.

Thinking back to the exchange he had with Cen Yu, an expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm, a trace of lingering fear remained in his heart. The entire process was extremely dangerous and if he was slightly careless, he would have gone down a path of no return.

Luckily for Yan Su'er, she managed to improve at the very last second. It was also fortunate that Shang Xia refined a little more of his Four Seasons Extermination Origins in the past months, raising his combat capabilities. The Abyssal Blade also played an important part in their escape. Like they said, a broken divine weapon was still a divine weapon!

After recovering slightly, Shang Xia thinned the veil of mist around him and 2 figures quickly appeared in front of him.

Seeing the pale Yan Su'er circulating her inner qi, Shang Xia turned to look at Yan Ming before asking in a low voice, "How is Senior Yan's condition?"

Yan Ming shook her head and her worries were displayed on her face as she replied, "She has been vomiting blood the moment she sat down. However, she said that her life was not at risk."

Shang Xia nodded slightly and he tried to comfort her, "Relax. Senior Yan's cultivation foundations are strong and she came into contact with the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm. The moment she recovers, she will improve and reach a new level of personal strength. You can say that she managed to profit from this disaster."

A look of joy flashed across Yan Ming's face when she heard Shang Xia's evaluation, but her worry quickly returned.

Just as Shang Xia thought about leaving them to continue his recovery journey, Yan Su'er opened her eyes. She stared straight at Shang Xia and muttered, "I've seen you before. You're Shang Bo's grandson."

Not a trace of emotion could be seen in her eyes, but Shang Xia felt a trace of danger hidden in her gaze.

"I greet Senior Yan! The situation was too urgent earlier and I didn't explain myself properly before entering the battle. I hope Senior Yan will forgive my reckless actions." Shang Xia was naturally willing to lower himself in the face of this super senior. After all, she was a famous expert in the older generation and even the old Ji Wenlong, Shang Bo, and the rest showed her a lot of respect.

Yan Su'er continued to look at Shang Xia while speaking in a neutral tone, "Brat, let me ask you something. Why did you appear in this region?"

Shang Xia wasn't surprised that she would ask that question and he replied truthfully, "I was ordered by the institution to guard the area."

"There was a massive battle that broke out in the Southwestern direction of this place 2 months ago. Do you know who did it?" Yan Su'er asked another question.

Chuckling softly, Shang Xia replied, "Senior Yan, are you suspecting that I killed that person?"

#### Chapter 544: A Mess

The reason Cen Yu and the others went knocking on Yan Su'er's doorsteps had long since been discovered by Shang Xia. He also had his guesses when he saved her earlier.

Su Jinyuan was indeed killed by Shang Xia and Youshang. Yan Su'er was merely dragged into the mess they made, but Shang Xia couldn't admit it so easily.

It wasn't that he didn't dare to own up to what he did. However, there were massive considerations he had to make after killing Su Jinyuan. There were too many factors at hand and Shang Xia couldn't admit his actions easily.

That might be the case, but Shang Xia didn't deny it completely. Instead, he chuckled in response, "Senior, are you really suspecting that I killed that guy?"

Yan Su'er's gaze remained on Shang Xia for a little longer but she shook her head eventually. "You can't kill him alone."

Anyone who chose to enter seclusion in the Snowy Peaks Mountain Range could obviously detect the strange behavior of the world origin in the area. Those that had the qualifications to lust for the world origin there had to be in the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm or above.

The strength Shang Xia displayed earlier was shocking. He wasn't just comparable to an expert at the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm. Even if he ran into an expert at the large completion stage, he would be able to protect himself. However, that wasn't enough.

If that was the extent of his skills, Yan Su'er knew that it was impossible for Shang Xia to kill an expert in the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm.

Shang Xia could guess the meaning behind Yan Su'er words and knew that he was still a part of her suspect list. At the same time, he could also tell that she wasn't planning to treat him as an enemy. He chuckled in response, "Senior Yan, I'm afraid you greatly damaged your foundations when you used your final move earlier. You need to rest and I won't stay around to interfere with your recovery. The cloud we are on might not be large, but it has an effect of concealment. I believe there wouldn't be any fools who would try to mess with us."

Seeing as Shang Xia was about to head back to wherever he came from, Yan Su'er spoke up again. "Young Master Shang, you said that you were sent here on orders. Is your grandfather cultivating within the Snowy Peaks Mountain Range too?"

Shang Xia chuckled, "I won't hide anything from Senior Yan. To be honest, I had my suspicions that my grandfather was somewhere here too. However, the institution refused to give a confirmation and I have no idea where he is."

A strange light flashed through Yan Su'er's eyes and she seemed to have thought of something. Falling silent for a moment, she eventually continued, "I'm afraid you will discover the truth soon..."

"Yeah... I guess we'll know soon." Shang Xia felt a throb coming from his glabella and a smile appeared on his face.

Both of them turned to stare in a certain direction in the void and Shang Xia reached out to grab a transmission talisman.

It was a reply to what he sent out earlier when he experienced the earthquake.

In front of Yan Su'er and Yan Ming, Shang Xia shattered the restriction on the talisman and he quickly read through the contents. "Assist Yan Su'er to break out from her predicament with all your might. Protect Yan Su'er and her granddaughter and return to the stronghold. Experts on our side will meet you along the way!"

A sneer left Yan Su'er's lips when she read its contents, "Indeed..."

Yan Ming was slightly confused, but her grandmother was not.

Of course, Shang Xia also managed to guess what was going on after receiving the reply. One had to know that he had been ordered to protect the region around the Snowy Peaks Mountain Range.

Because Yun Jing didn't mention the person who was cultivating under the snow, Youshang and Shang Xia thought that they were acting as guards for Shang Bo.

Now that the latest transmission talisman had arrived, Shang Xia knew that he was mistaken.

If Shang Bo was truly cultivating in seclusion in the Snowy Peaks Mountain Range, the Tongyou Stronghold wouldn't request for him to assist Yan Su'er out of nowhere. They wouldn't tell him to bring her back to the stronghold either.

That was the only reasonable explanation Shang Xia could come up with. If he was mistaken, there was only one other possibility. It didn't matter if it was Youshang or Shang Xia, both of whom might not be stationed there to protect anyone. Instead, they might have been sent there to deal with Yan Su'er...

Youshang seemed to have uncovered the truth sometime during his mission, and he decided to join hands with Shang Xia to kill Su Jinyuan. Because of their successful mission, they managed to kill 3 birds with 1 stone.

After confirming that Su Jinyuan was a member of the third mysterious faction on the Manyu Continent, Youshang immediately found a partner to end his life. With that, they managed to shave away at the mysterious power's strength in the Manyu Continent.

Because of their exchange with Su Jinyuan, Youshang also managed to gain a better understanding of the aura those from his faction emitted and their fighting style. It allowed him to make better preparations to blend in with them.

Finally, and most importantly, he managed to plot against Yan Su'er who was cultivating nearby.

...

With Su Jinyuan's death, the experts of the third faction quickly went to find trouble for Yan Su'er. From how quickly they arrived and how decisive they were in their actions when flipping her secret cultivation location upside down, there was no question about it. Someone went to feed them the news.

At the end of the day, the Tongyou Stronghold wanted to make something clear. They didn't play a crucial part in the ambush on Yan Su'er. They were mere side characters who merely took advantage of the situation. They weren't the ones who leaked the news nor gathered the experts to attack her. Those who schemed against Yan Su'er were someone else.

Moreover, those people's intentions were even more devious than anyone could imagine. They wanted Yan Su'er and Yan Ming to perish in the attack and they even went so far as to pull the experts of the Manyu Continent into the picture.

Unfortunately, Cen Yu and the others who came to attack Yan Su'er weren't aboriginal experts of the Manyu Continent. No one would know if those behind the attack knew if Cen Yu and the others were from a mysterious third power and were colluding with them, or if they really thought Cen Yu and the others were actually just stronger local experts.

Whatever the case, the Tongyou Stronghold's plan merely sped up their plans. Because of Shang Xia's presence, they managed to save Yan Su'er, getting her to owe them a huge favor. A life-saving grace was a life-saving grace at the end of the day. They had to repay the favor.

Connecting the dots, Shang Xia realized why Youshang and himself were the ones who were sent to 'guard' the region.

Yun Jing and the others couldn't be more clear that the moment Yan Su'er ran into danger, she would have to resist the attacks of extremely high-leveled experts. In the Manyu Continent, Youshang and Shang Xia were the only ones who had the ability to interfere in a fight of that level.

Finally, that brought everyone to the main question of the day. Why would the Tongyou Institution go through so much trouble just to get Yan Su'er and Yan Ming to owe them a huge favor?

Do they want Senior Yan and Yan Ming to change their alliance?

The thought flashed through Shang Xia's mind. However, he quickly denied it. After all, the 2 of them were merely high-leveled experts of their race. The decision of the race still mattered.

Oh!

Shang Xia recalled something that he hadn't thought of for a long time. The Tongyou Institution couldn't possibly instigate the rebellion of an entire race against their world, but what would happen after the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World merged?

An unstoppable wave of thoughts appeared in Shang Xia's mind.

The moment the spatial barriers around the worlds disappeared, both worlds would complete their final stage of fusion... Countless possibilities ran through his head.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, Shang Xia's train of thought was interrupted by a disturbance with the appearance of 2 people in the range of his divine perception.

Waving his hand to get rid of the concealment effect, their figures appeared on the fluffy cloud that his Auspicious Cloud Cape had transformed into.

The 2 auras he discovered earlier seemed to notice them and started making their way over in the next moment.

It didn't take long before Bu Jingshuang and another second layer Martial Extermination Realm expert arrived.

The other expert glanced at Shang Xia once and nodded his head in greetings before turning to stare at Yan Su'er and Yan Ming. "Yan Su'er, it really is you!"

The old expert seemed to have come to ascertain Yan Su'er's identity, and his tone quickly returned to one of calm.

Yan Su'er looked at the newcomers and muttered, "You guys look familiar, but I don't remember you."

"It's been more than 10 years since we last met. Back then, I was merely a shadow of my patriarch. It's normal for you not to recognize me." The old expert spoke. After pausing slightly, he muttered, "You can call me Liu Jikun. Liu Jitang was my brother."

Yan Su'er finally recalled where she saw him.

Unlike Liu Jikun whose attention was placed on Yan Su'er and Yan Ming the moment he arrived, Bu Jingshuang seemed a lot more casual. He arrived on the patch of cloud they were standing on



and looked around before addressing Shang Xia, “Hey brat, where the hell did you find this? It’s pretty good stuff!”

A massive grin appeared on Shang Xia’s face and he snorted, “This is the Auspicious Cloud Cape and I obtained it back in the Abyssal Secret Region.”

“Damn, that’s pretty good!” Bu Jingshuang raised his thumb in praise before changing the topic. “Oh yeah, you moved pretty quickly to save the two of them!”

Bu Jingshuang didn’t bother hiding his words from Yan Su’er. Now that things had progressed up to that point, he felt that there was no need to act all shady and prevent others from listening to their conversation any longer.

Shang Xia laughed in response. “Senior Yan reacted quickly and caused a huge burst of world origin. She also managed to force the Martial Extermination Realm grand completion stage expert back herself. That was how I found an opportunity to save her.”

He didn’t forget to gesture at the pillar of light in the distance. Only then did he realize how far they had drifted through the air. They were almost unable to notice the shrunken pillar of light from where they were.

Liu Jikun and Bu Jingshuang heard about the appearance of the pillar of light from Shang Xia’s report earlier. However, they were still shocked after hearing that Yan Su’er was the one who caused it to happen. They silently admired how decisive and bold she was.

As they slowly digested what Shang Xia said, Liu Jikun was sharp enough to catch what Shang Xia said earlier and he asked, “Wait. Did you just say that Lady Yan managed to repel an expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm?”

Bu Jingshuang stared at Shang Xia quietly as though trying to verify the piece of news.

Shang Xia nodded in response. “If I wasn’t mistaken, Senior Yan seemed to have stepped through the final gateway herself. The moment she recovers, she will enter the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm!”

Complicated emotions filled the hearts of Liu Jikun and Bu Jingshuang. There was even a trace of discomfort when they glanced at Yan Su’er.

Yan Su’er, who had closed her eyes earlier when the experts of the Tongyou Institution started to converse, finally spoke up, “Hey kid, stop exaggerating and making me look stronger than I actually am!”

Her gaze landed on Liu Jikun and Bu Jingshuang and she continued, “The reason I could force him back was mainly due to Young Master Shang’s help. I might have reached a state of enlightenment at the last moment, but I damaged my dantian’s foundations during the battle. I only have a slight hope of recovery in the future. Even if I manage to enter the grand completion stage, it should be impossible for me to break through to the Martial Dipper Realm.”

Liu Jikun and Bu Jingshuang’s gaze flickered with uncertainty but eventually, Shang Xia sighed softly before nodding slightly.

Only then did the 2 of them relax.

Bu Jingshuang chuckled, “Lady Yan, you can rest assured that once we return to the stronghold, we will treat your injuries to the best of our abilities. We won’t give up as long as there is hope for you to recover.”

Yan Su’er’s lips twitched slightly and she revealed a strange smile before she replied. “I guess my old bones will have to thank you then?”

Bu Jingshuang roared with laughter and tried to hide the awkwardness that was quickly forming. “There’s no need, there’s no need! We’re just doing our part!”

“Seniors, please bring Senior Yan and Yan Ming back to the stronghold. I have something I need to do and I’ll return in a bit.” Shang Xia interrupted all of a sudden.

Obviously, his strange reaction attracted the attention of everyone around him.

“Where are you going?” Bu Jingshuang asked.

“Aren’t you going to follow us back to the Tongyou Stronghold?” Yan Ming asked instinctively...

“Are you planning to head back to where we left where that pillar of light...” Yan Su’er guessed Shang Xia’s intentions immediately.

#### Chapter 545: Random Meeting

Leaving the Auspicious Cloud Cape with Bu Jingshuang to send everyone back to the Tongyou Stronghold, Shang Xia started to head back alone.

The pillar of light in the distance grew bigger in his sight as he flew closer.

Without the snowstorm Shang Xia summoned before, the pillar might seem a little thinner than it was, but it wasn’t obstructed by anything anymore.

“This is strange... Those people might not have the Crimson Soul Tablet to absorb world origin like I do, but their speed of absorption shouldn’t be this slow either. It has been some time since we left and the pillar of light is still shining bright. Aren’t they just waiting for others to come fight them for it?” Shang Xia frowned and he couldn’t understand what was going on.

Because of that, he deliberately slowed down and he was no longer in a rush to show himself to fight for world origin. Concealing his aura, he started to move slowly in the direction of the light pillar.

Back when Shang Xia saved Yan Su’er from her predicament, he distracted them by heading to the pillar and sucking up a third of the world origin it emitted. However, he didn’t check on the Crimson Soul Tablet’s condition after he was done as the situation was too urgent.

Now that he wasn’t in a rush to get back, he turned his attention to his sea of consciousness only to be greeted with a shocking sight. The Crimson Soul Tablet was glowing red, and as he inspected the tablet from all 4 directions, he discovered that 3 faces had been perfectly restored. Not a trace of its previous damage could be seen. The only crack that remained was on the first face of the tablet. It was pretty intense as the crack spanned the entire face with no signs of healing at all.

Shang Xia couldn't understand why that was the case. A third of the world origin contained in the pillar of light wasn't a small amount! Moreover, the world origin contained in the light pillar was extremely pure and refined! It was countless times better than whatever world origin he absorbed during the Origin Tide in the battlefield between the two worlds back then.

According to Shang Xia's estimations, such a huge influx of world origin would at least be able to restore the first face of the tablet. Even if it couldn't restore most of it, at least the crack should start to show signs of closing up. He thought that at least a third of the crack would be gone but from the looks of it, the world origin didn't seem to affect the first face of the tablet at all. Something seemed strange and he couldn't put his finger on it.

Where in the world did the world origin he absorbed go?!

Shang Xia continued to observe the Crimson Soul Tablet and he examined the glow that was covering its entire surface.

Is this where all the world origin went?

As the thought flashed through his mind, Shang Xia tried to touch the layer of light that surrounded the tablet but to no avail.

An impulsive thought filled Shang Xia's mind suddenly and his divine perception landed on the cracked face of the tablet before burrowing its way in.

“Boom!”

Shang Xia felt as though his divine perception had fallen into a bottomless abyss and was swallowed by some strange beast without so much as dregs of it being left. His entire body trembled as beads of perspiration filled his forehead.

Unable to suppress the fear that was spouting in his heart, Shang Xia felt it pounding wildly in his chest. Only after inspecting the tablet again and making sure that he was in no danger from what just happened, his divine perception once again covered the tablet. To be more exact, he sent it back into the 'bottomless abyss' through the crack. With his previous experience, Shang Xia managed to suppress his emotions as he tried to inspect what was in the crack.

The further his divine perception extended, the more Shang Xia realized what was going on. The bottomless abyss wasn't actually an abyss. Instead, it resembled a crack that formed naturally inside a mountain due to multiple factors from its environment.

The more he looked through the crack, the more he realized that it was spreading out in all directions on the surface of the tablet. It resembled some sort of natural maze that was created by the world.

Finally, Shang Xia was struck by an epiphany. The crack didn't extend all the way to the abyss. What he was looking at was the insides of the Crimson Soul Tablet!

The giant ridges were the cracks that existed on the surface, and the more Shang Xia examined it, the more he realized the extent of damage the Crimson Soul Tablet suffered. Even the insides were damaged!

The world origin he absorbed in the past might allow the cracks on its surface to recover, but that didn't mean that it would restore the damage to the core of the tablet. Because he absorbed so much

world origin from the pillar of light, it seemed as though the core of the Crimson Soul Tablet was finally starting to recover. Other than sealing the crack on the second surface of the tablet, a huge portion of the energy was probably used to repair the insides!

If Shang Xia only cared about restoring the cracks on the tablet and ignored repairing its core, the strange treasure that Shang Xia hadn't fully wrapped his head around would definitely suffer a ton of hidden damage in the future.

Also, if he restored the cracks on all four surfaces before discovering the damage to the Crimson Soul Tablet's core, he might not even have discovered it!

Going back to why the first face of the tablet wasn't restored, Shang Xia had nothing to do with it! It was probably a move by the tablet itself to prevent Shang Xia from missing the crux of the problem. Also, the power that devoured Shang Xia's divine perception in the tablet was in no way weak. He was only able to barely withstand it after entering the Martial Extermination Realm and that was why he only discovered its damage now.

As his refinement of his extermination origins grew stronger, so did his divine perception. Shang Xia understood that he would eventually be able to withstand the devouring power within the Crimson Soul Tablet after he got stronger and stepped through the gates to a higher power.

Finally uncovering a part of the mystery, Shang Xia retracted his divine perception and sighed heavily while looking at the crack on the first face of the tablet.

Even though he only inspected it for a split second, Shang Xia was sure that restoring the core of the tablet was going to be much more difficult than the cracks on the surface. The amount of world origin he would require would be massive!

He was afraid he was going to be on the hunt for world origin for a long, long time.

What in the world is the Crimson Soul Tablet anyway?!

...

Finally throwing the matter of the Crimson Soul Tablet to the back of his mind, Shang Xia continued to advance in the direction of the pillar of light. Before he knew it, he was merely 200 miles away.

Several fluctuations that didn't seem too powerful brushed against him and he could tell that a battle was happening to his left, tens of miles away. With a sudden thought, Shang Xia carefully started heading over.

"Is that a formation?!" Shang Xia gasped in shock. However, he quickly noticed something strange about it. "No, that doesn't seem right. It seems to be a trap made up of countless restrictions!"

Shang Xia muttered to himself before making his way over slowly.

The closer he got, the clearer the fluctuations.

"There really is a battle among Martial Extermination Realm experts! However, the restrictions from before aren't really a trap! It seems to be a double layer formation with intricate restrictions working within... The way they set it up is truly amazing! Not

only did it trap a Martial Extermination Realm expert within, it can also suppress the shockwaves and energy fluctuations of the battle!" Shang Xia muttered to himself. The closer Shang Xia got to it, the more wary he became.

If the enemy could set up a trap like that, they definitely had the ability to set up another one. If he stepped into it unknowingly, things would get messy.

At the same time, he sighed to himself. Not too much time had passed since he left with Yan Su'er, but those people had already laid down such powerful formations around the pillar of light. They definitely had extremely powerful foundations and a ton of resources if they were able to act so quickly.

Aboriginal cultivators of the Manyu Continent would never be able to do something like that. To them, mid-grade weapons were like absolute treasures. They couldn't possibly take out so many resources to lay down a double layer formation in such a short amount of time.

If Shang Xia had a strong suspicion that Cen Yu and Liu Yu were from the mysterious third faction before, there was no room for doubt anymore. Now that he had seen the double layer formation, Shang Xia was certain that they were part of the mysterious third faction.

Realizing they were from the mysterious third faction was one thing, but with the strange actions they were taking, Shang Xia wondered what their goal was.

With a multitude of thoughts running through his mind, Shang Xia decided to shatter the formation to see how things would play out. Raising his palm, he sent his Four Constellation Palm barreling straight for the intricate double layer formation.

Shang Xia was extremely familiar with his Four Constellation Palm at that point. Every time he refined his Four Seasons Extermination Origins a little more, he would grow stronger. The power his Four Constellation Palm contained grew with him.

"Pop..."

There wasn't a heaven-shaking explosion when Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm slammed into the formation. The basic light barrier that protected the formation dissolved quickly and the energy fluctuations it concealed quickly filled the surroundings.

This time, a blast that shook the earth was produced and the Snowy Peaks Mountain Range that was around the formation started to crumble.

Destroying the suppression layer wasn't the only thing Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm did. It struck directly into the eye of the formation and even though it failed to shatter the formation completely, its effects were apparent. With the endless cycle of the four seasons, the formation seemed to age rapidly and its potency was no longer as great as before.

...

To be able to last so long in the double layer formation, the Martial Extermination Realm expert who was trapped was no weakling. He quickly discovered the weakening formation and knew that his chance to break out had arrived. Pushing his inner qi to the limit, he smashed a hole directly through the formation to escape.

A loud explosion resounded through the skies when the expert broke out from the formation. He looked to be in an extremely bad state and he quickly swept his gaze across his surroundings. He didn't see anyone, but that didn't stop him from raising his truncheons to assume a defensive stance. He yelled in the direction of the formation, "Bitch! Who the fuck are you?! How dare you plot against me? I was almost done in by your nasty schemes..."

The screen of light that formed the other formation layer where the man broke out from flickered and a familiar face appeared.

Liu Yu glanced at her surroundings suspiciously before staring at the first layer of the formation that had been greatly corroded. Her expression turned extremely ugly.

When Shang Xia saw Liu Yu emerging from the second formation layer, he was equally as shocked. At the same time, his curiosity about the other person who emerged peaked.

Liu Yu was no weakling. She was an expert at the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm. Even though she was a little timid and frequently failed to catch the best opportunity to make her move, she was merely a little weaker than Yan Su'er.

From the looks of both parties when they emerged, Shang Xia could tell that even with the help of the formation, Liu Yu could barely gain an upper hand against the other cultivator. That wasn't all. The expert who emerged after detecting the weakening of the first layer broke out with his own strength! It was clear he wasn't weak at all.

Instinctively, Shang Xia concentrated even more to conceal his presence.

#### Chapter 546: Wild Guesses

It didn't matter if it was the expert who just emerged or Liu Yu. Both of them were clear that there was someone else nearby.

However, Shang Xia hid his aura too carefully and neither Liu Yu nor the other cultivator chose to call him out. They didn't make any huge moves to force him out of hiding either, and Shang Xia couldn't be happier to watch how everything unfolded.

"Who the hell are you? I've been on the Manyu Continent for some time now. I have never heard of you!" The cultivator who broke out from the formation asked again.

Liu Yu ignored him as she stood firmly in her spot. She merely stared in the direction of the pillar of light.

The cultivator who broke out from the formation stared in the same direction. However, he grunted loudly and rushed at Liu Yu without warning. They were separated by hundreds of feet and that distance was basically non-existent to experts at their level.

He acted quickly and decisively. Moreover, he didn't hold back at all. As his truncheons came crashing down, the space around them shattered.

Watching The cultivator who broke out from the formation make his move, Shang Xia was sure of one thing. He was definitely an expert from the Azure Origin World! The only thing Shang Xia didn't know was which holy land or sect he came from

A look of surprise appeared on Liu Yu's face when she noticed his attack. She didn't dare to take his attack head-on and she quickly retreated. Forming a seal with her hands, a shield made from feathers appeared in front of her. Unfortunately, they were shattered in an instant.

Actually, it wasn't exactly unfortunate. Because the feathered shield managed to stop the attack for a short moment, Liu Yu managed to make her escape.

The cultivator who broke out from the formation would naturally not give up after a single failed attempt to smash her to bits after everything she put him through. His truncheons twisted in mid air and his figure turned blurry as he chased after Liu Yu. The distance between them shortened immediately.

Shang Xia, who had been observing the battle from the side, naturally saw through Liu Yu's act. His divine perception had already discovered that Liu Yu was retreating to lure her opponent into a trap as an imperceptible layer of light was flickering not too far away from her.

The cultivator who broke out from the formation earlier didn't seem to notice it as he continued his fierce offensive against Liu Yu.

Shang Xia wanted to remind The cultivator who broke out from the formation earlier about the trap, but he swallowed his words just as they were about to leave his lips.

The next instant, the cultivator who broke out from the formation earlier arrived before Liu Yu.

The space around him turned blurry as illusory pillars of light tore through the space in all directions. It was clear they wanted to trap Liu Yu's opponent!

Another formation?!

Shang Xia immediately recognized what was going on. At the same time, he was shocked to discover that Cen Yu and Liu Yu managed to lay down their double layer formation and a whole other formation in such a short amount of time.

Sensing the formation that appeared suddenly, Shang Xia discovered that it spanned the entire region around the light pillar! It covered a massive area, and the pillar of light was located in the dead center of the formation.

It was no wonder Liu Yu was so fearless even though she knew that there was someone else hiding nearby. She was protected by another huge formation!

The cultivator who broke out from the formation just broke through the formation that trapped him earlier and obviously didn't expect there to be another one waiting for him. That was why he attacked her without any fear.

Too bad for him, he thought wrong. However, he was no weakling. Four rays of extermination lights appeared around his body and pushed those pillars of light that were attempting to restrain him away. Instead of retreating, he rushed straight for Liu Yu.

The next moment, he seemed to have fallen into a pit of quicksand as his speed was greatly reduced. He seemed to be wriggling about in the air, and Liu Yu roared with laughter. She pressed her hands together and countless arrows made from feathers appeared in the air around him. They rained down on him mercilessly the next moment.

Releasing a loud roar, the cultivator who was trapped shattered the space in front of him with his truncheons. The cracks in space dealt with a bunch of the falling arrows. The protection barrier around him formed by his extermination origins also resisted the rain of arrows shooting at him.

However, his barrier didn't seem like it would last for long. Under the suppression of the enemy's formation and constant bombardment, it started to dim quickly.

"Are you still not going to make your move?!" The cultivator roared. "She's obviously not an expert from the Manyu Continent! She's definitely planning something sinister with everything she's doing... I am Xue Changling of the Azure Origin World and I hope you can help me out!"

Shang Xia wasn't a fool. He wouldn't believe that Xue Changling was calling for help because he was at his limit.

However, Shang Xia knew that he couldn't remain on the sidelines now that Xue Changling had called for help as that would only tell everyone present that he was a treacherous asshole who was scheming against the others. Liu Yu wouldn't be the only one to raise her guard against him. Even Xue Changling would probably start to be wary of his presence.

Thinking back to how he came to blows with Liu Yu and Cen Yu back when he saved Yan Su'er, Shang Xia was truly unwilling to expose his identity at that moment.

With his brain operating in overdrive, Shang Xia seemed to think of something and he flipped his wrist to reveal the Hundred Gold Sword.

That was one of the extremely rare high-grade weapons possessed by an expert of the Manyu Continent. Shang Xia wanted to bring it back to the Shang Clan when he returned and request their grandmaster blacksmith to repair the weapon. At the same time, he hoped that their grandmaster blacksmith would be able to learn something from how the Manyu Continent crafted weapons and improve his skills.

Now that he was stuck in a sticky situation, Shang Xia realized that he could change up his fighting style by using the Hundred Gold Sword and not revealing his identity.

The Hundred Gold Sword was created with a hundred different types of metal essences. Because of that, it was a lot heavier than other swords of the same size. Waving it around to familiarize himself with it, Shang Xia sent a stab through the air once he was confident he could use the weapon well. A sharp ringing sound tore through the air as the body of the blade ripped through the void.

Ever since Shang Xia entered the path of cultivation, he had been using different weapons. From the Martial Extremity Realm to the Martial Extermination Realm, the martial intents he developed were for different weapons!

With the Hundred Gold Sword in his hand, Shang Xia displayed the martial intent he comprehended in the Yin Yang Realm, the Seven Laceration Sword!

It might be a martial intent he comprehended back in the Martial Extremity Realm, but he was unleashing it with Four Constellation Qi! The power it possessed might not be comparable to the Twenty Four Solar Terms, but it was enough to cause cultivators of the same level to feel a slight sense of trepidation.



With his competency in sword arts, Shang Xia's strike wouldn't deviate from his target. His Hundred Gold Sword tore through the air and tore one of the light pillars restraining Xue Cangling's truncheons apart. With the restraints broken, Xue Cangling felt the pressure on him lighten a whole lot.

"Who are you?" Liu Yu stared at the newcomer who was covered in a layer of mist and expanded her divine perception in an attempt to probe him. However, it was stopped before it could approach.

Liu Yu was prepared for something like that to happen and she wasn't too surprised.

Snorting under his breath, Shang Xia ignored her question. He had long learned from Ren Bainian that the previous owner of the Hundred Gold Sword, Xiao Wubai, had great connections with the high-leveled experts of the Manyu Continent. Even if experts hadn't seen Xiao Wubai personally, they would definitely recognize his sword.

However, Liu Yu didn't react when she noticed the sword in Shang Xia's hand. She obviously didn't know the origins of the sword and that added another layer of confirmation that she wasn't an expert of the Manyu Continent.

After sundering one of the illusory rays of light that was suppressing Xue Cangling, Shang Xia didn't continue assisting the man. He turned around and slashed at the void as he followed the source of the illusory light to an array flag in the distance.

The array flag was clearly the treasure that allowed Cen Yu and Liu Yu to lay down a formation around the pillar of light in such a short amount of time. If Shang Xia merely assisted Xue Cangling to escape, the formation would eventually restore itself no matter how much damage was done to it.

Only by getting rid of the array flag would they be able to weaken the formation. There was even a possibility of destroying it completely!

By doing so, Shang Xia was employing the famous tactic of sieging Wei to rescue Zhao. Or in other words, he was backdooring the enemy. The moment he discovered the presence of the array flag, Shang Xia retained a huge amount of his concentration on Liu Yu as he knew she would go crazy if he tried to do something about it.

Contrary to his belief, Liu Yu looked somewhat disconcerted, disinterested even. There was even a trace of mockery on her face.

Shang Xia's face fell after noticing her strange reaction. Could he have located a fake array flag they were using as a decoy?

Or perhaps...

A bad premonition filled Shang Xia's mind and he swung his sword behind him.

This time, he didn't hold back. He unleashed a sword formation the moment he struck. With his Four Constellation Qi powering 7 pairs of sword qi, the Yin Yang Sword Array was deployed!

The sound of metal scraping against each other tore through the air and Shang Xia was forced to lunge forward. Along the way, he grabbed at a seemingly random spot in the air around him and a cluster of reddish-gold lightning filled the area. It twisted slightly before Shang Xia yanked his arm hard to pull out a triangular flag that was 3 inches long.

The web of sword qi that existed because of his Yin Yang Sword Array shattered the next moment and a figure strode out from within. He pointed a long, flat, metal ruler at Shang Xia but there was a trace of lingering fear on his face. He couldn't help but ask, "What sword art is that?! Why is it so strange?"

Before Shang Xia could respond, something happened on the other side of him. Since Shang Xia removed the array flag, the pressure on Xue Cangling was greatly reduced. With a huge burst, he shattered the suppression Liu Yu had on him before ripping open the protection layer of the formation that trapped him earlier. He didn't care about anything else as he rushed back into the second layer of formations.

He didn't even look at Shang Xia who dealt with the outer layer of formations before rushing in and it was too late for Liu Yu to stop him. Without the outer protection formation's abilities, she wasn't Xue Cangling's opponent. She could only chase after him while trying to interfere with his movements.

Shang Xia understood that he had been played by Xue Cangling, but he wasn't too concerned by it. After all, he had to deal with the opponent in front of him before settling other matters. Seeing as Liu Yu had left, Shang Xia wasn't afraid that anyone else there would recognize him. He pointed at the expert who just appeared and snorted, "Who the hell are you guys and where do you come from? Su Jinyuan, Cen Yu, Liu Yu, Wang Guan, some other asshole with the surname 'Xiong', and yourself... You guys aren't from the Manyu Continent!"

The person wielding the ruler was visibly shocked when Shang Xia named all of them. His voice sank as he growled, "How did you learn of their names?! Who exactly are you?!"

"All of you are from a foreign power, but your cultivation style is basically the same as those from the Manyu Continent. I don't think it has anything to do with any concealment or imitation arts you guys practice. As such, there can only be one explanation. You guys originated from the same place. I wonder if I'm right?" Shang Xia ignored the man's question and threw a massive bomb at him.

The other expert's expression turned stiff for a moment but he quickly forced a smile. "There's actually no harm in answering your question. You'll learn about these things when the time comes anyway."

"Since all of you originated from the same place, why did you guys enter the Manyu Continent again?" Shang Xia growled.

"Heh, since you managed to deduce so much already, why don't you keep going?" A soft chuckle was all he received in reply.

Shang Xia tossed out a random guess the next moment. "Don't tell me you guys are planning to re-integrate the Manyu Continent back to wherever you came from."

"Haha..." The other expert broke out into laughter, but the ruler in his hand sliced open the space between them and went straight for Shang Xia's body without any warning.

Shang Xia wanted to verify his guesses with the person in front of him, but who would have thought that his enemy would launch a sudden attack when he got to the most juicy question of all? All Shang Xia wanted to know was their purpose in entering the Manyu Continent!

Of course, Shang Xia never lowered his guard. Facing the incoming ruler, Shang Xia's Hundred Gold Sword made a quick counterattack. 7 different pairs of sword qi converged into one before slamming into the metal ruler.

Clang!

A crisp blast tore through the air and Shang Xia seemed to suffer a heavy blow as he was thrown backwards. He only managed to stabilize himself after flying dozens of feet through the air and his Hundred Gold Sword buzzed incessantly in his hands. It nearly failed to take on the blow.

His Seven Laceration Sword possessed a horrifying amount of power when it was powered by his Four Constellation Qi. Especially when he used the Four Constellations along with the concepts of Yin and Yang. His Seven Laceration Sword reached a whole new level compared to the time he was in the Yin Yang Realm.

However, his opponent was a Martial Extermination Realm expert with deep foundations. He was comparable in strength to Liu Yu, and Shang Xia failed to gain the upper hand with his second martial intent.

With the upper hand, the ruler wielding cultivator wouldn't let Shang Xia off easy. He pressed his advantage and tore the space between them open again. Another beam of light emerged from his ruler as it wanted to take the chance when Shang Xia was distracted by the shattered space to slice him up into several pieces.

Shang Xia kept his cool while dealing with the current situation. His Hundred Gold Sword drew beautiful arcs in the sky as seven different rays of sword light formed a net in front of him to resist the metal ruler.

With shrill scraping sounds ripping through the skies, Shang Xia's net of sword light was torn to shreds in an instant. However, it served its purpose and weakened the power contained in his enemy's strike by about 60 percent.

Instead of pulling back his weapon, the other cultivator roared with laughter. He continued to push his metal ruler forward, confident that he would be able to tear open the protection layer of Shang Xia's extermination origins before slaying the man.

Unfortunately, his expression changed the moment his weapon touched the protection barrier created by Shang Xia's Four Seasons Extermination Origins.

He saw that after forcing Shang Xia's Hundred Gold Sword back, a semi-broken blade appeared in his other hand. It turned into a reddish-gold lightning bolt that contained a terrifying blade intent that sailed past his metal ruler and straight at him.

Shang Xia unleashed his Twenty Four Solar Terms with the Abyssal Blade and released Lightning Awakening!

Even though the raw power contained in the blade wasn't the highest out of every move he created, it was great for catching his opponents off guard and it was something Shang Xia used often in

sneak attacks. With the speed it possessed, it would allow him to gain the initiative when fighting his opponents.

Obviously, the other cultivator didn't expect Shang Xia to wield his blade in his other hand. Neither did he expect Shang Xia to be able to unleash another attack stronger than the sword intent he used earlier. The speed of the blade strike had also surpassed his expectations. Shang Xia might have used Lightning Awakening after the metal ruler was about to arrive, but it was obvious the blade intent would arrive first.

Breaking out into full blown panic, the other cultivator knew that it was too late to pull his weapon back. Instead, he shook his weapon once and his ruler started breaking up into segments. Every time it trembled once, a portion of the ruler would separate from the main body and return to his side. It soon turned into a shield in front of him.

Unfortunately, the shield that was formed hastily was blown apart in a massive explosion. The blade light didn't slow down in the slightest as it struck the protective barrier around Shang Xia's enemy.

"Divine weapon!" He screamed in fright as the protection barrier around him shattered. A loud crack came from the crown on his head and a golden glow light fell from the void. It formed a screen around him and it blocked the terrifying blade light that had already arrived.

He might have lived, but a trace of fear remained in his heart. He retreated without hesitation and he tried to widen the distance between himself and Shang Xia desperately.

As he escaped, his experience as a seasoned cultivator took over. He didn't waste the power of his life saving treasure. Since it blocked Shang Xia's strike, the fragments of his metal ruler reformed in mid air and slammed into the protection barrier around Shang Xia.

Without any way to block the sudden attack, it was the first time Shang Xia was relying on the protection barrier created by his extermination origins to protect himself. Since there was no way about it, Shang Xia took the chance to test out its limits.

When the metal ruler slammed into his protection barrier, it started to corrode due to the unending cycle of the four seasons. In a short moment, it was completely drained of energy!

"You..." His opponent stared at him in fright and gasped, all while retreating. He wanted nothing more than to run away from this abnormal freak.

A soft chuckle escaped Shang Xia's lips and he understood the other party's intentions. The Hundred Gold Sword in his hand shot forward to release another seven pairs of sword qi to deploy the Yin Yang Sword Formation to prevent his opponent from leaving in the direction he intended. Next, his Abyssal Blade cleaved horizontally. A blade light emerged before splitting into two strands of light that had the power to shatter the space around them as they extended towards his enemy.

Clearly, the cultivator who appeared earlier wanted to return to the safety of the inner formation.

Naturally, Shang Xia wouldn't let him do as he wished. His Yin Yang Sword Formation was actually a decoy. The true threat came from his blade strike as he had unleashed a powerful strike with his Abyssal Blade, Spring Equinox!

The cultivator fighting against Shang Xia wasn't a fool. He could obviously tell that the blade strike was much stronger than the sword formation.

At the critical moment, the metal ruler that returned to his hand at an unknown time tapped quickly at the void before him. Every time it did, it would tap accurately at the tip of the blade lights flying at him. Every time he did, the blade lights would slow down slightly.

However, every time his ruler tapped at the tip of the blade lights, it would be slightly damaged by the strange power contained within.

This time, the corrosion didn't just affect his inner qi that powered the metal ruler. Even the weapon itself started to get damaged.

Because he managed to stall the blade lights for a split second, he managed to pull out a purple crystal in his other hand. He pushed it in the direction of the spatial cracks that formed around the blade lights.

As soon as it entered, it caused widespread destruction to the void around. The violent fluctuations managed to stop Shang Xia's Spring Equinox.

Even though the chaotic streams that came from the shattered void caused Shang Xia's heart to tighten slightly, he didn't feel a trace of fear.

Even if he didn't use his brains, he would be able to guess that the purple crystal was no ordinary treasure. As such, it wasn't likely for his opponent to bring out another one.

Without hesitation, Shang Xia raced towards his enemy. The distance between them shortened and his blade came crashing down again.

Once again, a terrifying blade light emerged from his Abyssal Blade but this time, it didn't split up. Shang Xia unleashed Autumn's Separation in an attempt to slay his opponent.

The other cultivator revealed a look of fright. He no longer had any means to protect himself against the next strike and he could only use the half damaged metal ruler in his hands to resist it.

...

After entering the Martial Intent Realm and developing one's divine sense, combat between cultivators of the same level would usually involve the clash of their divine senses. One's techniques and special arts were usually not the focus of the battle as one would quickly come out on top the moment they suppressed the other party with their divine sense. Unless the other party had extraordinarily powerful techniques to overcome the suppression, the battle was as good as over.

If the way of fighting wasn't obvious enough in the Martial Intent Realm, the difference would be clearly felt in the Martial Extermination Realm. After one's divine sense transformed into divine perception, it would become their primary method of fighting. As long as they managed to suppress the other party with their divine perception, they would be able to advance and retreat as they pleased.

...

Because of Shang Xia's superior divine perception, the ruler wielding cultivator was feeling a massive sense of pressure on him the entire time. Shang Xia's suppression of his divine perception was much more intense than the disadvantage he felt during their battle.

Since Shang Xia had locked on to him using his divine perception, it was nearly impossible for him to escape unharmed. He could only endure blade strike after blade strike.

Now that the battle had progressed up to that point, they could only see who ran out of inner qi first.

Shang Xia's Four Constellation Qi continued to cycle in his dantian. Because of their properties, he could restore his inner qi extremely quickly and he wasn't afraid of fighting against someone of the same level. A battle of attrition was something he was completely unafraid of! Moreover, he was wielding a divine weapon...

Under Shang Xia's continuous assault, his opponent was barely holding on.

Now that he released Autumn's Separation, his opponent could only resist it forcefully with his weapon. The metal ruler trembled violently and the impact went straight into the cultivator's body. His innards were shaken and he spat out a mouthful of blood. However, he eventually managed to resist the strike.

After stopping Autumn's Separation, he seemed to have reached his limits.

There was no way Shang Xia would give his opponent a chance to catch his breath. With the special properties of his Four Constellation Qi, Shang Xia would always be able to gain the upper hand by striking out at the key moment when he fought against opponents of the same level. With the Hundred Gold Sword in his right hand, he slashed at the fleeing cultivator and knew that the moment it connected, he would deal his opponent a grievous blow.

This time, the other cultivator no longer had any special life-saving treasures on him. Even his weapon had been severely damaged by Shang Xia's blade intent. His inner qi was a mess as circulating it became really difficult due to the repeated injuries he suffered.

Right before he could succeed, Shang Xia discovered a slight fluctuation nearby. An ancient looking copper spear tore extended from the void and slammed into his Hundred Gold Sword.

Clink!

Not only did the sudden attack interrupt Shang Xia's sword art, it also managed to pull Shang Xia's divine perception away from his target. The escaping cultivator discovered a ray of hope and his original intention to accept his fate disappeared. Shaking off the suppression, he retreated hastily to regroup with the person who saved him.

The cultivator who was saved at the last second was shocked, but so was Shang Xia. It was especially so after he noticed the damaged Ancient Copper Spear that interrupted him.

"Brother Lou Yi, are you alright?" A familiar voice rang through the air as an unfamiliar face emerged from the void. The person who just appeared wielded the Ancient Copper Spear and was clearly the person who stopped Shang Xia at the last moment.

“Brother Huang Yu, it’s you... Ahem... I didn’t think that you would arrive so quickly. Many thanks for saving me!” Lou Yi heaved a sigh of relief.

Holding the Ancient Copper Spear in his hand, ‘Huang Yu’ stood between Shang Xia and Lou Yi as he replied, “Brother Lou Yi, please hang on a little longer. Let me deal with this!”

“Brother Huang Yu, please wait!” Lou Yi tried to stop him. “This person possesses extremely formidable strength. However, this isn’t the time for us to mess about. The appearance of the pillar of light spewed out world origin at a frightening rate. It greatly accelerated the destruction of the Manyu Continent. We need to meet up with Cen Yu and Liu Yu as soon as possible to protect this area!”

“Alright...” Huang Yu who wanted to exchange pointers with Shang Xia ‘reluctantly’ chose to hold Shang Xia back while Lou Yi ran in the direction of the inner formation.

Shang Xia understood that despite Lou Yi’s injuries, there was no point in fighting anymore now that reinforcements had arrived. He stared at Lou Yi and Huang Yu who were about to enter the inner formation and he took several steps forward as if he wasn’t willing to let them leave easily.

“Brother Lou, you should enter the formation first. I’ll deal with this!” Huang Yu growled.

The moment Shang Xia moved, the 2 of them felt as though another huge battle was about to break out. Huang Yu immediately stopped moving as he turned to face Shang Xia in mid air. Of course, he was still moving towards the protection formation.

Lou Yi opened the formation without much difficulty and maintained the opening until Huang Yu arrived. Only after they entered the barrier did they quickly restore the opening.

Lou Yi and Huang Yu started conversing inside the barrier in low voices, and Shang Xia couldn’t hear a thing. They seemed to ignore Shang Xia who was outside when they were done talking and they rushed towards the pillar of light.

Before they left, Huang Yu turned to stare at Shang Xia as a strange smile flashed across his face for a split second.

#### Chapter 548: Spirit Abundance World

When Shang Xia lingered around outside the protection barrier, the cloud that ferried Yan Su’er and Yan Ming was escorted back to the Tongyou Stronghold by Bu Jingshuang and Liu Jikun.

“It’s been long since we last met. Elder Yan, I trust you have been well.” Shang Bo greeted them the moment they arrived. He wasn’t the only one there as Yun Jing also looked like she had been expecting their arrival.

Yan Ming was greatly taken aback when she saw Shang Bo. Even Yan Su’er failed to control her emotions as a trace of shock ran through her eyes when she saw him. She couldn’t help but ask, “How... Why... Oh right... Hehe, looks like you’ve been cultivating in your Tongyou Stronghold the whole time!”

Shang Bo nodded with a slight smile on his face, but he didn’t comment any further.

Feeling the subtle change in the aura Shang Bo emitted, Yan Su'er snorted, "I heard that you guys had been attacked by a huge group of aboriginal cultivators. Your Tongyou Stronghold was nearly razed to the ground. A few of you even died. Were you able to continue cultivating despite the massive disturbance taking place?"

Shang Bo's expression changed slightly, and the smile on his face started to fade.

At the side, Yun Jing quickly interrupted, "Elder Yan, you might not know about this, but Deputy Patriarch Shang was at a crucial point in his cultivation back then. He sealed his senses and we concentrated our defensive formation around him to prevent him from being affected. Unless our protection formation was completely destroyed during the battle, he wouldn't be able to discover anything."

Actually, Yan Su'er couldn't be bothered by Yun Jing's explanation. After she discovered the unique aura coming from Shang Bo, there wasn't much else that could interest her.

After comprehending his fourth martial intent, Shang Bo entered the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm. He couldn't hide the powerful presence he was giving off any longer.

In other words, Shang Bo had entered the Half-Step Martial Dipper Realm! There was no way for him to increase his cultivation any further from that point unless he stepped into the Martial Dipper Realm.

Yan Su'er voice was laced with envy and unease as she sighed, "Your Tongyou Institution is really fortunate... A barren continent like yours actually managed to produce 3 Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors!"

Shaking his head, Shang Bo muttered, "It's extremely difficult and dangerous to enter the Martial Dipper Realm. Even though I'm a step away from breaking through, it's going to be extremely difficult to take that step. No one can be certain that I can break through successfully until I actually do it." Pausing slightly, Shang Bo's tone changed and he chuckled, "Anyway, from what I can see, Elder Yan has also stepped through the gates of the grand completion stage. In the future, it's very possible for you to enter the Martial Dipper Realm too."

Yan Su'er shook her head and laughed bitterly in response, "I'm afraid not. I only managed to fuse my extermination origins at the final moment of my battle. Because of that, I damaged my foundations and unless there is an opportunity in the future, I will never be able to advance past the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm."

"Did something like that really happen? It... It's a shame..." Shang Bo and Yun Jing couldn't help but look at each other before revealing a look of pity.

"Everyone has their own path. We can't force things that are not meant to be. Compared to many other cultivators, I am extremely fortunate to have reached my current level." Yan Su'er didn't seem to mind too much and she was pretty open-minded about it.

"Elder Yan, you have seen through life and in the future, it's always possible for an amazing opportunity to appear in the future. After all, nothing is set in stone." Yun Jing reacted immediately to comfort her.



With a soft chuckle, Yan Su'er didn't say anymore.

As Yun Jing's gaze turned to the Auspicious Cloud Cape that returned to its original form after sending them back, she couldn't help but stare at Bu Jingshuang strangely. The next moment, she changed the topic entirely. "Why didn't you come back with our Talisman Grandmaster?"

Shooting each other a strange look, Bu Jingshuang and Liu Jikun didn't know how to react immediately. Eventually, Bu Jingshuang started to narrate Shang Xia's plan to everyone present. He spoke about how Shang Xia wanted to catch them off guard as they probably weren't expecting him to return so quickly after saving Yan Su'er.

Shang Bo's expression sank instantly. "Preposterous!"

Yun Jing's countenance wasn't looking too good either. "He's too reckless!"

However, Yan Su'er destroyed the strange atmosphere in the air the next second. "Forgive my sudden interruption but Young Master Shang's strength should have already exceeded anything you can think of. From what I can tell, even if he's unlucky enough to run into a Martial Extermination Realm expert at the grand completion stage, he should be able to fight back and retreat unscathed. He's extremely sharp too. You don't have to worry about him."

Yan Su'er might have surprised Shang Bo and Yun Jing with her evaluation of Shang Xia's strength, but they didn't doubt her judgment at all.

"Did the kid's cultivation improve again in 2 short months?!" Yun Jing muttered to herself.

Shang Bo shook his head at the side. "The situation on the Manyu Continent is changing too rapidly. I just left seclusion and I haven't gotten a proper grasp of what is going on..."

"Right, we can't stand here all day and keep talking. We should invite Elder Yan in for some tea. Let's talk about everything that has been going on over some refreshments." Yun Jing interrupted Shang Bo suddenly.

Slapping his forehead, Shang Bo chuckled, "Oh yes! Elder Yan, please."

Seemingly having felt something, Yan Su'er decided not to accept the invitation immediately. "I haven't fully recovered and I need to adjust my condition. Let's talk about the situation in a bit."

Calling Chu Jia over hastily, Yun Jing got their Formation Grandmaster to bring Yan Su'er and Yan Ming to their quarters.

After they left, Yun Jing whispered, "Let's send another transmission talisman and get 'him' to make another trip over. Also, we should get Ren Bainian to meet up with him in the outer regions... Forget it. I'll personally make a trip over. You can stay here and have a nice chat with that old fox. Since we invited her over, there's no chance for her to regret. She should be extremely clear about what she has to do. We don't have to be in a rush to press her for all the benefits right now."

Shang Bo shook his head and stopped her. "Relax. There's no need to tell 'him' to go over. He won't miss such a big commotion out there. If I'm not mistaken, he should already be there. In fact, those two brats might have already reached an agreement and are working together as we speak."

“The situation in the Manyu Continent is changing too rapidly and it might shatter suddenly. Neither of us can leave the Tongyou Stronghold. Moreover, we need to quickly reach an agreement with Yan Su’er about working together with her Yan Race.” Pausing slightly, Shang Bo continued, “The moment we bring a part of the Manyu Continent back with us, the fusion of the worlds will start immediately...”

Sighing helplessly, Yun Jing muttered, “Who would have expected that our worlds would be split into different ranks? Even if our Azure Origin World fuses with the Azure Spiritual World, we’re still no match for the Spirit Abundance World!

...

Shang Xia didn’t know that the situation on the Manyu Continent experienced a massive change during the time he spent in seclusion.

Even though the Tongyou Stronghold would send news from time to time, it was impossible for them to learn everything that happened to the Manyu Continent with their limited resources! Moreover, they also chose to hide many things in their report to Shang Xia.

Standing on the other side of the protection barrier of the formation, Shang Xia widened his eyes in shock.

“What the fuck? He blended in with them just like that?!” Shang Xia muttered to himself when he saw them leaving for the pillar of light.

No matter how surprised he was, Shang Xia had to admit that when ‘Huang Yu’ stopped him earlier, the aura he emitted was exactly the same as Cen Yu and the others. If not for the fact that he recognized the weapon and voice, Shang Xia wouldn’t have doubted that Huang Yu was an enemy!

Shang Xia wondered what type of transformation art would allow one to change their appearance and aura so perfectly into another person. They even allowed Youshang to maintain the disguise for a long period of time without being seen through by others!

There was something else that Shang Xia didn’t understand. After entering the inner formation, neither of them stopped to observe the situation outside. Were they not afraid that he would take the chance to shatter the protection barrier?

Thinking up to that point, Shang Xia realized that it wouldn’t hurt to try and he swung his Abyssal Blade at the barrier.

The barrier lit up as his blade light slammed into it, and a tiny crack he could fit through appeared.

Shang Xia, who was about to step through the crack, stopped halfway.

He recalled how Xue Cangling barged into the formation earlier. Since the time he went in, things had been eerily silent.

One had to know that Xue Cangling was a top-tier expert who was even stronger than Liu Yu. Even if he entered the inner formation, he should be able to raise massive waves. In the event of the worst case scenario where he was surrounded by a bunch of enemies, he should fight back violently, causing huge shockwaves to spread through the lands. However, none of that could be felt!

There was only one other possibility. The inner formation wasn't as simple as it looked. It was definitely concealing many strange mechanisms.

It was no wonder Lou Yi would be so relaxed the moment he entered the protection of the inner formation.

Looking at the crack that was starting to close, Shang Xia fell into deep contemplation. Eventually, he decided not to waste the chance as he chose to do something.

Of course, he wouldn't be crazy enough to waltz straight into the inner formation where he knew traps were waiting. Instead, he went to the location where he first grabbed the array flag before gathering a massive palm in the air and imbuing it with his Four Constellation Qi. He pressed it against the protection barrier that had restored itself without hesitation.

Since the array flag was missing, Shang Xia was able to strike at the weak point of the barrier.

Shang Xia was in no rush to enter the inner formation. With the power of corrosion his Four Constellation Qi possessed, he planned to slowly eat away at the formless barrier.

Ever since Shang Xia destroyed the protection barrier around the Jingxiu Peak and discovered the properties of his Four Constellation Palm, he understood that it was extremely effective against things like restrictions and arrays.

Ordinarily, protection barriers would be able to restore themselves because of the formation that powered it. Unless one destroyed the core of the formation, one wouldn't be able to stop the recovery of the protection barrier. Even if one shattered the barrier completely, it would restore itself eventually. If one wasn't careful, the protection barrier that recovered would serve as a cage to stop them from leaving, placing them in an extremely precarious situation where they would have nowhere to go while being attacked by their enemies.

Now that Shang Xia was destroying the barrier bit by bit, he would also be able to waste the energy of the formation that powered it. It was an extremely clumsy way, but no one could deny that it worked.

With the disappearance of the array flag, the powerful formation couldn't operate as efficiently as before. The speed at which the protection barrier recovered was extremely slow. The hole that Shang Xia created with his Four Constellation Palm grew larger and larger as time went by.

Shang Xia wanted to use that way to get rid of the protection barrier entirely to see what was happening within.

As the gap grew bigger, Shang Xia could detect more and more of what was happening within the second layer of formations. Even though he wasn't doing much outside, those hiding within finally couldn't hold themselves back and decided to make a move.

Without any warning, the Phoenix Wing Halberd tore through the void and shattered Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm before flying straight at him.

Cen Yu...

Shang Xia gasped in fright and turned to flee. He didn't hesitate when faced with such a powerful enemy.

Chapter 549: Fate Dipper Fragments

The moment Shang Xia saw the Phoenix Wing Halberd, he already decided to run.

Moreover, the moment the halberd smashed into his Four Constellation Palm, Shang Xia felt 3 other auras appearing behind him when he turned to run.

If he so much as hesitated, he would have been surrounded by 3 Martial Extermination Realm experts. It would be too late for him to escape then.

If he wasn't wrong, the protection formation was made up of an extremely rarely seen dual formation!

Xue Cangling, who broke into the inner layer of the formation that was protected by the dual protection formation was probably in deep shit. It was extremely likely he was dead by now.

The only question Shang Xia still had was if 'Huang Yu' was able to maintain his disguise in their protection formation. He hoped that no one would be able to see past it.

What shocked Shang Xia was the amount of high-level combatants the mysterious third party on the Manyu Continent had.

From the time they dealt with Su Jinyuan to the time he fought Lou Yi, Shang Xia had already fought against 7 high-leveled experts on their side.

With the exception of the tanned brute who was chasing after Yan Ming, the rest were at the third layer Martial Extermination Realm or stronger!

Of the 3 auras that appeared earlier when Cen Yu's Phoenix Wing Halberd shattered his Four Constellation Palm, Shang Xia could tell that the other 2 weren't people he had fought before. That meant that there were 2 other strong experts present in the formation!

Moreover, they weren't weak by any means. From the aura they released earlier, one of them was in the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm while the other was in the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm.

There was no need to compare them to the You Continent. Even in the Azure Origin World, just the 3 of them alone would be enough to establish a massive faction. That was ignoring all the other experts Shang Xia had seen previously. Even if he gathered all the experts of a single faction that was dispatched into the Manyu Continent, they wouldn't be enough to contend against the mysterious third faction.

"It's a shame we allowed him to get away!" Cen Yu looked at the leaving figure and sighed.

The other cultivator beside him who had a leopard-like face and wide round eyes growled, "That person will definitely leak the news of our dual formation. It won't be easy to kill him even if we run into him again."

"It doesn't matter. Because of the attraction of the pillar of light, 3 high-leveled Martial Extermination Realm experts have already fallen into our hands. Now, all we need is to gather the energy in the surroundings to power our dual formation. We can use the rest of the time to slowly harvest fate dipper fragments..." Cen Yu said.

Everyone couldn't help but turn to look at the pillar of light after mentioning the fate dipper fragments. The flames of desire appeared in their eyes.

...

Running dozens of miles in a single breath, Shang Xia finally slowed down when he realized no one was after him. With his unusually powerful divine perception, he could even feel that they were returning to the safety of their protection dual formation.

They might have left Shang Xia alone, but Shang Xia didn't dare to return to the vicinity of their formation right away.

Staring in that direction, Shang Xia discovered that the light pillar was gone!

Is it concealed by their formation?

However, Shang Xia felt that it wasn't too likely for that to be the case. After all, he came into contact with the pillar of light before. It was something that truly connected the heavens to the earth. If the formations were truly able to conceal the pillar, that would mean that it was also connected to the heavens and the earth!

Shang Xia was starting to regret leaving his Auspicious Cloud Cape with them. Otherwise, he could try to approach the location of the light pillar again. It might be a little dangerous, but he would still stand a chance with the concealment ability of the cape.

Looking back in the direction of the protection dual formation, Shang Xia flew around to inspect it while thinking of what to do. He couldn't come up with anything, but the change that happened the next moment shocked him.

An intense earthquake swept through the whole region. From where he stood, he saw countless mountain peaks crumbling one after the other.

That wasn't all. The approximate area where the pillar of light appeared earlier caved in and the destruction didn't stop there. It continued to spread outwards.

Along with the destruction of countless mountain peaks and the widespread collapse of the ground below, the entire region became a giant crater. It didn't stop there as the crater grew wider and deeper with every passing moment.

Due to the collapsed land, cracks started spreading out in all directions. Massive rifts started to extend away from the area where the pillar was and it formed a giant spiderweb-crack in the earth.

Every single vein of water under the area erupted as geysers filled the air. The vapors quickly turned into dense mist that filled the skies and the entire region looked like it just experienced an apocalypse.

Despite the widespread destruction, Shang Xia could feel the density of heaven and earth qi growing rapidly. It was like the final spurt before one's death.

The terrifying heaven and earth qi caused a huge vortex to appear in the air. Countless bolts of lightning fell from the skies as though some special treasure was about to be born.

Under the cover of the dense fog that already formed, Shang Xia could feel several foreign auras as extermination lights filled the air. They soared in the direction of the vortex that formed.

Along with a thunderous blast, Shang Xia understood that a massive battle had broken out in the distance.

The shockwaves that were produced easily spread thousands of miles and from the intensity of the battle he could feel, Shang Xia could tell that the protection dual formation wasn't in play.

He might not know the reason why everything was happening, but even if he was a brainless fool, he would know that it had something to do with the mysterious third party that was on the Manyu Continent.

He also felt that the protection dual formation was something they used to protect themselves before their plan was complete. Now that they achieved what they wanted, Shang Xia thought that there was no point in maintaining the formation.

With such a big commotion, Shang Xia wasn't willing to leave without checking out what was going on. Especially after seeing several experts rushing into the massive vortex, Shang Xia felt his heart itching.

Hovering in the air, Shang Xia tried to inspect the insides of the vortex with his divine perception. Unfortunately, the deeper it went, the stronger the obstruction it faced.

Shang Xia felt a familiar feeling when his divine perception was stopped by the vortex of heaven and earth qi and quickly made the connection to the time he spent in the Cloud Water Gorge of the Taihang Mountains.

When Shang Xia got ready to charge into the massive vortex, a loud buzz resounded in the ears of everyone present. He felt his heart clenching and he took a step back involuntarily. Not stopping there, he started to retreat rapidly. He wanted to get as far away from the vortex as possible.

At the same time, a formless shockwave emerged from the vortex and spread outwards rapidly. The space around was twisted and the earth that was devastated before suffered yet another round of ravaging. The shockwave didn't stop after reaching the edges of the Snowy Peaks Mountain Range. Instead, it continued to sweep outwards.

While rapidly retreating, Shang Xia grunted loudly as his blade came slashing down to stop the impact from hitting him directly.

A resplendent blade light that was several feet in length appeared above him. As it fell, it grew longer and longer. It gained a terrifying momentum as it came crashing down on the formless shockwave and by the time they clashed, the blade light had already extended to the length of several miles.

The space that was twisted because of the shockwave split apart layer by layer, and the massive shockwave that spanned countless miles was split open as a gap for Shang Xia to pass was formed.

Shang Xia's blade light didn't just split apart the shockwave that was about to slam into him. The resplendent blade light cut deep into the ground below, creating a huge rift that was tens of miles long at the edges of the huge crater that was formed.

After releasing the huge shockwave, the vortex of heaven and earth qi seemed to have cleansed itself. Not only did all the dirt and rock fragments inside the vortex get pushed out, but even the slightly chaotic heaven and earth qi seemed to become a lot more pure.

Heaven and earth qi continued to gather into the vortex as it slowly increased in size. Without any sudden threats to stop him, Shang Xia no longer hesitated. Turning into a streak of light, he charged into the vortex.

After the shockwave, all the debris was swept away. The underground water veins didn't suffer the same fate and the vapor that emerged turned into a thick mist that filled the skies. It clouded one's vision and the heaven and earth qi vortex caused the distortion of one's divine perception.

The entire region was becoming more and more like the Cloud Water Gorge.

With his experience in Cloud Water Gorge, Shang Xia didn't panic even though he couldn't see too far away and his divine perception was limited. Instead, he felt a strange sense of calm.

Currently, his divine sense could cover close to 300 feet around him if he pushed himself all the way. Comparing the suppression of the heaven and earth qi vortex to the Cloud Water Gorge, the heaven and earth qi vortex was still slightly superior.

Maintaining his divine perception around him all the time placed a considerable burden on Shang Xia's body. Luckily, an epiphany struck him at that moment and he quickly retrieved the Hexagonal Lantern.

After everything he had been through, Shang Xia also learned the name of the lantern. It was called the Misty Palace Lantern and it had the ability to repel mists and fog. It would clear out an area hundreds of feet away from the individual using it and it had some sort of properties that allowed it to stabilize the spatial knots around. It could even be used to defend against attacks and it possessed some sort of offensive property. All in all, the Misty Palace Lantern was an exceptional treasure.

The moment Shang Xia brought out the lantern which he had fully fueled with Divine Fire Wine, he sent some of his Four Constellation Qi into it. The flame flickered violently as a yellowish-blue glow emerged from the lantern. An area that spanned hundreds of feet around him cleared up instantly but that wasn't all. A strange power suppressed the chaotic twisting space that affected one's divine perception within the area it cleared out, and Shang Xia resembled a moving island. The area around him was free from the chaos and mist that existed around the heaven and earth qi vortex.

Holding the Abyssal Blade in one hand and the Misty Palace Lantern in the other, Shang Xia casually strolled through the obstruction caused by the heaven and earth qi vortex.

He wasn't afraid he would lose his way as he started walking straight for the heaven and earth qi vortex in the distance the moment it emerged, the Crimson Soul Tablet discovered traces of world origin within. It accurately pointed him in the correct direction.

Chapter 550: Distraction?!

After the death of a Martial Extermination Realm expert, their inner qi would return to the world. That was the cause of the world phenomenon that resulted after their death.

In the central region of the heaven and earth qi vortex where the pillar of light once stood, a region of calm could be seen as the chaos that happened all around seemed to not affect the area in the slightest. Within a thousand mile radius, tranquility pervaded the lands.

Of course, the heaven and earth qi there was so dense that it was suffocating. It even showed signs of condensing to form a thick heaven and earth qi mist.

A ray of light emerged from the collapsed land below but was quickly surrounded by the revolving heaven and earth qi in the surroundings. As the heaven and earth qi wrapped itself around the ray of light, it seemed to provide some sort of protection.

As it turned out, that was the pillar of light that was there before. After Shang Xia absorbed a third of its energy, it condensed and shrank tens of times to become a thin ray of light. However, in its current form, it became somewhat corporeal and turned into something physical.

If Shang Xia was able to enter the region that very second, he would be able to tell that even though the ray of light seemed thin, it contained a frightening amount of world origin! In fact, it might even contain more world origin than when it first appeared!

As it turned out, the world origin the ray of light contained wasn't all natural. In fact, there were several reasons why it managed to regain the world origin Shang Xia had absorbed earlier and a little more. As heaven and earth qi was sucked into the heaven and earth qi vortex relentlessly and purified by the celestial phenomenon, there was a massive formation acting rapidly to transform the pure heaven and earth qi into something resembling world origin that supplemented the pillar of light.

The heaven and earth qi vortex perfectly covered the formation that was prepared below, and the massive operation had to be carried out by at least 3 high-leveled Martial Extermination Realm experts.

That wasn't all. In 3 different points of the formation lay 3 corpses, and they were the bodies of the high-leveled Martial Extermination Realm experts who barged into the protection dual formation earlier.

If Shang Xia was present, he would recognize one of the corpses to be Xue Cangling who ignored him after he was freed and charged into the inner formation that contained the protection dual formation without warning.

The other 2 were experts who were drawn over by the pillar of light and were killed by Cen Yu and the others.

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"This formation goes against the normal operation of the world. We can only use it in the Manyu Continent that's about to be destroyed." Cen Yu, the strongest expert among those powering the formation, explained.

"Hehe..." A cultivator clad in black from head to toe chuckled in a hoarse voice. "It's not that we can't use this formation in our world... We just have to kill a Martial Dipper Realm expert or two to get enough energy!"

As soon as the words left his lips, the other cultivator beside him whose inner qi wasn't flowing too smoothly due to some injuries he sustained sneered, "Mister Black makes it seem extremely easy. With the restriction of our World's Will, even if we manage to offer Martial Dipper Realm experts as sacrifices, it might not suffice. After all, the formation to transform heaven and earth qi already goes against the natural laws. We're sucking thousands of miles of land of their life essence and even if we manage to survive the backlash of the World's Will, we'll definitely become public enemy number 1 for causing such widespread destruction. Ahem... Cough, cough..."



The person who spoke was Lou Yi, and he was clearly injured. From the way he spoke, he was clearly disgusted by the black robed man. He didn't mince his words and his tone was really unfriendly.

"Brother Lou, your injuries are serious. You should use the fate dipper fragments we obtain to quickly recover." Cen Yu said and shattered the tension between the two immediately. He stopped the argument that was about to break out. He also managed to get on Lou Yi's good side by offering him a fate dipper fragment, getting a lot of thanks in return.

With their petty squabble settled, Cen Yu spoke again. "Actually, the two of you missed a crucial point to the successful deployment of our Reversal Formation. Because the Manyu Continent was originally a part of our world, the disturbance caused by our special Reversal Formation hasn't caused the entire continent to shatter."

Everyone agreed with him but he didn't stop there. Cen Yu continued, "The Manyu Continent was a part of our world initially, but now that it has exhausted its world origin and has reached the end of its lifespan, there is no point trying to reincorporate it into our world. If only it wasn't, we might be able to raise the strength of our world..."

The black robed man chuckled sinisterly, "If the Manyu Continent wasn't on the verge of destruction, why would we gather fate dipper fragments from it?"

Cen Yu tacitly decided to change the topic. "I hope that the others will be able to last a little longer. Unfortunately, Su Jinyuan died a wrongful death. No one knows how he died even now... Wang Guan and Xiong Lei were also slain by our enemies. Otherwise, our chances of success will be much higher than before."

The black robed man piped up yet again. "Well, there's nothing much to be said about Lin Chai. Huang Yu's strength is impressive too. As for Lin Yu... Hehe..."

"A fragment has emerged!" Lou Yi yelled all of a sudden.

Cen Yu and the black robed man quickly cut their conversation short as they turned to stare at the ray of light in the middle of the heaven and earth qi vortex.

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The crater that was created after the collapse of the Snowy Peaks Mountain Range continued to grow deeper as it expanded slowly.

A violent quake, along with the expansion of the spider web-like cracks all around it, followed by even more destruction caused the heaven and earth qi to be squeezed out from the ground below. They gathered in the heaven and earth qi vortex and strengthened the storm even more.

Shang Xia, who had the experience of sapping the vitality off an entire mountain, noticed what was going on. He could tell that the entire region would turn into a dead zone after all its life force was sucked by the heaven and earth qi vortex.

Unfortunately, he couldn't do a thing about it. The Manyu Continent was on the brink of destruction anyway. Everything that was happening there merely hastened the process.

Despite the chaotic streams and foggy air around him, Shang Xia was unperturbed. He made his way over to the core of the heaven and earth qi vortex. With the Misty Palace Lantern in his hand, he was like a tiny boat that was unaffected by the huge waves and storms as he sailed to his destination.

The closer he got, the clearer the feedback from the Crimson Soul Tablet. It could clearly feel the presence of world origin within.

Despite the twisting space and the dense fog around him, Shang Xia could clearly feel the traces of a huge battle taking place.

Obviously, there were several experts who had the same idea as Shang Xia. Unfortunately for them, they made their move a little earlier and were intercepted by the experts who caused everything.

Shang Xia was really interested in who would be coming to stop him. He was truly hoping for Huang Yu to appear as his understanding of the situation was truly not up to par. He wanted to learn what was going on from someone on his side.

Since the world didn't revolve around Shang Xia, he didn't get his wish. Moreover, his luck was pretty bad as he seemed to have gotten a pretty strong opponent.

Under the storm of heaven and earth qi, a trade of danger slowly approached. Moreover, Shang Xia couldn't pinpoint its exact location.

His divine perception covered the area under the control of his Misty Palace Lantern, but the moment it tried extending outwards, it would be twisted mercilessly by the storm of heaven and earth qi. It was so bad that the space he could feel with his divine perception wouldn't align with his sense of sight.

Luckily, the twisted space didn't affect the Crimson Soul Tablet's resonance with world origin. That was what allowed Shang Xia to not get lost in the first place.

As the Crimson Soul Tablet's resonance with world origin grew stronger the closer Shang Xia approached the heaven and earth qi vortex, so did the feeling of danger. Shang Xia couldn't help but suspect that those experts from the mysterious third party had some way to ignore the twisted space and lock on to other experts in the area.

Shang Xia was never one to underestimate his opponent. Leaving the Misty Palace Lantern to float above his head, his Hundred Gold Sword appeared in his left hand and he immediately released seven pairs of sword qi. He deployed his Yin Yang Sword Formation and kept it around himself.

Because of his battle with Lou Yi, Shang Xia discovered that the combination of his Yin Yang Sword Formation and his Twenty Four Solar Terms were extremely compatible. When he used both of them at the same time, his combat capabilities would reach a whole new level.

Ignoring the consumption of his Four Constellation Qi by maintaining the seven pairs of sword qi around him, Shang Xia knew that he was in no position to be stingy with his inner qi in his current situation.

He was ready to defend himself at any time.

The person hiding in the mist might not understand what exactly Shang Xia was doing, but he could tell that Shang Xia was ready for a big fight. He could sense danger coming from Shang Xia and he didn't dare to make any reckless moves.

Perhaps they were probing each other, or maybe both sides had their own considerations, the situation immediately entered into a stalemate. One of them was moving slowly towards the heaven and earth qi vortex while the other was hiding in the mist, ready to strike.

Even though he was using his Four Constellation Qi to maintain the sword formation around him, his expressionless face didn't give anything away.

No one knew how long had passed, but Shang Xia felt the storm outside the range of his Misty Palace Lantern growing stronger. The heaven and earth qi vortex was spinning counterclockwise, and the area cleared out by the lantern was starting to get suppressed.

Shang Xia didn't care about the consumption of his inner qi as he inserted even more of it into the lantern, causing it to glow brilliantly. It quickly resisted the suppression from the heaven and earth qi storm and the cleared area returned to its original size.

At that moment, the expert hidden in the mist finally made his move.

Hundreds of Essence Shattering Needles shot at Shang Xia from unexpected angles, and each one of those needles was a treasure.

They weren't exactly crafted from a special type of mineral, but it was created with one's extermination qi. After gathering heaven and earth qi in the surroundings, the user would turn them into tony needles using some sort of secret art. It was specially used to break their opponent's extermination origin protection barrier.

Unfortunately, every single needle was pressed down by a formless pressure the moment they entered the range Shang Xia's Misty Palace Lantern covered.

That wasn't all. Every inch they progressed, the pressure on them increased onefold. They were also forced to slow down even more.

Secret attacks like that that made use of hidden weapons to break one's extermination origin protection barrier would usually be used to catch someone off guard. They would also travel at a frightening speed.

Too bad for the mystery man, his sneak attack was obstructed by Shang Xia's Misty Palace Lantern, giving him enough time to react.

Shang Xia strengthened the protection barrier around him before sending the flickering light in the Misty Palace Lantern out. It turned into a long fire whip that incinerated the needles.

When Shang Xia's attention was placed on stopping the sneak attack, a pale lady suddenly barged into the area covered by the lantern and sent a golden hairpin flying straight at Shang Xia's eyes.