

The Heavens 761

Chapter 761: Five Elements Ring

Even though it wasn't Shang Xia's first time there, he couldn't help but be taken aback by the pretty sights.

"It really looks like paradise!" Shang Xia couldn't help but praise.

Lady Yu, who was walking ahead of him, giggled softly, "Young Master Shang, you're exaggerating. We built this secret region after modifying a destroyed Holy Land. It can't be compared to your Tongyou Paradise, a true Holy Land that was birthed from the world."

Shang Xia shook his head and muttered, "Lady Yu, are the secret regions of other Holy Lands as beautiful as this?"

"I haven't been to the secret regions of other Holy Lands. However, your Tongyou Paradise took shape several years ago and you definitely haven't started mass-scale reconstruction yet. A Holy Land is a Holy Land at the end of the day. It's countless times better than a mere secret region my Tianya Pavilion resides in." Lady Yu turned around to smile at Shang Xia.

The Tianya Pavilion might be built on a broken Holy Land, but they managed to retain the massive space it contained. It was also hidden really well.

Other than that, it was true that they couldn't be compared to a true Holy Land. Even after countless years of reconstruction and modification, they were comparable to a Mysterious World at best.

With Lady Yu leading the way, they quickly arrived in the depths of the Tianya Pavilion. It was a mountain ridge that was covered in basalt. There was an entrance to an underground volcano there and that was where the Grandmaster Blacksmiths of the Hundred Weapons Mill who were under the protection of the Tianya Pavilion built their forge.

When they arrived, the earth trembled violently and they couldn't help but stop dead in their tracks.

Low rumbling came from the depths of the earth and Shang Xia's expression turned a little more serious. Lady Yu's face sank too.

"Lady Yu, this..."

Before Shang Xia could complete his sentence, she shot straight for the valley their forge was in.

Shang Xia didn't lag too far behind. His figure blurred and he followed the rainbow light that Lady Yu transformed into when she rushed in. In a flash, he arrived in the valley.

When Shang Xia came previously, he discovered that the 2 Grandmaster Blacksmiths had modified the entrance to the underground volcano to a massive smelting furnace.

Now that he arrived, he was met with a sorry scene. The smelting furnace seemed to be broken as lava flowed without end into the valley. The modifications they made to the area seemed to be completely destroyed.

2 Martial Extermination Realm experts led dozens or so lower-leveled cultivators around the bubbling lava as they tried their best to stop its spread. Unfortunately, everything they did was useless.

Everything that happened in the valley alerted the other members of the Tianya Pavilion and there were several Martial Extermination Realm cultivators rushing over as quickly as they could.

“Move!” Lady Yu’s delicate voice boomed through the valley and she waved her sleeve once. 2 chains of water emerged and spun in the air above the spilling lava. A torrential amount of water qi poured out from the void and crashed into the valley below.

“Hiss!” Mist emerged and quickly filled the entire region. However, Lady Yu contained it well and didn’t allow it to spread too far away.

The lava was quickly contained within the valley but spatial fluctuations continued to happen at the bottom of the volcano. The valley wasn’t the only thing that trembled at that point. The entire Tianya Pavilion started to shake.

Several figures emerged from the mist and one of the elders who looked to be in his fifties coughed violently before yelling, “Pavilion Master, the underground volcano started acting up suddenly and we couldn’t react in time!”

Shang Xia recognized that person. He was one of the Grandmaster Blacksmiths of the Hundred Weapons Mill. It was also the companion of the person Shang Xia traded with back in the Trade Fair he attended back in the Three Unity Island. He was called Yun Hu.

Behind Yun Hu stood a man in his thirties who exuded a steadfast aura. He was really jacked, and he was the other Grandmaster Blacksmith. He was the person Shang Xia traded with and was dead set on crafting a divine weapon back then. His name was Yi Sangtian.

“All of you should leave for now. You guys won’t be able to handle this.” Lady Yu instructed all of them to depart as she controlled the 2 flowing streams of water to form a beautiful arc in the sky. Water qi poured out from the void as it continued to suppress the chaos emerging from the volcano and she continued to instruct the members of the Tianya Pavilion rushing over. Those who were on their way to the valley to assist with the destruction quickly made their retreat.

The mist in the valley got thicker and thicker, but that didn’t affect Shang Xia’s vision of everything that was going on there.

Lady Yu seemed to have suppressed the lava spewing out from the mouth of the volcano, but the disturbance below the surface was growing to a frightening level. The cause was obviously due to the buildup of power underground and the eruption could occur at any time. When that happens, even Lady Yu might not be able to suppress it.

Shang Xia could no longer sit idly at the side. He waved his wrist towards the valley below and scattered the mist in an instant.

He took a single step and appeared beside Lady Yu and growled, “You can only stop the eruption for so long. The moment it erupts, things are going to be several times worse. In order to prevent extreme destruction, you have to let out a bit of the pressure building up underneath.”

Lady Yu glanced at him, but she didn’t say anything else.

Turning around, Shang Xia looked at the Tianya Pavilion before muttering, “Lady Yu, if you trust me, allow me to give some assistance. At the very least, I can help buy some time before you can activate your grand formation.”

Lady Yu hesitated slightly, but her body had already been drenched with perspiration at that point. Most of her energy was focused on suppressing the volcano and speaking was becoming a tall task for her.

She understood that Shang Xia was correct. She was forcefully suppressing the eruption and the protection formation needed some time to fully activate. The volcano could erupt at any time, and if that happens, the Tianya Pavilion might be completely destroyed!

To be the leader of a faction, Lady Yu was clearly not lacking in decision-making skills. She nodded to agree with Shang Xia’s suggestion immediately.

Shang Xia didn’t waste time either. The moment he received her permission, the dipper qi protective barrier around him turned solid and he reached out to summon a thick pillar of dull yellow light. He pressed down heavily and a deep rumble filled the region.

The earth shook violently, scaring the members of the Hundred Weapons Mill who were retreating. The intense shaking caused some of them to trip over themselves.

Lady Yu stared at Shang Xia with a strange gaze. He said that they had to relieve the pressure that was building up under the earth, but he seemed to be doing the same thing as her by forcefully suppressing the eruption!

Despite her confusion, she didn’t say anything. She worked with him twice, and she knew that Shang Xia wasn’t one to speak blindly. Since he chose to suppress the eruption with her, he would have his reasons.

Indeed. After Shang Xia stabilized the situation, he reached out and sent a stream of fire qi towards the mouth of the volcano that had been suppressed by them. He caused a stream of energy to burst forth.

His actions seemed to be hastening their destruction, but because of the strong suppression earlier, everything escaped from the small opening he created. The thick stream of qi wriggled around in a single stream in mid air and showed no signs of scattering.

The Grandmaster Blacksmiths who were in the Martial Extermination Realm weren’t the only ones who were fascinated by his display of qi control. Even Lady Yu was amazed.

“Fire Reservoir! The Fire Reservoir!” The Grandmaster Blacksmiths seemed to have thought of something and they didn’t care about the instructions of the 2 Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors earlier as they ran forward slightly. They yelled to remind Lady Yu.

With Shang Xia's help, the pressure Lady Yu felt was reduced by a great half. When she heard them yelling, she snapped back to reality. Arranging her messy hair slightly, she chuckled, "Young Master Shang, many thanks for the assistance. I hope you can direct some of the energy you released into the Fire Reservoir that they created."

After she spoke, she pointed in a certain direction, and a passage that was hidden by layers of formations earlier was revealed to Shang Xia's divine will.

The path led out of the valley, and something seemed to have been arranged there. However, the area was also covered in formations but it looked to be what they were calling the Fire Reservoir.

Obviously, the Tianya Pavilion had been prepared for the eruption a long time ago. Unfortunately, the eruption happened before anyone could react and they were unable to make use of their preparations.

As for the uses of the Fire Reservoir, Shang Xia understood that it was a secret of the Tianya Pavilion. There was no need for him to dig deeper.

Shang Xia didn't know what exactly to do with the fire qi that he released earlier. Now that Lady Yu had pointed him in a direction, he quickly directed the stream of fire into the passage.

Yun Hu, who was standing behind Yi Sangtian earlier, quickly stepped up and patted the other Grandmaster Blacksmith's shoulders. He yelled, "Young Master Shang, we completed the reconstruction and restoration of your weapon! You can take this chance to see how compatible it is with you!"

After he spoke, he reminded Yi Sangtian to retrieve a sealed spiritual case that was merely a foot long.

The second it was open, a familiar aura emerged from the case. Shang Xia could feel the resonance between the weapon and his Five Element Dipper Qi.

"Huh?" Yun Hu might have given him a reminder, but Shang Xia couldn't contain the surprise in his heart. He reached out and pointed at the case as a soft buzz filled the air. A circlet that was less than a foot in diameter shot out and flew towards the stream of Five Element Dipper Qi coming from Shang Xia.

The dipper qi that was emerging from his body more than doubled and despite the sudden increase, it showed no signs of going out of control.

"Hahahaha!" Shang Xia broke into laughter after feeling how easily he could control his inner qi and those in the surroundings. He even forgot to ask about how his Abyssal Blade turned into a circlet.

"What is its name?" Shang Xia was completely immersed in the feeling of using the weapon as he asked.

Yi Sangtian and Yun Hu glanced at each other with an incredulous expression before Yun Hu finally responded. "Young Master Shang, that's your weapon! You should be the one to give it a name!"

With his body covered in a five colored light at the moment, Shang Xia thought for a second before responding, "Since that's the case, I'll call it the Five Element Ring!"

Chapter 762: The Tianya Pavilion Above the Volcano

Before seeing the Five Element Ring, Shang Xia had no idea Yi Sangtian and Yun Hu would actually transform the Abyssal Blade to another type of weapon altogether!

When Shang Xia first met with the 2 of them and asked about modifying his weapon to better suit him, they recommended a series of changes that seemed pretty reasonable to him. They wanted to transform the weapon according to the special properties of his Five Element Dipper Qi.

In order to do so, Shang Xia would have to merge his fate dipper essence into the spirituality of the weapon

They weren't talking about his Five Element Dipper Qi, or his source energy. They wanted him to fuse a strand of his fate dipper into it. In Shang Xia's case, that would mean that he would have to use one of the fate dipper essences he had already refined.

Splitting off a fate dipper essence would mean that Shang Xia's cultivation would be affected. It could even affect his foundations!

However, Shang Xia listened to the Grandmaster Blacksmiths' explanation and he not only agreed with their idea, but decided to split off 5 strands of fate dipper essences to be merged with the spirituality of the divine weapon.

They might have said that 1 was enough, but the more Shang Xia put into it, the better it would meld with his abilities. The restoration and reconstruction of the weapon would also become much easier. Even the power of the weapon would be greatly increased!

Obviously, Shang Xia didn't split off random fate dipper essences for the weapon. As he was walking down the path of the 5 elements, along with their respective yin yang alignments, after the Abyssal Blade was fully restored, he wanted it to possess the properties of 5 elements! That was why the fate dipper essences he imbued in it were all of the Yang alignment. They were the Jia Wood, Bing Fire, Wu Earth, Geng Metal, and Ren Water Fate Dipper Essences.

Once he split off a portion of his fate dipper essences, Shang Xia's cultivation immediately fell. He completed the second round of 10 fate dipper essences refinement before and after 5 of them were gone, his cultivation regressed. He used a lot of effort to get back to where he was, but that caused his cultivation to be delayed by a year!

Of course, that wasn't it. At the moment, he already completed the refinement of his third set of 10 fate dipper essences. If he didn't split off any previously, he might have already gathered the fourth set and would be refining them at the moment.

The price he paid in order to reconstruct the Abyssal Blade back then was thrown out of his mind the moment he received the Five Element Ring. The sense of familiarity he felt with his weapon made him think that everything was worth it.

When Shang Xia used the Five Element Ring for the first time, it could already double his might. After a series of refinements and after he got used to the weapon, it would be far stronger!

Because of that, everything went smoothly when he worked with Lady Yu to suppress the eruption of the volcano and deal with the escaping fire qi.

Lady Yu, who wasn't too far away from Shang Xia at the moment, could clearly feel the change the moment he received the weapon. She seemed glad that the weapon suited him, and she marveled at its might. The multitude of emotions she was feeling caused her gaze to turn a little complicated when looking at him.

After holding off the eruption of the volcano for more than 2 hours, the Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors had long since passed the time required for the Tianya Pavilion to activate their grand formation. From the looks of it, there was no need for them to activate it either.

That wasn't all. After the eruption was fully suppressed, their problems didn't end there. However, since Shang Xia made his move earlier, he decided to go all the way. He directed even more fire qi into the Fire Reservoir the Grandmaster Blacksmiths of the Hundred Weapons Mill referred to.

With what they had done, Shang Xia believed that for the foreseeable future, the volcano wouldn't be at risk of erupting.

After close to 6 hours, the situation finally stabilized. The mouth of the volcano returned to its original calm state and the temperature dropped drastically due to the large amount of fire qi that had been extracted. The brilliant orange color lava had cooled to the point it became a deep crimson. The Fire Reservoir was also completely filled up.

When everything was done, even Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors like Shang Xia and Lady Yu couldn't help but feel a wave of lethargy wash over them.

Shang Xia went over to the main hall of the Tianya Pavilion under the enthusiastic invitation of Lady Yu for a short break.

Even though he dealt with the threat and assisted them with whatever their 'Fire Reservoir' was, he didn't try to inquire about it. He hadn't even seen it for himself! Instead, he placed most of his attention on his Five Element Ring and he nourished it with his source energy.

"Young Master Shang, Congratulations! The divine weapon seems to be perfect for you!" Lady Yu laughed after tea had been served.

Shang Xia had been playing with the Five Element Ring since he entered the hall and it was hovering above his palm. He reached out with his other hand and tapped its surface and a deep hum filled the hall. It seemed to cleanse the soul of anyone in its presence.

Without hiding the joy on his face, Shang Xia praised, "I would have to thank Lady Yu for the recommendation. The Grandmaster Blacksmiths of the Hundred Weapons Mill are truly skillful."

As they spoke, the Grandmaster Blacksmiths of the Hundred Weapons Mill entered the hall. As soon as they did, Yun Hu nodded slightly in Lady Yu's direction and she did the same. A faint expression of joy could be seen in her eyes.

Shang Xia sat at the side and acted as though he hadn't seen anything.

After the Grandmaster Blacksmiths gave their greetings, Shang Xia praised, "Your skills truly amaze me. The Five Element Ring is extremely compatible with me and you have worked hard for the past 3 years..."

Yun Hu and Yi Sangtian expressed their humility instantly. Eventually, Yun Hu chuckled, “Young Master Shang, we are relieved that you aren’t blaming us for turning your blade into the Five Element Ring!”

“Nonsense! Why would I blame you for something like that? The modifications are great and it’s a lot more suited to my needs!” Shang Xia roared with laughter.

Watching them heave sighs of relief, Shang Xia continued, “I might not know how to refine weapons, but I understand that divine weapons aren’t like normal weapons. There might be accidents happening throughout the refinement process. I am ready to compensate you for any additional resources you might have used during the process.”

Glancing at each other, Yi Sangtian spoke on their behalf, “There’s no need for that!”

Yun Hu added, “Young Master Shang, you should know that being able to modify a divine weapon is an opportunity hard to come by. We plan to refine a divine weapon from scratch and the modification and restoration of your Abyssal Blade gave us a lot of inspiration! In fact, we definitely benefited from the experience. We wouldn’t dare to ask you for compensation even if we had to use extra resources.”

Shang Xia could only let the matter go now that they had spoken. He continued, “No matter what, I have to thank you guys. If you lack any resources when crafting your divine weapon in the future, feel free to head over to the You Continent. I’ll help you out as long as it’s within my abilities!”

For Shang Xia to make a promise like that was a matter of grave importance to Yun Hu and Yi Sangtian! They understood the implications of having a Martial Dipper Realm expert like Shang Xia making that promise and they thanked him profusely. After they were done, they quickly left the hall.

Shang Xia watched them leave before turning to Lady Yu. “Are the Grandmaster Blacksmiths of the Hundred Weapons Mill really just protected by your Tianya Pavilion while staying independent? Those 2 seem to be peak-grade Grandmaster Blacksmiths. They also have the determination to craft a divine weapon. Why don’t you consider bringing them into your Tianya Pavilion?”

Lady Yu forced a chuckle. “That’s easier said than done. They have their own goals and aspirations. Because of many reasons, my Tianya Pavilion wouldn’t dare to easily reveal their presence. Right now, we are content with sending several disciples to learn from them.”

Shang Xia seemed to have realized something. However, he no longer harped on the topic.

Lady Yu turned a little more solemn all of a sudden and she muttered, “With Young Master Shang’s assistance, we managed to temporarily prevent the disaster from happening. I will have to thank you on behalf of the Tianya Pavilion.”

“Lady Yu, there’s no need for such formalities between us. I just happened to be at the right place at the right time. Moreover, it wasn’t too difficult to deal with what happened!” Shang Xia smiled.

“Young Master Shang, do you know why my Tianya Pavilion is threatened by something like that?” Lady Yu continued.

It’s here! The reason is finally coming!

Actually, he already knew that Lady Yu had something to ask of him after they decided to meet above the islands in the eastern part of the You Continent.

“I am really curious. No matter what, your Tianya Pavilion was built on the remains of a Holy Land. It shouldn’t be at the mercy of a volcano!” Shang Xia quickly responded.

Sighing softly, Lady Yu started her explanation. “That’s because the secret region didn’t belong to my Tianya Pavilion to begin with. When we found this place, the volcano was already present and the seniors of my sect got to the bottom of it to discover that the secret region had always been sitting at the entrance of a supervolcano at the bottom of the ocean.”

“How can that be?” Shang Xia asked with a face full of shock.

Glancing at Shang Xia, Lady Yu replied without trying to hide anything, “The seniors of my sect had 2 guesses. The first was the fact that the Holy Land itself was destroyed due to the eruption of that supervolcano. The second is that after the Holy Land was destroyed, it fell into the sea, landing directly on the mouth of the supervolcano.”

“Couldn’t they have tried to move it away?” Shang Xia asked in a strange voice.

Unfortunately, Lady Yu merely forced a chuckle before adding, “The secret region has already fused with it. If we try to move it forcefully, the secret region will crumble regardless. When that happens, we might not even be able to retain the status of a Mysterious World.”

Shang Xia paused for a second to digest everything she said before he continued, “So, the valley that contains the mouth of the volcano...”

“That’s something the seniors of my sect thought of. By creating a small opening, the lava contained within the supervolcano could drain slowly and ease the danger of eruption. We can also use it to craft weapons...” Lady Yu completed her explanation.

Shang Xia nodded slowly. “That’s really effective.”

“Unfortunately, we can’t do that anymore. The volcano under the ocean has been showing strange signs recently and draining it slightly doesn’t solve the root cause. I have made several explorations to the bottom of the ocean and I discovered that it would definitely be erupting soon. Even with your help, we might be able to delay it for a year or two. The moment it erupts, my Tianya Pavilion will definitely lose this secret region.” Lady Yu mumbled softly.

To that, Shang Xia chuckled in response. “Lady Yu, is there something I can assist you with?”

Turning serious, Lady Yu replied, “I hope Young Master Shang can help us move the secret region away from the mouth of the supervolcano!”

Slightly taken aback, Shang Xia broke out into laughter again. “Lady Yu, you must be kidding. How can you be sure that I can help you with this even after the seniors of your Tianya Pavilion failed to find an answer?”

Chapter 763: Big Clam Hehe

“How can you be sure that I can help you with this even after the seniors of your Tianya Pavilion failed to find an answer?” Shang Xia long guessed that she would make some sort of request, but he didn’t think that she would actually want to move the entire sect away!

Lady Yu giggled softly in response. “Young Master Shang, you might not know, but none of the seniors of the Tianya Pavilion were in the Martial Dipper Realm! I was the first to reach this level.”

Shang Xia was surprised and he replied in haste, “I apologize. I didn’t think that you would be the first Martial Dipper Realm expert of the Tianya Pavilion.”

With a light swirling in her eyes, she muttered, “Even though I entered the Martial Dipper Realm, I was unable to move the secret region by myself. It fused with the volcano for far too long and they seemed to have already turned into a single entity. Without extremely intricate control of energy, the volcano might erupt during the process of separation. The secret region would be destroyed as a result and so will my Tianya Pavilion.”

Shang Xia finally understood why Lady Yu would ask him instead of anyone else. He forced a chuckle. “I’m honored that you would think so highly of me. However, I hope that you get your hopes too high in case you are disappointed later on.”

Lady Yu chuckled, “Young Master Shang, of all the Martial Dipper Realm experts I have seen, you are the person who has the greatest control over the energy around you. If even you can’t achieve it, my Tianya Pavilion will have no other choice but to relocate.”

Since she had already spoken, Shang Xia couldn’t possibly refuse. He laughed in response, “Since that’s the case, I will have to personally head over to take a look.”

Lady Yu was delighted. “Let me lead the way. Young Master Shang, please rest assured that the region around the volcano is a blessed land. The reason why the seniors of the Tianya Pavilion chose to establish ourselves here isn’t just because of the remains of the Holy Land. It’s also because the area here produced a lot of treasures. I went to the ocean floor many times in the past and I can feel a faint trace of dipper qi coming from below. However, I didn’t dare to make a rash move/ If you are able to separate the secret region from the volcano, you can feel free to retrieve any Origin Dippers you find.”

Shang Xia’s eyelids jumped slightly and he responded immediately. “Alright deal! However...”

“What’s the matter?” Lady Yu was slightly taken aback.

Shang Xia chuckled with slight embarrassment. “I would have to trouble you to get me a secret chamber. I’m afraid I would need to enter seclusion for a period of time.”

...

After he received the Five Element Ring, Shang Xia felt the Five Element Dipper Qi in his body resonating heavily with it. He felt a sense of familiarity like never before.

With the assistance of the Five Element Ring, he could control his inner qi like they were an extension of himself. The feeling he had when he was using the ring gave him a sense of inspiration.

When he circulated his Five Element Dipper Qi in the future when using the Five Element Ring, he would be able to multiply the power it contained by several times. The insight he gained felt even more obvious and he seemed to be able to pierce through a certain barrier to experience a fundamental transformation.

He quickly understood that he was about to experience a breakthrough in his rank five arts the next moment!

With the Five Element Ring in hand, he understood the properties of the 5 elements even better.

The Tianya Pavilion didn't dally at all as they quickly provided him with a cultivation chamber. Shang Xia started to circulate his Five Element Dipper Qi and the time it took to complete a single cycle grew shorter and shorter every time. It started to close in on his goal of 4 hours.

He didn't know how long had passed and he didn't recall how many times he circulated his inner qi through his body. All he knew was that he seemed to have stepped through some sort of barrier and the Five Element Dipper Qi in his dantian experienced some sort of transformation.

The transformation consisted of the yin yang alignments of his fate dipper essences. It correlated with what he comprehended back in the Yin Yang Realm. The only difference was that the transformation consisted of a much deeper layer of the true meaning of yin and yang. With his advanced understanding, he managed to reach a higher level in the path of cultivation.

When he refined fate dipper essences, he no longer needed to care about their yin yang alignment. As long as they were of any of the 5 elements, he would be able to refine them and turn them into the yin or yang alignment as he saw fit.

The transformation he experienced didn't just simplify the requirements he had towards the fate dipper essences he required and lowered the difficulty of cultivation. It also allowed him to strengthen the control he had over his Five Element Dipper Qi and allowed his cultivation to take a step forward.

In the secret chamber, Shang Xia completed the final cycle of his inner qi circulation before waking up.

4 hours... He finally managed to complete 1 cycle of inner qi circulation within 4 hours!

Calculating the time he had been in seclusion after he woke up, he discovered that 3 days had already passed.

A light flashed through his eyes as he got to his feet to leave his secret chamber. The moment he emerged, he saw that Lady Yu had been waiting for him.

He cupped his fists together respectfully. "I am sorry for making you wait. I sincerely apologize."

A complicated gaze flashed through Lady Yu's eyes and she responded quickly, "Young Master Shang, do you not know what happened in the time you were in seclusion?"

Slightly taken aback, Shang Xia seemed to have realized that something happened during the time he was cultivating and he asked, "Did... Did I cause some damage to your Tianya Pavilion?"

Lady Yu sighed helplessly, "Young Master, don't you find it strange that there isn't a trace of a protection formation around your cultivation chamber?"

Releasing his divine will, Shang Xia realized that she was right. There was nothing around his cultivation chamber at all. There wasn't even a trace of a single warning restriction or anything!

That wasn't actually possible. There was no way there would not be any protective formation around the secret chamber. What was more, Shang Xia had confirmed that there were active protection formations around his cultivation chamber before he started.

"Yesterday, a 5 colored light appeared above your cultivation chamber and any sort of restriction or formation disappeared. The treasures and tools we used to lay down those formations even transformed to become special artifacts..." Lady Yu explained.

"This... I'm sorry..." Shang Xia said with an awkward look on his face.

Waving her hands casually, Lady Yu smiled, "That's alright. I should be congratulating you instead! After all, you seemed to have made a breakthrough!"

"I got lucky... It's nothing impressive..."

...

Another day passed and Shang Xia, who returned to his peak state, followed Lady Yu out of the secret region.

This time, it wasn't protected by some sort of mirage-like the entrance to the Tianya Pavilion. Instead, they went through a secret passage to arrive directly above the underwater supervolcano.

Shang Xia looked around and noticed that it was pitch-black around them. Light couldn't reach them at the bottom of the ocean. Of course, the pressure down there was immense. However, it was nothing to existences like Shang Xia and Lady Yu. The darkness couldn't hinder their sight either.

That was also why Shang Xia could clearly see the size of the volcano Lady Yu referred to.

"30000 feet?!" Shang Xia learned about the exact size of the volcano from Lady Yu.

From what he knew, the tallest peak in the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range south of the You Continent was merely 10000 feet. The tallest peak in the Taihang Mountains hadn't crossed the 20000 feet mark.

Looking at the thick smoke bubbles emerging from the underwater volcano, Shang Xia could feel that the temperature was a lot higher than what they were supposed to be feeling at the bottom of the ocean. He couldn't help but ask, "Lady Yu, is your secret region directly above the massive volcano?"

"There's more than a single vent to the volcano. If we were really located at the main vent, my Tianya Pavilion might have long since been destroyed!" Lady Yu shook her head in response.

She continued to lead him around as they passed nearly a third of the mountain.

Lady Yu didn't need to point anything out as Shang Xia could pinpoint the appearance of the secret region. It was a giant clam that lived at the bottom of the ocean! More accurately speaking, their secret region was created inside the shell of the giant clam!

The clam looked pretty miserable at the moment. Without even mentioning the many cracks on its surface, there was a small hole on its surface. It was sitting on one of the vents above the volcano.

Shang Xia sucked in a cold breath after seeing the condition the clam was in. He turned to Lady Yu and asked, "Are we really going to shift the vassal that contains the secret region?" The damage to the shell is perfectly blocked by the vent and if we forcefully separate them, the resulting spatial storm might be enough to completely destroy the Tianya Pavilion..."

Lady Yu forced a smile in response, "Even if we don't move it, my Tianya Pavilion will be destroyed the moment the volcano erupts."

"Why don't you give it up and relocate?" Shang Xia asked.

That was the safest way but looking at Lady Yu's expression, Shang Xia knew that it wasn't going to be possible to get her to agree.

"No matter what, the seniors of the Tianya Pavilion used their blood and sweat to establish the Tianya Pavilion here. I can't give it up that easily." Lady Yu sighed helplessly.

Obviously, that was an excuse. Shang Xia could guess that the secret region held some sort of secret which didn't allow Lady Yu to give it up easily. Perhaps, they grasped some sort of way to repair the remains and had hopes of turning it into their own Holy Land in the future.

If that were true, the Tianya Pavilion might possibly be able to transform into a superpower faction with their own Holy Land!

"Alright. How should we begin?" Shang Xia asked.

Since the Tianya Pavilion decided to separate the vessel of their secret region from the underwater volcano, they definitely made some preparations.

Lady Yu replied immediately, "I hope that Young Master Shang can sever the connection of the clam from the volcano. At the same time, you would need to suppress the vent from erupting. I'll yank the clam up and move it a safe distance. When I'm done, you can do whatever you want in this region."

Shang Xia glanced at her and muttered, "You need to seal off the damage to the secret region, no?"

Lady Yu nodded in response. "We thought of that already and the grand formation should be able to hold out for some time."

Shang Xia continued to ask, "Have you found a suitable place to relocate your secret region?"

Lady Yu nodded again and seeing as she had already made the proper arrangements, Shang Xia agreed to make his move. "Since you already made the proper preparations, let's begin!"

Chapter 764: Muhai Sect

Even though Shang Xia could also have separated the secret region from the volcano before he obtained the Five Element Ring, he would need to spend a huge amount of effort to do so. With the Five Element Ring in hand, the task became much easier.

Seeing as Lady Yu and the others already made the preparations, he summoned his Five Element Ring.

The ring was suspended in mid air as he poured his Five Element Dipper Qi into it. A 5 colored ring of light emerged from the Five Element Ring and supported the giant clam from the bottom. It slowly contracted around the vent of the volcano.

The 5 colored light started to burn fiercely as it started to push the giant clam off the volcano. The separation was clean and not a single wild fluctuation was created. The energy that was used to push the clam off the vent didn't escape into the volcano below.

Everything seemed to be going smoothly, but Lady Yu couldn't help but feel her chest tightening with worry.

Anyone who saw what was happening might think that it was no big deal, but Lady Yu knew that when the 5 colored light ring started to burn fiercely earlier, the energy contained within started to fluctuate fiercely. There were countless disturbances, but Shang Xia suppressed them all without letting a single trace escape.

She wasn't the only one whose heart was in her throat at the moment.

Before she invited Shang Xia to assist them, the low-level cultivators had already evacuated from the Tianya Pavilion. The only ones left were in the Martial Extermination or Martial Intent Realm.

They were responsible for maintaining the grand formation when Shang Xia and Lady Yu shifted the secret region. The grand formation blocked off the hole in the clam and would ensure that the secret region didn't collapse on itself during the process.

After separating the clam, Shang Xia had to suppress the connection between the volcano and the secret region. Everything seemed to be happening silently, but that was only from the outside. The interior of the secret region seemed to be experiencing the end of the world.

Cracking sounds filled the air and anyone who didn't know what was going on would think that the secret region was breaking down.

Sea water poured into the area between the clam and the volcano, and deep rumbling sounds filled the secret region. It was as though the water would pour into it the next second and completely swallow the space.

Whatever it was, as long as there was a slight disturbance to the clam, the entire secret region would experience a massive tremor.

Fortunately, the movement within the secret region calmed down by a whole lot before long. The explosions and violent shaking receded into dull rumbling.

It was probably because Lady Yu made her move. The chains of water she controlled flew over and wrapped around the giant clam.

After Shang Xia's light ring pushed the clam away from the volcano, Lady Yu dragged it a little further. It prevented the already damaged clam from suffering further damage. At the same time, she lessened the burden on the grand formation.

When the light ring was about to dissipate, Shang Xia tapped the space before him and the Five Element Ring started to spin rapidly. It emitted a soft hum and another ring of 5 colored light

emerged. It fused into the dimming light and continued to assist their effort of separating the clam from the volcano.

Clearly, it wasn't going to be easy to separate the both of them. It was going to be a long and arduous task.

Despite Shang Xia's efforts to prevent anything from disturbing the volcano during the process, he was unable to completely seal off the disturbance. Unwanted trouble was still drawn over.

In the pitch-black darkness of the ocean floor, a figure seemed to be swimming rapidly over to the 2 of them. It was a spiritual beast that thrived in such depths.

The volcano was an important part of the geography on the ocean floor and the warmth of the waters nurtured a large amount of life on the ocean floor. Dense spiritual qi would emerge from the volcano from time to time and create the birth of all sorts of treasures! It naturally attracted many spiritual beasts from all around.

The stronger the spiritual beasts, the higher their intelligence. At the very least, they would be able to discern what was good for them. When Lady Yu intentionally released her Martial Dipper Realm aura, a good portion of the spiritual beasts in the surroundings left.

Unfortunately, the method that worked well on land wasn't too effective at the bottom of the ocean. The more violent the fluctuations they released, the more the fiercer beasts thought that Shang Xia and Lady Yu were delicious food.

As several beasts charged at them from different directions, Lady Yu made her move to prevent Shang Xia from being distracted. Another chain of water was thrown out and it drew a giant circle around them. A hidden current pushed outwards, sweeping those beasts several miles away.

Several beasts managed to catch hold of the opportunity and turned towards the beasts who were swept away. They started to attack and feast on those disorientated beasts.

The dense stench of blood started to spread through the ocean and other spiritual beasts were quickly drawn over.

...

Shang Xia released his third light ring and severed a greater portion of the connection between the secret region and the volcano. The speed at which he was doing it had far surpassed what he expected. The huge clam wasn't damaged at all, and the volcano remained unaffected.

Lady Yu was rejoicing that she had found the correct person for the job. However, there was still something nagging within her that she seemed to have forgotten something. Whatever it was, she couldn't remember what it was.

Because Shang Xia's method allowed him to slowly separate the secret region from the outside, the danger truly came now that more than half the process was complete.

As the volcano had fused with the secret region, separating it wasn't as simple as isolating the different energies between them. Shang Xia also had to split off a portion of his consciousness to suppress the bubbling lava below.

Fortunately, both Lady Yu and himself acted previously and allowed some pressure to escape. Otherwise, things would have been a lot more difficult.

Everything seemed to be going smoothly, but Shang Xia stopped all of a sudden. He stared at the ocean around him with a solemn expression.

“What’s the matter? Why are we stopping?” Lady Yu asked in slight confusion.

Shang Xia’s gaze landed in a certain direction and muttered, “A big fellow is coming...”

Lady Yu frowned and she released her divine will to the limit. However, she failed to discover anything off.

She couldn’t help but glance at Shang Xia and wonder if he was mistaken. However, she quickly realized that it was very possible the range of Shang Xia’s divine will was much larger than hers.

As someone who had been cultivating around the oceans for a long period of time, Lady Yu had a great understanding of the area around the Tianya Pavilion. She quickly came to a conclusion. “The disturbance earlier probably drew over the attention of the stronger beasts in the ocean. I wonder if it’s a sea beast or a spiritual beast...”

If a sea beast was making its way over, things might get troublesome. However, if what was coming was a rank five spiritual beast, things might get even uglier.

Shang Xia’s divine will seemed to be locked onto the beast the entire time and he yelled suddenly, “We’re not too lucky... It might really be a sea beast!”

He turned to Lady Yu and mumbled, “Looks like we will have to hold off temporarily.”

Since an unstable factor that could threaten their plans appeared, they would obviously have to deal with it before they could do anything else. As long as the volcano didn’t erupt immediately, they wouldn’t have to rush the separation process.

Lady Yu naturally understood the implications of what would happen and she nodded slightly at Shang Xia. However, she didn’t dare to place the giant clam down on the ocean floor.

Shang Xia muttered softly after glancing at the clam. “Lady Yu, you will have to quickly find a way to restore the damage to the clam. Even if you are unable to transform it into a Holy Land, it wouldn’t be as frail...”

A helpless chuckle left her lips. The Tianya Pavilion only managed to produce a single Martial Dipper Realm expert, and repairing the vessel of the secret region was no easy task.

When Shagn Xia scattered the light ring, a soft snapping sound came from the clam.

Even though it was soft, it was like a thunderclap in their ears.

“Hurry...” Lady Yu turned anxious and her voice seemed slightly disoriented.

Without her urgings, Shang Xia sent out another 5 colored light ring. It landed directly under the clam.

Unfortunately, the snaps and cracks didn’t stop. Instead, they rang out even more often than before.

“This... What’s going on?” Lady Yu was stunned out of her wits. If the clam was destroyed, losing the Tianya Pavilion was the least of her worries. Everyone who was stationed there to maintain the grand formation would lose their lives!

Shang Xia's Five Element Dipper Qi came into contact with the volcano and he understood what was happening. "Something is happening inside the volcano!"

Lady Yu's expression sank and she mumbled in shock, "How... How can this..."

Turning to face a certain direction, Shang Xia growled, "Lady Yu, do your Tianya Pavilion have some sort of enemy here?"

"Is someone doing this intentionally?" Lady Yu immediately understood what he was driving at and her expression turned ugly beyond belief. She growled in a frosty voice, "Muahi Sect! I should have thought of it! The rank five sea beast is definitely following their commands!"

"Muahi Sect? They can actually command a rank five sea beast?" Shang Xia muttered to himself. He revealed a look of surprise. It was the first time he had heard of them.

Lady Yu couldn't go into details at the moment and she could only yell hurriedly, "Young Master Shang, do you have any other ideas? The secret region has dozens of disciples from my Tianya Pavilion. Please save them!"

Shang Xia understood how important saving them was and he thought for a second before suggesting, "I have another plan, but I'm afraid you will have to hold off the rank five ferocious for some time."

He could tell that the beast that had been circling around the whole time had finally turned to face them and was charging over at high speeds.

Chapter 765: Beasts in the Sea, Endless Lava

Even though a sea beast had no spirituality, that didn't mean that it lacked the instincts of a beast.

Stimulated by the stench of blood and overflowing killing intent, if one wasn't able to one-shot the beast, they better be prepared to face a crazed counterattack.

Shang Xia had to push himself to the limit and sever the collection between the volcano and the giant clam before anything unexpected happened. He had no time to care about anything else.

Who would have thought that one of Lady Yu's water chains would be wrapped around the giant clam at the moment?

The soft cracks rang like a hellish melody in her ears and she didn't dare to completely withdraw her abilities.

That led to the next problem. Without withdrawing it, she wouldn't just be handicapping herself against her opponent. As a first element Martial Dipper Realm expert, not using her full strength when facing a sea beast at the fifth rank might cause her to be thrown into a complete disadvantage.

Fortunately, she acted decisively. When the sea beast swam at them with frightening speed, she tore off one of her sleeves and used it to tie a knot around the clam.

The water chains she summoned were connected to her sleeves, and it was obvious her clothes weren't ordinary treasures. The knot she tied seemed to possess some sealing properties and a trace of her dipper qi lingered on it.

Even though she was one sleeve short when dealing with the threat, she was able to move about freely now that she didn't have to worry about the clam. With one of her arms exposed, she rushed straight for the sea beast. She tried to pull it away from the volcano in order to avoid disturbing Shang Xia.

Shang Xia shook his head helplessly while staring at the knot created by her sleeves. Even if she retrieved her water chain, he would have a way to stabilize the secret region contained in the giant clam.

Too bad she moved too quickly and Shang Xia could only swallow what he was about to say as she had already torn her sleeves earlier.

The tremors coming from the volcano became more obvious and Shang Xia could clearly feel the pressure building beneath the surface he released streams of fire qi back then.

Thick smoke bubbles started to rise and the signs that the volcano was about to erupt became even more obvious.

“What kind of massive hatred do they have against each other?” Shang Xia sighed.

Tapping the Five Element Ring before him, space started to twist and countless phantoms appeared.

Shang Xia Five Element Dipper Qi poured into the divine weapon and seemed to fuse completely with the spirituality it contained.

That was the yin yang transformation of the 5 elements!

A giant five colored light ring that was created from Shang Xia's fate dipper essences emerged from one of the phantoms that was created.

The light ring was completely different from those that had appeared before. It looked corporeal and it seemed identical to the Five Element Ring floating before Shang Xia.

Upon closer examination, one would be able to discover the differences between the light ring and the Five Element Ring. The most obvious being the direction they were spinning!

That was the first time Shang Xia was switching the yin and yang alignment ever since reaching the breakthrough of his rank five arts. He was also trying to verify one of the guesses he had when he asked the Grandmaster Blacksmiths of the Hundred Weapons Mill to modify his Abyssal Blade.

Back then, the fate dipper essences he left behind were of the Yang alignment.

Even though he only left behind the Yang alignment fate dipper essences, he was certain that he would be able to transform it after reaching a certain level in his rank five arts. Not only would it not affect his combat prowess, it might also lead to several exquisite changes.

At that moment, he finally verified his guess. The rings spun in different directions but still seemed to resonate with each other. The space between the light rings froze completely.

With a simple flick of his sleeves, the rings landed on both sides of the giant clam. Everything between was frozen, including the secret region.

As that was happening, the rumbling of the volcano beneath became even more intense. Lava that glowed scarlet red spewed out and the temperature of the ocean started to rise rapidly.

The underwater supervolcano that was 30000 feet tall started to shake violently, causing the ocean floor to do the same. Dirt and sludge were thrown into the water and everything became murky. Strong underwater currents were swept up and started to flow rapidly in all directions.

Lava wasn't just spewing out from the main vent of the volcano...

However, the region where Shang Xia had controlled seemed completely void of any activity. In the region between the 2 light rings, everything seemed to be frozen solid in space.

Was that a region of sealed space?!

Actually, Shang Xia would rather refer to the region as the Five Element Sealed Space or the Absolute Sealed Space.

He continued to direct the rings of light while casually sending out a ray of Geng Metal Dipper Qi. It transformed into a strand of Geng Metal Sword Qi the next instant and it shot past the connective region between the volcano and the giant clam.

If Lady Yu was present, she would probably scream in fright.

The region where Shang Xia was slowly separating earlier was severed in an instant with his crude method. With the Yin and Yang Light Rings containing the secret region, it remained completely intact. Even the vent it was connected to showed no signs of movement.

As the sea water continued to bubble and debris fell everywhere, a huge amount of lava started to float to the surface. Some also flowed down the sides of the volcano and not even the water in the ocean could slow its progress.

Shang Xia couldn't help but frown. A volcano eruption was a natural occurrence, and even though it was a supervolcano and the might it contained was massive, there was no way it could harm him, a Martial Dipper Realm expert. There was also no point in trying to stop the heavenly phenomenon from happening.

The only thing that felt strange to him was the fact that there were no signs before the volcano erupted.

Also, from what he learned from Lady Yu, the location of the Tianya Pavilion was top secret. How could the Muhai Sect locate them?

He was unable to get an answer to his question that very instant and he planned to leave the area before doing anything. After all, it wasn't easy to move a giant clam that was the size of a carriage that contained an entire secret region.

If he couldn't leave in time...

A light flashed through Shang Xia's eyes. He reached into the void before him and swiped violently downwards and a stream of Gui Water Dipper Qi congealed to form a giant palm. It reached thousands of feet into the erupting volcano and pulled.

By the time it appeared beside Shang Xia again, it brought over a crystal that shone a deep red, a ball of smoke that condensed from the eruption, and an inextinguishable flame that was dancing about before him.

“There really are treasures contained within!” Shang Xia gasped before keeping all 3 treasures.

They might not be Origin Dippers, but any treasure that Shang Xia felt were worth keeping definitely wouldn't be bad.

As he directed the secret region away, his suppression of the vent of the volcano weakened. It started to bubble immediately as reddish-black lava burst into the sea. It rushed at him with a renewed vigor.

His attention might be on moving the giant clam, but the lava was unable to harm him in the slightest.

Just as Shang Xia was using his Water Element Dipper Qi to construct several formless water barriers before him, a frosty qi appeared from another direction and rushed at his back.

“Hmph, someone is messing around.” Shang Xia snorted once as the dipper qi protection barrier around him expanded. A five colored light emerged and destroyed any trace of the frosty qi.

The next moment, the light rings around the secret region was attacked by a strange force. It started to emit soft buzzing sounds.

“Interesting. Able to hide yourself in water and avoid my divine will... You even have the ability to destroy restrictions!” Shang Xia mumbled. Even though he didn't know where the existence was hiding earlier, the moment it attacked the light rings, there was no way for it to avoid detection.

The light rings around the giant clam emitted brilliant rays of light as a small snake with silver scales appeared in the water. It started to race towards the depths of the ocean the moment it was discovered.

“That's a Hidden Scaled Needle Snake! You can't let it escape!” Lady Yu's voice came from afar. Even though she was holding the sea beast back, she couldn't fully ignore what was happening at Shang Xia's side.

Even without her reminder, Shang Xia didn't intend to let it escape easily.

He knew that it would be extremely difficult to catch the snake. That was because it had an innate ability to resist any sort of restrictions.

Capturing the snake might be an issue, but locating the person giving it the order...

Lady Yu retreated suddenly and her figure seemed extremely eye-catching in the depths of the ocean.

Shang Xia shot the water chain around the giant clam at her while expanding the range of the light rings. The next moment, the entire region dozens of miles wide was frozen.

He was only able to affect dozens of miles at the moment because, at the bottom of the ocean, even experts at the Martial Dipper Realm would be restricted by the huge pressure. Their divine wills wouldn't be able to spread as far either.

Under the terrifying might of his light rings, the volcano that was erupting seemed to turn a lot more calm. The Hidden Scale Needle Snake also froze mid swim, and it started to sink towards the bottom of the ocean. The sea beast chasing after Lady Yu turned to escape.

Even under such circumstances, the hidden expert from the Muhai Sect chose not to show himself.

Shooting each other a confused gaze, Shang Xia and Lady Yu turned to stare in the direction where the sea beast was escaping.

Could it be...

Chapter 766: Origin Dipper!

The Muhai Sect was a special faction that had the ability to control sea beasts.

According to Lady Yu, The Muhai Sect had no expert in the Martial Dipper Realm. However, they had the ability to control rank five sea beasts!

Shang Xia might not be arrogant to the point where he thought no one would be able to avoid his divine will, but he wouldn't believe that a cultivator who hadn't entered the Martial Dipper Realm would be able to do so, even under water!

Even if they possessed some sort of treasure that could conceal their aura, under the powerful might of his Five Element Dipper Qi, the treasure would most likely lose its effect.

Despite it being nearly impossible for anyone at that level to avoid detection from Shang Xia, reality proved so! He could only face the truth.

When Shang Xia stared in the direction of the fleeing sea beast, Lady Yu also thought of a certain possibility.

As their gazes met, light covered their bodies as they started to chase after the rank five sea beast.

As a beast that resided in the ocean, it was naturally able to move extremely quickly through water. Lady Yu was an expert whose faction was under water and she also possessed incredible movement arts under water. What shocked her was the fact that Shang Xia's movement didn't seem hindered! In fact, he was moving as quickly as them. As he circulated Ren Water Dipper Qi in his body, he could control the flow and current around him, allowing him to achieve the same speed.

The longer they chased the beast, the more they became sure of their guess.

If the sea beast was acting on its own, there was no way it would run away passively. It would try to struggle and fight back against the 2 Martial Dipper Realm experts who seemed hell-bent on killing it.

Lady Yu's water chains whipped straight through the water and directly tore open the void. Spatial fluctuations appeared in front of the beast the next moment. Seeing as its path was obstructed, the beast started to run in another direction.

However, Shang Xia wasn't some random nobody. He tossed the Five Element Ring in his hand forward and it appeared above the beast.

It spun around rapidly and caused the water around it to do the same. It formed some sort of circular shaped water prison under water that spread rapidly and trapped the sea beast within.

Thrashing about, it slammed into the water screen around it and was blasted around by the strong current. It spun around so much that it became disoriented.

However, it was a rank five sea beast at the end of the day. It might be stalled by the Five Element Ring, but it quickly managed to break out of the encirclement.

The short pause was enough for Shang Xia and Lady Yu to quickly close in on it. Even though it broke through the 'water prison', it would no longer be easy to escape from their clutches.

The sea beast seemed to realize the danger it was in and it finally turned around to attack Lad Yu who was directly behind.

Shang Xia, who was in the sea beast's direct path, chuckled coldly, "That doesn't seem like a choice a beast would make!"

A sneer also appeared on Lady Yu's face as the water chains in her hands danced. It wrapped around the body of the beast.

Shang Xia wouldn't let her fight alone and the Five Element Ring returned to him. As it spun above him, he drew on the power of his Five Element Dipper Qi to draw out a powerful lightning bolt. He released the first martial intent he comprehended, the Chaos Essence Lightning Palm!

Even though the Five Element Ring seemed completely compatible with Shang Xia, he would have to familiarize himself with it in order to bring out its full power. Throughout the process, Shang Xia discovered that the best way to do it was to use the martial intents he comprehended. Also, the martial intents he comprehended would have grown along with his cultivation to reach an extremely terrifying level.

How could the sea beast avoid Shang Xia's strike after being trapped by Lady Yu's water chains?

The reddish-gold lightning palm traveled through the water and caused the body of the beast to tremble uncontrollably. It nearly flipped over completely because of it.

Lady Yu controlled the water chains to hold the sea beast firmly in place.

No matter how it struggled, Shang Xia wasn't going to give it an opportunity to evade the strike. The Five Element Ring above his head continued to spin as a horrifying spear intent ripped through the water to stab into the sea beast's eyes. It directly exterminated its soul.

That was Shang Xia's third martial intent, the Divine Killing Spear. The only difference from back then was that it was unleashed using his Five Element Dipper Qi!

The reason he used it was to ensure that the corpse of the beast was left behind.

Looking at the beast, Shang Xia and Lady Yu felt that the beast was far too lacking if they were to evaluate it as a rank five creature. However, all that mattered at that moment was the fact that the beast was slain.

Lady Yu stared at the lifeless corpse of the beast but remained vigilant. Her cold laughter rang through the water. "What's the matter? Do you think you can still hide from us?"

In order to prevent any accidents from happening, Shang Xia wanted to take care of the corpse of the beast. As his Five Element Dipper Qi poured out from his divine weapon, it started to crush the corpse while ensuring that the skin remained intact. When everything within the body of the corpse was about to be completely destroyed, something crawled out from the beast's giant mouth.

The person who emerged had disheveled hair and he wore clothes made out of something that resembled fish skin. His clothes were tattered and some sort of mucus covered his body. The moment he emerged from the mouth of the beast, grime, and innards started to spread through the water.

Shang Xia might have expected something like that to happen but when he saw the man crawling out from the beast's mouth, he still felt a little uncomfortable. Despite what he felt, he noticed that the eyes of the expert from the Muhai Sect resembled that of a snake with vertical pupils.

A faint glow surrounded Shang Xia and it destroyed any trace of filth within a 30 feet radius of him.

Compared to Shang Xia who seemed a little unaccustomed to the nastiness the man was emitting, Lady Yu was much more composed. The fact that someone could be hiding in the belly of the sea beast slipped her mind. However, she wasn't surprised to see the state the expert of the Muhai Sect was in.

"Envoy of the Muhai Sect... It really is you guys!" Lady Yu sneered. "Speak. How did you find us?"

The envoy knew that there was no way he could leave alive and he released a sinister laugh, "Don't tell me you really don't know who leaked the news. How else will you have coincidentally found someone to help you guys out? Heh, it's a shame I wasn't capable enough and fell prey to your schemes, you bitch!"

After he spoke, he turned to stare at Shang Xia.

Shang Xia's gaze lingered on the corpse of the sea beast and seemed to be thinking about something seriously. He didn't really pay attention to the envoy of the Muhai Sect who was merely in the Martial Extermination Realm.

Lady Yu's gaze swept past Shang Xia and when she saw his nonchalant expression, she reached her own conclusion. She growled, "How dare you try to sow discord between us before you die? Hmph, all you can do is to mess around in the dark with your nasty tricks. Too bad for you, there are a lot of ways to die. My Tianya Pavilion might have shallow foundations, but we definitely possess some methods of interrogation. If you refuse to tell us who the spy is, I can only invite you back to the pavilion to have a taste of our methods."

A look of fear flashed through his eyes and he stuttered, "Damn bitch! When you seduced our divine being and stole his chance to ascend, you ruined his life! From that day on, our Muhai Sect vowed never to live under the same sky as your Tianya Pavilion. I never expected to leave alive anyway!"

After he spoke, he turned to Shang Xia and yelled, "This bitch is extremely insidious. I don't know what terms she used to lure you over to help her, but since she set her sights on you, you better be careful. Otherwise, all your hard work will benefit her at the end of the day!"

His expression froze the next moment as the vitality that filled his body started to fade. It faded in an instant and he couldn't be more dead!

"Hmph, what potent poison..." Shang Xia glanced at the corpse that was starting to float while mumbling to himself.

His actions couldn't escape Shang Xia's eyes, but the poison acted too quickly. Even Shang Xia couldn't react in time to stop him.

Of course, he never thought of stopping the man from committing suicide anyway.

Lady Yu heaved a sigh of relief and explained, "That's the poison extermination from the Hidden Scale Needle Snake. It's something the snake nurtured in its body and anyone under the Martial Dipper Realm will die if they are poisoned."

"Poison extermination?" Shang Xia gasped. He released the snake he caught casually earlier while dealing with the sea beast and questioned, "Does that mean that I will be able to obtain a high-grade extermination origin from this snake?"

"The poison it possesses is extremely powerful. Martial Extermination Realm cultivators might not be able to refine it safely. If they are even the slightest bit careless, they will die a horrible death. One should only attempt to refine it as their third or fourth extermination origin. Only when they have a sufficiently strong foundation should they try to refine this poison extermination origin to supplement their cultivation." Lady Yu explained.

"Many thanks for the reminder!" Shang Xia exclaimed.

However, Lady Yu wasn't done. "The Hidden Scale Needle Snake is extremely adept at finding, eating and refining poisons. Other than the poison extermination origin it nurtured, it will be able to advance as long as it refines 3 other poison extermination origins! Once it does, it will step into the fifth rank and become a rank five spiritual snake!"

Shang Xia gasped once and he realized what happened earlier. "There seemed to be poison fire spewing out from the volcano when it erupted and there were traces of a poison extermination origin. That was what drew the snake over! Moreover, that might be how the Muhai Sect located your Tianya Pavilion."

"That is really possible." Lady Yu nodded in agreement, but no one knew if Shang Xia was mistaken or not, but she seemed to heave a sigh of relief.

At the very least, Shang Xia's guess showed that he wasn't planning to blame her for the slight trace of suspicion she had of him earlier.

Anyway, a guess was a guess. After the incident, Lady Yu's word would be the law. If she said that there was a spy from the Muhai Sect within the Tianya Pavilion, that would naturally be the case. If she didn't, well, that didn't matter.

As for the matter of how Lady Yu 'snatched' their divine being's chance of ascension and whatnot, Shang Xia didn't give half a damn. It was their grudge, and he wanted no place in it.

The only thing he cared about was the benefits he could gain from helping Lady Yu shift her Tianya Pavilion and preventing their enemy from successfully destroying them.

The volcano started to rumble even more violently and the dull tremors caused massive currents to sweep across the ocean floor. Even though they were hundreds of miles away at the moment, they could feel the temperature of the water around them rising.

As if on cue, a massive blast rang in their minds and they turned to stare at the volcano in unison. A powerful fate dipper aura entered the range of their divine wills.

That wasn't a fate dipper essence they were talking about! It was a complete Origin Dipper!

Chapter 767: Spatial Gate?!

...

Shang Xia noticed that the medium of the secret region was no longer in her hand and he didn't bother asking. The Tianya Pavilion possessed special properties and the entire matter threatened their existence. He understood that she had to do what she had to and decided to play dumb.

Shang Xia knew what he had done, and what he hadn't. There was no need for him to try to explain himself or to harp on the matter.

He went to the Tianya Pavilion in order to obtain his divine weapon and he wasn't about to bring a whole boatload of shit back to the You Continent with him.

Lady Yu seemed a lot more reassured when she saw Shang Xia's attitude towards the entire matter. A trace of gratefulness formed in her heart.

The volcano that was erupting hundreds of miles away became more intense and an Origin Dipper even appeared. Lady Yu chuckled softly, "I'll have to look for a new place to place my sect. Young Master Shang, please excuse me."

She was obviously relinquishing her rights to fight for the Origin Dipper by saying that.

Shang Xia smiled in response, "Alright. However, you can't leave without saying goodbye after relocating your Tianya Pavilion!"

"Of course. I was going to do so anyway." Lady Yu giggled softly. After she spoke, she turned to leave. She seemed to have already placed the giant clam in a secret spot before their conversation and she was heading over to bring it to a better location.

Shang Xia stared at her leaving figure and muttered something softly to himself. After he was done, he rushed towards the surface by summoning a powerful current.

The moment he broke through the surface, a light flashed in his eyes. He hesitated slightly when he stretched his hands out, but he eventually tapped his Five Element Ring while maintaining a resolute expression on his face.

A light ring emerged and hovered before him. The five colored light spun about and the space contained within the ring turned chaotic.

At the same time, Shang Xia's arm became his brush and his inner qi acted as ink. He started to draw a rank four Teleportation Talisman in the air.

The chaotic space within the light ring started to turn blurry as a spatial gate appeared.

He tossed the actual Five Element Ring into the spatial gate before stepping in right behind it.

Strangely enough, the spatial gate didn't disappear even though Shang Xia had entered.

Hundreds of miles away, the underwater volcano that used to be thousands of feet deep continued to spew out lava. The eruption was ongoing and the solidified lava quickly built up. The volcano that was submerged peeked out from the surface and formed a small island.

Even so, the eruption didn't stop. It seemed to become even more violent as lava bubbled continuously.

Almost 1000 miles above the small island that was created, an illusory five colored light emerged and a light ring flew out from it. It spun about and formed a stable spatial gate.

Shang Xia stepped out from within and he was immediately surrounded by the dense smoke and volcanic ash that filled the air. The eruption raged on and it seemed to turn him into human charcoal the moment he appeared.

"Ahem... Shit! I fucked up." Shang Xia released his dipper qi protection barrier immediately and a five colored glow surrounded him to repel everything that came from the volcano.

Lowering his head, Shang Xia saw another wave of lava bursting forth. It was so powerful that it reached him in mid air and it swallowed him whole.

Even though it couldn't harm him, Shang Xia instinctively took a step back. He disappeared back into the spatial gate he created.

In the air hundreds of miles back there, the five colored light ring dimmed by a whole lot. Even so, the spatial gate had yet to disappear. He remerged, and plumes of fiery smoke poured out along with him.

Not too long after he returned, the light ring finally lost all its power and it scattered. The spatial gate he created also disappeared.

"Hah! I didn't think it would work!" Shang Xia looked extremely haggard at the moment, but he was incomparably excited.

"Looks like I should choose a proper place to open the spatial gate... Otherwise, there might be dangers on the other side waiting for me." Shang Xia didn't think that he would be able to find a way to construct a stable spatial tunnel from a random idea he had earlier.

"Well, I might have found a way to do it, but the spatial tunnel is only supported by my Five Element Dipper Qi and the special properties of my Five Element Ring. Looks like I will have to borrow the strength of the Formation Hall after I get back to the You Continent to try to turn this into a proper mode of transport... I definitely need Chu Jia's knowledge on formations for this..." Shang Xia's figure trembled in the air again and a five colored light appeared beneath his feet as he sped towards the volcano. He didn't bother creating a spatial tunnel over this time.

A distance of hundreds of miles could be traversed by an expert in the Martial Dipper Realm in no time.

...

In the air above the erupting volcano, Shang Xia extended his divine will to examine everything in the area. He discovered different types of extermination qi being blown about. Most of them were related to the Fire Element.

In order to turn those extermination qi into extermination origins, one would have to go through a long process of separation, refinement, and fusion. It would require a lot of cultivators and a long time to be able to obtain those treasures.

As he was alone, Shang Xia clearly couldn't do all that. Moreover, the region was probably where the Tianya Pavilion had set their sights to gather cultivation treasures.

Shang Xia only had one goal at the moment and it was to obtain the Origin Dipper that appeared earlier.

He quickly discovered that there were other fate dipper essences other than the Origin Dipper he felt back then. All of them were buried deep within the belly of the volcano and it wouldn't be easy for him to retrieve all of them.

"Looks like I will have to take a trip deep into the volcano..." Shang Xia chuckled helplessly to himself. He even suspected that the Origin Dipper was hidden deep under the lava with the various fate dipper essences.

During the eruption of a supervolcano, countless rare treasures would be produced inside. It could possibly draw a large amount of world origin from the world itself and birth some strange flames.

The flames might not be extermination origins or Origin Dippers, and they might not even be considered spiritual treasures. However, there were other uses for them. The strange flames were unable to be removed from the giant pool of lava that was contained within the volcano as they would scatter or turn useless the moment they were taken away, but as long as that didn't happen, they would possess tyrannical might. They would be able to incinerate mountains or even boil the sea!

Shang Xia followed the source of the lava and started to dive deep into the volcano. The dipper qi protection barrier around him pushed the lava away but after progressing hundreds of feet, the barrier started to tremble. As such, he no longer used brute force. Instead, he started to circulate his Bing Fire and Ding Fire Dipper Qi. They absorbed the fire essence around them to restore a portion of his energy.

With his secret arts reaching a breakthrough, he needed less than 4 hours to complete a single cycle of inner qi circulation. He realized that there were more ways for him to use his dipper qi and the efficiency increased by several times. That was why he could restore his energy from the fire essence around him.

The fire essence that surrounded him turned dense, but the Origin Dipper was nowhere to be seen. Regardless, Shang Xia continued to make his way deeper into the volcano and he collected several fire crystals while he was at it.

Fire crystals were basically the same as essence crystals. The only difference was that it contained a huge amount of fire qi within and the energy was extremely tyrannical. The energy contained in essence crystals was a lot milder.

The appearance of such treasures indicated that Shang Xia was right when he guessed that an eruption of that scale would have affected the world origin.

“Too bad there are only a few fire crystals. The fire essence it contains is too little. It’s far from enough to provide enough energy for a proper formation. But since fire crystals can be formed, can I create other crystals that contain other elements?” Shang Xia thought out loud. As he made his way deeper into the volcano, a multitude of thoughts flashed through his mind.

It was then that a familiar aura brushed past him.

He reached out immediately and the lava around him turned into a giant palm. It grabbed a strand of fire element fate dipper essence that was glowing a bright orange.

The moment the palm grabbed the fate dipper essence, Shang Xia determined that it was of the Bing Fire Element. Too bad the alignment no longer mattered to him. To him, it was a Fire Element Fate Dipper Essence.

When he was thinking about going deeper or changing direction, he discovered that the Five Element Dipper Qi that he summoned to protect him was starting to get corroded.

A faint black color emerged and started to spread.

“Fire poison?” Shang Xia wondered to himself. It wasn’t as though his dipper qi protection barrier was invincible, but for it to affect him unknowingly was an impressive feat.

“Did I really guess it right again? Did the volcano nurture a Fire Poison Fate Dipper?!” Shang Xia gasped. The Five Element Ring above his head started to spin and a ray of five colored light landed on his protection barrier. More than half of the black glow that was spreading was purified and a second ray quickly appeared. Not a single speck of poison was left.

Shang Xia didn’t stop there. He summoned a third ray and it shot directly into the sea of lava before him.

A trace of black flames appeared in the reddish-gold sea of lava and its appearance seemed to open some sort of bottomless abyss. It started to devour the reddish-gold lava the next moment.

“I found you!”

...

Lava continued to pour out from the island above the sea and the island grew slowly.

A stream of water appeared above the water and Lady Yu’s figure was eventually revealed. She might have arrived, but she couldn’t find traces of Shang Xia.

After a short moment of contemplation, she discovered where he might have gone, and she stared at the entrance to the volcano as complex emotions flashed through her eyes.

Chapter 768: Everyone Has Their Own Needs

As another violent eruption happened, Shang Xia's figure was blown out from the volcano. He quickly noticed Lady Yu who wasn't too far away.

"I apologize for making you wait!" Shang Xia cupped his fist and laughed.

Lady Yu giggled in response, "From how happy you look, you definitely obtained a lot of benefits from the volcano!"

Shang Xia didn't answer the question directly. "I would have to thank you for inviting me over to your Tianya Pavilion. Otherwise, I wouldn't have obtained this opportunity."

After he spoke, his dipper qi scattered slightly to reveal a ball of black flame that was sealed in multiple layers of restrictions. "This is a complete Abyss Smoke Poison Fire Fate Dipper. It might seem like a proper flame, but it's actually a poison-type Origin Dipper. The poison is extremely insidious. I wonder if you have seen something like that before?"

A trace of envy flashed past Lady Yu's face but she shook her head eventually. "I haven't seen many treasures and the inheritance of my Tianya Pavilion is rather poor. We don't recognize too many Origin Dippers, much less rare ones like this..."

Shang Xia glanced at her before revealing a smile. "It's a shame. This Origin Dipper might be great, but it's useless to me. I would rather trade it for several fate dipper essences I can use."

Lady Yu was greatly taken aback and she quickly replied, "Young Master Shang, you must be kidding. This is an Origin Dipper. Why would you trade it for fate dipper essences?"

"Lady Yu, if you're interested in this Origin Dipper, you can trade it with me for 10 strands of fate dipper essence." Shang Xia shook his head and muttered.

She was obviously moved by the offer, but rationality took over in the end. She shook her head and muttered, "This isn't appropriate. An Origin Dipper would fetch a price of 12 fate dipper essences during the trade fair held on Three Unity Island. Even if I wish to trade with you, I can't possibly let you take a loss. Moreover, my Tianya Pavilion owes you far too much..."

An Origin Dipper was made up of 10 strands of fate dipper essences, but it wasn't easy to gather 10 of the same type.

That was why people would trade different types of fate dipper essences for an Origin Dipper when one was actually on sale.

As such, the value of a single Origin Dipper wasn't a mere 10 strands of fate dipper essences.

Surprisingly, Shang Xia chuckled in response, "If I were someone else, I definitely wouldn't be willing to trade an Origin Dipper for 10 strands of fate dipper essences. However, I have a use for them and you don't have to feel bad. I wish to acquire fate dipper essences."

Even though Shang Xia's rank five arts had a breakthrough and he needed less than 4 hours to make a complete cycle of his inner qi, that didn't mean that he could refine any sort of fate dipper essence he wanted yet. However, Shang Xia seemed interested in forming a genuine connection with the Tianya Pavilion and he wasn't going to sweat the small stuff.

An ugly expression remained on Lady Yu's face as she muttered awkwardly, "To be honest, my Tianya Pavilion doesn't have 10 fate dipper essences. If you don't mind, we do have special armors

that will allow you to move about freely in the ocean. Can it replace some of the fate dipper essences you require? You have the corpse of a rank five sea beast. If you use the skin..."

Shang Xia was pleasantly surprised and he quickly interrupted her, "No, no, no... Lady Yu, please don't misunderstand. I have other uses for the corpse of the beast, but I also have uses for armor that will allow us to move better in the water. Actually, it will be more accurate to say that the institution has a use for it."

One of the reasons the Tongyou Institution hadn't expanded greatly was because the Triple Frost Palace and the Changbai Holy Land were baring their fangs at them every time they tried to increase their influence to islands further out.

Because the Tongyou Institution wasn't familiar with the area outside the You Continent and didn't know how to fight in the water, they weren't able to gain much of an advantage.

Fortunately for them, the Changbai Holy Land and Triple Frost Palace weren't too adept at fighting in water either. That was why the institution wouldn't be at a great disadvantage. There were even times when they worked together with the Changbai Holy Land to hold off the Triple Frost Palace.

Compared to the 3 superpowers, the Tianya Pavilion was far from qualified to join in the battle for territory. However, they were still a proper sect at the end of the day and they were really familiar with fighting in the water. As such, they definitely had many points of advantage.

Armor that could be used underwater was definitely something the institution required.

Lady Yu revealed a look of joy as she didn't think that her suggestion would actually be possible. "Are you for real? Oh... I wasn't doubting you. It's just... It's just that this is a little unbelievable..."

She knew that Shang Xia wasn't too hard up on the price as he intended to form a better connection with the Tianya Pavilion. If she managed to form some sort of relationship with the Tongyou Institution because of the armors they had, it would truly be a blessing.

In the Azure Ascension World, the Tongyou Institution might be considered an upstart faction, but they still possessed their own Holy Land. What's more, Kou Chongxue could be considered the strongest expert in the Martial Dipper Realm at the moment. No one would care how 'young' they were!

Shang Xia continued, "Lady Yu, there's no need to rush things. This concerns the cooperation of our factions and it's not something we can agree on so easily. I have to return to the institution to convey the message and they will send someone here to do the negotiations."

"Of course. I was a little too hasty. I must have embarrassed myself... My Tianya Pavilion isn't exactly loaded at the moment and we are able to gather 6 strands of fate dipper essences at the moment. If you need anything, please let us know." Lady Yu replied.

"6 is fine. Also, I obtained the Hidden Scale Needle Snake and the corpse of the rank five sea beast with your help, we should split them evenly..." Shang Xia mumbled.

Turning serious, Lady Yu responded, "Young Master Shang, do you think that my Tianya Pavilion is worth so little? If not for your help, it would have been destroyed by the volcano. The Muhai Sect

also came for us and we managed to turn the situation around and kill the envoy they sent with your help. If you refuse to take the treasures, I will be extremely embarrassed.”

Shang Xia chuckled helplessly, “Looks like I was being rude...”

“That’s because you were trying to be a gentleman. Young Master Shang, do you need anything else?” Lady Yu added immediately.

After thinking for a moment, Shang Xia mumbled, “Alright, since you’re insistent on it being a fair trade, let’s use these in place of the armors for our deal.”

He handed over the fire crystals he obtained in the volcano.

Staring at them curiously and weighing them up slightly, Lady Yu gasped softly. “Fire essence crystals?”

“Is that what you call them? Looks like you recognize these treasures.” A light flashed in Shang Xia’s eyes.

Returning those crystals to him, Lady Yu explained, “After the worlds fused, we discovered all sorts of strange treasures. Other than the trade of fire qi contained in this, it’s no different from an essence crystal. That is why we named them as such.”

Shang Xia gasped, “So... They appeared a long time ago! Do you know what they are used for?”

“They are similar to essence crystals but they aren’t as versatile. However, they are very well received by cultivators who train in the fire arts. Young Master Shang, you should be able to guess that there aren’t many experts who train in fire arts here in the ocean...” Lady Yu replied.

Shang Xia nodded his head slightly but before he could speak, she continued, “The Grandmaster Blacksmiths of the Hundred Weapons Mill love these. They used fire essence crystals when crafting weapons and from what I know, your Five Element Ring was also crafted using some of these...”

“Oh, I didn’t expect that!” Shang Xia’s interest was piqued.

“Fire essence crystals aren’t the only type of variation essence crystals. We discovered something called the water essence crystals and many disciples are using them to train. It’s more effective than using pure essence crystals.” Lady Yu added.

“Amazing! I didn’t think that there would be water essence crystals as well. Alright, let’s trade with these as the currency?”

“Naturally.” Lady Yu was elated that she would be able to obtain another Origin Dipper. Since the armors would be traded with the Tongyou Institution, she had to make up for the difference of 4 fate dipper essences. She couldn’t be happier that Shang Xia was willing to take those crystals. She asked along the way, “Young Master Shang, are you interested in these essence crystals?”

“If your Tianya Pavilion is willing to go into a deeper form of cooperation with the Tongyou Institution, you can also use these crystals as currency...” Shang Xia didn’t plan to hide his desire for those crystals and after some negotiations, they decided that a fate dipper essence would be worth 300 essence crystals. 3 ordinary essence crystals would be worth a single variation essence crystal and Lady Yu paid Shang Xia 300 water essence crystals and 6 fate dipper essence on the spot. The final 100 fire essence crystals would be given to Shang Xia after the Tongyou Institution came to negotiate the terms of their cooperation. The Tianya Pavilion wasn’t able to take out so many essence crystals at once as they still had to gather some from the volcano after the situation over there settled down.

Handing the Abyss Smoke Poison Fire Fate Dipper to Lady Yu, Shang Xia decided to return to the You Continent despite attempts to get him to stay.

Before he left, Lady Yu gave him a pearl he could use to locate the Tianya Pavilion.

Not too long after he left, 2 figures appeared behind Lady Yu who was seeing him too at the surface of the sea.

“I heard that the Young Master of the You Continent isn’t married yet. Pavilion Master, you’re not lacking in the beauty department. Why don’t you give it a shot?” An elder mentioned.

“The Tongyou Institution took less than 30 years to grow. In the past 10 years, their improvement has been extremely rapid. They produced 3 Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors and it’s rumored that Kou Chongxue obtained a perfect rank five advancement formula. From what I can tell, Young Master Shang doesn’t mind talking to you. Why don’t you take another step and go for it? If you manage to obtain the advancement formula...”

“Enough!” Lady Yu snapped before the other elder could finish talking.

The second elder, an old granny, didn’t seem to care as she continued, “... You could even do what you have done to the divine being of the Muhai Sect. It would also be extremely beneficial if you manage to obtain a rank five advancement formula from Young Master Shang...”

Turning her head abruptly, Lady Yu released her aura completely. The 2 elders were forced back into the sea and they heard a deep voice booming in their minds. “I said, enough!”

Chapter 769: Underwater Island

Lady Yu’s elegant and gentle demeanor when Shang Xia was there earlier was nowhere to be seen. Instead, killing intent seeped out from her being.

The 2 sorry figures eventually rose into the air again, and the old man didn’t dare to say any more. However, that didn’t stop the granny from snapping reluctantly, “Pavilion Master, are you trying to silence us? Did you forget how you begged us for a chance to enter the Martial Dipper Realm in the past?”

A brilliant smile appeared on Lady Yu's face all of a sudden. "Of course not! Yu Yu will never forget the grace Martial Uncle and Martial Aunt has shown me. Martial Aunt, take a look at this. Didn't I obtain an Origin Dipper from Young Master Shang specially for you?" [1]

She released the restriction around the flame and it instantly appeared before her. It drifted slowly towards the old lady.

Seemingly having thought of something, the old man flew back and retreated from the ball of black flames.

Lady Yu glanced at him and pretended not to see what he did.

He might have left, but the granny's attention was stuck to the ball of black flames.

"Origin Dipper! It's actually a complete Origin Dipper!" The old lady reached out to catch the black flames floating over to her and she didn't forget to coat her hands in extermination qi. She admired the flame jumping about in her hands while asking, "Pavilion Master, you truly are a woman of your word. I was too hasty earlier and embarrassed myself! Oh right, I'm not very knowledgeable and I would like to ask Pavilion Master what Origin Dipper this is."

"Oh. It's called the Abyss Smoke Poison Fire Fate Dipper. It's a fire poison Origin Dipper." Lady Yu looked at the old lady whose face was already turning ash-black while speaking casually.

"Poison..." The old lady felt a jolt running through her body. She discovered she couldn't speak any further as she turned to stare at Yu Yu. She was met with a frosty gaze and the look of shock was etched on her face for eternity.

Lady Yu made a simple gesture and the black flames flew back to her. The body of the old lady eventually turned to dust and scattered in the air.

Turning to look at the old man who was filled with fear but was still lingering around, she chuckled, "Looks like Martial Aunt isn't fortunate enough to obtain the Origin Dipper. Martial Uncle, do you wish to attempt refining it?"

"Junior Sister Qin shouldn't dream of entering the Martial Dipper Realm if she couldn't even hold on to an Origin Dipper... She deserved everything that happened to her!" The old man muttered. He turned serious the next moment and continued, "An Origin Dipper is extremely important to the Tianya Pavilion and you should get the final say in who gets to use it. How dare other people try to butt in and offer their opinions? Even if you would like me to give my suggestion, I think that Pavilion Master should be the one to refine it. When that happens, your cultivation will take another step forward. Moreover, I also heard that after one enters the second element of the Martial Dipper Realm, they will be able to split off a Fate Dipper Clone with the combat strength of a Martial Dipper Realm expert. That will greatly increase your survivability..."

Lady Yu giggled softly and interrupted him, “Martial Uncle, you’re thinking too highly of me. However, I won’t be able to refine this Origin Dipper, and neither will you.”

Despite the look of confusion on his face, he responded quickly. “Pavilion Master, we will follow everything you say.”

Nodding slightly, she finally turned serious and explained, “Martial Uncle, you should have seen what happened. The poison it contains is truly tyrannical. Even with Martial Aunt Qin’s cultivation at the large completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm, she couldn’t avoid death. There isn’t even a need to think that she would be able to refine it. In order for someone to refine this Origin Dipper to step into the Martial Dipper Realm, one would have to practice poison arts and refine poison extermination origins in the Martial Extermination Realm. Only then will they not be poisoned by the Origin Dipper.”

He couldn’t help but gasp, “So...”

Sealing up the ball of black flames again, Lady Yu muttered, “We’ll keep it for now. If any disciple from the Tianya Pavilion comes across the opportunity in the future, it won’t be too late for us to allocate this Origin Dipper.”

Lady Yu turned and glanced at the erupting volcano and ordered, “I’ll hand things over here to you. The Tongyou Institution will probably send some people over to discuss the matter of cooperation with us. I will have to trouble you to host and do the negotiations with them.”

“Pavilion Master, that’s my job to begin with. Rest assured. You can leave it to me.”

Lady Yu nodded in response and she disappeared the next moment.

The elder cupped his fists respectfully, and when he was finally sure that she had left, he straightened his back and heaved a sigh of relief.

He glanced around him where the remains of the old lady had scattered and he couldn’t help but sigh again. This time, he seemed to be in a lot more pain. The phenomenon where a Martial Extermination Realm expert fell appeared all around him as he tried to hide the sorrow he felt.

His junior sister truly didn’t know her place. Ever since Yu Yu entered the Martial Dipper Realm, they could no longer treat her as a mere junior. Moreover, she was also the Pavilion Master of the Tianya Pavilion!

...

As Shang Xia made his way back to the You Continent, he drew rank four Teleportation Talismans in the air and stepped through the spatial gates he created.

With his current skills in talisman crafting, he was able to ensure a certain rate of success even when crafting them in the void.

As for rank five talismans... His success rate when using talisman paper wasn’t high to begin with. There was no need to mention drawing them in the void.

After several tests and experiments, Shang Xia could basically confirm the distance he could travel with the rank four Teleportation Talisman. If he drew it with his inner qi, it could allow him to travel 1200 miles or so. If he managed to craft a proper talisman for it, it would allow one to travel slightly less than 1500 miles.

No matter if it was 1200 or 1500 miles, that was the limit of the rank four Teleportation Talisman. However, that didn't mean that they would have to travel so far every time they used the talisman.

When experts like Shang Xia who could control the power of space used such methods, they would be able to control how far they actually traveled when using the talisman as long as it was within the maximum range.

The reason why Shang Xia was drawing talismans as a mode of transport was so that he could familiarize himself with his control over space. He also wanted to see how feasible it was to construct a stable spatial tunnel that could be used over and over again.

As he made his way back, Shang Xia discovered that his greatest takeaway wasn't either of those. Instead, it was his better understanding of his new mode of crafting talismans!

After several more days, Shang Xia finally returned to the eastern region of the You Continent. He took much longer than if he flew over.

When he returned, he didn't alert the Martial Extermination Realm expert stationed there. Instead, his divine will spread out and encompassed hundreds of miles before locating several familiar auras on some small islands nearby. Despite locating them, he didn't find a trace of Hai Yuanyuan.

Those he detected were the disciples who had once followed his school of cultivation in the Tongyou Institution. Most of them had already graduated and a good portion of them were in the Martial Intent Realm. They were qualified to be deacons stationed in the various islands and they had several disciples in the Martial Extremity and Martial Realm under them.

The islands that were formed from the remains of the Manyu Continent seemed to be treasure islands that were highly sought after by lower-level disciples.

Even the worst of those islands had dense heaven and earth qi. The lands were fertile and it was great for nurturing and growing spiritual herbs.

Better islands possessed some sort of mineral resource and even though they hadn't started mining, it wasn't a bad idea to occupy them and station some disciples beforehand.

The biggest reason the You, Ji, and Liao Continents were vying over the islands was because of that! Of course, they wanted to expand their territory, but those resources were the main reason their conflict was so bad.

Because Shang Xia couldn't find traces of Hai Yuanyuan, he felt a little reluctant to leave immediately. He started to extend his divine will further east to the region where the disciples of the 3 factions would usually run into conflicts.

Hai Yuanyuan was a student at the Inner Division at the end of the day. Even if she was sent on the training expedition, she would be stationed at the islands closer to the You Continent to protect the region. There shouldn't be a reason for her to be sent to the more dangerous region. On impulse, Shang Xia decided to pay the region a visit and take a look at the situation playing out there.

As he approached, he quickly discovered that the Tongyou Institution had sent 2 Martial Extermination Realm experts over to protect and patrol the region. It shouldn't be easy for anyone to invade or approach. The Liao Continent also sent 2 Martial Extermination Realm experts, but the Ji Continent stationed 3 of them around the islands.

As he approached, Shang Xia concealed his aura completely. Unless he intentionally revealed it, there wasn't a need to talk about those Martial Extermination Realm cultivators. Even experts in the Martial Dipper Realm might not be able to discover him.

What surprised Shang Xia was that of the 2 Martial Extermination Realm experts stationed there, he was familiar with 1 of them.

The person was Dou Zhong, and he was Shang Xia's fellow student when they were still disciples of the Tongyou Institution. Dou Zhong never thought well of Shang Xia due to his status as a disciple of one of the great clans.

Clearly, Dou Zhong also had amazing talent. He was hardworking and lucky. His cultivation soared after he caught the eye of Shang Lubing, Kou Chongxue's sworn brother. He also managed to receive pointers from Kou Chongxue several times and he already advanced to the second layer of the Martial Extermination Realm.

From what Shang Xia could tell, his aura was stable and his foundations were solid. He would be able to advance as long as he refined another extermination origin. Once that happened, he would be able to step through the gates of a high-level Martial Extermination Realm expert.

In reality, unless Dou Zhong was compared to a perverted monster like Shang Xia, he could be considered an incredible talent! He would have been the top talent among his peers!

...

Even though Shang Xia felt that it wasn't possible for Hai Yuanyuan to be anywhere in the area, he didn't mind learning about the situation there now that he had arrived.

Surprisingly, the moment he arrived, he discovered several figures rushing out of the water hundreds of miles away while fighting with each other.

Shang Xia quickly discovered another familiar aura.

"No wonder I couldn't find anything of interest. Looks like they were hiding under the water!"

He continued to observe the battle with great interest.

There were 4 cultivators fighting at the moment and of the 4, 1 had already completed their second divine sense transformation. They clearly held the upper hand in the battle. He was facing 3 opponents from the Tongyou Institution who were in the Martial Extremity Realm.

The students of the institution might be at a disadvantage, but they deployed their battle formation and were able to put up a good fight. Even though their cultivation levels differed greatly, they weren't on the receiving end of a nasty beatdown.

Shang Xia couldn't be more familiar with the battle formation they were using. After all, it was something he taught them back then, the Yin Yang Extremity Formation!

Surprisingly, the battle formation they used wasn't exactly what he taught. Instead, there seemed to be some sort of variation. Looking closer, the person who was directing the formation was Hai Yuanyuan. She received Shang Xia's full teachings, and she was able to gain her own understanding of how the extremity qi interacted with one another.

Clearly, Shang Xia didn't plan on interfering. Instead, he became even more curious about their battle. His divine will continued to extend downwards but when it reached the ocean's surface, he was faced with strong resistance. He quickly discovered the reason.

“No wonder..”

Chapter 770: Origin Returning Sword

The cultivator from the Triple Frost Palace who had completed his second divine sense transformation couldn't be more annoyed at the moment.

Regardless of cultivation or combat strength, he far surpassed the cultivators he was fighting against. However, their battle formation allowed them to put up an impressive resistance.

The cultivators of the Ji Continent from the Azure Spiritual World fought against the cultivators of the Tongyou Institution for several years, and they were pretty familiar with each other's abilities.

He knew that the disciples of the Tongyou Institution were using what they called the Yin Yang Extremity Formation, and it was a secret art within the institution only students in the Inner Division or higher would be able to learn.

It was said that the battle formation was something a Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor of the institution came up with and it was extremely powerful. It allowed students of the institution to not fall to a disadvantage when teaming up against those of a higher cultivation level.

If the Triple Frost Palace heard that something like their battle formation existed in the past, they would have laughed themselves to death. They would think that anyone who faced the battle formation was nothing but trash in their cultivation realm and was finding an excuse for why they weren't able to defeat their opponents. Even if a battle formation like that existed, it wouldn't be so exaggerated.

After coming into contact with members of the Tongyou Institution, they finally realized that they were wrong! The rumors were true!

Looking at the 3 Martial Extremity Realm disciples who weren't even 20... Actually, the youngest among them seemed 16 at the very most. The cultivator from the Triple Frost Palace felt extremely conflicting emotions. Moreover, the core of the formation seemed to rest on the youngest female cultivator among them and she was also the strongest of the 3!

As an expert in the Martial Intent Realm, he had plenty of combat experience. He understood that he would have to strike her down if he wished to break out of the stalemate he was forced into.

He revealed some obvious weaknesses and tried to bait her in to deal his decisive strike, but unfortunately for him, his schemes fell through. She might not have sufficient combat experience, but she did things extremely cautiously. She controlled the battle formation in such a way that all 3 of them would attack or retreat in unison, not allowing the enemy to grab hold of an opportunity to counterattack.

Her companions were the ones who nearly fell for his tricks. If not for her adjusting the battle formation at the critical moments, the situation might have taken a turn for the worse.

Under such circumstances, the cultivator from the Triple Frost Palace still maintained his rationality and continued to do battle.

He might not be able to defeat them directly, but his cultivation level was at the Martial Intent Realm with his second divine sense transformation completed. Even if he held out all the way, he would be able to outlast Martial Extremity Realm disciples... At worst, he would reach his limit the same time as his opponents before breaking out of the encirclement. He might get laughed at by his fellow disciples, but that was about it.

Both sides released their transmission talismans the moment they broke through the water surface earlier, and reinforcements would arrive soon.

“However...” The cultivator from the Triple Frost Palace stared at his opponents and sneered inwardly.

They probably don't know the worth of that island we found beneath the water's surface. Looking at their age, they should be students of the institution sent out for training. At most, they would be able to call over their custodians or deacons stationed nearby. Anyone who would come would be in the Martial Intent Realm... [1]

He was a direct disciple of the Triple Frost Palace and other than the ordinary types of calls for reinforcement, he would be able to send his transmission talisman to a Martial Extermination Realm elder.

Moreover, the thing he found below the surface was more than enough to call for a Martial Extermination Realm expert.

When that happened, the expert from the Triple Frost Palace would definitely gain an advantage. He might not be able to obtain all the benefits from the underwater island, but as the person who found it, he would definitely be given a good portion of everything they gained.

Just as he decided to continue holding them down, the battle formation changed once again. The person in charge of the transformation was the young female cultivator at the core of the formation.

Her cultivation had already reached the large completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm. She grasped the concept of the extremity of length and speed, and she was using a pair of low-grade weapons. Her sword art was powerful and unique and she was the person who was in charge of any strikes launched at their opponent.

When the cultivator from the Triple Frost Palace gave up trying to break out of the encirclement and tried to play for time, the young lady burst forth with incredible power. A third extremity of softness and hardness appeared.

Catching him completely off guard, the cultivator of the Triple Frost Palace didn't think that she would have hidden her strength. Neither did he expect a young cultivator like that to comprehend 3 different extremity sword intents!

He was flustered as he faced the sudden attacks. Originally, he could ensure that he wasn't at a disadvantage during their battle. Now, he was quickly forced onto the back foot as he retreated continuously.

At the end of the day, he was still in the Martial Intent Realm. He was a talent and direct disciple of the Triple Frost Palace. His foundations were solid and after getting over the initial shock and suffering a little, he quickly stabilized the situation.

After their sudden counterattack, the students of the Tongyou Institution grasped the initiative. The proud cultivator who was a direct disciple of the Triple Frost Palace was forced to be on the defensive.

Whatever it was, he felt that victory was still assured in the end. All he had to do was to stall until their Martial Extermination Realm expert arrived. When that happened, they would be able to suppress those from the Tongyou Institution regardless and take the island for themselves. When that happened, he would have done great merit for his sect.

Unfortunately, he discovered that things weren't progressing as he had thought. The students of the Tongyou Institution... Or more accurately, the youngest in their group, the young lady, possessed strength that surpassed his expectations.

She didn't send out the third extremity sword intent earlier because she had been hiding her strength. Instead, she just comprehended it during their battle!

When she used her third sword intent earlier, she managed to understand the intricacies behind it. After several rounds, she managed to achieve yet another breakthrough! She managed to fuse the 3 different types of extremity sword intent she comprehended!

Shang Xia, who had been observing the battle the whole time, was extremely sure that Hai Yuanyuan was already standing at the gates of the grand completion stage of the Martial Extremity Realm!

The cultivator from the Triple Frost Palace also realized that fact.

He obviously understood that he had to interrupt her comprehension process and the progression of her martial intent. Too bad for him, he was completely suppressed. The other students of the Tongyou Institution were giving their all to hold him back while she worked on her martial intent.

He knew that the moment she reached the grand completion stage of the Martial Intent Realm, their combat abilities would increase greatly. When that happened, he might no longer be able to hold on.

He could only pray that the backup he called for would hurry over.

What he didn't know was that the reinforcements he had called for had already arrived.

Shang Xia, who had been observing everything, turned to stare into the void not too far away. His expression sank and he snorted softly. No sound wave was produced. Instead, spatial ripples were formed and it landed on where his gaze was directed at.

Hidden behind the clouds, a Martial Extermination Realm expert of the Triple Frost Palace wanted to make a move to stop the young lady from comprehending her martial intent when he saw how badly a direct disciple of his Triple Frost Palace was suffering at the moment. Who would have thought that his body would freeze at the last second. It was as though he was struck by a stray lightning bolt. His body trembled violently and he almost failed to maintain the extermination origins beneath his feet that were keeping him in the air.

He struggled to snap back to reality and a look of fear appeared in his eyes as he stared all around him. He couldn't detect anything, and he realized that he couldn't advance or retreat.

As a Martial Extermination Realm expert who was stationed by the Triple Frost Palace in an area of conflict, his position in the Triple Frost Palace wouldn't be too low and neither would his

cultivation level. Putting the fear aside, he didn't forget to tear a special talisman to notify the Martial Dipper Realm expert of his sect.

He was no newbie at cultivation. He knew what affected him earlier and what the warning meant.

Shang Xia made a move earlier to ensure that their Martial Extermination Realm expert wouldn't interfere. He didn't do anything more. Even though he saw how the other party sent out the transmission talisman, he didn't plan to stop it. He quietly watched as Hai Yuanyuan's martial intent took shape.

The extremities of length, speed, and softness and hardness fused into the Yin Yang intent Shang Xia taught her from a young age and it eventually transformed into a sword that looked extremely ordinary.

That was Hai Yuanyuan's second martial intent, the Origin Returning Sword!

There was nothing special or fancy about the sword but in the eyes of the Martial Intent Realm cultivator from the Triple Frost Palace, it shattered his divine sense's suppression and tore open the area he controlled.

"Heh... Looks like it's over once I'm hit by this sword. I never thought that as a Martial Intent Realm direct disciple of the Triple Frost Palace, I will die under the blade of a Martial Extremity Realm cultivator. I'm definitely going to turn into a laughing stock among my fellow cultivators..." In the face of death, that was actually what was going through his mind.

"Stop!"

"Mercy!" 2 yells came from the sea behind the cultivator from the Triple Frost Palace and a ray of silver-gray frigid light emerged.

Help came from the direction of the Ji Continent once again, and it seemed to come from one of the nearby Martial Intent Realm cultivators.

The silvery-gray light smashed into their battle formation rather than targeting any of them individually. It was obvious the ray of light only intended to force them away to save their comrade.

Before the silvery-gray light could arrive, it was struck by an arrow that flew across the ocean's surface with a sharp whistling sound.

"Clang!" the sound of metal scraping against metal rang in the skies above the ocean. The arrow was shattered, but the frigid light also shattered.

Soon after, a plopping sound could be heard as Hai Yuanyuan showed mercy at the very last second. The sword shot into the ocean after flying past their enemy.

Coincidentally, the position at which they were in placed Hai Yuanyuan and the other 2 older female disciples of the Tongyou Institution directly above the underwater island they found earlier.

1. oh ho ho... ?