

The Heavens 581

Chapter 581: Messing Up Real Bad

For an ordinary cultivator, the limit of one's extermination origins was related to the strength of their physique.

Only with a powerful physique would one be able to withstand the huge amount of power contained in their extermination origins, and that was an extremely logical explanation.

With the same line of reasoning, the purer one's extermination origins, the more obvious the effects were when it nourished one's physique. It worked both ways.

Shang Xia's physique was stronger than cultivators of the same level before he entered the Martial Extermination Realm. However, that only reached a certain extent and there was still a limit to how much stronger it could be. After breaking through to the Four Constellation Realm by refining 4 extermination origins at once, that was no longer the case. His physical body reached a terrifying level.

He learned about the extent of how strong it actually was after he entered and stayed in the void for a period of time back in the Abyssal Secret Region. Even though the space there was already weak and he used an Abyssal Void Breaking Talisman to complete the process, it was enough for him to understand how far his physical body had actually progressed.

That was exactly the reason why he had the guts to cross through the region of unsteady space to catch the 2 of them off guard.

The space might be unsteady, but it hadn't reached the point where it was shattered and fragmented. Since that was the case, Shang Xia was willing to take the risk to rush through it.

Even though his actions might seem like he was acting out of desperation because he was nearly surrounded by the enemy, Shang Xia was 70 percent confident he would succeed.

After catching them off guard and forcing them back with the fusion of his blade lights earlier, Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm arrived.

Back when he crossed the 80 percent mark of refinement on his extermination origins, his Four Constellation Palm could already push a giant land mass that was tens of miles in diameter.

Now that he crossed the 90 percent mark of refining his extermination origins, his combat abilities and every other attribute could be said to have taken a huge leap forward. Now that he unleashed his Four Constellation Palm again, the 2 of them felt its might long before it arrived. They felt as though their organs were splitting apart and it was like a calamity was about to fall on them.

"Be careful! It's the martial intent of a Martial Extermination Realm expert!"

The experts of the Great Observation Sect warned each other hastily and started to use all their trump cards. They knew they had to stop the extraordinary martial intent no matter what.

A rank four Silver Scale Talisman was ripped apart by Shang Xia's palm instantly and a bronze clock that was filled with intricate sculpture carvings failed to stop the falling palm.

When Shang Xia displayed his Four Constellation Palm back when he refined 70 percent of his extermination origins, it could barely be considered a martial intent of the fourth rank. After

refining his extermination origins even further, the might of his Four Constellation Palm could rival the martial intent of many grand completion stage experts.

Now that he refined them even further, his Four Constellation Palm had the ability to rival top tier martial intents like Cen Yu's Heavenly Flame Tearing the Void.

The 2 of them wanted to throw out even more life-saving techniques and items, but Shang Xia clearly wouldn't give them a chance. His Four Constellation Palm arrived and in a last-ditch attempt to survive, they fused their extermination origin protection barrier into a single entity and actually managed to resist Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm.

Even though they looked extremely haggard after the exchange and the extermination origin protection barrier around them was worn down to a pitiful bubble of light, they managed to gain a little more time to make their escape.

It went without saying that the way they combined their extermination origin protection barriers was a secret art from the Great Observation Sect.

Shang Xia's Four Constellation Palm was strong, but he failed to kill them with a single slap.

By the time the exchange was over, the third expert had crossed the region of unsteady space and he quickly flew over to provide support for his comrades.

Unfortunately, before he could even get close to Shang Xia, he was forced away by a casual swing of the blade.

Rising high above them, Shang Xia shot past the 3 of them. The light trail he left behind showed that he was making his way over to the Great Observation Island.

"How dare you!"

"We're your opponents!"

Shang Xia's actions caused the 3 experts of the Great Observation Island to feel humiliated and angered at the same time.

Because of the battle that was kicked off by Yun Jing earlier, the Great Observation Sect managed to show off their deep accumulations and foundations by sending out 3 experts who were at the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm or higher.

However, those 3 were the only ones with that level of strength!

Not every faction would be as crazy as the Tongyou Institution to send close to 90 percent of their experts to the Many Continent.

The Great Observation Island might still have several Martial Extermination Realm experts to hold the fort, but not a single one of them was in the fourth layer or higher!

In other words, Shang Xia would be able to do as he wished the moment he arrived on the island. Unless the Great Observation Sect's expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm made a move, no one would be able to stop Shang Xia!

If that were to happen, Shang Xia would have achieved his goal.

The 3 experts of the Great Observation Island raced after Shang Xia while screaming at him. They didn't hesitate to use some sort of treasure to increase their flying speed in an attempt to intercept him.

Unfortunately, Shang Xia also had his own treasure to boost his flying speed, the Auspicious Cloud Cape. He also came up with a type of secret art through the cycling of his extermination origins previously and his speed reached a whole new level.

Despite the yells that came from behind him, the distance between Shang Xia and his pursuers increased.

The experts on the Great Observation Island also understood Shang Xia's intentions. A few Martial Extermination Realm experts approached the direction where Shang Xia was and launched attacks against him to prevent him from stepping foot onto the Great Observation Island.

Facing the attacks of several Martial Extermination Realm experts, Shang Xia didn't cower in the slightest. With a loud grunt, the Abyssal Blade in his hand came crashing down.

Before the blade light could arrive, the blade intent already did. The instant it did, everyone who felt it had a feeling as though they wanted to sever everything in their past to relive a new life.

The blade that Shang Xia released didn't just aim to kill. It intended to sever one's will! Not only could it shatter his opponent's techniques, it could also eliminate his opponent's killing intent!

The blade intent had the ability to scatter an expert's desire to do battle and those weaker than the user would just extend their necks to wait for death.

It had the ability to end everything, but it also seemed to signify a new beginning.

As a new year begins, everything starts anew.

Finally, Shang Xia unleashed the move he comprehended from the first of the twenty four solar terms, Spring Origin!

As soon as he did, the defensive line formed by 1 third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert and 5 experts who were in the first and second layer crumbled.

Without anything or anyone in his path, Shang Xia could march straight into the Great Observation Island unchallenged. Swinging his blade down, he created a massive rift in the earth that continued to extend deep into the lands.

Along with a loud explosion, a massive chunk of land that was close to 30 miles and 10 miles wide fell from the island and drifted away.

"You're not Shang Bo! Who the hell are you?!" A chilly voice rang in Shang Xia's ear as though the person who spoke wasn't too far away from him.

Even so, Shang Xia didn't panic in the slightest. A crafty smile appeared on his lips as though his plan had already succeeded.

Chapter 582: 1 Blade, 5 Styles

"You're not Shang Bo! Who the hell are you?"

When the voice rang out in Shang Xia's mind, he knew that his scheme had already succeeded.

Shang Xia wasn't boasting about his achievements and abilities. That was because in his current state, he already possessed the confidence to do so. There was no one left on the island to stop him other than the Great Observation Sect's Martial Dipper Realm candidate who had remained hidden all that while.

Shang Xia's true motive for causing widespread destruction on the Great Observation Island was to force that person out of hiding.

He wasn't surprised that the person knew about Shang Bo either. There were only so many Martial Extermination Realm experts in the Tongyou Institution, and anyone with half a mind to find out who the Tongyou Institution was planning to promote to the Martial Dipper Realm would realize that there was only one candidate available.

Well, whatever the case, Shang Xia wasn't foolish enough to stop whatever he was doing to answer the question. Neither was he planning to track the source of the voice to dig out where the expert was hiding.

After all, there were 3 strong experts of the Great Observation Sect chasing him. The moment he stopped, he would be surrounded on all sides.

Shang Xia knew he was in the Great Observation Sect's territory at the moment. They might have exhausted a great deal of power by using their Space Connecting Light Cord, but their grand formation was still active. He would be placed in a much more dangerous situation if he was surrounded on the Great Observation Island than if he was surrounded back in space earlier.

Shang Xia didn't hold back as he continued to run about the Great Observation Island. Every time he found a crack in their defenses, he would swing his Abyssal Blade down at the region to cause a giant rift that was several miles, if not tens of miles long.

If the huge crack in the ground extended close to the edge of the island, a massive chunk of land would detach from the Great Observation Island and drift off into space.

In the time it took to prepare a pot of tea, Shang Xia had taken control of the situation. He went wherever he wanted, with a huge group of experts chasing him from behind. None of them managed to catch up to him and he refused to fall into their encirclement.

Noticing how Shang Xia was messing with them, the experts of the Great Observation Island roared with rage and cursed him endlessly. Despite their anger, they couldn't do a thing to him.

Under Shang Xia's relentless assault, their island was getting more and more damaged as time passed.

Everything might seem safe for the time being as no one could catch up to him, but Shang Xia didn't let down his guard for a second. The Martial Extermination Realm expert at the grand completion stage of the Great Observation Island didn't show his face despite asking Shang Xia a question earlier, and his aura was completely hidden.

A trace of worry couldn't help but form in Shang Xia's heart and it was growing as time passed.

It might have something to do with Shang Xia's caution, but the expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm seemed to have lost his patience. Of course, his anger might also have something to do with the destruction Shang Xia caused.

After Shang Xia separated another chunk of land from the Great Observation Island, a terrifying aura emerged close to 100 miles from him.

With the range of divine perception exceeding 100 miles, Shang Xia couldn't help but feel a trace of worry. That was because he didn't discover the trace of the grand completion stage expert in the slightest! He had no intention to exchange pointers with the man and his first course of action was to leave the Great Observation Island. He started to run as quickly as he could.

Shang Xia's reaction was fast, but the grand completion stage expert made his preparations. He wouldn't have emerged unless he was ready, and he wouldn't allow Shang Xia to escape easily.

The 3 experts who were racing behind Shang Xia changed their course the moment the super expert appeared. They moved to the space above the island in an attempt to block off his routes of retreat. In fact, they were trying to push him deeper into the core region of the Great Observation Island.

Just as they were about to intercept the retreating Shang Xia, the void behind them tore open as 2 strands of extermination lights emerged. They resembled giant spider legs that only aimed for Huo Guanzhang's back.

Yun Jing, who was held back by the Great Observation Sect's third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert was actually hiding her strength! In the critical moment, she went all out and went to assist Shang Xia in breaking through the encirclement.

With his sharp senses, Huo Guanzhang clearly felt the sneak attack. He couldn't be bothered with Shang Xia and had to take care of himself. As for the other 2, they were already beaten black and blue by Shang Xia earlier when he broke through their encirclement and they were obviously not enough to stop him.

Slashing out with his blade, a huge amount of blade lights filled the space around him and every single one of them had a slight trace of chill in the air. It was as though the world was experiencing the chill of spring. The move he unleashed was slightly different from Valley Rain and he released another move based on his comprehension of the Twenty Four Solar Terms, Torrential Rain.

They were no stranger to how terrifying Shang Xia was. Seeing the amount of blade lights raining down on them, they instinctively decided to protect themselves. They might have reacted quickly, but when their fist and palm intent finally stopped Torrential Rain, Shang Xia had already broken past their obstruction.

Unwilling to be played by Shang Xia like how he went past them to cause widespread destruction on the Great Observation Island earlier, they quickly gave chase.

They sent out multiple palm strikes and punches that caused a huge explosion in space as they refused to allow Shang Xia to run away that easily.

Seeing as his prey was about to escape from his intricately planned trap by busting through the obstruction made by the cooperation of 2 high-leveled experts from the Great Observation Sect, the super expert at the grand completion stage no longer cared about the consumption of his inner qi. He left the Great Observation Island and rushed at Shang Xia.

The moment he made his move, Shang Xia caught a whiff of his aura. He understood that the expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm was likely one level stronger than him.

Of course, Shang Xia wasn't exactly afraid of him if they had to fight. It was just that they were currently on the Great Observation Island and there were many helpers on the opponent's side.

He was no fool. He wouldn't go around making his life difficult.

With his speed, he managed to leave the Great Observation Island before long. The worry in his heart disappeared by a third and even though he was still being relentlessly pursued by the 2 experts at the fourth layer of the Martial Extermination Realm and large completion stage, he felt that it wouldn't be a problem to probe at the baseline of the Great Observation Sect.

Turning around abruptly, Shang Xia pressed his palm down.

The power contained in his Four Constellation Palm wasn't too powerful, and compared to the previous one he unleashed it was basically only used to scare his enemies.

That was because Shang Xia had concentrated a huge amount of extermination qi into his Abyssal Blade. After sending out the hoax Four Constellation Palm, he released the real killing move, Spring Origin!

That was the second time he used the blade technique and it was much smoother than the first. Not only was the power contained in the strike stronger by 30 percent, but the blade light that appeared seemed more majestic than before.

When Shang Xia was developing his moves based on the Twenty Four Solar Terms, he discovered that every single move corresponded to a certain season.

The deeper his understanding of the blade art, the more he realized that even though that was the case, none of the seasons seemed to correspond to the 4 blade techniques that signified the start of the seasons. Spring Origin, Summer Origin, Autumn Origin, and Winter Origin seemed different from the rest of his techniques.

Eventually, he realized it wasn't a coincidence that things were that way. It was especially so after he developed so many moves and comprehended the meaning behind each blade move. He eventually understood that every single move that signified the beginning of the seasons could be used in 5 different ways.

In other words, Spring Origin alone had 5 different variations to how it could be used!

When Shang Xia unleashed Spring Origin on the expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm from the Great Observation Sect, he could follow through with brute force and fused the moves into one. He could also react to the changes made by his opponent and catch them off guard by the suddenly changing blade technique.

No matter how they looked at it, Spring Origin had surpassed the other 5 transformations it could turn into and it could even be said that the move alone had stepped to the ranks of a rank four martial intent!

Spring Origin was the strongest move Shang Xia could unleash at the moment, but because his target was at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm, he discovered that there weren't many changes in the other party's aura. Spring Origin might be able to transform into 5 different blade techniques, but there was no use when up against an expert of that level.

Since he couldn't find any weakness, Shang Xia could only rely on brute force.

Clang!

Even though Shang Xia wasn't forced into a complete disadvantage after Spring Origin was resisted by the other party, he was sent flying backwards from the impact.

When the expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm resisted his blow earlier, Shang Xia could see that the man was using a strange looking polearm.

The expression of the expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm from the Great Observation Sect was as ugly as could be when he saw how Shang Xia was flung away from the impact.

Chapter 583: Swaggering Off

Without a doubt, Shang Xia ended up worse off in the exchange earlier as he was sent flying after their moves collided. However, that couldn't be better for Shang Xia.

Even though he used up a lot of inner qi during their one and only confrontation with each other, he managed to push himself away from the experts of the Great Observation Sect.

Actually, the grand completion stage Martial Extermination Realm expert's expression didn't just change because Shang Xia was thrown further away from the Great Observation Island. It was because he noticed what was contained in the space around Shang Xia. The huge chunks of land that had been carved out from the Great Observation Island were drifting around in the same direction Shang Xia was flying.

None of them knew if it was intentional or not, but almost every single piece of land Shang Xia cut off from the Great Observation Island was gathering in the same spot.

Feeling a sense of unease in their hearts, the 2 experts from the Great Observation Sect who were sent to obstruct Shang Xia earlier wanted to rush at him in order to stop him from whatever he was planning to do next. However, they hesitated slightly when they saw Shang Xia pressing his palms together while slowly pushing downwards.

Shang Xia was no stranger to what he was currently doing. It was almost the exact same thing he did when he created the massive cluster of land fragments to stall the Northern Sea Island.

The only difference was the amount of land fragments he could gather. Previously, there were hundreds of them. Now, there were only a dozen or so pieces of land fragments he could use. Also, he caught the Northern Sea Island off guard by raising the obstruction from under them, but now, he was basically slamming them down on the Great Observation Island.

A dozen or so chunks of land that were several miles long flew through space like meteors as they flew at different parts of the Great Observation Island. Every single fragment contained a portion of Shang Xia's strength. However, every piece of land avoided the core region of the Great Observation Island that held its grand formation.

The expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm swung his polearm and pushed 3 fragments away from the Great Observation Island, while the other 2 experts pushed away a fragment each. At the same time, they managed to destroy another in the process.

Huo Guanzhang, who was fighting with Yun Jing, managed to free himself for a moment to smash another fragment into pieces.

Of course, the shattered fragments weren't completely harmless. There were still meteors that were still raining down on the Great Observation Island. It was too late for anyone to sweep them away at that point.

Other than that, there were still several larger chunks of land crashing down on the Great Observation Island. The Martial Extermination Realm experts on the island might be trying to intercept them, but those low-leveled Martial Extermination Realm cultivators couldn't even shatter the larger fragments even if they tried. They could only try to chip away at them to reduce the damage. Throughout the process, several experts suffered injuries of varying degrees.

By the time the rain of destruction stopped, the Great Observation Island suffered greatly. Craters of different sizes could be seen on the island and they looked extremely worn out.

When everything was happening, Shang Xia had already turned into a streak of light that escaped. He met with Yun Jing, Liu Qinglan, and Ren Bainian before returning to the Tongyou Island.

Everything might seem to have happened in a short period of time, but both islands had been pulling away from each other the moment the Great Observation Island used their Space Connecting Light Cord. The islands were already thousands of miles apart.

With the experts of the Tongyou Institution gone, Huo Guanzhang and the rest of the experts from the Great Observation Sect met up with their grand completion stage expert.

Staring in the direction the Tongyou Island was, Huo Guanzhang couldn't help but growl, "Senior Brother Guan Yun, should we go cause trouble for them?"

Guan Yun, the expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm, twisted his head violently to glare at Huo Guanzhang. The latter felt his hair standing on end under his senior brother's gaze and a light flickered unsteadily in his eyes.

A cold snort eventually left Guan Yun's lips. "Are you confident you can retreat from the Tongyou Island in one piece?"

Huo Guanzhang and the others were instantly silenced.

They knew that things weren't as easy as Shang Xia made it out to be. Of the 4 high-level Martial Extermination Realm experts, excluding Guan Yun, none of them would be able to run around the Tongyou Island and cause widespread destruction if they were being chased by their enemies. Neither would they be able to retreat unharmed like Shang Xia did.

One of them eventually tried to say something, but his words drifted off in the end. "Unless Senior Brother Guan Yun personally makes a move..."

No one else tried to back him up as they remained quiet.

Guan Yun was the Great Observation Sect's Martial Dipper Realm candidate who was sent to the Manyu Continent. That was the reason why he tried to avoid fights in order to reduce his energy consumption. He had to maintain his peak state in order to increase his success of breaking through, but things went south and he had to reveal himself because of Shang Xia. Not only did Shang Xia manage to force him out of hiding, but he even wasted the other party's energy. Ignoring the fact that his chances of a successful breakthrough were lowered, the main point was that he even allowed the other party to escape!

If he ran over to the Tongyou Island to seek revenge in order to make himself look better, he had to think about Shang Bo, who hadn't shown his face since the very start.

Seeing how Guan Yun remained silent, Huo Guanzheng couldn't help but snap at the person who made the suggestion earlier, "Junior Brother Guan Lin, you can't ask Senior Brother Guan Yun to do that! It's easy for him to bring us all over to take revenge on the Tongyou Institution right now, but he will have to consume a great deal of inner qi during the entire process. It will definitely affect his chances of breaking through to the Martial Dipper Realm in the future and we won't be able to make up for that even if we die a hundred times over!"

Guan Lin was also an expert at the fourth layer Martial Extermination Realm and after being scolded by Huo Guanzhang, his face flushed red. Anger filled his heart but he didn't dare to act out of line in front of Guan Yun and he eventually grunted once to end the conversation.

"Senior Brother Guan Yun, heading over to the location of the World's Will is the most important thing. The Tongyou Island is definitely headed there too and we can deal with them when the time comes." Huo Guanzhang added.

The next second, a sneer appeared on Guan Yun's face. "Hmph, I'm afraid they won't be able to find their way there anymore..."

Only then did Huo Guanzhang and the others realize that the giant flaming ball was nowhere to be seen.

Huo Guanzhang roared with laughter, "Senior Brother, you're a genius! The Tongyou Institution is really lacking in foundations. The region we're in is obviously a sealed space. It might just be a spatial maze for all we know. It's almost impossible to leave the area without guidance from our holy land. By the time they emerge, the World's Will might have already been sucked clean."

Guan Yun also chuckled while looking at the Tongyou Island that was drifting away. "Alright. We'll head back to the island. Prepare to contact the Great Observation Paradise. We'll get our ancestor to point us in the correct direction."

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"We seem to be lost..."

When Shang Xia and the others returned to the Tongyou Island, they weren't exactly met with looks of shock. Instead, they were greeted with a piece of bad news.

"Lost?" A frown appeared on Yun Jing's face as she turned to look at Shang Bo. She didn't seem to understand what was going on.

With a helpless look on his face, Shang Bo explained, "Haven't you discovered that the giant sun that contained the World's Will is no longer out there?"

Yun Jing's pupils shrank and despite knowing that Shang Bo wouldn't lie to her, she quickly raised her head to verify the news. Unfortunately, she failed to discover any traces of the great sun.

"Is there anything we can do now?" Liu Qinglan asked anxiously.

Shang Bo shook his head and sighed, "I received news from Little Chu that we have to leave this region of space before we can do anything. However, we don't know where we'll appear after we

leave. We don't know if the source of the World's Will will appear again, and we don't know how far away we'll be."

"Are we leaving it up to chance?" Yun Jing gasped.

"We're leaving it up to chance." Shang Bo nodded.

They were basically leaving everything up to fate. The initiative they seized before by leaving the Manyu Continent early and starting their journey to the source of the World's Will would go up in smoke the moment they appeared further away.

All of a sudden, Liu Qinglan seemed to have thought of something. "What about those from the Great Observation Sect? If we can't find the source of the World's Will, wouldn't that mean that they won't be able to either?"

"I'm afraid they have their ways of locating it. The Great Observation Sect is a holy land based in the Yu Continent. Their Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor can borrow the power of their Great Observation Paradise to point them in the correct direction." Yun Jing sighed.

"What about us? Can't Patriarch Kou do the same?" Liu Qinglan asked reluctantly.

Unfortunately, Shang Bo shook his head in response and explained, "Our Tongyou Mysterious World hasn't upgraded to the Tongyou Paradise. Otherwise, it won't be so difficult for us to enter the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. We won't need a Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor to lead the way every time."

"What if... What if we turn around now and follow behind the Great Observation Sect?" Liu Qinglan suggested.

Staring at the Great Observation Island that was starting to fade away into the distance, Yun Jing muttered, "It's too late. We won't be able to catch up. Moreover, it's too dangerous even if we manage to follow them. The Great Observation Sect isn't made up of fools. The moment we make it out of this sealed space will be the best time for them to attack us. If that truly happens, we won't be able to react in time."

Ren Bainian, who had been silent all the while, couldn't hold back and he asked, "Are we really going to have to leave everything up to luck?!"

Yun Jing and Shang Bo didn't answer the question as they remained silent.

Out of nowhere, the other person who hadn't been talking finally spoke up. Shang Xia muttered, "Actually, we might not have to..."

Chapter 584: Origin Guidance

"Actually, we might not have to..." Shang Xia's voice caused strange expressions to appear on the faces of the other Martial Extermination Realm experts beside him.

Ren Bainian was completely bewildered while Liu Qinglan was overjoyed by Shang Xia's sudden declaration. Yun Jing had a trace of surprise on her face, and Shang Bo stared directly at Shang Xia with a raised eyebrow.

There was also a serene gaze well hidden in Shang Bo's eyes when he looked at his grandson, but no one could tell what he was thinking about.

Seeing as Shang Bo hadn't said anything, Yun Jing decided to break the silence. "Oh right, I almost forgot. We managed to activate our grand formation and leave the Manyu Continent before it started to crumble, allowing us to avoid the strongest backlash produced during the destruction."

Liu Qinglan glanced at Shang Bo before looking at Yun Jing. Finally, her gaze landed on Shang Xia. "Do you really have a way?"

Nodding his head, Shang Xia smiled. "I should be able to feel its general direction, but that's about it. This region of sealed space is really effective at isolating us from the outside world..."

Liu Qinglan's jaws dropped slightly and she wanted to ask how he was able to do something like that. However, she eventually decided against it and kept silent.

"Look for Chu Jia and bring us in the right direction!" Shang Bo's voice finally rang through the air. Turning to Shang Xia, he warned, "Take care of yourself and be more serious about this. The safety of the entire island rests in your hands."

Shang Xia could hear the concern his grandfather had for him through the short warning, and he couldn't help but chuckle in response, "Well, it's perfect timing then. I used up a lot of energy when messing with the Great Observation Sect previously. It was especially difficult to deal with the expert at the grand completion stage. He's really strong... I felt my organs shifting when he countered my blade strike earlier and I can use this chance to recover!"

After he spoke, he waved his hand at Yun Jing and the others before turning into a streak of light that went towards the core region of the Tongyou Island.

Glancing at his leaving figure, Yun Jing laughed, "Hehe, the damn brat is trying to tell us that he's a lot stronger than we think. He probably surpassed me in terms of combat abilities and the expert from the Great Observation Sect at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm might not be much stronger than him..."

Shang Bo looked at Yun Jing and asked another question that was completely unrelated to whatever they were talking about. "How much longer till you reach the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm?"

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"How did you do it?!" Chu Jia stared at Shang Xia who was sitting not too far away from her with an incredulous look as she asked. They were both situated at the heart of the grand formation and Chu Jia had countless questions running through her mind.

She knew that the Tongyou Island was able to avoid the damage caused by the backlash when the Manyu Continent was destroyed because of Shang Xia's warning.

As such, when he appeared and told her that he was going to guide the Tongyou Island, she didn't doubt him in the slightest. She might be curious, but she followed his every command.

Shang Xia proved that he was right as they continued their journey.

Even though the experts on the Tongyou Island couldn't see the giant sun that was the source of the World's Will, and neither could they feel the origin qi it produced, they could tell that the island didn't run into any obstruction along the way. Their journey was surprisingly smooth and it was something they hadn't experienced before.

Shang Xia broke out into a hollow laugh and mentioned, "It probably has something to do with how I refined 4 extermination origins at once. It greatly increased my perception of world origin..."

He naturally wouldn't reveal his secret about the Crimson Soul Tablet. As such, he used his cultivation method to explain his abilities.

After all, his cultivation method wasn't a secret among the higher-ups of the Tongyou Institution and no one would dare to try the same method he used to break through anytime soon.

Chu Jia gasped after hearing his explanation. "Is refining 4 extermination origins at once really so special? If not for the fact that I am already in the Martial Extermination Realm, I might want to consider breaking through the same way you did."

"I only managed to succeed through sheer luck. In all honesty, I wouldn't recommend anyone to follow my path of cultivation. I have no idea how I managed to cross the final barrier and enter the Martial Extermination Realm back then. Everything was a blur..." Shang Xia responded.

Glancing at Shang Xia, Chu Jia snorted once, "Oh, you're really lucky alright..."

"Of course!" Pointing in a certain direction, Shang Xia added, "Look there. I'm feeling a strong fluctuation of world origin in that direction. I think we're going to leave this region of sealed space soon. Looks like my luck is still working well..."

Shang Xia wasn't the only one who felt the sudden spike in world origin. Shang Bo, Yun Jing, Liu Qinglan, and Ren Bainian also turned to stare in a specific direction.

Without Shang Xia and Chu Jia's reminder, Yun Jing quickly arranged for everyone on the island to prepare themselves.

No one knew what was behind the spatial screen. They might immediately return to the path they were taking to the source of the World's Will earlier, but they might also run into another floating island controlled by another power.

Whatever the case, they were going to leave the region of sealed space and they had to prepare for everything.

Yun Jing's transmission came quickly. The Tongyou Island completed their preparations quickly and Chu Jia started to meddle with the jade formation disc beside her. Shang Xia could feel the protection formation expanding rapidly to cover 500 miles around the core region.

Shang Xia chuckled with amusement, "500 miles? Is this what we planned for in the first place?"

Because of all the ordeals they had along the way and collisions with smaller land fragments that couldn't be avoided, the Tongyou Island was reduced to a size of 1700 miles.

Without raising her head, Chu Jia replied, “Not really, I can extend the protection formation 300 more miles, but there’s no need for that. It will only increase the consumption of our energy needlessly.”

Before they could speak any further, they could feel the Tongyou Island approaching a thin spatial barrier. Immediately holding their tongues, the experts on the Tongyou Island also retreated into the protection barrier while maintaining their readiness.

As they came into contact with the spatial barrier, ripples appeared and started to spread out from the point the island first came into contact with the barrier. They only stopped when the entire Tongyou Island had passed through the formless screen.

Once again, the world seemed to flip around. Shang Xia tried his best to control his inner qi while maintaining his divine perception to observe what was happening, but he failed to extend it past his body even the slightest bit.

No one knew how long had passed, but the strange feeling and dizziness finally disappeared. Shang Xia quickly pushed his divine perception to the limit while allowing his inner qi to calm down.

Before he could heave a sigh of relief, he discovered that the world origin in the space around them had increased to a ridiculous degree.

The island started to tremble violently all of a sudden and a deep rumbling sound came from far away.

“What’s going on?” Chu Jia, who had barely gotten to her senses, noticed Shang Xia standing beside her seemingly unaffected. Even though she hadn’t regained total control of her divine perception to observe the situation outside the core region, Shang Xia looked perfectly fine. As such, she decided to just ask him what had happened.

Unfortunately, Shang Xia disappeared from his spot as soon as the question left her lips.

Staring at where he once was, she wriggled her nose slightly and pouted, “Hmph, why are you acting so mysteriously? Didn’t you just increase your cultivation faster than me...”

The complaints barely left her lips when the entire island shook. Several loud blasts ripped through the air.

“Meteorites?!” Chu Jia gasped before placing her attention back on the jade formation disc. She noticed that the protection barrier was starting to weaken and it looked like it would be shattered the next second.

Hastily placing several polished objects into several spots on the formation disc, the protection formation finally started to turn solid again.

If Shang Xia was still present, he would immediately recognize those items Chu Jia placed onto the formation disc as his fate dipper fragment shards.

Of course, he couldn’t be bothered with what Chu Jia was doing to the formation. He was wholly focused on the Great Sun that appeared after they emerged from the region of sealed space.

When they emerged, the Tongyou Institution appeared under the Great Sun that was the source of the World's Will.

Unlike the time when they just laid eyes on it, the Great Sun looked much closer than before. The brilliant rays of light it emitted lit up the Tongyou Island intensely.

From where they were, Shang Xia wasn't the only one who felt the difference in his surroundings. Yun Jing, Liu Qinglan, Shang Ke, Zhang Haogu, and the others could clearly feel the dense world origin around them.

Chapter 585: Reappearance of the Light Pillar

Almost every single expert on the Tongyou Island had their heads raised as they stared at the majestic Great Sun hanging above.

With a formless wave of world origin washing across the space they were in, everyone felt as though they had entered a holy land for cultivation.

Even the low-leveled cultivator from the Manyu Continent who received the Tongyou Institution's grace and protection could feel the difference. The moment they circulated their inner qi, they could feel themselves getting stronger.

However, that clearly wasn't the time to bother about cultivation. Other than the meteorites that were shooting in all directions, there was also something else they had to take note of. There were already 3 floating islands in different positions around the Great Sun.

Thousands of miles above the Tongyou Island, there was a floating island that was close to a third of their size. It was almost at the same level as the Great Sun, but the distance between the small island and the Great Sun was similar to that of the Tongyou Island and the Great Sun.

Chu Jia's transmission quickly reached Yun Jing. After scanning through it, Yun Jing muttered, "That island up there belongs to the Azure Spiritual World. I wonder which power they belong to..."

Thousands of miles on the other side, an island that was close to 2000 miles in diameter hovered in mid air. It was slightly closer to the Great Sun than the Tongyou Island.

As Chu Jia was in charge of the grand formation, she seemed to possess the ability to notice the situation thousands of miles away from the island without using her divine perception. That was why a second transmission quickly reached Yun Jing. The second island also belonged to the Azure Spiritual World, and this time, she managed to deduce which faction it belonged to. It belonged to the Three River Sect, a power comparable in strength to the Tongyou Institution's old rival, the Changbai Sect.

After looking at the 2 islands, everyone's gaze landed on the third and final giant that was hovering above the Tongyou Island. It looked mighty majestic, and just by looking at it, everyone knew that the island was 3000 miles in diameter or larger!

"That..." Shang Xia was no stranger to giant islands like that. The Northern Sea Island which he had a hand in plotting against, was also a colossal beast that had exceeded the 3000 mile mark.

As the strongest faction in the Azure Spiritual World, it made sense that they had the ability to control such a huge island.

However, Shang Xia knew that the island above them was no Northern Sea Island. As someone who personally went to mess with them before, Shang Xia would recognize them if they appeared.

That might not be the Northern Sea Island, but from their size, it definitely belonged to a faction comparable in strength to them. In that case, there were only so many powers they could choose from.

“If that’s not the Divine Capital Sect... It can only be the Eternal Sect of our Azure Origin World!” Shang Bo turned incomparably serious.

Yun Jing nodded without saying a word.

The Divine Capital Sect and the Eternal Sect were the strongest holy lands that existed in the Azure Origin World. Their foundations ran the deepest and they possessed unfathomable strength.

In the Azure Origin World, there was a saying that went ‘Divine Capital Reigns in the East, Worshiping the Eternal in the West’. That alone spoke volumes about the prestige and strength of those factions.

Contrary to the serious look Shang Bo and Yun Jing were wearing, Liu Qinglan seemed a little more excited. “There’s one super island from our Azure Origin World, and 2 small islands from the Azure Spiritual World. We’re the fourth to arrive and we’re definitely not late to the party. At the very least, we’re the second ones from the Azure Origin World to arrive!”

Shang Bo forced a smile and Yun Jing eventually squeezed out a chuckle, “Since that’s the case, we better make full use of our time. Chu Jia is almost done with her preparations. The more we obtain this time, the better...”

The experts on the Tongyou Island scattered and went to their respective formation nodes. They had clearly received instructions on what to do.

The only people left were Shang Xia and Ren Bainian who stared at each other blankly. It seemed as though they were the only ones with nothing to do at the moment.

“Hey, what should we do?” Shang Xia asked Yun Jing who wasn’t too far away.

Yun Jing was standing on one of the most important formation nodes on the Tongyou Island, while Shang Bo had left to enter the core region to meet with Chu Jia.

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A great half of Yun Jing’s attention was placed on the formation node as she poured her inner qi crazily into it. Without raising her head, she replied, “Just go patrol the surroundings or something. Don’t leave an 800 mile radius around the core region. If anyone is unable to hold on, you 2 are responsible for taking their place!”

Earlier, Shang Xia learned from Chu Jia that the maximum area the protection barrier could cover was 800 miles from the core region. It seemed as though Yun Jing didn’t wish for him to leave the safety of the Tongyou Island no matter what.

After she spoke, she ignored them completely. She focused solely on pouring her inner qi into the formation node under her and she adjusted her control such that it strengthened Chu Jia's control over the core region and the other formation nodes.

The entire time, Ren Bainian didn't say much. However, he couldn't help but ask, "Young Master Shang, what is our sect actually trying to do here?"

Only members of the Tongyou Institution would address themselves as such. Outside the You Continent, not many people addressed them as the Tongyou Institution. It was more common for them to be called the Tongyou Sect.

Even for cultivators from the Manyu Continent like Ren Bainian, the words 'Tongyou Institution' were a little foreign to him. He would occasionally refer to them as the Tongyou Sect and such.

Shang Xia didn't give him a direct answer. Instead, he gave Ren Bainian a suggestion on what he could do. "Senior Ren, you can just observe the 2 smaller islands from a distance and figure out what we're all trying to do here..."

Even though he was a little confused, he still sent a trace of his extermination origins into his eyes. A strange light filled them and he saw a light vortex rotating above each island. A pillar of light extended from the vortex and connected to the Great Sun that was the source of the World's Will.

A complicated expression appeared on Ren Bainian's face. "This... Is this..."

Shang Xia could understand what he was feeling and he sighed softly, "Those are origin light pillars that connect the islands to the Great Sun. It can absorb the purest World's Will that used to belong to the Manyu Continent and the final bit of world origin left..."

Seeing how Ren Bainian was keeping silent, Shang Xia continued, "When the Great Sun that is the source of the World's Will is finally sucked dry, that would mean that the Manyu Continent would truly disappear forever. Senior Ren..."

"Sigh... I understand!" Ren Bainian interrupted Shang Xia before he could finish. "That's how the situation is and I can't change anything alone. At the very least, I managed to preserve the foundations of my Ren Clan and that's good enough for me. I can't hope for too much..."

Shang Xia wanted to comfort him a little more, but the skies above the Tongyou Island started to change suddenly. Ripples formed in the air before spinning around, twisting the space around it. It eventually formed a huge vortex that covered close to 500 miles and it increased in speed the more it spun.

The dense world origin that came from the Great Sun was quickly sucked in by the vortex, and after the world origin around the Tongyou Island had been absorbed fully, the vortex increased in intensity. It pulled world origin from even further away and a pillar of light gradually formed above the Tongyou Island. It stretched into the Great Sun and the scene was similar to what was happening on the other islands.

Chapter 586: Absorption

Along with the completion of the light pillar, the Tongyou Island started to absorb the world origin that made up the Manyu Continent's World's Will.

Shang Xia and Ren Bainian raised their heads to observe the pillar of light above the island with complex emotions running through their hearts.

After some time, the light pillar finally stabilized and Shang Xia gasped in shock as though he discovered something new.

Ren Bainian heard the astonishment in Shang Xia's voice and he couldn't help but ask, "Young Master Shang, is something the matter?"

Shang Xia wore a grave expression as he replied, "Senior Ren, can you feel that the light pillar above our island is a little thinner than the others?"

Widening his eyes slightly, Ren Bainian turned to observe the other islands.

Even though the Tongyou Island and the other islands were thousands of miles apart, the pillars of light above each island could be clearly seen.

It didn't take long before Ren Bainian noticed the difference. "The pillar of light above the island that is larger than us is indeed a little thicker. However, there isn't much difference between us and the smaller island..."

By that time, Ren Bainian had also noticed the problem.

Shang Xia muttered in a deep voice, "Clearly, the thickness of the pillars determines how quickly we are absorbing world origin. Taking our island's size into account, we're actually the slowest!"

Ren Bainian opened his mouth slightly, but he didn't know what to say. Shang Xia was right. They weren't absorbing world origin as quickly as compared to the other islands.

It was also then they realized why Yun Jing and Shang Bo didn't look too excited even though Liu Qinglan was celebrating that they were one of the first to arrive. They definitely knew that the Tongyou Island's grand formation wasn't that great and their speed of absorption would be much slower than the rest.

Even though the size of the island directly determined the amount of world origin they could eventually absorb, there was a limited amount of it! If the Tongyou Institution's speed of absorption was slow, the moment other islands arrived, they would be placed at a massive disadvantage. Their gains might barely be able to rival those smaller islands out there.

At the end of the day, the Tongyou Institution had far too weak foundations. Chu Jia was the one and only Formation Grandmaster of the institution and she was a newly promoted one at that. They couldn't possibly expect her to do more than she already has.

Of the various factions that entered the Manyu Continent, the Tongyou Institution was also one of the latest ones! The time they spent to lay down their formations and refine their workings paled in comparison to other powers.

For them to be able to achieve so much was already a remarkable achievement.

The experts on the Tongyou Island could only hope that the other islands would appear as late as possible. Only then would they be able to absorb the most world origin they could.

Unfortunately for them, it wasn't quite possible for that to happen. Not too long after the light pillar above the Tongyou Island formed, another island that was comparable in size arrived. They

appeared the same way the Tongyou Island did, and the space ripples around their location eventually died down to reveal their true appearance.

Shang Xia narrowed his eyes and observed the island that just arrived, taking special attention to the protection barrier in their core region before muttering a second later, “Seems to be a power from the Azure Spiritual World.”

When they finally arrived, the newcomers quickly adapted themselves to what was happening. They immediately started their preparations to absorb world origin.

Looking at the island, Shang Xia could tell that they seemed to have suffered some serious damage on their way over. They used a lot more time than the Tongyou Institution to complete their preparations.

Moreover, the light pillar that emerged from that island didn't seem too much larger than the one above the Tongyou Island.

Shang Xia and Ren Bainian felt a lot better after seeing that.

Unfortunately, their relief didn't last long. Perhaps it was because they managed to strengthen their grand formation or something with the world origin they absorbed, the light pillar above the island that just arrived started to grow and surpass that of the Tongyou Island.

“This... This...” Ren Bainian didn't know what to say as he witnessed the change on the island.

He felt a sense of belonging to the Tongyou Institution after fighting alongside them for so long, but he might also be putting on an act to seem more involved with the Tongyou Institution. Whatever the case, he truly hoped that the Tongyou Institution could obtain more benefits from their endeavors.

“At the speed they're going, it won't take long before they absorb more world origin than us!” Shang Xia muttered. However, his gaze was drifting about as he spoke and he seemed to be thinking of something.

All of a sudden, Ren Bainian yelped in shock. He pointed at the Great Sun that was the source of the World's Will above them and exclaimed, “Young Master Shang, hurry up and take a look! The source of the World's Will is shrinking!”

Shang Xia was startled and he quickly raised his head to see what was going on. He discovered that the Great Sun was definitely smaller than what he originally remembered.

One had to know that there were probably more than 15 factions from both the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World that had plans for the Manyu Continent and its destruction. Less than a third of them had arrived, but the source of the World's Will was already visibly shrinking due to their absorption.

The moment any other islands arrived, the speed at which world origin would be devoured would increase. There wouldn't be enough to go around!

Once the source of the World's Will was sucked dry, those islands that came later would definitely not give up easily. When that happens, a massive battle will definitely break out.

The Tongyou Island might not have arrived late, but the speed at which they absorbed world origin was too damn slow!

“We can’t keep this up...” Shang Xia muttered to himself.

Raising an eyebrow in shock, Ren Bainian asked, “Do you have a plan?!”

“I don’t know, yet...” Shang Xia’s reply truly confused Ren Bainian. He quickly added, “I don’t know if my plan will be useful at all...”

With a truly puzzled look, Ren Bainian wondered out loud, “Are you for real?”

Shang Xia nodded and left after leaving behind one last sentence. “I’ll go test it out. I’ll hand everything here to you.”

He turned into a streak of light and left without waiting for a response.

Ren Bainian couldn’t help but look around himself as he was at a loss for what to do.

Eventually, he muttered to himself, “They really left me in charge of the massive Tongyou Island... They really do trust in me...”

Rising into the air, he started to patrol the area around the protection formation in case experts of other powers came to cause trouble.

The moment he moved, another disturbance happened around the Great Sun. The sixth island eventually appeared.

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Arriving at one of the less important formation nodes that the Tongyou Institution placed throughout the entire island, Shang Xia decided to start his plan. Even though he was currently on one of the more remote formation nodes, there was no problem connecting to the grand formation.

As soon as he made the connection, he felt that he could assist the grand formation by pouring his inner qi into the formation node. He could also clearly feel the vortex above the island as well as the pillar of light that was absorbing world origin.

The Tongyou Island’s grand formation was operating at its limit and even if Shang Xia joined in, his input of extermination qi wouldn’t allow them to suck up even more world origin.

Of course, using his inner qi to power the grand formation was never his goal. After familiarizing himself with how the grand formation worked, Shang Xia pressed his hand against the formation node while circulating his extermination qi crazily. A trace of world origin escaped from the confines of the grand formation and entered his body before being devoured completely.

Chapter 587: World Will’s Impact

Ever since the stunt he pulled with the Great Observation Sect back in the region of sealed space, which resulted in him coming to blows with several high-level Martial Extermination Realm experts and the Martial Extermination Realm expert in the grand completion stage from the Great Observation Sect, Guan Yun, Shang Xia hadn’t fully recovered.

Even though his injuries weren't serious, he still hasn't fully replenished his exhausted inner qi. His combat strength had actually been affected but due to the urgency of the situation, he had no choice but to carry on with his duties without fully recovering.

That was also why Yun Jing didn't arrange for him to power the grand formation. She hoped that he could take the time to recover his lost inner qi.

What none of them knew was that Shang Xia was feeling a super intense throbbing in the space between his eyebrows as he directed the Tongyou Island towards the Great Sun that was the source of the World's Will.

After absorbing world origin so many times in the past, Shang Xia's understanding towards the Crimson Soul Tablet had reached a much deeper level. He could restrain it to a certain extent even though the source of the World's Will was right here.

And of course, no one could tell the peculiar situation Shang Xia was in except for himself. He was able to suppress the feeling back then, but he could tell that if he didn't find an excuse to run away from Ren Bainian, he wouldn't be able to hold back the Crimson Soul Tablet's desire for world origin for long.

Rather than thinking of a reason to explain what was happening when the Crimson Soul Tablet started to absorb world origin at a crazy rate, he would rather use an excuse and hide the commotion it caused with the help of the grand formation.

He didn't think that the moment he sank his consciousness into the grand formation, the Crimson Soul Tablet would pull a strand of world origin over and devour it.

When he fused his consciousness with the grand formation earlier, it was hard for Chu Jia to detect him unless she was paying attention to everyone who was connected to it.

However, he was quickly discovered the moment the strand of world origin was extracted. Chu Jia wasn't the only person he needed to care about. Yun Jing, Shang Bo, and Liu Qinglan managed to feel the disturbance and they immediately sent several voice transmissions over to ask him what the hell he was up to.

"What are you doing?!" Yun Jing's voice rang in his mind. She sounded slightly angry and she continued to yell at him, "Don't you know that the world origin we absorb concerns your grandfather's advancement to the Martial Dipper Realm? It will also determine if our Tongyou Mysterious World manages to upgrade to the Tongyou Paradise!"

"Sorry, it was a mistake, an honest mistake!" Shang Xia apologized immediately and continued, "I was trying to help. I'll fix it, don't worry!"

"Don't mess around! It's not the time for you to act recklessly. Our grand formation isn't good enough to absorb a huge amount of world origin and we can't waste a single bit of it!" Yun Jing's voice came again, and she was exceptionally serious this time. There was even a trace of warning in them.

“Alright, alright...” Shang Xia might have said that, but he remained motionless on his formation node. It was obvious he wasn’t going to listen to her.

He was trying his best to communicate with the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness after speaking to Yun Jing as he suddenly discovered that there was something else contained in the strand of World’s Will he absorbed.

“Why were you thinking?! Also, what do you plan to do?” Shang Bo’s voice arrived just in time to calm Yun Jing who was about to burst with rage.

Splitting off a bit of his consciousness, Shang Xia replied, “The sixth island has arrived. There will be even more islands coming and our speed of absorption puts us at too much of a disadvantage!”

Shang Bo continued while still remaining relatively calm. “You think you have the ability to hasten the speed we absorb world origin?”

“Most likely.” Shang Xia answered.

“Did you feel your divine perception clashing against the World’s Will earlier?” Shang Bo changed the topic suddenly.

“Huh?” Raising his head, Shang Xia seemed to have noticed something.

Unfortunately for Shang Bo and Yun Jing, they were unable to see his expressions as they were merely sending voice transmissions to each other.

Sighing softly, Shang Bo felt that his guess was correct and he hurriedly explained, “You were too rash! The world origin we’re absorbing is of the highest purity left behind after the destruction of the Manyu Continent. It also contains the final condensed will of the world. There’s no need to mention it if you try to refine it directly... Even coming into contact with it will cause you to suffer a backlash from the World’s Will! Why else do you think everyone is absorbing it with their grand formation? Wouldn’t it be more convenient for cultivators to directly absorb it?”

Shang Xia finally understood what he felt earlier. He didn’t suffer any backlash from the World’s Will in the slightest! Instead, it was all directed at the Crimson Soul Tablet.

He could also vaguely feel that even though the tablet was slightly affected after it devoured the strand of world origin, he merely felt dizzy for a moment before the tablet returned to normal. He even felt a trace of joy that was transmitted over by the tablet.

Without a doubt, the World’s Will contained in the strand of world origin had also been completely refined by the Crimson Soul Tablet.

Seeing as Shang Xia had remained silent for a while now, Shang Bo continued, “Do you know how powerful the world origin here is now? Why are you still here? Hurry up and leave!”

“Is that why you have to remain in seclusion to prepare yourself? Do you also have to resist the impact of the World’s Will on your soul?” Shang Xia asked suddenly.

“It’s different. After our grand formation absorbs the world origin here, there will be a process of refinement before its being filtered to our core region. When that

happens, I can absorb world origin that barely contains any World's Will." Shang Bo explained.

With his sharp senses, Shang Xia felt that he learned something and he continued to ask, "As for World's Will that is refined away and filtered..."

"That's the key to our Tongyou Mysterious World's ascension to the Tongyou Paradise. Do you understand now?" Shang Bo muttered.

Shang Bo seemed to have cleared the fog in front of Shang Xia. Many things he didn't understand back then no longer troubled him.

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It seemed as though the formation of a holy land like the Tongyou Paradise would need something similar to the World's Will at its core. There was nothing more similar than World's Will itself. Also, it was the reason why the various powers had been suppressing the institution. They didn't wish for the Tongyou Institution to forcefully plunder the Azure Origin World's Will.

Back during the war of the Tongyou Mysterious World, the institution obtained a huge amount of world origin from the Origin Tide. Shang Xia thought that they had a chance to ascend into the Tongyou Paradise in one go, but they forcefully cut off the connection at the last second.

As it turned out, no matter how much world origin they obtained, they were unable to take the final step as they couldn't get World's Will from either the Azure Origin World or Azure Spiritual World.

In a last-ditch effort, the Tongyou Institution turned their sights to the World's Will on the nearly destroyed Manyu Continent.

The various other powers also needed the Manyu Continent's World's Will to strengthen their holy lands, which led to everything that was happening.

Back when Shang Xia drew over the strand of world origin, it hadn't passed through the stages of refinement and hadn't been filtered yet. As such, the impact of the World's Will should be the greatest!

One had to understand that that was the World's Will of a Barbaric World they were talking about. Even though it hadn't gained sentience yet and could be considered really weak, that was only in comparison to other worlds. It wasn't something one person could withstand.

That was also why Yun Jing was so angry with Shang Xia's reckless actions after discovering what he had done.

She wouldn't give half a shit about the strand of world origin. She was worried that he would experience cultivation deviation and lose his life because of the impact of the World's Will! If that were to happen, the institution would lose a massive source of strength.

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"Since you know what is going on now, why are you still here?" Yun Jing couldn't help but snap at Shang Xia once again.

Who would have thought that not only did Shang Xia not leave, he planted his feet firmly into the ground and started to fuse with the workings of the grand formation.

An even greater strand of world origin escaped from the light pillar and went towards Shang Xia, but this time, it didn't stop there. It entered his body in an unending stream.

“What the hell are you doing?! Are you tired of living?!” Yun Jing screamed before barking an order at Chu Jia. “Chu Jia, hurry up and destroy the pathway of world origin through our grand formation!”

“Deputy Patriarch Yun, there's no need to panic. I have a way to nullify the impact of the World's Will.” Shang Xia's voice rang in her mind all of a sudden.

“What do you...” Yun Jing was initially shocked that he could still respond, but she quickly flew into another fit of rage. “Can't you see the bigger picture here?! Even if you can resolve the impact of the World's Will on you, you're taking so much world origin! Have you thought about the foundations of the institution and your grandfather's breakthrough to the Martial Dipper Realm?!”

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Facing Yun Jing's scoldings, Shang Xia released a soft chuckle. “Hehe, what I mean to say is that I have a way to hasten the absorption speed of world origin!”

A horrifying attractive force fused with the grand formation the very instant the words left his lips. The vortex above the Tongyou Island started to speed up as world origin poured into the island at an even higher rate than before.

“What...”

Yun Jing couldn't even finish her sentence when the light pillar that connected the island to the Great Sun as the bridge by which they were absorbing world origin suddenly expanded by one quarter of its original size.

Chapter 588: Surprise, Everyone!

There were 2 reasons why Shang Xia absorbed the tiny strand of world origin in the first place. Firstly, he wanted to see if his idea would work. The other reason was that the Crimson Soul Tablet drew it over without Shang Xia's control.

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After Shang Xia cleared his doubts about the World's Will with Shang Bo and Yun Jing, he released his restraint on the Crimson Soul Tablet and used it to assist the grand formation in drawing over more world origin.

The vortex above the Tongyou Island started to spin more rapidly and the suction force it produced greatly intensified. The amount of world origin it sucked in increased by a quarter and the light pillar could rival the other mid-sized island.

If they looked at how things were on the surface, the Tongyou Island wouldn't receive less world origin than other factions.

Unfortunately, that wasn't how it actually was. A quarter of the world origin was actually drawn over to the Crimson Soul Tablet.

Shang Xia never intended to absorb world origin so recklessly regardless. The Crimson Soul Tablet might be able to take in a horrifying amount of world origin, but before it could, the world origin would have to pass through Shang Xia's body. His physical body would never be able to withstand the sheer amount of world origin that was pouring into the Tongyou Island.

He didn't even need to state it explicitly as Chu Jia, who was in control of the grand formation, quickly adjusted it to coordinate with him. A huge portion of the extra world origin was retained in the Tongyou Island.

Even so, Shang Xia felt as though he was about to face a huge enemy as he got ready to receive the leftover world origin. It might not be a problem for the Crimson Soul Tablet to devour everything, but before that could happen, the world origin would have to pass through his body and into the tablet.

Circulating his Four Seasons Samsara Art to its limit, he braced for the impact that would arrive when the world origin entered his body.

Also, Shang Xia wasn't lying earlier when he spoke about nullifying the World's Will. His Four Seasons Extermination Origins was really effective at grinding away at it.

When the world origin entered his body, Shang Xia not only managed to withstand the World's Will, he could use it to replenish the inner qi he lost previously.

With the problem of the World's Will dealt with, the world origin was as pure as could be. He not only healed all the inner injuries he suffered, he also filled up all the inner qi he used up.

That wasn't all. Throughout the process, Shang Xia was circulating his Four Seasons Samsara Qi to its limit. The time taken for him to complete one complete cycle shortened further to only take 2 hours or so. It was reaching the limit of what was possible and at his current state, his Four Seasons Samsara Art could be considered to be at the large completion stage.

It had the qualifications to be named a top-tier secret art. After considering the fact that it might be the only secret art suitable when refining 4 extermination origins at once, the Four Seasons Samsara Art might be far higher than any rank four secret art.

After restoring himself to his peak state, Shang Xia's goal became the refinement of his Four Seasons Extermination Origins.

With the pure world origin he had access to, along with his newly improved Four Seasons Samsara Art, he had everything he required to refine the final part of his extermination origins. It was a wonderful opportunity to raise his cultivation!

As Shang Xia refined the final portion of his extermination origins, the Crimson Soul Tablet didn't stop absorbing world origin.

The treasure that Shang Xia still couldn't wrap his head around and understand was like a black hole. It devoured an insane amount of world origin and he didn't know how much more it would take.

At the very least, he could feel one thing. He could tell that he was using up a lot of world origin too as he refined his extermination origins. It greatly increased the speed at which he was absorbing world origin.

Before he discovered anything off, the Crimson Soul Tablet silently displayed its powerful spirituality. Not only did it not fight with Shang Xia for world origin, it didn't challenge the Tongyou Island's grand formation either. Instead, it continued to assist the grand formation in sucking in more world origin.

The pillar of light that connected the Tongyou Island to the Great Sun was barely stronger than the smallest island out there which was 1500 miles or so. With the assistance of the Crimson Soul Tablet, the light pillar strengthened by a quarter earlier.

The change was so significant that it caused the other islands to raise their eyebrows at the Tongyou Institution's methods.

Who would have thought that the light pillar above the Tongyou Island would expand once again? Without warning, it expanded by another quarter of its original size!

Oh right, there were many islands arriving at the space that contained the Great Sun that contained the Many Continent's World's Will, and 3 others arrived.

Other than the Eternal Island which was 3000 or so miles in diameter, another island that was comparable in size had entered the fray. It belonged to the Divine Capital Sect which was ranked alongside the Eternal Sect.

No one knew why they would arrive so much later than the Eternal Sect even though they were comparable in strength, but from the fact that the size of their island was slightly smaller than the Eternal Island, along with the traces of damage on it, it wasn't hard to guess that the Divine Capital Island didn't exactly go through a smooth journey.

Regardless, the Divine Capital Sect was ranked at the top of the Azure Origin World. They might have lost a little land and arrived a little later, but they wouldn't lose out when it came to absorbing world origin. The giant pillar of light that connected their island to the Great Sun after the vortex stabilized was in no way weaker than that of the Eternal Island.

Leaving the Divine Capital Island and Eternal Island aside, there were a total of 3 islands present that had a size between 1500 and 2000 miles around the Great Sun at the moment. They were considered mid-sized islands. There were 2 other islands that had a size between 2000 and 2500 miles. They were considered large islands. The rest were small islands that no one bothered with.

With the second strengthening of the Tongyou Island's light pillar, their absorption speed surpassed the other mid-sized islands and was starting to catch up to that of the large islands.

Whatever was happening had already surpassed the understanding of those present. It went without question that the Tongyou Institution had attracted the attention of every other faction out there.

The other factions weren't the only ones who had no idea what was going on. Even the experts on the Tongyou Island were scared witless at the sudden change.

One had to know that the speed of absorption increased by a staggering 50 percent since they activated their grand formation.

Luckily, every other faction was focused on absorbing world origin at the moment. They were wary of other islands arriving and they couldn't be bothered with causing trouble at the moment.

It went without saying that after the source of the Manyu Continent's World's Will had been sucked dry, the Tongyou Island would probably become the target of multiple factions.

A certain spot started to flicker rapidly and another monstrous island tore through the spatial screen to arrive on the scene.

The island that made such a loud entrance was also another existence whose surface had exceeded 3000 miles in diameter. It brought about violent spatial fluctuations and blasted a small island that wasn't too far away thousands of miles off. The light pillar above that smaller island was seriously affected and chunks started falling off its sides.

Strangely enough, the experts on the small island weren't enraged. They didn't hesitate to move further away even if it affected their absorption speed of world origin. It didn't take long for them to shift away from the newcomer by an additional thousand or so miles.

The only superpower that could maintain such a massive island was naturally the Northern Sea Mystic Sect of the Azure Spiritual World.

After the delay caused by Shang Xia and the rest, the island continued to speed towards the location that contained the Great Sun. Unfortunately, they arrived later than the Eternal Sect and Divine Capital Sect. It was destined for them to be defeated this time...

Chapter 589: We're Better Than You Babyy

More and more islands arrived in the region of space where the Great Sun that was the source of the Manyu Continent's World's Will was located. Rather than saying they were splitting up the world origin, it was more accurate to say that they were fighting a tranquil battle over who could obtain more of it.

The seemingly harmonious atmosphere where everyone was sucking world origin from the Great Sun hid the horrifying tension that existed.

Also, as the various islands absorbed world origin from the Great Sun, it was starting to shrink and it was starting to reach a pretty critical state.

No one knew what would happen after the Great Sun had been sucked dry, but all of them knew that they had to make preparations for the worst-case scenario.

The Northern Sea Island might have arrived later than the Eternal Sect and Divine Capital Sect, and they even suffered way more from the looks of it. However, their speed of absorption surpassed either 2 sects.

As the vortex above the Northern Sea Island trembled slightly, the light pillar that connected them to the Great Sun was at least 30 percent more eye-catching than the Eternal Sect and the Divine Capital Sect.

At that moment, the Northern Sea Island displayed their reputation and foundation as the strongest faction in the Azure Spiritual World!

The moment their light pillar connected to the Great Sun, it started to shrink at a visible rate. The entire sun became smaller by one size.

Everyone might know that the Great Sun would turn smaller and smaller as everyone absorbed world origin to the best of their abilities. It was something they knew couldn't be avoided. However, the speed at which the sun was shrinking was too obvious and overly frightening. Many experts threw their glances at the light pillar above the Northern Sea Island the next moment.

Even though the voice of reason in their minds told them that the sudden change had nothing to do with the Northern Sea Island, the commotion they caused when they appeared was just far too large. Despite the shrinking of the Great Sun having something to do with the absorption by the rest of the islands, everyone turned their focus to the Northern Sea Island.

The coincidental timing when the Great Sun shrank the moment the Northern Sea Island's light pillar connected to it also played a part.

The actions of the Northern Sea Island that drew the attention of everyone else away allowed the experts on the Tongyou Island to heave a sigh of relief. They felt lucky that they were no longer the center of attention.

Compared to the terrifying rate of absorption by the Eternal Island, Divine Capital Island, and the Northern Sea Island, the Tongyou Island's sudden increase was nothing.

Now that the 3 great sects were showing off their peak-tier accumulations and strength, they managed to suppress the Tongyou Institution in every aspect possible.

When the situation was turning more chaotic as the Great Sun shrunk rapidly, Shang Xia arrived at the most critical moment of refining his extermination origins.

How long has passed?

That was a question Shang Xia had no time to care about as he was immersed in his half-forced state of seclusion.

The Crimson Soul Tablet seemed to know the limits of world origin Shang Xia's body could take, and the moment he started on the final phase of his refinement and had no way to pay attention to anything else, it automatically increased the power of absorption.

Even more world origin poured into the Tongyou Island and most of it was stored by Chu Jia with the help of the grand formation. Only a small part went to supplement Shang Xia's refinement of his extermination origins and no matter how little it was, it was more than enough for Shang Xia to cultivate in peace.

The sudden rush of World's Will brought a surprising benefit to Shang Xia. Unlike what Shang Bo and the others thought, it allowed Shang Xia's divine perception to expand greatly once again.

When the World's Will clashed with one's divine perception, it greatly tempered the soul.

Since Shang Xia could withstand the effects, his soul naturally grew stronger, and so did his divine perception. The expansion of his divine perception was the most obvious, but he could feel everything it covered with greater detail.

His unexpected gains with the strengthening of his soul allowed Shang Xia to achieve an unprecedented level of control over his extermination origins and extermination qi. The increase in command he had of his strength also allowed him to increase his secret art a little further. And because of that, his efficiency of cultivation rose proportionally.

Everything was progressing in the right direction for Shang Xia!

In his state of cultivation, he couldn't feel the changes happening in the outside world. He didn't know how far the Crimson Soul Tablet had pushed the absorption of world origin.

He might not know, but it was happening regardless. The change not only attracted the attention of the other factions... Even the experts of the Tongyou Institution were completely flabbergasted.

Chu Jia, who was controlling the grand formation and the vortex above the island that created the light pillar, received the greatest shock among all of them.

Unlike the others, she knew exactly what, or who, was causing the change... Shang Xia!

Yun Jing's weary voice rang in her mind suddenly. "Little Chu, can you still hold on?"

"Yes, I can!" Chu Jia's voice was steady and she sounded very sure of it. However, if one paid attention, they would be able to realize that she wasn't really paying attention to whatever Yun Jing said.

"Fourth Brother, how are things on your side?" Yun Jing asked again. This time, her voice was directed at Shang Bo who was in the hidden cultivation chamber under the core region.

"I'm great!" Shang Bo sounded really steady and it might be because of the way he conversed, but as someone who had fought by his side for tens of years, Yun Jing could hear the confidence and resolution that was hidden beneath his calm tone.

She was completely assured after hearing the confirmation from the usually prudent and cautious Shang Bo. After all, the rank five inheritance that the Tongyou Institution possessed wasn't a secret to people of their status.

Regardless of whether it was Ji Wenlong or Shang Bo, they were basically replicating what Kou Chongxue did in the past.

The price of doing that was astronomical, but Ji Wenlong managed to scrape by and succeed. But because of the chance he took, the Tongyou Institution bet everything they had back in the War of the Tongyou Mysterious World.

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If he failed, the Tongyou Institution would fall with him!

Now that Shang Bo was attempting to break through to the Martial Dipper Realm, he was doing so in a battlefield in space where there were other factions fighting for world origin. The Tongyou Institution sent almost all their high-leveled cultivators over and they seemed to be staking it all once more.

Shang Bo's failure would basically spell the destruction of the Tongyou Institution.

Whatever the case, world origin was the key to his breakthrough. If he wanted to copy what Kou Chongxue had done, he didn't just need some world origin. He needed a shit ton of it.

...

Shang Bo returned to whatever he was doing after saying 2 short words. Both Chu Jia and Yun Jing could tell that he had already isolated his secret chamber from the outside world and that could only mean one thing. It had reached the critical moment when he had to attempt his breakthrough to the Martial Dipper Realm.

Without fear of disturbing him, Yun Jing and Chu Jia could finally speak freely.

“How the hell did he actually do this?! Is the simultaneous refinement of 4 extermination origins really so mystical?” Yun Jing seemed to be asking a question and muttering to herself at the same time.

Chu Jia couldn't help but laugh. “Who cares? Whatever the case, I retained a huge portion of the world origin he drew over. We managed to obtain all the good stuff!”

Yun Jing seemed to heave a silent sigh of relief and she became a lot more relaxed. “At the end of the day, our foundations are far too lacking... I'm afraid this will exceed the limits of what our island can hold...”

“Relax!” Chu Jia pointed at the jade formation disc before her. “Have you forgotten where this came from? We're the ones that can't unleash the disc's full potential! It is far from reaching its limit.”

Chapter 590: It's Here

“Have you forgotten where this came from? We're the ones that can't unleash the disc's full potential! It is far from reaching its limit.” Chu Jia spoke unhurriedly but a tinge of regret also seemed to be present.

“That's true!” Yun Jing gasped before muttering softly, “Too bad we're not good enough to unleash its full potential. It's a waste of the Changbai Sect's formation disc we borrowed...”

The jade formation disc that was powering the Tongyou Island's formation was actually the treasure they stole from the Changbai Holy Land back then after employing several special methods.

It came from some secret region that belonged to the Changbai Holy Land and it was obviously made with a holy land in mind.

The Tongyou Island only managed to maintain its 1700 miles of land because of the treasure. Naturally, they were unable to push the formation disc to its limits with their meager strength.

Even though the Crimson Soul Tablet had been increasing the absorption of world origin that surpassed the capabilities of the grand formation, it was still operating fine. The amount of world origin hadn't exceeded whatever it could take because of the existence of the formation disc!

When the Crimson Soul Tablet increased the rate of absorption again, the formation disc was still able to suck it away from Shang Xia. That of course, aligned perfectly with Shang Xia's plans.

Having felt the speed at which the Crimson Soul Tablet could absorb world origin, Shang Xia would also come to learn one important fact. He was far from qualified to control something like that.

What is the Crimson Soul Tablet exactly? And where are its limits?!

Along with Shang Xia's constant rise in cultivation, he felt that he had gained a little bit of control over the Crimson Soul Tablet. However, the doubts he had were never dispelled. Instead, they only continued to increase.

As Shang Xia got closer and closer to completing the refinement of his extermination origins, he felt a strange feeling coming from the Crimson Soul Tablet. It seemed like it was about to actually transform for once.

...

Along with the Northern Sea Island's involvement, the speed at which world origin was sucked away from the Great Sun reached a whole new level. Several smaller islands also appeared to share the spoils of the Manyu Continent, and it didn't take long before the Great Sun shrunk again.

When that happened, the entire region was thrown into darkness for a moment. When the Great Sun continued to release light to illuminate the area, it was no longer as bright as before. Everyone could feel that the intensity of the light rays was much weaker than before.

Experts who were slightly more observant noticed that the Great Sun had shriveled by a third.

A small island drifted into the region and Huo Guanzhang stared at the Great Sun before counting 12 other islands around them and a gloomy expression immediately appeared on his face.

When he caught sight of the familiar-looking Tongyou Institution in the distance, he nearly vomited mouthfuls of blood. His chest felt constricted and he found it hard to breathe.

Looking at the situation, there could very well be more than 20 islands controlled by the various factions in the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World. The Great Observation Sect should be considered one of the strongest ones from the Azure Origin World. It was fine if they couldn't be compared to the Eternal Sect and Divine Capital Sect. However, they arrived far later than the other factions. Even the new upstart, the Tongyou Institution, came before them.

Huo Guanzhang wasn't the only one who noticed it. The other experts on the Great Observation Island quickly discovered the Tongyou Island and they felt a trace of disgust.

Because of their confrontation earlier, they felt that even if the Tongyou Institution lucked out, they wouldn't be too much faster. If they learned the Tongyou Island was actually the fourth power to arrive, they might actually be forced to spit out mouthfuls of blood.

Well, it didn't take long for something else to cause them to feel that way...

"Fellow disciples of the Great Observation Sect, what are you waiting for? Are you waiting for the rest of the world origin to be taken by others?" Huo Guanzhang's grave warning boomed across the island.

Hastily adjusting the grand formation, a giant vortex appeared above them. They started to absorb world origin and a pillar of light connected their island to the Great Sun.

It didn't take long for them to realize that the pillar of light above their island was much thinner than that above the Tongyou Island!

“Mother fucker!” Huo Guanzhang couldn’t control his temper as he stared at the Tongyou Island before glancing at the pillar of light above him. There were even signs of him losing control of his extermination origins due to his anger.

“Junior Brother Guanzhang, what are you doing?!” Guan Yun’s voice boomed in his ears all of a sudden.

Huo Guanzhang was the most important individual on the Great Observation Island after Guan Yun, the expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm. He was in charge of the key position of the grand formation and the moment he lost control of his extermination origins, he wouldn’t be able to properly control the grand formation. The giant vortex above the island would be affected and so would their absorption of world origin.

More importantly, the unsteady inflow of world origin that resulted because of that would greatly affect Guan Yun’s chances of success when entering the Martial Dipper Realm.

The Great Observation Sect might have a complete set of rank five advancement inheritance, but a huge amount of world origin was required no matter what. His breakthrough would be extremely advantageous for the Great Observation Sect.

It was the same for the other factions. All of them might have their respective rank five advancement formulas, but if there was one thing in common about all of them, they required a huge amount of world origin. They would have to use the world origin at a key moment to break through.

Unlike them all, the Tongyou Institution was slightly different. Because of their incomplete rank five advancement formula, they would require world origin every step of the way. Without enough world origin, the chance of breakthrough was basically zero.

Due to the massive requirement of world origin required, the Tongyou Institution could be said to be making up for the incompleteness of their formula through the sheer quantity of world origin.

That was the difference between the Tongyou Institution and the other factions. World origin was the number one criterion for the Tongyou Institution’s advancement formula while the others were merely using it at the critical moment to increase the chances of breakthrough.

When Huo Guanzhang was gritting his teeth and glaring at the light pillar above the Tongyou Institution, another horrifying change happened. The change was so drastic that it stupefied everyone else.

Without any warning signs, the pillar of light above the Tongyou Island increased by a fourth of its original size again! In other words, it was 1.75 times stronger than what they could initially pill!

The light pillar above the Tongyou Island was quickly approaching the level of the 3 superpowers, it was showing signs of actually surpassing the weakest of the 3 light pillars...

In their current state, it was impossible for them to remain low-key and avoid catching the attention of the other factions present.

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Shang Xia, who used the assistance of the extremely pure world origin to reach the large completion stage of his Four Seasons Samsara Art, finally completed the final stage of refinement of his extermination origins. They fused back into a single entity in his body and allowed him to step into the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm in one go.

Everything happened quickly and easily, which shocked Shang Xia. As long as he willed it, he could step into the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm. That was because during the fusion of his extermination origins, Shang Xia had a feeling that his Four Constellation Palm had already entered the territory of his fourth martial intent.