

The Heavens 751

Chapter 751: Inheritance Pt.2

If Mu Songfang, Shi Huai, and Wang Chenglin were chosen by Shang Xia in the institution to help spread his path of cultivation in the institution because of the request by Kou Chongxue, Hai Yuanyuan would be considered Shang Xia's true disciple whom he would pass his inheritance down to.

He guided her cultivation from a young age and one can say that she had completely assimilated to Shang Xia's path of cultivation. She wasn't like Mu Songfang and the others who would be affected by other cultivation systems and feel some sense of doubt about what they were doing.

Ever since Hai Yuanyuan entered the Outer Division, she started cultivating down the path Shang Xia had taken and she quickly entered the Martial Realm. Or it was more appropriate to call it the Essence Realm like what Shang Xia had coined.

Because of Shang Xia's influence, Hai Yuanyuan greatly worshiped him. After entering the Essence Realm, her cultivation path went down the same road as Shang Xia. With the assistance of a piece of wood from a sufficiently old Lightning Tree, and Shang Xia's personal supervision, she succeeded in her cultivation of the Lightning Collection Blood Art. She also comprehended the Chaos Essence Lightning Palm. As such, she was considered an expert in the grand completion stage of the Essence Realm.

Not too long after, she successfully entered the Yin Yang Realm. The medicine she used was also the Powder of Purification which was a unique recipe the Crimson Soul Tablet came up with. Naturally, she chose to follow the way of the sword like Shang Xia had done.

After Hai Yuanyuan entered the Inner Division, Shang Xia made a special trip deep into space and brought back 2 pieces of meteorite metal for the Weapons Hall to craft a pair of low-grade serrated swords. He gave the pair of swords to her on her birthday.

The little lass was pretty talented in the way of the sword and after receiving the pair of swords, she made great accomplishments in her understanding of the extremity of distance. There were even signs where her sword intent was starting to transform into a martial intent.

It was then that Shang Xia interrupted her and prevented her from reaching the grand completion stage. Instead, he suggested for her to train in other extremity intents to better understand the true meaning of yin and yang.

The little lass never doubted Shang Xia. She then comprehended the extremity of speed and very quickly reached the same level where she would be able to comprehend her martial intent.

She had developed her extremity of distance and speed to the large completion stage and now that the students of the institution would be sent out for real training, Shang Xia would no longer intentionally suppress her cultivation.

The little lass wasn't a fool. She quickly picked up on the reason behind his agreement. "Uncle, haven't you always been telling me to be patient and not rush my cultivation? Isn't it because I don't have any real combat experience?"

“Ever since the battlefield between the two worlds was merged into the You Continent, everything here has been pretty peaceful. The training expeditions of the institution were merely for you guys to expand your horizons. Only through real combat will cultivators be able to grow stronger and advance. It would strengthen your foundations and allow you to progress more in the future.” Shang Xia explained.

Hai Yuanyuan nodded, but she didn't really seem to understand the intricacies behind the meaning of his words. Shang Xia didn't continue to explain. Instead, he hoped that she would be able to learn after going through real battles.

Looking at the swords in her hand, Shang Xia chuckled again, “Are these swords still suitable for you? Should I go to the Weapons Hall to get them to upgrade them to mid-grade weapons?”

Hai Yuanyuan shook her head immediately. “There's no need! Having a pair of low-grade weapons already makes me a target of envy for many students in the institution. If you turn them into mid-grade weapons, many people will probably try to rob me before we leave for the region Across the Ocean!”

Shang Xia roared with laughter in response. “Heh, let's see who's daring enough to try robbing you!”

Of course, he was merely joking when he wanted to upgrade her weapons. Luckily, she understood that having weapons of too high a grade wasn't actually beneficial. Shang Xia was extremely gratified that she had such considerations.

Well, that might be the case for weapons, but Shang Xia still brought out 2 jade cases and placed them before her.

When she opened them, she saw 2 stacks of talismans.

One stack contained rank two talismans, and there were 18 of them in total. They were split into 6 different types of rank two talismans. The other stack had 12 rank three talismans and there were 4 different variations.

She immediately pushed the cases away the moment she saw their contents. “Uncle, there's no need for them! I still have a bunch of talismans you gave me from before.”

Shang Xia chuckled softly, “Just keep them. I made these in my free time and you can use them in times of need, or to help your fellow students.” A helpless smile appeared on his face next.

“Actually, I was planning to give you a few rank four talismans too. However, you won't be able to use them at your current cultivation level.”

Hai Yuanyuan had no other reason to reject the talismans now that he had spoken. Even though the talismans were considered low-level talismans, they would still rouse the envy of many Talisman Masters in the Talisman Hall. Now, they had been given to her by the legendary rank five Talisman Grandmaster of the institution.

Soon after, she brought up several questions she had about cultivation and Shang Xia went through them one by one. They only stopped when Hai Min yelled for them to eat dinner.

After they were done, Hai Yuanyuan returned to her room to continue her training. Shang Xia remained behind to help Hai Min do the dishes and clean up the area.

“Will Yuanyuan be in any danger during the training expedition?” Hai Min asked with an exceptionally serious expression on her face.

Grabbing the chopsticks and bowls she had picked up from the table, Shang Xia chuckled, “Relax, they won’t be able to avoid running into dangerous situations. However, no matter how dangerous the situation is, she won’t truly be in danger. Of course, you can’t tell her this. Otherwise, the training expedition would be useless!”

Hai Min heaved a sigh of relief before snorting softly, “I know that. Do I need you to tell me something as obvious as that?”

“Hehe, I almost forgot. Our Heroine Hai here is one of the members of the famous Eighteen Horsemen of the You Continent!” Shang Xia didn’t miss a beat in his reply.

Rolling her eyes at him, Hai Min snorted, “Stop messing around. What if Yuanyuan hears this?”

Shang Xia glanced at Hai Yuanyuan’s room even though using his sense of sight was extremely useless since his divine will was strong enough to observe everything in the courtyard before turning a little more serious. “Oh right, even though you haven’t taken your training too seriously, you have already reached the late-stages of the Martial Intent Realm. Are you planning on improving even further to enter the Martial Extermination Realm?”

With a vacant gaze, Hai Min glanced at Shang Xia before thinking about it for a second. She eventually sighed, “I’ll let nature take its course. After all, I haven’t been too keen on cultivation.”

Nodding slightly, he continued, “Alright, I understand. I’ll get you a suitable extermination origin and you can feel free to refine it whenever you feel like it. As for your advancement medicine...”

“You won’t have to worry about my advancement medicine.” Hai Min interrupted him suddenly.

She paused for a second before averting his gaze slightly. “Oh right, my mother might be returning from the Ji Continent soon. I’ll discuss it with her when she returns...”

“Alright, you can make the decision.” Shang Xia chuckled.

The night passed wordlessly as the nightingale sang...

Early the next day, Shang Xia prepared to leave after having breakfast.

“Are you leaving already? Aren’t you going to head over to the institution with Yuanyuan?” Hai Min asked, slightly confused.

“The members who were sent to the Three Unity Island returned and I have to head over to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. Yuanyuan has to head over to the institution on her own today...” Shang Xia chuckled before disappearing from the courtyard.

Hai Yuanyuan stared at the spot where Shang Xia disappeared with a look of envy.

Standing at the side, Hai Min chuckled, “Silly lass, with your uncle’s guidance, you will be able to become like him one day and stroll through the sea of stars if you wish.”

Turning around to stare at Hai Min, Hai Yuanyuan dropped a question completely unrelated to whatever she was talking about earlier. “Mother, do you notice that Little Zheng is looking more and more like Uncle?”

“Wei Zheng?” Hai Min was surprised but she seemed to understand the hidden meaning behind her words. She chided, “Damn lass, what do you know about this? Don’t let your imaginations run wild. Hurry up and go to school in case you’re late.”

Making a silly face at her mother, Hai Yuanyuan ran out of the courtyard.

She barely got 100 feet away from the courtyard when she saw a familiar carriage before Wei Qiongyi’s residence.

Slightly curious, Hai Yuanyuan turned her head to look and saw Wei Zheng running up to the carriage with an excited look on his face.

As the curtains of the carriage were blown to the side, Hai Yuanyuan Shang Xi seated within. She knew that Shang Xia was the paternal aunt of her Uncle Shang Xia.

“Auntie Shang, where are we going to play today?”

“Damn brat, didn’t I tell you before to call me your Aunt? I’m your paternal aunt!”

“Hehe, Aunt Xi, where are we going today?”

“Let’s head to the outer city today. I have a manor there and I’ll bring you over to take a look.”

“Yay! To the outer city! Oh... We have to be back before dark. Otherwise, Mother will definitely get mad at me...”

“Relax...”

The carriage quickly rolled off and traveled down the street.

Hai Yuanyuan was already 15 and she was no longer a clueless young girl. For example, she understood that Shang Xi was her Uncle Shang Xia’s blood-related aunt and a cousin of her grandmother. That would mean that her Uncle Shang Xia’s father was also cousins with her grandmother. Her Uncle Shang Xia was her mother’s maternal cousin but it would be a little too distant for her to call him ‘Maternal Uncle Shang’ and she stuck with whatever she had been calling him.

She also knew that due to differences with those in the older generation, her mother had been keeping her distance from the Shang Clan. Even after Shang Pei returned to the clan, Hai Min and Hai Yuanyuan didn’t interact much with the members of the Shang Clan other than Shang Xia.

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Shang Xia didn’t pass through the Tongyou Paradise to appear in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. He directly appeared beside the pavilion.

After the first trade fair on the Three Unity Island, they held one every year. The only time their schedule was disrupted was 3 years ago due to the massive battle between the experts of the Azure

Ascension World and the Spirit Abundance World. The trade fair went through several revisions and improvements and gained quite a bit of fame. Due to its special location in space, many people were flocking to the Three Unity Island.

Back then, the Three Unity Island was created by the Northern Sea Mystic Sect, Divine Capital Sect, and Eternal Palace. Even though a fourth Elysium had been born. The Three Unity Island didn't change its name. The only difference was that a fourth Martial Dipper Realm expert from the Xiangyang Elysium was deployed to join the others to keep watch on the island.

Other than the Martial Dipper Realm experts from the 4 Elysiums, no other Martial Dipper Realm experts were allowed to step foot on the island.

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Bu Jingshuang was the expert arranged by the institution to bring members of the institution over to the Three Unity Island. He was one of those rare experts in the institution who had the same seniority as Kou Chongxue and even though his cultivation level was lower than people like Sun Haiwei and Chu Jia, his prestige in the institution was still extraordinarily high.

“Fate dipper essences are getting rarer during the trade fairs...” Bu Jingshuang shook his head and sighed after meeting Shang Xia.

The anticipation Shang Xia had was dashed the moment he heard the news.

Fate dipper essences appeared really frequently after the battle 3 years ago.

The experts of the various factions started to make deals with each other on or around the Three Unity Island in order to gather fate dipper essences or Origin Dippers they required.

The Tongyou Institution and Shang Xia also grasped onto the opportunity and traded many fate dipper essences and Origin Dippers during that time.

That was how Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo obtained their second fate dippers in the first place. Shang Xia also obtained 20 fate dipper essences that way.

Chapter 752: Old Men: “Deal With the Problems (Please).” Shang Xia: “...”

Even though Bu Jingshuang didn't manage to get any fate dipper essences during the trade fair on the Three Unity Island, he still managed to obtain a batch of high-level treasures for the institution. A portion of it would belong to the Talisman Hall.

The reason why the Talisman Hall could receive such great treatment in the Tongyou Institution was precisely because of their superstar rank five Talisman Grandmaster, Shang Xia.

Without mentioning anything else, his talismans were the reason the Tongyou Institution could defend their territory which spanned more than 60 percent of the battlefield between the two worlds even though they were outnumbered in terms of experts in the Martial Extermination Realm. They also managed to withstand the final push from the Changbai Holy Land because of it.

The all-out exchange in the battlefield between the two worlds caused Shang Xia's reputation to spread through the Azure Ascension World!

Everyone knows that the You Continent is a barren land and the number of high-level talismans they could produce with their resources would be scarce at best. Logically speaking, their experts wouldn't be able to use so many of them.

They were proven wrong when the experts of the Tongyou Institution threw out rank four talismans one after another. That could only mean one thing... The Talisman Grandmaster of the Tongyou Institution had a terrifyingly high success rate when crafting them!

The situation became even more special now when Kou Chongxue hinted at the fact that Shang Xia could be one of the 4 rank five Talisman Grandmasters in the Azure Ascension World!

Obviously, the institution wouldn't be stingy with their support for the Talisman Hall. Raw materials, high-level talisman paper, talisman ink, and talisman brush repairing services... Everything was provided! Even treasures that allowed one to maintain a calm state of mind, and those that could restore one's inner qi poured into the Talisman Hall without end.

Shang Xia alone wasn't the only reason they were showing such support to the Talisman Hall. The Talisman Hall was naturally able to provide results to give back to the institution. In recent years, with Shang Xia's pointers and teachings, the number of rank three Talisman Masters increased greatly. They had 7 members in total without counting Talisman Master Gong who had gotten on with age and didn't show his face often.

The only pity was the fact that a second rank four Talisman Grandmaster hadn't been produced in the institution.

There was a huge chasm between the third and fourth rank in talisman crafting and even powers like the Lushan Sect would occasionally lose their experts and be unable to continue their grandmaster's legacy.

With the support of the institution, 2 of the 7 experts managed to enter the Martial Extermination Realm. Unfortunately, they still had to work hard for some time before they would be able to craft rank four talismans.

"With the exception of fate dipper essences, our institution managed to gain quite a bit!" Bu Jingshuang chuckled. "We managed to obtain a good portion of materials used to craft rank four talisman ink and talisman paper. There was even a stick of rank four talisman ink and a way to craft rank four talisman paper. They are all things required by the Talisman Hall at the moment."

Shang Xia nodded but he didn't retrieve the treasures from Bu Jingshuang directly.

Even though more than 70 percent of those treasures would be used by him eventually, everything belonged to the Talisman Hall. He would have to hand those treasures to the Talisman Hall himself according to the procedure set by the institution.

It was then that Shang Xia finally noticed that Bu Jingshuang seemed to have something on his mind.

"Mister Bu... Do you have something you need to tell me?" Shang Xia questioned.

“Talisman seals... I’m thinking about the talisman seals. I feel that talisman seals shouldn’t be traded during the fair any longer. Even the talisman seals that have been distributed in the institution should be kept a secret. We cannot allow news of this to leak easily.” Bu Jingshuang sighed.

Shang Xia turned serious before asking, “Mister Bu, did you notice something wrong?”

Bu Jingshuang responded immediately. “There are people trying to dig out the origin of those talisman seals in the trade fair and even though we lack concrete evidence, I suspect that the 3 Elysiums are behind it.”

Since Bu Jingshuang only mentioned the 3 Elysiums, he definitely left the Yuanchen Sect out of it.

Shang Xia wasn’t surprised that they were paying attention to talisman seals. It was also the reason why the Tongyou Institution would keep it a secret when releasing several rank two or three talisman seals in the trade fair every year. They wanted to prevent it from being traced back to Shang Xia.

Naturally, the talisman seals he crafted didn’t disappoint. It was a highly desirable item in the trade fair and it was one of the important tools he used to obtain fate dipper essences.

“Mister Bu, do you know why the 3 Elysiums are interested in them?” Shang Xia wondered out loud.

From the first trade fair, the Martial Dipper Realm experts from the 3 Elysiums made an oath that even they wouldn’t know the parties who conducted the trade during the fair. If things were true, it seemed as though they kept their promise. Otherwise, they would long since have uncovered the fact that the Tongyou Institution was the one behind the production of the treasures.

Bu Jingshuang shook his head and sighed, “I don’t know for sure, but I feel like things aren’t as simple as finding out their source.”

Shang Xia nodded while falling deep in thought.

A moment later, he snapped awake and saw that Bu Jingshuang was still standing before him. He hadn’t returned to the Tongyou Paradise.

“Mister Bu, is something the matter?” Shang Xia was slightly taken aback.

Bu Jingshuang chuckled bitterly in response, “Well, it’s nothing much, but I want to let you know that the institution might be going to craft a specialized treasure to ferry our members to the Three Unity Island.”

“What’s the matter? Is the Auspicious Cloud Cape not cutting it?” Shang Xia raised an eyebrow curiously.

“The Auspicious Cloud Cape is really useful, but it can’t be used to bring many people over. Moreover, every time we use it, we need 3 experienced experts at the Martial Extermination Realm to activate and maintain the treasure...” Bu Jingshuang mumbled.

Shang Xia wanted to say more, but Bu Jingshuang continued, "I know that you wish to say that you can send us to the island, but we can't possibly ask a Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor to make a move every time we need to head over..."

"Did something happen on the Three Unity Island?" Shang Xia considered the possibilities before asking.

The reply quickly came. "There weren't too many changes. It's just that there are too many people right now. There are at least 3000 people taking up long-term residence on the island and there are even more moving about the island. When the trade fair draws close, there will be close to 10000 people there."

Even though 10000 people didn't seem too many, if everyone there was in the Martial Intent Realm or higher, that would be a pretty terrifying fact.

Shang Xia thought of something else and he asked, "The Yuanchen Sect also produced their own Elysium... Did they also create a special method to send their disciples to the island? Are other factions thinking of doing the same thing?"

A strange light flashed through Bu Jingshuang's eyes and he whispered, "The Yuanchen Sect... They..."

"What's the matter?"

"They managed to nurture a rank five Cloud Roc!" Bu Jingshuang completed his sentence eventually.

"Oh?" Shang Xia gasped.

"From the looks of it, it managed to advance recently. A rank five Cloud Roc is able to travel through out of the Beyond Heavens Pavilion easily and it can ferry 100 or so people each time. As it continues to grow stronger, the number of cultivators it can carry will also increase." Bu Jingshuang explained.

"Rearing a mature rank five spiritual beast... The Yuanchen Sect hid their plans really well!" Shang Xia couldn't help but praise. However, no one knew what he was truly feeling.

Glancing at Shang Xia, Bu Jingshuang sighed, "They probably only allowed it to undergo advancement after they produced an expert in the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm."

Shang Xia nodded instinctively. The 4 Elysiums had a way to send their experts to the Three Unity Island and it obviously wasn't a coincidence. Everything had to do with their experts at the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm.

Bu Jingshuang added, "The number of members that can be sent by other factions are limited even if they aren't assisted by their Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors. For example, we can only send 6 to 8 people to the island with the help of the Auspicious Cloud Cape. Things aren't looking too bad for us, but we are far from being able to send many cultivators from the You Continent over."

“I have to think about how we should go about doing it. It’s not something we can achieve in a short amount of time.” Shang Xia admitted.

“The most capable people do the most work at the end of the day! Patriarch Kou hasn’t exited seclusion in the Tongyou Paradise and your grandfather is hunting down the experts of the Spirit Abundance World with other experts from our Azure Ascension World. Deputy Patriarch Ji is unable to leave Beyond Heavens Pavilion and I can only mention this matter to you...” Bu Jingshuang smiled.

Shang Xia grunted before changing the topic. “Speaking of my grandpa, according to the agreement we had with the other factions, he should be returning soon, right?”

“That’s perfect. When he’s back you can work with your grandfather to think of something! Otherwise, when we have to head out again, we will have to trouble you...” Bu Jingshuang laughed.

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Not too long after he left, Shang Xia glanced around the pavilion before returning to the Tongyou Paradise.

He didn’t see Ji Wenlong anywhere and decided to head over to where Kou Chongxue was in seclusion. He discovered that the patriarch was showing no signs that he would be leaving seclusion and he didn’t even respond to any transmissions that were sent to him before.

Shang Xia couldn’t help but feel curious. After the battle 3 years ago, Kou Chongxue seemed to ignore everything that went on in the institution to enter seclusion. No one had seen him the entire time.

Shang Xia’s instincts told him that there might be some strange transformation that happened to Kou Chongxue and if the patriarch didn’t say anything, no one would learn about it.

After leaving the Tongyou Paradise, Shang Xia still didn’t detect Ji Wenlong anywhere. He couldn’t help but try to look for traces of the Deputy Patriarch with his divine will and determined that Ji Wenlong could have headed for the southwestern region of the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range. It was where the borders of the You, Bing, and Ji Continents lay.

With Kou Chongxue in seclusion, Shang Bo deep in space, and Ji Wenlong patrolling the You Continent, he was the only one in the city. He had a sneaking suspicion that all of them had left for the sole reason of avoiding their responsibilities in the institution. He was left to deal with the many matters that required the attention of a Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor.

If any one of them was still around, Bu Jingshuang wouldn’t be looking for him!

After leaving the Tongyou Paradise, Shang Xia headed straight for the Talisman Hall. He didn’t forget to conceal his aura to prevent anyone in the Martial Intent Realm or lower from discovering his presence.

With his current cultivation, if he didn’t intentionally conceal his aura, lower-level cultivators would have their mental state and cultivation affected if they came into contact with him.

That was the reason why the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors of the institution rarely appeared before others.

Chapter 753: Creating Another Rank Five Talisman

With guidance from Shang Xia, a rank five Talisman Grandmaster, the Talisman Hall experienced an all-rounded upgrade.

If there was one thing the upper echelons of the institution was disappointed with, it was the fact that there were 7 rank three Talisman Masters but ever since Shang Xia, there hasn't been a second rank four Talisman Grandmaster.

It wasn't Shang Xia's fault for not properly guiding them in the way of talismans, or other strange factors. The gap between a rank three Talisman Master and a rank four Talisman Grandmaster was just too large. The difference was even larger than the Martial Intent Realm and the Martial Extermination Realm. In order to cross the chasm, a Talisman Master could only rely on themselves.

Shang Xia conducted several open demonstrations and went through the rank four talisman inheritances several times, but they couldn't directly assist in others' improvement to a Talisman Grandmaster. In order to become a rank four Talisman Grandmaster, one would require enough accumulated knowledge and experience in crafting rank four talismans.

From Shang Xia's estimations, it wouldn't take long for the second rank four Talisman Grandmaster to appear. If their progress was fast enough, a second rank four Talisman Grandmaster might appear in the next 2 years. In the worst-case scenario, they would reach that level in 5 years at most.

Of course, even though they would be a rank four Talisman Grandmaster, they would be far from what Shang Xia was back then. Moreover, they would probably only be able to focus on a certain talisman inheritance first while trying to maintain their success rate above 30 percent.

That was the path most Talisman Grandmasters in the Azure Ascension World took.

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Bu Jingshuang and the others were really efficient. It hadn't been long since they returned from the Three Unity Island when they handed over the resources to Ren Huan of the Talisman Hall.

As the best talisman paper craftsman in the Talisman Hall, the talisman papers he made would usually end up with Shang Xia. As such, Ren Huan had been tasked with allocating the resources the Talisman Hall received.

Shang Xia rushed all the way to the Talisman Hall because Bu Jingshuang managed to obtain a piece of rank five spiritual beast skin during the trade fair.

The rank five spiritual beast skin came from the Spirit Abundance World and was something obtained during the war 3 years ago. Crafting rank five talisman papers was a complicated process. Even with the required ingredients, one would need great skill in order to craft rank five talisman papers. With high-level beast skin, the difficulty of crafting high-level talisman papers would decrease by half.

Ren Huan might be a rank four talisman paper craftsman, but Shang Xia hoped that he would be able to attempt crafting rank five talisman paper with the rank five beast skin.

The risk of failure might be high, but that was the price every craftsman needed to pay in order to improve.

With the exception of the beast skin, Bu Jingshuang also brought back 3 pieces of rank five talisman paper. The other side requested that the Tongyou Institution repay them with a rank five talisman during the trade fair the following year.

3 pieces of talisman paper for a single talisman. That was the rule.

Usually, deals made in the Three Unity Pagoda would be anonymous. However, the Tongyou Institution didn't intend to keep their rank five Talisman Grandmaster a secret. In fact, they seemed afraid that no one would know that Shang Xia was planning to look for resources to craft rank five talismans.

Every time a trade fair took place in the Three Unity Pagoda, the rank four talismans from the Tongyou Institution would be a great hit. They would usually be able to obtain a good portion of precious treasures for the institution.

The Tongyou Institution strictly controlled the use of their high-level talismans in the past. After the birth of the Azure Ascension World, the You Continent was relatively more peaceful. Their lack of resources was also solved and they started to allow a small portion of high-level talismans to be traded.

The number of cultivators who went over to the Tongyou Institution's store to request for talismans was massive every year.

With the 3 pieces of rank five talisman paper Bu Jingshuang brought back, along with those he obtained through other channels in the past 3 years, Shang Xia managed to gather 8 of them in total. If Ren Huan could succeed, the number of rank five talisman papers he possessed would increase and they would be enough for the foreseeable future.

Even though Shang Xia didn't know much about the production of rank five talisman paper, he was extremely invested in the process. He took special attention to Ren Huan when he started the crafting process.

Unable to take the pressure and the stinging gaze on him when he was crafting talisman paper, Ren Huan chased Shang Xia away under the shocked gazes of everyone present.

Shang Xia also realized that he was too impatient. His mentality was slightly affected and he planned to craft some rank four talismans in order to soothe his nerves.

Several more ambitious rank three Talisman Masters rushed over the moment Shang Xia announced that he would be crafting rank four talismans. They learned what he would be crafting and the timeline of the demonstration before splitting into 3 groups in order to observe the process.

Shang Xia was extremely familiar with crafting rank four talismans at that point. Even though the time required to craft a single talisman was short, the rank three Talisman Masters observing the process would feel drained out. They would need some time to recover after watching his demonstration.

That was why other than the rank three Talisman Masters who had entered the Martial Extermination Realm, the others split themselves up into groups to observe the crafting process.

They would take breaks between the demonstrations to ensure they would be in their peak state when watching his every move.

Shang Xia used close to 2 months to craft rank four talismans and he wiped out close to 20 rank four talisman papers the Talisman Hall gathered for the past year.

One had to say that the Tongyou Institution had been growing richer these years. They would be able to gather 20 talisman papers every year and that was something unimaginable in the past!

When Shang Xia first became a rank four Talisman Grandmaster, the Tongyou Institution... No, the entire You Continent pooled together all their resources, in order to gather 34 rank four talisman papers. Every single person, including Kou Chongxue, basically took out everything they had during that period of time! Compared to the current Tongyou Institution, they were actually dirt poor back then!

Shang Xia completed 13 rank four talismans in total with a success rate that surpassed the 60 percent mark. Moreover, he chose to craft the stronger talismans which were a little harder to craft.

A portion of the 13 talismans were handed over to the institution and a smaller portion had to be given to those who commissioned the Tongyou Institution to craft talismans. Anything leftover would be gathered by the Talisman Hall so that they could trade for more resources in the future.

According to the rules, Shang Xia was supposed to receive a portion of the benefits after crafting so many talismans. He decided to swap the talismans he was supposed to obtain for other things.

When he was done crafting the batch of talismans, he took a short break to restore his depleted inner qi. His mental state also quickly returned to its peak so as to calm himself enough so that he could start crafting rank five talismans.

He ran through the crafting process countless times in his mind and all that was left was for him to confirm them through the actual crafting process.

With so many rank five talisman papers, Shang Xia might not have enough rank five talisman ink if he had to rely solely on the Tongyou Institution. Fortunately, he managed to obtain a portion of rank five talisman ink from Yi Jingzi of the Heavenly Star Palace because of the friendship they developed during the battle 3 years ago. There was enough in there to craft 3 rank five talismans.

The only thing he lacked was a high-level talisman brush. It didn't matter if it was the Purple Bamboo Brush or the White Bone Brush, but they were slightly lacking when used to craft rank five talismans. They were extremely suitable when it came to crafting rank four talismans, but that seemed to be the peak of their abilities.

Of course, to craft a better brush than those would be an extremely tall task.

One had to know that even those 2 brushes had been obtained from other continents. The Tongyou Institution didn't have the ability to craft high-rank brushes. Ren Bainian might be great at repairing artifacts, but getting him to craft a brush from scratch was a shot in the dark.

Back then, Ren Bainian once made a suggestion to Shang Xia. If Shang Xia was able to find the bone of a rank five spiritual beast, he could attempt swapping out the body of the White Bone Brush. Even though the brush would still be a high-rank brush, it could close in onto something like a pseudo divine-grade brush.

Of course, if Shang Xia could find a rank five Purple Jade Bamboo, he could also make the same attempt on the Purple Bamboo Brush.

Shang Xia remained in the Talisman Hall for another month and he conducted two more lectures for the many Talisman Masters they had. He would patiently guide them with any questions they might face.

Just like that, 3 months passed. Ren Huan finally sent news that even though his success rate wasn't too high, he managed to produce 2 pieces of rank five talisman paper.

For a rank four talisman paper craftsman like Ren Huan, the number of rank five talisman papers he could make wasn't the important point. It was his initial success. Once he successfully created the first piece, his skills would increase at a rapid rate!

With the 2 rank five talisman papers Ren Huan made, Shang XIA gathered a total of 10 of them. He started to prepare his third journey to craft rank five talismans!

Because he only had 10 chances, he needed to make every one count. He needed great consideration and proper preparation. He used 1 entire month to adjust his mental state and physical condition and continued to run through the process of crafting in his mind. He also started to grab a feel for the best time to start the process.

Everything he was doing could be considered a part of his unique way of crafting talismans. Even though he didn't feel the strange sense of inspiration, he felt that he reached a certain state of fusion with the environment around him. As such, he started his first attempt to craft a rank five Abyssal Emptiness Talisman.

Be it Shang Xia or the institution, they only had 2 rank five talisman inheritances.

Compared to the rank five Substitution Talisman, a rank five Abyssal Emptiness Talisman was much easier to craft.

Because he already made his preparations, Shang Xia succeeded in crafting it after 2 tries.

This talisman had been commissioned to the Tongyou Institution and they would have to hand it over to whoever it was during the next trade fair, but Shang Xia managed to gain 1 extra rank five talisman paper from their deal.

After resting for a period of time, Shang Xia restored himself to his peak state before starting to craft a rank five Substitution Talisman.

Actually, he felt that it was a little more pressing to craft a rank five Substitution Talisman. That was especially so because he didn't have a complete fate dipper. Unable to split off Fate Dipper Clones, a Substitution Talisman would mean that he would gain another life.

Chapter 754: New Talisman Development

In his years of cultivation, Shang Xia reached an awkward conclusion that his path might lead to something strange, the creation of his Fate Dipper Clones!

Ordinarily, after becoming a second element Martial Dipper Realm expert, one would be able to separate a Fate Dipper Clone that possessed combat abilities at the Martial Dipper Realm. The clone would be able to deal with a lot more issues that required the attention of the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor.

More importantly, when faced with mortal danger, a Martial Dipper Realm expert would be able to sacrifice the clone to stay alive!

However, with Shang Xia's way of cultivation, he refined fate dipper essences rather than Origin Dippers... His way of cultivation greatly lowered the barrier of entry to the Martial Dipper Realm (Disregarding the fact that he required 10 different types of fate dipper essences), but made it such that possessing his own Fate Dipper Clone was going to be really difficult.

With Shang Xia's current way of training where he ensured the balance of all 5 elements and their yin yang alignment in his body, he would probably have to refine 100 strands of fate dipper essence before there was any hope of that happening.

Of course, in theory, when that happened, he would be able to separate 9 Fate Dipper Clones from himself and enter the large completion stage of the Five Elements Realm.

The process would be excruciatingly long, and if he was unable to separate a Fate Dipper Clone during that time, he would be much more vulnerable compared to Martial Dipper Realm experts at the same level. The dangers he would face would be several times more than others.

In order to make up for the weaknesses, Shang Xia could only rely on the Substitution Talisman.

It was a shame a Substitution Talisman was much more difficult to craft than the Abyssal Emptiness Talisman. He might only own 2 rank five talisman inheritances, but he had a feeling that the difficulty of crafting a Substitution Talisman was up there along with the most difficult of rank five talismans.

He succeeded in crafting 2 Substitution Talismans back then, but he wasn't exactly confident he would be able to do it again so easily.

Fortunately for him, he had great experience crafting rank four talismans. He knew dozens of rank four talismans and his mastery over them was pretty commendable. His "all-rounded" Mastery of them brought him a direct benefit when he was crafting rank five talismans. He was much more adaptable and could correct his mistakes along the way when compared to Talisman Grandmasters of the same level.

That was how he was able to maintain a certain level of success rate when crafting talismans after he successfully created the first one.

Even though he wasn't very confident in crafting Substitution Talismans yet, Shang Xia managed to succeed on his third attempt.

Using 3 rank five talisman papers to craft a single talisman was the benchmark for a proper rank five Talisman Grandmaster.

After completing 2 rank five talismans, Shang Xia used up half of the rank five talisman papers he had in his possession. With the last 5 pieces, he planned to come up with a completely new talisman. The inspiration for it stemmed from the semi-complete rank six talisman Kou Chongxue passed him back then.

When they forced the Spirit Abundance World to retreat back then, the peak-tier experts among them had a talisman that could pull them back to the Spirit Abundance World through the vast sea of stars.

As they were activating the talisman, 4 of them were killed by the experts in the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm. Kou Chongxue's opponent was unable to fully activate his talisman in time and a portion of it was preserved.

Shang Xia was planning to come up with his own rank five talisman with the inspiration gained from rank six talisman.

According to his experiences and what Kou Chongxue described, the main effects of the rank six talisman could be split into 2 major functions.

The first was that a spatial barrier would appear around them to prevent them from being hit by any attack unleashed by experts under the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm. Even Kou Chongxue's Origin Yang Thousand Peak Sword Art.

The main purpose of the spatial barrier wasn't to protect them from attacks by other experts. Instead, it was to prevent the dangers of traveling through the vast sea of stars from affecting them.

Of course, the second function was to pull them back through space.

It was vastly different from Shang Xia's Abyssal Emptiness Talisman. The Abyssal Emptiness Talisman might have the effect of assisting one to pass through space, but it was a mere assistive talisman that would ease the travel of an expert through space. It couldn't pull the user through space directly.

Well, the Abyssal Emptiness Talisman was also useful when it came to shattering restrictions. With the same logic, it would only assist the user and enhance one's ability rather than doing all the work directly.

When Kou Chongxue handed him the half-preserved rank six talisman 3 years ago, Shang Xia already thought of coming up with his own rank five talisman.

He used 3 whole years to study and perfect his new talisman.

If the Substitution Talisman was able to allow one to avoid certain death, the new Teleportation Talisman would allow one to instantaneously avoid the lethal strike directed at them.

Anyone who used the Substitution Talisman along with the Teleportation Talisman would no longer have to worry about being killed instantly.

After adjusting his condition, Shang Xia didn't hesitate as his brush landed on the talisman paper before him.

This time, he was still using the White Bone Brush. It wasn't for any other reason than the fact that the material of the brush was much sturdier than the Purple Bamboo Brush.

Shang Xia simulated crafting the talisman countless times in his mind but when he truly started on it, he discovered that the tip of the brush wasn't moving the way he envisioned and the talisman ink wasn't flowing as smoothly as he had thought.

As the tip of his brush landed on the talisman paper, space started to twist and deep creases were formed. They eventually snapped, causing spatial splinters to appear everywhere. Those splinters started to spread slowly and eventually resembled spatial cracks.

The dipper qi that filled the White Bone Brush seemed to have reached its limit. Shang Xia felt that if he continued to force it through, the spatial disturbances around would probably affect the brush.

Shang Xia stared at the talisman paper that was one-third complete on the table and sighed softly. He raised his brush and no longer poured his dipper qi into it.

The spatial splinters that appeared near the surface of the paper immediately resonated with whatever remaining qi there was on the paper. The rank five talisman paper was torn to shreds and the spatial splinters expanded in the next instant. The spatial disturbance that followed seemed to want to swallow the entire chamber Shang Xia was using.

Having long been prepared, Shang Xia's powerful dipper qi emerged and suppressed the spatial cracks that were forming and neutralized the fluctuations.

Shaking his head lightly, Shang Xia reached out before him and retrieved the items on the table. The next second, the entire table crumbled into a pile of dust.

He instructed the Talisman Hall to send another sturdy wooden table into his chamber before also calling for Ren Bainian.

Ren Bianian and his clan managed to take up residence in the You Continent and managed to meld pretty well with the rest of the powers there.

The friendship Ren Bainian built with Shang Xia gave him quite a bit of benefits in the You Continent. It was especially so after Shang Xia successfully stepped into the Martial Dipper Realm. Ren Bainian, with his great skills at repairing weapons, also experienced a significant rise in status.

After receiving Shang Xia's invitation, Ren Bainian dropped everything he was doing and rushed over with all the equipment he might need to help Shang Xia repair his artifact.

The moment they met, Shang Xia chuckled bitterly and handed him the White Bone Brush.

Staring at the White Bone Brush that seemed fine on the outside, Ren Bainian reached out to hold it. The moment he touched the brush, he discovered what was wrong with it.

Tapping lightly on the tip of the brush, a small portion dropped off.

Staring at the fragments in his hand, Ren Bainian's eyes widened in shock as he turned to Shang Xia. His lips quivered, but no words emerged. Whatever it was, the look of confusion on his face couldn't be hidden.

Shang Xia forced a smile and muttered, "There's no need to guess what happened. Something went wrong when I was trying to create a new rank five talisman."

"Oh..." Ren Bainian mumbled once and thought to himself, *Even if you're coming up with a new talisman, you shouldn't damage the brush to this extent, right?! With your cultivation and skill, how can something like this happen? Were you careless or was there something special about the talisman you're crafting?*

That was what he wanted to say to Shang Xia, but he didn't dare to.

Luckily, only the tip seemed damaged. The damage was much easier to deal with than the actual body of the brush he had to restore the other time.

Being as well prepared as he was, Ren Bainian quickly located several strands of fine hair that was obtained from a spiritual beast and muttered, "The damage isn't too serious but I will need around 7 days to restore the brush." Pausing slightly, Ren Bainian was eventually unable to contain his

curiosity and he asked, “I didn’t think that the institution would already gain a third rank five talisman inheritance. What is it called?”

Shang Xia was still contemplating what happened earlier and he replied casually, “Oh, it’s not a new inheritance. It’s something I plan to come up with.”

Clatter...

A bunch of items Ren Bainian brought with him scattered onto the ground below and he hastily reached down to pack them up.

When he finally met Shang Xia’s gaze again, he chuckled awkwardly, “My hand slipped...”

Chapter 755: Development Pt.2

Who could have imagined that Shang Xia was creating his own rank five talisman?!

Creating a rank five talisman based on an inheritance and creating one from scratch were 2 different concepts!

The difficulty one would face would be on completely different scales!

From what Ren Bainian understood, Shang Xia only had experience crafting 2 types of rank five talismans. Also, he only managed to succeed 3 times in total.

It was his third try at crafting rank five talismans and even if he managed to create another 2, that would still put his total up at 5.

With 5 talismans under his belt, Shang Xia actually tried to craft a new rank five talisman. Ren Bainian didn’t know if Shang Xia was overflowing with genius or if he was crazy!

Shang Xia didn’t know what Ren Bainian was thinking of, but during the time Ren Bainian was taking to repair his brush, he continued to improve on his new Teleportation Talisman.

...

7 days later, when Ren Bainian was done, Shang Xia retrieved his brush. He used 3 more days to prepare himself before starting again.

This time, he was a lot more confident. He failed once, but he summarized his mistakes and tried to make some improvements while waiting for his brush to be fixed. The first part of the process went pretty smoothly and he completed one-third of the talisman before long. He became a lot more sure of himself as he went on.

3 more days passed and according to what he came up with, he compared half the talisman. Unfortunately, he hesitated slightly and his brush didn’t complete his stroke smoothly and a tiny trace of dipper qi built up where he paused. It destroyed the talisman paper immediately.

This time, the spatial fluctuations didn’t damage the tip of the brush. However, it left a tiny crack in the shaft.

Shang Xia was prepared for it and didn’t let Ren Bainian get too far. Ren Bainian was still in the Talisman Hall and he was able to immediately start repairing the brush again.

With the time Ren Bainian required to repair the brush, Shang Xia continued to reflect on the crafting process. He thought back to all the mistakes he thought about how he could improve the next time while making notes.

Kou Chongxue was the one who told Shang Xia to do that. After Shang Xia became a rank five Talisman Grandmaster, Kou Chongxue told him to record his experiences after every crafting process. The outcome didn't matter. He would hand the records over to someone from the Talisman Hall who would properly phrase them and keep them in the archives so that others could look at them in the future.

Actually, Kou Chongxue thought of it when Shang Xia was still a rank four Talisman Grandmaster. However, things progressed too quickly back then. Shang Xia didn't even want to join them initially. Before they could even establish a proper system to archive his experiences, he went ahead and broke through to the Martial Dipper Realm and became a rank five Talisman Grandmaster.

Whatever it was, 10 days later, Shang Xia retrieved the repaired brush from Ren Bainian as he started to craft his Teleportation Talisman once again.

With 2 failures under his belt now, Shang Xia started and quickly completed half the talisman.

When crafting the next part, he finally ran into more problems which he had to adapt to and fix on the spot.

On the sixth day, there was only a quarter left.

However, Shang Xia seemed to have realized he would fail the day before.

Even so, he didn't stop. He pushed it as far as he could in order to learn as much as possible. Only then would he be able to improve further and take another step towards completing the Teleportation Talisman.

When he was nearly 80 percent done with the talisman, the brush finally reached its limit. Even with Shang Xia's dipper qi, the White Bone Brush could no longer hold on after the excessive number of mistakes.

As space trembled all around, the talisman paper was torn to shreds. Luckily, he had previous experiences and he managed to ensure that the brush remained undamaged. Rather than destroying the brush, the entire secret chamber was destroyed. Even the protective formation around it shattered and the shockwaves might have traveled even further.

After failing 3 times in a row, Shang Xia was left with 2 chances.

If he still wasn't able to craft the Teleportation Talisman, no one knew when he would be able to attempt crafting rank five talismans again.

The more critical things got, the more he had to ensure he didn't panic and rush things.

Taking the chance when they were fixing his secret chamber, Shang Xia regulated his emotions and allowed himself to remain calm.

As someone had to repair the formation around the secret chamber, Chu Jia rushed over as soon as she heard the news.

She wouldn't avoid Shang Xia just because he was trying to regulate his mental state. She approached him directly and asked, "Why don't you head into the Tongyou Paradise to craft

talismans anyway? I recall that our Tongyou Paradise has a special chamber built for you that is filled with heaven and earth spiritual qi. It will greatly increase your chances of success.”

Shang Xia shook his head in response. “No. It is indeed beneficial when crafting talismans, but the destruction caused when I fail to craft a rank five talisman is huge. If I fail to contain the destruction, it will most likely cause serious damage to the space contained in the Tongyou Paradise. If I were crafting low-level talismans, it’s fine. However, I won’t attempt to craft rank five talismans there unless I am 100 percent sure I won’t make a mistake. I only succeeded 5 times in total and it’s far from enough...”

Pressing her lips together, Chu Jia snorted, “Oh? So you do know that you only succeeded 5 times in total. Where did you find the courage to come up with a new talisman then?”

Shang Xia revealed a helpless expression and he chuckled bitterly, “I didn’t have a choice. The institution only has 2 rank five talisman inheritances and they do not possess a direct offensive or defensive property. Only during critical moments where one’s life would be threatened would they shine. Otherwise, they won’t be of much use...”

“Just because I’m a Formation Grandmaster doesn't mean that I don't know a thing about talismans... The talisman you were making earlier doesn't have any offensive or defensive properties either! It's still going to be a talisman made to preserve someone's life at the critical moment...” Chu Jia chuckled.

Shang Xia didn’t deny it. He nodded and explained, “That is correct. However, you cannot forget what happened when the experts of the Spirit Abundance World tried to leave. The talisman they used covered them in a spatial barrier and prevented them from any attacks thrown their way...”

Chu Jia gasped in shock, “So... You’re not just planning to come up with a rank five talisman that can allow one to shift through space! You also plan to come up with a new defensive-type talisman!”

Looking at the faint smile on Shang Xia’s face, Chu Jia’s gaze trembled slightly. “No... That’s not right... Are you planning to restore the rank six talisman?!”

“Haah... It’s not that easy to restore the rank six talisman. At the very least, it’s not something I can even think of at the moment. However, have you thought about it? Talismans used to only possess one property. However, the rank six talisman from the Spirit Abundance World managed to merge the effects of defense and movement into one...” Shang Xia chuckled in response.

The look of shock on Chu Jia’s face didn’t fade. “Are you planning to look into the secrets of an expert at the Sixth Order through the talisman?!”

Shang Xia maintained the smile on his face but he didn’t say more.

...

After 10 or so days later, the secret chamber was finally restored. Shang Xia started his fourth attempt.

With the successive failures, Shang Xia gained a lot. The confidence that he would be able to succeed soon filled him.

Alas, confidence didn't equate to results. When he completed more than 90 percent of the talisman and was about to finish the talisman, everything crumbled. All his hard work went to waste.

The failure came so suddenly that Shang Xia wasn't able to fully suppress the effects. The spatial cracks destroyed swallowed a good portion of the secret chamber he was in.

Fortunately, the formation outside had been personally laid down by Chu Jia and it stopped the damage from spreading directly into the Tongyou Institution.

In the skies 800 miles south of the city somewhere in the depths of the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range, a giant spatial tear appeared and a half-destroyed secret chamber fell from the skies.

Back in the institution, by the time the experts of the Talisman Hall and Tongyou Institution reacted, Shang Xia had already stopped the spatial fluctuations from spreading further. The only thing that shocked him was that he didn't know where the other part of the secret chamber went after it was swallowed by the spatial crack.

When he failed earlier, he was fortunate he managed to retrieve everything of value before the spatial crack destroyed half the chamber. Only some useless treasures were lost.

By the time Shang Xia emerged from the destruction, cultivators of the institution had already gathered around. They stared at the region contained inside the formation that was completely wiped clean by then before staring at each other in shock.

"We need to be quick." Shang Xia instructed the person in charge of the Talisman Hall to hurry with the reconstruction of a new secret chamber before looking for a place to think about matters.

The Talisman Master he instructed wanted to ask further but was stopped by someone at the side.

"Do not disturb him. He seems to have reached a state of epiphany..." The person who stopped the Talisman Master was Chu Jia, and of everyone present, she could be said to be the person who understood Shang Xia the most.

She casually laid down a formation around to prevent anyone from disturbing him before arranging for the members of the Talisman Hall to hurry up with their reconstruction of the new chamber.

They managed to complete the task in 3 short days, and Shang Xia immediately got to his feet the moment it was done. He didn't care about anything else as he stepped into the chamber before sealing it up completely.

"Get everyone away. It would be best if you cleared out 1000 feet away from this secret chamber." Chu Jia advised the members of the Talisman Hall before strengthening the formation around the secret chamber once again.

...

At the moment, Shang Xia was indeed in a strange state of mind. More accurately, after failing to craft the Teleportation Talisman for a fourth time, he seemed to have gained a tiny sliver of inspiration.

It was a pity the secret chamber was destroyed and he couldn't immediately begin his fifth attempt. He could only try to maintain the special state of mind by meditating at the side.

The moment he entered his special state of mind again, Shang Xia knew that his final attempt would end in success.

Indeed... 6 days passed and Shang Xia completed the Teleportation Talisman without any hiccups in between.

Even though he didn't know its effects, there was 1 more problem he was facing at the moment. He completed his rank five talisman, but he was still in his special state of mind. He no longer had any rank five talisman papers, and he used up all the rank four talisman papers he had a long time ago...

Chapter 756: Teleportation Talisman

After using up all the rank five talisman papers he had, Shang Xia finally completed his Teleportation Talisman which he had no idea what the effects were.

Inspiration was something hard to come by and Shang Xia didn't wish to waste it. Unfortunately, the situation looked pretty bad. He was out of rank four and five talisman papers, and he couldn't possibly use it on a mere rank three talisman!

With his current skill, there was no point in crafting rank three talismans in his current state of mind. He wouldn't fail in the first place.

Was he supposed to let the feeling escape just like that?!

A thought flashed through his mind the next moment. He reached out instinctively and used his right index finger as a brush. His Five Element Dipper Qi was the talisman ink as the space before him was used as a talisman paper. He started to draw a talisman in the void before him!

Because it was something he came up with on the fly, Shang Xia decided to test out a rank three talisman. In fact, he used one of the easiest talismans to craft among the rank three talismans he knew, the Golden Spear Talisman!

Pointing at the void before him, Five Element Dipper Qi started to pour out from his body in a steady stream. It left behind clear traces in the void wherever Shang Xia's finger moved.

To break down the reason Shang Xia was able to do what he did. 30 percent of the reason was because of Shang Xia's cultivation. 30 percent of it relied on his control over his inner qi. The last 40 percent was because of the special properties of Shang Xia's Five Elements Dipper Qi.

His inner qi could remain in the space before him without fading, up till he completed a Golden Spear Talisman!

His precise control and property of inner qi might allow the talisman to be successfully created, but that didn't mean that it would last forever!

The moment the talisman was completed, Shang Xia swiped directly at it.

He didn't scatter the talisman with the swipe. Instead, he activated the talisman that was made in the void.

Golden qi emerged as a spear that was surrounded by lightning emerged. A sharp whistle could be heard tearing through space and it pierced through the chamber he was in. It slammed heavily into the protection formation outside, causing a huge explosion.

With the successful activation of the talisman he drew in the void, Shang Xia understood that the idea was completely feasible!

Even though he never expected it to work and it was something he came up with on the fly, he actually succeeded on the first try!

Of course, it was a complete waste to craft a rank three talisman with his Five Elements Dipper Qi.

With everything complete, Shang Xia could feel the sense of inspiration slowly leaving.

Without missing a beat and ignoring the consumption of his inner qi, he started to craft another talisman before him. This time, he wanted to create the first rank four talisman he made when he first became a rank four Talisman Grandmaster, the Golden Sun Inferno Talisman!

His fingertip danced in mid air as his inner qi poured out from it to form runes in the air that lingered for a long time.

No one knew how long had passed, but along with his final stroke, the Golden Sun Inferno Talisman was complete! From what he felt, Shang Xia could tell that the talisman in the air would dissipate a lot faster than the rank three talisman he made before.

Only then did he recall that he was still within the confines of the secret chamber and was separated from the outside world by the formation Chu Jia laid down.

Helpless, he could only wave his sleeves to expand the space around him as much as possible.

BOOM!

With a massive explosion that was even louder than that of the Golden Spear Talisman rocking through the Talisman Hall, they weren't the only ones who were drawn to the sound. A good portion of those who were in the institution at the moment turned to stare in the direction of his secret chamber.

Shang Xia's secret chamber was destroyed for a third time. This time was different from the previous 2. The first time, the spatial fluctuation damaged the secret chamber to a great extent. The second failure caused half the secret chamber to be swallowed by spatial cracks. Now... The entire chamber was turned into dust...

Even with the protection formation separating him from the outside world, everyone could see a giant sun emerging high above the Talisman Hall.

When he was finally done, he could feel that he had fully stepped out of the strange state of mind.

Even though he only completed a rank three and rank four talisman in the void, Shang Xia knew that he might have created a completely new way of crafting talismans. It would greatly increase the combat abilities of Talisman Masters and their adaptability in real combat!

Of course, the prerequisite was that they would be able to grasp the concept of crafting talismans in the void.

To the current Shang Xia, he felt that crafting talismans in the void was a lot more difficult than on talisman paper!

Compared to the traditional way of crafting talismans, the inner qi consumption was too great.

Even though he was already in the Martial Dipper Realm, he could still feel the obvious drain when crafting the Golden Sun Inferno Talisman earlier. Waves of lethargy overcame him.

If anyone else tried...

If one looked past the negative effects, it wasn't as though it was all bad. Not only did it increase the number of skills a Talisman Master could use, but it also ensured that they would be able to craft talismans without the use of talisman paper.

Eventually calming down, Shang Xia understood that there was much to improve. Completing a talisman in the void for the first time proved that it could work, but that didn't mean that there weren't better ways to do it. Obviously, the improvement couldn't be done in a short amount of time. For the foreseeable future, the method would only be grasped by several high-level experts who had the qualification to learn it.

Looking at the scene of destruction before him, Shang Xia sighed helplessly before creating a gap in the formation that was trembling uncontrollably.

A good majority of the Talisman Masters of the institution had already arrived. Even Chu Jia from the Formation Hall came to mess around.

The moment he stepped out from the protection formation, everyone's gaze landed on the rubble... No... They were greeted with a clean site as everything had been completely burned down.

"HAHA! Do you have something against your secret chamber?! This is the third time you wrecked it!" Chu Jia was the first to roar with laughter.

A helpless chuckle left his lips. "I managed to comprehend a new way to craft talismans earlier and I wanted to test it out... I accidentally turned the whole place down."

"A new way to craft talismans?" Chu Jia's gaze swept past the Talisman Masters around before finally staring at Shang Xia again. "Are you saying that you succeeded in crafting your new talisman?"

"Well, I did it, but..." Shang Xia hesitated for a second before mumbling.

"What's the matter then?" Chu Jia interrupted.

"It's just that this is a completely new rank five talisman. I need to confirm the effects of the talismans after some experiments..." Shang Xia muttered.

Chu Jia couldn't help but chuckle, "So... You experienced too many failures before finally crafting your new talisman. In order to know the effects of your talisman, you have to test it out for yourself?"

“Exactly.” Shang Xia replied.

“There will be risks when you test it out for the first time, right?”

“Yeah.”

“What kind of risks?”

“I might fall into the void. Also, the space in the chamber is pretty chaotic at the moment. It might be torn to shreds again by spatial cracks and whatnot.”

Waving her hand, she turned to leave. As she walked away, she didn’t forget to laugh at him, “Alright then, you should go think of a way to test it out for yourself. I feel like getting away from you is the best thing to do right now. The further I get, the better!”

Shang Xia watched her leave before turning to the members of the Talisman Hall. He pressed his lips together and mumbled, “Alright, there’s nothing else to do here. Everyone can leave. Oh right, rank three Talisman Masters, please stay behind.”

Very quickly, only 7 rank three Talisman Masters were left.

He reactivated the formation behind him before muttering, “Alright, I have something I wish to let you know.”

He strolled into the area contained in the formation as the others quickly followed behind.

When the gap closed again, Lou Zizhang spoke before Shang Xia could say anything. “Grandmaster Shang, as this concerns whether or not the institution can gain another rank five talisman inheritance, are you planning to get someone to test out the effects of your new rank five talisman?”

Along with Fan Yuanhui, Lou Zizhang was the next most experienced Talisman Master in the Talisman Hall. His ability to craft talismans was great and with Fan Yuanhui also fulfilling the same conditions, they were in charge of the Talisman Hall.

To their surprise, Shang Xia shook his head. “That won’t be needed. The effects might not be what I think they are and other people might lose their lives if they test it out. I should personally activate the talisman to take a look at what it can do.”

Their faces changed the next moment. They started to persuade Shang Xia to act cautiously and not risk his life for nothing.

Feeling a massive headache from the noise they were making, Shang Xia snapped, “Alright, enough. I made up my mind. Moreover, I’m at the Martial Dipper Realm and I will be able to handle it if anything goes wrong. You can’t possibly get another Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor to test it out, right?”

The various Talisman Masters fell silent but they started to signal each other with their eyes. Clearly, they were planning to report the matter to the higher-ups as soon as they could to prevent Shang Xia from trying anything foolish.

He obviously noticed everything they were doing, but he was too lazy to stop them.

Fearing that Shang Xia would take it a step further and prevent them from making their report, Fan Yuanhui quickly shifted the topic. “Talisman Master Shang, didn’t you mention something about comprehending a new way to craft talismans to Formation Grandmaster Chu earlier?”

“Oh.” Shang Xia nodded. “That’s right. I called all of you here in order to tell you about a completely new way to craft talismans.”

He paused slightly before he continued, “This method is a little difficult as you will need to harness the power of space. That would mean that it’s extremely reliant on your cultivation realm. You will have to be in the Martial Extermination Realm and above in order to learn it.”

Shang Xia could see the look of disappointment on their faces after his revelation.

Ignoring them for now, Shang Xia continued, “I call the method ‘Void Talismans’. All of you can understand it as a way of crafting talismans without using a talisman paper.”

Seeing the looks of confusion and disbelief appearing on their faces, Shang Xia didn’t waste any more time. He started to reach into the air before him to start drawing a talisman. It didn’t take long before a Tranquil Water Screen Talisman was completed. Slowly pushing his hand forward, a screen of water appeared around him.

Shang Xia waved his sleeve to shatter the water screen to speak. Before he could say a word, he noticed that the look of confusion on their faces had turned into one of utter shock.

“Do we... Do we really not have to use talisman papers?” Lou Zizhang mumbled seemingly to himself.

“This... Sealing the runes made from inner qi in the void by using the power of space... One’s inner qi has to be extremely sturdy. I’m afraid one’s control over inner qi has to reach an astounding degree before being able to achieve something like that!” Fan Yuanhui revealed a bitter expression while muttering under his breath.

He was extremely clear that even though he had entered the Martial Extermination Realm, he wouldn’t be able to control his inner qi so intricately.

What was more, he was still stuck at the bottleneck of trying to become a rank four Talisman Master. He didn’t have time to care about the new method of crafting talismans!

Surprisingly, Shang Xia was the one who stared at Fan Yuanhui with a trace of shock in his eyes. He didn’t think that Fan Yuanhui would be so insightful to see what he did earlier. Even though Fan Yuanhui was a little weaker in the art of talismans when compared to Lou Zizhang, it seemed as though he would be able to catch up and become a rank four Talisman Grandmaster a little earlier!

Not planning to dig deeper into who would step through the ranks of a rank four Talisman Grandmaster first, Shang Xia started to impart his knowledge to those present.

Even though they wouldn’t be able to use it for a long time, and it was possible they would never be able to use it in their entire life, no one could deny the usefulness of Shang Xia’s ‘Void Talismans’. It greatly increased the combat abilities of anyone who had the ability to use it!

Chapter 757: Teleportation

“There’s no need for you to test out the talisman yourself.” Ji Wenlong ran back to the Tongyou Institution at top speed the moment he heard what Shang Xia planned to do. He might have been patrolling the border between the You, Bing, and Ji Continents, but that didn’t matter at the moment.

Shang Xia chuckled in response, “Senior Ji, there’s no need for you to try to persuade me anymore. The new talisman is pretty interesting and I have to verify its effects for myself so as to understand its true abilities.”

Ji Wenlong knew that Shang Xia had already made up his mind and he decided to change his approach. “Are you sure you can handle it?”

“I came up with this talisman and it is extremely suitable for me. It will be safest for me to conduct the tests.” Shang Xia muttered.

Staring at Shang Xia for a good minute before solemnly nodding his head. “Your grandpa should be returning from the vast sea of stars soon. Why don’t you wait for him before making your decision?”

Even though he understood Shang Xia’s line of reasoning, Ji Wenlong still decided to delay his attempt the best he could.

Shang Xia laughed softly and no longer lingered on the topic of the talisman. He asked, “Senior Ji, have you made any new discoveries after staying at the border between the continents for so long?”

“Ever since Yuwen Changqing entered the Martial Dipper Realm, the Evil Remnants from the 5 border continents have been gathering in the Bing Continent...” Ji Wenlong’s expression sank and he said seriously.

After thinking for a second, Shang Xia sighed, “This is something we expected. They finally produced their first Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor and the others definitely had to seek protection. Well, this saves us the trouble of looking for them in the 5 border institutions. If we get the chance, it won’t be too bad to capture them in one fell swoop...”

A bitter laugh escaped Ji Wenlong’s lips. “Both of us know that the Evil Remnants alone wouldn’t have been able to cause such a huge problem back then. They are definitely backed by other hidden powers...”

Shang Xia grunted once and muttered, “During the battle 3 years ago, Yuwen Changqing didn’t actually show up to fight. Even Feng Yezi was perfectly alright... This doesn’t make sense at all. Isn’t it obvious who the ones protecting them are? Especially those who can shield them under such circumstances...”

Ji Wenlong could hear the trace of rage smoldering in Shang Xia’s heart and he forced himself to remain indifferent as he explained, “Precisely because it’s so obvious that we have to pretend that we don’t know who they are...”

Shang Xia sneered once, but he didn’t say more.

Ji Wenlong glanced at him from the corner of his eye before he continued, “The situation in the Ji Continent of our Azure Origin World is extremely complicated right now. I think you should have heard about it, right?”

Shang Xia nodded in response. “The new Martial Dipper Realm expert from the White Deer Paradise was killed during the battle and another old ancestor who was in life-or-death seclusion. Even Xuan Lu lost 2 Fate Dipper Clones. The White Deer Paradise could be said to have suffered catastrophic damage.”

“However, they still have 3 Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors at the helm and Xuan Lu seems to have gained quite a bit after the battle. He already refined another Origin Dipper to bring his cultivation level back up slightly. Yun Lu and Hua Lu didn’t take part in the battle, and they were completely unaffected. There might be a certain level of unrest in the Ji Continent, but from what I can see, their core strength is unaffected. The stability and foundation of the White Deer Paradise wouldn’t be too affected.” Shang Xia concluded.

However, his response was met with a soft chuckle from Ji Wenlong. “You might be right, but what if there’s an internal issue within the White Deer Paradise?”

Slightly taken aback, Shang Xia quickly understood what he meant. “Could there be disagreements between the higher-ups of the White Deer Paradise?”

“Xuan Lu lost 2 Fate Dipper Clones during the battle and his cultivation regressed to the first element of the Martial Dipper Realm. He might have refined another Origin Dipper to restore his cultivation up to the second element of the Martial Dipper Realm, but he’s still stuck in seclusion. He chose to hand the inheritance divine weapon of the White Deer Paradise to Hua Lu.” Ji Wenlong smiled.

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback. Thinking back to everything that happened, he analyzed slowly, “Back then, Yun Lu’s Fate Dipper Clone was destroyed by Patriarch Kou and he lost Water Origin Fate Dipper. We used Patriarch Kou’s sword qi to destroy yet another clone and he should probably be in the first element of the Martial Dipper Realm. Hua Lu has never been seriously injured and her cultivation remained at the second element of the Martial Dipper Realm...”

Initially, Ji Wenlong nodded while listening to Shang Xia. However, he started to shake his head near the end. “Xuan Lu didn’t just return with a single Origin Dipper. It was a shame only one of them belonged to his Fate Dipper Clone. The other seems to be extremely suitable for Hua Lu.”

Ji Wenlong didn’t need to say more as Shang Xia was able to guess the series of events that happened next.

Even though Xuan Lu managed to restore his cultivation to the second element of the Martial Dipper Realm, Hua Lu also managed to increase her cultivation to the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm. With the inheritance divine weapon in hand that Xuan Lu gave her, she was able to suppress him. If she started to work with Yun Lu...

Indeed. Ji Wenlong verified Shang Xia’s guess the next moment. “In the past, Xuan Lu possessed tyrannical strength. Yun Lu and Hua Lu only managed to break through with the help of the Holy

Land and their combat strength couldn't match up to him. Their cultivation path was also limited. They were far too lacking compared to Xuan Lu. However, the situation changed drastically after that battle. According to news from the Five Mountains Alliance, the new Martial Dipper Realm that was produced in the White Deer Paradise used to be Xuan Lu's personal disciple. After he was killed, the White Deer Paradise prepared to support the birth of another Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor, but the person they chose was Yun Lu's disciple."

"So... Hua Lu really chose to work with Yun Lu this time?" Shang Xia sighed.

"That's right. If they succeed, the Martial Dipper Realm situation in the White Deer Paradise would become a 3 on 1." Ji Wenlong replied.

Falling into thought for a second, Shang Xia asked, "So what should we do next?"

"The best choice is not to do anything. Any external factor that jumps out now might allow the experts of the White Deer Paradise to band together again. Actually, even the 3 great families of the Ji Continent have been keeping a low profile these days." Ji Wenlong explained.

After hesitating for a second, Shang Xia nodded slightly.

There was no way in hell he would believe that the sneaky Tongyou Institution wasn't doing anything about it. Their actions were merely hidden from sight.

After chatting for a little bit, Shang Xia thought of something. "Senior Ji, you have been stationed near the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range the entire time. You should be more familiar with the situation with the spiritual beasts there. Do you think any of them have the potential to become a rank five spiritual beast? ..."

...

When they finally left, Shang Xia went straight towards the eastern border of the You Continent which bordered the sea. That was where he chose to test out the effects of his Teleportation Talisman.

After locating a deserted island, he flew around to inspect the area before activating it.

From far away, nothing seemed to happen on the island. If one was strong enough, they would see a faint spatial fluctuation. Actually, even if there was a Martial Extermination Realm expert several dozen miles away, they might not be able to discover anything.

In the vast sea of stars god knew how many miles away from the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, a small ripple appeared as Shang Xia stepped out from the void in an extremely sorry state. He quickly scattered the dipper qi protection screen around him and extended his divine will to look at his surroundings.

"I actually managed to arrive in space!" Shang Xia sighed. Even though he tested the effects of the talisman, he couldn't help but feel slightly disappointed.

After ensuring there were no dangers around him, he decided to orientate himself and look for his actual position in space.

As an expert in the Martial Dipper Realm, Shang Xia could feel a faint connection to the Azure Ascension World. He quickly pinpointed his position and determined where he was with how strong the connection felt.

“Hmm... It’s less than 10000 miles!”

It wasn’t Shang Xia’s first time stepping out of the Azure Ascension World. Taking reference to the battle that happened 30000 miles away from the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, he quickly determined the distance he managed to travel with the talisman.

“From the looks of it, the Teleportation Talisman would allow one to move 10000 miles away... Looks like the new talisman can be considered a success!” Shang Xia nodded his head but started to hesitate slightly. It seemed as though he was still confused about something.

“Wait... I didn’t feel affected by the heavenly screen around the Azure Ascension World. Is that because it couldn’t stop me, or did the talisman possess the ability to allow me to bypass it completely?” Shang Xia thought to himself.

If Shang Xia was able to pass through the heavenly screen because he was a native cultivator of the Azure Ascension World, it wouldn’t matter that much. However, if the latter was true... Things would become a little more interesting.

One had to know that the heavenly screen was a layer of protection from the outside world. The Azure Ascension World wasn’t the only one who possessed one. Any sort of world out there was the same.

If the Teleportation Talisman allowed him to leave the Azure Ascension World without being obstructed by the Heavenly Screen, wouldn’t that mean that he could leave the confines of any other world whenever he liked?

“Too bad I only have a single Teleportation Talisman. Who knows how long I will need to gather enough rank five talisman papers to start crafting again? Otherwise, I might be able to get other Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors to help me verify what happened the moment I used it. Did I leave the confines of the heavenly screen because I was a cultivator of the Azure Ascension World, or did I manage to jump across the border without getting caught...” Shang Xia mumbled to himself as he flew back towards the Beyond Heavens Pavilion using the faint connection he had with the world.

After the 3 Elysiums established the Three Unity Island back then to carry out the trade fair, the vast sea of stars around the Azure Ascension World was no longer as quiet as before. There would be cultivators in the Martial Extermination Realm or higher flying through space from time to time. The number of experts flying around increased after the battle 3 years ago.

As Shang Xia continued to soar through space, he would notice several streaks of light from time to time. Because of their presence, Shang Xia knew that he was closing in on the 3000 mile range of the Beyond Heavens Pavilion.

In order to prevent himself from attracting too much attention, he concealed his aura as he made his way back.

As he passed the Three Unity Island, he was locked on by several powerful divine wills.

“Who goes there?! Why are you acting sneakily?!” A loud yell burst through the void and 5 powerful auras descended. They seemed to appear instantaneously and they surrounded Shang Xia in an instant.

Chapter 758: Hidden Dangers

Actually, Shang Xia had long noticed their presence before they discovered him. He wasn't too worried about it as his grandfather was a part of their group.

However, he wasn't able to head over to greet them when they discovered his presence. The 5 of them were well coordinated as they surrounded him immediately. They also immediately unleashed their 5 man battle formation.

“Wait! We're on the same side!” Shang Xia yelled and no longer concealed his presence.

“Huh? Why the hell are you here? What are you doing?” Shang Bo recognized him immediately and gestured for the others to not make a move. He quickly asked.

An awkward smile appeared on his face as he bowed to those present. “Grandpa. Greetings to various seniors.”

One of the elders who had a strict look on his yellowish face chuckled, “Brother Shang, is this your grandson? I heard from my martial niece Jingzi stories about Little Shang. She seems to admire him a lot. Now that I see him for myself, it looks like he lives up to his reputation!”

“Haha, there's no need for such praise. The little brat just got lucky and received some pointers from Patriarch Kou. he's not that impressive...” Shang Bo chuckled.

He turned to Shang Xia and made the introduction, “This is Elder Ha Deqing from the Heavenly Star Palace. Beside him is Elder Kuai Jinglin from the Yuanchen Sect and Elder Xuan Chang from the Zhongxuan Sect. Senior Kuai was the one who discovered you earlier. Well, you know Elder Luo Baixu from the Changbai Holy Land.”

Shang Xia had no choice but to greet them once again.

Kuai Jinglin couldn't help but laugh, “Little Shang's concealment art is really amazing. If not for the fact that I had a special artifact from the sect that amplified the senses of my divine will, it would have been much more difficult for me to discover your tracks!”

Shang Xia replied humbly the next moment, “Junior merely managed to develop some slight skills. I'm not that amazing...”

Seeing as Shang Xia wasn't willing to speak more, Kuai Jinglin felt a trace of resentment in his heart. However, he didn't continue to probe into the matter.

Slightly uncomfortable that everyone's attention was on him, Shang Xia tried to divert the topic. "Grandpa, did you and the various elders here continue to pursue the experts of the Spirit Abundance World who escaped back then? Did you manage to gain anything?"

Shang Bo sighed in response, "We managed to heavily injure one and destroy one of his Fate Dipper Clones. However, he still managed to get away in the end."

After a slight pause, Shang Bo continued in his helpless tone, "3 years ago, around 20 of us from the Azure Ascension World banded together and split up into groups to look for traces of those who escaped. We only killed 1 and heavily injured 2. Many of them returned empty-handed."

Ha Deqing spoke loudly and took over what Shang Bo was saying. "The vast sea of stars is too large. Even though we know that they won't venture too far away from the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, they care about nothing but hiding. Locating any of them is like finding a needle in a haystack. It's great that we managed to locate a true body or two. The more important task we have is to patrol the space surrounding our world to prevent any experts from other worlds from entering secretly."

"Entering our world secretly?" Shang Xia's notice was immediately drawn to those worlds.

The others didn't realize his unusual feeling towards those words and Luo Baixu explained, "The Spirit Abundance World might have backed away, but the position of our Azure Ascension World has definitely been revealed to them. Even though we have 4 supreme experts at the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm and it wouldn't be possible for the Spirit Abundance World to send their experts close to the heavenly screen, they might have done so further out. They might try to infiltrate our Azure Ascension World in secret..."

Subconsciously nodding his head, Shang Xia replied, "So that's what you were looking out for..."

Luo Baixu turned to Shang Bo and chuckled, "Now that we are heading back to the Azure Ascension World to take a break, our factions will still have to send out some experts a year later to patrol the vast sea of stars. My Changbai Sect will probably send Shen Baisong and I wonder if you will let little friend Shang Xia join him?"

Luo Baixu barely completed his sentence when Ha Deqing from the Heavenly Star Palace continued, "That's a great idea. I heard that 3 years ago, Little Friend Shang Xia joined hands with my martial niece to fight against the enemies of the Spirit Abundance World. From what I've heard, they work together pretty well. Since the Changbai Sect is sending Shen Baisong, my Heavenly Star Palace will send my martial niece over. All of them are from the younger generation and they should be able to work better together."

Shang Xia broke out into laughter, "Junior is most willing to take up the task of patrolling the region around the heavenly screen. However, I will have to get Patriarch Kou's approval before making a decision."

Luo Baixu and Ha Deqing responded immediately. "Of course, of course you have to!"

As the 6 Martial Dipper Realm experts eventually parted ways, they returned to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion above their respective territories.

In the pavilion, Shang Xia and Shang Bo's appearance was felt by Ji Wenlong and he quickly arrived.

"Is Patriarch Kou still in seclusion?" Shang Bo asked the moment he stepped into the pavilion.

Ji Wenlong glanced at Shang Xia for a short second before they shook their heads in unison. After seeing their response, Shang Bo also revealed a look of worry. All of them could see the unease in each other's eyes.

After the battle 3 years ago, Kou Chongxue had been in seclusion. It was something unheard of in the 30 years history of the Tongyou Institution!

Back then, Kou Chongxue would also enter seclusion frequently. However, he would never cut off all connection to the outside world when doing so. This time, he didn't respond to anyone in the past 3 years.

"What do you think happened? Is there a need for him to do something like this?" Shang Bo asked. Shang Xia was completely shocked by the sudden question, but Shang Bo was clearly directing his question to Ji Wenlong.

Glancing at Shang Bo with a deep gaze, Ji Wenlong didn't reply to his question directly. Instead, he asked one of his own, "What did you run into these years that you have to find him so urgently?"

Shang Bo shook his head in response. "There have been many people who have been flattering Patriarch Kou. However, they can't hide their true goal. They are trying to ask if he managed to comprehend his martial intent and the way to enter the grand completion stage..."

After thinking for a moment, Ji Wenlong muttered, "That's pretty much expected... After all, our Azure Worlds never had a single expert at the grand completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm. It has been rumored that even the 4 supreme experts at the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm didn't comprehend their martial intent in the Martial Dipper Realm..."

"Patriarch Kou hasn't emerged from seclusion in such a long time... Could that have added to why everything thought that he comprehended his martial intent? After all, his sword light that crossed 30000 miles in the battle 3 years ago should have shocked them all..." Shang Xia interrupted.

Shang Bo met Ji Wenlong's gaze and he eventually replied, "We won't have to worry about suspicions coming from the other factions. We're afraid that *those* 4 have their eyes on him..."

After he spoke, Shang Bo gestured to 4 different directions outside the pavilion. It was exactly where the 4 Elysiums were located.

Shang Xia was greatly taken aback. "Does that mean that the 4 Elysiums will plot against Patriarch Kou?!"

"It's something we guessed... However, do you think that the Azure Ascension World can hold another Elysium?" Ji Wenlong whispered.

Shang Bo corrected him the next second, “Our Tongyou Paradise might not be able to ascend into an Elysium, but it’s possible for him to step into the Sixth Order...” Pausing for a little, Shang Bo whispered, “... It’s possible for him to become a Sixth Order expert who isn’t restrained by an Elysium...”

Shang Xia gasped, “The invasion from the Spirit Abundance World is imminent! Will they really risk internal conflict at this time?”

Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo shook their heads in unison, but Shang Xia wasn’t concerned with any of them at the moment. He was thinking about the Starry Marsh Elysium and wondered if it had anything to do with Kou Chongxue’s disappearance.

...

Shang Bo required some time to recover after returning from the vast sea of stars. Shang Xia was thinking of pestering his grandpa to learn what he gained from hunting down the experts of the Spirit Abundance World. He was especially interested to learn if there were fate dipper essences or rank five talisman papers among the loot, but he was bound to be disappointed.

Shang Xia was in the midst of collecting the fourth set of fate dipper essences and even though he collected a good half of it, he was lacking his final Bing Fire, Xin Metal, and Ji Earth Fate Dipper Essences.

There was another way for Shang Xia to improve and it was for him to shorten the time required for a complete cycle of his inner qi to less than 4 hours. When that happened, he would be able to change the alignment of yin and yang however he wished and he would only need to gather fate dipper essences of the 5 Elements without caring about their yin yang alignment.

After leaving the Tongyou Paradise, Shang Xia went straight to the Formations Hall to look for Chu Jia.

Seeing as Shang Xia had come to find her, a trace of delight filled her heart. However, she tried to remain as indifferent as possible. “The great Talisman Grandmaster Shang visiting our humble Formations Hall... What a rare event! Is there something we can help you with?”

Seeing the mischievous look on Chu Jia’s face, Shang Xia muttered helplessly, “There is something I need to ask you today. Please enlighten me on something.”

Noticing how serious Shang Xia was, Chu Jia realized she couldn’t keep up her act any longer and she waved her hand casually to ask, “What do you need?”

“I went to test out the talisman I made earlier...” Shang Xia chuckled.

Chu Jia’s gaze trembled violently. “You... You succeeded?!”

Shang Xia nodded with a wide grin. “Yeah. The effects were pretty good. It shifted me 10000 miles away from my original position.”

“10000 miles?” Chu Jia gasped. A complicated look appeared on her face as she mumbled, “Congratulations... Looks like your Talisman Hall will have another rank five talisman inheritance from now on...”

“What are you talking about? Our institution gained another rank five talisman inheritance!” Shang Xia laughed. However, his tone changed suddenly. “However, there seems to be a problem with the talisman.”

“What is it?” Chu Jia raised her eyebrows in shock. Thinking about how Shang Xia came to look for her, she wondered out loud, “Is there something I can help with?”

Shang Xia nodded in response before giving an explanation, “Teacher Chu, do you think that I am able to fuse a formation with it and create a fixed teleportation formation?”

“It’s not going to be easy... How did you come up with an idea like that?” Chu Jia was slightly taken aback by his idea.

After thinking for a second, Shang Xia recounted what happened earlier. “When I used the talisman, I traveled 10000 miles into space. I passed the Beyond Heavens Pavilion without facing any obstructions.”

“Huh?! Are you planning to construct a way for us to travel to the Three Unity Island directly?” Chu Jia yelped. However, she thought carefully about what he said earlier and her voice became even higher as she exclaimed in fright, “No, wait. Don’t tell me you didn’t pass through the heavenly screen on your way out!”

Chapter 759: Coming Up With the Inheritance

“Did your talisman allow you to avoid detection from the world when you teleported out into the vast sea of stars?!” Chu Jia was extremely sharp and she caught onto Shang Xia’s point the moment he mentioned it.

Frantically gesturing for Chu Jia to lower her voice, Shang Xia whispered, “Even though I need to make another talisman to confirm it, that should probably be the case.”

“Hiss...” Chu Jia was still an inexperienced young lady at the end of the day. It was difficult for her to hide the emotions she was feeling and she stared at Shang Xia in shock while asking, “Who else knows about this?!”

Chu Jia was extremely clear about what a Teleportation Talisman that could avoid the detection of the World’s Will represented.

Shang Xia muttered, “At the moment, you’re the only one who knows. I didn’t tell my grandpa even though I ran into him before returning to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion.”

No one knew why [1], but Chu Jia’s face flushed red. However, she quickly regulated her emotions and she coughed softly, “What do you plan to do next? It’s not going to be an easy matter to derive a Teleportation Formation from your Teleportation Talisman. At the very least, I have no idea how to do it now.”

“I’ll come up with the inheritance and records of the Teleportation Talisman soon. You can look into the Void Runes I came up with for the time being. I’m afraid we will have to work together in order to complete the formation...” Shang Xia muttered.

Shaking her head, Chu Jia sighed, “Even though it’s not impossible, it’s going to take really long to do so. We would also need to pour a lot of resources into the project and even then, it won’t be easily accomplished. The Tongyou Institution might have expanded to a much larger scale, but I’m afraid if we try to do something like this...”

“Have you ever thought that if you manage to achieve this, it might become the key to becoming a rank five Formation Grandmaster?” Shang Xia interrupted. “The development of a new formation is a black hole that sucks in countless resources. Everyone knows that. The Talisman Hall has 3 rank five talisman inheritances, but your Formation Hall doesn’t have a single one. Now that the opportunity is in front of you, why aren’t you leaping at a chance to grab hold of it? Unless you manage to find another rank five formation inheritance...”

Chu Jia’s face alternated between red and white as turbulent waves battered against her heart.

Shang Xia sighed softly when he saw her reaction. “You’re the Chief Formation Grandmaster of the Formations Hall. If I bring over a huge portion of resources from the Talisman Hall, the possibility of achieving it. The initial preparation phase wouldn’t require that much resources. Moreover, you should also raise your cultivation as soon as possible. It would be best if you can enter the Martial Dipper Realm quickly...”

If Chu Jia also entered the Martial Dipper Realm, the leading Talisman Grandmaster and leading Formation Grandmaster of the institution would possess some sort of decision-making power despite their low seniority. Even Kou Chongxue would have to take their opinions seriously.

A moment later, Chu Jia sighed softly. “You need to help me out with something before that.”

Slightly taken aback, Shang Xia raised an eyebrow to ask, “What do you need assistance with?”

“Modify a small floating island for me in the vast sea of stars. The institution can use it as a tool to bring our members to the Three Unity Island.” Chu Jia replied.

“Floating island?” Shang Xia wondered out loud, “Didn’t we throw them all into the sea during the fusion of the worlds?”

An explanation quickly came. “There are several small pieces floating in space. Today, the Three Unity Island is experiencing an unprecedented boom and the 4 Elysiums have their own way to send cultivators up there en masse. They’re earning essence crystals left and right! In fact, their pockets are practically bursting from collecting fees to bring cultivators up there. The various factions are trying to do something about it and our institution cannot fall behind!”

A frown appeared on Shang Xia’s face. “Even if this is possible, we can’t possibly send everyone directly over to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion... Are you planning to use the Tongyou Paradise as an intermediary?”

It was true that Martial Dipper Realm experts could send people directly over to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, but Shang Xia and the others were the true powerhouses who watched over the institution. They weren’t tools who could spend all their time moving people in and out of the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. That was why he wondered how Chu Jia was planning to get the members of the institution on board the floating island.

If they had to use the Tongyou Paradise as an intermediary, they would greatly exhaust the accumulations they made. More importantly, the Tongyou Paradise was the core region of the Tongyou Institution. Experts of the institution couldn't enter and leave as they wished, much less others...

"Heh, how many cultivators are there on the You Continent in total? At least 70 percent of them have ties with the institution. Most of them aren't outsiders. As long as they're willing to pay some essence crystals or stuff of equal value, the institution wouldn't mind letting them enjoy some benefits. We're not doing this purely for profit either. It's to give every cultivator from our You Continent an avenue to improve. We can also show that we're not treating them differently from members of the institution. At the end of the day, we can improve our reputation with those cultivators from the You Continent not affiliated with us." Chu Jia explained.

Shang Xia nodded slightly. A low population was a problem the You Continent was facing at the moment. A good portion of cultivators there came from the Tongyou Institution and had lots of connections to it. However, the situation would definitely change in the future.

Actually, after the You Continent nearly doubled in size after the fusion of the worlds, many people who left 30 years ago started to make their way back. The Tongyou Institution also required them to fill in the empty land in the You Continent.

...

After leaving the Formation Hall, Shang Xia quickly went over to inform Fan Yuanhui and Lou Zizhang about their plan to modify a floating island.

Naturally, Shang Xia wouldn't have to personally take charge of something like that. At the very least, he wouldn't need to be involved with the initial stages of the modification.

An opportunity to head out of the Beyond Heavens Pavilion was actually a chance for those Talisman Masters to temper themselves and gain more experience.

After returning from the Talisman Hall, Shang Xia entered seclusion once again. Just before doing that, he specially went to summon the Lightning Bird and its flock of Mutated Rain Swallows to instruct them on some matters before sending them back to the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range.

He used up all the rank five talisman paper the Tongyou Institution gathered and he had no way of making more at the moment. He also nearly exhausted the supply of rank four talisman paper. However, he came up with a new way to craft talismans.

This time, he was building on the knowledge of the new Teleportation Talisman he came up with to design a rank four talisman.

That was right. Shang Xia planned to come up with a complete inheritance from the inspiration he received from the rank six talisman. It was an idea he had after testing out the effects of his Teleportation Talisman.

A rank five Teleportation Talisman had the ability to avoid detection by the World's Will and allow one to leave the confines of the heavenly screen. If one was trying to escape death, there was actually no need to travel 10000 miles in an instant. Of course, it would be a different story if they

were using it to hasten their journey or escape from the pursuit of an existence at the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm.

Well... The rank six talisman that Shang Xia drew his inspiration from was a half-preserved talisman after the user was killed by a supreme expert at the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm. If the rank six talisman couldn't save them from an expert at that level, Shang Xia's Teleportation Talisman most likely wouldn't be able to either.

The divine will of an expert at the Martial Dipper Realm only stretched so far. If a talisman was able to move someone 500 miles away, it would probably be enough to escape from those who meant them harm. Of course, there were always exceptions. If one was already severely injured, or if they ran into freaks with unreasonable strength like Kou Chongxue, moving 500 miles away might not be able to save them.

Considering the amount of energy a rank four talisman paper could withstand, Shang Xia estimated that the furthest one could teleport after using it would be 1000 miles or so.

Even if they used some special rank four talisman paper, the furthest a rank four Teleportation Talisman would be able to bring them would be 1500 miles. The distance actually stretched further than the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range and it was longer than the time they used Kou Chongxue's sword qi to destroy one of Yun Lu's Fate Dipper Clones.

Since Shang Xia was able to come up with a rank five Teleportation Talisman, deducing a rank four talisman didn't pose the slightest problem.

In less than half a month, Shang Xia completed the general layout of a rank four Teleportation Talisman. He started to refine the details and make it more intricate.

Even though he hadn't tried or tested the rank four talisman, Shang Xia was pretty confident he added another rank four talisman inheritance to the institution at that point.

Of course, a powerful talisman like that didn't come without any downsides. When it was activated, the user would need to use it along with their own ability to control space. That would mean that the rank four Teleportation Talisman possessed an inherent flaw such that only experts in the Martial Extermination Realm could use it!

Chapter 760: Tianya Pavilion and the Hundred Weapons Mill

Shang Xia might have come up with the rank four Teleportation Talisman inheritance, but due to the lack of talisman paper, he couldn't actually craft one.

Well, he couldn't care less about the talisman any longer as a piece of news reached him and he rushed over to the eastern region of the You Continent.

As the Tongyou Institution had been expanding their influence to the east, they already stretched their territory 3000 miles out to sea.

The biggest improvement to the institution was the fact that they no longer lacked Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors. Even the number of Martial Extermination Realm cultivators increased drastically. The only problem was that the number of cultivators in the Martial Intent Realm and below couldn't keep up. As such, the Tongyou Institution couldn't station too many disciples along the islands they developed and could only allow others to benefit from it for the time being.

From what Shang Xia understood, only a quarter of the islands that were scattered 1000 miles around the You Continent were controlled by the Tongyou Institution. The experts of the Liao Continent and Ji Continent from the Azure Spiritual World occupied a quarter each. The last few islands were where the cultivators from the 3 continents engaged in conflicts of different scales.

One couldn't look down on the islands just because they were scattered. They contained the treasures and a trace of origin essence left behind by the Manyu Continent.

During the process of fusion where the Azure Ascension World was born, the islands would be stained with a portion of the World's Will as they were integrated into the world. No one knew how many treasures would be born during the process.

In recent years, Yun Jing had been taking charge of matters in the east. The task was extremely grueling and draining and it even affected her cultivation as a result.

They might have improved greatly compared to the Tongyou Institution of the past, but their foundations were still far too lacking. Actually, it was more accurate to say that the You Continent itself had shallow foundations. Not enough cultivators could be deployed to the locations they were needed and Yun Jing couldn't solve a problem like that herself. The Tongyou Institution being able to claim a portion of those islands and expand their influence outwards was already a massive blessing.

When Shang Xia arrived, he didn't head over to look for Yun Jing. Instead, he flew directly over the sea.

As an expert in the Martial Dipper Realm, he stood at the peak of the power pyramid of the Azure Ascension World. He was faintly able to feel a sense of rejection from the world itself.

The feeling didn't stem from the fact that the World's Will disliked him. Instead, it was to warn him not to mess around.

At their level, every move they made would have a massive impact on the world. The higher their cultivation levels, the more damage they would be able to cause to their world.

For example, Kou Chongxue's sword qi back then. It managed to kill Yun Lu's Fate Dipper Clone, but that was barely an impact when compared to the damage it did to the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range. It created a massive rift that was hundreds of miles across and that was a little too disgusting.

One had to know that that was merely a single strand of sword qi Kou Chongxue sealed in the Spirit Extermination Gourd. If he made his move personally, especially after reaching the fifth element of the Martial Dipper Realm, no one could imagine how great the destruction would be.

That was why the Martial Dipper Realm experts rarely moved against each other or came to blows. They barely even showed their faces ordinarily.

Even if their grievances piled sky high, they would merely exchange a blow or two through space. Or perhaps, they would send a Fate Dipper Clone or two to fight a little. No... In fact, they wouldn't even send out Fate Dipper Clones if they could help it.

When the worlds fused and assimilated the world origin and origin essence from the Manyu Continent, the restriction and rejection of the Azure Ascension World's Will towards Martial Dipper Realm experts actually decreased significantly. However, as long as they still remained an Azure

World, the Martial Dipper Realm experts wouldn't dare to go crazy and would restrain themselves to a certain extent.

Shang Xia didn't alert anyone when he arrived. He gazed at the islands that dotted the sea and noticed that the You Continent was basically going to be connected to the Ji Continent of the Azure Spiritual World at that point.

Shang Xia could guess why the Changbai Holy Land chose to take part in the conflict after what he observed. The part of the Ji Continent of the Azure Spiritual World that was jutting out blocked off the Liao Continent's access to the sea from the south.

Even though the Tongyou Institution had an alliance with them, there was no way anyone would sit around and allow themselves to be at the mercy of others.

It was a shame due to the geographical location and weather, the odds were stacked against the Changbai Holy Land. The weather that was putting the Changbai Holy Land at a disadvantage was caused by the exchange between Yin Dezheng and Xu Bailing during the fusion of worlds.

Their exchange that took place when they were still thousands of miles away from each other actually caused such a massive change to the world!

As someone in the Martial Dipper Realm, Shang Xia could clearly feel the void that was shattered by them. The world origin there was extremely chaotic and it could only recover slowly as the world origin in the area did its thing. Other Martial Dipper Realm experts might just turn the region more chaotic if they butted in suddenly.

"However..." Shang Xia suddenly thought of something. A five colored light emerged from his fingertips. "Others might not be able to do it, but it's possible that my Five Elements Dipper Qi can restore this region to its original state!"

The further Shang Xia progressed in the path of cultivation, the more clearly he understood the extraordinary control he had over world origin. It seemed to be some sort of innate skill he received after entering the Five Element Realm.

The degree to which he could control world origin and the special properties of his Five Element Dipper Qi made it such that it wasn't impossible for him to repair the damage to the world.

However, he decided not to randomly test out his abilities in front of others.

"Young Master Shang, what are you looking at?" A voice that appeared out of nowhere broke Shang Xia's train of thought.

Turning around in mid air, Shang Xia chuckled, "I was merely looking at the effects the exchange caused to the world. Lady Yu, you came at the right time."

The mature-looking Lady Yu who boasted endless charm swept her gaze across the space that was fluctuating incessantly and chuckled softly, "I thought that you were planning to restore the void to gain the favor of the World's Will..."

"Oh? Is that even possible? Lady Yu, please enlighten me!" Shang Xia gasped.

Covering her mouth, Lady Yu giggled softly, “Young Master Shang, there’s no need to tease me like that. Your Tongyou Institution possesses its own Holy Land. How can you not know something like that?”

Shang Xia indeed knew something related to it, but he wasn’t too clear about the details.

Now that he ran into Lady Yu, it was clearly not appropriate for them to be talking about stuff like that. He eventually laughed and brushed past the topic. “Looks like I embarrassed myself. I came to meet you this time to inquire about the reconstruction of my divine weapon.”

“Young Master Shang, please follow me.” Lady Yu smiled.

After Shang Xia came into contact with the Hundred Weapons Mill back during the first trade fair he attended, he made a decision to borrow their power to restore his Abyssal Blade.

The members of the Hundred Weapons Mill were too secretive and even though they were also extremely interested in Shang Xia’s divine weapon, they weren’t willing to reveal their identities. They sent back a single message and mentioned that if Shang Xia was willing to trust them, he could just leave the weapon with them and some resources required to restore it.

Shang Xia couldn’t possibly agree to such terms easily. As such, he had dragged on the issue for a long time.

Shang Xia fought along with several experts during the battle 3 years ago and managed to stay alive. He managed to grow closer to the members of his squad after the battle and all of them had an intention of strengthening their relationship with each other. He learned from Lady Yu that the Hundred Weapons Mill was actually a part of her Tianya Pavilion.

He rejoiced when he heard the news. He immediately requested for her to make the introductions and he finally met 2 Grandmaster Blacksmiths of the Hundred Weapons Mill and requested for them to restore his Abyssal Blade.

After his advancement to the Five Element Realm, Shang Xia had a faint feeling that the Abyssal Blade wasn’t too suitable for him as there was a slight clash with his Five Element Dipper Qi.

He brought the point up to the Grandmaster Blacksmiths and hoped that they would be able to adjust the weapon slightly during the restoration process to better suit his rank five arts.

After communicating with Shang Xia for an entire month, they finally agreed. Leaving the Abyssal Blade behind, Shang Xia left.

He left the weapon with them after the battle 3 years ago, and he didn’t expect it to actually take so long!

If not for the fact that Shang Xia was in constant contact with Lady Yu and received updates about his weapon, he would have suspected that they had already stolen his weapon and ran.

After meeting above the oceans above the eastern region of the You Continent, Shang Xia and Lady Yu flew for close to 10000 miles in the southeastern direction without stopping.

Above a calm sea, a rainbow pearl appeared in Lady Yu’s hand. It was the size of a pigeon’s egg, and Shang Xia didn’t see when she took it out. Whatever it was, she poured her inner qi into it and rays of light scattered across the surface of the sea. It eventually transformed into a mirage that remained above the water.

Shang Xia couldn't help but sigh. "Even though it's not my first time coming to your Tianya Pavilion, the entrance created by the mirage really takes my breath away."

Lady Yu chuckled in response, "It's our honor to receive Young Master Shang's praise!"

After she spoke, her figure trembled slightly and she entered the mirage.

Shang Xia followed quickly and after the light around him faded, he discovered that he entered a secret region that boasted endless beauty.

The secret region was where the Tianya Pavilion was located, and the area the secret region contained was close to a Holy Land.