

The Heavens 551

Chapter 551: I Could be Gold, I Could be Silver, I Could be Bronze, I Could be Wood, I Could be a Bone

Was that a fucking distraction??

It wasn't something new, but diverting someone's attention like that was a surefire way to ensure that one would be able to launch a successful sneak attack.

Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to deal with Shang Xia.

Even without using his Hundred Gold Sword, Shang Xia casually released a Chaos Essence Lightning Palm at the hairpin that was flying at him. A reddish-gold lightning bolt appeared and crashed directly into it.

That wasn't all. After stopping the golden hairpin, the tiny streaks left in the air continued to fly at the pale lady who sneak attacked him.

With a listless look on her face, the clothes of the lady cultivator lit on fire and she turned into a paper figure. Going up in a blaze, the paper figure disappeared in the next second.

"So that's it..." Shang Xia wouldn't believe that the person hidden in the mist would reveal themselves so easily and still fail to land a proper hit on him.

If he were in their position and had a grasp on his own location, he would think of how to cause the greatest amount of damage without revealing himself. That would allow him to gain an advantage by paying the lowest price possible.

The thought barely flashed through his mind when he detected another disturbance in his divine perception. Raising his head violently, he saw that the space that had been blocked out by the Misty Palace Lantern deformed violently as it was pressed inwards.

5 huge fingers made from heaven and earth qi tore through the formless layer that prevented Shang Xia from being affected by the storms and fog. In the next instant, a violent heaven and earth qi storm swept through the area and a soft silvery light also entered from the gaps.

A frown appeared on Shang Xia's face and blew with all his might. He used his Four Constellation Qi while doing so and the fingers quickly scattered. However, the silvery light separated themselves from the fingers of heaven and earth qi and continued to fall on him.

With his expression changing slightly, a brilliant glow surrounded his body. The Misty Palace Lantern spun around above his head and topped itself upside down. The pressure it emitted changed directions and pushed everything upwards.

The silvery lights that were approaching him quickly earlier started to slow down and their true appearances were revealed. They were actually 5 silver hairpins and Shang Xia waved his sleeves casually to send them flying.

The moment he did, 3 bronze hairpins broke through the formless layer as well and they came from 3 different directions. They shot towards him from the front, back, and one of them came from below.

The bronze hairpins were clearly different from the golden and silver ones from before. They blended into the void the moment he noticed them.

With a slight intention, Shang Xia finally raised his Hundred Gold Sword. The Yin Yang Sword Formation he had been maintaining around himself was revealed. Seven pairs of sword qi rampaged about the void around him and caused the bronze hairpins to reveal themselves. After that, they started to split and a dazzling 49 rays of sword lights appeared to grind the 3 bronze hairpins into dust.

Even though Shang Xia stopped the mysterious person's third offensive, his final trump card, the Yin Yang Sword Formation was also revealed. A sarcastic laughter came from outside the range of the Misty Palace Lantern's protection.

Perhaps it was because Shang Xia had to deal with the repeated attacks and couldn't place much attention on the Misty Palace Lantern. The area that it covered shrunk to less than half its original size.

When Shang Xia was surprised that the area was reduced by such a huge amount, the formless screen was broken yet again. This time, he failed to detect what exactly it was.

A formless weapon?!

Shang Xia expanded his divine perception to try to lock onto the location of the threat but he failed. All he could feel was the approximate point they were at.

At the last second, Shang Xia swung his Abyssal Blade, and blade lights fell in the form of snow.

3 wooden hairpins were revealed by the pure-white snow that covered the area. This time, they were several times stronger than the gold, silver, and bronze hairpins that flew at him earlier.

Before they arrived, Shang Xia felt a sense of pressure coming from them. A fierce aura locked onto the 3 main acupoints on his body and his movements started to turn sluggish.

Alarm bells went off in his mind and Shang Xia pushed his Four Constellation Qi to the limit. He poured it into the Abyssal Blade desperately before swinging it in front of him.

Due to his desperation, he came up with another move on the spot with inspiration coming from the 10th of the 24 solar terms. Summer Solstice!

"Bang! Bang! Bang!" 3 explosions rang through the air as the 3 wooden hairpins flying his way shattered. They turned into broken splinters that flew through the air.

Shang Xia's expression was exceptionally ugly at that point. The person who was making a move on him seemed extremely familiar with his methods. Moreover, they were slowly forcing him to reveal his trump cards one by one. The mocking laugh rang in his ears once again and the flames of fury burned even brighter in his heart.

Obviously, that was no time to be getting angry. Because of how he had to defend himself twice, he had to slow down to catch his breath.

The person hiding in the shadows wouldn't give Shang Xia a chance to recover. In fact, that might be the person's plan all along.

After the wooden hairpins shattered, two figures rushed at him from two different directions. Each one of them held a White-Jade Bone Hairpin in their hands before stabbing at Shang Xia.

The sharp bony hairpin tore through the void and a strange whistle ripped through the air. The sound was extremely jarring and it affected Shang Xia's Divine Perception.

Two of them?

No... This has to be an illusion art! It's an illusion created by that strange whistle!

Shang Xia's accomplishment in his Heaven and Earth Synergy Chapter was high and his soul was unaffected. He quickly discovered that one of the figures rushing at him was full of vitality while the other was nothing but an empty body.

If the danger only came from one side... Shang Xia ignored the fact that his inner qi was still churning violently in his body as he released another blade strike. An intense explosion appeared as he unleashed Grand Ignite, one of the moves of his Twenty Four Solar Terms.

Clang!

Shang Xia's Abyssal Blade clashed with the White-Jade Bone Hairpin in mid air. Their inner qi collided and formed a concentrated ball of energy that shattered the void between them. A powerful shockwave was released from the huge concentration of energy and destruction. It directly flipped over the Misty Palace Lantern above Shang Xia's head and continued to spread thousands of miles away. Due to the pushing force of the shockwave, the area covered by the Misty Palace Lantern was forcefully transformed into a strange oval shape.

Both of them were blown away from the impact and the cultivator who tried to sneak attack Shang Xia was forced to retreat. The exchange between them looked even due to Shang Xia's use of his divine weapon and the other cultivator's deep foundations.

However, Shang Xia wasn't out of options even though he was sailing through the air. He tossed the Hundred Gold Sword in his hand at the 'dead' image that came to attack him along with the cultivator earlier.

He didn't throw it out for fun either. He used the principles of Piercing Sun, one of the moves of his Nine Providence Spear Art, when flinging his spear.

Clang!

Even though the 'dead' image was supposed to be made from an illusion, a loud ringing sound tore through the air when his sword arrived.

A White-Jade Bone Hairpin that was half a foot long appeared from beneath the image to block Shang Xia's sword.

Because it was struck by Shang Xia's sword, the hairpin spun about in the air before finally returning to the mysterious cultivator who sneak attacked him earlier.

Even though Shang Xia felt that the other figure was a lifeless image who attacked him, that didn't mean that it didn't pose a threat.

From what it seemed, the White-Jade Bone Hairpin came as a pair.

With one of the hairpins in his hand, the person launched a devastating sneak attack on Shang Xia. His other hairpin was thrown out along with the 'dead' image to carry out an even sneakier sneak attack.

Ordinarily, after cultivators saw through the illusion, they would think that all the danger came from the actual enemy. They would completely ignore the other image and thus fail to detect the White-Jade Bone Hairpin that was coming at them.

Moreover, the mysterious cultivator already carried out 3 sneak attacks on Shang Xia before entering the fray personally. No one would expect him to layer his sneak attack into one where he was physically present.

If his target wasn't Shang Xia' he would have a much higher chance of success.

Unfortunately for him, he had to run into a monster who had an unusually sharp divine perception and a shocking recovery speed. Not only did he discover the true danger hidden in the attack, but he even had spare energy to deal with it.

He didn't even forget to pull his Misty Palace Lantern when he retreated. The mysterious expert who came to intercept him on his journey to the heaven and earth qi vortex quickly left the area covered by the Misty Palace Lantern and was swept away by the heaven and earth qi storm outside.

Chapter 552: Yin Yang Sword, Four Constellation Blade

Because Shang Xia didn't forget to grab his Misty Palace Lantern when retreating, the mysterious attacker left its protection and was swept up by the heaven and earth qi storms.

Their gazes met for a split second before the mysterious cultivator disappeared, but Shang Xia wouldn't forget her face.

Moreover, the person had been hiding in the chaotic heaven and earth qi storm the whole time before attacking him. Even if she fell back into it and was swept away, it wouldn't be able to stop her for long. At worst, she would look a little worse for wear after emerging.

Even though it seemed as though Shang Xia had shaken her off, danger was still all around. Since she could accurately locate Shang Xia the first time, she could obviously do so a second time.

Not to mention the fact that she could be anywhere. She was hidden in the dark while Shang Xia was in the light. Worry and fear would always be on Shang Xia's mind when he anticipated her next move.

He might be open to her attacks, but that merely made him pause for a second before deciding on continuing his journey to the heaven and earth qi vortex. With the Crimson Soul Tablet guiding the way, he continued to make his way forward.

As the reaction of the tablet grew even stronger, Shang Xia could be sure that he was getting closer and closer to the source of world origin.

Since the other party could accurately point out his location, Shang Xia refused to believe that they would be able to hold back from making another attempt on his life.

He wasn't wrong. The next second, Shang Xia discovered the presence of the mysterious expert again.

Because of their previous encounter, Shang Xia's opponent discovered his true strength after their exchange. There were no probing and superfluous movements this time. She entered the region covered by the Misty Palace Lantern before rushing at Shang Xia with a pair of White-Jade Bone Hairpins.

Facing the overbearing attack, Shang Xia didn't panic. Instead, he released a bout of laughter that expressed his mockery for her.

Earlier, the mysterious expert understood Shang Xia's true strength after several rounds of attacks. However, the situation worked the same way the other way around! Shang Xia also had a good grasp of her foundations!

Facing the mysterious female cultivator, Shang Xia chose to utilize both weapons. With his Hundred Gold Sword in his left hand, he unleashed his Yin Yang Sword Formation. The Abyssal Blade in his right hand sent out a frightening blow, Lightning Awakening!

Wielding different weapons in both hands, Shang Xia displayed two different types of techniques!

Through his deepening understanding of the Heaven and Man Synergy Chapter, Shang Xia was able to split his concentration and focus on different things at once. Utilizing a sword art and a blade art at the same time was still doable at his current level.

The mysterious female cultivator clearly didn't expect Shang Xia to be able to do something like that. With 2 different weapons qi coming her way, she felt that she was fighting 2 Shang Xias at once.

Due to their exchange earlier, she felt that she could suppress Shang Xia in terms of cultivation and the amount of treasures they had. She was stronger, but she also knew that she only had a tiny bit of advantage when compared to Shang Xia.

Now that Shang Xia utilized both his sword and blade art after being given time to catch his breath, the explosiveness easily destroyed any previous expectation she had of his strength. Using both techniques simultaneously, his combat strength easily doubled!

Not expecting the sudden change, the mysterious female cultivator was quickly forced onto her back foot.

Despite his terrifying revelation of strength, only Shang Xia knew how great the burden his body would have to bear. There was no way he could do it again and again.

It was especially so since the way he had to circulate his Four Constellation Qi in his body to unleash both techniques was extremely different. Luckily, there were several portions in his body where his inner qi had to go through regardless of the move he unleashed, allowing him to retain some control over them. Using his divine perception to ensure that his inner qi was circulating smoothly in his body, he prevented himself from experiencing cultivation deviation or losing control over his inner qi.

He might have suppressed his opponent for now, but Shang Xia knew that he had to end the battle as quickly as possible. If he gave her a chance to counterattack, he would be in deep shit. In fact, if she could resist Shang Xia's attacks for an extended period of time and launch a decisive counteroffensive, he would most likely meet his demise.

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Waving his left hand, Shang Xia controlled the Yin Yang Sword Formation he deployed earlier. Yin Yang Sword Qi intertwined with each other and since they were created with his Four Constellation Qi, the power they contained surpassed everyone's expectations.

Forced into a corner by Shang Xia's Yin Yang Sword Qi, the mysterious female cultivator was unable to use her full strength. Shang Xia's Abyssal Blade swung at her from the side and he wouldn't give her a second to catch her breath.

After fighting back desperately and barely keeping up with Shang Xia, the mysterious female cultivator was in a terrible state. Unfortunately, Shang Xia's offensive was only getting fiercer by the second and the moment she slipped up, she would be slain.

All of a sudden, she no longer seemed to panic under Shang Xia's continuous assault and she asked nonchalantly, "Even if you're extremely talented, how long can you last? You're splitting up your consciousness to use 2 different techniques and you won't be able to sustain this forever."

Taking Shang Xia's Fiery Demise directly, she felt her organs churning around in her body and her inner qi nearly flowed in reverse. Despite suffering such a serious injury, her wealth of experience allowed her to discover the state Shang Xia was in.

"Hmph, you might be correct, but it will be enough to kill you!" Shang Xia wouldn't be distracted by her just because of what she said. He wouldn't let up in the slightest either.

"You're going all out, risking your life for this. Is it really a wise decision to put everything on the line in an attempt to take the life of an old lady like myself?" The mysterious female cultivator muttered. Her tone was placid and it seemed as though she was stating the obvious.

She might seem nonchalant, but that was exactly the way logical people spoke to each other. What she said was extremely persuasive to people who weren't easily swayed by their emotions.

Shang Xia didn't let up on his offensive, but his silence allowed her to discover an opportunity. "Brat, I know where you come from. I also know the goals of your Azure Origin World. The Manyu Continent is massive and there's no need for us to interfere with each other. What's the point of offending other parties? I can guess that your seniors have no idea what you are doing right now. Otherwise, they will definitely tell you not to offend experts of the Spirit Abundance World."

"Spirit Abundance World?" Shang Xia's heart trembled slightly. He finally knew where the mysterious third party came from. Unfortunately, learning about the name of their world was far from enough for him. "... The Manyu Continent... Hehe, guess I was right. The Manyu Continent should be related to your Spirit Abundance World in some way or other. That is why the aura you guys emit is basically the same."

"Hmph!" The female cultivator snorted derisively and was clearly unhappy that Shang Xia was comparing her to the cultivators of the Manyu Continent. She growled, "There's no point comparing us. The Manyu Continent is mere garbage my Spirit Abundance World gave up on."

Shang Xia's Valley Rain swept through the area they were fighting and dense blade lights stabbed directly at his opponent while he ridiculed, "Since you guys say it's garbage and you've given up on it, why are you even here?"

Resisting Shang Xia's continuous attacks desperately, the female cultivator didn't hesitate in her reply. "We're just using up all the value of this soon-to-be waste of a continent."

A chilly light flashed in Shang Xia's eyes and he sneered, "Oh? Is that what you're doing here?"

The female cultivator didn't seem to hear Shang Xia's chilly tone and she started to boast about their goals and achievements. "To us, we're merely squeezing out all the value the Manyu Continent has left. However, the Manyu Continent seems to be the key to whether your world will be able to ascend another tier. All of you went crazy and spared no expense to lay down countless formations in the ground to stabilize whatever landmass would remain after the Manyu Continent crumbles. All of that just to drag the landmasses back to your world eventually..."

She couldn't help but chuckle derisively after speaking up to that point. There was a clear trace of superiority in her voice as she sounded as though she pitied the Azure Origin World for all they had to do.

Shang Xia didn't care too much about her attitude on the entire matter. Instead, he focused on one key point she mentioned. "Ascending another tier?"

The female cultivator sighed while shaking her head. "Looks like you don't know anything. Hehe, from your age and cultivation level, you should be a supreme talent back in your world. Your achievements were meant to be unstoppable in the future. However, the limitations of your world will prove to be the biggest obstacle in your journey of cultivation. If I were you, I'd take this chance to pledge my allegiance to my Spirit Abundance World. The moment you do, your future will be limitless!"

"Why don't you keep talking about how my world is supposed to ascend to another tier?" Shang Xia forcefully maintained his burst state and forced the female cultivator to vomit a mouthful of blood.

It was a shame she didn't seem to care about her injuries at all. "There's nothing much to talk about. Your world is a mere Azure World and it's merely slightly higher ranked than the Manyu Continent. My Spirit Abundance World is considered a Spirit World and it's ranked above your Azure World!"

Before Shang Xia could reply, she asked again, "How about it, do you want to come to my Spirit Abundance World? Why restrict yourself to a mere Azure World with your talent? I come from the Heavenly Spirit Sect, the largest power in the Spirit Abundance World. I'm pretty respected in my sect and if you are willing, I can give you a recommendation. You're bound to enter the Martial Dipper Realm and it's not impossible for you to step into the elusive Sixth Order of the Primary Realm..."

"Sixth Order?!" Shang Xia gasped as his movements turned a little sluggish. The blade in his hand didn't come slashing down immediately and the female cultivator heaved a huge sigh of relief.

The next moment, she broke out into laughter, "Ahem... Hah, Hahaha!"

Finally finding a chance to catch her breath, she coughed once before roaring with laughter.

A frown appeared on Shang Xia's face and his blade came crashing down. He snapped with annoyance, "Are you crazy?"

The female cultivator's body trembled violently due to the impact but a strange gaze remained in her eyes. "You're still too young..."

Discovering a sudden shift in the situation, Shang Xia no longer cared about his consumption of inner qi and exhaustion of divine perception. His inner qi was moving in two different routes in his body for him to utilize both techniques, and he pushed himself even further, increasing the power behind each strike.

The female cultivator was forced to spit out multiple mouthfuls of blood but she didn't stop laughing. "Since I can find you in the storm of heaven and earth qi, so can the others!"

Sensing danger approaching rapidly, Shang Xia's eyelids twitched uncontrollably. "You... You were buying time!"

"Hehe, weren't you extremely curious about the information I revealed?"

It seemed as though the female cultivator had been aiming for that outcome all along. Facing Shang Xia's furious offensive, she didn't bother retreating. Instead, she baited him with the information he wanted to hear while forcefully resisting his attacks.

Distracting him with information about a higher world and cultivation realm, she was waiting for her comrades to come to her rescue!

With a chill running through his heart, Shang Xia cursed himself. He was truly distracted by everything she said earlier and he didn't realize that if she could lock on to his presence, the members of the Spirit Abundance World would also possess some secret technique to communicate with each other through the storm of heaven and earth qi. At that moment, her helper seemed to have arrived.

"What are you waiting for?!" She screamed while pouncing at Shang Xia to draw his attention.

"I'm here." A deep voice rang through the air and due to the heaven and earth qi storm, no one could pinpoint the source of the voice.

Shang Xia observed his surroundings vigilantly while retreating rapidly.

Unfortunately, the female cultivator wasn't going to let him off easy. She was like a ball of glue that stuck to him. With her White-Jade Bone Hairpins, she unleashed a flurry of attacks and stabbed at him hundreds of times while he was running.

Helpless, Shang Xia could only swing his Abyssal Blade in a desperate attempt to stop her. With that, his blade was sent flying.

Because of his final blow with the Abyssal Blade, he caused her to reveal a huge opening. As long as he stabbed forward, he would be able to deal her a grievous blow. However, he didn't dare to do so.

The formless barrier that separated the calm space around him from the heaven and earth qi storm outside was torn open a few hundred feet away and a powerful aura that was covered in a ball of turbid heaven and earth qi rushed at them.

Shang Xia had already lost his chance to escape and even though he was only left with the weaker Hundred Gold Sword in his hand, it was his last line of defense.

The ball of heaven and earth qi around the newcomer popped at that moment, revealing his appearance.

Shang Xia, who was ready to make his last stand to seriously injure his opponent, seemed to enter a state of despair. In his depressed state, he lowered the sword in his hand to accept his fate.

The female cultivator who had been fighting him all along revealed a wide smile. She seemed to have seen how that young genius from a 'weak' Azure World would be seriously injured by her comrade the next moment.

“Buzz...”

A soft hum came from the Ancient Copper Spear that blew a hole through the female cultivator's chest and she tried to turn her head to stare at the newcomer as her body started to turn rigid.

“Why... Why?!”

Huang Yu pulled his spear out from her wound and stared at the female cultivator who was still struggling to turn her head. He muttered softly, “Why don't you take a guess?”

Chapter 553: And the Oscar Award Goes To

It was clear she would never be able to guess the reason as she breathed her last while trying to turn her head.

Huang Yu's energy started to eat away at her life force the moment he pulled his spear out and the process didn't take long.

As she fell, her body started to disappear under their gazes. Her inner qi was released at a terrifying rate but before it could produce a heavenly phenomenon, it was swallowed by the heaven and earth qi storm outside. Not even her bones were left.

“Even a Martial Intent Realm cultivator would be able to leave a complete corpse when they die. The things Martial Extermination Realm experts can leave behind after their death is getting less and less...” Shang Xia stared at the female cultivator's clothes which was all that was left of her and he kicked it out into the heaven and earth qi storm outside. It disappeared instantly.

“Everything returns to the origin. If you are truly able to step into the Martial Dipper Realm, you might be able to leave behind a corpse when you pass on. In fact, your corpse might exist for a long, long time!” Huang Yu muttered, but he sounded a little strange.

Staring at him from top to bottom, Shang Xia muttered, "I have to say, your ability to disguise yourself truly leaves me in awe. Didn't you take my Jade River Sword back then? Why are you still using your broken spear? Well... At least it still looks like a spear..."

Huang Yu yelled helplessly, "I have no choice! Initially, I planned to disguise myself as Su Jinyuan. However, he comes from an extremely powerful background. The matter where we joined hands to kill him was known by the others and I nearly messed up. Luckily, I got lucky and ran into a scattered cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World. The fact that he doesn't have a background is a slight plus, but that isn't the main point. He turned out to be a spear user too... Hehehe..."

"So that's why you disguised yourself as 'Huang Yu'?" Shang Xia asked.

Nodding his head, Huang Yu continued, "It's been a little more than 2 months and I used a greater portion of my time in disguise to deal with his identity."

Shang Xia asked with concern, "There shouldn't be any problems, right? Your identity shouldn't be exposed so easily..."

"Well, I'm dancing on the tip of a blade anyway. There's no way to be 100 percent sure. After all, we can't assume that everyone else is a dumbass, right?!" Huang Yu chuckled.

Shang Xia sighed softly after hearing what he said. "Haven't you been doing all these things for many years now? When will Patriarch Kou allow you to return and reassume your true identity?"

Stunned by the sudden question, a complicated gaze flashed in his eyes before he laughed softly, "I've long gotten used to this life. Moreover... Hehe, there's no one to bother and order me around. My life isn't as bad as you think."

Shang Xia nodded slowly and asked another question. "Oh yeah, that lady talked about the Spirit Abundance World..."

Raising his hand to stop Shang Xia, Huang Yu whispered. "Wait. Let's join hands to deal with this rat before we talk more about this."

"..."

"How dare you stand in my way?! Eat my spear!" Huang Yu roared suddenly and his spear stabbed at Shang Xia with terrifying speed.

He attacked for real, but Shang Xia didn't plan on resisting it with all his might. His wrist trembled slightly and he summoned the Abyssal Blade that had flown away and kept it in his sleeves. Next, he raised his Hundred Gold Sword with his left hand slightly and tore open the void in front of him.

As wild spatial fluctuations filled the area, Shang Xia retreated hastily. The Misty Palace Lantern above his head shook violently and the space it carved out from the chaotic heaven and earth qi storm outside nearly shattered.

"Who the hell are you?! Why are you attacking me out of nowhere?!" Shang Xia screamed in anger. While using his Hundred Gold Sword to stop Huang Yu's advance, he tried to sense the other attacker in the heaven and earth qi storm outside.

Even though his divine perception was twisted the moment it encountered the heaven and earth qi storm, he could at least discover any traces of danger that would be approaching.

“Fellow cultivator, there’s no need to panic. I am Tang Lisong of the Three Rivers Sect in the Azure Spiritual World. I hope we can join hands to deal with this foreign expert.”

A muffled cry came from the heaven and earth qi storm and as per usual, no one could tell which direction it came from.

While locked in ‘intense’ combat with Huang Yu, Shang Xia shot him a gaze to ask what they should do.

Ignoring Shang Xia, Huang Yu continued his ferocious offensive. In fact, his blows started to grow stronger and Shang Xia’s defenses were showing signs of breaking down.

“Fellow cultivator, do not allow him to escape! That man isn’t a native cultivator of the Manyu Continent! Neither is he a member of our Azure Spiritual and Azure Origin World. He’s a foreign cultivator who entered the Manyu Continent secretly!” The voice sounded a little louder and even though they were still unable to pinpoint his location, it was clear he was rapidly approaching.

By the time he completed his sentence, a streak of light finally entered the space carved out by the Misty Palace Lantern.

The person who arrived was really short, but he also had a skinny figure. His voice was hoarse and heavy, contrary to his appearance.

Shooting a glance at the Misty Palace Lantern above Shang Xia’s head, the newcomer didn’t say anything else. He summoned a flail and slammed it down at Huang Yu.

“Little friend, there are a lot more of them and they caused the heaven and earth qi vortex. The person you are fighting is merely one of those stationed outside to stop people like you and me. It’s clear that they’re planning something huge. Our Azure Spiritual World and your Azure Origin World might be separate entities right now, but the fusion of our worlds cannot be stopped. Let’s join hands and destroy their nasty scheme!” Tang Lisong immediately chose Shang Xia as someone he could work with and he celebrated silently to have found such a powerful ally.

“Alright.” Shang Xia obviously wouldn’t reject the offer. Moreover, there was no reason for him to reject after considering his current situation. He didn’t forget to introduce himself, “You can call me Shang Xia. I’m a disciple of the Tongyou Institution.”

“Oh, it’s you, Young Master Shang...” Tang Lisong gasped in shock. Even though he was taken aback, he didn’t stop attacking Huang Yu with his flail. Next, he said excitedly, “... I have long since heard of you!”

Shang Xia worked together with Tang Lisong to suppress Huang Yu and revealed a look of confusion. "Senior Tang, why would you hear of me?"

Roaring with laughter, Tang Lisong replied, "Why wouldn't I? The Changbai Holy Land suffered at the hands of your Tongyou Institution multiple times. The experts of the Tongyou Institution are extremely well known in our Azure Spiritual World. It's especially so for you, Young Master Shang. I really admire you for having such an accomplishment at your age."

Shang Xia could hear a sense of schadenfreude in his voice when he spoke. However, it wasn't directed at the Tongyou Institution or himself. Instead, he seemed to be gloating over the Changbai Holy Land's misfortune.

It seemed as though Tang Lisong's faction, the Three Rivers Sect, was a power comparable to the Changbai Holy Land. Also, the two factions seemed to be at odds.

As they had a joyous conversation, Tang Lisong didn't realize that their amazing cooperation had already suppressed Huang Yu completely. From the looks of it, it wouldn't take long before they would be able to deal a decisive blow to end his life.

"Young Master Shang, the treasure above your head seems really impressive!" Tang Lisong noticed the Misty Palace Lantern a long time ago. He also understood how useful it would be when braving the heaven and earth qi storm while getting to the vortex.

From the time he formed an alliance with Shang Xia to all the praises he was showering, a huge part of the reason was to form a better relationship with Shang Xia and to get on his good side. His plan was to work together with Shang Xia after taking care of their enemy so that he could enjoy the benefits of the Misty Palace Lantern.

While he was praising the treasure, he didn't notice the subtle and strange smile that appeared on Shang Xia's lips.

"Yeah... This treasure is amazing indeed..."

That seemed to be the signal and Huang Yu launched a desperate counterattack on Tang Lisong without caring about the potential injuries he would suffer.

Circulating his inner qi to the limit as he got ready to resist Huang Yu's final stand, Shang Xia who had been covering his back all along summoned the flame from the Misty Palace Lantern all of a sudden and created a long rope that went to wrap around Tang Lisong.

Taken by surprise, Tang Lisong was about to fly into a fit of rage as he summoned his extermination origins to protect himself. He wanted to push the fire rope away but Huang Yu arrived. The sound of something shattering on Tang Lisong's body could be heard and it was clear the protective treasures on him had been broken. Huang Yu's 'spear' which was missing a spearhead at that point tore through Tang Lisong's defenses and slammed directly into his chest. Tang Lisong suffered extremely heavy injuries.

As his flail continued to slam down at Huang Yu, a strange barrier made from sword qi crashed into it, reducing it to a mere 30 percent of its original strength. The remaining energy failed to shatter Huang Yu's defenses.

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“You...” Tang Lisong was a high-level expert at the Martial Extermination Realm with really thick foundations. He naturally wouldn't trust his teammate completely in a battle of that scale. He took precautions against Shang Xia in case the youngster backstabbed him at the end of the fight, but he never expected them to be working together.

Even so, he was at the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm at the end of the day. He wasn't completely out of options if something went horribly wrong.

It was a shame he never thought that the other 2 would be hiding their strength. They were fighting an intense battle earlier and revealed their strength at the Martial Extermination Realm. Even with the fierce battle taking place, they managed to conceal their actual combat capabilities!

During the entire battle, Huang Yu was forced into desperate straits by Tang Lisong. Huang Yu was supposed to be at the peak of the fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm while Shang Xia barely stepped into the fourth layer. However, both of them revealed strength no weaker than his own at the very last second.

Taken by surprise, Tang Lisong was heavily injured by Huang Yu even though they had the same cultivation level.

He didn't plan to give up just like that. Spitting out a mouthful of blood onto his extermination origin protection barrier, it bloomed like a blood lotus. It directly shattered the fire rope Shang Xia created.

At the same time, he took the chance to escape from their encirclement as he tried to escape back into the heaven and earth qi storm. As he was about to approach the edge of the region protected by the Misty Palace Lantern, Huang Yu tossed away the headless spear in his hand before turning into a streak of light that shot at Tang Lisong. That wasn't all. The wind whistled as a sword tore through it.

A chilly light lit up the void and a hole appeared at the back of Tang Lisong's head. He was pinned into the air by the Jade River Sword that appeared in Huang Yu's hand.

By the time the sword light died down, another blade light appeared while carrying the power of lightning and fire.

It soared through the air and detached Tang Lisong's head from his shoulders.

Shang Xia's figure appeared not too far away as he kept his Abyssal Blade once again.

Chapter 554: Pleading

“For us to land a killing move each... You didn't die a wrongful death...” Huang Yu gestured at the air and grabbed Tang Lisong's head.

He placed a strong restriction on the head to prevent it from being eaten by the heaven and earth qi storm.

When Huang Yu stabbed the back of Tang Lisong's head with the Jade River Sword, he already extinguished all signs of life. However, Shang Xia made his move at the same time and it arrived a

little later because he was further away. With the Abyssal Blade, he beheaded Tang Lisong and erased his divine perception completely.

That was why Huang Yu said that they landed a killing move each.

“What’s the point of keeping his head?” Shang Xia raised an eyebrow and asked while watching the rest of Tang Lisong’s body dissipate. He looked through the rest of Tang Lisong’s belongings which survived with interest.

“Hmm... At least I’ll have something to my name. When I go back and claim credit from the rest of the cultivators from the Spirit Abundance World, I’ll be able to better gain their trust with Tang Lisong’s head in hand. I might even be able to grab even more fate dipper fragments!” Huang Yu shocked several items he found useful from Tang Lisong’s corpse into his spatial artifact while speaking.

Shang Xia didn’t seem bothered by the treasures Huang Yu was taking at all. After all, he kept everything the female cultivator had after they killed her earlier.

It was also then that Shang Xia learned that her name was Lin Chai.

“Fate dipper fragments? What is that?” Shang Xia heard of it before, but understanding that Huang Yu was saying it again for a specific purpose, he quickly asked.

Staying silent for a moment, Huang Yu eventually explained, “It’s a cultivation resource for experts at the Martial Extermination Realm and Martial Dipper Realm that is produced after world origin reaches a certain concentration.”

“Even Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors can use this?!” Shang Xia gasped in shock.

Glancing at Shang Xia from the corner of his eye, he muttered, “You’re asking about it the wrong way. Its main use is to supplement the cultivation of Martial Dipper Realm experts. Cultivators like us in the Martial Extermination Realm will only be able to use a small portion of it. Either that or we can only make use of the extremely low-quality fragments...”

“They caused all this chaos in order to borrow the power of the pillar of light to refine fate dipper fragments?!” Shang Xia asked.

Huang Yu’s expression flickered slightly and he answered, “That’s right!”

Not noticing the change on Huang Yu’s face, Shang Xia followed up with another question, “How exactly do they refine the fate dipper fragments anyway? Are you able to learn their secret?”

Sighing softly, Huang Yu continued, “It’s something you won’t like to hear... Even in the Spirit Abundance World, refining fate dippers like that is a forbidden technique. The great powers in the Spirit Abundance World reached an agreement to ban such a method of refinement...”

Shang Xia quickly realized what was going on and he sneered, “So... Looks like they really gave up on the Manyu Continent. The prohibition doesn’t work here and they can do anything they wish

to the Many Continent... Is the method of refining fate dipper fragments only passed down in the inheritance of those big factions?"

Huang Yu nodded in response. "Is there anything strange about that? Even in the Azure Origin World, some techniques have already been forbidden. Something on this scale that greatly exhausts world origin while also requiring sacrifices is really too cruel. It's no surprise they are unwilling to watch anyone unleash this disastrous art on their world."

"Since that's the case, wouldn't scattered cultivators of the Spirit Abundance World like yourself be silenced after they accomplish their goal here?" Shang Xia chuckled while tossing out a casual warning.

With a smile on his face, Huang Yu shook his head and replied, "They messed up really badly this time. They planned to harvest the world origin of the Many Continent to squeeze out all the value left in it but they got too greedy. However, they didn't consider the scale of what they were doing properly and ran into resistance from the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World. With the experts of the two worlds in the picture, they had to take precautions. The experts they sent in were unable to keep up, and they quickly came up with a plan to bring in other experts of the Spirit Abundance World. They shouldn't do anything to me for the time being. As long as I manage to blend in with their group before we leave the Many Continent, I should be good."

Shang Xia nodded seriously but he couldn't help but drop another reminder. "Regardless, it never hurts to be more careful. You have to be on guard at all times!"

"Hahaha, kid, relax. I'm much more experienced at these sorts of things than you think. Oh right. I'll need you to coordinate with me to put on another show in a bit..." Huang Yu roared with laughter after hearing what he said. He then told Shang Xia what they were going to do and Shang Xia took note of everything mentally.

After going through the entire plan, Shang Xia joked, "Oh? If we're successful, it's possible to get him to owe you a favor. Are you planning to enter his faction? I thought you were gunning for Cen Yu the whole time..."

"Cen Yu is an old monster and he's extremely sharp. However, the power he comes from isn't too strong in the Spirit Abundance World. The person we're talking about is a whole other story. His background is terrifying and his sect has quite the authority in the Spirit Abundance World." Huang Yu explained.

Raising his thumb in awe, Shang Xia snorted in amusement, "Damn, as expected of an elder of your caliber. You're good! It's only been a little more than 2 months and you already got close to those guys without exposing your identity. You even managed to make such a detailed investigation of their backgrounds."

Huang Yu's expression sank when he heard how Shang Xia was addressing him all of a sudden. "Hey kid, I might be one generation older than you, but I'm not that old! What's with the way you're addressing me now?"

"Oh yes, hehe..." Shang Xia sniggered under his breath.

“Right. Anyway, I have something else I need your help with.” Huang Yu coughed once before he added.

“Huh?” Shang Xia was immediately taken aback. However, he eventually laughed, “Alright. As long as it is within my means, I’ll do it.”

The super spy of the Tongyou Institution who roamed the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World freely looked a little shy after hearing Shang Xia’s answer. Shang Xia couldn’t quite believe what he was seeing and he became even more curious. In Shang Xia’s eyes, Youshang might be an amazing undercover agent of the institution, but he was also a shameless asshole. He couldn’t believe someone like that would actually reveal such a sheepish expression.

Seemingly having noticed the strange look in Shang Xia’s eyes, Huang Yu coughed again before forcing himself to act more seriously. “With your current status and influence, you can definitely deal with my matter.”

Getting a little impatient to uncover what the issue was, Shang Xia hurried, “Just tell me what it is! What are you rambling on and on for? It doesn’t match your personality at all!”

Adjusting his emotions, he finally turned serious. “I remember telling you that Wei Qiongyi of the Liang Continent appeared in the Azure Spiritual World out of nowhere. We ran into each other coincidentally...”

“Yeah?” Shang Xia nodded. The next moment, his eyes went wide. “You brought her to the Manyu Continent and?! Are you asking me to send her back to the Azure Origin World? Wait a second... Isn’t she in the Martial Intent Realm?”

Shooting a glare at Shang Xia, Huang Yu snorted, “It’s been more than 2 years. Can’t she enter the Martial Extermination Realm? Do you think you’re the only one who knows how to cultivate?”

Shang Xia knew that if she truly entered the Martial Extermination Realm, she definitely received help from the shameless fellow talking to him... Otherwise, there was no way a cultivator of the Azure Origin World would be able to break through and enter the Martial Extermination Realm after falling into the Azure Spiritual World.

“Alright, this doesn’t seem too difficult.” Shang Xia quickly agreed to his request. However, a look of confusion appeared on his face and he asked, “Actually, shouldn’t you just tell Deputy Patriarch Yun or my grandfather? You’ve been undercover for so long and now, you’ve even inserted yourself into the Spirit Abundance World. Your contributions to the institution are immeasurable. Why do you need to ask me to take care of this matter for you?”

Falling deep into thought, Huang Yu muttered, “Brat, you don’t know how any of this works! You’re the only one who can deal with this flawlessly. They won’t question anything if you’re the one doing it. Also, no one will dare to use this matter to pick on you in the future.”

“How so?” Shang Xia really couldn’t understand what the fuck was going on.

Coughing twice, a look of embarrassment appeared on Huang Yu's face. "Well... It's nothing too bad... I just broke some rules and accidentally got her, a member of the Weiwu Institution, pregnant..."

"PFFT..." Shang Xia tilted his head to the skies and peered down his nose to shoot Huang Yu a look of disdain. Even so, he immediately understood what he meant. "I get it. You're sending her back now before telling them about what you did. Hehe. If I really bring a pregnant woman back to the Tongyou Stronghold, there's no way they will kick her out."

A huge grin appeared on Huang Yu's face. "Great! At least you get it!"

Rolling his eyes, Shang Xia continued, "No matter what, Wei Qiongyi has entered the Martial Extermination Realm. Our Tongyou Institution experienced a sharp rise in strength in the past few years, but we're not arrogant to the point where we can ignore Martial Extermination Realm experts. After she gives birth, we can bring her under the institution's banner. Heh, you even managed to get us a Martial Extermination Realm cultivator out of nowhere. You can even count it as your contribution to the institution!"

"Yeah, yeah, yeah!" Huang Yu roared with laughter and he became really excited. "Why didn't I think of that?! This daddy here didn't break the rules of the institution! I made a heroic contribution to improve the institution's strength!"

...

The central region of the heaven and earth qi vortex was as peaceful as before.

A total of 12 fate dipper fragments were condensed, and 4 pieces hovered in front of the 3 experts present.

Because there were 3 more experts who were preventing the outsiders from coming in, they would have to split up their loot to even more portions.

"I didn't think that there would be so much world origin in this pillar of light. It really exceeded my expectations. From the looks of it, we will be able to harvest a fifth round of fragments!" Cen Yu might have said that he would let Lou Yi grab the first fragment to recover, but that only applied to the first round of harvests.

Also, he would obtain the first fragment that appeared every round after that before giving the others a chance to grab the others. The quality of the fragments he obtained was naturally the highest.

The greater the number of rounds of harvest, the more he would benefit.

"Heh, looks like a lot of people died..." The black robed expert, Hei Lian, immediately pointed out the reason behind the extraordinary amount of world origin.

Coughing once, Lou Yi's face still looked pretty pale. Luckily, he seemed to have his internal injuries under control. He muttered softly, "Looks like Lin Chai, Liu Yu, and Huang Yu aren't having such an easy time out in the storm."

Hei Lian glanced at him from the corner of his eye before he asked, "Brother Lou, are you really planning to give Huang Yu a portion of our harvest?"

Snorting once, Lou Yi didn't bother replying. A look of contempt appeared on his face.

Cen Yu laughed at the side. "Heh, that guy has no affiliations and he's merely trying to get close to Brother Lou. Why else will he risk his life for this?"

Glancing at Cen Yu, Hei Lian mumbled, "Isn't it the same with Liu Yu?"

"Actually, things are working out perfectly. Those fragments that appear near the end will be of the worst quality but it should be more than enough for them..." Lou Yi added suddenly.

Breaking out into laughter, Cen Yu detected a slight fluctuation and he directed their attention back to the light pillar. "The fragments are about to be produced again. I won't stand on ceremony and I'll take the first piece. Please take care of the formation while I head over."

After he spoke, Cen Yu left his position and rushed at the dimming pillar of light.

The moment he flew into the air, the ground beneath them started to tremble violently. Hei Lian and Lou Yi grunted softly and strengthened their control of the formation. The shaking stopped immediately.

At the same time, the corpses of the high-leveled Martial Extermination Realm experts started to dissipate as the last of their inner qi was sucked into the pillar of light. Very quickly, a cube took shape in the air and the light pillar dimmed significantly. The pillar of light seemed to have reached the end of its lifespan.

Reaching for the fragment, Cen Yu extracted it before looking at its surface which was filled with intricate vein lines before shaking his head in disappointment, "This fragment is far from comparable to the one we obtained in the first harvest..."

He returned to his original position with a trace of discontent.

When he returned, Lou Yi went out to retrieve his fragment. Just as he was about to arrive beside the pillar of light, the heaven and earth qi vortex on his left side tore open, revealing a scene of chaos.

Cen Yu and Hei Lian yelled in unison the moment they noticed the disturbance.

"Brother Lou, be careful!"

"Behind you!"

Lou Yi felt a sense of danger rapidly approaching and he quickly pounced to lie flat on the ground. Sticking as close to the ground as possible, he scurried forward.

Shang Xia entered through the gap the next moment and he glanced at his surroundings before hacking his Abyssal Blade towards Lou Yi, who was the closest to him at the moment.

"Asshole, go to hell!"

Chapter 555: Acting Again

Even though the heaven and earth qi storm outside could distort one's senses, causing them to be unable to differentiate the direction they were moving in, Shang Xia was a special case.

Because of the twisted sense of direction, other cultivators would hardly be able to locate the vortex. Unlike them, the members of the Spirit Abundance World could communicate with each other with some sort of secret art. They could even accurately pinpoint the locations of the foreign experts who were trying to break into the heaven and earth qi vortex! Due to the limited divine perception range, sneak attacks were particularly effective.

As such, the experts of the Spirit Abundance World held an absolute advantage.

Huang Yu wanted to bring Shang Xia in the correct direction as he knew that Shang Xia's goal was also the fate dipper fragments. However, Shang Xia had the Crimson Soul Tablet. It pointed him in the direction of the pillar of light, and locating the pillar of light was equivalent to arriving at the heaven and earth qi vortex.

Unfortunately, that was as far as Shang Xia could go. He could tell where the central region of the vortex was after he arrived, but he wouldn't know where the 3 of them were. That was where he needed Huang Yu's help.

...

The moment he tore through the vortex to enter, he felt as though he had fallen into a paradise of cultivation. The heaven and earth qi surrounding him was really dense.

What shocked him wasn't the density of heaven and earth qi. Instead, it was the purity of the qi.

Due to the presence of the vortex, the heaven and earth qi contained within seemed to have passed through countless filters and had been refined to the absolute purest it could be. Shang Xia could even directly absorb the heaven and earth qi to replenish his depleted reserves.

He felt the pores of his body expanding as it tried to suck in the dense heaven and earth qi around him. The speed at which his inner qi circulated actually increased by close to 30 percent! All the energy he used earlier was starting to recover at a terrifying pace...

Well, that wasn't the time to be thinking about all that.

...

Shang Xia's sudden appearance and attack shocked everyone present, but they weren't exactly caught completely off guard.

When Lou Yi pressed himself to the ground and scurried away, Cen Yu and Hei Lian reacted. As they moved in unison, the formation under their feet started to transform. A formless wave appeared to block Shang Xia while wearing down his extermination origin protection barrier.

Even though the self-preservation function of the formation they had laid down wasn't strong, it had the ability to absorb energy and convert it into something else. It could gradually grind down a cultivator's energy without them noticing it.

Luckily, Shang Xia's senses were sharp. The control he had over his extermination origins and inner qi far outranked cultivators of the same level. The moment he stepped into the vortex, he already discovered his inner qi draining from his dantian.

Everything happened in a split second, but recalling what Huang Yu told him outside the vortex, the Abyssal Blade came crashing down once again.

“Outrageous!”

“Stop!”

Cen Yu and Hei Lian yelled at the same time, but their next action differed slightly.

Cen Yu left his position and rushed at Shang Xia directly.

After getting over his initial shock, he recognized Shang Xia and how strong he was. He also knew that Shang Xia had a secret art that would allow him to quickly devour world origin. That wasn't all. With his estimation of Shang Xia's strength, he understood that the injured Lou Yi wouldn't be the youngster's opponent. As such, Lou Yi wouldn't be able to stop him from approaching the pillar of light.

Another reason he left his position to stop Shang Xia was because after harvesting his fragments earlier, he knew that the world origin was nearly exhausted. It wasn't possible for them to go for another round and since he already obtained his benefits, he didn't care about the stability of the formation.

Hei Lian acted completely differently. He had been taking the last fragment produced every round and he wasn't willing to give up the slightest chance of obtaining the last fragment. Fate dipper fragments were extremely rare treasures to him, and he would give it his all to obtain another piece.

Seeing that Shang Xia was threatening the stability of the formation by giving up on his opportunity to heavily injure Lou Yi, Hei Lian poured his inner qi crazily into it as he forcefully sustained the formation even with Cen Yu's departure.

A layer of light emerged from the ground below to meet Shang Xia's blade light and they were slowly ground away by the terrifying amount of energy contained in the attack.

He might have resisted Shang Xia's blade light, but the violent shaking that was created from the clash affected the operation of the formation to some extent. Lou Yi, who arrived in front of the pillar of light, failed to locate a fragment even after feeling around for some time.

Hei Lian, who was maintaining the formation alone, spat out a mouthful of blood.

With the other 2 absent and Shang Xia's blade light pressing against the formation, he suffered a severe backlash and received heavy internal injuries.

After Shang Xia's failed attempt to destroy the formation failed due to Hei Lian's efforts, Cen Yu arrived in front of him.

Shang Xia's head started to hurt when he saw Cen Yu again. That fellow had already comprehended his martial intent and was a step away from entering the Martial Dipper Realm. His weapon, the Phoenix Wing Halberd, was a pseudo divine weapon and Shang Xia knew that he wasn't an opponent for the old expert.

Fortunately, Huang Yu and Shang Xia ran through several scenarios before he entered and this was one of them.

Shang Xia, who had the experience of unleashing different techniques with both his hands after his life threatening battle earlier, had been storing up energy in his left hand the whole time. When Cen Yu appeared with the halberd in hand, Shang Xia released a powerful Four Constellation Palm in his face.

The dense heaven and earth qi in the air rippled and the space between Shang Xia and Cen Yu bent heavily. His Four Constellation Palm appeared in front of Cen Yu who was still a thousand or so feet away in an instant.

Shang Xia's palm was infinitely close to a rank four martial intent and it was one of Shang Xia's strongest trump cards.

Although the raw power contained in the palm strike was enough, it hadn't undergone the fundamental transformation to truly become a rank four martial intent. What was more, there were differences in levels even among rank four martial intents.

Cen Yu was stopped by the sudden appearance of Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm, and he grunted loudly while waving his Phoenix Wing Halberd. A pair of scarlet wings bloomed in the void and tore Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm to shreds.

It didn't matter to Shang Xia. After all, his main purpose of releasing his Four Constellation Palm was to buy some time.

His true goal was the pillar of light in front of him and Lou Yi, who had an unresigned expression as he continued to dig for the fate dipper fragment.

Shang Xia's Abyssal Blade changed direction and slashed out once again, releasing a blade qi that contained the will to destroy everything in its path.

He unleashed Pure Brightness, a move in the series of his Twenty Four Solar Terms.

"Be careful!"

Right after shattering Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm, Cen Yu witnessed the terrifying blade light traveling towards Lou Yi and he couldn't help but roar after understanding the intricacies behind Shang Xia's techniques.

With Lou Yi's current condition, Cen Yu knew that if the blade light found its target accurately, Lou Yi was going to take a trip down to the netherworld.

At the crucial moment, Lou Yi raised his metal ruler in an attempt to protect himself as he tried to resist Shang Xia's Pure Brightness.

A loud snap was heard as his high-grade metal ruler was broken in half by the blade light.

Spitting out another mouthful of blood, Lou Yi felt a tyrannical energy invading his body. He retreated hundreds of feet thanks to the impact of the collision between his weapon and the blade light and avoided the deadly blow.

The blade light that struck his weapon earlier scattered and Lou Yi felt the weight on his right arm disappear. Sparkling cubes scattered into the air above him.

"Oh no!" Lou Yi panicked and he couldn't care less about the injuries he suffered as the fate dipper fragments he collected earlier flew into the skies.

He tried to grab the 2 closest to him. Cen Yu rushed to grab another one that flew close to him and the last one ended up in Shang Xia's hands as he continued to make his way to the pillar of light.

Staring at the piece in Shang Xia's hand, Lou Yi's eyes widened in shock. If he wasn't mistaken, that was the fragment he obtained during the first harvest.

Not only was it the first piece he obtained, but it was also the first fragment that was produced by the light pillar! Of the fate dipper fragments they obtained, that was the piece with the highest quality!

That wasn't all. When Shang Xia grabbed the fate dipper fragment earlier, the remnant energy of his blade light destroyed the already dim pillar of light!

The moment it was shattered, the fate dipper fragment Lou Yi had been desperately trying to find earlier fully formed. It started to fall to the ground below and Shang Xia reached out instinctively to grab it. Since he was already headed in the same direction to begin with, it wasn't a surprise he managed to get his hands on it. Of course, the piece he grabbed was of extremely low quality. There were cracks on its surface and it didn't look too great.

"Sacrifice him and continue the harvest!" Hei Lian roared as he left his position. He approached from another direction and tried to surround Shang Xia.

Seeing how Shang Xia shattered the light pillar that was supposed to produce the last fragment, Hei Lian felt all his hard work going down the drain. He burst into rage and he wanted nothing more than to cut Shang Xia up into a million pieces.

Even though Shang Xia's blade light crashed into the pillar of light, it didn't actually cause any destruction. When the blade light came into contact with the pillar of light, all the world origin was absorbed into Shang Xia's Crimson Soul Tablet.

After obtaining 2 fragments out of nowhere, Shang Xia discovered that he couldn't shove them into any of his spatial artifacts.

It was no wonder they would fly out from Lou Yi's sleeves.

Shang Xia could only shove them into his sleeves helplessly before rushing back in Lou Yi's direction.

With the current situation he was stuck in, Shang Xia seemed to have reached the conclusion that his action of charging into the heaven and earth qi vortex was a little reckless.

He wouldn't be a match if he ran into Cen Yu alone. With an additional Hei Lian at the side, his chances of escaping weren't too high.

However, he didn't choose to run immediately. Instead, he continued to rush at Lou Yi. That was because he could already feel the killing intent coming from Cen Yu and Hei Lian and he knew that escaping wasn't really possible at the moment.

Luckily, there was still an injured fellow who just lost his weapon and suffered even heavier injuries. He could capture one of them before deciding on his next course of action!

"You scoundrel! How dare you act so brazenly?"

"Brother Lou Yi, run!"

Cen Yu and Hei Lian approached Shang Xia from both directions. Even though they seemed to be yelling to remind Lou Yi to be careful, neither of them actually cared about his life or death.

Right before Lou Yi, someone with a pretty impressive background from the Spirit Abundance World could be taken hostage by Shang Xia, the heaven and earth qi vortex tore open and a sorry figure rushed in.

“Brother Lou Yi, don’t panic, I, Huang Yu, am here!”

As soon as the words rang in their ears, a spear that was lacking a spearhead shot straight for Shang Xia.

At the same time, Huang Yu took out a weird short sword in his hand that he clearly wasn’t used to in his hands. He brandished it menacingly, but it was clear to all of them he was an amateur at swordplay, as he inserted himself between Lou Yi and Shang Xia.

Shang Xia was caught off guard by the sudden appearance of the new enemy and he gasped in fright before stopping abruptly. The Abyssal Blade in his hand changed its trajectory and it smacked the headless spear towards Cen Yu, who was the closest to him.

Seeing as he was surrounded by his enemies, Shang Xia stabbed his sword into the ground below in a state of desperation as he poured his inner qi into it crazily.

With a low explosion, the formation shattered and the ground below collapsed. That wasn’t all. When the formation broke down, the heaven and earth qi vortex that formed a wall around them started to disappear at a frightening speed.

Chapter 556: Effects of a Single Blade

After the disappearance of the pillar of light, there was no point in keeping up the formation. However, all of them seemed to forget that the formation was the one that produced the heaven and earth qi vortex in the first place.

When Hei Lian left his post to surround Shang Xia, the final guardian of the formation was gone!

There was no way the formation could withstand a strike from Shang Xia’s blade with no experts around to control it.

The moment Shang Xia stabbed his sword into the ground below, the heaven and earth qi vortex went completely out of control. The vortex that gathered heaven and earth qi in the thousands of miles surrounding it had already reached a diameter of more than 10 miles. Now that it went out of control, heaven and earth qi came crashing down and those at its core weren’t spared.

With a wall of heaven and earth qi crashing down on them, Cen Yu and the others didn’t even need to think about killing Shang Xia. They had to ensure they could get out of there alive.

“Oh no! Brother Lou Yi, careful...” Huang Yu reacted before anyone else. He knew that Lou Yi had suffered multiple injuries and he wouldn’t be able to resist the terrifying current of heaven and earth qi that was about to arrive. Standing in front of Lou Yi, Huang Yu didn’t care about the consumption of his inner qi as he created a protection barrier with his extermination origins to shield both of them.

At that moment, Lou Yi's impression of Huang Yu changed. Originally, he only planned to make use of Huang Yu's strength when they were on the Manyu Continent. He never thought that Huang Yu would go so far as to protect him and he couldn't help but stutter, "Brother Huang, I..."

"There's no need to say anything! Circulate your inner qi and brace yourself. The heaven and earth qi current is coming... It's here!"

Huang Yu focused entirely on the horrifying current that was rushing down from the skies and he failed to hear the rest of Lou Yi's sentence.

Understanding that he was in no state to resist the incoming torrent of heaven and earth qi, Lou Yi decided to remain obediently behind Huang Yu. With the protection of his new ally, Lou Yi started to circulate his inner qi to stabilize his inner injuries the best he could. He hoped that he would be able to regain some combat capabilities in the event he had to assist Huang Yu.

WHOOSH...

The area in the vortex instantly turned into a sea of concentrated heaven and earth qi.

Everyone in there was swept away by the powerful waves that spread in all directions and the Huang Yu, Lou Yi duo had no idea where the others were. Huang Yu grabbed Lou Yi's arm tightly to prevent the man from being swept away.

Despite his preparations, Lou Yi was knocked unconscious by the formless shockwave after the heaven and earth qi current bashed into Huang Yu's protection barrier.

Cen Yu and Hei Lian could definitely protect themselves with their level of strength, but they were still swept away by the horrifying current.

The only person who remained in place throughout the entire ordeal was Shang Xia. He half-kneeled in his position and didn't seem to be affected by the strong current of heaven and earth qi.

When he destroyed the formation earlier, he already expected that to happen. As such, he shoved his blade deeper into the ground. Desperately holding on to his blade, he wasn't swept away like the others.

Even though Shang Xia broke the formation, the heaven and earth qi that was starting to disperse passed through it before leaving the area. There seemed to be some sort of strange reason behind the flow of heaven and earth qi, and Shang Xia had to withstand their ferocious battering the whole time. The protection barrier made from his extermination origins trembled endlessly and it was like a tiny flame flickering in a massive storm. Luckily, he managed to hold out till the end.

However, the situation wasn't exactly bad for Shang Xia. Every time the heaven and earth qi slammed into his protection barrier, it seemed to undergo a round of tempering. The energy contained in his protection barrier became purer and it became a little stronger.

The effects became extremely obvious near the end of the heaven and earth qi baptism. The strength of his barrier was several times stronger than it was initially and withstanding the streams of heaven and earth qi no longer drained as much inner qi.

Eventually, the sea of heaven and earth qi started to drain off and the strong currents ceased to exist. Without the formation to direct the flow of qi, they returned to the region nearby where they had

been sucked away from. The huge disturbance caused a massive heavenly phenomenon to appear in the skies.

When that happened, shockwaves appeared from multiple regions and it was extremely possible that Cen Yu and the others started fighting with other experts after being swept away. Shang Xia wondered if Huang Yu would be able to successfully protect Lou Yi.

Squatting where he was, Shang Xia didn't start moving immediately. From afar, he looked like a statue locked in place.

It wasn't as though Shang Xia wasn't to remain in that spot. After he stabbed his blade into the ground, the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness sucked up all the world origin around him endlessly. It was like a massive black hole that ate everything up.

Throughout the process, Shang Xia could also feel that the degree of refinement he had of his Four Seasons Extermination Origins increased significantly.

Originally, he refined close to 60 percent of his extermination origins. After stabbing the Abyssal Blade into the ground and destroying the formation, world origin poured into him in an endless tide. Adding the remnant effects of the formation that attracted the heaven and earth qi for one last time, Shang Xia, who entered the Martial Extermination Realm by refining four extermination origins at once, received a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

As world origin streamed into the Crimson Soul Tablet, Shang Xia was able to absorb a small portion of it to cultivate. The sheer amount of world origin coupled with its purity greatly accelerated the refinement of his extermination origins. At the same time, the pure heaven and earth qi that was battering against him endlessly was directly absorbed into his dantian. He no longer needed to slowly collect, refine, and convert the heaven and earth qi into his Four Constellation Qi.

When everything was happening, Shang Xia continued to circulate his inner qi. He improved his Four Seasons Samsara Art once again, shortening the time required to complete one cycle.

The heavenly opportunity that befell Shang Xia would last only as long as the sea of heaven and earth qi remained. It might take 2 hours to dissipate, or it might remain for several more hours. No one knew how long it would take for the entire sea of heaven and earth qi to drain.

The skies that had been blocked off by the super dense heaven and earth qi started to clear up and it eventually started to turn bright again. It was a sign that the sea of heaven and earth qi was about to disappear and Shang Xia's opportunity was about to come to an end.

As that was happening, Shang Xia examined the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness and discovered that the core had recovered to a certain extent. His cultivation also rose sharply as his degree of extermination origins refinement passed the 70 percent mark.

With the tempering of the heaven and earth qi, the defensive strength of his extermination origins protection barrier increased significantly. The time taken for him to circulate his inner qi according to the Four Seasons Samsara Art decreased and he could complete a full cycle within 3 hours.

Clang!

Finally pulling his blade out of the ground, Shang Xia felt the earth beneath his feet giving out as the entire region collapsed.

Floating in the air with his extermination origins, Shang Xia finally noticed that he was situated in a deep rift in the ground. It was as though he had entered the core of the Manyu Continent.

The location he was squatting on earlier was the center region of a huge basin that was created and the rift extended so far he couldn't see its end.

Rising tens of thousands of feet into the air, above the huge crack in the earth, Shang Xia surveyed his surroundings yet again. He finally saw the ends of the basin. The majestic Snowy Peaks Mountain Range that spanned thousands of miles was nowhere to be seen and its very existence seemed to be erased.

A low rumbling came from the ground below when Shang Xia was still comprehending the damage that was done. It was as though the continent itself was crying.

Hovering in the air, Shang Xia saw the earth shaking violently. The massive rifts in the ground extended in all directions and the Manyu Continent which was close to the end of its lifespan finally started to break down. The actions of those from the Spirit Abundance World tipped it past its breaking point.

Shang Xia was helpless to do anything about it and he quickly locked on to a certain direction before turning into a streak of light that sped into the distance.

After flying for the time it took a stick of incense to burn, Shang Xia left the huge basin and noticed 2 rays of light approaching him from his left and right. They rushed at him menacingly and they didn't seem too friendly.

Chapter 557: The Conflict for the Fragments

The moment the two streaks appeared, Shang Xia knew that they weren't friendlies.

Indeed... The moment they arrived within 10 miles of Shang Xia, they attacked in unison. Two rays of frosty light tore through the void and went straight for Shang Xia.

Unfortunately, the two of them seemed to have found the wrong target to mess with.

Because of Shang Xia's strange cultivation method, others would not be able to accurately determine his strength by detecting his cultivation base. Before he fully refined any extermination origins, he would be a first layer Martial Extermination Realm expert in the eyes of others.

The 2 who arrived suddenly clearly thought that Shang Xia was some weakling they could bully as they wished.

Because of the opportunity he received earlier, Shang Xia managed to refine a large portion of his extermination origins and his combat abilities soared through the roof. He hadn't consolidated his foundations as he wasn't exactly in the best of spots to do so and his control over his extermination origins wasn't as refined as before.

Seeing those 2 idiots jumping him as though they were tired of living, Shang Xia released his aura after they released their attacks. The skies that cleared up earlier due to the dissipation of heaven and earth qi fluctuated intensely as a heavenly phenomenon appeared.

Before the chilly lights that were sent out by the 2 attackers could close in on Shang Xia, they were destroyed. The extermination lights that surrounded their weapons shook unsteadily.

“Large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm!”

“Grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm!”

They immediately realized they kicked a metal board now that Shang Xia revealed his cultivation. However, they evaluated his cultivation level a little differently from each other.

Whatever the case, they couldn't afford to offend Shang Xia regardless if he was at the large completion stage or the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm.

“Senior, it's a misunderstanding...”

“Senior, please spare our lives!”

They pleaded for mercy in unison and the person on Shang Xia's right immediately called his weapon back and positioned it in front of himself. He circulated his inner qi and prepared to defend himself if Shang Xia were to try anything.

The other expert acted more decisively. After pleading for mercy, he didn't bother about his weapon. Turning around, he transformed into a streak of light that tore through the skies to escape.

When Shang Xia released his aura earlier, he didn't do it just to scare them.

Reaching out, Shang Xia's hand entered the void. 4 rays of extermination light gathered in the air dozens of miles away to form a massive palm. It slapped at the fleeing figure.

“This... This... Fusion of extermination origins and divine intent... This is the martial intent of an expert of the Martial Extermination Realm!” The cultivator who didn't run away immediately screamed. The looks of fear deepened and he understood that his companion was probably dead the moment the palm landed.

He couldn't be more correct. A miserable scream rang through the skies before being cut short abruptly. Everything returned to normal the instant after that as though nothing had happened.

The cultivator who stood in his place turned his head to take a look. When he turned back, Shang Xia had already appeared before him.

Gasping in fright, he instinctively wanted to retreat. However, he suppressed the urge after regaining his calm.

“I am Zheng Chang from the Yang Continent. I greet Senior!” After he spoke, he gave Shang Xia a deep bow.

Even though Shang Xia only made a single move earlier, Zheng Chang was able to determine that he was an expert of the Azure Origin World.

Looking at the man before him expressionlessly, Shang Xia muttered coldly, “Yang Continent? Are you from the Lushan Sect?”

The Lushan Paradise of the Yang Continent was one of the holy lands in the Azure Origin World and cultivators from the Lushan Paradise would call themselves members of the Lushan Sect. That was why Shang Xia didn't bother calling out the actual name of the faction.

“Yes!”

Even though Zheng Chang came from a huge power like the Lushan Paradise, he didn't think that it would be enough to save him. His head lowered even further.

In the Manyu Continent, there were experts from many different superpowers. The moment he was killed, there would be no evidence to back the claim of who the culprit was. His Lushan Sect wouldn't be able to do a thing!

"Was that one of your fellow members?" Shang Xia asked. He was still contemplating if he should kill the fellow in front of him.

"No... He is not!" Zheng Chang replied immediately. "That person is Ma Sheng of the Zhengyang Sect of the Xu Continent. We ran into each other coincidentally and decided to join forces. We didn't think that we would be ignorant and foolish enough to offend Senior!"

Waving his hand, Shang Xia muttered, "Stop calling me your senior. I'm much younger than you."

Only then did Zheng Chang examine Shang Xia properly. He discovered that Shang Xia was a youngster in his twenties. The next second, the giant palm that Shang Xia unleashed earlier appeared in his mind. He instinctively went to compare Shang Xia to the 2 geniuses in his Lushan Sect and realized that they might not be comparable to the youngster before him! In fact, they were far comparable!

After thinking about it, Zheng Chang hastily replied, "I wouldn't dare to!"

With a frown forming on his face, Shang Xia asked, "What exactly happened here? From how you 2 appeared, it seems like you were waiting to ambush someone."

Cold sweat dripped down Zheng Chang's forehead and he quickly explained everything he saw during his time there.

When Cen Yu and the others used the formation to draw all the heaven and earth qi in the surrounding thousands of miles over, the huge disturbance drew the attention of many powers in the Manyu Continent.

Because Shang Xia wasn't too far from the region, he was one of the first to arrive. Soon after that, the experts of the Azure Origin World, Azure Spiritual World, and the Manyu Continent arrived.

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Too bad for them, Cen Yu and the others were nearly done by the time they came. Moreover, those experts who arrived eventually didn't seem too strong. They were afraid of barging into the heaven and earth qi storm due to the terrifying power it contained, and they were also afraid that they would be running around like headless flies in there. That was why a huge portion of them didn't dare to charge in. With Lin Chai, Huang Yu, and Liu Yu protecting the perimeter, none of them could do what Shang Xia did.

Only after Shang Xia met up with Huang Yu and destroyed the formation from the inside did the heaven and earth qi storm subside. With the crumbling of the heaven and earth qi vortex, Cen Yu and the others were washing away. Cultivators like Hei Lian, Liu Yu, and those of the same cultivation level suffered injuries when they were pushed away by the heaven and earth qi currents.

Experts who were too afraid to enter the heaven and earth qi storm earlier set their sights on these cultivators who were swept away. Taking the opportunity when those who emerged were injured, they attacked immediately and a huge battle broke out.

During the entire process, an accident happened.

As fate dipper fragments couldn't be stored in spatial artifacts, they were pretty cumbersome to bring around. Moreover, they weren't exactly small in size either. Cen Yu and the others were greatly inconvenienced when they brought it around and their existences were revealed during the chaos. Some were even shattered, causing world origin to leak to the surroundings which only added fuel to the fire.

No one knew if someone managed to obtain a piece of the broken fragment or if they already knew what it was, the use of a fate dipper fragment was revealed to everyone present. In an instant, the battlefield shifted and everyone targeted the experts from the Spirit Abundance World.

In the end, the experts of the Spirit Abundance World shattered several fragments and tossed them away to distract their attackers. Other experts of the Spirit Abundance World arrived soon after to assist them and they eventually managed to get away.

Shang Xia understood 2 things from what Zheng Chang said. After the battle, the Spirit Abundance World was no longer able to hide in the dark. They were exposed to the Azure Origin World, Azure Spiritual World, and the experts of the Manyu Continent. Also, the pursuit after the chaotic battle that took place was clearly not because of the fate dipper fragments. There were several experts who thought of dealing with the experts of the Spirit Abundance World before they could leave the Manyu Continent.

Shang Xia also knew that the reason everyone learned of the use of the fate dipper fragments had something to do with Huang Yu.

Whatever Huang Yu did didn't matter. As long as he managed to protect Lou Yi all the way, he should be able to gain the trust of the superpower standing behind him. When that happened, his infiltration of the Spirit Abundance World would go a lot smoother.

After thinking about it, Shang Xia couldn't help but admire the shit-stirring expert whose true name was still unknown. There was no way Shang Xia would believe Youshang was his actual name. His ability to disguise himself was definitely unparalleled!

The thought flashed through Shang Xia's mind in an instant and he quickly turned his attention back to Zheng Chang. "So... You joined hands with Ma Sheng in order to obtain fate dipper fragments from others?"

No fucking shit...

That might be what Zheng Chang thought, but he didn't dare to say it out loud. Instead, he spoke loudly, "We're mere weaklings compared to everyone present. Neither of us had the qualifications to join in the chase for the experts from the Spirit Abundance World and we wanted to look for the broken fragments left behind..."

Pausing for a second, he continued, "The largest pieces had already been obtained by the other experts. We were merely looking for the shards that the others might have overlooked. Well, as it

happened, Senior appeared... We were blinded by greed and after seeing that you were only a first layer Martial Extermination Realm cultivator, we..."

Shang Xia nodded and replied, "So, you should have gathered a few shards, right?"

Zheng Chang's face twisted in pain as he obediently took out his spatial artifact.

After receiving the artifact, Shang Xia realized that the restrictions on it had already been lifted. He couldn't help but nod to himself in appreciation. With a wave of his arm, the spatial artifact of the dead guy also flew into his hand.

Zheng Chang couldn't help but reveal a look of admiration after seeing the item in Shang Xia's hand. When Shang Xia released the giant palm earlier, he completely eradicated Ma Sheng. However, he perfectly preserved the spatial artifact and that could only mean that Shang Xia had amazing control over his strength.

A soft glow appeared around Ma Sheng's spatial artifact in Shang Xia's hand and after some time, the restriction on it came undone.

His... His extermination origins can actually destroy restrictions!

Zheng Chang screamed in his heart and saw Shang Xia retrieving several fragments the size of fingernails.

Looking at his gains, Shang Xia nodded once. Those shards definitely contained world origin.

One couldn't judge those shards by their size. Every single piece contained concentrated world origin and it would be enough for second layer Martial Extermination Realm experts like Zheng Chang to enter seclusion for a month or so. During that time, they would gain an extraordinary amount of energy and it could be equivalent to 3 months worth of cultivation.

If a few shards contained that amount of world origin, how much would one entire fate dipper fragment contain?!

It was no wonder the experts who gathered around earlier went after the cultivators of the Spirit Abundance World.

Shang Xia instinctively reached for his world origins and he touched his sleeves subtly. There were 2 fate dipper fragments earlier, but now that he was feeling for them again, there was only one left!

Chapter 558: Actual Use of Fate Dipper Fragments

"I do not wish to kill you." Shang Xia raised his hand and pushed it in the gloomy Zheng Chang's direction. "I'll lay down a restriction in your dantian and I won't let you do as you wish from now on. If you leak any news of Ma Sheng's death to the members of the Zhengyang Sect of the Xu Continent, you can't blame me for being ruthless."

After playing bad cop, Shang Xia's tone changed for the better. "Naturally, you can try to undo the restriction on your dantian yourself. You can also look for experts of other factions. As long as you manage to get rid of it, you can go ahead. I won't try to stop you."

When he was done, the extermination light under Shang Xia's feet flashed and he disappeared from Zheng Chang's sight instantly.

Only then did Zheng Chang heave a sigh of relief.

Turning his attention to his dantian, he noticed a ball of strange extermination qi hovering in the center of it. Even though he was extremely annoyed by it, he couldn't do anything. He even thought that Shang Xia was merely scaring him by telling him he could look for anyone to try destroying the restriction, but his doubts didn't last long. When Shang Xia turned around to leave without the slightest hesitation, Zheng Chang felt that the youngster wasn't messing with him.

However... Zheng Chang didn't understand where Shang Xia got his confidence from. His cultivation was at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm, but the Lushan Sect had hundreds of years of foundation. They had knowledge of countless martial intents and there was even a Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor present. Zheng Chang refused to believe that they would be unable to get rid of the restriction in his dantian eventually.

Using his divine perception to probe the restriction, Zheng Chang's expression eventually changed when he noticed the intricacies behind it.

His cultivation might not be comparable to Shang Xia, but he was a disciple of the Lushan Sect. The knowledge he had was vast, and that was precisely why he understood that the restriction in his dantian was absolutely terrifying.

Unless he was willing to destroy half his foundations to get rid of the restriction Shang Xia placed, there was no chance he could free himself from it! If he really had to do that, there was no need to talk about advancing in the future. He would have to thank the gods if his cultivation didn't regress to the Martial Intent Realm.

...

Shang Xia didn't know Zheng Chang's inner thoughts, and even if he did, he wouldn't give a shit.

Since they joined forces to kill him, they should be prepared to put their lives on the line. There was no heavenly law stating that they were the only ones allowed to do the killing. Others could easily do the same to him.

In the end, Zheng Chang might have kept his life, but he became one of Shang Xia's chest pieces. Shang Xia wasn't even afraid that he would return to the Lushan Sect to look for help.

Returning to the Tongyou Stronghold, Shang Xia had a peaceful journey.

The only thing out of the ordinary he discovered was the dwindling traces of life around the Manyu Continent.

Shang Xia wasn't too surprised by that. Because of the huge disturbance caused by the experts of the Spirit Abundance World, the heaven and earth qi in the surrounding thousands of miles were sapped up. The huge mountain range that used to exist nearly disappeared and the giant crater in the ground was also extremely obvious.

Their actions caused earthquakes, volcano eruptions, and floods for thousands upon thousands of miles. Countless aboriginals were killed because of that and the others quickly brought their families to escape the region.

When Shang Xia finally returned to the Tongyou Stronghold, everyone had already heard about the actions of the Spirit Abundance World. Of course, all they heard was the outline of what happened.

Only experts like Shang Xia and Huang Yu, who personally took part in the battle within the heaven and earth qi vortex, and the battles that happened before that, would be able to give real details of what happened.

Because Huang Yu's identity couldn't be publicly revealed to the other members of the institution, Shang Xia sent everyone away before recounting his experiences. Only Yun Jing, Shang Bo, and Liu Qinglan were left.

Liu Qinglan's aura showed signs of fluctuation and it seemed as though she hadn't fully consolidated her foundations. One could say that she had finally entered the gateway to become a high-level Martial Extermination Realm expert but hadn't planted her feet firmly in her cultivation realm.

After telling the 3 about Huang Yu's plan to infiltrate the Spirit Abundance World, Shang Xia waited for their reactions. However, the 3 of them were clearly experienced cultivators who had seen many things during their time. They didn't seem too shocked with his approach.

"Oh right. Did you manage to obtain a fate dipper fragment?" Shang Bo asked.

His question immediately drew the attention of the others.

The disturbance the experts of the Spirit Abundance World created was too large. The pillar of light that was created in the Snowy Peaks Mountain Range wasn't the only one that appeared. News of the fate dipper fragments were flying all around and no one knew what was true and what was false.

However, there was one thing in common with all the rumors going around. The fragments were extremely precious. Otherwise, the experts from the Spirit Abundance World wouldn't cause such a huge ruckus to obtain them. They basically pushed the Manyu Continent to the brink of destruction with their actions.

Shang Xia naturally wouldn't hide anything from his grandfather. He brought out the crystal-like cube from his sleeves and handed it over.

Shang Bo didn't say much after receiving the cube. Closing his eyes, he used his divine perception, extermination origins, and inner qi to explore the uses of the cube.

Looking at Yun Jing and Liu Qinglan whose gazes never left the cube, Shang Xia brought out 2 different cases from his sleeves and handed it to them.

Those cases contained the dozens of shards he obtained from Zheng Chang and Ma Sheng. After Yun Jing and Liu Qinglan examined them, their expressions changed drastically. It was especially so for Liu Qinglan. The moment she touched a fragment, she felt world origin pouring into her body. Her foundations which had not yet stabilized started to make some progress.

Liu Qinglan didn't absorb all the world origin in the shard. Instead, she placed it back into the case.

Shang Xia chuckled when he saw her actions. "Instructor Liu, you're at a crucial point of cultivation. Feel free to take a few. I believe you noticed their effects earlier. I have quite a few of these..."

Tossing the case back to him, Liu Qinglan muttered, "I'm about to fully refine my extermination origin and all that's left is for me to work a little harder. It's too wasteful if I use up these precious treasures."

When she returned the case to Shang Xia earlier, she felt that the world origin contained in those shards was starting to grow unstable. That was why she tossed them back into the case and closed it immediately. She didn't wish to be wasteful.

Yun Jing returned the case to Shang Xia after hearing what Liu Qinglan said. "Qinglan isn't wrong. The world origin contained in these shards is extremely pure. You should save them in case they prove to be the difference in a crucial moment. Moreover, you obtained them after fighting with others. You should keep them for yourself."

Shang Xia kept the cases helplessly. Shang Bo, who had been examining the fate dipper fragment, opened his eyes suddenly. A ray of light shot out from his eyes and he gasped, "That's it!"

The other 3 turned to stare at him in shock, but they didn't say a word. They eagerly awaited his explanation.

He didn't address their concerns immediately. Instead, he turned to Shang Xia and asked, "Didn't you obtain a broken fate dipper in the past?"

Widening his eyes slightly, Shang Xia replied, "Yeah. I gave it to the institution after."

The broken fate dipper Shang Bo was talking about was from Zhu Tong of the Zhu Family back in the battlefield between the two worlds.

Shang Xia was sure that Ji Wenlong's breakthrough to the Martial Dipper Realm had something to do with that broken fate dipper he obtained.

Even though the broken fate dipper was damaged, it was still a supremely important factor in Ji Wenlong's breakthrough. Of course, a rank five advancement formula was also important, but that wasn't the point.

Shang Bo weighed the cube in his hand and sighed, "This fragment isn't just used for cultivation. Martial Extermination Realm experts can make use of it when cultivating, but so can experts in the Martial Dipper realm. This cube is extremely useful when it comes to refining a divine weapon too. However, none of those are the main points. Most importantly, this can be used to gather fate dipper essence!"

"Fate dipper essence?!" Yun Jing gasped as a look of excitement appeared on her face. She clearly knew what fate dipper essence was.

Shang Xia and Liu Qinglan might have been hearing it for the first time, but they revealed looks of contemplation as though they had already guessed something.

Shang Bo quickly followed up, "That's right. It's fate dipper essence. The purer the fate dipper fragment, the higher the quality of fate dipper essence it can collect. That will also affect the quality of the fate dipper produced eventually."

Thinking about it for a moment, Shang Xia asked, "Wouldn't that mean that a fate dipper fragment has the same function as a spirit extermination gourd? The only difference being the type of energy it collects..."

Shang Bo didn't need to explain anything at that point. Instead, Yun Jing shook her head and laughed, "Nope! Without talking about the huge difference between a fate dipper and an extermination origin, there are a lot of treasures like the Spirit Extermination Gourd that has the

ability to collect extermination qi to form a complete extermination origin. A fate dipper fragment is really different. Not only has the fragment itself already reached the level of a rank five treasure, it only requires a single strand of fate dipper essence to transform into a complete fate dipper.”

Liu Qinglan was shocked after hearing her explanation.

“It transforms automatically?” Shang Xia gasped.

“I’m afraid fate dipper essence is a lot harder to find than these fragments...” Liu Qinglan wasn’t delusional. At least she understood how precious those things were.

Snapping back to reality, Shang Xia asked, “Fate dipper essence should be a hundred times more difficult to obtain than fate dipper fragments, right?” However, he failed to hide the look of excitement on his face as he continued, “Well, at the very least, obtaining a fate dipper fragment means that we already obtained half a fate dipper! Oh yeah! How long will the transformation take after it successfully receives fate dipper essence?”

Shang Bo shook his head and smiled while listening to Shang Xia’s rant of excitement.

Yun Jing laughed too, but she soon spoke, “It’s the first time we’re seeing this too. How are we supposed to know how long it will take or how rare a fate dipper essence is? From what I can see, the more fate dipper essence you manage to gather in one fate dipper fragment, the faster it will complete its transformation.”

Nodding slowly, Shang Xia started to think of ways to obtain fate dipper essence. Seemingly having thought of something, Shang Xia muttered, “Oh yeah! Grandpa, this item might help you when you refine your fate dipper in the future!”

Shang Bo’s attempt to break through to the Martial Dipper Realm on the Manyu Continent was no secret to the higher ups of the institution.

However, Shang Xia’s offer was met with roaring laughter from Shang Bo. “Brat, keep the fragment! I have no use for it! Hahaha!”

With a trace of delight filling his heart, Shang Xia understood that his grandfather didn’t need the fragment because he already had an origin dipper with him. From the looks of it, his grandfather was extremely confident in breaking through too. As such, the delight didn’t stem from receiving his fate dipper fragment back from Shang Bo. Instead, he was happier that his grandfather was ready to break through!

The smile on Shang Bo’s face eventually subsided and he turned serious. “Even though I’m pretty sure how the fate dipper fragment works, we have a problem. This brat obtained a piece of complete fate dipper fragment from the experts from the Spirit Abundance World. Does that mean that they have a way to produce fate dippers?! Why else would they hasten the destruction of the Manyu Continent for these fragments otherwise?”

Chapter 559: Caught in the Act

A fate dipper fragment could transform into a complete fate dipper after absorbing a fate dipper essence, and if the experts of the Spirit Abundance World were so determined to get their hands on them, they would most likely possess a way to create fate dippers!

If that was really true, how many Martial Dipper Realm experts would the Spirit Abundance World possess?!

The faces of Shang Xia and the others immediately turned unsightly as they thought of the same problem.

From the situation on the Manyu Continent, the Spirit Abundance World didn't seem too friendly to the Azure Origin World and the Azure Spiritual World.

With the sights of a behemoth like the Spirit Abundance World set on them, they felt a heavy weight pressing down on their hearts.

Yun Jing forced a laugh eventually. "We shouldn't be so pessimistic... It's true that the Spirit Abundance World is much stronger than us. However, obtaining fate dipper essence shouldn't be something they can do easily. They definitely need to use some sort of secret art to obtain it and even if they're stronger than us, fate dipper essence shouldn't be cabbages that grow by the side of the road..."

"I also managed to learn something about these fragments. The secret art of harvesting these fragments is forbidden in the Spirit Abundance World. It's been jointly banned by all the superpowers there. The reason those experts came to the Manyu Continent in the first place was because it was about to be destroyed. That is why they had the guts to use the forbidden art to exhaust the vitality of the world to harvest the fate dipper fragments." Shang Xia mentioned. Staring at the 3 of them who were looking at him strangely, he continued, "Also, fate dipper fragments are split into different grades. From Senior Huang Yu, I learned that only the fragments produced during the first harvest would be of the highest quality. The purity of the fragments produced subsequently will drop and there would be impurities residing in them causing complicated lines to appear on their surface. Cracks might even be present for those of extremely low quality. Those low-quality fragments cannot be used to produce fate dippers. Even if they infuse a strand of fate dipper essence into those, it would be wasted."

Liu Qinglan's expression became a little better, but she sighed softly, "Let's hope that is the case. I didn't think about it before, but it seems like the disappearance of many Martial Extermination Realm experts and the epidemic that killed countless people had something to do with them. It might have something to do with their secret art..."

Silence quickly descended after she spoke.

Feeling the suffocating air around, Shang Xia finally spoke up. "Oh right, I once heard Patriarch Kou talk about something regarding the collisions of our worlds. The Azure Spiritual World smashed into our world back then as some people were trying to bring our world to the next level. I also heard that our Azure Origin World is considered an Azure World and the Spirit World is considered a Spirit World. Spirit Worlds are ranked above an Azure World but there's one thing I don't quite understand. What exactly splits the world into different ranks? The fusion of our Azure

Origin World and the Azure Spiritual World is basically set in stone by now, but will we become a Spirit World after the fusion is complete?”

Shang Xia looked at the 3 of them with a questioning gaze after he was done speaking.

After a short moment, Shang Bo coughed lightly and muttered, “I’ll be the one to talk about this. From what we know, the universal sea of stars is limitless. No one knows how many worlds exist, but from what we know, we are able to split the worlds into 3 different ranks. Or more specifically, 4 different ranks.”

Shang Bo took a deep breath and arranged his thoughts before he continued, “The Manyu Continent can be considered a world, but it is walking towards destruction and it can be considered the most elementary of the 4. We can call them Barbaric Worlds. One level higher would be the Azure Worlds. That is where our Azure Origin World and the Azure Spiritual World would be classified. Spirit Worlds rank higher than that. As for worlds that rank above Spirit Worlds... We guess that they exist! However, none of us understand what type of existence they are and we are unable to make any estimates.”

“As for the classification of these worlds...” Shang Bo coughed and his voice lowered slightly. “... Every world can be ranked based on the amount of world origin they can nurture. If we look a little deeper into it, we can link that to their sizes. We can also look at it by the number of continents a world contains. The number of experts in the world also seems to be related. Especially the batch of high-level cultivators of the world as they might have the ability to directly affect the Origin Will of the world.”

Shang Xia fell silent for some time before asking another question, “There are 13 continents on our Azure Origin World but all of them are of different sizes. The Azure Spiritual World has 14 continents... The Manyu Continent has 9 land masses in total...”

“Let’s make a guess here...” Yun Jing chirped all of a sudden. She seemed to have reached a new level of understanding after their conversation and she explained, “Now that we look at it this way, a world can be considered a Barbaric World if it contains 9 continents. A world probably needs to hold 12 continents to be considered an Azure World. To be classified as a Spirit World, one might need 18 or even 24 continents! I’m afraid we’ll only know after Huang Yu sends some information back.”

“Our Azure Origin World might be classified as an Azure World, but before the collision of our worlds, our 5 border continents had yet to establish a holy land. We can’t consider these 5 continents as part of our world’s true strength without the presence of a holy land and that should be the same for the Azure Spiritual World. Half of their strength is concentrated in the 7 or 8 Southern Continents and the Northern region is basically a wasteland. They’re covered in ice and snow all year round and life rarely exists...” A bitter smile appeared on Yun Jing’s face after she spoke. “Actually, like what Kou... Like what Patriarch Kou said would happen if the collisions of our worlds didn’t take place, after at most 300 years, our Azure Origin

World and the Azure Spiritual World would no longer be able to produce enough world origin to sustain the world. When that happens, we might be reduced to a Barbaric World...”

Shang Bo’s lips twitched slightly but he chose not to say anything.

Shang Xia didn’t notice his grandfather’s reaction as he was thinking about everything Yun Jing said. Everything she spoke about earlier revealed a lot of information and he needed some time to digest it properly. At the same time, many questions appeared in his mind.

“Deputy Patriarch Yun, you said that the 5 border continents cannot be considered a part of our world’s true strength earlier as we hadn’t established our holy lands. Does this concern the ascension of our world?” Shang Xia asked.

Yun Jing explained patiently, “It’s not that the five border continents hadn’t established our holy lands. We didn’t possess the foundation and ability to do so. To put it simply using our You Continent as an example, the continent itself does not produce enough world origin for us to transform into a holy land.”

There was one thing Shang Xia was sure of at that point. The Tongyou Institution was doing all they could to upgrade to a holy land, to become the Tongyou Paradise!

If the You Continent didn’t possess the foundations to support the birth of a holy land... Where would Kou Chongxue and the others find world origin?!

Shang Xia’s eyes widened slightly as he felt that he had understood what their plan was.

Also, Shang Xia knew that Yun Jing and the others wouldn’t tell him anything more about the topic if he continued to ask and he decided to shift his focus to something else. “After the destruction of the Manyu Continent, what would happen to the mortal population after the Azure Spiritual World and our Azure Origin World split up the continents? Is doomsday really about to fall on them?”

Without Yun Jing and Shang Bo saying anything, Liu Qinglan laughed and replied Shang Xia’s question. “What’s the matter? Haven’t you seen all the celestial bodies that existed when Patriarch Kou sent you to the Manyu Continent?”

Seeing how Shang Xia was getting a little tongue-tied, Liu Qinglan continued, “The Manyu Continent will definitely suffer a huge disturbance when the time comes. Many mortals will also lose their lives in the process, but that’s something we cannot stop. However, a huge portion of them should still be able to live. As the Manyu Continent breaks down, the land masses that remain after everything else has been taken away will gather around a fixed star and live on. However, they will no longer be able to cultivate due to the disappearance of heaven and earth qi. Those mortals there will never be able to step onto the path of cultivation and they will forever remain a world full of mortals.”

After recovering from his shock, Shang Xia decided not to dig deeper into the topic. He muttered to himself, “That would be for the best... That’s good...”

Seeing how his grandson seemed a little distracted, Shang Bo was a little curious. However, he didn’t think too much about it. Instead, he decided to end the conversation right there. “Alright.

Brat, if there's nothing else, you should head out and focus on your cultivation. The next thing you know, we should be back on the Azure Origin World."

With a multitude of questions in his heart, He got ready to leave. As he stepped out of the entrance, he seemed to have thought of something and he turned around again. "Oh yes, Senior Huang Yu instructed me with another matter..."

After he was done, he immediately threw the shameless asshole under the bus. He spoke about how Huang Yu, or Youshang, got Wei Qiongyi pregnant and the lady's background. He also mentioned how she ended up in the Azure Spiritual World. After the lengthy explanation, he finally got to the main point. "Disciple thinks that Senior Huang Yu has been sent undercover for so many years and he has been toying the line between life and death... He should be rewarded for his hard work and now, he's even taking the risk to infiltrate the Spirit Abundance World. We should take care of his family however we can and I agreed to help him when he brought the matter up. Seniors, please give me the permission to bring her back at once..."

What Shang Xia didn't realize was that the expressions of the 3 became extremely colorful when he spoke of the matter. By the time he said that he wanted to head out to bring her back and turned to stare at them, he discovered the strange looks in their eyes.

Without receiving any confirmation from any of them, Shang Xia started to panic. He hoped that the institution wouldn't be so cold blooded...

Clearing her throat aggressively, Liu Qinglan spoke on the others' behalf. "This... Since you already agreed, there's no need for us to make another decision. Hehe... Hehe.. Ahem!"

Shang Xia could feel that there was something strange about Liu Qinglan's reaction, but seeing as Shang Bo and Yun Jing had no reaction, he didn't say anymore. Turning around he wanted to leave. However, he thought of something yet again and he turned back to ask, "Oh yeah, I recall that Yan Su'er of the Wind Swallow Race and her granddaughter are also in our Tongyou Stronghold... I wonder how they're doing? Is the institution..."

"Is this something you should be asking?!" Shang Bo's calm attitude was gone and he seemed wholly annoyed by something at that point. Irritated, he immediately cut off Shang Xia and yelled, "Leave! Go away! Scram! Why are you worried about them? With us here, nothing can go wrong!"

The moment Shang Xia left, Yun Jing couldn't hold back her laughter anymore. She even stared at Shang Bo with a look of schadenfreude.

Shang Bo clenched his fists and furrowed his brows, but all that was left on his face was a resigned expression.

Staring at the 2 of them, Liu Qinglan smiled at Shang Bo, "That little brat is really something else. He even came up with an idea to get the kid to preach that story to us. Hehe, I don't even know whether to laugh or cry at that point. Are we supposed to ignore the matter?"

Yun Jing tried to suppress the wide smile on her face as she continued, "Can't you tell? That little brat is doing it on purpose. Oh yeah, Shang Bo, aren't you going to consider Elder Yan Su'er's suggestion? Why don't you agree to the marriage and link your families..."

Shang Bo turned to stare at her and anyone could see the fire burning deep in his eyes by that point. Yun Jing immediately followed up, "... Pretend I didn't say anything... Hey... My inner qi is getting a little restless and my extermination origins seem unstable. I better enter seclusion for a period of time..."

Chapter 560: 2000 Miles

After getting the permission of the higher ups, Shang Xia quickly went to the location Huang Yu left behind and brought the pregnant Wei Qiongyi back to the Tongyou Stronghold. He also assisted her by finding her a temporary place to rest.

During the entire process, Yun Jing had to show her face to settle some matters as she was the person in charge of the Tongyou Stronghold.

Liu Qinglan also helped out a lot and brought Wei Qiongyi around the stronghold. After getting used to the environment, she also helped Wei Qiongyi familiarize herself with the Martial Extermination Realm experts present. Her actions could express the Tongyou Institution's acceptance and how much they valued her.

From the start to the end, Shang Bo didn't show his face. Wei Qiongyi didn't even know that there was another deputy patriarch of the institution in the stronghold. As for Shang Xia, he learned that his grandfather had entered seclusion and would emerge a little later.

After dealing with all the matters at hand, Shang Xia decided to also enter seclusion for some time. He could take the chance to digest all his gains so far and prepare for his return to the Azure Origin World.

Returning to his original cultivation cave he established on the small mountain, he calmed himself down and started to cultivate. His initial plan was to make the most of his time in the Manyu Continent and look for another super peak that contained signs of all four seasons to continue refining his extermination origins. However, he noticed the changes to the Manyu Continent when bringing Wei Qiongyi back and the multiple natural disasters that destroyed the lands. It seemed as though apocalypse had come early and there were no traces of the four seasons anywhere. Naturally, there was nowhere suitable for him to cultivate.

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That was the reason he headed back to the Tongyou Stronghold. At the very least, there was a grand formation to protect the region from the changes to the Manyu Continent.

Because of his presence and cultivation, the small mountain he was on started to show signs of the four seasons once again. From a certain perspective, the small mountain had been transformed into half a spiritual land of cultivation. If low-leveled cultivators were to cultivate there in the future, they would be able to achieve twice the results with half the effort.

Shang Xia's extermination origins easily fused with the mountain he had cultivated on before and it was once again shrouded in his extermination lights. Different locations experienced different seasons and each region was separated clearly.

Due to his recent experiences, Shang Xia's degree of refinement of his extermination origins took a huge leap forward. The phenomenon of the four seasons didn't just cover the mountain he was on. It showed signs of extending outwards.

The phenomenon of the four seasons cycle extending past the mountains continued for a month before it finally started to recede. It returned to the mountain Shang Xia was on, and it didn't show any signs of extending past the foot of the mountain.

With that, it wasn't difficult to determine that Shang Xia's control of his extermination origins had strengthened once more.

Currently, Shang Xia had already surpassed the 70 percent mark of refinement. When he was out in the Manyu Continent, he wasn't able to fully concentrate on cultivation as danger might arrive at any second. He always maintained 30 percent of his consciousness in case trouble came knocking.

Now that he was back in the Tongyou Stronghold, there were many seniors to protect him and there was even a grand formation to provide additional defenses. Many other Martial Extermination Realm experts of the institution were also patrolling the area to keep things safe and Shang Xia could finally place down all his worries and immerse himself in cultivation.

In less than one month, Shang Xia managed to consolidate his foundations and strengthen his control over his extermination origins. Even though he didn't increase his refinement of his extermination origins by much, his stronger control over them allowed his combat prowess to rise by 30 percent!

...

After some time, Ren Bainian brought back a piece of news to Yun Jing. In his report, he mentioned everything they learned about the Manyu Continent recently. After he was done, he quickly returned to a small village his clan had built.

"Do you see that small mountain over there?" Ren Bainian spoke to several disciples the clan had high hopes for. He pointed at the mountain that was experiencing all four seasons simultaneously and he continued, "Remember this well. If our clan manages to integrate ourselves smoothly on the Azure Origin World after this, that will be where we establish ourselves!"

The disciples of the clan didn't understand why their ancestor would choose such a strange place and one of the disciples, Ren Lianheng, was the first to ask, "Lord Ancestor, that's just a tiny mountain. It couldn't be more ordinary. No matter what, our clan is a massive existence with hundreds of years of history. With an expert like Lord Ancestor at the helm, no one will take us lightly. Even those experts from the Tongyou Faction show you a lot of respect. Even if we're not from the Azure Origin World, we won't have to suffer such grievances, right?"

Ren Lianheng was a disciple at the Martial Intent Realm and he was one of the seeds of the family looked highly upon by Ren Bainian. As such, he had the guts to speak up.

Staring at the grandson he had the highest hopes for, Ren Bainian sneered, "What the hell do you know?! This tiny mountain has already become a spiritual land!"

Ren Lianheng felt that his grandfather was lowering his head to the Tongyou Institution by choosing such a random plot of land and he couldn't help but try to give his advice. "Lord Ancestor, you don't have to do that, right? It's a mere spiritual land. Moreover, it's a plot of land that just formed. There shouldn't be a need for us to look so highly on a mere piece of spiritual land, right? Also..."

Before the kid could finish speaking, Ren Bainian smacked the back of his head. Ignoring his cries of pain, Ren Bainian knocked on his head a few more times before finally letting him off amidst roaring laughter from those around. "All of you foolish kids... Today, your ancestor will show you the true path!"

Ren Bainian pointed to each and every one of them before turning to look at the small mountain in the distance. "Let me ask you guys a question. Was that small mountain a spiritual land before?"

Watching them shake their heads, Ren Bainian asked again, "Do you think our Manyu Continent possesses the ability to birth another spiritual land?"

The group of disciples shook their heads in unison. Who were they kidding? The Manyu Continent was on the brink of destruction. Even though they were giving off the last rays of life and experiencing a short burst of heaven and earth qi, everything was scattered into the endless space around the Manyu Continent. It wasn't possible to gather enough heaven and earth qi in one location to create a new spiritual land.

After Ren Bainian's repeated questions and after he heard their replies, he finally decided to explain it to them. "Because Young Master Shang cultivated on the small mountain for a few months, it gathered enough heaven and earth qi to transform into a spiritual land!"

Seeing the tongue-tied expressions on their faces, Ren Bainian continued, "The moment our clan enters the Azure Origin World, we will need to be protected by the Tongyou Institution. No matter what, we're from an external power and the residents of the Azure Origin World wouldn't accept up so easily. Also, the Tongyou Institution will probably restrict our movements for some time and if we choose to establish ourselves on the mountain there, we will not only be able to find a good place to start, but we will also be able to rest and recover. It's a chance that is hard to come by. Moreover..."

"Moreover?" Ren Lianheng asked.

Now that Ren Bainian was talking to the disciples of his clan about their future, it was a test for them. He also wanted to explain how their clan would survive in the future and seeing all of them deep in thought after everything he mentioned, he couldn't help but nod inwardly.

Ren Bainian laughed after hearing Ren Lianheng's question and chided him, "Damn brat, can't you be patient and let me finish? You're reckless and you always lose your cool... As I said, Young Master Shang is really exceptional. The age gap between you guys isn't that large either and it's very possible that he's younger than any of you! If he's able to create a spiritual land himself on our decaying Manyu Continent, can you imagine what he can do back in the Azure Origin World? With the dense heaven and earth qi there and the strong vitality of the world, he might even be able to transform the small mountain there into a mysterious world. If that truly happens, our Ren Clan will be able to rise up in the Azure Origin World with that as our foundation!"

...

Shang Xia who had been cultivating all along, didn't know that a random location he chose would be eyed by the Ren Clan who was planning to make it their stronghold in the future.

After strengthening his foundations after a month of cultivation, Shang Xia controlled his extermination origins to only influence the area he was in. Before he could continue cultivating, he was interrupted by the appearance of someone.

"I heard that you managed to get your hands on several pieces of treasure that can contain a large amount of world origin?" Chu Jia went straight for Shang Xia's cultivation chamber in the mountains. The moment they met, she got straight to the point.

"Several pieces?!" Shang Xia stared at her in shock. However, he quickly understood that she was talking about the fate dipper fragment shards and he chuckled, "Instructor Chu, why would you bring this up suddenly?"

That was how Shang Xia addressed her back in the institution and even though he was also a rank four Talisman Grandmaster with the same status as her, that was how he addressed her. After all, she was once his teacher. Also, Shang Xia knew that he couldn't afford to offend her because of her nasty temper. That was why he had always lowered himself in front of her. At the very least, that was how it seemed on the surface.

Widening her eyes slightly, Chu Jia muttered, "If it wasn't because of you... I mean, people like you who fought everywhere in the Manyu Continent, causing widespread loss of world origin, our formation would still be operating properly! Right now, the spirit veins that connect the various formations are turning unstable. It's especially so for those in the outer regions. We need a huge amount of heaven and earth qi and world origin in order to stabilize the grand formation so as to ensure minimal loss when bringing the landmass back to the Azure Origin World.

Nodding slowly, Shang Xia asked, "How many shards do you need?"

"Let me take a look at one before I give you an estimate." Chu Jia reached out one hand and muttered.

Shang Xia didn't waste time as he handed over 3 different pieces of different sizes.

"Are these shards of a fate dipper fragment?" Chu Jia asked curiously. She examined the pieces carefully and felt the pure world origin contained within before gasping, "This is really amazing!"

She picked out the middle-sized piece and gave her evaluation. "7 or 8 of these would be more than enough."

Without a second word, Shang Xia tossed out 10 shards of that size. One had to know that he only obtained 17 shards in total from the 2 of them.

Seeing how Shang Xia brought out so many pieces at once, Chu Jia became a little embarrassed. She knew how valuable those shards were after she inspected them earlier and she quickly tried to reject them. "I don't need so many! In fact, I already accounted for accidents with my previous estimates..."

Waving his hands, Shang Xia chuckled, “The sea of stars is limitless and anything is possible. No one can be sure they planned for all possibilities. It’s good to be prepared and if there are leftovers, please keep them. Take it as a token of my respect.”

Chu Jia covered her mouth and giggled softly in response. “Alright! I won’t stand on ceremony then! With these fate dipper fragment shards, I am confident I will be able to bring an island measuring 2000 miles in diameter back to the Azure Origin World!”