

The Heavens 691

Chapter 691: Flowing Starlight

Outside the entrance to the Celestial Remains...

There were more and more Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors gathering in the area, but the entrance to the Celestial Remains wasn't showing signs of opening naturally.

Shang Bo, who was barely thousands of feet away, could feel the horrifying fluctuations from the many Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors. Despite being hidden by the formation and several layers of spatial barriers, he didn't dare to move a muscle. He was afraid they would still be able to discover his presence through the multiple layers of cover.

Even though the Celestial Remains had been forcefully opened 2 times before and was greatly weakened, they only managed to do it with an external source of power. The others wouldn't be able to force their way into the Celestial Remains if they were to only rely on themselves.

That was also why everyone was gathering around the entrance without any signs of trying to enter for themselves.

No one was willing to take the risk since they weren't sure they would be able to open the Celestial Remains for sure.

Unless they had treasures similar to Kou Chongxue's Abyssal Emptiness Talisman or the Void Crossing Boat like those in the second batch of people, they wouldn't attempt anything.

Of course, in Shang Bo's eyes, they were merely putting on a show. There should be several experts among them who had the ability to force a path into the Celestial Remains. However, they were clearly not willing to reveal those methods in front of the rest.

Without enough benefits, no one would be willing to help others for free. Of course, no one gathered there would leave even though the entrance wasn't open.

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After Lu Yingwu of the Lushan Sect and Hao Yun of the Great Observation Sect arrived, Huang Jinghan of the Yuanchen Sect was the third to appear. When their initial conversation concluded and other Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors arrived, no one spoke as they stared at each other in cold gazes.

Despite what they were doing, Lu Yingwu and Hao Yun who were the first 2 to arrive had a feeling that Huang Jinghan was actually happy to waste their time.

Just like that, half a day passed. During that time, the calm Huang Jinghan seemed to have detected other presences and he frowned slightly.

A moment later, the others also seemed to notice the change.

Someone muttered softly, "The experts of the Eternal Palace and Divine Capital Sect are here..."

"That might be for the best. Remaining outside the Celestial Remains isn't the best choice. At the very least, they will take the lead and bring everyone to tear a spatial

passage into the Celestial Remains. We can figure out the rest after we head in for a look," someone else replied.

In terms of strength and prestige, no one present could surpass Huang Jinghan.

Despite that, he was clearly not intending to lead the others. Other than the occasional greeting when someone arrived, Huang Jinghan would remain silent at his spot.

Eventually, a pair of Martial Dipper Realm experts each arrived from different directions.

Solemn expressions appeared on the faces of those who were already there. In order to force the entrance of the Celestial Remains open, the Eternal Palace and Divine Capital Sect seemed to have sent 2 Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors each! They were clearly taking the matter very seriously.

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"The remains of various structures would usually drift through the Celestial Remains and end up wherever..." Kou Chongxue's Clone pointed at the debris nearby and muttered, "However, the remains of the Observatory have always been here."

Shang Xia stared at the starry space outside the formless spatial barrier before looking at the scattered rocks and debris behind him. "Could it be kept here because of some sort of remnant restrictions or formations?"

"Perhaps... However, we're not too sure about it either." Kou Chongxue's Clone shook his head before he continued, "Do you know why I brought you here? Star Essence would gather on the remains and I know it's something you need... Of course, there might be other treasures hidden within."

Shang Xia stared at the messy pile of destroyed rocks and wondered out loud, "How should we enter the remains of the Observatory anyway?"

"You can head in from anywhere you like. Remnant restrictions are everywhere and you might cause a chain reaction if you're not careful. However, those restrictions are far too weak and they will pose no threat to you. There's no need to remove them." Kou Chongxue's Clone replied.

With a helpless sigh, Shang Xia continued, "Looks like that's the only way. I hope I can find suitable fate dipper essences here..."

"Heh, this is one of the least dangerous regions where most people would look for treasures when they enter the Celestial Remains..." Kou Chongxue chuckled.

As they conversed, they entered the messy remains of the Ruined Observatory.

"Did no one try to unravel the mystery behind those restrictions that were left behind?" Shang Xia asked. He could clearly feel the connection between the restrictions around him and when he stared at the messy glows around him, he felt his scalp going slightly numb.

Kou Chongxue's Clone stepped onto one of the rocks at the edge of the ruins and said, "Someone might be able to do it, but no one is willing to do so."

He pointed in a certain direction before gesturing at the dense world origin before speaking again. "It's not as though no one had tried. Once the restrictions have been fully undone, this area will lose its special characteristics. The treasures that can be produced after several years of accumulation would no longer appear."

Stepping past another rock that contained a portion of the remnant restrictions, he took another huge step forward. The dense world origin in his surroundings seemed to stick to his skin and he felt as though he was walking through some sort of viscous surface.

"You need to take note... After all, areas with dense world origin will usually produce..."

Before Kou Chongxue's Clone could finish, the world origin beside him seemed to have disappeared. It was as though a giant rift in space appeared behind him to devour the world origin that was once there.

Raising his head abruptly, he saw Shang Xia also staring at him with a trace of shock in his eyes.

When their gaze met, Shang Xia laughed, "Patriarch Kou, did you say that these restrictions had something to do with how this place managed to gather denser world origin than the rest of the Celestial Remains? How is that possible?"

Kou Chongxue's Clone glanced at Shang Xia again before replying, "It might have something to do with the Origin Holy Artifact..."

"Origin Holy Artifact? What's that?!" Shang Xia asked.

"It's said that there are 3 important aspects to an Elysium. One of them is an Elysium Boundary Marker. It's used to control the workings of the Elysium. The second is the heaven supporting Jade Pillar. It's the key to holding up the space in the Elysium, and even though that's its name, it doesn't have to be a physical pillar. Lastly comes the Origin Holy Artifact. The item can connect the Elysium to the World's Will. It can absorb world origin because of that and allow the Elysium to absorb heaven and earth qi beyond the area it covers. The heaven and earth qi will also be converted slowly..." Kou Chongxue's Clone explained.

Shang Xia's eyes widened in shock and he gasped, "Is it really so powerful? What's the Origin Holy Artifact then? What about the other 2 treasures? Do they still remain?"

Kou Chongxue's Clone chuckled in response. "Other than the core members of the 3 super factions, I'm afraid no one has ever seen an Origin Holy Artifact. According to rumors, an Origin Holy Artifact is a tier higher than a divine weapon! As for the other 2 treasures... The Jade Pillar is definitely no longer in existence if the Elysium has crumbled to this state. As for the Boundary Marker... If it's still in existence, the Celestial Remains wouldn't have deteriorated into such a state where Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors can come and go as they please to search for treasures."

“Wouldn’t that mean that only the Origin Holy Artifact is left and it’s in some dangerous region in the Celestial Remains? Is that what the experts of the Yuanchen Sect are looking for?” Shang Xia quickly connected the dots.

Kou Chongxue’s Clone nodded. “Most people who can enter can probably guess as much. However, the experts of the Yuanchen Sect are probably in such a hurry to make their move because they discovered where the Origin Holy Artifact is. At the very least, they should know how to lock down its location.”

“Would that mean that those who came right after us were experts of the Yuanchen Sect? Shouldn’t we be doing something and not let them take the Origin Holy Artifact?” Shang Xia asked hastily.

“Heh, how can an Origin Holy Artifact be taken away so easily?” Kou Chongxue’s Clone sneered, “Just relax. My true body is keeping an eye on them and your job is to locate suitable fate dipper essence for yourself. There’s no need for you to take part in anything else.”

“You’re right.” Shang Xia forced a chuckle and took another step deeper into the Ruined Observatory. He continued to use the Crimson Soul Tablet to suck up all the world origin in his surroundings.

All of a sudden, Shang Xia realized something. Kou Chongxue’s Clone seemed to let it slip... “Wait a second! The Celestial Remains is massive and even if the experts of the Yuanchen Sect enter, we might not be able to find them, much less keep an eye on them. Unless...”

Shang Xia turned to Kou Chongxue’s Clone and revealed a face full of shock. “... Unless your main body already knows where they’re going and hiding nearby! Wouldn’t that mean that you also managed to discover the Origin Holy Artifact?!”

Chuckling casually, Kou Chongxue’s Clone responded, “I knew I couldn’t hide it from you. Back then, my main body had to save your grandfather from danger when he mistakenly ventured into a forbidden region. There, my main body noticed the reflection of a giant bronze cauldron...”

“Giant bronze cauldron? Is the Origin Holy Artifact that giant bronze cauldron?” Shang Xia quipped immediately. He seemed to have processed what the clone said a second later and he continued, “You said that your true body managed to see the reflection of the cauldron... Did he not see the actual treasure?”

Kou Chongxue’s Clone replied helplessly, “That’s right. For it to be classified as a forbidden region, it has to be one of the most dangerous regions in the Celestial Remains. Not even my main body dares to venture too deep. He only tried to look around the outskirts and finding its reflection is already a matter of great luck. We’ll just have to see if the experts of the Yuanchen Sect head over to the forbidden region. If they do, that would mean that the actual artifact is located in there.”

As soon as he was done talking, he realized that Shang Xia was staring at him in an extremely weird way.

Feeling a little uneasy, Kou Chongxue's Clone looked to see if there was anything wrong with himself before asking, "What's the matter?"

"Patriarch Kou, disciple has been meaning to ask you this for a while now... Are you actually the main character of our Azure Origin World?" Shang Xia sighed.

A look of confusion appeared on Kou Chongxue's Clone's face. "What do you even mean by that?"

Half mumbling to himself, the words eventually left Shang Xia's lips. "There have been so many Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors looking through this Celestial Remains in the past hundreds of years. No one knows how many times they've been here. However, they couldn't even discover the presence of the Origin Holy Artifact. You came in twice and noticed its reflection... How are the other holy lands supposed to live it down?"

Kou Chongxue's Clone couldn't help but retort, "I only noticed its reflection. I can't be sure..."

"What?" Hearing how the clone stopped talking suddenly, Shang Xia turned his head to look. He noticed a giant streak of starlight falling from above like a heavenly stream. It came from the depths of the Ruined Observatory, falling from the highest of the rock debris.

Chapter 692: Working Together

A thin stream of starlight snaked its way down from the highest point in the depths of the Ruined Observatory.

Shang Xia was dumbfounded the moment he noticed it. He let out an involuntary gasp, "Is that Star Essence?!"

Kou Chongxue's Clone was equally as shocked. However, he seemed to have thought of something as the look in his eyes became a little more solemn.

Shang Xia noticed it and asked, "Patriarch Kou, did you think of something?"

Kou Chongxue's Clone shook his head and mumbled, "I can't be sure of anything. Let's talk about it after you gather the Star Essence there."

Shang Xia nodded as he went over to collect the Star Essence that was falling. As he made his way over, Kou Chongxue's Clone reminded, "Hey, don't take all of it."

"Why not? Am I supposed to let some of it remain so more can be produced in the future?" Shang Xia wondered softly.

Kou Chongxue's Clone chuckled in response, "Don't you think that the stream that's coming down from it can show us a safe path through the Ruined Observatory?"

A light lit up in Shang Xia's eyes.

There were countless restrictions that remained in the Ruined Observatory and regions where there was shattered space. It might be ranked among the least dangerous of regions in the Celestial Remains, but it wouldn't be easy for Kou Chongxue's Clone to run around however he wished.

Now that they had the stream of starlight to light up their path, all they had to do was follow where it went to ensure that the path in front of them was safe. They could save a huge deal of effort.

Bringing out a spiritual case, Shang Xia collected a portion of the Star Essence while following behind Kou Chongxue's Clone. They entered the depths of the Ruined Observatory and Shang Xia didn't forget to collect the world origin along the way.

A moment later, he managed to fill a third of the spiritual case with Star Essence.

One had to know that Shang Xia tried collecting Star Essence before and the process was a lot harder than what he was currently experiencing.

Traveling along the 'stream' of starlight, they shattered a few weak restrictions that were along their way before entering deeper into the Ruined Observatory.

Seeing how Shang Xia had caught up, Kou Chongxue's Clone asked, "How much Star Essence have you collected? You need a Grandmaster Blacksmith to make a move to fix your weapon... Have you found one?"

Shang Xia looked at the spiritual case that was half filled at that point and replied, "Disciple came into contact with the Hundred Weapons Mill back during the trade fair on the Three Unity Island. From the way they spoke, they seem to have a Grandmaster Blacksmith. I plan on collecting enough Star Essence before heading over to try my luck."

"I collected a little less than 2 spirit cases so far, and it should be far from enough to fix my weapon..."

Kou Chongxue's Clone nodded slowly. Seeing as they had pretty much gathered all the Star Essence in the area and decided to lead him to the next.

Shang Xia took the chance to absorb all the world origin he could with his Crimson Soul Tablet along the way.

The more world origin he absorbed, the more he discovered that it was starting to pick and choose the type of world origin Shang Xia was absorbing as it became increasingly close to restoring itself.

World origin might be dense in the Ruined Observatory, but the Crimson Soul Tablet would only absorb the purest of the lot.

Kou Chongxue's Clone could naturally notice what was happening with Shang Xia, but he didn't say a word. Luckily for Shang Xia, he wouldn't have to think of an excuse to explain his current situation.

Perhaps there was something to do with them getting deeper, but the restrictions around them were starting to grow a little more complicated. Kou Chongxue's Clone ran into slight problems when he tried to follow the stream of starlight and destroy the restrictions around him.

When Shang Xia observed how the clone did it, he noticed a strand of sword qi emerging from his fingertips. It turned into something resembling a stream of water before entering the starlight 'river' and wormed its way into the restrictions in their path. IT then separated into many different strands of sword qi that seeped deeper into the restrictions.

That was how Kou Chongxue's Clone got rid of the restrictions around them as they made their way deeper into the Ruined Observatory.

Unlike the past, the restriction didn't crumble under the sword qi. It exploded the next second and activated the restriction in the surrounding area. Layers of spiritual light lit up the area and an unknown change was about to happen.

"Oh no! Retreat!" Kou Chongxue's Clone yelled and he turned around to leave with Shang Xia.

Unfortunately, Shang Xia wasn't content with leaving like that. The moment the restrictions were activated and when Kou Chongxue's Clone was trying to suppress them with his strength, Shang Xia released his extermination origins. They immediately started to erode the restrictions in their way.

The second Kou Chongxue's Clone retracted his sword qi, Shang Xia increased the power behind his extermination origins and managed to carve out a path before the restrictions were fully activated.

"I got it!"

Not only did Shang Xia not retreat, he even managed to force a small gap out for himself.

Kou Chongxue's Clone was slightly taken aback as he stared at the spatial fluctuations that were caused by the remnant restrictions all around. He snorted helplessly once before following behind Shang Xia.

The second he entered the hole created by Shang Xia, everything crumbled. Only several cracks remained on the surface they stood on earlier.

Shang Xia stood on a mottled platform dozens of feet away from where they once were and felt his heart pounding in his chest as he looked at what happened a second ago.

Kou Chongxue's Clone appeared beside him and napped at him immediately. "Are you tired of living?! How lucky do you think you are? Do you think that this will happen all the time?"

Shang Xia knew that he had been acting a little too rashly earlier and he quickly explained, "Patriarch Kou, I was wrong. I was a little too impatient earlier and got carried away."

Finally nodding, Kou Chongxue's Clone was no longer as angry as before. He eventually muttered, "Your extermination origins are something extraordinary alright. It seems to possess an ability to destroy restrictions. However, we managed to escape from that relying a little more on luck..."

Shang Xia understood that the reason it worked earlier was because his extermination origins managed to work together with Kou Chongxue's Clone's sword qi and deal with the restriction from both the inside and outside. That was why he could cut out a path eventually.

A chuckle left Kou Chongxue's Clone's lips suddenly. He pointed at the space behind Shang Xia and spoke, "Well, looks like it was really worth it to take the risk anyway."

Shang Xia turned around abruptly and noticed that the platform he was standing on was pretty large. There was an unusually large amount of starlight gathered on it.

Joy filled Shang Xia's heart as he brought out the spiritual case again. This time, he managed to nearly fill it up.

As he was doing that, Kou Chongxue's Clone found an extermination origin. Laughing at how fortunate he was, he retrieved it for himself.

After collecting the Star Essence, Shang Xia couldn't help but ask, "Patriarch Kou, since the Ruined Observatory collects Star Essence, do you think it has other functions?"

"Most probably..." Kou Chongxue's Clone replied.

Shang Xia raised his head to look at the highest point of the Ruined Observatory and continued, "Is there something in the core of the Ruined Observatory? Why else can it gather so much Star Essence? If there actually is something else here, can we obtain it for ourselves? After all, it would be great if we learned how to make something like this... It would be great if we managed to build it after we upgrade from a Mysterious World to a Holy Land..."

Kou Chongxue's Clone broke out in laughter. "Of course. But that will have to wait until we actually manage to find a way to build something like this."

"Patriarch Kou, don't you feel that it will be easier for us to destroy the restrictions if we work together? From what we did earlier..." Shang Xia muttered.

However, Kou Chongxue's Clone seemed to have expected Shang Xia to say something like that and he quickly agreed. "Let's give it a shot. However, you need to listen to me from now on. You cannot act recklessly!"

Shang Xia promised and started to work together with Kou Chongxue's Clone. With their combined strength, destroying restrictions became a lot easier than before.

Getting rid of restrictions in their way one after another, they ventured deeper and deeper into the Ruined Observatory. Shang Xia gathered 2 sealed spiritual cases full of Star Essence and with whatever he obtained in the past, he had 4 cases of them in total.

The Crimson Soul Tablet didn't remain idle either. Several cracks that plagued its core were eventually sealed up.

When Shang Xia retrieved the third spiritual case, he couldn't help but ask, "Patriarch Kou, why do you think the Observatory was built in the first place? There's no way it was built just so they could gather Star Essence, right? Huh? Patriarch Kou..."

Kou Chongxue's Clone seemed to be a little out of it. After Shang Xia called out to him, he snapped back to reality and muttered, "This is really strange... It's not because of the purpose it was built. It's just that the accumulation of Star Essence seems a little too absurd..."

"Patriarch Kou, do you mean..." Shang Xia gasped softly.

Kou Chongxue's Clone replied calmly, "Even though this place gathered enough Star Essence to form the tiny stream of starlight, less than 10 years had passed since the Celestial Remains was last opened..."

Shang Xia turned a lot more serious. "Patriarch Kou, do you mean to say that something changed in here, causing Star Essence to be gathered at a much quicker rate?"

Kou Chongxue's Clone wasn't in a hurry to continue advancing forward. Instead, he raised his head to look through the spatial barrier and the starry sea of stars outside. "No... The change probably

happened to our Azure Origin World and the Azure Spiritual World... An unknown transformation probably happened there..."

Shang Xia was slightly moved by his response. "Is it possible it had something to do with the invasion of the Spirit Abundance World?"

Kou Chongxue's Clone shook his head slowly before turning to stare at the depths of the Ruined Observatory. "I have no clue. Looks like we have no choice but to locate the source of the starlight stream in order to learn what's going on."

Chapter 693: Starry Tree and Fate Dipper Essence

Even Kou Chongxue had no idea if anyone had investigated the core of the Ruined Observatory where the starlight stream was produced.

However, they managed to follow a relatively safer route by following the stream of starlight, and it led straight to its source.

Of course, the stream of starlight was faint and following it wasn't simple, but their overwhelming strength and special methods allowed them to avoid all of the dangers that came with exploring the area.

Kou Chongxue's Clone could transform his sword qi into a stream that flowed along with the starlight directly into the inner workings of the restrictions.

Shang Xia's Four Constellation Qi also had special abilities when it came to dissolving restrictions and when they worked hand in hand, their efficiency of exploring the Ruined Observatory was greatly increased.

During their journey, Shang Xia filled 4 entire spiritual cases with Star Essence. With the 2 he already had, he possessed a total of 6 cases of Star Essence.

He also managed to obtain a complete extermination origin, 3 pieces of Starlight Stone, a large number of essence jade, and many strands of extermination qi in the form of extermination mist in his Spirit Extermination Gourd. The cracks in the interior of his Crimson Soul Tablet had also recovered by quite a bit.

They ran into danger several times, but Kou Chongxue's Clone bore the brunt of the damage. Even if the clone suffered heavy injuries, as long as the source of his fate dipper wasn't affected, he would be able to recover after absorbing enough energy.

Of course, Shang Xia's body was also riddled with injuries. Luckily for him, they were external injuries and wouldn't affect him too much. He might have used up some inner qi, but it wasn't much of a problem to a monster like Shang Xia.

Currently, they had already crossed a larger half of the journey to the core of the Ruined Observatory.

Shang Xia raised his head to look at the resplendent spots that were flickering in the endless darkness and asked, "Patriarch Kou, don't you feel that we're bathing in starlight from how close we are to the stars out there?"

Kou Chongxue's Clone glanced at the region outside the spatial barrier before retracting his gaze. He chuckled, "I heard of bathing in sunlight and moonlight. This is the first time I heard someone say that they're bathing in starlight..."

He paused for a second and seemed to fall deep in thought. "Actually, you're not exactly mistaken. The reason you feel that way is because there's something else mixed into the world origin that fills the space here."

"Is it starlight?" Shang Xia asked.

"You can call it star energy, or star origin..." Kou Chongxue's Clone explained.

Shang Xia quickly glanced at the Crimson Soul Tablet in his sea of consciousness and saw the Crimson Soul Tablet hungrily sucking in the dense world origin laden with star energy. He was slightly worried as he wondered out loud, "There shouldn't be any problems, right?"

Kou Chongxue's Clone was also absorbing world origin around him to restore his inner qi and he chuckled happily, "Looks like there won't be much of a problem. star energy doesn't clash with world origin and can also be used after we absorb it."

Shang Xia nodded slightly as he realized that the cracks in the interior of the Crimson Soul Tablet seemed to be recovering slightly faster after he absorbed world origin infused with star energy.

All of a sudden, Kou Chongxue's Clone froze and turned to stare in a certain direction.

Shang Xia felt his heart sinking and he asked quickly, "Did someone else enter?"

"I'm afraid it's not that simple to come in here. Without borrowing any methods of crossing space, other people will find it hard to enter this region of space. It's just that the other clone seems to have discovered traces of those who came in to the Celestial Remains after us..." Kou Chongxue's Clone muttered.

Shang Xia's curiosity was immediately stoked. "What else did you find out?"

Kou Chongxue's Clone shook his head and sighed, "The communication between us clones isn't easy. Moreover, I'm stuck in this strange region... All I know is that there are 2 of them who entered and they seem to be looking for something."

"Looks like they're not heading for the region your main body noticed the reflection of the Origin Holy Artifact!" Shang Xia gasped.

Shaking his head solemnly, Kou Chongxue's Clone gave Shang Xia a deep stare. "We need to try our best to meet up with my main body."

Slightly taken aback, Shang Xia looked all around him and asked, "About this..."

"We have to hurry up. Can you still keep up?" Kou Chongxue's Clone asked.

"Of course!"

...

After Kou Chongxue was swept away in a powerful wave of world origin, he was brought all the way to the center of the Forbidden Region.

By the time everything calmed down around him, he opened his eyes and saw that he seemed to be trapped in some sort of strange water-like mass. The liquid around him seemed to be liquified world origin, but he didn't dare to move.

A strange expression remained on Kou Chongxue's face as he made some guesses about where he was. Reaching out slowly, he carefully tapped at a formless spatial wall around him.

Dong...

A deep buzz continued to echo around him and ripples started to form on the surface of the water he was trapped in. Kou Chongxue started to feel slightly dizzy from the sound waves and the inner qi in his dantian scattered for a second.

...

Kou Chongxue's Eternal Spring Fate Dipper Clone blurred his facial features as he stared at 2 other figures who had similarly concealed their appearance. All of them were standing at the entrance of the Forbidden Region.

"Fellow cultivator, you must be the person who entered the Celestial Remains before us." One of the blurry figures growled in a strange tone. "Is something the matter? Why have you been following us?"

"I was just slightly curious. After all, you guys have been planning to enter the Celestial Remains for some time already..." Kou Chongxue's other clone snorted.

The other Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor took a step forward and snapped, "Who the hell are you?! What do you know about us?!"

Kou Chongxue's Other Clone retreated several thousand feet in an instant as though he was afraid of those before him.

Whatever it was, he was just a clone. He might have combat strength at the Martial Dipper Realm, but the moment he made a move, the other side would probably learn of his identity.

Anyone who hadn't heard of Kou Chongxue's sword art in the Azure Origin World could be considered ignorant fools.

The other Martial Dipper Realm expert quickly reached out to stop his companion from doing anything stupid. After all, they would also reveal their identities if they made a move.

"Fellow cultivator, I don't think this is your true body. You should just be a clone. Looks like you're really underestimating us." The Martial Dipper Realm expert who stopped his comrade earlier spoke up.

"Of course not. I believe I know who you are and I wouldn't dare to act carelessly before you." Kou Chongxue's Eternal Spring Fate Dipper Clone muttered.

"Oh?" The other Martial Dipper Realm expert laughed, "So, who do you think we..."

Ring!

A loud buzz swept through the Celestial Remains. Along with it came a massive fluctuation of energy though the space and the expression on everyone's face changed.

Kou Chongxue's Eternal Spring Fate Dipper Clone didn't say a second word as he turned around and flew away.

The Martial Dipper Realm experts who stood rooted to their spots stared at each other with solemn expressions.

"Senior Brother Kuai, this... Could it be..."

Senior Brother Kuai nodded heavily and explained, "For something to be able to affect the energy contained in the Celestial Remains... It has to be the Origin Holy Artifact! Its presence is nothing strange to us, but if someone else finds it before we do, things won't be looking good."

"Senior Brother, since that person was a clone, it's very likely their true body came into contact with the Origin Holy Artifact and caused that disturbance. If we chase and catch up to him now..."

"Junior Brother Wen!" Senior Brother Kuai snapped. "Do not be blinded by greed. You best not forget our true goal in entering the Celestial Remains."

"But... That's the Origin Holy Artifact!" Junior Brother Wen cried. "That's the Origin Holy Artifact produced by the Elysium when it was once here!"

Taking a deep breath, Senior Brother Kuai mumbled, "Junior Brother Wen, we can't be distracted! I'll say this again. Do not forget our main goal! Moreover, that person who came before us is definitely no nameless junior. We might not be able to do anything to him even if we catch him. Do you even know how many of them came in? What if it's a trap they laid down for us?"

"But... If we manage to obtain the Origin Holy Artifact..." Junior Brother Wen continued to whine reluctantly.

Reaching out with a gesture, Senior Brother Kuai stopped him. He lectured, "Junior Brother Wen, we already have the Root Flask. Even if it's far from the Origin Holy Artifact the Elysium here developed, so are the Origin Holy Artifacts of the 3 super powers! There's no need for us to be greedy. We already gathered 2 of the 3 major treasures for our Xiangyang Holy Land to ascend into an Elysium. The only thing we lack is the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar. The Origin Holy Artifact might be 5... Hell, even 10 times better than our own, but we have no use for it now! We need to prioritize the upgrade..."

"Moreover, the Celestial Remains have been here for so long... Even if someone manages to find the Origin Holy Artifact, it won't be easy for them to bring it away."

...

Along with the frightening buzz that filled the Celestial Remains, Kou Chongxue's Clone and Shang Xia were affected by the horrifying space fluctuations and could only hide in a safe spot among the debris. They looked to be in an extremely sorry state and before they could celebrate, Kou Chongxue's Clone froze where he stood.

Shang Xia greedily took in several breaths to absorb all the world origin he could in order to recover. By the time he looked in the direction the clone was looking at, he saw a tree barely 10 feet tall shrouded in starlight. The starlight around it seemed to pulsate with every breath and the tree seemed alive.

“Starry Tree! I never thought that this mythical plant was actually real!” Kou Chongxue’s Clone mumbled to himself. His gaze never left the tree.

Despite what he said and how special the tree looked, Shang Xia’s attention wasn’t on it at all. Instead, he was attracted to a tiny strand that snaked around the crown of the tree.

“Fate dipper essence... No! It’s not just a single fate dipper essence!” Shang Xia’s eyes lit up when he saw what they were.

Chapter 694: Obtaining the Yi Wood Fate Dipper Essence

They stared at the Starry Tree before them as starlight pulsated around it every time it seemed to take a breath. Unlike Kou Chongxue’s Clone’s fixation with the tree itself, Shang Xia was more interested in the fate dipper essences that were swirling about the tree’s crown.

“Fate dipper essences! There’s more than one of them!” Shang Xia didn’t say more as he made his move and tried to reach for them.

There was more than one fate dipper essence swirling about the crown of the tree and they weren’t of the same type. There was a good possibility that one of them was the Yi Wood Fate Dipper Essence Shang Xia needed to advance into the Martial Dipper Realm.

Before he could make his way forward, Kou Chongxue’s Clone reached out to stop him.

Shang Xia turned to stare at the clone and a curious light flashed in his eyes.

He was met with a warning from Kou Chongxue’s Clone. “Be careful. Take a look at what’s under your feet...”

Shang Xia thought that the clone was referring to the Star Essence that would have gathered around but when he lowered his head to take a look, he discovered that the tree was surrounded by a pool of water.

“Is this the source of the starlight stream we saw earlier?” Shang Xia seemed to have understood something.

However, Kou Chongxue’s Clone shook his head as his expression turned serious. “Where do you think this water came from?”

Squatting down, Shang Xia carefully tapped at the water’s surface and ripples started to spread in every direction. The moment it did, a wave of starlight fell from the tree and reflected off the surface of the water. A resplendent scene appeared before Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue’s Clone.

“This...” Shang Xia gasped at the sight and couldn’t help but ask.

“This is Star Water!” Kou Chongxue’s Clone explained. “To maintain the growth of the Starry Tree, the starlight that is gathered is essential, but it also requires something

else. Star Essence was probably produced after the pool of Star Water was full. The Star Energy you felt when absorbing world origin probably came from the pool of Star Water...”

Shang Xia nodded slightly. Actually, the Crimson Soul Tablet already identified the treasure the moment he touched the water earlier. “Starlight Water. Rank five spiritual treasure.”

Starlight Water seemed to be a different name from how Kou Chongxue’s Clone identified it, but it was probably just a difference in name...

“Patriarch Kou, are there other uses for Star Water other than to nourish the Starry Tree? Also, what can the Starry Tree be used for? It’s also a rank five spiritual treasure and can it compare to the Ten Thousand Needle Pine we found back then?” Shang Xia asked. However, he didn’t remain idle as he brought out a jade bottle while planning to collect the Star Water beneath his feet.

Seeing what he was doing, Kou Chongxue’s Clone reminded him in haste, “Don’t take too much of it! We need to leave the liquid to nurture the Starry Tree!”

Shang Xia nodded in acknowledgement and opened his jade bottle. A stream of Starlight Water started to flow into it.

As he was collecting the liquid, Kou Chongxue’s Clone spoke up again. “Also... There’s no need to compare the Ten Thousand Needle Pine with the Starry Tree. You were wrong when you evaluated it earlier. The Starry Tree isn’t a rank five spiritual treasure. It’s a rank six spiritual herb.”

“WHAT?!” Shang Xia’s hand trembled and the collection of Starlight Water was nearly interrupted. He couldn’t help but ask, “Is it really a rank six spiritual treasure?! Can we not take this with us when we leave?!”

Kou Chongxue’s Clone shook his head and sighed. “Even if we could bring it away, where should we place the Starry Tree? Only by leaving it here will it be able to continue growing. Hmm... Actually, it might not have reached the sixth rank. You might be right... It’s still at the fifth rank right now but even so, you can’t compare the Ten Thousand Needle Pine to it.”

Finally filling up the bottle, Shang Xia discovered that he absorbed close to a third of the pool of liquid.

Also, there was no need to guess as the jade bottle in his hand could contain a lot more liquid than it looked to be able to. How else would it be able to absorb more than a third of the pool of Starlight Water?

“What can it be used for anyway?” Shang Xia asked.

A fire lit up in the eyes of the clone and he explained, “It’s rumored that the Starry Tree produces a Starry Fruit, and anyone who consumes it will be able to comprehend the mysteries of the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm. It might not be an advancement medicine that allows one to break through to the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm, but it’s extremely useful when it’s used during the advancement process.”

“What?!” Shang Xia gasped involuntarily. He staggered slightly and quickly started to look around for Starry Fruits.

“Don’t bother looking...” Kou Chongxue’s Clone waved his hands to stop Shang Xia. “Right now, the tree is merely a rank five spiritual treasure. There’s no way it can produce a rank six Starry Fruit. We have to wait for the tree to grow a little more and become a spiritual treasure of the sixth rank before there’s any hope.”

Shang Xia followed up with another question, “Is there a way to hasten the process? Can we make the tree grow faster?”

Kou Chongxue’s Clone chuckled bitterly while shaking his head. “I don’t know? Maybe with more Star Energy or Star Water? I have limited knowledge of treasures of the sixth rank... We can only wait and let time do its thing...”

Shang Xia couldn’t help but be disappointed. He stared at the tree and muttered, “Wouldn’t that mean that we came all the way here for nothing?! Who knows how long it will take before the Starry Tree becomes a treasure of the sixth rank. If we have to wait till the Starry Fruit to fully mature, we might not be the ones to get our hands on it...”

Kou Chongxue’s Clone chuckled. “Stop being ungrateful. Do you know how much the bottle of Star Water is worth?! It doesn’t just have the ability to extend one’s lifespan when ingested. It also has the ability to hasten the growth of many spiritual herbs and plants. Also... Take a look at the pool of Star Water.”

Shang Xia glanced at where the pool of Star Water once was and he noticed that after he collected a portion of it, grains of Star Essence were revealed under where the water used to be.

Collecting them all, Shang Xia discovered that he managed to fill 3 whole spirit cases! In fact, there was even more Star Essence under the pool of Star Water that was left!

“Look. With the Star Essence you collected, you definitely have enough to repair your divine weapon.” Kou Chongxue’s Clone smiled.

Shang Xia responded with a grin, “Of course! I won’t complain if there’s more of it either. The more the merrier!”

He might be excited about obtaining a huge amount of Star Essence, but his attention was still placed on the fate dipper essences.

“Relax. You can bother with those after you harvest the leaves of the Starry Tree.” Kou Chongxue’s Clone understood what Shang Xia was thinking and quickly reminded.

A light lit up in Shang Xia’s eyes, but he asked, “Can we actually pick those leaves? What use do they have anyway?”

Shang Xia was no fool. He understood that the leaves and branches of spiritual herbs were pretty useful. However, he also knew that he shouldn’t pick them off the main plant as it might harm its growth.

Kou Chongxue’s Clone chuckled, “It shouldn’t be a problem for you to pick 3 to 5 of the largest leaves. Those leaves have been nourished by star energy for a long time and they’re basically half-

complete talisman papers in your eyes. At the very least, they will be much easier to turn into rank five talisman paper than skin from a rank five spiritual beast...”

Shang Xia skirted around the pool of Star Water and muttered, “What are we waiting for?”

When they arrived close to the tree, they managed to pick out 5 leaves that were the size of their face. At the same time, Kou Chongxue’s Clone managed to retrieve 3 fate dipper essence and a complete Origin Dipper!

There were 2 different fate dipper essences of the 3 that were retrieved, and that was shocking enough. Neither of them expected for there to be an Origin Dipper to be hiding beneath the crown of the tree.

“If we were merely wondering if anyone came here in the past, we can be completely sure no one has been here for quite some time. At the very least, no one has been here for the past 500 years...” Kou Chongxue’s Clone explained while handing everything over to Shang Xia to see if he could make use of any one of them.

“Patriarch Kou, how can you be so sure? Even though we ran into many dangers while breaking through layers upon layers of restrictions, that doesn’t mean that others can’t do the same. Moreover, you said that it won’t be possible to bring the Starry Tree away from this place. Anyone who locates the tree will probably leave it so that more Star Essence and treasures can be nurtured...” Shang Xia muttered. Even though it wasn’t easy for them to reach where they were, it didn’t mean others couldn’t do the same. Moreover, Kou Chongxue’s Clone was still a clone at the end of the day and Shang Xia was at the Martial Extermination Realm. If he felt that they were the only ones who could locate the Starry Tree, he might truly be underestimating the experts of the Azure Origin World.

“That’s because this is your first time in the Ruined Observatory and you have no idea how difficult it was to make our way around the Ruined Observatory in the past....” Kou Chongxue’s Clone explained suddenly.

Shang Xia gasped in shock. “Do you mean... Do you mean that the restrictions in the area have already been weakened? Is that why we were able to come so far?”

Nodding slowly, Kou Chongxue’s Clone stared at the space outside the spatial barrier once again and said softly, “Something might really have happened due to the change our worlds are experiencing.”

“Do you mean that it’s caused by the fusion of our Azure Origin World and the Azure Spiritual World?” Shang Xia’s heart trembled slightly.

Kou Chongxue’s Clone sighed, “That’s most likely what is happening, and it might also be why the Yuanchen Sect is in such a hurry to enter the Celestial Remains. They might have already discovered something we hadn’t!”

Shang Xia nodded in acknowledgment. Even though he was listening to Kou Chongxue's Clone, his attention was placed on the treasures he got his hands on.

"I recognize 2 of the 3 fate dipper essences and Origin Dipper we obtained. One of them is the Longevity Star Suspension Fate Dipper Essence and the other is the Vital Jade Marrow Fate Dipper. I have no idea what the other ones are." Kou Chongxue's Clone added.

His explanation didn't really matter as the Crimson Soul Tablet gave Shang Xia the evaluation he needed.

"Longevity Star Suspension Fate Dipper Essence. Jia Wood Fate Dipper Essence."

"Vital Jade Marrow Fate Dipper. Yi Wood Origin Dipper."

"Primary Star Void Fate Dipper Essence. Starlight Fate Dipper Essence."

There were 2 Primary Star Void Fate Dipper Essence among the 3, and the other fate dipper essence was of the Jia Wood Element. Shockingly, the complete Origin Dipper was of the Yi Wood Element Shang Xia required.

He was elated, but he quickly felt a sense of apprehension. "Patriarch, is it possible to separate a strand of fate dipper essence from an Origin Dipper? Will it damage the Origin Dipper if we do so?"

Kou Chongxue's Clone chuckled softly as he asked, "So... You need the Vital Jade Marrow Fate Dipper?" A smile slowly appeared on his face and he explained, "It's possible. However, you're right. We will damage the Origin Dipper when doing so and it will take a large amount of world origin to restore it."

Shang Xia heaved a sigh of relief. Learning that it could be restored with world origin, that would mean that separating a strand of fate dipper essence from the Vital Jade Marrow Fate Dipper wasn't impossible. He kept it well before handing the other fate dipper essences to Kou Chongxue's Clone for safekeeping.

With everything he obtained after entering the Celestial Remains, Shang Xia was lacking a final Gui Water Element Fate Dipper Essence.

He couldn't help but turn to look at the Starry Tree again and muttered with some reluctance, "Are we really going to leave like that?"

"We can't bring it away... Are you planning to ruin the tree?" Kou Chongxue's Clone sighed helplessly.

Shang Xia mumbled, "It's not a great feeling to leave it here. We were able to hide the Ten Thousand Needle Pine, but we can't do the same for the Starry Tree! Someone else will definitely find this place when they enter again, and the secret of the Starry Tree will be revealed to the world!"

Kou Chongxue's Clone wanted to say something else, but a loud hum filled the Celestial Remains again. His expression changed drastically and he yelled, "Oh no! We have to go! My main body seems to have run into some sort of trouble. We have to meet up with him as soon as we can!"

Chapter 695: Fourth Element of the Martial Dipper Realm

Shang Xia could be said to have gained a ton during his exploration of the Ruined Observatory.

Even though the Starry Tree wasn't fully grown into a rank six spiritual treasure and was unable to bear a rank six Starry Fruit, causing Shang Xia no small amount of unresigned feelings, neither Shang Xia nor Kou Chongxue's Clone was in a mood to search for more treasures after hearing the deep hum.

They quickly retreated from the way they entered the Ruined Observatory. Because they destroyed all the restrictions in their way to enter the core, leaving took much less time.

They didn't stop after emerging from the Celestial Remains. Using Kou Chongxue's Clone's resonance with his true body, they started to fly in a certain location in the Celestial Remains.

Because of the regions of shattered space in the Celestial Remains and the strange twisting of space, Kou Chongxue's Clone had to split off a portion of his strength to assist Shang Xia in their journey despite how anxious he was to meet with his true body.

Along the way, they had changed direction several times and traveled in seemingly different directions.

Eventually, a foreign aura appeared in Shang Xia's range of divine perception and it quickly approached them.

Kou Chongxue's Clone seemed completely unaffected as he continued to fly. He even slowed down slightly.

"Patriarch Kou, you..." Shang Xia couldn't help but ask.

"Relax. That's the other clone." Kou Chongxue's Clone explained without turning his head.

As soon as the words left his lips, a ray of light appeared in the distance and charged at them. When he arrived, Shang Xia realized that it was indeed Kou Chongxue's other clone.

"How is the situation over with our true body?" Kou Chongxue's Water Origin Fate Dipper Clone asked.

"I have no idea. He seems to be trapped somewhere." The other clone replied.

Kou Chongxue's Water Origin Fate Dipper Clone asked again, "What do you think that loud sound was earlier?"

"Even though I have no idea how he did it, I don't think anything other than the Origin Holy Artifact has the ability to rouse the energy that fills the Celestial Remains..."

Shang Xia, who had been silent for some time, interjected, "Patriarch Kou actually found the Origin Holy Artifact so easily?!"

He narrowed his eyes as he stared at Kou Chongxue's Origin Water Fate Dipper Clone. It was as though he had expected it.

Hehe... The main character of our world is the main character of our world alright... The Origin Holy Artifact that hasn't been found despite dozens of expeditions to the Celestial Remains was found after 3 quick entries...

Kou Chongxue's Eternal Spring Fate Dipper Clone didn't continue to talk about the matter and he asked, "How was your harvest?"

Kou Chongxue's Water Origin Fate Dipper Clone recounted their experience and Kou Chongxue's Eternal Spring Fate Dipper Clone stared at Shang Xia in shock. "Starry Tree?! You even managed to find a mythical treasure like that! You guys are really lucky!"

Shang Xia couldn't help but break out into laughter. "Hehe..."

Kou Chongxue's Eternal Spring Fate Dipper Clone's gaze didn't remain on Shang Xia for long. He turned to address the other clone. "I ran into the group of people who entered the Celestial Remains after us."

"Are they from the Yuanchen Sect? Did you come to blows with them? What is their cultivation like?" Kou Chongxue's Origin Water Fate Dipper Clone asked.

Shaking his head, Kou Chongxue's Eternal Spring Fate Dipper Clone sighed, "They hid their aura and I failed to detect anything from their presence. Moreover, I was just a fate dipper clone. I can't fight with them! I can't discern their cultivation either, but they won't be much stronger than our main body. The only thing I can be sure of is that they aren't here for the Origin Holy Artifact."

"If they're not after the Origin Holy Artifact, what can it be..." Kou Chongxue's Origin Water Fate Dipper Clone mumbled in confusion.

When the 3 of them were still conversing, they arrived at a certain spot in the void.

Shang Xia looked at the region before him that was filled with horrifying spatial fractures and remnant restrictions and gasped, "This place seems a lot more dangerous than the Ruined Observatory!"

However, the world origin there seemed a lot denser than the rest of the Celestial Remains and from what Shang Xia could tell, the entire region seemed to be producing a vast amount of world origin.

"Looks like it really is the Origin Holy Artifact..." Kou Chongxue's Eternal Spring Fate Dipper Clone said to himself. After all, Shang Xia wasn't the only one who could discover the terrifying amount of world origin coming from the space before them.

Shang Xia stared at the chaotic space before him and revealed a hesitant look. "What should we do next?"

The clones stared at each other and the Kou Chongxue's Origin Water Fate Dipper Clone eventually spoke, "You should wait here. We'll go look for him."

As soon as they spoke, they turned into 2 streaks of light that disappeared into the chaotic space. Shang Xia was left alone.

Shang Xia knew that the region they charged into was much more dangerous than the Ruined Observatory he had just been to. He didn't dare to venture in alone, and he could only wait by himself as he tried to observe the changes happening within.

He was quickly disappointed. After the clones entered, they seemed to have disappeared completely. Not the slightest disturbance could be felt.

Helpless, Shang Xia could only split off a portion of his consciousness to look at the treasures he gained during his trip to the Celestial Remains.

The first of the treasures he obtained was a portion of the rank four and five pine cones from the semi-rank five Ten Thousand Needle Pine. There were also several strands of rank three pine needles and a branch he could use to craft a high-grade spear.

After running into the Ten Thousand Needles Pine, Shang Xia received the help of Kou Chongxue's Clone to obtain the rank five spiritual treasure, the Falling Jade Spring. There was also the rank four spring water it produced.

Finally, Shang Xia managed to gather a total of 9 cases of Star Essence in the Ruined Observatory and with the 2 he had, he probably found enough material to restore his Abyssal Blade.

Star Essence wasn't the only thing he received in the Ruined Observatory. He took a piece of Star Rock for himself and a whole lot of extermination qi that filled half his Spirit Extermination Gourd.

According to his estimations, the amount of extermination qi in there could form 2 extermination origins if they were of the same type. Unfortunately, they weren't. Moreover, he had to get some experts to separate the extermination qi in the gourd when they got back. He didn't know how many strands of extermination origins they would be able to gather eventually.

Other than Star Essence and the piece of Star Rock, Shang Xia filled a bottle with a third of the pool of Starlight Water. He also picked 5 leaves from the Starry Tree that could be used to craft rank five talisman paper before obtaining a Vital Jade Marrow Fate Dipper!

The other treasures naturally went to Kou Chongxue's Origin Water Fate Dipper Clone.

"Now, I'm only missing a Gui Water Fate Dipper Essence before gathering everything I need to break through. The treasures required to craft the Five Elements Paradoxical Yin Yang Paste had already been gathered and from what Kou Chongxue said, we could have created the semi-complete advancement medicine as long as they found his alchemist friend..." Shang Xia muttered to himself.

It was a pity he only found his rank five Water Element spiritual treasure in the Celestial Remains. Otherwise, he could have prepared the semi-complete medicine before exploring the area.

A loud blast resounded through the Celestial Remains and a strong spatial fluctuation soon followed. The space twisted violently and giant cracks appeared everywhere. There were even spots in space that started to collapse as the region before Shang Xia turned even more dangerous. It was as though the space in the Celestial Remains became more fragile after the blast from earlier.

Even though Shang Xia didn't know what caused it, his instincts told him that there were other Martial Dipper Realm experts who entered the Celestial Remains. Moreover, there were definitely more than 1 of them...

The entire group of Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors who gathered after the Celestial Remains had been breached by Kou Chongxue and those from the Yuanchen Sect probably entered, and Shang Xia knew there would be someone who would quickly arrive at where he was.

He might be standing before a region of extreme danger, but he didn't think for a second that Kou Chongxue and himself were the only ones aware of the specific spot in the Celestial Remains. After all, others had been exploring the Celestial Remains for a long time. He knew that he would be wrong if people wouldn't approach a region just because it was filled with danger.

On the contrary, the more dangerous a region was, the more everyone would be attracted to it.

If his existence were to be discovered by those who entered...

When he was still thinking of his next course of action, a ray of yellow light appeared from the depths of the dangerous region and flew straight at Shang Xia.

Shang Xia might have guessed the identity of the person who came, but he still prepared himself for any unexpected surprises.

The yellow light slowly transformed into a figure before him and Shang Xia found him to closely resemble Kou Chongxue.

"Are you Shang Xia?" The person who came revealed a slightly stiff smile as though he wasn't used to it.

"Yes. Senior, you are..." Shang Xia replied with a slight trace of shock.

The person who came chuckled, "You probably guessed it. I am another clone the true body just created. I heard that you managed to obtain the rank five spiritual treasure, the Falling Jade Spring and a complete Vital Jade Marrow Fate Dipper?"

Shang Xia responded instinctively, "That's right. Senior, why are you here?"

Even though he had asked his question, the previous sentence the clone said was still replying over and over in his mind. "I am another clone the true body just created."

If Kou Chongxue just created him, that would mean that he had already refined his fourth fate dipper!

His cultivation had already entered the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm!

The new clone smiled before explaining the situation, "A huge group of experts from the various powers have entered the Celestial Remains. I am here on orders of my true body to bring you into the forbidden region before us to seek refuge."

"Huh?" Shang Xia looked at the clone before him and turned to stare at the forbidden region. He didn't know how to react.

"You're really lucky. My true body found several strands of fate dipper essences in there and wonder if you can use any of them." The clone placed his hand on Shang Xia's shoulder and even though his first instinct was to avoid it, he couldn't evade the actions of a Martial Dipper Realm clone.

He felt his body moving rapidly as the space around him changed. By the time everything returned to normal, he discovered that he had already arrived in front of a three-legged giant copper cauldron that had the height of 2 fully grown men.

Chapter 696: Stellar Cauldron

“Could this be the Origin Holy Artifact you have all been talking about?” Shang Xia stared at the giant cauldron before him and asked the new clone.

With a giant smile on his face, the new clone explained, “That’s right. This cauldron is called the Starry Riverbank and it’s the Origin Holy Artifact used by this Elysium to connect to our World’s Will.”

Shang Xia was shocked and he examined the giant cauldron before him and noticed several large words carved crudely onto the center of its surface. After looking closely at it, he could make out the words ‘Starry Riverbank’. That Was probably where the name of the Origin Holy Artifact originated from.

Kou Chongxue’s new clone saw how Shang Xia was admiring the cauldron and he didn’t interrupt. He stood silently at the side as the smile continued to hang from his face.

After some time, Shang Xia finally snapped back to reality. He asked in shock, “Why isn’t your true body here? By the way, where are the other clones?” As he asked, he looked around. All he could see was a giant patch of gray void. Other than the cauldron, nothing could be seen.

As he spoke, he became a little more alert. A cautious look could be seen in his eyes when he stared at Kou Chongxue’s New Clone.

Not feeling annoyed by Shang Xia’s doubtful gaze, Kou Chongxue’s New Clone chuckled, “My true body is right in there!”

“What’s he doing in there?!” Shang Xia gasped.

“Damn brat, there’s no need to doubt him! I’m really in the Starry Riverbank!” Kou Chongxue’s voice came from inside the cauldron all of a sudden. His unique aura also seeped out in order to provide Shang Xia some reassurance as he continued, “Well... Technically, you can say that I’m trapped in this place and won’t be able to emerge anytime soon. However, even if I could, I wouldn’t!”

Shang Xia couldn’t help but ask, “Patriarch Kou, what’s going on?”

Kou Chongxue’s aura trembled slightly and a ray of jade-green light flew out from inside the cauldron. By the time it arrived before Shang Xia, it transformed back into the Eternal Spring Fate Dipper Clone.

Kou Chongxue’s Eternal Spring Fate Dipper Clone started to explain, “My true body was trapped in the cauldron because of a giant wave of world origin. It’s the best time to subdue the Origin Holy Artifact, and he isn’t willing to emerge from the cauldron until he does so...”

Soon after, a faint blue ray emerged from inside the cauldron once again and Kou Chongxue’s Origin Water Fate Dipper Clone appeared. He didn’t wait for Shang Xia to say anything and started talking immediately. “He can only do so from the inside of the cauldron. The moment he starts the refinement process, he won’t be able to come out if he wants to. That’s why he’s technically trapped in there for now.”

Shang Xia looked at the 3 clones before him. If he added Kou Chongxue's Primal Yang Copper Fate Dipper that was in his true body, there was no doubt about it. Kou Chongxue had entered the fourth element of the Martial Dipper Realm.

Shang Xia turned to look at the clone that was created from the yellowish-orange light and asked, "Senior, may I ask which fate dipper you were created from?"

"My true body managed to obtain a Mysterious Void Earth Fate Dipper after entering the cauldron and refined it into his fourth fate dipper..." The new clone chuckled.

Shang Xia really didn't know what else to say about Kou Chongxue's luck at that point. [1]

Pausing slightly, Shang Xia muttered, "Oh right, there has been a huge change in the situation in the Celestial Remains right now. I suspect there are a bunch of Martial Dipper Realm experts who made their way into the Celestial Remains. Also, why have you brought me all the way into the forbidden region?"

Kou Chongxue's Mysterious Void Earth Fate Dipper Clone mumbled, "There's no need to suspect any further. We can confirm that a bunch of people have indeed entered the Celestial Remains."

"Obviously, we brought you in here to hide from them. After all, you're only at the Martial Extermination Realm..." Kou Chongxue's Eternal Spring Fate Dipper continued.

His Origin Water Fate Dipper sighed, "There's also something more important. You can bring out all the treasures needed to make your advancement medicine right now. Hand it to our true body and he can craft the semi-finished product for you."

"What?!" Shang Xia couldn't believe what he was hearing. "Patriarch Kou is planning to personally craft my advancement medicine? Why didn't I know he had such abilities?"

Crafting a rank five advancement medicine was no easy task. Even with the complete recipe and step-by-step instructions, they would need a rank four Alchemist Grandmaster to preside and take charge of the crafting process. Moreover, they might also need 2 or more of them to work together during the process.

Kou Chongxue was no alchemist! From what Shang Xia knew, other than the fact that Kou Chongxue's fighting prowess was incredible, his skills in talismans, alchemy, blacksmithing, and formations were pretty shit.

"Hehe... There's no need to doubt me. You're right! I don't have the ability to craft your advancement medicine, but this does!" Kou Chongxue's voice came from inside the cauldron once again.

"Who?" Shang Xia asked reflexively. However, he quickly realized what Kou Chongxue was referring to. "Are you talking about the Origin Holy Artifact, the Stellar Cauldron?!"

"That's right!" Kou Chongxue's soft chuckle rang in his ears.

Even with his confirmation, Shang Xia still felt waves of doubt battering against his heart. He questioned, "Is this something all Origin Holy Artifacts can do or just the Stellar Cauldron?"

Shang Xia truly wished to know. He was really curious as to whether any Origin Holy Artifact would be able to craft advancement medicines or just the one before him.

Kou Chongxue clearly understood what Shang Xia meant and he laughed, "It's probably just the Starry Riverbank Cauldron. Of course, it's not easy to do it. Doing it would probably weaken the spirituality of the Origin Holy Artifact. It will only be able to recover after a long time..."

Shang Xia somewhat knew what Kou Chongxue meant, but he wondered out loud the next moment, "Wouldn't that harm the Stellar Cauldron?"

"Heh, dam brat, don't give me that shit. This old man is planning to craft your rank five advancement medicine here! Moreover, if I don't weaken the spirituality of the Origin Holy Artifact, wouldn't I need more time to refine it?" Kou Chongxue snapped.

A wave of realization washed over Shang Xia. He realized it didn't matter whether or not Kou Chongxue refined his rank five advancement medicine. Moreover, with an abundance of spirit energy, the Origin Holy Artifact was probably used for that purpose anyway.

Kou Chongxue might have realized that point and got his clone to quickly lead Shang Xia over. He wanted to make use of its function to weaken the spirituality of the Origin Holy Artifact and produce a rank five advancement medicine. With that, he would be able to hasten the refinement process.

Shang Xia no longer hesitated to bring out every single spiritual treasure he obtained to craft his Five Elements Paradoxical Yin Yang Paste. "I'm only lacking a single Gui Water Element Fate Dipper!"

Several rays of light emerged from the cauldron after the words left his lips. "I found several fate dipper essences in this forbidden region. See if you can use any of them."

He paused for a second before he continued, "Even if you can't, don't worry about it. We can finish a semi-complete rank five advancement medicine."

Shang Xia looked at the 3 balls of light that emerged and gasped emotionally, "This... This... I can use this strand of Condensed Frost Spring Fate Dipper Essence. This is the Gui Water Fate Dipper Essence I have been looking for!"

"Hehe..." Kou Chongxue laughed, "Kid, looks like you're pretty lucky!"

"I just tagged on to your luck..." Shang Xia responded with a smile.

With all the ingredients gathered, a strong suction force came from the cauldron and sucked everything over.

Throughout the process, Shang Xia had to tell Kou Chongxue the proper process of creating the Five Elements Paradoxical Yin Yang Paste in order to ensure the Stellar Cauldron worked as smoothly as possible.

Shang Xia planned to do so the moment he heard that it was possible for his advancement medicine to be created, and he really didn't care too much about it. After all, he didn't plan on keeping his cultivation path a secret anyway.

There was also the thing where no one would dare to try his method of advancement even if he gave them the rank five advancement formula for free.

As long as they weren't 100 percent sure of the principles behind Shang Xia's cultivation path, they would be courting death if they tried to advance the same way he did!

After his treasures entered the cauldron, Kou Chongxue's Eternal Spring and Origin Water Fate Dipper Clones nodded at Shang Xia one after the other before turning back into a streak of light that returned to the Stellar Cauldron. Only the Mysterious Void Earth Fate Dipper Clone was left with Shang Xia and he started to absorb the world origin emitted by the cauldron as he continued to refine his fate dipper.

As Kou Chongxue's Clone, they were unable to raise their cultivation through cultivation. They could only refine and purify the Origin Dipper within them.

Shang Xia didn't know how long it would take for the Stellar Cauldron to produce his advancement medicine, and he started to cultivate. Borrowing the pure world origin that was coming off the cauldron, Shang Xia tried to strengthen his foundations the best he could before attempting the breakthrough.

Even though the Stellar Cauldron was spitting out a massive amount of world origin earlier, the amount quickly decreased. The area immediately around it still boasted dense world origin, but the same couldn't be said for the other regions.

Because of Kou Chongxue's attempt to refine his rank five advancement medicine, the world origin that came from the cauldron was reduced by a lot. Shang Xia didn't dare to let the Crimson Soul Tablet absorb world origin as it pleased any longer.

...

No one knew how long had passed, but Shang Xia was awakened by a very obvious spatial fluctuation. Kou Chongxue's Mysterious Void Earth Fate Dipper Clone had long since been staring into the chaotic depths outside the forbidden region.

Not only did Martial Extermination Realm experts discover the forbidden region, they were clearly trying to force their way in.

"The remnant formations in the region are starting to weaken!" Kou Chongxue's Mysterious Void Earth Fate Dipper Clone's voice entered Shang Xia's mind.

With a slight intention, Shang Xia asked with a voice transmission of his own. "Can they reach us?! What are we going to do now?"

"It's fine. It won't be easy for them to find this spot. Even though the restrictions have weakened, it will still be able to hold them back." Kou Chongxue's Mysterious Void Earth Fate Dipper Clone explained.

Shang Xia wondered, "Senior, do you know why the restrictions are weakening?"

At that moment, another question popped up in Shang Xia's mind. How in the world did Kou Chongxue get all the way here and enter the Stellar Cauldron anyway?!

One had to know that he was alone back then. He separated both fate dippers from him and his abilities were definitely affected.

Kou Chongxue's Mysterious Void Earth Fate Dipper Clone hesitated for a moment before replying, "I don't know the exact reason, but it might have something to do with the fusion of the worlds."

"Senior, since you were able to enter and leave this forbidden region as you please, you shouldn't be affected by the restrictions and spatial cracks here, right? Is this related to how Patriarch Kou grasped the ability to use the Stellar Cauldron?"

With a smile that wasn't quite a smile, Kou Chongxue's Mysterious Void Earth Fate Dipper Clone stared at Shang Xia. "Um, something like that?"

Chapter 697: Breakthrough!

The area they were in was one of the most dangerous regions in the Celestial Remains. There were definitely some who couldn't find it no matter how hard they tried, but those who could would definitely place special attention to the region.

Due to the fact that they had forced their way into the Celestial Remains without waiting for the spatial barrier at the entrance to weaken all the way, they paid quite a massive price.

Now that they had entered, they discovered the restrictions in every region had weakened. With renewed vigor, they couldn't wait to explore the dangerous regions and venture deeper within. It was especially so for the most dangerous regions that had been classified as forbidden regions.

Somewhat understanding the way those Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors were thinking Shang Xia relayed his worries over to Kou Chongxue's Mysterious Void Earth Clone. He pointed in the direction of huge spatial fluctuations and muttered, "Patriarch Kou, can you strengthen the remnant restrictions there? Make it a little more dangerous so that they will back away on their own accord... At the very least, we shouldn't let them do whatever they want here, right?"

Kou Chongxue's Clone glanced at him before explaining, "I have indeed gained the ability to enter and leave this specific region of space as I wish. That doesn't mean I can do anything about the restrictions and spatial cracks around us! All of these were created due to the collapse of the Elysium. How can I possibly control something like that?"

"What should we do then?! Are we supposed to sit here and watch as they open a path straight to us?" Shang Xia grumbled helplessly.

Kou Chongxue's Clone raised an eyebrow and muttered, "Kid, what do you think they're risking their lives to enter this forbidden region anyway?"

Slightly taken aback by the question, Shang Xia replied, "Obviously, they're trying to gather spiritual treasures or precious stuff that hadn't been discovered!"

"If they don't find anything, or if there's barely anything in the region, do you think they'll still risk their life and waste their time trying to shatter the restrictions in the area?" Kou Chongxue's Clone added.

“Oh.” Shang Xia gasped softly. There was a trace of realization in his voice, but even more of that was shock and envy behind what Kou Chongxue did. In order for those Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors to return home empty handed by not finding anything in the area, there could only be one possibility. Kou Chongxue had already retrieved everything of value in the area! Even if there were several rank one or two treasures left, those were things Kou Chongxue couldn't be bothered to go out of his way to collect!

Since the forbidden region had been unexplored by others, Kou Chongxue's harvest could be imagined!

Shang Xia thought back to how Kou Chongxue threw out 5 or so fate dipper essences for him to take his pick earlier and sucked in a cold breath. He was admiring Kou Chongxue's gains back then, but as it turned out, those should only be a tiny portion of what he obtained!

Once again, Kou Chongxue was proving himself to be the true main character of the Azure Origin World...

No one knew how long had passed, but Shang Xia started to feel the spatial fluctuations dying down.

Even though there were still people venturing deeper into the forbidden region, their speed had slowed considerably. A good portion of the Martial Dipper Realm experts seemed to have taken their leave and left to look for treasures in other parts of the Celestial Remains.

“I wonder if the Ten Thousand Needle Pine will be discovered...” Shang Xia sighed anxiously.

After speaking to Kou Chongxue's Clone again, he understood that at least 10 Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors entered the Celestial Remains. If they sent out their clones like Kou Chongxue, there would be more than 20 experts scouring the lands. In fact, there might even be up to 30 of them!

Even though he hid the Ten Thousand Needle Pine with the assistance of Kou Chongxue's Origin Water Fate Dipper Clone in a secure and dangerous location, it might not be able to remain undiscovered with so many Martial Dipper Realm experts running around. Their ability to observe the space around them was no joke!

When Shang Xia's thoughts were running wild, Kou Chongxue's shocked cry came from inside the cauldron. “Why are there 2 portions of your advancement medicine?”

“Huh?” Shang Xia turned around in shock and hadn't realized what had happened.

“The Stellar Cauldron produced 2 sets of medicine...” Kou Chongxue explained.

Only then did Shang Xia discover what was going on. He quickly explained, “Oh yeah! There's nothing wrong with that. It's actually just a single set, but a portion of it has to be eaten while the other has to be applied to my body!”

“Eaten? Applied on your body?” Kou Chongxue mumbled in astonishment.

Shang Xia nodded even though he didn't know if Kou Chongxue's true body could actually see him and asked, "Patriarch Kou, did you already complete the advancement medicine? How did you do it so quickly?"

"What do you mean quick? We prepared everything and the only thing left to do was to refine the medicine. The Stellar Cauldron is no Alchemist Grandmaster! It's pretty good to be able to craft the medicine in 5 days..." Kou Chongxue said.

"Only five days?! That's really fast..." Shang Xia muttered to himself. However, he quickly changed his tune. "Wait... It's already been five days?!"

No other sound came from inside the cauldron and 2 sealed spiritual jade cases flew out from within. Shang Xia didn't have to be a genius to know that those cases contained his rank five advancement medicine, the Five Elements Paradoxical Yin Yang Paste.

Reaching out to grab them, Shang Xia noticed Kou Chongxue's Mysterious Void Earth Fate Dipper Clone had also gotten to his feet before transforming into a streak of light to return to the cauldron.

Kou Chongxue's voice eventually came again. "Are you sure you don't need to refine Origin Dippers during the process?"

After thinking about it for a second, Shang Xia nodded. "Patriarch, you can rest assured. If anything goes wrong, I still have a Vital Jade Marrow Fate Dipper."

Grunting once, Kou Chongxue continued, "Alright. You can start preparing for your breakthrough right now."

"Now?! Over here?!" Shang Xia was greatly taken aback and he couldn't help but ask.

Advancing to the Martial Dipper Realm was no small matter. It would mean that he would attempt to enter the pinnacle of strength in their world! Anyone who could succeed would be an existence who had the ability to hold their own and carve out their own path.

They had to be extremely careful during the attempt and no amount of preparation could be enough.

Now, Kou Chongxue was telling him to make the breakthrough directly and his expression sank when he noticed the slight spatial fluctuations in the distance.

Kou Chongxue understood that Shang Xia wasn't in the best situation at the moment, but he could only sigh helplessly, "It's my fault for not making the appropriate plans. I didn't think that it would still be so difficult for me to refine the Stellar Cauldron even after weakening its spirituality..."

Shang Xia turned a little serious after hearing what he said. "Patriarch Kou, how long would you need to refine the cauldron?"

"This is no longer a matter of time..." Kou Chongxue sighed.

With a frown on his face, Shang Xia couldn't understand what he was referring to and asked, "Patriarch Kou, what do you mean..."

Kou Chongxue seemed to be in a predicament as he explained what was going on. "I need to borrow the power when the worlds fuse to fully suppress the spirituality of the Stellar Cauldron in order to fully refine it."

Shang Xia was dumbfounded and he stood there in shock. He only reacted after he had some time to think of what had happened. “Patriarch Kou... if you’re unable to fully refine the cauldron... Are you trapped in there?”

Kou Chongxue didn’t respond immediately. Only after a period of silence did his voice ring in Shang Xia’s mind again. “Yes...”

“What are we supposed to do then?! You need to take charge of the institution! There’s still the matter of the invasion by the Spirit Abundance World. Our Tongyou Mysterious World also needs to complete the ascension to a Holy Land... The Tongyou Island that has been hovering around the Beyond Heavens Pavilion also needs to be merged with our continent after the fusion of our worlds... Patriarch Kou, you’re supposed to lead every one of those events!” Shang Xia gasped as a multitude of considerations flashed through his mind.

Ignoring him completely, Kou Chongxue brought up yet another problem. “Kid... There’s something else you forgot... Without my assistance, you won’t be able to leave the Celestial Remains...”

Only then did Shang Xia understand why Kou Chongxue told him to prepare to breakthrough to the Martial Dipper Realm despite not being in the best environment. “So that’s why...”

“That’s why you need to enter the Martial Dipper Realm immediately. Only then will you be able to protect yourself and leave the Celestial Remains. You have to relay my current situation to your grandfather and the others. Otherwise...” Kou Chongxue didn’t finish his sentence, but Shang Xia could pretty much guess what he meant.

If there was no news from Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia after the rest of the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors exited the Celestial Remains, the institution would be in actual deep shit. Their plans would inevitably be delayed, but that would be the least of their problems. As long as news of Kou Chongxue’s disappearance were to spread, the Tongyou Institution might collapse entirely!

Shang Xia sucked in a long breath before releasing a huge sigh. “Looks like I have no choice...”

Kou Chongxue knew that Shang Xia understood the repercussions of everything that would happen and he spoke quickly, “I will provide assistance from inside the cauldron to ensure that nothing from the outside world can affect you. Unless someone destroys the restrictions to arrive at our very location, no one will be able to interfere with your advancement. Moreover, the world origin here is extremely abundant...”

Shang Xia forced a smile near the end of Kou Chongxue’s sentence. “Looks like that’s the only upside of being here...”

Helpless, he could only open the cases to reveal his Five Elements Paradoxical Yin Yang Paste. As he examined the medicine, he felt a formless screen forming around the cauldron. It covered hundreds of feet and any sort of spatial or energy fluctuations outside were blocked off completely.

Looking closely at the paste, Shang Xia noticed that one of them was dark and extremely viscous. It seemed to absorb any sort of light around it. Shang Xia knew that it was the Five Elements Paradoxical Yin Paste and he would have to ingest it during the advancement process.

The other case contained the Five Elements Paradoxical Yang Paste that was similar in color to the skies in the Azure Origin World. It was much less sticky and pasty than the Five Elements Paradoxical Yin Paste, and he would have to apply it on his body during the advancement process.

Taking a deep breath, Shang Xia looked at the advancement formula on the Crimson Soul Tablet once again. Eventually, he poured the Five Elements Paradoxical Yin Paste into his mouth.

He felt a strange slimy feeling sliding down his throat and a wave of nausea hit him. It was a disgusting feeling that made him want to throw up, but he managed to suppress the feeling and swallow the portion of advancement medicine.

After feeling it enter his stomach, he could no longer bother with the changes that were happening inside his body. He quickly dug out a portion of the Five Elements Paradoxical Yang Paste before applying it to his chest where his heart lay. He repeated his actions and applied the paste to his body where his liver, spleen, lungs, and kidney were next.

When he was finally done, a thick layer of Five Elements Paradoxical Yang Paste remained on his skin and he started to feel the changes around him. He sensed that his entire being was undergoing some sort of profound transformation. However, it was accompanied by excruciating pain. It was as though his bones were being corroded from the insides of his body!

Chapter 698: Five Element Realm! The Weakest Martial Dipper Realm Expert?

“Hmm... His aura seems a little too weak...” Kou Chongxue muttered from inside the cauldron. It wasn’t hard to hear the worry in his voice from his strange tone. “This is far too lacking when compared to the scene when he broke through to the Martial Extermination Realm!”

Even though he wasn’t present to personally witness how Shang Xia entered the Martial Extermination Realm, he heard from the others about how the four seasons cycled through the mountain in the battlefield between the two worlds for 2 days straight.

From inside the Stellar Cauldron, Kou Chongxue had been carefully observing Shang Xia ever since he ate the Five Elements Paradoxical Yin Paste.

As time passed, the transformation to Shang Xia showed that he was starting to enter the Martial Dipper Realm. Unfortunately, the aura that he emitted was far weaker than anyone who had just entered the Martial Dipper Realm.

Kou Chongxue couldn’t help but worry. He was afraid that something would go wrong during Shang Xia’s advancement.

It wouldn’t matter if the advancement failed completely. At worst, he would greatly exhaust his inner qi. After some time of cultivation and recovery, Shang Xia would definitely be able to attempt another breakthrough to the Martial Dipper Realm. After all, he was still extremely young and full of potential.

Kou Chongxue was afraid that Shang Xia would be stuck in some sort of state where he experienced a half assed breakthrough.

From what he felt, that was exactly where Shang Xia was headed.

“The Starry Cauldron wouldn’t make a mistake... That could only mean that his advancement medicine is the problem. I wonder where he found it in the first place... I have never heard of anyone making a breakthrough like him... Could I have made a mistake?! Should I not have allowed him to mess around and attempt the breakthrough?” Kou Chongxue sounded a little annoyed at himself.

Even though Shang Xia required 10 fate dipper essences during the process, they were all different from each other!

When an ordinary cultivator tried to enter the Martial Dipper Realm, they would start refining a complete Origin Dipper after eating their advancement medicine. It would eventually become their fate dipper as they entered the Martial Dipper Realm for real.

Shang Xia’s method was completely different from what he had come across. After all, he didn’t have to refine an Origin Dipper!

After thinking about it for some time, Kou Chongxue basically understood the difference between Shang Xia’s method and how others traditionally entered the Martial Dipper Realm.

According to the normal method, a cultivator who completed their breakthrough would immediately possess powerful combat abilities!

Shang Xia’s method seemed to have greatly lowered the difficulty of entering the Martial Dipper Realm, and the process seemed a lot more mild and dependable. However, he would be far weaker than others who broke through the other way.

“I hope he has the ability to continue growing stronger after his advancement...” Kou Chongxue muttered to himself. When he thought about how Shang Xia had gathered 10 different fate dipper essences, his head started to hurt again.

The greatest problem a Martial Dipper Realm expert faced was to ensure that the fate dippers in their body maintained a state of equilibrium.

That was a problem that plagued every one of them!

The problem could actually be seen when one entered the Martial Extermination Realm, but due to the effects of the disequilibrium then, the problem wasn’t too serious. Most Martial Extermination Realm experts could forcefully suppress it with their strength. The various worlds had been working and researching the problem to reduce the clash of extermination origins. They managed to find several effective methods to deal with it.

Unfortunately, without proper support and education, they wouldn’t be able to eradicate the problem entirely. They could only rely on luck if they wanted others to understand what was going on.

If that was the case among Martial Extermination Realm experts, the problem would be even worse for those in the Martial Dipper Realm.

Even lucky freaks like Kou Chongxue who had enough luck to become the main character of the Azure Origin World nearly lost his life due to the imbalance of his fate dippers.

Every time a Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor wanted to refine another Origin Dipper, they would have to be extremely careful. Making an advancement in their current realm was no different from a life and death challenge.

From what Kou Chongxue knew, a majority of Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors wouldn't celebrate their increase in strength after their cultivation advanced. Instead, they would be extremely excited that they managed to avoid death.

Moreover, that was the case where Martial Dipper Realm experts could only refine 5 fate dippers. From Shang Xia's advancement formula and how he collected 10 fate dipper essences, Kou Chongxue was afraid that Shang Xia was going to have to refine 10 different fate dippers.

Just thinking about it caused a chill to run down his spine.

The more fate dippers they had to refine, the greater the risk of causing an imbalance of their fate dippers.

Unless... Unless the kid has a way to prevent it from happening!

Kou Chongxue couldn't help but think back to how Shang Xia suggested he refined his final 2 fate dippers. Shang Xia told him to refine one related to the land and another related to fire.

Back when he nearly died due to the imbalance caused by his Primal Yang Copper Fate Dipper and Eternal Spring Fate Dipper, he accepted Shang Xia's suggestion and refined the Origin Water Fate Dipper.

His fourth fate dipper was the Mysterious Void Earth Fate Dipper and even though he only found it inside the Stellar Cauldron, he didn't know what it was before fully refining it. All he knew was that it was a pile of yellow mud. Whatever the case, he refined it anyway.

Strangely enough, after refining the Mysterious Void Earth Fate Dipper, Kou Chongxue could tell that the risk of his fate dippers falling into a state of disequilibrium was greatly lowered. It was contrary to what other Martial Dipper Realm experts would expect after refining their fourth fate dipper. He even felt that the dangers he would face if that were to happen wouldn't pose too much of a threat to him.

He couldn't help but find it extremely weird. It was as though there was some sort of interaction between his fate dippers to restrain each other. There were tiny clashes from time to time, but they were nothing too serious.

What's more, Kou Chongxue could tell that after refining his Mysterious Void Earth Fate Dipper, his increase in strength far surpassed his increase in cultivation level.

He had the same feeling when he refined the Origin Water Fate Dipper back then. He didn't think too much of it, but feeling it again allowed him to realize it wasn't as simple as he had thought.

When he was still distracted by his thoughts, something else changed during Shang Xia's breakthrough.

A faint layer of five colored lights surrounded him, and Kou Chongxue couldn't help but wonder out loud, "Why are there only 5 colors?"

Kou Chongxue wasn't too surprised by the weak fate dipper light that emerged from Shang Xia. After all, he was merely refining fate dipper essence. Fate dipper essence couldn't be compared to Origin Dippers in the first place.

The only thing he couldn't understand was why there were only 5 colors. Shang Xia clearly had to refine 10 fate dipper essences! The numbers didn't add up!

"Could he have only refined half of them? Maybe... Maybe only half of them were effective in his advancement..." Kou Chongxue's thoughts ran wild again. After all, if that was true, that would explain the weak aura he emitted.

When he was still stuck in a state of confusion and observing Shang Xia intensely, a majestic force sucked up all the world origin in the area. They poured into Shang Xia's body endlessly and caused a huge area void of any world origin.

Luckily, the Origin Holy Artifact was what the Elysium used to draw world origin from the Azure Origin World. The cauldron was the source of world origin in the Celestial Remains and despite not fully refining the Stellar Cauldron, Kou Chongxue had the ability to slightly influence its behavior.

The faster Shang Xia absorbed world origin, the quicker it would replenish it.

As Shang Xia drew in more and more world origin, the 5 colored light around his body started to grow in intensity.

Throughout the process, the aura he emitted grew in strength, allowing Kou Chongxue to relax a little.

Before the aura Shang Xia emitted could reach the level of experts who just entered the Martial Dipper Realm, the light around him seemed to reach its limit. It started to scatter as it illuminated the space around him.

Kou Chongxue was somewhat disappointed as Shang Xia's aura stopped rising with the dissipation of the 5 colored light around him. In fact, it started to show signs of regressing.

"Oh shit!" Kou Chongxue felt a sense of unease the next second.

A good half of the formless screen he created to protect Shang Xia from the outside world had been destroyed by the explosion of 5 colored light. He barely felt anything and only realized it after some time. As the person who created it, he didn't feel a thing when it was destroyed. In fact, he had no idea what had happened!

Quickly restoring the formless screen, he shielded Shang Xia's aura from leaking out once again. Unfortunately, he couldn't do a thing to the 5 colored light that had already scattered.

Kou Chongxue looked around and even though he was trapped in the Stellar Cauldron, his gaze seemed unobstructed.

Eventually, his attention was drawn back to Shang Xia. The kid, who seemed to have completed his advancement, didn't stop whatever he was doing. He was experiencing another transformation and the 5 colored light that scattered earlier was replaced with a thin 5 colored light shuttle that flew around his body.

“What the hell is that?!” Kou Chongxue mumbled. He seemed afraid that Shang Xia would pull another weird move and he quickly added 2 layers of barriers.

As he stared at the 5 colored shuttle, Kou Chongxue had a feeling it was different from the 5 colored light from before. However, he couldn't put his finger on it.

All of a sudden, realization dawned on him. Earlier, he suspected that Shang Xia had only refined half of his 10 fate dipper essences. From the looks of it, he was wrong. He felt that way earlier because of the 5 colored light around Shang Xia. They should embody the 5 fate dipper essences he refined earlier. The 5 colored shuttle was probably the other half...

10 different fate dipper essences... Well, at least nothing went wrong.

Before the sigh of relief had been fully exhaled, the 5 colored shuttle disappeared.

Kou Chongxue nearly choked on his breath as he extended his perception over to the triple layers barrier he created. He didn't know when, but the shuttle tore a hole through all of them as it flew to god knew where.

A miserable shriek came from somewhere in the forbidden region the next second. That led to a chain reaction as a huge patch of space crumbled on itself. Several remnant restrictions were activated at the same time and a massive explosion of world origin swept through the region they were in.

Chapter 699: It's Just a Fate Dipper Clone

Due to the massive disturbance to the Celestial Remains caused by Kou Chongxue, the Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Azure Origin World rushed over to take a look at the situation.

Ancestor Tao Gongming of the Suppressing Sun Gate of the Xu Continent was one of them.

Along with the appearance of the experts sent by the Divine Capital Sect and Eternal Palace, Ancestor Tao Gongming entered the Celestial Remains and sent out his clones to increase his efficiency of exploring the area.

The Suppressing Sun Gate was one of the oldest factions in the Azure Origin World, and they were no strangers to the Celestial Remains.

Splitting off his fate dipper clones, Tao Gongming bestowed the name of Tao Biyang onto one of them as he went to look for treasures everywhere.

Tao Gongming went straight to another region that was known for producing treasures, leaving Tao Biyang to his own devices.

Not too long ago, Tao Biyang could feel that his true body received some sort of information as he ran straight to some ruined land. It was said that it had something to do with a rank six spiritual treasure.

Holy fuck...

As a fate dipper clone, Tao Biyang might be able to sway the true body's thoughts, but he felt that it wasn't really possible for there to be a rank six spiritual treasure. He would rather continue to explore the dangerous region he was in.

Luckily, Tao Gongming was also a little skeptical about the news and he didn't call back his clones. He was rushing over alone, and Tao Biyang could do whatever he wished.

Tao Biyang had entered a considerable distance into the forbidden region and he looked all around him. There were barely a few people left and he was one of those who worked the hardest to chip away at the restrictions. Of everyone present, he had ventured the deepest into the forbidden region.

As one of the most popular spots in the Celestial Remains, many Martial Dipper Realm experts either sent their clones over or came personally to explore the region.

Perhaps it had something to do with how recently the Celestial Remains was last plundered, not many treasures could be found lying about. They didn't find much even after risking their lives and searching for a few days.

Under such circumstances, many experts took their leave. They decided to head elsewhere to look for treasures. Moreover, there was the news of a rank six spiritual treasure appearing and the number of people who remained became even fewer in number.

Tao Biyang was one of those who insisted on exploring the forbidden region. Of course, there was a reason for him to do so.

He felt that the reason they couldn't find many treasures when looking around was because there was a super valuable treasure located at the core of the forbidden region.

Because of how precious the treasure would be, Tao Biyang had a feeling it sapped up all the world origin in the area, causing the outskirts to be extremely barren.

He became even more sure after rumors of the rank six spiritual treasure started to spread.

From what his true body transmitted to him, the Martial Dipper Realm experts who located the rank six spiritual treasure didn't manage to find much before locating the treasure.

If he was experiencing the same situation and there was a rank six spiritual treasure nurtured at the core of the forbidden region...

The more he thought about it, the brighter the flames burned in his heart.

After all, he ventured the deepest of everyone present.

If he was right and there really was a precious treasure deep within the forbidden region, it might belong to him and him alone!

Tao Biyang started to explore deeper and destroy the remnant restrictions in the area with renewed vigor.

The next second, a faint but 5 colored light emerged from the depths of the forbidden region as though to confirm his guess.

Tao Biyang's emotions were quickly stirred. Treasure! That has to be a supreme treasure! There really is a supreme treasure deep in this forbidden region!

The light seemed faint, but Tao Biyang could feel that the restrictions leading to the depths of the forbidden region weakening slightly after it shot past him.

What else but a supreme treasure could cause something like that to happen?

Also, he felt that there had to be an explanation for the faint light. It was probably because the treasure wasn't fully mature.

If the treasure could already possess such power when it wasn't fully mature, what would happen when it...

I have to get my hands on it!

Tao Biyang thought to himself as he continued to shatter the restrictions before him.

The next second, a 5 colored light shuttle bore a hole in the restrictions before him and shot straight through him before he could react. All he could do was to release a miserable cry before his spirituality was extinguished.

...

When everything was happening, the rank six Starry Tree had been discovered by many experts in the Ruined Observatory. Many of them knew the uses of the tree, and there wasn't a need to mention how the tree wasn't fully mature. Even if the tree was fully mature and produced a Starry Fruit, it still couldn't be shared among those present.

No one there was willing to give up the chance, even if they couldn't retrieve the treasure immediately.

In the end, with the suggestion of those from the Eternal Palace and Divine Capital Sect, everyone present would join forces to seal the area. They would split the profits in the future when the tree was fully mature.

That was something none of them hoped for, but they had no other choice. Since they weren't able to bring the tree out, they could only cease all hostilities against each other to prevent them from fighting with each other then and there.

When everyone made their move to seal the area. Tao Gongming grunted heavily while spitting out a mouthful of blood.

The experts around him stared at him, and Tao Gongming gasped with slight uncertainty, "My... My fate dipper clone... Was destroyed?!"

Everyone around raised an eyebrow in surprise. Some of them who had a pretty good relationship with Tao Gongming couldn't help but ask, "Who did it?"

"I have no idea. I didn't manage to see him." Tao Gongming shook his head hesitantly and muttered.

They were greatly taken aback at his response.

For Tao Gongming to say that he didn't manage to see his assailant would mean that the clone was destroyed in a single strike. Everything had to happen so quickly for his clone to not be able to react or resist!

Among those present, Tao Gongming couldn't be considered to be a weakling. His strength was pretty average, but he was one of the more senior Martial Dipper Realm experts. His clone definitely had the abilities of a Martial Dipper Realm expert. Who would be able to kill it so cleanly?

The atmosphere immediately became a little weird. The strongest Martial Dipper Realm experts present immediately became the prime suspects. Gazes were quickly thrown their way as everyone tried to pry with their divine will.

“Ahem... Brother Gongming, where did your clone meet its end?” One of the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors more familiar with him asked.

“Oh no!” Tao Gongming hadn’t had time to answer when his expression changed.

He turned to fly out from the Ruined Observatory while evading restrictions left and right. He destroyed whatever else he couldn’t avoid and caused a huge ruckus. Many of the Martial Dipper Realm experts who were there were extremely displeased with his actions as it could definitely draw other experts over. They cursed at him under their breath.

“Hehe... Brother Gongming is probably concerned about retrieving his fate dipper...” The Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors who spoke earlier tried to explain the situation to the rest in order to soothe the mood.

All of a sudden, someone else cried, “It’s the Void Prohibition Zone! A small part of space seemed to have collapsed and several people were forced out by the shockwave. Tao Gongming’s Clone was the deepest among them and no one has seen any sign of him.”

Clearly, the person who spoke also had a fate dipper clone over at the Void Prohibition Zone.

“Do you know the reason behind the disturbance?” Ancestor Yi Shen of the Eternal Palace asked.

With a slight trace of hesitation, the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor who spoke earlier didn’t know how to respond. They didn’t go as deep as Tao Biyang, and they weren’t clear on how everything happened.

Lu Yingwu of the Lushan Sect mumbled faintly, “Who knows... His fate dipper clone might have caused the entire thing.”

The hostility between the Lushan Sect and Suppressing Sun Gate was no secret among those present.

If Lu Yingwu didn’t say anything after what just happened, everyone would probably find it even weirder.

However, it wasn’t as though he didn’t make sense. Several experts present started to throw accusations around.

Ninth Palace Elder from the Divine Capital Sect finally laughed and broke the awkward situation. “Everyone, did you forget the initial state of the Celestial Remains? Back then 2 batches of experts came in. Till today, we received no news from any of them.”

Elder Yi Shen quickly agreed. “Yeah, we almost forgot about that. The matter of the Starry Tree is of utmost importance and we managed to gather everyone here. Luckily for us, we managed to seal the entire region. Let’s continue to look for those people who entered the Celestial Remains before us and see what they’re up to.”

Everything they said meshed perfectly with each other and it was as though they had rehearsed it before. At the same time, they shot a glance at Huang Jinghan from the Yuanchen Sect.

Without a change in expression, Huang Jinghan muttered calmly, "Of course!"

...

Deep within the Void Prohibition Zone, beside the Stellar Cauldron...

When Shang Xia finally awakened, he asked, "Patriarch, how long did I take to enter the Martial Dipper Realm?"

Kou Chongxue didn't answer immediately. Instead, he asked a question of his own. "Hey, did you use the same method as when you entered the Martial Extermination Realm where you plan on refining all your fate dippers at once? And... You don't seem to be refining 5 of them. Are you refining all 10 of them at once?"

Shang Xia didn't plan to hide his progress from Kou Chongxue, and there wasn't a need to in the first place. "In theory, it's pretty much the same. However, there are many differences involved..."

Kou Chongxue roared with laughter. "Haha! There's no need for too much explaining! I know that you can't lump your advancement to the Martial Extermination Realm with your breakthrough to the Martial Dipper Realm. It's just... Refining 10 at once... Brat, you're aiming for the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm the whole time! It's truly shocking... I'm afraid it won't be easy for you to walk down this path, right?"

Hesitating slightly, Shang Xia muttered, "I guess I'll have to rely on my luck!"

"Heh, then I guess you're a pretty lucky one..." Kou Chongxue added, "Oh right. You took around 7 days to enter the Martial Dipper Realm. Do you know what happened during the process?"

A frown appeared on Shang Xia's face as he thought back to the entire process. "I seem to have felt something, but I'm not too sure what happened. Did something go wrong?"

Kou Chongxue paused for a second before his voice finally rang in Shang Xia's mind again. "Ahem... Well, nothing extremely noteworthy happened. Someone just exterminated a fate dipper clone by accident."

Chapter 700: Coming to Blows

Kou Chongxue actually didn't really know what happened back then.

No matter how weak a fate dipper clone was, it definitely had the abilities of someone at the Martial Dipper Realm. How was it possible to exterminate it so easily?

One had to know that Kou Chongxue was still worried that Shang Xia wouldn't be too strong because of the weak aura he was emitting during his breakthrough.

Who would have thought that he would exterminate a fate dipper clone some time during his breakthrough? Moreover, he did it so cleanly! He directly destroyed the consciousness of the fate dipper clone, leaving behind a huge mass of fate dipper essence.

As the patriarch, Kou Chongxue had to prevent the later generation from growing arrogant as they grew stronger. He quickly changed his tune. "Of course, you managed to take advantage of the fact

that he wasn't prepared for it. No matter what, the fate dipper clone wouldn't expect a sneak attack from the depths of the Void Prohibition Zone..."

Actually, the deeper one pushed into a forbidden region, the stronger and more dangerous the restrictions would become. For Shang Xia's five colored shuttle to pierce through them and kill the fate dipper clone, it only served to prove how extraordinary it was.

Shang Xia was brought in by Kou Chongxue's Clone and he didn't know the true layout and strength of the restrictions in the area. Hearing what Kou Chongxue said, he could only receive the teachings passively.

Seeing Shang Xia's reaction, Kou Chongxue heaved a sigh of relief. He continued, "You just entered the Martial Dipper Realm and you should take some time to enter seclusion to consolidate your foundations. Unfortunately, with what is happening at the moment, I won't be able to keep you here any longer."

"I understand." Shang Xia seemed prepared for it.

Grunting once, Kou Chongxue muttered, "I'll send you out of the Void Prohibition Zone and you should get out of here as soon as you can. Try your best to avoid the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors of the various factions. Your grandfather will meet you at the exit of the Celestial Remains."

An item flew out of the Stellar Cauldron and landed on Shang Xia's hand the next second. Kou Chongxue continued, "This contains the arrangements of our Tongyou Institution for the next few years. I'm afraid I will be trapped in the Stellar Cauldron for a long time. For the time being, I'll leave the matters of the institution to your grandfather, Ji Wenlong, and Yun Jing."

Shang Xia replied seriously, "Patriarch Kou, you can rest assured I will bring this out and relay your message to the 3 of them."

Hesitating for a moment, Kou Chongxue continued, "I'm not going to be able to deal with matters in the institution, but luckily for us, you entered the Martial Dipper Realm. The institution still possesses 3 experts at the Martial Dipper Realm. You might be from the later generation and can afford to act slightly unrestrained, but you need to start dealing with matters more maturely. In the future, you need to listen more than you talk and you cannot act recklessly any longer. Neither can you seek out trouble and go against your seniors on purpose. In the future, you need to share some of this old man's burden..."

Shang Xia chuckled in response, "Patriarch Kou, you can rest assured that I'll deal with everything well!"

Shang Xia understood that even though that was what Kou Chongxue had said, he was actually being treated as the unstable factor within the institution. That was a truth that couldn't be denied. Without Kou Chongxue to take charge of the situation, Shang Xia would truly be able to do as he wished as long as he willed it. There was probably no one who could actually stop him.

With the current situation, Kou Chongxue was unable to leave the Stellar Cauldron and the institution couldn't ignore Shang Xia, an expert at the Martial Dipper Realm. In the end, Kou Chongxue could only make the best decision he could and try to direct the institution to the best of his abilities while hoping that Shang Xia wouldn't go crazy from all the power he gained recently.

After entering the Martial Dipper Realm, Shang Xia seemed to have reached a different level completely. At the moment, he was like a mere spectator. He realized that he couldn't be bothered with the small conflicts or stuff like that.

Seeing how sincere Shang Xia was, Kou Chongxue was truly reassured. Someone else came from inside the Stellar Cauldron.

Shang Xia stared at 2 Embroidered Cloud Cases in his hand that were of different sizes.

Kou Chongxue's instructions came again. "The larger case contains some treasures I obtained in the Celestial Remains. There are also a portion of spiritual treasures and herbs within. Hand it over to Yun Jing and she will know how to deal with it."

"The smaller case contains all the fate dipper essences I obtained and a complete Origin Dipper. From the way you killed the fate dipper clone, I seem to realize your path of cultivation. In order to grow stronger, I believe you need all sorts of fate dipper essences. There are a few in the case and you can take whatever you need. When you're done picking through them, hand the rest to Yun Jing."

Shang Xia knew that that wasn't the time to be rejecting the gift and he thanked Kou Chongxue sincerely. When he was done, he asked, "Patriarch Kou, after I leave, what if someone finds this place?"

"What's the matter? Do you think that I'm helpless just because I'm trapped in here?" Kou Chongxue snorted suddenly.

"Um..." Shang Xia chuckled to conceal his true thoughts. "Of course not! I wouldn't dare..."

"Don't worry about me and leave. Even though I can't control this region, I can still mess around and cause them some trouble. Anyway, even if someone manages to get through all the restrictions and appear here, do they think that my divine weapon is for show?" Kou Chongxue harrumphed coldly.

Cupping his fists towards the cauldron, Shang Xia muttered, "In that case, Patriarch Kou, please send me out!"

When he was done, he quickly concealed his aura.

Those who had been exploring the Void Prohibition Zone might have been forced out by the outburst earlier, but they were most probably still somewhere in the area. It was impossible for Shang Xia to leave undetected even if he was sent out safely by Kou Chongxue.

Standing beside the Stellar Cauldron, a boundless azure light emerged from within and grabbed hold of him. The space around him twisted as he was quickly sent to the edge of the Void Prohibition Zone.

When Shang Xia was brought into the Void Prohibition Zone, all he felt was the world spinning around him and he was unable to truly feel the journey he took.

Things were clearly different this time. After entering the Five Elements Realm, Shang Xia's divine perception underwent a significant transformation. His physique was also able to withstand the harsh travel through the void as it could endure the pressure and tiny spatial cracks along his way.

His divine will was no longer muddled and he could clearly discover the changes around him during the trip.

If it wasn't for Kou Chongxue's constant reminder for him to remain low key, he might have used his dipper qi to turn the space around him more solid in order to smoothen his journey even further.

He might not even need Kou Chongxue's help to travel through the void any longer.

Unfortunately, it was extremely possible for him to be discovered if he tried pulling something like that. Kou Chongxue was borrowing the power of the Stellar Cauldron to hide his presence from the others and that was the plan all along.

When Shang Xia was finally sent out, he could tell that there wasn't anyone paying attention to him in the surroundings.

Spreading out his divine will, he could tell that it was far stronger than when he was in the Four Constellation Realm. In terms of his ability to detect his surroundings and the power it contained, it far surpassed anything he had before.

However, that might be the reason he managed to detect something strange somewhere within the range of his divine will. It even seemed to resonate with his Five Element Origin within his body.

That...

When Shang Xia was still hesitating whether to check it out or not, a ray of light also appeared within his detection range. It was too fast and he failed to react in time before the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor who just appeared detected his presence.

"Who are you?!" Tao Gongming roared and the resulting soundwave slammed into Shang Xia. There was a trace of anger in his voice, but it also revealed how shocked he was.

How many Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors were there in the Azure Origin World? Everyone was pretty familiar with each other and even though many of them split up into their fate dipper clones after forcing their way into the Celestial Remains, they were still pretty sure of each other's identities.

Shang Xia's aura was extremely foreign to him and it was clear he was someone who didn't enter with them. That made everything pretty obvious. He had to be one of those who forced their way into the Celestial Remains before the main group arrived!

Shit! We've been looking long and hard, but the answer popped up right in front of me!

With Tao Gongming's Fate Dipper Clone destroyed and the mysterious person appearing out of nowhere, there was no way Tao Gongming would not suspect him to be the killer.

Even if the person before him wasn't the true culprit, Tao Gongming couldn't be bothered. He would take it as it is!

Luckily for him, he got it correct, albeit by a weird fluke.

The reason he had to take Shang Xia as the culprit whether he liked it or not was because he needed a reason to make a move!

He wanted to know who were the ones who forced their way into the Celestial Remains before the others, and how many benefits they had already obtained!

Also, the real question was, what was their true goal in doing so?

Feeling the weak aura coming from Shang Xia, he felt that the person before him was probably injured after some sort of freak accident. He chuckled inwardly as he praised his luck. He felt that it was really fortunate for him to find a weak opponent the moment he arrived. He might actually profit greatly once he dealt with the person before him, and he might even make up for the loss of his fate dipper clone.

A wave of excitement filled Tao Gongming's heart. When he was 20 miles away from the other party, he made his move.

A Jade Ruyi Scepter appeared above Shang Xia's head as it came crashing down mercilessly.

Shang Xia didn't think that someone would immediately make a move on him the moment they appeared, and Kou Chongxue left right after sending him out earlier. His first battle in the Martial Dipper Realm would commence without any backup!

In his state of disarray, Shang Xia simply poured his Five Elements Qi into his Abyssal Blade and slashed upwards with all his might. He hadn't developed any rank five martial arts, and neither had he learned them from anyone.

Clang!

A loud blast rang through space as shockwaves spread through the area they were in. Anything around them was turned into dust.

The ground where Shang Xia had been standing on a moment ago after he was brought out by Kou Chongxue disappeared.

The next moment, Shang Xia felt his chest tightening and a sweet feeling in his throat. The taste of metal quickly filled his mouth as he spat out a mouthful of blood.

Ten or so miles away, Tao Gongming wasn't doing too well either. He lost all contact with his Jade Ruyi Scepter and he roared with rage, "Damn thief!"

When they were exchanging blows, they attracted the attention of the various Martial Dipper Realm existences in the surroundings. Several powerful divine wills stretched over and tried to feel what was going on.

Seeing as things were going south, Shang Xia quickly used an Abyssal Void Shattering Talisman and tore a hole in the void to avoid their probing.