

The Heavens 631

Chapter 631: The Fair Approaches

Shang Xia could clearly remember the time before he left for the Manyu Continent. He had 35 pieces of rank four talisman papers back then and he managed to craft 14 rank four talismans. His success rate had barely reached the 40 percent mark.

Even so, the achievement shocked the Tongyou Institution!

When he presented the talismans he crafted to the institution, the Talisman Hall made it such a huge event. Even the Tongyou City was stirred up because of it. The news of the Tongyou Institution producing a Talisman Grandmaster started to spread and it even reached the other continents!

In less than 3 years, Shang Xia managed to raise his talisman crafting success rate to a terrifying 60 percent!

One had to know that at his current level, every bit of improvement could be considered a major breakthrough. Now, Shang Xia made a massive leap and increased his success rate by 20 percent! If news of that were to leak into the outside world...

Shang Xia thought about it for a second and decided that it was best if he remained low-key for the time being.

As he slowly recovered his inner qi and divine perception, he casually opened the intricately made invitation he received from Kou Chongxue. He saw a row of words appearing on its surface.

“Scheduled for 7 days later, the trade fair for the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World held on the Three Unity Island will commence. Please grace us with your presence!”

The changes to the invitation happened 7 or 8 days ago, but Shang Xia was still fully focused on crafting his Divine Restraint Talisman then. He couldn't pay attention to anything else, and he tossed the invitation to the side so as not to affect the crafting process.

Back then, he scanned the invitation and vaguely recalled it saying that the trade fair would take place in 15 days. Now that the wording changed, Shang Xia was slightly surprised to discover that it had an inbuilt countdown function.

When he finally recovered back to his peak state, there were only 3 days left till the start of the trade fair. Shang Xia decided to distribute the talismans he made before heading over.

Of the 21 talismans he made, there were 2 Golden Sun Inferno Talismans and Thousand Yang Sword Talismans each. He had 8 Abyssal Void Shattering Talismans, 3 Spiritual Protection Substitution Talismans, 2 Thousand Mechanism Extermination Guidance Talismans, 2 Extermination Lightning Attracting Talismans, and 2 Divine Restraint Talismans.

Summoning Fan Yuanhui, Shang Xia handed over a Thousand Yang Sword Talisman, an Abyssal Void Shattering Talismans, a Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman, a Thousand Mechanism Extermination Guidance Talisman, and a Divine Restraint Talisman for a total of 5 talismans.

No one could deny that the Talisman Hall gave him the most support, and he had to repay the favor.

Next, he handed an Extermination Lightning Attracting Talisman to Ren Huan who came along with Fan Yuanhui. As soon as Ren Huan got his hands on the talisman, a wide smile appeared on his face.

One couldn't think that those talismans Shang Xia crafted were ordinary just because he managed to make so many of them.

Every single rank four talisman was a powerful trump card in the hands of a Martial Extermination Realm expert. A perfect example would be when Shang Xia first arrived in the Manyu Continent and repelled the attack from the native experts of the Manyu Continent.

Back then, Shang Xia came to their rescue with a ton of rank four talismans. He killed several Martial Extermination Realm experts one after the other and basically helped the Tongyou Stronghold to escape disaster.

Because of Shang Xia, the Tongyou Institution's Talisman Grandmaster with a frightening success rate when it came to crafting talismans, the experts of the institution no longer felt that rank four talismans were mysterious and rare. However, that didn't affect their views on the incredible power each talisman held.

After giving away 6 talismans in one go, news of Talisman Grandmaster Shang Xia crafting another huge batch of rank four talismans started to spread among the high-leveled experts in the institution.

However, Shang Xia didn't plan to reveal his success rate this time. He already came up with a narrative to turn anyone who came asking away and no one managed to learn anything.

After the Tongyou Institution, Shang Xia had to inform his clan that he was done crafting talismans. He thought that Shang Quan or Shang Tai would head over to retrieve them, but surprisingly, Shang Xi came personally.

"What are you surprised about? Did you forget that you are in the Tongyou Mysterious World? How are they supposed to come in here?" Shang Xi knew what he was thinking as soon as she saw the look of shock on his face.

An awkward smile appeared on his face and he lightly slapped his forehead. "My brain is getting a little slow after crafting talismans for so long. I completely forgot where I was..."

Seeing the casual expression on Shang Xia's face, Shang Xi chuckled and asked, "How was it? Did everything go smoothly?"

"Of course it did. I crafted 21 talismans this time and my success rate reached a nice 60 percent!" Shang Xia boasted. Shang Xi was one of his closest family members and he wouldn't hide anything from her. He even looked extremely pleased with himself when speaking to her.

"How... How many... ?! 21?! 60 percent success rate?!" Shang Xi's eyes widened as she looked at her nephew. She sucked in a cold breath before snapping back to reality. She suppressed her voice the best she could and growled, "Have you told anyone else about this?!"

"Aunt Xi, right now, you're the only one who knows about this." Shang Xia laughed.

Nodding slowly, Shang Xi was extremely pleased with Shang Xia's performance but she had to fulfill her duties as his elder to warn him, "You can't tell anyone about this! You can't reveal anything no matter who asks you about it! Damn... A success rate of 60 percent.. If experts from the other factions learn about this, even their Martial Dipper Realm ancestors will look for ways to head over to our You Continent to kidnap you!"

Shang Xia naturally knew that something like that was likely to happen if news were to spread. However, that was only if news of his super success rate could actually get out. Moreover, anyone who planned to head over to the You Continent to try to grab Shang Xia would have to be strong enough to stand against the 3 Martial Dipper Realm ancestors of the institution. Not to mention the fact that one of them, Kou Chongxue, was a fucking crazy asshole who had tyrannical strength.

Seeing how Shang Xia was starting to turn serious, Shang Xi grinned, "What's the matter? Are you starting to feel afraid?"

"Aunt Xi, I will definitely heed your warning..." Shang Xia forced a chuckle.

"Alright, just hurry up and break through to the Martial Dipper Realm. When you become a rank five Talisman Grandmaster, no one will try to mess with you!" Shang Xi continued.

Staring at her in shock, Shang Xia didn't know how to respond.

Seeing his reaction, Shang Xi muttered in amusement, "Alright, I'll stop joking around now. How do you plan to split those talismans anyway?"

Now that they were back on topic, Shang Xia turned serious again. "The Swallow Race sent 3 pieces of rank four talisman paper in exchange for 1 talisman, and I could give him any talisman out of all those I made. However, they also sent a bottle of rank four Blood Ink over and I have to give them something better because of the sincerity they showed."

"That's easy. You definitely created some rank three talismans along the way and you can just give some to them to show how grateful you are." Shang Xi chortled.

Shang Xia nodded in response. "That's what I was thinking too. However, I plan to give them this talisman..."

Shang Xia then handed it over to Shang Xi.

"Is this... Is this an Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman?" Shang Xi gasped. She might not know much about crafting talismans, but she somewhat understood how many talismans Shang Xia knew how to craft. Naturally, she could recognize the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman.

"That's right. This talisman is pretty average among those I crafted, but once I bring them to the trade fair, they might be worth a lot more..." Shang Xia explained.

Shang Xi might not have entered the Martial Extermination Realm, but as one of the core members of the Shang Clan, she learned about the trade fair that would take place on the Three Unity Island. Of course, that was all she knew. She didn't know all the details regarding it.

Shang Xia nodded in response. “Other than the Swallow Race, you need to deal with Shang Pei’s side...”

Shang Xia didn’t seem bothered by the way Shang Xi addressed Shang Pei, and he replied simply, “The Taihang Alliance provided 12 pieces of rank four talisman paper. I plan to give them 4 rank four talismans in return and neither of us will owe each other anything.”

After he spoke, he retrieved 4 talismans from a sealed spiritual case. 2 of them were Golden Sun Inferno Talismans, and the other two were a Thousand Yang Sword Talisman and a Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman.

Of the remaining talismans he had, those were the cheapest he could find.

Next, Shang Xia took out another sealed spiritual case and handed it over to Shang Xi. “Third Aunt is acting alone in the Taihang Alliance and she doesn’t have a strong backing there. She needs some treasures to strengthen herself. There are 2 talismans in here. Please pass them to her on my behalf.”

There was a Thousand Yang Sword Talisman and a Spiritual Protection Substitution Talisman contained in that case and she could use one for offense and one for defense. It should be enough to deal with trouble that might come her way.

Keeping the case with an indifferent expression on her face, Shang Xi muttered, “Sure. Your success rate when crafting talismans is shockingly high. As long as you’re willing to give them away, I’ll pass them to her.”

Shang Xia sniggered under his breath before bringing out an Extermination Lightning Attracting Talisman. “This talisman is pretty strong and ordinary Martial Extermination Realm experts won’t be able to block the strike that it releases. I’ll have to trouble you to put this back in the clan so that it can be used in times of need.”

Before Shang Xi could reach out to grab the case, Shang Xia took another one out. “... And this is a Thousand Mechanism Extermination Guidance Talisman that I prepared for you.”

Finally, Shang Xi’s expression eased up and she snorted softly, “Hmph, at least I didn’t dote on you for nothing... About this Thousand Mechanism Extermination Guidance Talisman...”

“This talisman is used to gather extermination origins. It’s really effective and seeing as you’re planning to enter the Martial Extermination Realm, this talisman might come in handy at the crucial moment.” Shang Xia explained.

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After sending Shang Xi off, Shang Xia finally calmed his heart and started to look at his remaining talismans. The talismans that remained belonged to him and him alone!

He had 7 talismans left over, and 6 of them were Abyssal Void Shattering Talismans. The last talisman was a Divine Restraint Talisman that he kept for himself.

Having gone through the entire process, Shang Xia realized how terrifying a rank four Talisman Grandmaster was! It was even more so when he boasted such a shocking success rate.

Throughout the entire process, Shang Xia didn't have to come up with a single piece of talisman paper. Even the talisman ink he used was provided by others. Even one of the brushes he used belonged to the Talisman Hall.

After he went through the entire process, Shang Xia still had 7 rank four talismans leftover after repaying all the favors he was given.

One had to know that he had been extremely generous when giving out talismans. Otherwise, he would have been able to keep a lot more.

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Time passed quickly and Shang Xia quickly made his way over to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion through the Tongyou Mysterious World. When he arrived, he discovered that there were quite a lot of people who were planning to head over to the Three Unity Island.

Chapter 632: Burden

As he had thrown himself into the process of talisman crafting, a lot of time had passed. The 849th year of the Divine Martial Calendar was already coming to an end by the time he emerged.

When he approached the pavilion where Kou Chongxue used to be in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, he discovered that the Void Abyss looked a lot shallower than it used to be. Kou Chongxue was also no longer sitting in the pavilion.

In its vicinity, several people looked like they had been waiting for some time now. Their gazes turned to Shang Xia the moment he arrived.

Shang Xia looked at the familiar faces and greeted, "Elders, are you also going to the trade fair on the Three Unity Island?"

Liu Qinglan, who seemed to be the person in charge of the others, growled in annoyance, "Everyone came here a long time ago. We were all waiting for you."

As Shang Xia had been crafting talismans the entire time, he didn't know what happened outside the Tongyou Mysterious World. He didn't bother with Liu Qinglan's tone as he smiled, "Are we going together?"

Ji Yu forced a chuckle. "You're holding the only invitation our Tongyou Institution received... Since you aren't here yet, we can only wait..."

"Oh! Sorry, my apologies. I just left seclusion and I troubled all of you to wait for me..." Shang Xia gasped in realization and revealed an apologetic expression.

Liu Zhidao chuckled in response, "It's alright. After all, we knew that you went into seclusion to craft talismans. Luckily, we can still make it in time."

Shang Xia also seemed to recall what happened a while ago and he looked at a few of those present to express his thanks. "I haven't thanked Uncle Yu and Uncle Zhidao for those gifts back then. Because of those treasures, I will be able to save a great deal of effort! Many thanks!"

The smile on Ji Yu's face grew wider and he said casually, "That's great!"

Liu Zhidao also nodded while speaking. “Actually, we were just delivery personnel... Giving you the treasures was the intention of our patriarchs. After all, our clans have always been working in close cooperation and we should help each other whenever we can.”

Shang Xia looked at Yun Yichen who had been silent the entire time and asked, “How is Patriarch Yun?”

Yun Yichen shook his head and chuckled, “Elder Yun hasn’t been back to the Yun Clan at all! Even I have no idea where she hid to enter seclusion. I received the news of the trade fair a few days ago that the patriarch wants me to head over to the Three Unity Island with everyone else to expand my horizons.”

Liu Qinglan interrupted all of them suddenly. “Alright, now that all of you exchanged your pleasantries, let’s discuss how we’re going to head over to the Three Unity Island. Since our Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors haven’t shown up, it looks like we have to rely on ourselves to make our way over.”

Awkward expressions could be seen all around. Even though everyone present was in the Martial Extermination Realm, Shang Xia and Liu Qinglan were the only ones who had experience flying in space.

Chu Jia also came with Liu Qinglan. Back during the journey of the Tongyou Island, she had been controlling the grand formation and she was protected by everyone else. She didn’t take a single step out and thus, she had no experience flying through space personally.

Yun Yichen, Ji Yu, and Liu Zhidao were all experts in the first layer of the Martial Extermination Realm.

Unless the Three Unity Island was close to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, otherwise, there was no need to mention the 3 of them. Even Chu Jia, with her cultivation at the second layer of the Martial Extermination Realm, would be facing huge risks when traveling through space.

Shang Xia didn’t know if everything was a coincidence, or if the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors of the institution had made the proper arrangement. The people who were planning to head over to the Three Unity Island seemed to represent one of the powers in the city. Also, unless some of them decided to give up their chance of traveling to the Three Unity Island, the 6 of them might lose their way and exhaust themselves in space before finding the island.

Shang Xia knew better than to think that the entire journey would be smooth just because he had the invitation. Seeing as how the super factions chose to hold the trade fair on their island in space, he knew that they were planning to weed out those they deemed unworthy of attending.

Of the 6 people heading to the Three Unity Island, Liu Qinglan and Chu Jia naturally represented the institution. The others represented their clans.

“Are we able to determine the location of the Three Unity Island?” Chu Jia turned to Shang Xia and asked.

Looking at everyone present, all of them were supposed to be the head, or one of the most important individuals in their own factions. Chu Jia was the only exception and she made a request to head over with them to expand her horizons.

As the only Formation Grandmaster of the Tongyou Institution, one could say that she was as famous as Shang Xia, the only Talisman Grandmaster.

Moreover, when Chu Jia made the request, Kou Chongxue was the one who personally allowed her to head over.

If anyone had to leave because they brought too many people, Chu Jia would probably be the first one to be kicked out of the party...

Naturally, Shang Xia understood that. He also knew that if they managed to locate the Three Unity Island before heading out, the difficulty of their journey would be greatly reduced. However... Handing over the invitation, Shang Xia sighed. "It's going to be difficult to locate it. Here, take a look."

Chu Jia accepted the invitation and studied it carefully before shaking her head to return the invitation. "Their method of crafting is really intricate and amazing. It can only be used to lead us in the correct direction. We can't locate the island with it."

A soft chuckle left Yun Yichen's lips. "Looks like we can only risk it and try our luck. I was sent to the Tongyou Island back then to protect it. However, Patriarch Kou sent me over directly and I have no experience traveling through space alone..."

Yun Yichen wasn't the only one. Ji Yu and Liu Zhidao were also feeling slightly worried.

At the end of the day, Yun Yichen, Ji Yu, Liu Zhidao, and Chu Jia understood that the only people who could decide if they were going to be part of the group heading over to the Three Unity Island were Shang Xia and Liu Qinglan. In fact... It was possible Shang Xia was the only person who could make the decision!

If Shang Xia was unwilling to give his assistance, with the exception of Liu Qinglan who could travel through space for some time, all of them would have to pack up and go home.

Various considerations were running through his mind at the moment as he thought of what to do.

It was actually not really a tall task if he had to bring everyone over. He would probably just have to give everyone other than Liu Qinglan an Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman each.

With the assistance of the talisman, Shang Xia would be 80 percent sure they would be able to arrive on the Three Unity Island smoothly.

The only problem was that he only had 6 pieces of Abyssal Void Shattering Talismans left. They were extremely important treasures he was going to auction off on the Three Unity Island. If he used 4 of them at once, he would experience a massive heartache.

Chu Jia suddenly interrupted his train of thought. "Why don't we head up to our island before thinking of another plan?"

Everyone's eyes lit up. They seemed to have forgotten about that.

Shang Xia also laughed. "We might not know the exact location of the Three Unity Island, but we do know where our Tongyou Island is located in space. Let's head over for a little while before deciding what to do next. We might even be able to shorten the distance to the Three Unity Island. We can also get used to the feeling of flying through space."

After a short moment of preparation, everyone rushed out of the protection of the Beyond Heavens Pavilion with Shang Xia and Liu Qinglan's protection.

When they looked around in space, they saw the state of the Azure Origin World and the Azure Spiritual World. It was a lot closer than they had imagined and they looked like a bun that had been cut in 2 while steaming to perfection.

A strange feeling also filled their hearts. After looking at the Azure Origin World from space, they discovered that it didn't seem as large as they had thought.

"It's not that the worlds are small... The space around them had been distorted. The moment we left the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, it's as though we traveled hundreds of thousands of miles away from our worlds." Liu Qinglan explained to Yun Yichen, Ji Yu, and Liu Zhidao..

After experiencing and getting over their state of initial panic, they started to slowly fly through space with the assistance of Shang Xia and Liu Qinglan. Eventually, they got used to it.

However, they also discovered that as they flew through space, they were unable to draw upon any heaven and earth spiritual qi to replenish their depleting reserves. Moreover, there seemed to be many holes poked into their body and they were like a human sieve that was leaking inner qi.

When everything was happening, they also had to maintain their extermination origins to maintain flight.

If things kept up, they would be exhausted after a short time.

Now that they had left the protection of the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, they could only grit their teeth and try to make it to the Tongyou Island.

Shang Xia and Liu Qinglan exchanged a glance before flying to the sides to provide some assistance.

Not too long after Shang Xia and the others left, Shang Bo appeared in the pavilion back in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion.

He chuckled to himself while watching them disappear into space. Turning around, he disappeared.

Shang Xia and the others most likely didn't know that their actions had been seen by the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors of the institution.

Flying at the side, Shang Xia explained to the others, "... That is why only after refining your third extermination origin and becoming a high-level Martial Extermination Realm expert would your physical bodies be strong enough to fly through space. Your control of your extermination origins would be much greater than before and with your sharpened senses, you would be able to lower the risk when traveling through space."

Shang Xia paused suddenly. He seemed to have thought of something before he continued, "That is why only experts in the high-level Martial Extermination Realm dared to fight the experts of the Spirit Abundance World in space, outside the confines of our island. Everyone else remained in the safety of the barrier."

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With Shang Xia and Liu Qinglan protecting them, everyone eventually managed to arrive safely on the Tongyou Island.

As per usual, the Tongyou Island had 2 Martial Extermination Realm experts stationed there. Song You was one of them, and Ge Qingzhu was sent to replace Yun Yichen earlier.

Now that Shang Xia was meeting Ge Qingzhu again, he discovered that the lucky expert who ran into a huge opportunity back then had already entered the second layer of the Martial Extermination Realm.

When everyone recovered their inner qi, Shang Xia went over to talk to Ge Qingzhu. He asked about matters regarding the battlefield between the two worlds at the moment.

The Tongyou Institution had its attention set on the Tongyou Island for the past years, and Ge Qingzhu was the only one stationed in the battlefield between the two worlds.

He was only deployed back after the huge group of Martial Extermination Realm experts returned recently. He was personally called back by Kou Chongxue so that he could take a good rest and consolidate everything he learned.

When Chu Jia and the others finally adjusted their condition, Liu Qinglan started to urge them to quickly proceed to their destination while calling out to Shang Xia.

Even though they had the experience of traveling through space earlier, they still felt a trace of fear.

Emerging from the hall he was chatting with Ge Qingzhu, he tossed over an item and muttered, "All of you, use this. I'll lead the way with Instructor Liu Qinglan!"

Chapter 633: Arrival on the Island

When Shang Xia and the others arrived on the Tongyou Island, Shang Xia discovered that the resonance of the invitation in his hands was getting stronger.

That would mean that traveling to the Tongyou Island indeed reduced the distance to the Three Unity Island.

With the hint he received, Shang Xia decided to reduce the risk slightly by lending them his Auspicious Cloud Cape.

Even though they had the experience of traveling to the Tongyou Island, they were still worried they wouldn't be able to locate the Three Unity Island. None of them expected Shang Xia to lend them such an amazing treasure at the moment.

They stared at the cape that transformed into a large cloud capable of ferrying them around in awe. However, Chu Jia quickly snapped, "What the hell is wrong with you?! Why didn't you take this out earlier?! We were worrying for nothing the entire time!"

"If we were back in the Tongyou Mysterious World, I wasn't confident I could bring all of you to the Three Unity Island even with the cape. Moreover, the cloud will only fit 3 of you. It might be able to fit all 4 of you if we gave it our all, but that's not good enough. However, I feel a lot more reassured now that we have arrived on the Tongyou Island." Shang Xia explained.

Light flashed in Chu Jia's eyes and she gasped, "Did you locate its position in space?"

Unfortunately, Shang Xia shook his head in response. Seeing the disappointed look on Chu Jia's face, a crafty smile reappeared on Shang Xia's face. "Nope. but I am certain we're closer to the Three Unity Island than we were before!"

He handed the invitation to Chu Jia who was glaring daggers at him and was eventually passed to the others to get a sense of the connection the invitation had to the island. Finally, it was returned to him.

Liu Qinglan and the rest realized that they couldn't really feel much of a difference, and...

"Are you really certain?!" Chu Jia pouted at the side. At that juncture, she was the only one who had the guts to express her doubts in Shang Xia's judgment.

Shang Xia realized that he might have been able to feel the change due to his much stronger divine perception, and he didn't bother answering Chu Jia. Instead, he addressed the rest. "Alright, let's hurry up and familiarize yourselves with the Auspicious Cloud Cape."

Now that they were already on the Tongyou Island, Shang Xia felt that something was up with the patriarchs and deputy patriarchs of the institution. The Three Unity Island made such a huge commotion with their hosting of the trade fair but it didn't make sense for them to be the only ones heading over. Whatever it was, they were in the Martial Extermination Realm and they had the qualifications to go to the Three Unity Island to take part in the fair, but the entire thing seemed to be orchestrated to make things difficult for Shang Xia.

He might have the help of Liu Qinglan who was at the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm, but if he had to be honest, she would only be able to keep herself safe at best. She wouldn't be able to help if anyone else ran into trouble.

Shang Xia was lucky he had the Auspicious Cloud Cape other than the Abyssal Void Shattering Talismans.

The cloud would be able to carry Chu Jia and the others, but the key to the entire operation was that as long as one of them supplied it with power, it would be able to travel through space at a reasonable speed.

That would mean that they would be able to last in space for a much longer time and they could reduce the unnecessary consumption of inner qi.

With the assistance of a treasure like the Auspicious Cloud Cape, their journey to locate the Three Unity Island would be much smoother than before.

Naturally, as they started their trip, Shang Xia took the lead. He used the feeling he got from the invitation to bring everyone in the correct direction. The 4 of them riding the cloud would follow behind, and Liu Qinglan would be stationed at the rear.

Along the way, they flew silently through space. They felt as though a long time had passed, but no one knew exactly how long. It might have been 4 hours, but it also might have been 6.

Not a single sound could be heard along the way and they didn't run into any trouble either. The only change was the feeling Shang Xia received from the invitation. It was getting stronger and stronger.

Without warning, Shang Xia stopped.

Everyone else behind him did the same, and the cloud started to dissipate. The moment it did, 4 figures were revealed.

“Why aren’t we moving?” Chu Jia asked while being slightly surprised.

Liu Qinglan, who also caught up, frowned. “Did something happen?”

Shang Xia held the invitation before him and muttered softly, “I’m getting the feeling that the Three Unity Island is shifting about in space...”

“Is it moving quickly?! Is it traveling further away from us?” Liu Qinglan asked anxiously.

Shang Xia shook his head and frowned. “Nope. Actually, it feels like it’s getting closer...”

“Isn’t that a good thing?” Chu Jia yelled.

“Yeah, well, that’s the problem. From the feeling I’m getting, the island seems to be traveling straight for us as if in welcome.” Shang Xia thought out loud.

Yun Yichen gasped softly, “Are things really so coincidental?”

Naturally, there was no way there was such a huge coincidence. None of them even bothered thinking that it was possible the Three Unity Island was heading over to welcome them as the Tongyou Institution didn’t possess the qualifications for that to happen.

After thinking about it for a second, Liu Qinglan asked, “What do you think we should do?”

Of the 6 people in the group, Liu Qinglan could be said to have the highest authority. However, in times like that, everything would depend on the strongest individual. Also, the invitation was handed to Shang Xia by Kou Chongxue himself.

“Whether it’s a disaster or not, we can’t run from it. We’ll have to deal with whatever comes. Moreover, the trade fair concerns both worlds. I refuse to believe our Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors will leave us out to dry...” Shang Xia muttered.

The others heaved a sigh of relief after hearing what he said. After all, it made sense. They might have been trying to head to the Three Unity Island without the guidance of a Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor, but they were definitely paying attention.

Another 2 hours passed, and Chu Jia and the others were rotating in pairs to supply the cloud with energy. From the time they left the Tongyou Island, they had already completed 2 rotations.

All of a sudden, Shang Xia pointed in a certain direction and yelled, “It’s coming!”

The others stared in the direction he was pointing at and saw nothing but darkness.

Whatever it was, they weren’t surprised at all. After all, they were supremely confident in Shang Xia’s strength at that point.

Not too long later, a massive silhouette appeared in the distance and it started to grow clearer.

With the distance between them closing rapidly, everyone could see the tip of an island that was dozens of miles long.

Strangely enough, the island looked a little strange. As they continued to fly in its direction, they discovered that it was weirdly circular.

Shang Xia stared at the island and fell deep into thought.

Behind Shang Xia, Liu Qinglan observed everything that was happening and she muttered, "There seems to be people who are here to welcome us... It's just that... This seems a little weird..."

"It's alright!" Shang Xia smiled and turned to address the rest. "Let's go. We don't have to keep them waiting."

As they flew in the direction of the island, the invitation that was hovering in front of Shang Xia shot out and expanded to become 10 feet high. It started to fuse with a barrier that was nearly invisible to become a proper entrance. 3 experts from the island who came to welcome them stood on the other side of the entrance and they looked at Shang Xia and the others respectfully.

"Interesting." Shang Xia chuckled softly before turning into a streak of light that flew into the entrance. Liu Qinglan and the others quickly followed behind.

When all of them finally stepped foot onto the island, the entrance behind them closed and the invitation returned to its normal form before landing in the hands of the experts who came to welcome them.

"Valued guests, do you come from the You Continent?" The person who led the other 2 asked. He wore a silver crown on his head and he emitted a majestic aura. From the looks of it, he was also an expert in the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm.

When his gaze landed on Shang Xia, a look of shock flashed in his eyes.

Shang Xia shot a glance at Liu Qinglan who arrived after him before chuckling in response, "We came after receiving our Patriarch Kou Chongxue's orders!"

The moment Kou Chongxue's name was mentioned, the experts behind the silver crowned cultivator turned serious. They became a lot more serious than before.

As the sayings went, one's reputation was like the shade of a tree. Kou Chongxue gained his prestige through actual combat. No one would think that he was a mere Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor of a random faction out there.

There was also a need to mention the way Kou Chongxue gained his reputation. He didn't do so by killing some weaker experts. Those he killed were experts at the same level as him! They were existences in the Martial Dipper Realm who stood at the peak of the Azure Origin World and Azure Spiritual World!

Gesturing slightly, the silver crowned cultivator became a little solemn as he made the introductions. "I am Chen Yu of the Divine Capital Sect. Dou Yuancheng, a third generation disciple of the Eternal Sect, and Yun Chengzi, a third generation disciple of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect are here as well."

Shang Xia replied immediately. "I am Shang Xia of the Tongyou Institution and this is Instructor Liu Qinglan of the Upper Division. Chu Jia of the Formations Hall, Yun Yichen, Ji Yu, and Liu Zhidao have also come along with me."

The silver crowned cultivator merely glanced at the others while muttering a soft 'lucky fellows' under his breath before maintaining all his focus on Shang Xia. "There's still some time before the start of the fair. Since all of you have already entered the Three Unity Island, you can head around to familiarize yourself with the surroundings. You can also choose to rest in the area we have prepared for you. This jade talisman can guide you around."

He waved his hand and a single jade talisman flew out from his palm to land in Shang Xia's hand.

Glancing at it, Shang Xia chortled in response. "Many thanks. However, there's something I don't understand and I hope you can enlighten me."

The smile on Chen Yu's face remained. "Of course. As long as I have the answer, I'll definitely tell you what you wish to know."

Nodding slightly, Shang Xia asked, "I would like to know if this is the real Three Unity Island."

The faces of Liu Qinglan and the others changed the moment the question left his lips.

Chapter 634: Guesses

Shang Xia's sudden question didn't cause any change in the expressions of those before him. However, the same couldn't be said for the experts of the Tongyou Institution.

Chen Yu roared with laughter the next moment. "You're truly an extraordinary existence! Alright, I won't hide it from you, but you can consider this the Three Unity Island, but you can also not see it that way."

Shang Xia gestured for Liu Qinglan and the others to calm down while maintaining his indifferent expression. He muttered, "Please, tell me more."

Grunting once, Chen Yu explained, "I believe all of you already know that the Three Unity Island is just a name given to the landmass after the Eternal Sect, the Divine Capital Sect, and the Northern Sea Mystic Sect joined a small segment of their main island. It was created to host the trade fair for both worlds. Since the island was merely joined together, it can naturally split apart. The island we're on is one of the 3 chunks of land that makes up the Three Unity Island."

Shang Xia nodded his head in understanding. "So in that case, are the other islands out there responding to the rest of the invitations?"

"That's right." Chen Yu smiled before he continued, "From what we know, there are more people who would like to attend the auction than those who received invitations. There will definitely be some who will take the risk to travel through space to find our island, and splitting up gives them a better chance of locating us."

It seemed like that was the reason they appeared close to the Tongyou Island. There were 2 other similar islands doing the same thing.

"Oh, there's one more thing. Since all of you have already arrived on this island, please do not fly around recklessly. Do not break out into a physical fight with anyone

who is also on the island. Otherwise, we can only forcefully kick the culprit off the island and never welcome them again.” Chen Yu added.

“Of course.” Shang Xia nodded before gesturing to Liu Qinglan and the others. They started to make their way deeper into the island.

Seeing as Shang Xia and the others had left, Dou Yuancheng of the Eternal Sect muttered, “What a bunch of losers. 3 of them are in the first layer, and another is in the second layer. Even if they were sent over to take a look around and broaden their horizons, at least send some young experts over. Heh, the Tongyou Institution has been making a name for themselves in the recent years, but looks like it's been largely exaggerated. They're nothing without Kou Chongxue.”

Yun Chengzi, the disciple of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect, chuckled, “Brother Dou, you might not know, but even though the Tongyou Institution is a faction in your Azure Origin World, they're famous in our world too. Moreover, they're an extremely terrifying existence. They hadn't been established for more than 30 years, but they managed to reach this level of strength and cultivate a group of experts like that. It's an amazing feat.”

Chen Yu didn't say anything as he stared in the direction Shang Xia and the others had left. Even though he wasn't speaking, he heard everything they said.

Dou Yuancheng muttered, “Looks like Martial Uncle Chen Yu's composure is something we cannot match. He can even remain polite when talking to those bumpkins...”

Chen Yu's gaze wavered slightly before chuckling in amusement. “Did you guys notice the guy in charge of them?”

“Is there something wrong with him?” Dou Yuancheng and Yun Chengzi thought for a second before one of them asked.

Chen Yu growled, “His extermination origins have already fused together and from the aura he is emitting, he should have already entered the peak of the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm...”

Glancing at each other, Dou Yuancheng and Yun Chengzi grunted softly and turned a little serious. As they were unable to see through Shang Xia's cultivation earlier, they had their guesses as to how strong he was. They weren't too surprised by the revelation.

All of a sudden, Chen Yu's lips curled upwards and a mirthless chuckle left his lips. “Also, that person seems younger than the both of you!”

With their eyes widening in shock, Dou Yuancheng and Yun Chengzi revealed weird expressions.

...

Shang Xia and the others had no idea what Chen Yu and the others talked about after they walked away. After some time, Chu Jia spoke up, “Those people don't seem to think highly of us at all.”

Of course, the ‘us’ she referred to was everyone else excluding Shang Xia.

Liu Qinglan muttered in a low voice, “Our cultivation is lacking and there's nothing we can do about it. We just have to get used to it. If we don't wish to be treated that way, we can only cultivate and become stronger.”

All of a sudden, Shang Xia stopped and he turned his head suddenly to look at the void outside the island.

The others obviously didn't need a reminder as they turned to look in the same direction.

"Someone else is here..." Shang Xia naturally knew that the others weren't able to feel what was happening out there and he quickly explained it to them.

...

When Shang Xia turned to stare into the void outside the island, Chen Yu and the others also noticed what was happening out there and they turned to look.

"Do any of you feel the presence of an invitation?" Chen Yu asked the others.

Dou Yuancheng and Yun Chengzi shook their heads slightly and they seemed to have realized something. One of them gasped, "Did someone actually manage to find us?"

Staying silent, Chen Yu merely stared at the void outside the island.

Only after some time did he speak. "Since you managed to find us, why don't you reveal yourself? Since we chose to create the Three Unity Island to host the trade fair, we don't have a habit of rejecting our guests."

Even after he spoke, there was no reaction from the void.

Dou Yuancheng and Yun Chengzi felt that no one would appear after the lack of reaction for some time, but the appearance of a vague silhouette proved them wrong. A hoarse voice came from the void. "I failed to receive an invitation for the trade fair and I can only try my luck and show up unannounced. I wonder if a wandering cultivator like myself is allowed to step foot onto your Three Unity Island?"

"Fellow cultivator, do you come from the Jiao Continent?" Chen Yu asked.

The foreign cultivator immediately became a lot more wary after hearing what he said. "What's the matter? Do you need me to state my background before you let me onto the island?"

"That won't be needed. Moreover, fellow cultivator can rest assured that nobody will try to harm you after you step foot onto the island." Chen Yu chuckled.

After he spoke, he gestured for Dou Yuancheng and Yun Chengzi to create an opening that was far away from themselves.

Chen Yu gestured for the foreign expert to enter while restating whatever he told Shang Xia and the others. When he was done, he added, "Fellow cultivator, as you do not have an invitation, you will not be eligible to take part in the final auction. Let me inform you of this before anything else, but you are still free to go about the island to make trades with the other cultivators."

Fearing that the other party would misunderstand, Chen Yu continued, "I'm not making things difficult for you specifically, but because it's the first time we're hosting the trade fair, we are limited by a lot of factors. I hope you can forgive us for the lack of hospitality."

"Hehe." The person stood in the void and mused, "If you guys really wish to harm me, there would be no need for such a lengthy explanation."

After he spoke, his figure blurred and he flew through the entrance.

With a head full of grayish white hair, he boasted a strong figure. His clothes looked pretty worn out, and there was a strange mask that covered half his face. He nodded slightly at Chen Yu and the others before walking deeper into the island.

...

By the time the gap in the barrier was created for the man to enter, Shang Xia and the others had already left.

On the partial island that made up the Three Unity Island, many Martial Extermination Realm experts of various factions had already arrived. There were many wandering cultivators among them, and there were even various hidden experts who had hidden themselves from the world in the past.

Of those present, the members of the Tongyou Institution would stop and exchange some pleasantries if they were familiar with each other. However, they continued on their way and wandered around the island to examine it further. They wanted to see what was truly happening.

Shang Xia and the others quickly discovered that the core of the island wasn't in the central region! Instead, it was somewhere around the border region.

Whenever they approached it, they discovered that they would be stopped by a formless barrier 3 feet away. The barrier seemed to be strengthened by some special method. There were also wooden signs around it to instruct people not to remain in the area for too long.

Other than that, there were 2 rows of exquisitely built huts hundreds of feet away from the formless barrier. They were also built along a nice arc, and there was a nice street 300 feet wide between them.

After seeing where the core region was, Shang Xia and the others no longer bothered with it. They started to stroll down the street between those huts.

Perhaps it had something to do with the first time the trade fair was being held on the Three Unity Island, but the entire set up looked pretty simple.

As Shang Xia and the rest walked around, they discovered that there were already people setting up shop around to trade with their fellow cultivators.

They browsed through several stalls and discovered that the items there were pretty interesting. There were some spiritual treasures, and some weapons. There was a plethora of goods, but not many of them caught the eyes of those from the institution.;

Initially, Chu Jia and the others were extremely excited to look at the various treasures on sale. They thought that they would be able to get some pretty good deals, but they were destined to be disappointed.

Everyone there was in the Martial Extermination Realm. All of them had great judgment and there was no way they would misprice their items.

Eventually, they got bored of shopping around.

“Is this it?!” Chu Jia pouted. “If cultivators in the Martial Extremity Realm and the Martial Intent Realm came, they might actually find this interesting. However, we spent so much effort to head over. Are we supposed to buy some low-level cultivation treasure back to the institution?!”

Ji Yu chuckled softly at the side. “We can take it as a trip to broaden our horizons. After all, experts of both worlds are gathered here. We can see many rare treasures that we might not have seen before.”

Liu Zhidao also added, “Maybe it’s not time yet. After all, the island we’re on is only one of the 3 islands that make up the Three Unity Island. Everyone here definitely has some treasures but it’s not the time to take them out yet.”

“Many of these people are wandering cultivators. Perhaps some of them come from small clans or factions. The experts of the huge powers of the various continents like the holy lands haven’t revealed themselves.

Everyone thought back to the street they had walked down and discovered that there was truly a lack of cultivators from the various holy lands. They couldn’t help but nod subconsciously.

All of a sudden, Shang Xia chuckled, “Actually, I’m pretty curious about the region of separated space in the corner of the island. What do you think it would be used for?”

“It’s definitely the region that will be joined to the other islands. That should be the real central region of the Three Unity Island. Perhaps, a giant gathering will be held there when the time comes!” Chu Jia sneered after hearing Shang Xia’s question.

He wanted to say something else, but Liu Qinglan interrupted him. “Look over there. That should be the accommodation they arranged for us. Let’s head over.”

Chapter 635: Just Keeps Coming

Following the directions they felt from the jade talisman Chen Yu handed over, they quickly located their residence. It was a small courtyard that could be converted into a shop front that faced the street if they so desired.

“Are they planning to let us do our business over here?” Chu Jia quickly took a look around the courtyard to see if there were any hidden formations or means left behind to spy on them.

She wasn’t the only one who did it. The first thing Shang Xia and the rest did when they entered was to cover the entire place with their divine sense. They carefully examined every spot in the courtyard.

Yun Yichen suddenly broke out into a soft chuckle. “Actually, it’s not a bad idea to do some business here, provided that the Three Unity Island lifts the restriction around the island. After all, how many Martial Extermination Realm experts do we have in both our worlds? Are there 500 of us? There might even be close to 800 of us. Whatever it is, we won’t be able to do much.”

Liu Qinglan muttered “I don’t know if there are 800 of us, but there are definitely more than 500. After all, our Tongyou Institution along with the great clans have more than 30 experts at that level. Not to mention the fact that we lost a few of them back on the Manyu Continent.”

“Even if there really are 800 or so Martial Extermination Realm experts, it wouldn’t be worth establishing a permanent trading center here. Much less when this place is stationed outside the heavens.” Yun Yichen shook her head and sighed.

After everyone finally settled down and cleaned up the place, Chu Jia, who was really excited about the whole matter started to kick up a fuss about wanting to set up store to do some business. She even managed to drag Yun Yichen over to help her and they hung a plaque outside where they named the place the ‘Tongyou Hall’.

Originally, Shang Xia thought that they would give it a simple name like the ‘Tongyou Store’ or something. However, he didn’t realize Chu Jia had already named it the Tongyou Hall.

Everyone knew that Chu Jia was basically messing around, and the name truly didn’t matter. As such, they didn’t really bother with her antics.

As the only Formation Grandmaster in the institution, it couldn’t be denied that Chu Jia truly had a ton of treasures on her. She also went to retrieve all the treasures the others had no use of for the time being to stock their newly opened store.

Her actions yielded quite a bit of treasure. It was especially so when she went to Shang Xia to ask for them. All of them knew that he was the richest among all of them, and the treasures he had was something hard for them to fathom. There was no way Chu Jia would let a fat pig like that off.

She not only managed to obtain a large number of low-leveled treasures from him, she also retrieved dozens of rank two talismans he forgot about in the past. He crafted them a long time ago. After digging around, Chu Jia even managed to get Shang Xia to cough up 10 rank three talismans. 2 of his low-grade weapons were also forcefully retrieved by Chu Jia and she managed to convince him to take out a piece of rank four Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman under the guise that she was using it to test the waters.

In just half a day, Chu Jia managed to fully stock the Tongyou Hall and establish themselves as a new store along the street.

Compared to many other stores, the treasures in the Tongyou Hall seemed all over the place. However, they were clearly separated into grades.

Right before Chu Jia really opened the store, Liu Qinglan’s order arrived. “If anyone comes to trade, only accept payment in essence crystals.”

“Essence crystals?” Shang Xia was immediately intrigued. It was the first time he was hearing of it and he asked, “Is that the currency used during the trade fair?”

Liu Qinglan glanced at him from the corner of her eye before muttering, “How long haven’t you been out and about in the past half a year?”

“This... I had been crafting talismans in seclusion in the Tongyou Mysterious World for the past half a year. I completed everything 7 days ago and I only emerged from seclusion 3 days ago..” Shang Xia explained.

“It’s no wonder...” Liu Qinglan added before handing an Embroidered Cloud Case over to Shang Xia. “Deputy Patriarch Shang gave this to me and instructed me to pass it to you after we arrive on the Three Unity Island.”

“Are these essence crystals?” Shang Xia wondered as he opened the case. His divine perception covered the items within and he noticed a bunch of crystals arranged neatly within. World origin was contained in them, and Shang Xia could feel the trace of it that leaked out.

“Huh?” Shang Xia frowned before taking out a single crystal. Playing around with it, he turned to ask Liu Qinglan, “Why will these be here?”

Liu Qinglan replied in a low voice, “You probably recognize them. They’re really similar to the fate dipper fragment you obtained in the Manyu Continent. Of course, they are far from comparable to the purity and amount of world origin contained in a fate dipper fragment.”

Shang Xia didn’t forget those fragments and how they were obtained by the experts of the Spirit Abundance World using the Sacrificial Formation. After hearing what she said, he growled softly, “How did we get these?!”

“Let me make the explanations.” Chu Jia spoke suddenly.

Turning his head, he stared at her.

“After the various powers returned, the Eternal Sect, the Divine Capital Sect, and the Northern Sea Mystic Sect imparted the method to produce these crystals from the world origin we obtained back them. Depending on how long they were refined for, we would be able to obtain low or mid-grade essence crystals. The 3 super factions also mentioned that they would be the only currency used during the trade fair.”

Shang Xia didn’t quite believe the explanation. Unwilling to believe whatever she said, he continued to press for an answer. “Do we truly only use world origin to refine them?! Is there no other price we have to pay? Since that’s the method to produce low to mid-grade essence crystals, what about making high-grade essence crystals? Won’t they just be fate dipper fragments?!”

Chu Jia wasn’t surprised by Shang Xia’s response. Surprisingly, she explained patiently, “Why are you getting all worked up?! They didn’t impart the method to craft high-grade crystals. Also, it might also mean that a fate dipper fragment might be a peak-grade essence crystal. From the way they taught us to evaluate essence crystals, your fate dipper fragment might be worth 10 peak-grade essence crystals.”

Pausing for a second, she continued, “Of course, the method to craft high-grade essence crystal is a massive secret of the 3 super factions. A peak-grade crystal would possess insane value! One might not be able to get one even if they had treasures to trade for it. Moreover, it can be used to nurture

Origin Dippers. That concerns the breakthrough to the Martial Dipper Realm and there is no way to put a price on that.”

Seeing as Shang Xia had finally calmed down, Chu Jia added, “Anyway, it takes an almost negligible amount of world origin in our mysterious world to produce these low to mid-grade crystals. We would only need a day to turn ordinary jade into essence crystals after nurturing them with world origin. Those are low-grade crystals, and they will turn into mid-grade crystals after a hundred days. It’s an extremely simple process.”

“In that case, would a mid-grade essence crystal be worth 100 low-grade ones?” Shang Xia asked while taking out a clear crystal that contained a pale blue mist. He could tell that the density of world origin contained in there was at least a hundred times that of a low-grade essence crystal.

“Exactly.” Chu Jia replied.

There were 300 low-grade essence crystals in the Embroidered Cloud Case Shang Bo gave to him and 5 mid-grade ones. The total value was 800 low-grade essence crystals in total.

Taking a deep breath, Shang Xia muttered, “I wonder how an essence crystal compares in value to the gold coins of silver essence we use...”

Seeing as Shang Xia’s emotions were under control, everyone from the institution heaved a sigh of relief. Smiles eventually returned to their faces.

Even though Shang Xia’s anger wasn’t directed at them, the feeling of oppression they felt from his aura alone was enough to cause their hearts to tremble. Due to that, they gained a better understanding of Shang Xia’s strength.

Liu Qinglan responded, “That’s hard to say. You best not forget that essence crystal contains world origin. Experts who can cultivate using the world origin contained in them have to possess their very own martial will. At the very least, they would have to be in the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm.”

“Could the real reason behind hosting the trade fair before the 3 super factions to get their hands on all the essence crystals we produced?” Shang Xia asked.

Chu Jia chuckled softly in response. Clearly, she was the person in charge of producing essence crystals in the institution as she seemed the most familiar with it. “Even though that’s possible, I don’t think that’s their main goal.”

Without any prompting, she continued, “Even though essence crystals are precious, they are nothing compared to the world origin the various factions received. Our production of essence crystals the past half a year didn’t affect the reserves of our world origin in the slightest. Also, the number of experts who will use crystals as currency for the trade fair might not be large. They should mostly be trading with treasures.”

“Of course, if the 3 super factions wish to obtain those crystals, it wouldn’t be that easy. None of us who came to the trade fair are fools. If they don’t take out some truly precious treasures, no one would spend any.”

Shang Xia nodded slightly in response. “That’s true...”

Clapping her hands suddenly, Chu Jia mentioned, “Alright. Since you have a better understanding of the situation now, I’ll head back to look after the Tongyou Hall! Sister Yichen, won’t you come with me?”

“Of course!” Yun Yichen replied. Before leaving, she took out a wooden box and handed it over to Shang Xia. “Oh yes, my aunt instructed me to pass this to you after we entered the island.”

Receiving the box, Shang Xia removed the restrictions on it. He opened it slightly and world origin immediately leaked out.

It also contained a bunch of low-grade essence crystals. From a single glance, Shang Xia estimated that there were close to 300 of them.

“This...”

He wanted to say something, but Yun Yichen had already run after Chu Jia as they returned to the Tongyou Hall.

Ji Yu and Liu Zhidao also brought out a bamboo case and another wooden box respectively.

Hesitating slightly, Shang Xia asked, “This... Don’t tell me...”

Ji Yu shook his head and laughed softly, “I also received an order from my patriarch to hand this bamboo case to you after we arrived...”

Liu Zhidao forced a laugh and added, “None of us knew that we would all be doing this. Patriarch Liu Zhiyuan also told me to do the same. I didn’t know what was contained in it back then.”

Shang Xia nodded slightly and received both items before they returned to their rooms to cultivate.

The bamboo case and wooden box were ordinary artifacts that were sealed with a spiritual seal. There were 500 low-grade essence crystals in the bamboo case and 200 low-grade essence crystals in the wooden box.

Shang Xia didn’t reject them as he could guess that their trip to the Three Unity Island was like a small test given to him by the various patriarchs. It could be considered a pleasant surprise after he brought Ji Yu, Liu Zhidao, and Yun Yichen over to the island. However, he also knew that they were truly supporting him in his effort to buy treasures that would assist in his cultivation.

A feeling of gratitude filled Shang Xia’s heart no matter how many essence crystals he received from each of them.

After he kept them, he noticed Liu Qinglan standing silently at the side. She chuckled softly in amusement. “There’s no need to rush. There’s still something great waiting for you.”

“Oh?” Shang Xia gasped in shock. However, he couldn’t hide the pleasant surprise he was feeling.

“Those were just the support your Shang Clan and the other clans have given to you. As our institution’s Talisman Grandmaster, teacher, and the most outstanding disciple

our institution has produced in its entire history, how could the patriarch not show some sincerity?"

"Oh... Hehehe..." Shang Xia grinned.

Chapter 636: Union of the

After everyone else had finally left, Shang Xia felt a strange feeling in his heart as he stood alone in the center of the courtyard.

In the Embroidered Cloud Case he received from Liu Qinglan, there were 1000 low-grade essence crystals and 5 mid-grade ones.

The 1000 low-grade essence crystals were provided by the institution, while the extra 5 mid-grade essence crystals had been given to him by Kou Chongxue personally.

From the attitudes of the institution and the 4 great clans, Shang Xia could tell that they only had a single objective at the moment. They were gathering all their efforts to help Shang Xia break through to the Martial Dipper Realm!

If he were to fail in his attempt to advance, everything they provided would go to waste

If he were to succeed, he would owe all of them a massive favor. In the future, he would have to take on the responsibility of supporting and protecting the institution and the various great clans from any trouble. It wouldn't be an easy matter either.

Those things aside, Shang Xia could also feel the severity of the situation by how anxious they were to assist him in his breakthrough.

It didn't matter if it was the Tongyou Institution or the four great clans. They might have already possessed 3 Martial Dipper Realm experts, but they were still pushing for the birth of a fourth.

Kou Chongxue, Ji Wenlong, Shang Bo, Yun Jing...

All of them seemed to feel a sense of urgency like never before and they were using all sorts of methods to increase their strength at the earliest opportunity even if it meant taking a risk...

In the past, Kou Chongxue nearly lost his life in his attempt to enter the Martial Dipper Realm.

To obtain Shang Bo's Grand Silk Silver Sand Fate Dipper, he was plotted against by his enemies and was attacked by Martial Dipper Realm experts.

In order to enter the Martial Dipper Realm, Ji Wenlong and the upper echelons of the institution risked the destruction of the Tongyou City to draw over the power of the Origin Tide from the battlefield between the two worlds.

As for Shang Bo, the Tongyou Institution bet almost everything on their expedition to the Manyu Continent. They sent nearly all their Martial Extermination Realm experts over to achieve their goal.

In the past, Shang Xia felt that the Tongyou Institution was doing all it could as it was protecting the You Continent because of the collision of the worlds and the invasion from those of the Azure Spiritual World.

After reaching his current level, he discovered that Kou Chongxue was actually pushing for everyone to get stronger to get back on those who sacrificed the border continents for their sake of growing stronger...

Now, there was the imminent invasion of the Spirit Abundance World.

Shang Xia couldn't help but shake his head slightly. It was too early for him to think of those things. The most important thing he had to do was to get ready to enter the Martial Dipper Realm. He could care about everything after advancing!

Tossing those random thoughts away, Shang Xia started to look at the treasures he already obtained so that he could make a list of what he required during the trade fair.

Currently, he had 3300 worth of essence crystals. Of those 2300 were low-grade essence crystals and he had 10 mid-grade ones.

Actually, he had no clue how much purchasing power they held. Even Liu Qinglan and the others weren't too sure.

Essence crystals appeared half a year ago, and there would definitely be some ambitious people using them as a newfound currency to trade for goods. Even so, no one had an actual grasp of what they were worth. The trade fair was probably going to be the best chance they would get to ascertain the value of the crystals. That was also most likely one of the main goals of the three super factions.

With the exception of Chu Jia who was running around in excitement at the opening of the Tongyou Hall and Yun Yichen who was dragged along to help her, Liu Qinglan, Ji Yu, and Liu Zhidao chose to go around to gather some intelligence.

Not too long later, Liu Qinglan returned with a solemn expression.

She looked for Shang Xia and stated immediately, "We previously estimated that there might not be 800 Martial Extermination Realm experts in our worlds. You can head out there to take a look. Right now, this island has already gathered close to 100 of them. This is merely 1 of the 3 islands that make up the Three Unity Island and there will definitely be more people arriving. After the merger of the islands, there should be close to 400 of us."

"That's only counting the experts who arrived on the Three Unity Island. There are tons of experts who didn't have the qualifications to come over and failed to locate the island! Our institution alone has close to 30 experts at that level. Only 6 of us came. If we use the same percentage to calculate the number of experts from the other factions, there will definitely be more than 1000 of them out there! In fact, the total number of Martial Extermination Realm experts in our worlds might be closer to 1500..." Liu Qinglan added.

Shang Xia was shocked at the news. He didn't quite believe her and he gasped, "Are you sure?! What if the other factions chose to send more people with the invitation they received?"

Liu Qinglan growled. "What if it's the other way around?"

Shang Xia fell silent instantly.

Liu Qinglan sighed softly, “Perhaps we have always been underestimating the various holy lands. Their foundations and hidden strength is far from what is revealed. A single holy land out there might be hiding too many things. Not to mention the fact that one’s lifespan would extend up to 100 years after reaching the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm. In fact, there might be some who can live for 150 years or so! Those who reached the fourth layer would be able to live past 200 years easily if they weren’t killed along the way! The lifespans of Martial Dipper Realm experts are even more exaggerated!”

“The experts we normally see aren’t too old. We hardly see any past 100 years old... Where did they all go? They can’t possibly have all died along the way. One can imagine that they would be hiding in those holy lands out there... Every single one of those holy lands out here has a history that goes back 300 to 500 years... With how long they have existed for, how many hidden experts would they possess?” Liu Qinglan analyzed. She turned to look at Shang Xia as she continued, “Just one of the continents on our Azure Origin World stretches for more than ten thousand miles. There are millions upon millions of lives living on one single continent... Now you should understand why everyone is sparing no effort in supporting your breakthrough to the Martial Dipper Realm.”

Shang Xia remained silent but he nodded while maintaining a serious expression.

Ji Yu left the residence after Liu Qinglan returned. He went around the island to look around before summarizing whatever he learned to the others. “The street seems to be a little more lively than before. More stores are appearing and it’s not hard to see that everyone is acting extremely cautiously. Not many deals have taken place and there aren’t many using essence crystals. Most of them out there are trading treasures with each other.”

“Of course, many stores out there hope to receive essence crystals as payment. Unfortunately, they have no idea the worth of one and they would probably charge higher prices in order not to make a loss...” Ji Yu muttered. After thinking for a second, he added, “It’s not hard to see the attitude of the three super factions. They probably plan to push for the use of essence crystals...”

Shang Xia broke into laughter suddenly. “I wonder how the business of our Tongyou Hall is doing...”

Ji Yu wanted to roar with laughter, but he managed to control himself. Forcing down the wide grin on his face, he replied, “Well, we’re definitely asking for essence crystals. However, our prices are exceptionally high.”

Shang Xia widened his eyes slightly before chuckling mirthlessly.

After chatting with Ji Yu for a little more, Liu Zhidao also made his return. The moment he stepped foot into the courtyard, he yelled, “Another island is approaching! Looks like we’re about to merge with it!”

Shang Xia and Ji Yu ran over to him as quickly as they could. Liu Qinglan, Chu Jia, and Yun Yichen appeared from different parts of the residence and gathered in the courtyard after hearing what he said.

“Even if another island approaches, that just makes 2. The third island isn’t here yet...” Chu Jia snorted softly. She felt that Liu Zhidao was overreacting and felt a trace of irritation in her heart. However, she was just annoyed that the Tongyou Hall hadn’t made any money yet. Her enthusiasm took a huge hit and she felt as though someone poured a bucket of cold water over her head.

Of course, Liu Zhidao wouldn’t care about what she said at the moment. “Since 2 islands will be merging, wouldn’t that mean that the third is close by?”

Liu Qinglan laughed softly. “Alright, alright. Let’s head out to take a look. It’s definitely going to be a sight to see...”

Chu Jia snorted again at the side. “The merging of the island won’t be anything interesting! I’ll head back to the Tongyou Hall! Now that the other island is about to join the one we’re on, there will definitely be more people on the island. Our business might start to boom!”

After she spoke, she turned to leave.

Yun Yichen smiled at the others before turning to follow her.

At the end of the day, the mighty Formation Grandmaster Chu Jia had no idea how to do business. Yun Yichen was the one doing everything and she even stood at the entrance of the store to pull in some customers.

With Chu Jia and Yun Yichen gone, Shang Xia and the others left the residence and stood on the street. From where they stood, they could see another island that was similar in size and shape to the island they were standing on approaching slowly and carefully. They eventually connected with each other.

The moment they did, everyone felt the ground beneath their feet shaking slightly. A low rumble also came from the earth.

In the next instant, more people appeared around the region where the islands were joined. They laid special stone boards covered in runes to prevent the islands from separating.

Throughout the entire process, Shang Xia could feel that the stone boards were completely useless. Instead, there was a massive object beneath the lands that truly connected both islands.

Protection barriers that enveloped both islands started to merge before turning into one giant screen.

Only then did both islands truly merge.

With one end of the street connected to the other side, experts from either side swarmed over to the other.

The experts of the Tongyou Institution nodded at each other before heading out to do their own thing.

Shang Xia strolled about alone and examined the people around him. It didn’t take long before he was distracted by a disturbance from the other side.

Raising his eyebrows, he extended his divine perception over. He quickly discovered a third island approaching them.

Chapter 637: Influx of Low Leveled Cultivators

When the third island finally filled the last missing part of the island, a circular landmass 20 miles in diameter was finally formed.

The street Shang Xia and the others were on was finally complete, and it formed a giant circle.

However, his attention was no longer on the island and neither was it on the Martial Extermination Realm experts on the island. Instead, he focused on the patch of land in the middle of the island along with the flattened area around it.

After the fusion, the area he was paying attention to also became a region of flat land. It was as though it was there in preparation of the massive object to come.

Maybe, that was where the actual trade fair would be taking place.

As the thought flashed through his mind, Shang Xia felt more and more confident that his guess was correct.

In actuality, when everyone else on the island noticed the strangeness of that region, they had the same guess as Shang Xia.

Shang Xia had already left the original island he was on. He strolled about the streets of the other islands. But he noticed that the stores looked basically the same.

Those experts that came to the Three Unity Island definitely wouldn't laze around or enter secluded cultivation. As such, there were many people walking around.

Not everyone was reassured that nothing would happen during the trade fair they hosted and most of them were scouting out the area for themselves.

All of a sudden, a cry of surprise tore through the air, catching Shang Xia's attention.

When he turned to look, he noticed a giant ship rising slowly from below the island. It was massive, and it eventually rested at the side of the Three Unity Island.

Paths connecting the ship to the Three Unity Island were quickly formed and a huge number of experts emerged from the ship to enter the island. Their chatter could be heard faintly in the air as they made their way over.

"This... These are Martial Intent Realm cultivators! Huh? There are even several Martial Extremity Realm cultivators among them!" Shang Xia stared at the group of incoming cultivators and frowned.

The number of people who noticed the group of incoming experts grew.

"Huh? Why are there so many low-leveled cultivators?"

"What's the matter with the giant ship?"

"Cultivators of the Azure Spiritual World! They are all from the Azure Spiritual World!"

“Looks like there are hundreds of them!”

“They actually made a giant ship that can travel through space... What’s the point of giving us our invitation then?!”

“What the hell is going on with this trade fair...”

“The Three Unity Island is only going to get livelier now.!”

“Someone else is coming off the giant ship! They look like the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect!”

“Hey, if they’re able to send their lower-leveled cultivators over like that, what about the Eternal Sect and Divine Capital Sect?”

“Hiss...”

“...”

Watching the other cultivators pour into the island, everyone had their own opinions on the matter. Shang Xia was shocked by what the Northern Sea Mystic Sect did too. The street he was on immediately became a lot more crowded.

“Hmm... If I knew this would happen, I would have left a lot more treasures with Chu Jia...” Shang Xia muttered to himself as he touched his sleeves.

That was where he stored the Embroidered Cloud Case that contained his Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman. Shang Xia stared at the giant ship in the distance and suddenly felt as though his talismans had lost some of their appeal.

Many people stared in the direction of the ship. As more and more experts poured out, there were even some who went over to chat with the experts of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect they were familiar with.

A piece of news started to spread across the island. It might have been spread by those who left the ship, but it didn’t matter at the end of the day. It was information on the giant ship and everyone learned that it was built by the Northern Sea Mystic Sect specifically for the trade fair. It can ferry 1000 people at once, and it left the Lenghu City where the Northern Sea Mystic Sect was located and it flew straight for the Three Unity Island without stopping anywhere else in space.

This time, it brought the lower-leveled cultivators from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect along with several experts of the Northern Sea Continent. It showed that they didn’t reject outsiders from coming along and all they wanted were essence crystals as a fee.

A one way trip would cost 3 essence crystals while a return trip would cost 6.

Shang Xia made his calculations and realized that if they filled the entire ship up with people, they would be able to earn 3000 essence crystals at the very least. If everyone on board paid for a round trip, they would easily earn 6000 essence crystals! That would mean that if the ship made 4 trips each year, they would earn 24000 essence crystals easily!

Carefully touching another Embroidered Cloud Case in his sleeves, that was where he kept the 3300 essence crystals Kou Chongxue and the rest had given him.

Originally, he felt that it was a huge sum. Now, it didn't seem that amazing any longer...

Moreover, the Northern Sea Mystic Sect wasn't the only super faction out there. If they were able to create the ship, what about the Eternal Sect and Divine Capital Sect?

Wouldn't the other 2 super factions be able to do the same thing?!

Shang Xia stared at the Northern Sea Mystic Sect's ship before hurrying back in another direction.

The Three Unity Island was created by the Eternal Sect, the Divine Capital Sect, and the Northern Sea Mystic Sect. They sliced out a part of the island they obtained from the Manyu Continent, and the island Shang Xia and members of the Tongyou Institution were on belonged to the Divine Capital Sect. When they first boarded the island, they decided to call it the "Divine Capital islet"

Earlier, Shang Xia noticed the docking of the giant ship when he was on the Northern Sea Islet, and with nothing left to do, he chose to head over to the last of the 3 islands, the Eternal islet.

Indeed... Not too long after he arrived, he heard a familiar clamor coming from the side.

The only difference this time was that a giant ship didn't appear. Instead, a massive rainbow appeared from the void before connecting to the side of the Three Unity Island to form a rainbow bridge. Cultivators quickly stepped off the bridge and onto the island.

When everyone had stepped off the bridge, the other end of the rainbow bridge started to retract towards the island before it turned into a scarf-like treasure that hung by the side of the island.

Soon, Shang Xia also learned that the Eternal Sect was doing the same thing as the Northern Sea Mystic Sect. However, they only charged 5 essence crystals for a return trip.

Unfortunately, the number of cultivators the rainbow bridge could bring was less than the Northern Sea Mystic Sect's giant ship. They could bring close to 700 people or so, and they could also use it once every 3 months.

Shang Xia turned in the direction of the Divine Capital Islet the next moment. With the Northern Sea Mystic Sect revealing their giant ship and the Eternal Sect showing off their rainbow bridge, the Divine Capital Sect definitely had their own means of transport. Moreover, they should have already arrived.

Returning to the Divine Capital Islet, Shang Xia could feel that the streets had become a lot busier than before.

One had to know that the stores along the street were merely set up for fun by those Martial Extermination Realm experts. They didn't expect anyone to buy anything as everyone on the island were of the same cultivation level. As such, they brought out all the junk they couldn't use.

Now that lower-leveled cultivators from the 3 super factions and their continents had arrived, things had changed.

Those 'junk' that couldn't catch the eye of other experts at the Martial Extermination Realm were actually precious treasures cultivators in the Martial Intent Realm could use! It might even be related to their breakthrough directly! They might need it urgently to craft themselves a graded weapon, or they might be using it to refine medicine related to their cultivation...

Even though they had to pay a certain price to obtain the ‘junk’ of the Martial Extermination Realm experts in the stores, the lower-leveled cultivators were more than willing to do so. After all, if they could only trade with their peers, they might not be able to get the treasures they require even if they had the money to do so!

As such, the current situation on the Three Unity Island was a once in a lifetime opportunity for those lower-leveled cultivators!

Too bad the chance was only given to cultivators of the 3 super factions...

As Shang Xia continued to walk along the street, he extended his divine perception fully. He was trying his luck to see if he could discover any treasures he could use, but he eventually gave up on the idea.

Many people laid down a certain restriction that prevented anyone else from spying on their store. One would only be able to see what was in stock after physically entering.

Those who didn’t maintain the restriction would usually station a Martial Extermination Realm expert in the area. Obviously, no one would be able to pick any treasures up for cheap...

Occasionally, Shang Xia would discover a treasure or two. However, the essence crystals they wanted in exchange seemed to be on the higher side as the value of it hadn’t been fixed yet.

Just like that, Shang Xia made a complete round around the Three Unity Island. When he finally returned, he noticed that the others had arrived before him. Chu Jia was trembling in excitement as she gestured wildly to the rest of them.

“From the looks of it, the Tongyou Hall did pretty well?” Shang Xia could guess why she was so happy and he teased the moment he returned.

At that moment, Shang Xia felt that the high and mighty Formation Grandmaster of the institution was acting like a little girl who was high on a buzz. The air of a teacher or an elder was nowhere to be seen around her!

Turning to Shang Xia, she roared with laughter. “Of course! The cultivators sent by the Divine Capital Sect basically swept away every single treasure on the street including ours! They knew that the prices were slightly inflated, but they didn’t care anyway! We even managed to gain quite a few essence crystals... Oh right. Your Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman also sold for a number of essence crystals!”

Chapter 638: You Snooze You Lose

When Shang Xia heard that Chu Jia managed to sell his Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman, he was shocked indeed.

However, he didn’t start asking about it immediately. Instead, he turned to Liu Qinglan. “Instructor, how did the Divine Capital Sect send their disciples onto the island?”

“I didn’t see it for myself, but I heard from the others that the Divine Capital Sect made a formation on the island. A void door appeared above the island as low-leveled cultivators from the Divine Capital Sect emerged from within.” Liu Qinglan explained.

“Spatial travel? Did their Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors make a move?” Shang Xia wondered.

At the side, Chu Jia piped up, “Nope. They probably laid down the formation a long time ago and one of their Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors built a spatial passage for them. With that, they summoned the passage when the time came and hundreds of people came pouring out. With that, they would be able to use the passage from time to time.”

Pausing for a second, she continued, “Of course, the spatial passage exhausts a great deal of energy to remain open. There is no way they can use it wantonly. The only benefit of it is that they don’t need a Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor to act personally to send people over.”

“I guess that’s why the Divine Capital Sect charges 5 essence crystals for whoever uses their “Space Anchor Door” to make a round trip over from the Azure Origin World. Also, they can only open the passage every 3 months or so.” Chu Jia added.

The Space Anchor Door was what the Divine Capital Sect called it, and Shang Xia sighed in response, “From the looks of it, only the 3 super factions are able to send their low-leveled cultivators over to the Three Unity Island...”

He told the others about the rainbow bridge he saw over at the Eternal Islet and the giant ship the Northern Sea Mystic Sect used.

A bitter smile appeared on Ji Yu’s face. “It was so difficult for people like us to arrive on the Three Unity Island. They managed to bring their disciples in the Martial Intent Realm and Martial Extremity Realm over so easily... This...”

Shaking his head, Ji Yu no longer continued. However, everyone knew what he meant.

Liu Zhidao added at the side, “Do you think any other factions will be able to do what they did and send their low-leveled cultivators over to the Three Unity Island that way?”

He seemed to know what everyone else would say and he quickly added, “Well... The super factions didn’t say that we couldn’t bring low-leveled cultivators with us when they handed out the invitations. It only stated that the island was located in space. This is the first trade fair they are holding and the rest of the powers will have to be a little cautious when dealing with it. I guess they have to send their Martial Extermination Realm experts over to take a look and they wouldn’t spend so much to send their low-level disciples over...”

Shang Xia shook his head suddenly. “Yeah. Even if they have a method to do so, they won’t use it anytime soon.”

Seeing as everyone had turned to him, Shang Xia sighed softly, “With the strong foundations of the 3 super factions, they can probably pay the price to send their low-leveled disciples up here. Not every faction can withstand such a great burden. Moreover, the 3 super factions might not allow anyone else to have a slice of the pie considering the fact that they would earn a bunch of essence crystals every 3 months if they used their own method to transport others over...”

After he spoke, Shang Xia analyzed the number of essence crystals the other 2 factions charged and everyone was dumbfounded.

Liu Qinglan muttered to herself, “It’s no wonder... It’s no wonder they are pushing for us to use essence crystals on the island!”

Chu Jia started to grumble. “I thought that I sold the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman and made a massive profit! Now that I think about it, it’s nothing when compared to the thousands of essence crystals they earn each time!”

Even though everyone felt affected by the means the 3 super factions possessed, Shang Xia didn’t think it was that bad. He quickly caught onto the fact that Chu Jia said she made massive profits when selling his Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman and he quickly asked, “Oh right. I didn’t ask you earlier, but how much did you sell my talisman for?”

Glancing at him from the corner of her eye, she pouted slightly and growled, “50 essence crystals. Sister Yichen used quite a lot of effort to convince a second layer Martial Extermination Realm expert to buy it at that price. Right now, even if you take out another Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman, you won’t be able to sell it for that price.”

Shang Xia chuckled in response, “50 essence crystals isn’t too bad!”

“Can you act a little bit more deserving of your status? Are you happy with 50 essence crystals?! Even if you made 100 of them, you’ll only be able to make as much as the Divine Capital Sect when they open their Space Anchor Door once!” Chu Jia rolled her eyes at Shang Xia before she continued, “Your talisman can’t kill enemies, and it can’t protect the user either. It can only be used to run away! In the past, we can say that the talisman can be used to travel to the Three Unity Island. Now that a safe method of transport has been established, no one would risk it and travel through space!”

Shang Xia smiled. “That might not be the case. Anyone who can use the Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman has to be in the Martial Extermination Realm. Even though not many people can use it, you need to think about how many cultivators would be willing to restrict themselves to the routes owned by the 3 super factions?”

His words caused many of them to sink into thought.

Finally calming down to analyze the situation, everyone discovered that even though the 3 super factions provided a safe way for people to travel back to their worlds, not everyone would use it. Using themselves as an example, they would never follow any of the 3 super factions back.

Similarly, the experts of the various factions would think the same way.

All of a sudden, Ji Yu spoke up again. “There’s something I don’t quite understand. Why must the trade fair be held in space? Now that our worlds are fusing rapidly, there is just a thin spatial barrier left that separates us. We can shatter it easily! Under such circumstances, there would definitely be a common region that we can use to hold such events. Cultivators of all levels would be able to head over and do their business there. They won’t have to travel all the way into space. Wouldn’t that be better?”

Shang Xia and Liu Qinglan exchanged glances before breaking out into laughter.

Ji Yu heard them and realized that he might have asked a stupid question and he raised his eyebrows in confusion. “What’s the matter?”

Chu Jia was also laughing at the side. “Didn’t we already mention it? The 3 super factions can earn thousands of essence crystals just by transporting people over! If they hold it down there, everyone can make their way over alone. Why would they pay for transportation?”

“Oh...” Ji Yu chuckled awkwardly.

“Oh course, that’s not all...” Shang Xia added before starting his explanation. “A single continent in the Azure Origin World spans ten thousand miles or more. Ignoring our border continents, even the smallest Yan Continent is a massive existence. I might not know too much about the Azure Spiritual World, but it should be similar to our world. It’s just too damn massive!”

Shang Xia turned to look at Ji Yu and continued, “Uncle Yu, didn’t you feel that the worlds became a lot smaller the moment you left the Beyond Heavens Pavilion?”

“Smaller? Yeah, but that’s because of the twisting of space. Is that how our world is concealed in the sea of stars?” Ji Yu wondered out loud.

“Exactly. Because of the twisting of space, one would find it hard to enter and leave the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. That is also the reason we managed to travel over to the Three Unity Island. The distance between us was greatly reduced! It’s much shorter than crossing the various continents in our world! The trade fair that would be held became much more convenient to get to.”

After hearing the explanation, Ji Yu finally understood the situation.

The time they spent traveling to the Three Unity Island through the Beyond Heavens Pavilion would add up to 4 days at best.

If the trade fair was held in the Divine Capital Sect in the Azure Origin World, everyone would probably need half a month or so even if they traveled without rest.

There were also many continents further away, and that wasn’t taking into account the possibility that the trade fair might be held in the Azure Spiritual World. The distance was ridiculous if they thought about it.

Of course, Shang Xia and Liu Qinglan also thought of another reason, but they were unwilling to reveal it at the moment.

That was because the hosting of the trade fair on the Three Unity Island symbolized a more important event, and that was the unity of the 3 super factions!

The 3 super factions that stood at the peak of their worlds with experts at the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm at the helm seemed to have reached some sort of alliance! None of the other factions had the authority or qualifications to go against anything they decided! That was a message they were sending to the others!

The transportation of cultivators over to the Three Unity Island was a great example of that.

In reality, that should be the true message the 3 super factions wanted to send by hosting the trade fair on the Three Unity Island!

Chu Jia sighed helplessly, “How annoying! The 3 factions took all the benefits!”

“That might not necessarily be true...” Shang Xia grinned.

Turning to stare at him aggressively, Chu Jia growled, “What ideas do you have? Are you planning to challenge them and seal a portion of benefits away from them?”

“Of course we can’t mess with the 3 super factions. However, we can set our sights on the other factions...” Shang Xia forced a smile and explained.

Liu Qinglan raised an eyebrow curiously and asked, “how would we do that?”

Clearing his throat, Shang Xia continued, “I believe everyone present has comprehended their unique path of cultivation. However, no matter what method we used, I believe all of you would have remembered the various advancement formulas you used to get to where you are today. It doesn’t matter what rank it is, and it doesn’t matter if you actually know the true process... At the very least, you should recall the type of spiritual treasures or herbs you used...”

A deep frown formed on Liu Zhidao’s face. “What the hell are you saying? No matter what recipe it is, all of us swore to keep it a secret! Even recipes of ordinary healing medicine cannot be leaked!”

“I’m not telling all of you to reveal those recipes and formulas! In fact, we should write down all the treasures or herbs we might require and obtain as many of them as possible! After all, those who are here are in the Martial Extermination Realm. They wouldn’t care about lower-leveled treasures or herbs we require. Even if we need to pay a little more, it’s worth it! There are hundreds of experts here and they have all sorts of things. It’s the best time for us to sweep up all the treasures the cultivators the disciples our Tongyou Institution might require. This way, we can help those in the Martial Extremity Realm and Martial Intent Realm to break through their bottleneck!”

Liu Qinglan nodded and agreed immediately. “We can do that. Since the 3 super factions took away the greatest benefit, we have to take anything we can get!”

“Since that’s the case, we better start moving soon. If we can think of this, other factions should come up with the same idea soon. It’s just a matter of who strikes first.” Shang Xia hurriedly reminded the others.

Chapter 639: Breakthrough! Rank One Talisman Seal!

Since the 3 super factions sent close to 2000 low-leveled cultivators onto the Three Unity Island, the street was bustling with activity. Under the guise of the excitement, the atmosphere between cultivators of different factions was turning a little strange.

In the courtyard that belonged to the Tongyou Institution, not a single person could be seen other than Chu Jia who was manning the Tongyou Hall. They started to buy rank two and three spiritual treasures in bulk and it was especially so when it came to treasures that were related to common cultivation methods in the You Continent. That was their main goal.

Even though a portion of the money everyone brought to the Three Unity Island had been given to Shang Xia, they still had some. There was no way their clan or the institution would leave them with nothing. Also, they also had treasures they could use to trade for stuff.

Before they left, Shang Xia suggested giving everyone some essence crystals to buy everything they could. However, he was immediately rejected by them all.

Their operation seemed to be going smoothly. All of them went about and bought a bunch of cultivation treasures without caring too much about getting the most value out of their trades. They quickly gathered a batch of resources that low-leveled cultivators back in the institution could use.

However, everyone quickly caught on. They quickly kept treasures that were meant for the low-leveled cultivators.

When every faction was keeping their treasures, they sent their own experts out to purchase whatever they could from other people. With the demand rapidly increasing and supply dwindling, cultivation resources for those under the Martial Extermination Realm inflated to ridiculous prices.

“Luckily we acted quickly. We managed to obtain a bunch of rare treasures... The students in the institution are really lucky. From what I estimate, we can probably craft around 50 rank two advancement medicine and 20 rank three advancement medicine...” Liu Qinglan summarized. As the Head Instructor of the Upper Division, she was the happiest of them all.

Even though it was a mere estimate, one could imagine how much the strength of the institution would rise after they brought back the treasures. Of course, a portion of whatever they crafted would have to go to the four great clans, but it was still a considerable advantage for the institution!

“It’s no longer worth buying low-leveled treasures. Let’s talk about what would happen next. Do you think the entire event will end just like that?” Chu Jia asked. She was a little annoyed after all the time she spent in the Tongyou Hall and Yun Yichen quickly noticed it. She immediately took over Chu Jia’s place after she returned.

A smile appeared on Liu Qinglan’s face. “That’s not possible. Since they made such a huge ruckus, they won’t end it after everyone obtains low-level cultivation treasures. Did you notice that rank four treasures haven’t been appearing for some time now? Everyone is waiting for the next move...”

Ji Yu nodded in agreement. “The higher level the cultivation treasure, the more rarely it would be seen. It’s difficult for anyone, or any faction, to gather all the treasures they need. That is why trading it with others is the most effective move. With the trade fair hosted by the 3 super factions this time, every faction will definitely grow stronger.”

Liu Zhidao also smiled at the side. “In other words, every single Martial Extermination Realm expert has probably brought over a bunch of treasures and they are just waiting for the final event.”

“So that’s what’s going on... What will the 3 super factions move on to?” Chu Jia asked.

Shang Xia raised an eyebrow and mentioned, “Did any of you notice the space in the middle of the Three Unity Island? It looks like it has been prepared for some specific reason!”

Liu Qinglan nodded and added, "What do you think it will be? Do you think it's going to be a massive plaza for everyone to mingle around?"

"I'm afraid only they know what it will be used for. Looking at the current situation, they shouldn't keep us waiting for too long." Shang Xia muttered.

After obtaining the batch of cultivation treasures, the entire group no longer had anything else to do and they went about doing their own thing.

Yun Yichen helped Chu Jia man the Tongyou Hall as per usual. Even though they no longer sold anything important, Chu Jia made several low-leveled array flags and stuff like that to sell. She also gathered several low-leveled treasures related to talisman crafting from Shang Xia to attract more customers. Business in the Tongyou Hall wasn't too bad.

"If we set up a permanent shop here to gather treasures we might need, it's actually not a very bad idea... It's a long term method we can use to trade with the others..." Yun Yichen summarized.

Liu Qinglan, Ji Yu, and Liu Zhidao went to walk around the island. They could expand their horizons while they tried to make new friends.

Shang Xia was the only one who remained in his room. He entered seclusion in his room as he thought back to the talisman seals he had been trying to create for the longest time.

In his room, Shang Xia was observing a seal made from fragments of the Impaled Rock.

There was dust on the tablet and 2 other broken pieces that were destroyed because of a mistake he made during their crafting process earlier.

However, the seal in his hand was different from the rest. After he carved out the final stroke with an intricate carving knife, the talisman seal was complete.

Next came the time for him to verify his guess.

In the past, Shang Xia carried out countless experiments in the years that passed. The number of failed pieces ran up into the dozens.

Luckily, the Impaled Stone that used to house the Abyssal Blade was massive. There were also many tiny pieces that broke off that Shang Xia used to practice his carving skills.

Even so, Shang Xia still felt his heart aching whenever he failed. The quality of the Impaled Stone wasn't low, and it would be extremely difficult to obtain another one like it!

After blowing on the rock in his hand to reveal the carving he made, an ordinary rank one Wind Arrow Talisman Seal was revealed.

"Let's see if this works!" Shang Xia muttered to himself before retrieving a small case of rank one ink. He pressed it carefully down before applying pressure. Taking out a piece of rank one talisman paper, he took a deep breath as a look of apprehension flashed in his eyes. He slowly brought the seal over and stamped it on the talisman paper. Afraid it wasn't enough, he even pressed heavily on the back of the seal.

Throughout the entire process, Shang Xia poured his extermination qi into the seal without holding anything back just for a chance that it would work.

This time, the seal didn't crack, and neither did it explode into tiny fragments...

A trace of hesitation flashed in his eyes before he eventually lifted the seal. A squarish seal could be seen imprinted on the talisman paper.

Excitement started to buzz in Shang Xia's heart when he noticed the spiritual qi rolling off the talisman paper. It was steady and showed no signs of crumbling!

At the very least, the Wind Arrow Talisman looked complete!

As a Talisman Grandmaster, Shang Xia could determine that the talisman was a success. However, he still felt the need to test it out personally.

Maybe it was because of his excitement, but he flung the talisman out without warning.

A green wind arrow appeared above the talisman before shooting into the window of Shang Xia's room. Even though it didn't pierce through the restriction that covered it, a heavy thud filled the air.

Shang Xia expected as much when he tossed out the talisman, but nothing beat seeing it with his own eyes. He felt uncontrollable excitement and he swung his fist downward happily. He didn't control his strength properly and the extermination qi in his palm leaked out, producing a clear explosion.

"Hey! What are you doing in there?! Did something happen?" Chu Jia's voice came from outside.

"Oh! It's nothing! I was just practicing a new method of crafting talismans!" Shang Xia suppressed his excitement and said casually.

"You've been in there for such a long time! Aren't you coming out to breathe some fresh air?" Chu Jia asked again. From the volume of her voice, it seemed as though she was walking closer to his room.

Feeling a lot calmer, Shang Xia responded, "It's alright! I still need to refine my method. Many thanks for Teacher Chu's care and concern!"

"Hmm... You're acting all weird... I wonder what you're up to in there!" Chu Jia muttered to herself. This time, she was a lot softer and she seemed to be leaving.

Holding the Wind Arrow Talisman Seal in his hand, Shang Xia raised his eyebrows after examining the runes he had carved into it.

Earlier, he wasn't lying when he said that he needed to refine his methods of talisman seal crafting.

After so many attempts, he discovered some ways he could improve it.

The first, and most important thing he had to deal with was the power contained in the talisman! It was a little weaker than a rank one Wind Arrow Talisman.

Next, Shang Xia could feel that he used a lot more inner qi when imprinting the seal than actually crafting the talisman directly.

There was also the matter of how the talisman seal was starting to degrade after he made the first Wind Arrow Talisman.

In other words, the more he used the seal, the greater the damage it would suffer! In the future, the runes he carved on it would disappear and the seal would be rendered useless!

Chapter 640: Tree Union Pagoda

Even though the rank one Wind Arrow Talisman Seal Shang Xia created looked pretty unassuming and possessed some shortcomings, the meaning it held to Shang Xia was extraordinary!

It proved that his theory of crafting talisman seals was actually feasible!

Now that he created a Wind Arrow Talisman Seal, not only would he be able to save some time when crafting the talisman, but the talisman seal could be used by anyone! Even if one wasn't a Talisman Master, they would be able to easily craft a rank one Wind Arrow Talisman!

All they had to do was to pour their inner qi into the seal before stamping it onto a piece of rank one talisman paper after dipping it in ink.

Shang Xia could basically imagine what would happen after news of his talisman seals got out there. A massive storm would sweep through the trade fair!

With a talisman seal in hand, any cultivator would be able to craft talismans.

As of that moment, Shang Xia only created the most elementary rank one Wind Arrow Talisman Seal and was unable to raise any waves. If he wished to prove its viability, he had to create other talisman seals.

Naturally, it would be for the best if he could make a rank two talisman seal. If he could create those of even higher rank, that would be even better!

Well, as the saying goes, haste makes waste. At the very least, he needed to carry out in-depth research on the talisman seal in hand to see if he could make any improvements to it.

After examining it carefully, Shang Xia took out another small chunk of rock that had split off from the Impaled Stone. He started to pour his heart and soul into the crafting of his second Wind Arrow Talisman Seal.

Every time he fully focused on his work, time would pass without him knowing. Luckily, the creation of a rank one talisman seal wasn't too difficult. As a rank four Talisman Grandmaster, Shang Xia only had to replicate what he did before with a little adjustment here and there. The entire process wouldn't prove to be too difficult.

The hardest part of crafting the talisman seal was when he made the first one, and that had already passed.

Close to 2 hours had passed, and Shang Xia carved out the final stroke. Just like that, a second rank one Wind Arrow Talisman Seal had been created.

Dipping it into a bit of ink and stamping it on a piece of talisman paper, the Wind Arrow Talisman that was created possessed much greater power than before. The amount of inner qi required was also reduced. Overall, the second talisman seal was much better than the first.

With the completion of the second seal, Shang Xia proved the viability of crafting them. The first he made wasn't a product of dumb luck.

Holding the second talisman seal in hand, a frown appeared on Shang Xia's face. He noticed that there was another disadvantage. The talisman created by the seal was degrading much faster than when it was personally crafted by a Talisman Master.

To that, Shang Xia quickly found an explanation. No matter what, the talisman seal was just another object. All it did was to imprint the runes onto a talisman paper to create one. When Talisman Masters crafted talismans personally, they would draw every rune carefully. Their inner qi would enter every stroke and remain in the talisman, allowing it to be kept for a much longer time.

However, if they considered the time to craft the talisman and the ease of it, a talisman seal was leagues ahead. With a talisman seal, even cultivators who had no idea how to craft talismans would be able to make one. The only prerequisite was that they wouldn't be able to use talisman seals above their own cultivation level.

From a certain viewpoint, the creation of talisman seals would deal a massive blow to the status of Talisman Masters.

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Ignoring all that, Shang Xia got ready to craft his second type of rank one talisman seal. This time, he chose to make a Stimulation Talisman Seal. The Simulation Talisman was one of the most complicated rank one talismans he learned back then, but it was one he had a lot of experience making.

He might have made 2 rank one Wind Arrow Talisman Seals earlier, but that didn't mean that the creation of the Stimulation Talisman Seal would go as smoothly as before. In fact, he had a hard time crafting it! Even though he succeeded eventually, Shang Xia discovered that the seal would shatter after it was used a few times.

Whatever. Now that he had successfully made his first Stimulation Talisman Seal, making more would be much easier.

As he tried his hand at another talisman seal, he was rudely interrupted mid way by Ji Yi's frantic cries.

"Hurry and come out! A pagoda appeared above the Three Unity Island!" Ji Yu slapped Shang Xia's door as he yelled.

Actually, Shang Xia didn't need to hear his reminder. The moment he opened his door, he discovered a giant 3 storied pagoda hovering in the air above the island.

What truly shocked him was the fact that the pagoda was still expanding as it descended on the land.

His sensitive senses immediately discovered the presence of Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors hovering above the pagoda. However, he could only tell that there were 3 of them at the very least. He wasn't able to examine them properly. All he could feel was that they seemed to be slowly placing the pagoda down in the center of the Three Unity Island.

“This pagoda should be where the trade fair will be taking place. After all, the residences of the various factions from both worlds are built around it.” Ji Yu muttered. Even though he was talking, his gaze never left the descending pagoda.

A low thud rang through the air and the Three Unity Island trembled slightly when the pagoda eventually landed.

Chu Jia, who returned to the courtyard the moment she noticed what was going on, gasped in excitement. “Should we head over to take a look?”

Ji Yu’s heart stirred as well as he turned to look at Shang Xia.

Shang Xia’s gaze landed on 3 different spots in the void above the Three Unity Island before peeling away. After some time, he muttered softly, “I won’t be heading over. You can go and take a look. The 3 super factions will definitely explain what is going on to us anyway.”

“Hmph! What a wet blanket!” Chu Jia snorted when she heard that Shang Xia wasn’t planning to go. “You’ve been acting all suspicious while cooped up in your room! Who knows what you’re doing in there?”

Shang Xia, who was turning to return to his room, paused for a second. He waved his hand casually and tossed something at Chu Jia. “Here. This is something interesting you can play with. You can have it.”

Reaching out to grab it, she looked at the squarish stone slab in her hand that was barely 5 centimeters thick and an inch wide. She saw several runes carved into it and she raised an eyebrow curiously. “What is this?”

Her question was directed at Shang Xia, but all she received in reply was a loud thud when Shang Xia closed his door.

“That looks like a stone talisman!” Ji Yu piped up from the side after glancing at the item in her hand. He immediately recognized those runes on the slab.

“Stone talisman?” Chu Jia felt a wave of excitement. With Shang Xia’s status as a rank four Talisman Grandmaster, she felt that a talisman he gave her couldn’t be that bad.

“Hmm? Something isn’t right. The slab doesn’t look like an ordinary talisman. Did Shang Xia create a new type of talisman?” Ji Yu was someone who had great experience. He quickly discovered something strange with the stone slab in her hand.

Taken aback, Chu Jia also started to examine the runes carved into the stone slab.

“Rank one talisman?!” Chu Jia might not be a Talisman Master, but she was no fool. She could tell the quality of the talisman from the carvings of the runes on it.

The excitement she had for the ‘gift’ Shang Xia handed over disappeared and she nearly deflated like a balloon.

No matter what, she was a Martial Extermination Realm expert. What the hell was the point of giving her a rank one talisman?!

With a trace of annoyance in her heart, she nearly shattered the 'stone talisman' in her hand by tossing it at the ground. She screamed, "You stingy fellow!"

"Teacher Chu, can you let me have a closer look?" Ji Yu asked as he felt that there was something strange about the 'stone talisman' the more he looked at it.

In a fit of anger, she wanted to hand the 'stone talisman' over to Ji Yu and tell him to keep it. However, the words didn't leave her lips. Raising her hand slowly, she passed the slab over.

Flipping the stone slab in his hand around, Ji Yu examined it carefully. After some time, he raised his head with his eyes wide in shock and he exclaimed, "Teacher Chu, do you have a feeling that this 'stone talisman' slightly resembles a seal?"

"Seal?!" Chu Jia snatched the stone slab back and took a closer look at it. Only then did she realize that the carvings were inverted. A frown formed on her face and she muttered in confusion, "Seal? What the hell is he up to? Why didn't he explain it before going back to his room?"

Chu Jia thought about it for a second before keeping the stone slab carefully. Next, she asked casually, "Oh right, Do you know what talisman is carved on here?"

Ji Yu seemed to be deep in thought as he muttered absentmindedly, "Oh. Yeah, that looks like a rank one Stimulation Talisman."

Turning around, she started to head out of the courtyard. However, her footsteps seemed to be in disarray. It was as though she was in a hurry.

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One of the reasons Shang Xia tossed the Stimulation Talisman Seal to Chu Jia was because of a sudden impulse, but the other was because the talisman seal wasn't as good as he had thought. He planned to make a second one right away.

The appearance of the pagoda and the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors didn't surprise Shang Xia in the slightest. If he wasn't wrong, the trade fair would take place within the pagoda. Before that could happen, the 3 super factions would probably send some members over to explain the process to them.

Even though a slight disturbance was running through the Three Unity Island, nothing could distract Shang Xia from crafting his second talisman seal.

He had the experience of crafting his first rank one Stimulation Talisman Seal, and the process became much smoother when he did it a second time. The completed product was much better than the first.

After he was done, Shang Xia started to set his sights on crafting rank two talisman seals.

He might not have mastered the art of crafting rank one talisman seals, but he couldn't care less! After all, crafting rank one talisman seals was a colossal waste of resources!

The quality of the Impaled Stone was extremely high. In Shang Xia's eyes, he felt that it was at least a rank four Spiritual Treasure. It was even possible to be of the fifth rank!

To craft rank one talisman seals with it seemed to be using a sledgehammer to crack a nut. It was absolute overkill.

Naturally, it wasn't that Shang Xia hadn't tried crafting talisman seals with items other than the Impaled Stone. He used different materials, but he discovered that none of them were as suitable as the Impaled Stone.