

The Heavens 561

Chapter 561: Substitution Talisman

After Chu Jia explained the situation to Shang Xia, they chatted a little while more. After exchanging cultivation pointers, Shang Xia seemed to have thought of something. “Instructor Chu, you’ve been in the institution longer than I have. Do you know the Weapons Hall has any high-ranked talisman brush?”

“High-ranked talisman brush? Those blacksmiths there would be hard-pressed to craft a mid-grade brush. There isn’t a need to think about a high-grade one! Otherwise, the Talisman Masters of the institution wouldn’t be so desperate to treasure a mid-grade brush...”

Of course, the Weapons Hall wasn’t as shoddy as Chu Jia had made it out to be. It was possible for them to craft a high-grade weapon if they went all out.

However, a high-grade brush was comparable to a peak high-grade weapon. It would be close to something of a pseudo divine weapon and even though the blacksmiths of the institution were good, crafting ordinary high-grade weapons was their limit.

Pausing slightly, Chu Jia asked, “What’s the matter? Are you planning to get your hands on another? Isn’t the Purple Bamboo Brush the Talisman Hall received from Patriarch Kou not good enough? Didn’t he get it from the Abyssal Secret Region?”

“Of course not! The Purple Bamboo Brush is the most important treasure of our Talisman Hall. If I actually spoil it, Talisman Master Gong will most definitely hold me accountable and go all out to deal with me!” Shang Xia replied.

Pressing her lips together, Chu Jia sneered, “Him? Heh, he won’t try to hold you accountable. Well, he wouldn’t but there will be someone who will try. He’ll probably get those under him to risk their lives to deal with you.”

Shang Xia chuckled and brought out his White Bone Brush. “I’m asking because of this. This brush was a high-grade weapon but because of the damage it suffered, it can only display the power of a mid-grade weapon. Also, the difference between the Purple Bamboo Brush and this White Bone Brush is that this brush belongs to me.”

When he was one, Shang Xia took out 2 White-Jade Bone Hairpins. “I thought that I would only be able to fix this brush with the bones of high-leveled beasts and extremely rare treasures. I didn’t expect to fight with an expert of the Spirit Abundance World and obtain this pair of White-Jade Bone Hairpins. After examining the material, I feel that it’s compatible with the brush. That was why I thought of fixing it...”

Staring at the pair of hairpins, Chu Jia couldn’t help but gasp in surprise, “Damn! You’re actually willing to fork out so much! These hairpins are high-grade treasures to begin with. In order to fix a high-grade brush, you plan on destroying a pair of high-grade treasures?!”

Shang Xia chuckled in response, “It doesn’t matter if they’re destroyed. They’re just high-grade treasures at the end of the day...”

Tutting instinctively, Chu Jia stared at Shang Xia from the corner of her eye and sneered, “You’re really a lucky guy alright... From what we learned, Ren Bainian knows how to repair weapons. You should look for him if you wish to fix your brush...”

“Who? Ren Bainian?!” Shang Xia nearly yelled out loud as he revealed a look full of shock.

His reaction wasn’t because he looked down on Ren Bainian, but the Manyu Continent was truly too lacking in terms of heaven and earth qi. Cultivation was difficult, and the inheritance cultivators of the Manyu Continent could receive was deteriorating at a rapid pace. Even if people managed to leave behind their inheritances, no one would be able to work on them. It was hard to believe that a Barbaric World lacking in weapons would allow Ren Bainian to be adept at working with them.

“You better believe it... Both of us might understand the current situation of the Manyu Continent, but have you thought about it another way? If you’re a cultivator of the Manyu Continent and your weapon has been heavily damaged, would you choose to look for ways to repair it or look for a new one?” Chu Jia explained.

“Oh... That’s why... I understand now!” Shang Xia muttered. With the current situation in the Manyu Continent, if there was one thing they actually made improvements in, repairing weapons would definitely be one of them. After all, the difficulty of repairing weapons was much lower than finding a new one!

As the sayings go, you’ll use something till it’s old, and keep using it till it spoils. Patching it up, you’ll still be able to use it for some time. Even though some weapons had been greatly worn down, it was still passed down in the powers of the Manyu Continent. The reason they could still use those weapons was because of the amazing ways the experts used to repair them.

After learning that it was possible for his brush to be fixed, Shang Xia was ecstatic.

Chatting a little more, Chu Jia finally got ready to take her leave. Before she actually did, she seemed to have thought of something and reminded, “Oh right, there’s one thing our great Talisman Grandmaster Shang probably doesn’t know yet. I heard that someone went over to Deputy Patriarch Shang to arrange a marriage. I think she’s probably trying to marry her granddaughter off to you!”

Giggling softly, Chu Jia left without turning her head. Shang Xia stared at her as a dumbfounded expression hung on his face. When he finally regained his senses a moment later, he released a mirthless chuckle. He understood that what Chu Jia said was true, but there was no way his grandfather would agree.

That was because Yan Su’er was still someone from another world! Even if their worlds were about to merge, it wasn’t complete.

...

When Ren Bainian knew that Shang Xia had sent him an invitation to meet, he quickly rushed over to the small mountain Shang Xia was cultivating on.

When he arrived and saw how the mountain experienced all four seasons simultaneously, he failed to hide his shock.

Even though he felt that he had already overestimated Shang Xia's strength, he realized that he was wrong.

"How long has it been..." Ren Bainian recalled how he was accepted into the Tongyou Stronghold on the Manyu Continent. It was because of Shang Xia's introduction and during that time, the strength Shang Xia displayed was barely at the level of a third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert.

The moment he stepped onto the mountain, he understood that unless a cultivator stepped into the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm and achieved absolute control over their extermination origins, they would never be able to do something like that.

Reaching his conclusion, Ren Bainian even started to doubt himself. He couldn't believe how quickly Shang Xia had improved.

When he finally met Shang Xia, all his doubts were dispelled. When he felt the unfathomable aura the kid exuded that gave him a sense of pressure, he knew that his doubts were unnecessary.

Shang Xia didn't beat about the bush and handed the brush and hairpins over to Ren Bainian. There was a trace of anticipation in his voice as he asked, "Senior Ren, do you think if there is a chance for this weapon to be restored?"

Looking at the pair of high-grade White-Jade Bone Hairpins before him, Ren Bainian felt his eyelids twitching uncontrollably as his heart started to ache intensely.

That was a pair of high-grade weapons! Shang Xia wished to use them to repair a single talisman brush!

Finally forcing a smile from his stiff face, Ren Bainian chuckled, "Young Master Shang, are you sure you're not kidding? These hairpins are more than enough to repair your brush, but to use 2 high-grade weapons to fix a brush, this..."

Shang Xia waved his hand nonchalantly in response, "All I wish for is to restore the brush. Nothing else is of concern. Senior, feel free to do as you wish with the rest of the materials."

Seeing as Shang Xia was serious, Ren Bainian also became solemn as he accepted the task. "Young Master Shang, you can rest assured. In 2 months at most, I will definitely return with a high-grade brush! If everything goes smoothly, I'll be able to finish it in a month!"

Ren Bainian was someone who knew how to read the room. Since he accepted the task, he knew that there was no reason for him to remain and he took his leave.

Now that he was gone, Shang Xia could consolidate all the gains he made in his cultivation.

From the time he left the Tongyou Stronghold, many things happened. First, he joined hands with Youshang to slay Su Jinyuan of the Spirit Abundance World.

Their gains were plentiful after the battle. Even though Youshang left to disguise himself as a member of the Spirit Abundance World and took a lot of emergency supplies, Shang Xia managed to get his hands on a battleaxe, made a copy of the Flying Sword Art and Object Controlling Art, and he also obtained Su Jinyuan's record of his cultivation journey.

In the past, Shang Xia had been extremely focused when training in his martial arts. Back in the Martial Realm, he only practiced 2 palm arts. In the Yin Yang Realm, he trained in the way of the sword. In the Triple Command Realm, Shang Xia focused on the Shang Clan's Providence Spear. Now that he entered the Four Constellation Realm, he developed a blade art on his own.

The reason he only used one type of martial arts in each realm was that he didn't wish to be distracted. Also, he understood that the way of cultivation passed down in the Azure Origin World wasn't perfect. Most of the time, all their martial arts were based on the raw use of their inner qi. The purity of one's inner qi was also different from the others depending on what type of secret and martial arts they trained in. That was why Shang Xia placed great emphasis on the martial arts he chose. He didn't wish to affect the purity of his inner qi by training in a crappy technique.

After entering the Four Constellation Realm, things took a slight shift. Shang Bo, Yun Jing, Youshang (Huang Yu), and even Kou Chongxue had given him pointers on more than one occasion. They taught him that after entering the Martial Extermination Realm, he should focus on the exploration of the use of world origin rather than his inner qi.

There were countless possibilities when discovering the uses of world origin and it was a path one could never find the end of. However, the main use of the exploration was to look for ways to improve themselves so as to strengthen their techniques or secret arts.

Most experts in the Martial Extermination Realm would train another martial art after refining their second extermination origin. That way, they would be able to learn more about the use of world origin.

The reason why Shang Xia wasn't following what other people did was because of several reasons. One of the main reasons was that he wanted to create his own rank four martial art. He couldn't afford to be distracted by other techniques. Of course, his unique way of breaking through by refining 4 extermination origins at once was another reason.

The latter point was why Kou Chongxue and the others didn't continue pelting him with advice. They wanted to see how far he could go and if it was possible for him to pioneer a different path of cultivation.

Shang Xia might be their human lab rat and he might feel a trace of annoyance due to that, he managed to receive a lot of assistance from the institution. Cultivation resources were given to him in large amounts and treasures he might require were supplied endlessly. Despite the trace of irritation in his heart, he had to admit that obtaining so many resources for free was pretty satisfying.

Looking at the copies of the Flying Sword Art and Object Controlling Art he copied from Su Jinyuan, Shang Xia came up with another idea. He wanted to look more into it. His divine perception extended much further than cultivators of the same realm, and he wanted to use those arts to capitalize on the advantage he held.

Those were the gains he obtained from killing Su Jinyuan, but that wasn't all he had. He managed to obtain a Spirit Binding Rope from Wang Guan who used it against Yan Su'er.

The Spirit Binding Rope had really unique properties. It was pretty similar to Liu Qinglan's Nine Segment Whip but the Spirit Binding Rope focused on restraining one's opponent whereas Liu Qinglan's whip placed an emphasis on offensive abilities.

Next came the loot he obtained after killing Lin Chai. Other than the pair of White-Jade Bone Hairpins, Shang Xia also managed to obtain a complete talisman inheritance for the Substitution Talisman!

Chapter 562: 80 Percent

When Shang Xia fought with Lin Chai, he witnessed the use of the Substitution Talisman. She turned into a paper figure after using it and tried to mess with Shang Xia's senses. Unfortunately, she used it on the wrong opponent and Shang Xia easily dealt with it.

After getting his hands on the inheritance for the talisman, Shang Xia felt that it wasn't that impressive and thought of using it as an introduction to the talisman arts of the Spirit Abundance World. However, he quickly changed his mind after properly examining the inheritance.

The inheritance he obtained was split into 3 levels and the Paper Figure Talisman Lin Chai used previously was the lowest. Even though the paper figure that appeared would possess a portion of strength, it only served as a distraction.

Even though it was the lowest of the 3 levels, the Paper Figure Talisman had already reached the standard of a rank three talisman.

A Clone Talisman was part of the inheritance and ranked one level higher than the Paper Figure Talisman. The moment he completed the creation of the Clone Talisman, he would be able to infuse it with his extermination qi. When the talisman was activated, a clone with 80 percent of the user's original power would appear. As long as the extermination qi didn't dissipate, the clone would possess the strength of a Martial Extermination Realm expert.

During the entire process, if the user could fuse a strand of their divine perception into the clone, it would be able to utilize their personal martial arts and become extremely difficult to deal with.

Looking at the uses of a Clone Talisman, Shang Xia immediately thought of the clones of Martial Dipper Realm experts. They gave Shang Xia an exceptionally deep impression, especially during the battle of the Cloud Water Gorge.

None of the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors back there infused their clones with a fate dipper in order to not suffer a huge loss if they were killed.

No matter how he looked at it, Shang Xia found the effects of the Clone Talisman similar to that of Fate Dipper Clones.

Fate Dipper Clones could only be created by Martial Dipper Realm experts, but using the Clone Talisman, a Martial Extermination Realm expert could do the same!

In other words, the Clone Talisman could allow a Martial Extermination Realm cultivator to copy the abilities of a Martial Dipper Realm expert!

Of course, there was no need to compare the strength of the clones. The difference between the Martial Extermination Realm and the Martial Dipper Realm was like the heavens and earth.

The Substitution Talisman ranked above the Clone Talisman and that was a talisman that ranked solidly in the fifth rank.

Before obtaining the new talisman inheritance, the Abyssal Emptiness Talisman was the only rank five talisman inheritance Shang Xia had his hands on. Now, he actually received another!

After learning about the abilities of the Substitution Talisman, Shang Xia felt that a more appropriate name would be the Death Replacement Talisman. It was a talisman that could take the place of the cultivator in times of desperation. If they ran into a sure-death situation, the talisman could take its user's place!

Holding a Substitution Talisman meant that one would obtain another life.

Shang Xia felt a surge of excitement in his heart and he wanted nothing more than to create one of it immediately!

Finally calming down, he realized that he was getting a little overboard with his imagination. Not only was a rank five talisman extremely difficult to craft, it also required a strand of dipper qi. It wasn't something Shang Xia could get his hands on at that point.

He could only try to craft one when he truly entered the Martial Dipper Realm, or if he found a Martial Dipper Realm expert to coordinate with him during the crafting process so that he could fuse their dipper qi into the talisman.

Those weren't all. Talisman papers were indispensable when it came to crafting talismans. Shang Xia had no rank five talisman paper on him. The only resources he had were rank three talisman papers which had been sent over with the previous batch of supplies from the Beyond Heavens Pavilion.

He could only try his hand at the Paper Figure Talisman to practice the use of his talismans.

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All the treasures and inheritances that he cared about were kept properly but there were also tons of resources he obtained after killing so many experts.. They might be precious treasures to cultivators of the same level, but they wouldn't help Shang Xia too much in his current state.

Sorting the treasures out, Shang Xia finally focused his attention on the fate dipper fragment.

When he barged into the heaven and earth qi vortex, he managed to obtain 2 fate dipper fragments. Other than the highest quality fragment in his hand, he managed to grab one of extremely inferior quality.

Unfortunately, the substandard fate dipper fragment seemed to disappear after Shang Xia destroyed the formation and caused the heaven and earth qi vortex to collapse.

Shang Xia had a guess that the world origin in the fragment was sucked up by the Crimson Soul Tablet after the wall of heaven and earth qi crashed into him. However, that begged another question. Why would the tablet only absorb the energy in the inferior fragment?

The world origin contained in the superior fragment was a lot more pure and it should be the target for the Crimson Soul Tablet, but it was left alone.

No matter how hard he racked his brains, he couldn't think of a reason.

Speaking of the Crimson Soul Tablet, Shang Xia went to observe it again. The only crack that remained was on its first face and when he extended his divine perception into the core of the tablet, he discovered that the internal damage had recovered a little bit.

It was a shame the damage to the interior of the tablet was too extensive. It was impossible to restore it completely with so little world origin. It was going to be a tall task to restore the tablet back to its perfect state.

Also, Shang Xia hadn't been using all the world origin he absorbed to restore the tablet. He focused more on using it to deduce his rank four martial intent and to complete his rank five advancement formula. He was saving them bit by bit to be used in the future.

Along with the rise in his cultivation, Shang Xia knew that the Crimson Soul Tablet would require a lot more world origin when coming up with those things.

At the moment, Shang Xia felt that it might not be a problem for the tablet to come up with his rank four martial intent. However, the problem would come when he used the tablet to deduce and optimize his rank five advancement formula. He was afraid that it would greatly exhaust the tablet and cause even greater damage.

The moment the Crimson Soul Tablet suffered such great damage, it would probably reach the end of its lifespan and crumble. When that happened, Shang Xia's life would probably end with it.

If not for the fate that Shang Bo and the others told him about the use of the fate dipper fragment, he would have already fed it to the Crimson Soul Tablet.

Carefully storing it away, Shang Xia started to craft rank three Paper Figure Talismans. There might be differences between how talismans were made in the Spirit Abundance World and the Azure Origin World that caused Shang Xia's attempts to end up as failures.

Of course, Shang Xia wasn't dejected because of several failures. He expected as much and after using up all the rank three talisman papers only to not succeed once, his hands were no longer itching to craft talismans. He could fully immerse himself in cultivation.

Since he was blasted by waves of heaven and earth qi during the collapse of the vortex, he managed to purify his inner qi even more. His refinement of his extermination origins had also reached a staggering 70 percent.

If not for the fact that the sea of heaven and earth qi dissipated and Shang Xia was located in a dangerous region, he would have been able to refine his extermination origins to a greater extent!

When he fully immersed himself in cultivation this time, he started to place all his focus on his extermination origins. However, his refinement process wasn't as slow as expected.

That was the difference between the way Shang Xia cultivated and other experts of the same realm. He found it difficult to kick off his cultivation in the Martial Extermination Realm, but it got easier the stronger he became.

The true difficulty and risk came when he refined all four extermination origins at once and created four different types of extermination seeds to produce extermination qi in his dantian. The moment all four extermination origins reach an equilibrium, they would be able to start fusion. When that happened, Shang Xia's cultivation would also increase rapidly.

After Shang Xia refined 70 percent of his extermination origins, he didn't feel the slightest bit of bottleneck when he cultivated. Instead, he felt that everything was going really smoothly. It was as though nothing could stop him.

As he continued to refine his extermination origins, his cultivation grew accordingly. He entered such a miraculous state that he couldn't even feel the passing of time.

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Unknowingly, Shang Xia passed the 80 percent mark of his extermination origins refinement. The moment it happened, Shang Xia felt as though he stepped into a new world. His Four Constellation Qi bubbled in his dantian and the Crimson Soul Tablet rumbled heavily in his sea of consciousness. The sudden disturbance caused him to awaken abruptly.

The moment he opened his eyes, Shang Xia didn't bother inspecting the state of his dantian or the purity of his inner qi. Instead, he gathered his thoughts and inspected the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness.

The tablet was vibrating slightly and Shang Xia could see strands of light emerging from its surface.

He was no stranger to what was happening. That was a sign that the tablet was about to come up with something.

Shang Xia couldn't understand why it was happening at that exact moment. After all, he hadn't completed the refinement of his extermination origins...

He might be extremely confused, but he grabbed the fate dipper fragment in his hands just in case.

At the same time, Shang Xia used the connection he made with the Crimson Soul Tablet after entering the Martial Extermination Realm to try to communicate with it. He wanted to understand what the tablet was doing.

Originally, he was trying his luck when he tried to understand what the tablet wanted. However, a thought quickly appeared in his mind.

Martial intent... Possible to deduce...

That was what Shang Xia learned.

It wasn't a message that was transmitted into Shang Xia's mind by the tablet. Instead, it was something that appeared in Shang Xia's mind the moment he willed it. It was a strange occurrence, but that was the truth!

Shang Xia felt slightly interested and instinctively wanted to let the tablet do what it wished. However, he quickly suppressed the thought.

He couldn't do it at the moment. He hadn't refined his extermination origins completely and there was no rush for him to deduce his martial intent!

Muttering to himself to calm himself down, Shang Xia tried to soothe his urge the best he could. He was extremely confident that deducing his martial intent would not cause irreversible damage to the tablet or cause it to shatter, but Shang Xia had his own considerations.

It was true that understanding the way to develop his martial intent early on would allow him to make his preparations and greatly shorten the time he would need to enter the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm, but there was a nagging feeling deep in his heart constantly reminding him to slow down. It told him to gather more world origin as that would never go wrong...

Finally stopping the Crimson Soul Tablet from operating however it wished, it finally calmed down. The bubbling Four Constellation Qi in his dantian also started to cool down.

Despite those factors, Shang Xia still felt uneasy as his heart palpitations hadn't stopped.

Chapter 563: The Destruction of the Continent

Even though the Crimson Soul Tablet was no longer acting up and his inner qi had regained its calm, Shang Xia still felt his heart thumping against his chest.

The Crimson Soul Tablet and his dantian might not be the cause of his heart palpitations, but Shang Xia just had a feeling deep down in his heart that something was wrong. His divine perception couldn't sense anything either but he felt off nonetheless.

As the feeling got stronger, the Crimson Soul Tablet started to react. It started to resonate with the surroundings and a desire to devour could be felt clearly. Shang Xia knew that there was only one thing that could cause the tablet to react that way, and it was the appearance of world origin.

With his understanding of the Crimson Soul Tablet, Shang Xia also knew that a small amount of world origin would never be able to rouse its attention.

Even when the pillar of light appeared back in the Snowy Peaks Mountain Range, the tablet merely pointed him in the correct direction. It didn't reveal its desire for world origin as heavily as it was currently!

With the strong desire of the Crimson Soul Tablet and the bad feeling in his heart, Shang Xia realized that something big was about to happen. There was definitely an appearance of a huge amount of world origin, but danger was also rapidly approaching.

A single thought flashed through Shang Xia's mind when he reached a startling conclusion. The Manyu Continent was finally about to be destroyed!

There might have been no evidence for his deduction, but the feeling he got from the Crimson Soul Tablet and his instincts were enough for him to be sure he was correct.

He stopped cultivating immediately as he left the small mountain he was on.

He didn't bother to hide his aura or the extermination lights that surrounded him as he rose into the air above the mountain. A terrifying pressure descended on the Tongyou Stronghold as the samsara of the four seasons extended through the whole area. The effects and pressure were unstoppable as it smashed into the central hall where the higher-ups of the institution were.

Practically every single expert in the stronghold was alerted by the sudden disturbance. After noticing the progression of the four seasons around them, a name immediately popped into their minds. They could guess the cause of the disturbance, but that also fuelled their shock at Shang Xia's speed of progress.

"For him to cause such a huge disturbance, even Deputy Patriarch Yun Jing might not be..."

"Did the Shang Clan actually produce another Martial Dipper Realm expert candidate?!"

"How old is he?!"

Complicated emotions filled the hearts of the Martial Extermination Realm experts in the Tongyou Stronghold.

It didn't take long for another question to appear in their minds. As their gazes went to the central hall, they wondered why Shang Xia would cause such a huge disturbance.

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"Are you sure that the destruction of the Manyu Continent is imminent?" Yun Jing got to her feet and her expression turned solemn after Shang Xia barged in and relayed the news.

Deputy Patriarch Yun Jing was a seasoned expert in the Martial Extermination Realm and she served as the deputy patriarch of the institution for a long time. With her experience, she didn't bother asking how Shang Xia received the news. Instead, she only asked him to confirm it again.

It took mere moments for him to fly over to the central hall from the small mountain he was on. During that short period of time, the sense of unrest in his heart grew stronger and he felt his heart thumping harder in his chest. Nodding solemnly, Shang Xia responded, "Disciple is sure! I hope you and Grandpa Bo can start your preparations soon!"

Just as the words left his lips, Yun Jing tapped the air in front of her. A four colored extermination light emerged from the void before shooting into the skies above. As it exploded overhead, the wonderful lights lit up hundreds of miles around the central hall.

Yun Jing acted decisively and the other reason Shang Xia came up with to convince her were no longer needed.

"Right now, you possess the strongest combat abilities among all of us. Head over to the border region with our formations immediately!" Yun Jing nodded at Shang Xia after sending out the signal. "The moment the continent crumbles, we need to control the formations to keep the landmass in shape. Once we do, it will turn into an individual island floating in the sea of stars. You need to protect the island from any external danger!"

Shang Xia knew how serious things were and he nodded his head before turning to leave. As he made his way out, he heard Yun Jing's voice in his mind. "Remember, your safety is of the utmost priority. If the situation turns desperate, just give up a portion of our island. Ensure that you do not get too far away from the island and expose yourself out there..."

Opening the doors of the central hall to carry out his mission, he saw Liu Qinglan and Chu Jia rushing over.

Their gazes met and Shang Xia nodded once before rushing past them.

"What's going on?" Liu Qinglan asked the moment she entered the hall.

Extermination light covered Shang Xia's body after he made his way past them and he turned into a streak of light that shot straight for the outer regions of the Tongyou Stronghold. As he left, he vaguely heard Yun Jing's voice commanding Liu Qinglan and Chu Jia, "... Activate the formation!"

“What? Why are we... It’s too sudden...”

Shang Xia seemed to hear snippets of the debate going on in the central hall as he rose thousands of feet into the air. Sweeping his gaze across his surroundings, he noticed that the clouds in the distance were rolling about unsteadily as a gray haze surrounded the lands. Flocks of birds flew into the skies in confusion as beasts rampaged about their respective regions.

Other than that, he also noticed several streaks of light shooting into the sky from different directions to their respective stations. It went without saying that all of them were experts of the institution. They received their missions a long time ago and with Yun Jing’s signal, all of them sprang into action. They understood that the time had come and even though they were a little confused, they chose to obey the orders they had been given.

All of them knew that the Manyu Continent was on its last legs some time ago. The only thing they didn’t know was when it would be destroyed.

Like the Tongyou Institution, the various powers that arrived were pretty much in the same situation. They could only make their preparations and wait for the inevitable to happen. None of them wanted to activate their grand formation in advance as it would cause their landmass to detach from the Manyu Continent and use up a huge amount of heaven and earth qi. In fact, it would even exhaust world origin which might render their grand formation useless when the Manyu Continent actually crumbled.

The world origin required to power the formation was also the reason Chu Jia shamelessly went to look for Shang Xia after hearing about the fate dipper fragment shards. Those shards that contained world origin were also the reason why Yun Jing didn’t hesitate to activate the formation the moment Shang Xia’s warning came in.

When the Manyu Continent started to crumble, the spatial barrier around the world would still be present. The world barrier might be thin, but it didn’t exactly disappear. It stopped the intervention of the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors of the various factions. Even if they could, the consumption of energy would sap the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor dry before long. That was how terrifying the energy consumption was to maintain their individual island after the destruction of the Manyu Continent.

As such, many factions had been prepared to suffer some losses when the Manyu Continent was destroyed. Unless they could accurately grasp when the Manyu Continent would crumble, they wouldn’t be able to activate their grand formation in time.

Unlike the others, Yun Jing chose to trust Shang Xia’s judgment the moment he brought it up.

Yun Jing wasn’t the only one who seemed to have unconditional trust in Shang Xia. Every other Martial Extermination Realm expert didn’t think that Shang Xia was mistaken. They also obeyed Yun Jing’s orders and sprang into action immediately.

If everything happened as Shang Xia had expected, the Tongyou Stronghold would be able to reduce their losses to the lowest level. They would also gain an advantage in the final fight for world origin.

On the other hand, if Shang Xia was wrong...

Rumble...

A deep blast came from the depths of the earth as the ground beneath their feet started to shake.

Lowering his head, Shang Xia could see the landmass that stretched 2000 miles in diameter controlled by the formations of the Tongyou Stronghold starting to shake. That wasn't caused by the destruction of the Manyu Continent. Instead, it was because of the effects of their grand formation and multiple smaller assistive formations scattered all around. The landmass was separating from the Manyu Continent to become an island that hovered in the air above!

It was a majestic sight as a giant island 2000 miles in diameter separated from the earth below!

The moment they separated themselves from the Manyu Continent, cracks started to form across the mainland below. Those cracks started to extend and widen as giant rifts in the earth ripped through the lands. Not too long later, Shang Xia arrived at the edge of their floating island and felt the feeling of unease in his heart disappearing.

Looking into the distance, he was greeted with a horrifying sight. The earth shattered and the skies changed color. Armeggedon arrived as natural disasters triggered by the destruction of the continent ravaged the lands. The Manyu Continent finally reached the end of its lifespan!

Chapter 564: Backlash!

By the time everyone else realized that the Manyu Continent was crumbling, it was too late for the other powers to separate themselves from the mainland. The first thing they had to endure was the final backlash of the world as they forcefully maintained their landmass with their grand formation.

Fortunately for the Tongyou Stronghold, they separated themselves in the nick of time and could avoid the final backlash of the Manyu Continent.

Their floating island was practically the exact structure they planned for. No unnecessary losses were suffered.

The other powers weren't so lucky.

Thousands of miles in a certain direction from the Tongyou Island, a cultivator wearing a silver crown on his head sat in the middle of the territory controlled by the Divine Capital Sect. He exuded an air of elegance as he directed the experts of the Divine Capital Sect to deal with the cracks in their landmass caused by the destruction of the Manyu Continent.

As everyone ran around to deal with the issues that were arising, one of the Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Divine Capital Sect approached the silver crowned cultivator and muttered softly. He failed to hide the panic in his voice. "Senior Brother Chen Yu, we might be pushing it too far. Even though our sect is powerful, we won't be able to make up for our losses if we keep up the consumption..."

Chen Yu hesitated slightly and the other expert quickly added, "From the time we entered the Manyu Continent, Senior Brother Chen Yu, you have taken charge of the situation and you have outstanding achievements. You don't have to try so hard to obtain more merits. Sometimes, you should quit while you're ahead. Otherwise, the mistakes you make might cause some blemishes to your record."

Seeing as Chen Yu was starting to nod slightly, he continued with his advice. "Now that the Manyu Continent is crumbling, the final eruption of world origin is about to happen. If Senior Brother

Chen exerts too much energy because of what is happening right now, it might affect your fight for world origin that is bound to happen later...”

The final reason seemed to convince Chen Yu. The person in charge of the experts of the Divine Capital Sect in the Manyu Continent rose to his feet and arranged the silver crown on his head before growling, “Junior Brother Chen Hai, tell everyone to shrink our territory by 500 miles. At the same time, let the aboriginal cultivators of the Manyu Continent who chose to submit know that if they wish to establish themselves on the Azure Origin World, they should do their best to assist our Divine Capital Sect!”

Chen Hai cupped his fist and received Chen Yu’s order before turning to leave.

A soft sigh escaped Chen Yu’s lips as a trace of reluctance flashed across his face. Eventually, he regained his calm before leaving the hall with an expressionless face.

Staring into the distance, he noticed that the skies were in chaos. Shattered fragments of the Manyu Continent started to fall in different directions. When meteorites traveling through the sea of stars slammed into the earth, they burst into flames. Burning chunks of earth fell like rain but when they approached 600 to 700 miles of the Divine Capital Sect’s territory, they would be stopped by an invisible barrier.

The barrier started to tremble violently when it was struck, and it seemed like it would break the next second. Before that could happen, the barrier started to shrink at a rapid pace. Because of Chen Yu’s command earlier to shrink their territory so as to save energy, a huge number of aboriginals who chose to side with the Divine Capital Sect found themselves outside the protection formation.

Almost all of them were powerless to deal with the chunks of flaming earth falling from the heavens and they didn’t even have time to beg for help from other experts. They suffered huge losses and miserable screams filled the air.

Since the Divine Capital Sect withdrew their territory, everything that wasn’t protected by their grand formation started to break down along with the rest of the Manyu Continent.

Of course, the protection barrier that was no longer needed to protect such a huge area immediately solidified and became a lot stronger. No more threats could affect the stability of the barrier as it held steady even as chunks of flaming earth pelted it constantly.

...

Amidst the loud rumble caused by the destruction of the continent, the experts of the White Deer Paradise made the same decision as those of the Divine Capital Sect.

“The backlash from the world is much stronger than we expected!”

“Those assholes from the Spirit Abundance World are to blame for this! They used live sacrifices to obtain world origin from the Manyu Continent and enraged the World’s Will!”

“Hmph, they won’t be doing too well either because of their actions. They will have to suffer the backlash from the World’s Will directly and they should suffer a fate far worse than ours.”

“Enough of that! What are we going to do now? During the early phase of the Manyu Continent’s destruction, we’ll definitely suffer losses to our territory because of the constant collisions from the crumbling land mass... We expected as much, but...”

“Do you mean...”

“Senior Brothers, Junior Brothers, please ensure that you remain safe. We have to give it our all during the battle of world origin that is soon to come. Our White Deer Sect isn’t lacking territory at the moment. What we need is another Martial Dipper Realm expert!”

“Alright. Gather our experts and get them to protect the core region. After shrinking our protective formation, those left outside shall be left to fend for themselves.”

Loud explosions tore through the skies once again and the landmass that the White Deer Paradise controlled which was slightly more than 2000 miles suffered another serious blow. The landmass shook violently and a report came from the Formation Grandmaster of the White Deer Paradise the next moment. According to the report, a chunk of earth that was 500 miles large detached from the island. The spiritual veins that were used to connect the multiple formations around the landmass turned unstable and it wasn’t difficult to determine that they were going to lose even more territory in the near future.

...

In the territory controlled by the Zhongxuan Gate, Hu Molin, their person in charge, stared at the various experts before growling in a low voice, “Our Yan Continent lacks land and our foundations are poor. That is also a reason we’re greatly restricted in everything we do. As such, we cannot give up any more of the landmass we control!”

“Senior Brother Hu, if we go all out to preserve the land we planned for, we will have to pay a hefty price...”

“The protection formation has already stretched to its limit. The area we control now is close to 2500 miles in diameter and the formation masters are finding it extremely difficult to keep everything in check. They’re enduring a massive amount of pressure as we speak!”

Hu Molin’s expression changed slightly but he eventually sighed heavily, “We have no choice. Every single Talisman Master of our Zhongxuan Gate who reached the Martial Extermination Realm has been sent to the Manyu Continent. Do you still not understand the intentions of our Ancestors?”

“In that case...”

Hu Molin raised his finger to interrupt the person who was about to speak. “I made up my mind. No matter what happens next, I’ll bear the consequences. I hope that all of you can lend me your strength and bring this landmass back to the Yan Continent!”

During their conversation, several resplendent streaks of light appeared in the air above them.

The reactions of Hu Molin and the various experts before him weren't slow by any means. They rose into the air in unison and shattered the meteors that were about to smash into the protection barrier.

Unfortunately, their efforts were limited. Several chunks of rocks sailed past them before hitting the protection barrier around the Zhongxuan Gate's territory.

After some shaking and flickering, the barrier returned to normal and the heavens seemed to calm down. Hu Molin and the others returned to the confines of their protection barrier but they kept their guards up nonetheless. When they returned, they learned that 2 Formation Masters were injured from the impact earlier.

Hu Molin's expression sank as he knew that that wasn't the last threat they would be facing. No one knew how long those Formation Masters could last under the constant pressure.

...

The Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Changbai Holy Land felt their hearts pounding in their chests as worry threatened to overwhelm them.

"The destruction of the Manyu Continent came a lot earlier than expected..."

"Hehe, everyone out there has their own plans. All of us are plotting against each other and the members of the Spirit Abundance World even made their way here. They used some sort of strange art to suck away world origin from the Manyu Continent, speeding up the destruction process. It's not strange for everything to progress so quickly."

"Hmm... Unfortunately, we haven't completed our preparations. We can't carry out the plan we came here with, otherwise, our chances of success would be much higher than it is currently."

"What a joke. If we're unable to complete our preparations, what makes you think every other faction out there managed to finish theirs? All of us are going to have to play it by ear."

"Now that we look at it again, our Ancestors are wise indeed. They chose to work with Kou Chongxue, greatly increasing our chances of returning with the landmass. We were fools to question the Ancestors' decision to work with our enemy..."

"So what? Even if we look like we have 4 Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors helping us because of the cooperation, the Tongyou Institution will have to care about themselves once the Manyu Continent crumbles. When that happens, Kou Chongxue and the other Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor of the institution will have to deal with things on their side. At the end of the day, the situation remains the same."

"Junior Brother, that's where you're wrong. With the Tongyou Institution's foundations, how large do you think their landmass can be?"

“Oh yeah... They might not need so much help to direct their smaller landmass when the time comes and we should be able to borrow the strength of their Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor when the time comes! Even if we disregard Ji Wenlong, Kou Chongxue’s strength is nothing to scoff at. He’s too damn strong!”

“Wouldn’t our Changbai Holy Land be the only ones benefiting from the cooperation if that’s the case? Why would Kou Chongxue agree to an alliance in the first place?”

“Hehe, it’s simple. If Kou Chongxue didn’t agree to it, the Tongyou Institution wouldn’t be able to benefit from the Manyu Continent at all! Of course, that works both ways... If our Ancestors didn’t agree to the cooperation, Kou Chongxue could easily force them to remain in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion when the time comes. After all, our worlds are merely separated by the Void Abyss. With his strength, he would be able to stop our Ancestors from helping us.”

“Enough of this talk. How much land do you think the Tongyou Institution can bring away?”

“Right, don’t forget, they were plotted against by those aboriginal experts of the Manyu Continent...”

“Hehe, they should be able to maintain a landmass of a thousand miles or so. With the strong backlash from the world, they wouldn’t be able to last as long as us! I refuse to believe that their preparations can be better than our Changbai Holy Land. After suffering the recoil from the World’s Will, they would be lucky if they maintain a landmass of 800 miles.”

...

With Shang Xia’s timely warning, the Tongyou Landmass detached itself from the Manyu Continent before its destruction, becoming the Tongyou Island. Aside from Chu Jia who was controlling the formation back in the core of the Tongyou Island, everyone else flew above the island to ensure its safety.

Chapter 565: Heave Ho

Shang Xia suddenly realized that the world barrier not only protected the world from threats that came from beyond the heavens, but it also had the ability to provide concealment from everything that lay beyond the heavens.

That was a conclusion he came to after thinking for some time. The sea of stars that lay beyond the heavens might be limitless and no one knows how far it stretches, but there was no way a massive existence such as the Manyu Continent could remain undiscovered for hundreds of years after separating from the Spirit Abundance World.

Now that they were on the brink of destruction, the experts of the Spirit Abundance World finally located it again and squeezed out the last of its value.

The only explanation Shang Xia could think of that would allow the Manyu Continent to remain undetected for so long would be the abilities of the world barrier!

Casually swinging his blade and shattering a massive meteor that came a little too close to the Tongyou Island, a sea of flames emerged from the destruction. The random fragments that remained could no longer threaten the Tongyou Island. However, Shang Xia didn't have time to heave a sigh of relief when he heard someone scream a hundred or so miles away, "We need help! We're about to be struck by a huge landmass!"

Shang Xia's expression changed as he charged in the direction of the yell.

With Shang Xia's speed, he crossed the distance of a hundred or so miles in the blink of an eye. He saw Fang Kewei and Shang Lubing gathered together as they stared at a spot in the void some distance away from the Tongyou Island.

Relief washed over them and smiles appeared on their faces when they saw that Shang Xia had arrived.

When he came to a stop, the extermination light around him disappeared. He didn't need them to tell him anything as he noticed a giant chunk of land 100 or so miles in diameter rapidly approaching the Tongyou Island.

By the time he arrived, it was merely 30 miles away from impact!

Fang Kewei looked like he had exhausted a lot of his inner qi and he gasped for breath with a pale face. "Young Master Shang, please make your move and destroy that landmass. If it smashes into us, a huge portion of our land would crumble."

Shang Lubing also had a look of resignation on his face as he addressed Shang Xia. "The incoming landmass is too big. Even if I gave it my all, I wouldn't be able to do much. I need reinforcements in order to deal with this threat. Young Master Shang, we're lucky you showed up!"

By the time their conversation ended, the landmass had already closed in by several miles. The situation was absolutely dire.

Fang Kewei yelled in fright, "Quick, quick! It'll be too late if we don't do it now!"

Glancing at him, Shang Xia's gaze quickly shifted to the space behind him and muttered, "Someone else is coming..."

Widening their eyes in shock, they were surprised that Shang Xia could discover the presence of someone else before themselves. However, it made sense after they thought about it.

Seeing Shang Xia's reaction, Fang Kewei thought that he wasn't confident of shattering the landmass alone and wanted to wait for someone else. He added, "It's good that someone else is coming. With all of us working together, it will be much easier to destroy the landmass..."

Turning to look in the direction of Shang Xia's gaze, Shang Lubing raised an eyebrow in shock. He didn't agree with Fang Kewei as he gasped softly, "It's him..."

"Mister Fang, when you were trying to stop the landmass earlier, did you notice how many mortals were living on it? Were they begging for help?"

Taken aback by Shang Xia's question, Fang Kewei sighed. "Of course I noticed them. However, we don't have the power to save them. We can't do anything about it now that things have progressed up to this point. If they smash into our Tongyou Island, they wouldn't be able to live anyway. We'll suffer a huge loss if that's the case and in order to lower our losses..."

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Shang Xia shook his head and interrupted the man before he could finish. "No matter what, a life is a life. Even if we don't save them, we shouldn't be the ones to kill them or decide their fate."

As soon as he spoke, he left behind a dumbfounded Fang Kewei as he shot into the skies towards the giant landmass.

"This kid... What is he doing?" Fang Kewei wouldn't dare to do what Shang Xia did and leave the confines of the protection formation around the Tongyou Island. He wouldn't dare to venture deep into space for long either. He turned to look at Shang Lubing for an explanation of what Shang Xia was doing.

Sighing, Shang Lubing explained, "The kid probably doesn't want to watch them lose their lives because of our actions..."

Before he could finish, he was interrupted by the person who just arrived. His voice came from behind the both of them. "Young Master Shang truly has a benevolent heart. I have to respect his attitude but it's a shame I am too weak to help him. I am unable to assist those on that landmass..."

When Fang Kewei turned to look at the newcomer, he saw Ren Bainian approaching with a helpless but guilty expression.

A trace of contemplation flashed across Fang Kewei's eyes but he quickly added, "In the face of the destruction of the world, it's already an impressive feat to protect the foundations of your clan. Brother Ren, there's no need to blame yourself..."

Shang Lubing yelled in shock as he disrupted both of them. "What... What is the kid trying to do?!"

Fang Kewei and Ren Bainian turned to look at the incoming landmass and their eyes widened to the size of saucers as they gasped in fright.

Tens of miles away, Shang Xia arrived before the landmass and he sucked in a long breath. His Four Seasons Extermination Origins which had been refined past the 80 percent mark were pushed to their limits as the extermination light around him started to pulsate rapidly. After some time, only a thin layer of extermination light surrounded him but the color wasn't so varied any longer. They seemed to have fused together, and that was what caught Shang Lubing's attention.

The fusion of one's extermination origins, and subsequently extermination light, indicated that one had already reached the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm. Having noticed that, Shang Lubing became even more curious about what Shang Xia was going to do.

When the words left his lips, he saw Shang Xia slowly raising his right hand and pushing forward.

That was Shang Xia's Four Seasons Palm, which he renamed the Four Constellation Palm not too long ago!

After the refinement of his extermination origins crossed the 80 percent mark, Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm already possessed the power of a rank four martial intent!

With the endless cycle of the four seasons as its base, a giant palm appeared in space as it pushed against the incoming landmass.

Buzz... Rumble... Crack...

Weird sounds came from the huge landmass and as they echoed through the lands, Shang Lubing, Fang Kewei, and Ren Bainian stared at Shang Xia in shock. They were completely dumbfounded by what was happening.

As Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm pushed against the landmass, its trajectory started to change. However, it wasn't exactly an easy process either. Because of Shang Xia's giant palm, a huge imprint was created on the bottom of the landmass. Huge valleys and mountains were created as Shang Xia's palm sank deep into it.

Due to the sheer size of the landmass, Shang Xia was sent flying backwards due to the impact. He flew back several miles, but he eventually managed to find his footing. Standing firm, he maintained the giant palm in space as it pushed against the landmass.

"This... This... This..." Fang Kewei could no longer describe what he was feeling, or what was happening.

Ren Bainian's eyes lit up and he praised, "Young Master Shang's martial intent is truly incredible! It actually possesses such power!"

Shang Lubing was the only one who seemed worried at the side as he muttered softly, "Should we... Should we head out there to help him?"

After he spoke, a loud roar escaped Shang Xia's lips.

Staring at him, they saw the extermination light around him expanding violently as the giant palm turned a little more corporeal.

Shang Xia, who seemed to be at his limit, started to push his right arm out slowly. The giant palm pushed the landmass back a little.

By the time Shang Xia extended his hand fully, the landmass had been pushed tens of miles away in the opposite direction. Its momentum continued as it flew away from the Tongyou Island.

Slowly retracting his arm, the giant palm turned a little more blurry as it disappeared. The landmass drifted further and further away...

Even after the landmass had drifted out of view, Shang Xia didn't return to the Tongyou Island immediately. Instead, he circulated his inner qi and regained some of his energy before doing so.

By the time he entered the protection barrier around the Tongyou Island, he noticed 3 strange looks boring right into him. Feeling a little uncomfortable, he asked, "About this..."

"Young Master Shang is truly incredible!" Ren Bainian started bootlicking immediately. He seemed extremely sincere about it.

"What is the name of that move?" Fang Kewei asked in a daze.

“Have you reached the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm?” Shang Lubing followed up and he maintained a deep frown on his face. A deep gaze could be seen in his eyes as he awaited a response.

Shang Xia turned to Ren Bainian first. “I’m still severely lacking when it comes to my personal abilities. I am unable to save too many people from the Manyu Continent and I hope Senior does not blame me for that. However, these land masses would eventually drift off before gathering back together to form a planet where these mortals can continue to live. Senior Ren, you don’t have to worry that the original inhabitants of the Manyu Continent would go extinct.”

Waving his hand, Ren Bainian replied, “Of course I wouldn’t blame you. Due to the destruction of the continent, death is inevitable. Young Master Shang, your actions have already saved countless lives!”

“It all boils down to my lack of cultivation. I am only able to protect the Tongyou Island at the moment and ensure that your Ren Clan doesn’t die out. At the very least, your Ren Clan will be able to carry on the mantle for the Manyu Continent!”

After he spoke, he nodded at the 3 of them without answering Fang Kewei or Shang Lubing’s question before turning to leave.

Seeing as the matter had ended and Shang Xia had left, Shang Lubing and Ren Bainian bade Fang Kewei farewell before returning to their respective posts.

By the time Shang Xia returned, he noticed that a deep rift had already formed in the earth below. It spanned 5 miles or so and went 2 to 3 miles deep into the ground. He had barely been gone for a few minutes when that happened. He had no idea if the island itself was unable to hold on or if someone smashed into it.

As he turned around and got ready to look around to find the cause of the damage, he noticed something with his divine perception and he turned to stare at the giant rift in the ground. A cold snort left his lips. “Who’s there? Get out here right now!”

A streak of light emerged beneath his feet as it tried to rush deeper into the Tongyou Island.

Shang Xia ignored it as he continued to stare into the distance while maintaining a smirk on his face.

A minute, yet strange fluctuation appeared in the void nearby which caused Shang Xia’s haughty expression to turn a little serious. Waving his Abyssal Blade, he slashed the space before him apart.

Clang!

Chapter 566: Harvesting Light

Shang Xia originally thought that the other party was using some sort of concealment art to hide themselves. However, he realized that he was wrong after sundering the void before him with his Abyssal Blade. He discovered that the newcomer was physically hiding in the void!

Without any external assistance, being able to travel through the void with their bodies alone was something only Martial Dipper Realm experts were supposed to be able to do.

However, due to the destruction of the Manyu Continent, there couldn't be any Martial Dipper Realm experts present.

There had to be one other possibility and that was that the person before Shang Xia had utilized a treasure like the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman beforehand or something like that to be able to enter the void for a short period of time.

Whatever the case, their ability to enter and stay in the void already spoke volumes about their cultivation and strength. What was more important was the fact that the newcomer definitely wasn't an aboriginal cultivator from the Manyu Continent. No aboriginal cultivator would possess precious treasures like that.

Moreover, there was no reason for the experts of the holy lands or other factions of the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World to take the risk of doing a solo infiltration into the Tongyou Island.

Unless the person who arrived was a death warrior who was planning to sacrifice themselves to damage the Tongyou Island, there was no point for any of them to send an expert over. They could easily wait for the fusion of the worlds before sending another spy over to the Tongyou Institution, ensuring the largest possibility of success.

Since there were so many reasons to say that the person who arrived wasn't from the Manyu Continent, Azure Origin World, or Azure Spiritual World, there could only be one other explanation. The person who came was most likely from the Spirit Abundance World!

As the Spirit Abundance World ranked above Azure Worlds in the hierarchy, they were the ones with enough reason to send someone to enter the various islands controlled by the many factions of the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World. It was also very possible they would have means to avoid detection by the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors on the way back.

Everything flashed through his mind instantly and after understanding the situation, Shang Xia felt lucky that he detected it in time. Also, it was pretty coincidental that the person who chose to hide in the Tongyou Island chose the region he was protecting.

If that wasn't the case...

Shang Xia felt a chill running through his heart before staring at the sorry figure who had been forced out of the void by his Abyssal Blade. Killing intent filled his mind as he thought of the many repercussions that might happen if the spy was allowed to enter the Azure Origin World through their Tongyou Island.

"Are you from the Spirit Abundance World?" Shang Xia growled. Even though he already deduced the other party's identity, he wanted to see if he could get any more information from the other party.

However, the person who came was clearly a shrewd cultivator who experienced a lot of things and he sneered coldly in response to Shang Xia's question. He might be frightened by Shang Xia's strength, but he remained silent.

Understanding that he wouldn't be able to get any information out of the intruder, Shang Xia didn't dare to be careless. He raised his Abyssal Blade and unleashed his exquisite blade art against his enemy.

Because it was a new blade art he had been developing, he didn't seem to have full control over his strength. The moment he used it, extermination qi started to leak everywhere, causing the power contained in the attack to drop sharply.

"Hehe!" A soft laughter left the intruder's lips and a ray of light emerged from his sleeves. Shang Xia could see that the person before him had already fused his extermination origins and reached the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm.

The Spirit Abundance World sure has a lot of experts who reached the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm...

The thought appeared in Shang Xia's mind uncontrollably. The next moment, a loud clang rang through the air.

Sparks flew as his Abyssal Blade was nearly flung out from his hands by the impact.

The expression of the expert from the Spirit Abundance World changed drastically. His plan was to infiltrate and hide in the depths of the Tongyou Island. He didn't think he would be stopped right at the border. Moreover...

A terrifying thought appeared in his mind when he clashed with Shang Xia's blade strike earlier. *His blade strike already possesses such power even though it's incomplete...*

Examining Shang Xia again, a light flashed in his eyes and he realized the problem. "That's a divine weapon! So that's why..."

He felt that Shang Xia was merely relying on the power of a divine weapon to stop him.

Even though he was stopped earlier by Shang Xia's strike, his battle intent started to rise after noticing the weapon. A trace of greed appeared in his gaze.

"A mere lowly cultivator from a lower world dares to hold on to a divine weapon?!" The cultivator sneered and the ray of light that clashed with Shang Xia's Abyssal Blade turned into a chain of ice. With a flick of his wrist, the cultivator entered the void again, leaving behind some crashing sounds.

Shang Xia's expression twisted as he slashed the void open again. Unfortunately, he still didn't seem in control of his blade art as 30 percent of its power leaked away.

The void exploded suddenly as the ice chain smashed ruthlessly into the Abyssal Blade.

The resulting soundwave slammed into their divine perception and Shang Xia held the trembling Abyssal Blade in his hand. He forcefully managed to stop the other party's offensive.

With the battle dragging on, the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World felt his expression sinking by the second. He needed to get rid of the person stopping him as soon as he could and obtain the damaged divine weapon. Otherwise, the disturbance they were causing would definitely draw over reinforcements.

He might be a cultivator from a higher ranked world and had an advantage in terms of techniques and cultivation against ordinary cultivators from lower worlds, but he knew that he could defeat someone like Shang Xia quickly.

Whipping his ice chain around, he drew a wonderful arc in the skies as the chain went straight for Shang Xia's wrists.

Obviously, Shang Xia wouldn't let the man do as he wished. Cutting down, it slammed into the chain. However, this time, it was even weaker than before. It might be due to his repeated use of the same technique, or the lack of inner qi, but the dissipation of energy got worse.

"What a pity the person using the blade isn't suited for it!" The cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World grumbled in his heart and pointed into another spot in the void as his extermination origin emerged. It transformed into 4 silvery strands before turning into ice awls that shot at Shang Xia.

In a panic, Shang Xia's blade art became extremely messy. The ice awls tore through space and arrived before him. Pulling out the Hundred Gold Sword with his left hand, he accurately struck 3 of them before allowing the final one to strike the protection barrier his extermination origins formed around him. It was eventually stopped, but his actions seemed to have been anticipated by his enemy. Another 4 ice awls shot at Shang Xia with a single gesture but this time, his fingers danced about in mid air as they controlled his weapons. Those ice awls fused to form a single beam of light that shot at Shang Xia.

The next moment, the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World felt his divine perception trembling slightly and the frosty light in his hand shifted as he pressed his palm into the void on his left.

A pale Shang Xia was forced to reveal himself and it was struck directly by the frosty light. Turning into a frozen statue, it didn't take long before the statue split apart to reveal remnants of a paper talisman.

In the short time it appeared, the pale 'Shang Xia' that appeared managed to toss out the jade battleaxe in his hand at his opponent.

"Paper Figure Talisman?!" The cultivator of the Spirit Abundance World screamed as he stared at the battleaxe that was cleaving down mercilessly at him. "Ningzhi Battleaxe! You... You killed Su Jinyuan!"

Forming a seal with his left hand, he easily sent the battleaxe flying. However, a sense of unease quickly filled his heart.

"If he managed to kill Su Jinyuan..."

When he came to his conclusion, Shang Xia's Abyssal Blade seemed to miss its target as the ice chain wrapped itself around his wrist.

Not thinking too much about it, the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World tugged at his ice chain seeing that it had connected.

He felt that even if he couldn't force the weapon out of Shang Xia's hand, he would be able to partially cripple his opponent.

However, his worst fears were realized when he raised his head only to be greeted by a mocking smile on Shang Xia's face.

"Oh no!"

The cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World might not know the reason, but he felt his heart sinking the moment he saw Shang Xia's expression. Moreover, he discovered that Shang Xia wasn't moving when he pulled on his ice chain earlier.

Shang Xia released his grip on the Abyssal Blade, but the ice chain failed to take it away. That was because Shang Xia had twisted his wrist to grasp the chain firmly in his hands.

Without Shang Xia holding onto the Abyssal Blade, it started to rise slowly into the air before pointing at the cultivator of the Spirit Abundance World. Shang Xia was using his newly acquired Object Controlling Art on the blade.

With the blade hovering in mid air, Shang Xia didn't control it to strike at his enemy immediately. Instead, he glanced at his palm that had been cut open by the sharp ice shards on the chain. His blood flowed down the chain but was quickly frozen solid by the icy qi coming from it.

The cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World finally discovered what was wrong. His Quadruple Frost Extermination Origins was not only unable to freeze his opponent, his extermination qi that entered his opponent's body from the wounds were wiped out completely!

The cultivator roused his extermination origins again as he wanted to pull his chain away from Shang Xia's grasp, but he was interrupted by a deep growl from Shang Xia. "Explode!"

Countless fluctuations appeared in the space around him and they started to sprout like germinating seeds. However, they grew rapidly and turned into rays of blade light that formed a web. Closing in rapidly, it was clear the blade light would cut him up into countless pieces if they landed.

That was Shang Xia's next move in the series of his Twenty Four Solar Terms, Harvesting Light.

Chapter 567: True Combat Strength

Earlier, those strikes that Shang Xia sent out that were leaking extermination qi were actually part of his new move, Harvesting Light. Each one of his 3 strikes was weaker than the last due to the leaking extermination qi but every single bit of qi that leaked out contained a portion of Shang Xia's divine perception. They gathered in the space around the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World.

During their exchange, due to the clash of their weapons and conflict of their divine perceptions, the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World never expected Shang Xia to use such a devious blade art.

Shang Xia gained inspiration for Harvesting Light from the Substitution Talisman inheritance he obtained a while ago. He got it from Lin Chai, and there were 3 different levels of talismans in total.

When he was cultivating in seclusion, he crafted the rank three Paper Figure Talisman during his free time. It was nothing too difficult for him as it was a mere rank three talisman, and he even made a few extras. He used one a moment ago.

It was a shame he had no rank four talisman paper and wasn't able to craft a rank four Clone Talisman. He could only run through the crafting process in his mind over and over.

Throughout the process, Shang Xia managed to comprehend a blade art that was focused on misdirection and deception. That was how Harvesting Light was born.

In order to act a little more cautiously, Shang Xia used it thrice in front of the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World.

Reality proved him right. Harvesting Light was especially effective. The moment he used it, he forced the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World into a desperate situation.

With countless blade lights closing in on him from all directions, there was no dodging. He could only block it with all his might!

However, the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World definitely had life-saving methods since he could be sent on a mission like that. Forming a seal with one hand, he pressed it directly on himself.

A blast of chilly air appeared to form a thick ice armor around him without affecting the protection barrier created by his extermination origins. It even looked like he turned himself into an ice sculpture with his move.

The blade lights slammed into the barrier created by his extermination origins, and the sound of ice shattering came soon after. The next moment, the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World emerged from the shards. He managed to block Shang Xia's Harvesting Light with his unique method, but his face was deathly pale. No one knew if it was because of the consumption of his inner qi that allowed him to do it or if his pale face was caused by the cold.

Before he could stabilize himself in mid air, he felt his body being tugged to the side ruthlessly. He flew in Shang Xia's direction without being able to control himself.

He seemed to have forgotten that his ice chain was still connected to him and the other end was held firmly in Shang Xia's grasp. With a violent tug, the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World lost control over his body.

A soft grunt left Shang Xia's lips as he threw his Hundred Gold Sword out like a hidden weapon.

Unfortunately, he hadn't created a special move for throwing swords. He was using his spear art with the Hundred Gold Sword and he released Piercing Sun while powering the sword with his Four Constellation Qi.

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The sword ripped the space around it apart as it shot at the bewildered cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World, causing him to turn even paler in fright.

Reaching around his chest, the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World brought out an ice mirror and pointed it straight at the Hundred Gold Sword coming his way.

When the Hundred Gold Sword appeared as a reflection in the mirror, a sword qi emerged from within and it seemed to contain the same amount of energy. It flew at Shang Xia instantly.

After the sword emerged, a loud shatter was heard as the Hundred Gold Sword destroyed the ice mirror. It continued on and pierced into the palm of the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World.

Stabbing into the man's palm, the Hundred Gold Sword used up all its power and it couldn't advance another inch.

As for the sword qi that came from the mirror, it was destroyed by the Abyssal Blade that was hovering around Shang Xia before it could come close.

Despite the exchange, Shang Xia didn't plan on letting up. The Abyssal Blade returned to his hand as he sent a devastating slash at his enemy.

In his current state, the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World had no way of avoiding it.

Releasing a desperate roar, the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World shattered the ice chain that he had refined for a long time. Spraying out a mouthful of blood, the little droplets transformed into bloodied shards of ice that scattered in the wind.

After shattering the chain, the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World contained control of a seventh of the original weapon. The remaining portion was left with Shang Xia.

Swinging the remnant ice chain violently, he smacked the Abyssal Blade in mid air and shifted its trajectory. He managed to avoid Shang Xia's attack but his ice chain was sacrificed in the process. Fortunately for him, the impact pushed him away from Shang Xia and with that, he managed to regain his freedom of movement.

Instinctively, he turned to run. In the blink of an eye, he ran for over 10 miles.

His actions and reaction earlier had been anticipated by Shang Xia. He knew that experts of the Spirit Abundance World had tons of life saving methods and treasures. It was extremely difficult to kill any one of them and that was why he decided to use Harvesting Light previously. Even though his opponent managed to narrowly escape death every time, Shang Xia was prepared to follow up with another attack as long as the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World didn't turn into a corpse under his relentless assault. He wasn't going to let his enemy off so easily.

Seeing as the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World had turned to run and exposed his back to Shang Xia, he knew an opportunity had arrived. Placing his Abyssal Blade away after he failed to kill his enemy with it, he unleashed his Four Constellation Palm the next second.

He might not have stored up power in his strike and it contained far less power than when he pushed the landmass away from the Tongyou Island previously, it was more than enough to deal with the problem before him. The cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World who had been seriously injured by Shang Xia would never be able to withstand the strike.

As the palm sailed closer to the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World, Shang Xia noticed something like a paper boat the size of a palm emerging from the other party's sleeves.

The moment it appeared, it transformed into a flying boat that was several feet long. It positioned itself under his feet and the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World spat out another mouthful of blood. As the crimson droplets rained down on the flying boat, he quickly settled in it.

With his essence blood powering the flying boat, it ripped the space around him apart before disappearing into the void.

Shang Xia obviously didn't account for the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World to possess a way to escape like that. His Four Constellation Palm slammed into the location where the boat

disappeared and turned the region into shattered space. He managed to rip through half the boat that was stained crimson red but it turned into a streak of light that soared away at a speed Shang Xia couldn't keep up with.

Shang Xia held the absolute advantage throughout the entire battle and heavily injured the intruder. He even forced his opponent to damage his foundations twice by spitting out essence blood to protect himself. It could be said that Shang Xia single-handedly destroyed the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World's hope of ever entering the Martial Dipper Realm. However, Shang Xia wasn't satisfied. He felt a sense of regret. If he was a little stronger, the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World would have to leave his life behind!

Alas, he got away...

It was truly difficult to kill an expert from the Spirit Abundance World.

They had a much more refined way of doing battle compared to cultivators of the same realm who came from lower worlds, and they had many different types of weapons! The amount of treasures they had was also a lot more abundant than Shang Xia and the rest.

Whatever the case, Shang Xia managed to gain a better understanding of his current strength. He was slightly stronger than experts in the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm and it was very possible he could contend with experts who had comprehended their fourth martial intent. However, that was the limit of his abilities. Compared to experts like Cen Yu who was firmly in the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm and had mastered their martial intent, Shang Xia had to admit he was weaker.

Of course, being weaker didn't mean that he would be killed by them. He was confident that even if he ran into peak existences in the Martial Extermination Realm, he would be able to leave unscathed.

It would be another story if his opponent had entered the Martial Dipper Realm.

After evaluating his current strength and abilities, he finally got over the fact that he allowed the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World to escape.

Clearing his mind, Shang Xia suddenly realized that he seemed to have forgotten something.

Oh shit!

Slapping his forehead, he thought back to the time when he discovered the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World. When he was discovered, he sent a streak of light into the depths of the Tongyou Island! However, the battle erupted the next instant and Shang Xia didn't manage to stop the mysterious ray!

Chapter 568: Talisman Artifact

Shang Xia guessed their motives for infiltrating the Tongyou Island a long time ago.

However, there were only 2 reasons for them to do so. One of them was to interfere with the Tongyou Institution's plan when they brought back the landmass to the Azure Origin World. The other was to infiltrate the Azure Origin World and spy for the Spirit Abundance World.

If the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World was planning to interfere with the institution's plan, Shang Xia felt that his chances of success were slim to none. With super experts like Yun

Jing and Shang Bo holding the fort, along with the assistance of Chu Jia's grand formation, there wouldn't be any chance of him affecting the Tongyou Institution's plan. Moreover, the experts on the Tongyou Island were on extremely high alert at the moment and there was no way they would allow anyone to disrupt their plans.

Not to mention the fact that the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World was a pretty unlucky soul. He hid himself in the region where Shang Xia was stationed, causing him to be exposed immediately. He failed to get past the first line of defense into the Tongyou Island!

If his plan was to infiltrate the Azure Origin World... There was a chance for him to succeed. All he had to do was to avoid being detected by any experts on the Tongyou Island. In that case, he wouldn't have to fight with any of them and with the island measuring 2000 miles in diameter and a dozen or so Martial Extermination Realm experts guarding their posts, it was possible for him to remain hidden.

However, there was another key point he would have to take note of if he wanted to infiltrate the Azure Origin World. How was he going to avoid being discovered by Kou Chongxue and Ji Wenlong?! Those were Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors they were talking about!

Perhaps, he would have left some sort of mark on the Tongyou Island. Even if he was forced to flee because of the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors, he might be able to locate the Tongyou Island and return after everyone let their guards down.

If Shang Xia's guess was correct, the ray of light that was shot into the depths of the Tongyou Island wasn't a simple distraction the man sent out.

Using the opportunity when there were no other threats to quickly recover his inner qi, Shang Xia landed on the island before heading to the location where he first discovered the intruder. He wanted to look for anything that might have been left behind like a secret mark or something.

He failed to locate anything, but it seemed reasonable considering they were at the border of the Tongyou Island. It was highly possible for the region they were located to be destroyed during their voyage back to the Azure Origin Island. The ray of light he sent out before their battle was probably what Shang Xia was looking for.

When he emerged from the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World's hiding spot, he saw a streak of light appearing before him.

The disturbance caused by the battle between them was massive. Even though the exchange happened for a very short period of time and the victor had already been decided, other experts on the Tongyou Island decided to take a look at what was going on.

As soon as she arrived, Liu Qinglan heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that Shang Xia was alright.

"What happened here?" She asked.

Describing what happened a moment ago and his conjecture that the opponent would leave behind some sort of mark on the Tongyou Island, Shang Xia didn't hide anything from Liu Qinglan.

Her expression turned solemn after hearing what he said. She decided to follow him and track down the ray of light that was sent out.

“Are you sure you can find traces of it?” Liu Qinglan asked. According to what Shang Xia said, the ray of light would be extremely difficult to locate if it was meant to leave behind a secret mark on the Tongyou Island.

However, she quickly changed her mind after following Shang Xia. They took several winding routes and changed direction twice along the way. Watching how confident Shang Xia was, she knew he had a way of tracking it down.

Eventually, Shang Xia stopped and tapped the spot in front of him. Frosty mist emerged from his fingertips and frost filled the area they were in.

With enough mist in the air, Shang Xia flicked his finger to stop the process. He chuckled, “The cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World specializes in frosty qi and I secretly suppressed a portion of it in my body during our battle. Since his secret mark should be made from the same type of qi, they should resonate with each other, allowing us to find it easily.”

Shang Xia might have made it seem extremely easy, but Liu Qinglan knew that things weren't as straightforward as he described.

Suppressing and retaining a portion of his enemy's extermination qi would mean that Shang Xia's enemy hand-delivered his greatest weakness to Shang Xia. After some research, Shang Xia would be able to learn all of the man's weaknesses!

Under normal circumstances, extermination qi would slowly dissipate and transform back into heaven and earth qi that filled the lands after they left a cultivator's dantian. Unless their opponent made preparations for it, it was almost impossible to retain a portion of the extermination qi.

However, Shang Xia managed to do exactly that and from what he was saying, it didn't seem too difficult for him. His ability came as a great shock to Liu Qinglan.

“How did you do it?!” Liu Qinglan couldn't help but ask.

Chuckling in response, Shang Xia explained, “My Four Constellation Qi has the ability of samsara as the four seasons cycle endlessly. My Freezing Soul Extermination Origin is considered my Winter Extermination Origin and it has the same properties as his four Frost Extermination Origins. Even though it's not exactly similar, it's close enough. It might not be able to replicate all his abilities, but it's more than enough to track down his secret mark.”

“Four Constellations? Wasn't it the Four Seasons Qi or something?” Liu Qinglan followed up with another question.

“It's just a way I refer to my extermination origins. The four constellations don't only refer to the four seasons, but they also refer to the four directions. They also signify the four divisions of time. It's also... Anyway, it's just some guesses I came up with.” ? It wasn't that Shang Xia wasn't willing to tell Liu Qinglan too much about his cultivation method. After all, he wasn't exactly an expert on the matter and he didn't understand everything he was doing. Moreover, he couldn't possibly tell Liu Qinglan the origin of where he gained his knowledge from and he could only attribute it to luck.

Glancing at Shang Xia from the corner of her eye, she didn't press deeper into the matter. Instead, she got back on point. "If what you said was true, wouldn't that mean that you would be able to suppress and retain any type of qi as long as it is related to the elements contained in the four seasons?"

"Theoretically speaking, that is possible. However, there are many factors involved in retaining a portion of someone else's extermination qi. I can't be sure of anything at the moment as this occurrence might have something to do with luck. Also, the other party was too careless." Shang Xia didn't deny what Liu Qinglan had said, but he also provided a proper explanation of what he was capable of.

Liu Qinglan chuckled in response, "Relax, that's your trump card and I won't tell anyone about it. You don't have to downplay it..."

Laughing to herself, she seemed to be thinking of what Shang Xia could do with his ability.

However, she got one thing wrong. Shang Xia wasn't downplaying his abilities or he wasn't being humble. He truly wasn't confident of doing anything! It was his first time using his Four Seasons Samsara Art to do what he did anyway!

...

It didn't take long for them to locate traces of the ray of light as Shang Xia brought Liu Qinglan into a small pool located in a valley not too far away.

"Here?" Liu Qinglan looked at the still pool incredulously. "From the amount of frosty qi you released earlier, if the ray of light he sent out landed in the pool, it should have frozen over completely!"

Shang Xia nodded his head in response, "Well, who would expect there to be a cluster of extremely yin and frost hidden in a pool like that?"

He stabbed his blade directly into the pool after he spoke.

Even though his Abyssal Blade sank into the water, not a ripple could be seen. Liu Qinglan gasped in shock as a strange expression appeared on her face. "This... What blade art is this?"

"Lesser Totality." Shang Xia said as he retracted his blade.

Even though Liu Qinglan was still confused, she discovered the water in the pool rising before she could ask him another question. It didn't take long before all the water was pushed upwards and drained off into the surroundings.

Eventually, the bottom of the pool was revealed and the cluster of yin and frost was revealed. The area around them dropped by several degrees and it felt as though they entered deep winter in an instant.

Shang Xia snorted once before slapping at the air before him. The palm cycled through the seasons in mid air before a giant burning fireball appeared in it. It burned off the frosty qi emerging from the cluster below, causing a thick white mist to fill the valley they were in.

Liu Qinglan waved her sleeves and a powerful gust ripped through the valley, scattering the mist. When she was done, she discovered a silk-cloth-like item that measured a foot long in Shang Xia's hand.

"Is this..." Liu Qinglan asked.

"This is the item hidden in the cluster of yin and frost. I suspect that it's something that can transform into a secret mark that allows the experts of the Spirit Abundance World to locate our Azure Origin World!" Shang Xia explained before handing the cloth over.

Looking at the rune lines on the cloth, Liu Qinglan raised an eyebrow in confusion. "Is this... Is this a type of talisman?"

Causally bringing out the pieces of the flying boat Shang Xia ripped apart with his Four Constellation Palm when his opponent was escaping earlier, he examined it along with the cloth. "I feel like these things are made from a combination of weapons and talismans... I guess we can call them Talisman Artifacts for now..."

Chapter 569: Getting the Upper Hand

"Talisman Artifact?" Liu Qinglan looked at the remains of the flying boat in Shang Xia's hand and the cloth before nodding her head. "It truly looks like someone tried to make a weapon but there are traces of talisman crafting on it too. How do you think they did it?"

"I can't tell much from it at the moment. However, it seems a lot more flexible when compared to our graded weapons. It can also be used multiple times, unlike our talismans..." Shang Xia replied.

Nodding slightly, Liu Qinglan asked, "How do you plan to deal with these 2 items?"

Shang Xia held the cloth that might be some sort of secret mark in his hand and circulated his inner qi. It started to emit rays of light as it broke down and eventually, it turned into a pile of smoke.

He might have destroyed the cloth-like Talisman Artifact, but he didn't plan on doing the same for the broken flying boat. He chuckled and put it away. "I'll bring this back and examine it properly. I'll see if I can learn something from it."

"Do as you wish. Right now, you need to return to your post as soon as possible and I have to get back to mine to prevent any accidents from happening." Liu Qinglan said.

Seeing as she was about to leave, Shang Xia quickly asked another question. "Instructor Liu, do we not need to report this to the deputy patriarchs and inform the others to take more precautions?"

A smile appeared on Liu Qinglan's face and she responded casually, "There's no need to worry about that. I won't forget to tell them, but there's not much use even if I did."

"Why is that?" Shang Xia raised an eyebrow in confusion.

With a helpless look on her face, Liu Qinglan explained, “Do you think we’re the only ones that will be infiltrated? Ever since we discovered the presence of a third party on the Manyu Continent, factions on our Azure Origin World and the Azure Spiritual World knew that things like that would be bound to happen. The Spirit Abundance World has been flaunting their status as a higher world and it’s true that they’re stronger than us. They definitely wouldn’t give up the chance to annex both our worlds.”

Shang Xia understood the problem after her explanation and a deep frown appeared on his face while muttering to himself, “I guess that means that they’re not just targeting our Tongyou Institution. They should be carrying out the same operation on the various islands hoping for one of them to succeed. As long as they make one successful infiltration, the rest wouldn’t matter. After all, our worlds are about to fuse, and locating one is the same as locating the other...”

He turned to look at Liu Qinglan to throw out another bomb. “Does that mean that an invasion from the Spirit Abundance World is inevitable?”

Liu Qinglan could only sigh in response, “Even I have no idea what will happen right now. You should head over to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion after you return and ask Patriarch Kou personally.”

With a mind full of questions, Shang Xia returned to his post. Watching countless meteors approaching the Tongyou Island, he shattered them all with his Chaos Essence Lightning Palm.

From what he learned after hearing Liu Qinglan’s analysis, the moment the experts of the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World were discovered by the experts of the Spirit Abundance World on the Manyu Continent, the two worlds were already exposed to the Spirit Abundance World.

Without mentioning the fact that the factions of both worlds wouldn’t be able to get rid of the experts of the Spirit Abundance World completely, even if they could, the Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Spirit Abundance World and experts who surpassed the Martial Dipper Realm would probably be able to determine the location of the worlds after seeing the trajectory of the islands through the sea of stars. All that was left to do was to search in the general direction and it would be a matter of time before the worlds were located.

The Spirit Abundance World might not give a damn about the Manyu Continent, but the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World were juicy pies in the eyes of the Spirit Abundance World. Perhaps they were aiming for the new world that would be produced after the fusion of the 2 worlds as that might be a rare opportunity for them.

In the following period of time, the Tongyou Island ran into several slightly dangerous encounters. However, none of them occurred around the area Shang Xia was protecting. That allowed him to greatly restore his exhausted inner qi. He also took the chance to refresh his understanding of his current cultivation.

Putting aside his Solar Term Blade Art, Shang Xia had a clearer idea of how to use his Four Seasons Samsara Art. It allowed him to shorten the time to cycle his inner qi by a little.

The battles he had been through gave him enough experience to improve himself even further. What was more, during his last battle against the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World, he obtained a portion of the flying boat-type Talisman Artifact. He also obtained the ice chain, albeit in 2 parts.

If he was able to find a Master Blacksmith and repair the chain, it would immediately become a peak-grade weapon. For cultivators who utilized frost qi, the worth of the ice chain was no lower than a pseudo divine weapon.

Shang Xia wasn't exaggerating as that was his true feeling after fighting with the cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World.

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Currently, the Tongyou Island was floating around space along the destroyed Manyu Continent. There were uncontrolled landmasses, huge meteors, and spatial storms raging all around them but the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors of the Tongyou Institution showed no signs of doing anything. Kou Chongxue and Ji Wenlong who were in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion made no attempt to control the Tongyou Island.

At the same time, the Tongyou Island didn't seem like they were trying to communicate with the ancestors either. They casually drifted around the ruins of the Manyu Continent.

If one were to stare at the current state of the Manyu Continent from above while they were sufficiently far away, they would discover that the Tongyou Island might seem like they were drifting about aimlessly, but they were avoiding all the dangers they could. They seemed to be making their way to a certain location.

The Tongyou Island wasn't the only one. There were at least 20 islands floating in space as they traveled in the same direction.

If Shang Xia wasn't mistaken, it would be where the final eruption of world origin would occur.

The location wasn't exactly in the center of the surface of the once massive Manyu Continent. Instead, it was deep down in its core.

The islands that were controlled by the many factions from other worlds maintained most of the Manyu Continent's essence. If any of the factions wanted to obtain a portion of the World's Will that used to govern the Manyu Continent, the islands they were controlling were their key.

It also seemed as though the larger and more complete the island was, the more likely they were to obtain the favor of the World's Will. With that, they would be at an advantage when fighting for the world origin that would be released.

That was one of the reasons why factions of the 2 worlds went to manage a territory of their own after entering the Manyu Continent. They wanted to expand their territory to the greatest extent not only to benefit themselves back in their respective worlds. The fight for the World's Will was the other reason.

Shang Xia stood guard above the Tongyou Island and he was conveniently placed at the head of whichever direction they were flying in.

A reason why the Tongyou Island didn't run into much trouble along the way was also because of the twisting path they were following. They spun around from time to time to ensure that Shang Xia remained at the tip of the island.

With the Crimson Soul Tablet, Shang Xia could clearly point out the general direction where they would be heading in. Following Yun Jing's order, Chu Jia, the Formation Grandmaster in charge of

directing the Tongyou Island, basically drove the island in whatever direction Shang Xia was pointing in.

Because of their actions, the grand formation's consumption of energy couldn't be ignored. Chu Jia managed to use that as an excuse to obtain the rest of the fate dipper fragment shards Shang Xia got his hands on.

They might not be traveling in a straight line because of Shang Xia's directions, but the speed at which they were approaching the World's Will was greatly increased.

The Tongyou Island also managed to escape a lot of initial conflicts as they had chosen a deserted part of the Manyu Continent to establish their stronghold.

With that, they were able to maintain the integrity of their island, unlike many other factions. Their quick separation from the Manyu Continent right before its destruction also helped. They avoided the backlash from the World's Will after the continent crumbled, which coincidentally happened to be the strongest one of them all. Due to all those factors, the Tongyou Island managed to remain relatively intact. It was a huge advantage they obtained when fighting over the World's Will in the near future.

Chapter 570: Opening A Path

"I don't understand..." Huang Yu groaned while standing behind Lou Yi. "Brother Lou, this is an amazing opportunity! Why are we allowing those foreign cultivators to do as they wish? Not to mention the fact that they're merely cultivators from lower worlds!"

From the way Huang Yu was talking, it was clear that he had already assimilated into his role as an expert from the Spirit Abundance World. He also managed to gain the trust of Lou Yi, an expert from a superpower in the Spirit Abundance World.

They stood in a certain region of space that was miraculously solid as they observed the huge islands floating through space. They watched at the side as the various islands swarmed towards the core of the world that contained the World's Will.

Lou Yi's countenance was much better than before. It was obvious his injuries were no longer as serious as before. After coughing lightly, he chuckled to Huang Yu, "We can't help it. We're the ones who used the forbidden art to create fate dipper fragments from the Manyu Continent. The World's Will sees us as its mortal enemy at the moment. If we appear to fight for world origin, the World's Will will probably sacrifice itself to drag us to hell. To play safe, we should distance ourselves."

A frown appeared on Huang Yu's face. "Brother Lou, is this really worth it? I'm talking about extracting fate dipper fragments at the expense of the world. It's a little..."

"It's a little evil, right?" Lou Yi said what Huang Yu was hesitating to mention.

Pausing slightly, Huang Yu continued, "That's right... If we didn't gather fate dipper fragments back then, would the World's Will not reject us if we join in the fray now?"

Breaking out into laughter, Lou Yi sighed softly while explaining, "A mere Barbaric World is nothing to us. The same can't be said for those Azure Worlds... They have sufficient qualifications

to become our Spirit Abundance World's prey. In order to lock on to their position in space, sacrificing a mere Barbaric World is worth it."

"So that's the reason... That is why we refined fate dipper fragments. It was to hasten the destruction of the Manyu Continent!" Huang Yu nodded and he seemed to have understood the reason behind their actions. There was a look of admiration on his face.

Glancing at him from the corner of his eye, Lou Yi smiled, "There might be some other classified reasons, but that's the general idea."

Hearing what Lou Yi said, Huang Yu knew that he couldn't continue digging deeper. Moreover, the way they harvested fate dippers was taboo in the Spirit Abundance World and Lou Yi seemed to be warning him not to reveal too much after they returned.

As a crafty old expert, Huang Yu shifted the topic away immediately. He hesitated slightly before asking, "Brother Lou, are we really able to refine fate dippers from those fragments?"

He didn't expect Lou Yi to answer as casually as he did. "Hahaha! I knew you were always interested in this topic. I didn't think that you would wait so long before asking your question..."

An embarrassed look appeared on Huang Yu's face and he stuttered, "I... I thought that it would concern some secrets..."

Waving his hand nonchalantly, Lou Yi replied, "It's an open secret among the experts of the various superpowers in our Spirit Abundance World. There are many miraculous uses for a fate dipper fragment but only the purest of them all can be used to nurture a fate dipper."

Pausing slightly, he continued to explain, "It's actually a huge shortcut to obtain a fate dipper. In order to not affect the cultivator's future cultivation, only the very first fate dipper fragment produced by our forbidden formation should be used to nurture a fate dipper. It's the only one that has the qualifications to absorb a fate dipper essence for the transformation to take place."

A look of shock appeared on Huang Yu's face. "So... If we use the other fate dipper fragments to nurture fate dippers, wouldn't that..."

A smile that didn't really resemble one hung on Lou Yi's face as he stared at Huang Yu. "The fate dippers produced from them wouldn't be pure. Neither would they be complete. They might harm the cultivator when they advance. The moment one steps into the Martial Dipper Realm with the impure fate dipper, they will never be able to improve any further. If the effects are a little more serious, they would severely impact the strength of the Martial Dipper Realm expert. Their cultivation might have reached the Martial Dipper Realm, but their actual combat strength might forever remain stuck at the peak of the Martial Extermination Realm. They would be a Martial Dipper Realm expert only in name. In the most serious of cases, they would lose control of their inner qi completely and die after suffering cultivation deviation."

Huang Yu's jaws dropped and he only managed to find his words after some time. "I guess some cultivators don't have a choice if they reach a dead end. They won't be bothered with the consequences at that point."

Lowering his voice slightly, Lou Yi muttered, “A fate dipper fragment isn’t just used to nurture fate dippers. Even if they aren’t pure, those fragments are rank five treasures. There are many uses for them but they’re overshadowed by the fact that they could be used to nurture fate dippers.”

“It’s a pity Brother Lou’s fate dipper fragment was stolen during the chaos back then...” Huang Yu sighed regretfully.

A bitter smile appeared on Lou Yi’s face. Due to his impressive background and innate talent, he had the qualifications to enter the Martial Dipper Realm in the future.

No matter how advanced the Spirit Abundance World was, fate dippers weren’t cabbages that grew by the side of the road. If he had to wait for the power behind him to allocate him resources to breakthrough, it would take another 10 to 20 years before he was given the chance to advance.

The fate dipper fragment he lost previously was the very first one produced during their harvest and his heart was in turmoil after losing it. He was nowhere as calm as he portrayed.

What he didn’t know was that waves were also battering against Huang Yu’s heart.

Worry filled Huang Yu’s heart when he thought about Shang Xia. If he wasn’t mistaken, Shang Xia obtained 2 fate dipper fragments during the chaos that happened after the heaven and earth qi vortex was destroyed. It was no secret fate dipper fragments could nurture fate dippers once they obtained fate dipper essence, but there were many limitations. Even the experts of the Spirit Abundance World might not know about them unless they came from a superpower like Lou Yi.

He could only hope that Shang Xia wouldn’t take the risk of nurturing 2 fate dippers with the fragments he had. At the same time, he was thinking of a way to secretly transmit what he learned back to the Tongyou Institution. Unfortunately, he wouldn’t be able to do so in the near future.

...

The Tongyou Island might not be the largest island that was floating about, but it was definitely the most well-preserved. With Shang Xia’s timely reminder and Yun Jing’s decisiveness, the Tongyou Island separated from the Manyu Continent and made its way towards the core of the world when the others were still dealing with the initial backlash of the destruction.

After the various factions finally managed to quell the turmoil from the destruction of the Manyu Continent, the Tongyou Island, which was located on the outskirts of the world, had already made some progress.

Unfortunately, as they got closer to the core of the world, they were bound to run into other islands. Under such circumstances, the two factions might not break out into an all-out battle due to their Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors’ backing. However, there was no way they could avoid a small skirmish. After all, delaying another faction would mean that they would be able to obtain more world origin.

As the Tongyou Island continued on its way, avoiding the fragments of the Manyu Continent the best they could, gaps of more than 2000 miles were getting harder to find. It was almost impossible for them to advance unimpeded any longer as the clusters of landmasses were getting closer and closer together. The experts on the island could only work together to forcefully carve a path from the debris.

Throughout the process, Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm shone the brightest as he displayed its true might.

As soon as he made his move, 2 massive palms appeared in space. They formed in front of the Tongyou Island and pushed every obstacle in their way to the side. He had the ability to clear hundreds of miles on his own.

Those broken fragments of land he pushed away might slam into others as they drifted into the distance.

As he did it over and over again, Shang Xia became even more familiar with his Four Constellation Palm. He grew more skilled when using the special move and that wasn't all. Through the process, Shang Xia discovered that his use of inner qi grew all the more efficient. At the same time, he managed to slightly refine his Four Seasons Extermination Origins.

After shoving away the obstacles in their path, several experts came to take his place. When he returned to the island, he saw Liu Qinglan walking towards him with a solemn expression on her face.

Glancing around her, Shang Xia asked in a low voice, "What's the matter?"

"Another island is following us. They aren't far..." Liu Qinglan muttered.

Shang Xia raised an eyebrow in surprise. "How did you discover them?"

"When we were passing through the area, we discovered massive landmasses blocking the area we cleared. They were pushed over from a single direction." Liu Qinglan explained.

"Are you sure it's from the same direction?" Shang Xia asked in surprise.

Liu Qinglan nodded with a grave expression still stuck on her face.