

The Heavens 811

Chapter 811: Hiding

As soon as Shang Xia entered Kou Chongxues cultivation chambers, those who had been waiting outside sank into an eerie silence.

Not too long later, Liu Qinglans gaze swept across those present and she broke the silence, With the Lightning Collection Blood Art in the Martial Realm, the Yin Yang Extremity Battle Formation in the Martial Extremity Realm, and the Five Element Movement Art in the Martial Intent Realm Sword arts, blade arts, and the art of crafting talismans Every single one of them are extremely large accomplishment! He is willing to share them, and after getting his permission, anyone would be able to train in them. However, everyone knows that only by following his path of cultivation would they be able to unleash those abilities to their limit!

Seeing as no one was speaking, Liu Qinglan continued, He might have allowed anyone to train in them, but he isnt personally taking charge of spreading his path of cultivation. Even after Patriarch Kou made a personal request, he would only give casual pointers to those who wished to follow his path. However, that will no longer be the case in the future. There will be more people trying to learn his cultivation ideology and they will be more determined to go all the way.

Everyone present were elders who assisted Kou Chongxue in the establishment of the Tongyou Institution and they obviously understood what she meant.

Shang Xia wanted to open up his path of cultivation in the institution and with his current position and strength, he could easily form an entire school of thought by himself. Holding a pointers exchange through a battle of the different paths of cultivation would also be easily achieved as long as he gave the word.

However, he didnt take such drastic measures. He didnt try to deal a blow to the rapidly advancing Tongyou Institution with such a strong clash. Instead, he used a soft and nearly undetectable method to start the transition within the institution.

Not only did his method not cause any strife within the institution, but he would also be able to obtain the disciples of the institution who were determined to follow his path of cultivation and inherit his martial dao.

Yun Jing sighed, His path of cultivation has already taken root and since Patriarch Kou has already given the go ahead, we will definitely need to promote it within the institution.

Shang Lubing interrupted all of a sudden, We can only be wary that with the addition of a new path of cultivation, the disciples of our institution would start to doubt their cultivation. Most of them have already established their foundations, but its always better to be more careful about matters like this. Our You Continent is still experiencing a population shortage, and even though the experts we nurtured still stayed in the continent to contribute their strength, everything stemmed from our solid cultivation system. If we try to change such a deep rooted system, we might face some negative impacts. Firstly, we dont have enough people to carry it out, and secondly, there is a risk of failure.

Shang Lubing turned to look at Bu Jingshuang who was beside him.

A strange light flashed in Bu Jingshuangs eyes as he seemed to be thinking of something. When he felt Shang Lubings gaze, he nodded subconsciously in acknowledgment.

Shang Lubing continued, In my opinion, we should wait a little more for things to calm down before getting Little Xia to start pushing his way of cultivation in the institution. Whatever it is, hes still young and time will always be on his side.

Liu Qinglan didnt say anymore, and it wasnt as though she needed to.

The other 2 Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors had kept their silence, and Chu Jia looked as though the entire matter didnt involve her and she couldnt do anything about it.

Liu Zhiyuan sucked in several breaths of air, but he eventually lacked the courage to speak out.

It was then that Shang Bo and Ji Wenlong felt something and they turned to stare at the cultivation grounds in unison.

Chu Jia was next and she gasped while looking in the same direction. Its coming out!

Different colored light lit up within the thick layer of restrictions. They werent affected by the restrictions and started to wriggle their way towards the surface.

Chu Jia didnt know when, but she stepped up to the central position of the formations as she quietly observed the change within.

Bu Jingshuangs surprised voice came from behind her. What an amazing technique!

Out of nowhere, Chu Jia took 2 steps back. A golden glow appeared on the surface of the restrictions and Shang Xias figure emerged. He looked at everyone before turning to stare straight at Chu Jia. He couldnt help but laugh.

Whats the situation like inside?!

Is the patriarch in there?!

Several voices rang out at once, and they were extremely impatient to learn about the situation within Kou Chongxues cultivation grounds.

Shang Xia no longer stared at Chu Jia and he sighed softly. I have no idea how I should describe this Why dont you take a look for yourselves?

Shang Xias reply shocked them all. However, Shang Lubing quickly followed up, How are we supposed to do so? Can you release all the restrictions here?

If that was possible, Yun Jing and the others might have already done it.

They didnt wish to cause too much of a disturbance and they didnt want anyone else to know that they broke through forcefully, and that was the reason they held off for so long.

Turning back to stare at Chu Jia who seemed deep in thought, Shang Xia chuckled, Patriarch Kou used the mighty empty city stratagem on all of us

A light flashed in Chu Jias eyes as she seemed to understand what was going on.

Yun Jing asked, Is he not in there?

Do you mean to say That the layers of restrictions are fake?! Chu Jia exclaimed before Shang Xia could reply.

Its not fake. It was just placed here to scare people. Shang Xia corrected her.

Nodding slightly, Chu Jia waved her arm and several triangular-shaped formation flags shot out and landed on several positions around the restrictions.

This Shang Lubing took a step forward, but Bu Jingshuang grabbed him from behind.

With the effect of the formation flags, the restrictions started to part to form a huge door that led straight to the cultivation grounds.

Kou Chongxues methods didnt just elude Chu Jia. Shang Xia only discovered it after using his Five Element Movement Art.

Yun Jing didnt say a word as she walked through the entrance, towards the depths of the cultivation grounds.

Everyone else soon followed. They were extremely interested to discover what was going on as they piled into the cultivation grounds. Of course, Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo were different. They discovered what had happened the moment the entrance was created.

Looking at each other, they decided to still walk in behind Yun Jing.

When they saw how empty it was, no one knew what to say.

Finally, Liu Zhiyuan, who followed closely behind the deputy patriarchs, tried his best to sound jovial as he attempted to break the awkwardness. How can he leave nothing behind?! Shang Xia, did you retrieve everything he left here before coming out to tell us?

Shang Xia ignored him. Actually, Liu Zhiyuan wasnt wrong. He kept what Kou Chongxue placed there so that no one would know.

No one spoke, and whatever they saw placed made them utterly speechless.

Seeing as no one was giving a hoot about him, Liu Zhiyuan chuckled twice before staying silent.

So Is he really missing? Yun Jing turned to stare at Shang Xia. She was standing in front of everyone and when she turned, Shang Xia could only see the expression on half her face.

He chuckled helplessly in response, If Patriarch Kou wanted to leave, who among us would have the ability to detect his actions?

Yun Jings tone turned chilly and she snapped, The entire institution assumed that he was in seclusion. There were even some who suspected he died during his cultivation. You were the only one who guessed that he left.

If I really knew what happened, I would have tried to find a better reason to explain his actions rather than acting dumb in front of everyone. No matter what, the deputy patriarchs of our institution, along with Patriarch Kous sworn brothers are here. He has no reason to hide this from you and he told me to simply inform you about what had happened. Shang Xia sighed.

Yun Jing asked again, Did he really not leave anything behind?

Shang Xia tried his best to remain indifferent as he gave his response, The matter of Patriarch Kous disappearance concerns the safety of our institution and the stability of the You Continent. I wouldnt play around here and lie to all of you for fun!

Shooting him a deep gaze, Yun Jing eventually muttered, What do you think we should do now?

Looking at everyone who entered, Shang Xia thought for a second before speaking. I think that since we have already opened his cultivation grounds, there is no need to try to hide it anymore. We wont be able to anyway.

What do you mean by that? Shang Lubing couldnt help but ask. Only those who are present know about this. Are you saying that among us

Yun Jing raised her hand to stop him from saying more. She turned to Shang Xia next. Do you mean Shang Xia could only sigh helplessly in response. Im afraid I can only take a trip over to the Celestial Remains.

Ji Wenlong and Shang Bo didnt say a word throughout the entire incident. Yun Jing and Shang Xia were the only ones holding a proper conversation.

After everyone had left, there was no point in maintaining the restrictions around the cultivation grounds.

Very quickly, the cultivators of the Tongyou Institution discovered the anomaly. They found the empty cultivation grounds and Kou Chongxues disappearance couldnt be hidden any longer. Even the deputy patriarchs stepped out to confirm what had happened.

The higher-ups of the institution would also mention it from time to time, and they didnt release a gag order. Very quickly, the matter of the Tongyou Institution breaking into Kou Chongxues cultivation grounds started to spread like wildfire and Kou Chongxues disappearance followed soon after.

When all of that was going on, Shang Xia was preparing to enter the Celestial Remains again as it would open once again in less than a year.

Very quickly, the year end trade fair happened on the Three Unity Island again. Without caring about the price, the Tongyou Institution purchased several fate dipper essences and one of them happened to be an Earth Element Fate Dipper Essence that Shang Xia needed. They also managed to obtain rank four and five talisman papers. Along with their accumulation for the past few years, Shang Xia was ready to start another talisman crafting session.

During the time he used to prepare for the opening of the Celestial Remains, Shang Xia didnt just work on his Five Element Seal. Most of his attention was placed on the Stargazer inheritance he copied.

Chapter 812: Appearance of the Giant Cauldron

“Old man... Aren’t you going overboard by doing this...” Shang Xia sighed helplessly while staring at the Fate Dipper Clone before him.

“What’s the matter? Are you afraid?” The Fate Dipper Clone spoke, but his attention was placed on the incomplete Stargazer inheritance on the jade slip Shang Xia was holding.

“Not really. However, once they discover what happened, a majority of the experts of the Azure Ascension World will stand against you. Aren’t you afraid that some of them will be unable to control their emotions and destroy everything you spent the past 40 years creating in the You Continent?” Shang Xia mumbled helplessly.

Without even raising his head, Kou Chongxue’s Fate Dipper Clone muttered, “We’ll just have to see if you manage to grasp the opportunity...”

Shang Xia sneered in contempt after hearing what he said. “Aren’t you still here? Why will I need to make a move?”

The Fate Dipper Clone arranged the information on the jade slip and replied, “This clone of mine is unable to activate and move the Stellar Cauldron.”

Nearly rolling his eyes, Shang Xia sighed, “What’s the point of leaving your clone here then? Not only will it shave away at your true body’s combat prowess, if you run into an opportunity to advance, you won’t be able to enter the grand completion stage while lacking a Fate Dipper Clone.”

“Oh, there’s no need to worry about that. There won’t be a lack of opportunities.” Kou Chongxue's clone said before standing up to look at Shang Xia. “The reason why I had to leave a clone behind is that without it, you won’t even have the qualifications to try to activate and shift the cauldron.”

Finally getting an answer, Shang Xia stopped talking about the matter altogether. He pressed his lips together and mumbled something else. “Anyway, did you manage to understand something from this? Why don’t you give me some pointers on how to proceed?”

“It’s too bad this inheritance isn’t complete. However, it would have a massive help if I managed to read this before I left.” The clone sighed.

“So... How will it help you?” Shang Xia pressed on for an answer.

Turning to Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue's clone put on an extremely serious face and he growled, “Stop making things difficult for me! I’m just a clone!”

...

In a secret chamber of the Talisman Hall, a five colored light that was swirling around Shang Xia started to shrink as they returned to his body.

When all of it returned to his body, Shang Xia, who had been cultivating for some time, slowly opened his eyes. A five colored qi emerged from them before he suppressed it.

Exhaling a turbid breath, he started to inspect the changes in his dantian. *After my Five Element Arts improved, the speed at which I can refine fate dipper essences increased greatly. In slightly over half a year, I refined my fifth set of fate dipper essences... I even changed the yin yang alignment for some of them...*

Now that Shang Xia completed the refinement for his fifth set of fate dipper essences, he estimated that he had already completed half of what he should do to solidify his progress in the Five Element Realm.

Of course, he still needed some time to get used to them. He wasn't able to control his fate dipper essences perfectly as he just completed the refinement process.

Getting to his feet, he emerged from his secret chamber. When he did, he saw a Fate Dipper Clone clad in dull yellow clothes analyzing the various talismans he made when he wasn't cultivating.

"Hehe... The way you crafted these talismans is nothing short of being classified as a divine method..." The clone stared at a rank five Teleportation Talisman and muttered softly.

Shang Xia understood the personality the clone had after interacting with him for a long time and he spoke casually, "Why do you seem so idle?"

Placing the talisman down, Kou Chongxue's clone picked up a rank five Abyssal Emptiness Talisman beside it for a closer inspection. He pressed his lips together before looking at the pieces of ruined rank five talisman papers that lay on the table. "It's a pity these have been wasted... The Tongyou Institution might be massive right now, but I believe it wasn't easy to obtain rank five talisman paper. Oh yeah. Is there some sort of problem with your Five Element Evasion Talisman? Why haven't you succeeded yet? Are you still going to be wasting more talisman paper trying to craft them?"

Shang Xia was too lazy to talk to Kou Chongxue's clone who had been a little too mouthy after being in a state of deep sleep for tens of years. He shot another question of his own rather than responding to what the clone had been asking. "Hey, time should almost be up. Those outside aren't getting too anxious, right?"

Kou Chongxue's clone chuckled, "Someone has been standing guard outside the whole time. They discovered that you left seclusion the moment you stepped out. It's just that no one has the guts to come over to disturb you."

Nodding slightly, Shang Xia tidied out the artifacts and treasures that were all over the place. He kept several pieces of wasted talisman paper and fragments of spiritual jade or still like that. At the same time, he sorted the rank four and five talismans.

Who would have thought that Kou Chongxue's clone would grab a Clone Talisman from the stack of rank four talismans as he was about to put them away? He mumbled, "Your cultivation method might be extremely special, but for what I can see, you can't make a Fate Dipper Clone yet. Wouldn't that make you look a little too weak to others? Don't you have any way to solve it?"

With a frown on his face, Shang Xia asked, "What are you trying to say?"

Waving the Clone Talisman in his hand, Kou Chongxue's clone explained, "A rank four Clone Talisman can contain a strand of your aura and it seems like it's used to confuse your opponent. However, a rank five Substitution Talisman can take one's place in critical situations and save their life. I even heard that a rank three Paper Figure Talisman can contain some amount of fighting strength. Don't you feel like the entire talisman inheritance is a little weird? Higher ranked

talismans in the inheritance possessing lesser combe capabilities to the point where one can only use to to run or to take their place in death...”

Shang Xia didn't actually need his reminder as he had long since noticed that point.

However, Kou Chongxue's clone wasn't done. “You even managed to come up with the Five Element Evasion Talisman... Why don't you try consolidating and modifying the inheritance to create a talisman that can contain a portion of your aura while also being able to take your place in death? Wouldn't that be equivalent to a Fate Dipper Clone?”

Shang Xia glanced at the clone before muttering under his breath, “You have no idea how crafting talismans works, do you? You don't know the intricacies of the process and you're guessing away... You think it's that easy to come up with something like that? If it's just coming up with ideas, anyone can do it...”

“Oi, little brat! You're going too far! If you have the balls, tell that to my true body!”

Kou Chongxue's clone grumbled softly at the side.

Glancing at the clone from the corner of his eye, Shang Xia snorted, “Even if I don't tell him, you're still gonna snitch anyway...”

Widening his eyes in disbelief, Kou Chongxue's clone grumbled, “What kind of person do you think I am? Do you really think I'll snitch on you?”

“Person? Do you think you can be considered one?” Shang Xia clearly didn't bother responding politely at all.

“Fine, fine, fine...” Kou Chongxue's clone snorted twice and examined Shang Xia from head to toe. However, he was eventually unable to contain his curiosity and he snapped, “So?! Aren't you going to explain why it's not easy to come up with a talisman that is comparable to a Fate Dipper Clone?!”

Shang Xia understood that even though the clone had some obvious flaws, he was extremely persistent. If Shang Xia couldn't come up with an explanation the clone could accept, the clone wouldn't stop asking questions. Eventually, he sighed, “The Five Element Evasion Talisman can be said to have been derived from my Five Element Movement Art. I comprehended and successfully trained in the Five Element Movement Art, and I understand its limits and how it can be applied in a talisman. The Substitution Talisman inheritance came from a cultivator from the Spirit Abundance World and I learned how to craft it without fully understanding the principles that the creator of the talisman used. It's not impossible for me to modify the talisman, but it's going to take a long time...”

After he spoke, he pointed at the bunch of wasted talisman paper he kept and laughed, “Didn't you think that I was wasting talisman paper before? If I try to come up with a talisman according to what you said earlier to combine the effects of the Paper Figure, Clone, and Substitution Talismans, I'm afraid I will need to use a lot more rank five talisman papers before successfully creating one...”

Kou Chongxue's clone fell silent and no longer spoke.

Seeing as everything was mostly cleared up, he released the restrictions and opened the doors. A Talisman Disciple of the Talisman Hall who had been standing outside ran in to greet him the moment the doors were open.

Shang Xia retrieved a scarlet-red jade seal and handed it over to the disciple. “Hand this to Shang Xi of the Teaching Division and tell her she has to use her spiritual energy to nurture the seal day and night.”

Acknowledging the order, the disciple accepted the seal with both hands before turning around. Throughout the motion, he glanced at Shang Xia’s secret chamber, but he couldn’t see anyone else within.

A voice rang in Shang Xia’s ears the next moment. “Rank four Golden Sun Inferno Talisman Seal... You’re just handing it to your aunt like this?! Should this old man here assume that you’re using the institution’s resources for your own benefit?”

Without turning his head, Shang Xia sneered, “Firstly, it’s not as though I can successfully create rank four talisman seals by using the Fire Jade Essence. It’s not the Impaled Stone and it’s not proven that the seal can be completed even after the spiritual energy nourishment. Secondly... Shang Xi might be my aunt, but she’s a Martial Extermination Realm instructor of the institution. She is more than qualified to be given a rank four talisman seal.”

Kou Chongxue’s clone’s voice rang in his ears again. “Why not leave the talisman seal in the Talisman Hall? From what I can see, close to half of the talisman seals you made have been given to people outside the Talisman Hall.”

Shang Xia mumbled in response, “The Talisman Hall’s foundation comes from crafting talismans. What’s the point in keeping talisman seals here? They’re only here to serve as inheritances...”

The news of Shang Xia leaving seclusion soon spread to the rest of the institution. Yun Jing and the others invited him over to discuss some matters.

By the time he arrived, he noticed that many of those who were also present were ‘new faces’ he hadn’t seen much in high-level discussions. It wasn’t as though he didn’t recognize those people, but the usual seniors of the institution were nowhere to be seen. Instead, they were people who had banded together to form a mid-sized faction in the institution.

When he rushed over, Yun Jing and Ji Wenlong were sitting at the very front of the hall. Shang Bo was stationed in the eastern region of the You Continent, and he didn’t come back for the meeting.

Seeing as Shang Xia had arrived, Yun Jing quickly gave her greetings. “We were all waiting for you. In the time you were in seclusion, there were changes to the Celestial Remains above the Jiao Continent. The various powers are itching to move after feeling it.”

Shang Xia felt a thought flashing through his mind, but he still asked, “What happened?”

Yun Jing turned to the side to look at Ji Wenlong who started speaking, “A huge amount of world origin started to pour out from the Celestial Remains recently and loud blasts would ring from time to time. Large scale spatial fluctuations covered areas in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion above the Jiao Continent and 3 days ago, a strange phenomenon happened. A figure of a giant three legged cauldron appeared in the skies above the Celestial Remains.

Shang Xia’s pupils shrank slightly and he immediately felt that things weren’t looking good.

Ji Wenlong didn't stop there. "Right now, the various factions have already started to send their experts over. There are more than 10 Martial Dipper Realm experts who have arrived and there are still people rushing over as we speak. There are also rumors going around that the three legged cauldron is the Origin Holy Artifact that belonged to the Starry Marsh Elysium..."

"Origin Holy Artifact? What's an Origin Holy Artifact?" A bunch of cultivators in the hall started asking after hearing Ji Wenlong bring it up.

Chapter 813: New Generation and the Journey

Everyone in the hall started discussing among themselves and the situation turned slightly chaotic.

Shang Xia took the chance to send a voice transmission over. "What's going on?! Is this something you came up with before you left?!"

Shang Xia seemed to be talking to Kou Chongxue's Clone, but obviously, he was asking about matters regarding what the true body did.

After a moment of silence, the clone's voice rang in his mind. "It's not me... It's not my true body either."

"This..."

"Brat, you better give it your all this time. Otherwise, I think I'm going to be stranded in a foreign world..."

"Silence!" Yun Jing snapped amidst their conversation and the hall immediately fell silent. Even Shang Xia sat upright as he stopped talking to the clone.

Next, Yun Jing started to explain the 3 major components of an Elysium. An Elysium Boundary Marker, A Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar, and an Origin Holy Artifact. "The three legged cauldron that appeared above the Celestial Remains is very likely the Origin Holy Artifact that belonged to the Elysium before its fall."

Exclamations came from those who heard the explanation.

It was then that Shang Xia noticed Yun Jing mentioning him and he quickly raised his head only to see many people in the hall staring at him.

"Liu Qinglan, Sun Haiwei, Tian Mengzi, Dou Zhong, Yan Ming. The 5 of you will follow Shang Xia into the Celestial Remains and you have to prioritize your safety before everything!" The final part of her statement was actually meant for Shang Xia.

A trace of hesitation flashed across his eyes. He instantly understood why there weren't other seniors of the institution present. He asked worriedly, "Deputy patriarchs, wouldn't sending 5 be a little excessive?"

Afraid they would misunderstand, Shang Xia quickly continued, "It's not that I'm not willing to assist them. It's just that the situation in the Celestial Remains is too uncertain right now. There will definitely be many dangers and strange occurrences happening within. I'm afraid that I won't be able to take care of..."

Yun Jing interrupted him with a chuckle and swept her gaze across the 5 of them sitting in the hall. “Go ahead and ask them if they need you to take care of them?”

Shang Xia was taken aback. Was it even possible to get an answer that way?

Under normal circumstances, all of them would be able to handle themselves. They were experts in the second layer of the Martial Extermination Realm and above, and all of them had combat prowess surpassing those of the same level. They could basically go anywhere they wanted in the Azure Ascension World.

However, things were different if they were talking about the Celestial Remains. The situation was extraordinary and Shang Xia didn't wish for too many people of the Tongyou Institution to take part in it, much less 5 of them...

One had to know that 20 years ago, even Kou Chongxue only brought Shang Bo with him.

Yun Jing continued, “There is no need for me to talk about the dangers the Celestial Remains pose. Also, based on the intelligence we gathered, the various factions are placing heavy emphasis on the Celestial Remains this time and they sent their Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors along with a huge number of Martial Extermination Realm members to explore the place. Our Tongyou Institution's goal might not be the Origin Holy Artifact, but that doesn't mean that we're giving up on the rest of the resources there. Everyone, this might concern your chance of advancing your path of cultivation. If anyone feels that it's too dangerous, you can choose to back out now.”

No one would choose to give up even if they knew that they would be placed in certain danger.

After understanding the situation within the Celestial Remains, all of them seemed to have reached the same conclusion. *The Celestial Remains seems to have reached its limit. This will be the last chance for us to explore the region!*

Moreover, they also understood that Kou Chongxue, Ji Wenlong, Shang Bo, and Shang Xia, the 4 Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Tongyou Institution, once entered the Celestial Remains. As such, none of them were willing to give up.

Shang Xia was helpless. The 5 of them before him were the members of the Tongyou Institution who had the most potential to break through.

Now, the problem was thrown over to Shang Xia and one could only imagine the pressure he felt.

He actually had something to do after entering the Celestial Remains this time. Moreover, the thing he needed to do was not known to anyone other than himself and the missing Kou Chongxue.

When he was still stuck in a dilemma, Kou Chongxue's clone's voice rang in his ears. “Forget it. Just bring them along. I'll leave everything up to fate. Moreover, it's not like they can't do anything to help you... As long as we manage to succeed this time and they manage to live, they will have a lot of opportunities to grow stronger.”

Shang Xia didn't say anything. The prerequisite to them benefiting from the entire expedition would be for them to live...

“Hall Master Shang?” Yun Jing's voice rang in the hall again. “Do you have anything else you wish to add?”

Since the time he wasn't willing to be called 'Manager Xia', the news had spread through the institution. Even Chu Jia got the others to address her as Hall Master Chu. The Medicine Hall and Weapons Hall did the same and as such, Deputy Patriarch Yun Jing started calling him Hall Master Shang in serious situations.

Their gazes landed on Shang Xia and they saw him regain his originally calm countenance. "Alright then. When shall we leave?"

A light flashed in Yun Jing's eyes and she chuckled, "Naturally, the faster the better. We received news from the region around the Celestial Remains that there are several factions that seem to be unable to sit still and are planning on forcing their way in."

Nodding slightly, Shang Xia turned to look at the 5 of them before speaking in a low voice, "Let's leave at dawn tomorrow. Entering the Celestial Remains now will pose significant dangers. I hope all of you make sufficient preparations."

After the Martial Extermination Realm experts left, Yun Jing and Ji Wenlong were the only ones left in the hall with Shang Xia.

Yun Jing's gaze landed on Shang Xia and she asked, "Little Shang, did the patriarch really not leave anything behind in his cultivation grounds?"

Yun Jing was no fool. Her thought process was clear and she was an extremely astute person. That was why she was the person in charge of the institution in Kou Chongxue's absence.

Shang Xia felt that he didn't reveal any weaknesses and neither did he make a mistake after leaving Kou Chongxue's cultivation grounds back then, but Yun Jing was still able to sense something.

Shaking his head, Shang Xia replied, "As all of you have seen back then, there was really nothing. There is no need for me to lie about that."

Staying silent for a moment, Yun Jing suddenly asked, "Do you know anything about what is happening to the Celestial Remains at the moment?"

Shang Xia hesitated for a second before replying. "I don't know anything about that..."

Unfortunately, his moment of hesitation was seen clearly by Yun Jing. She chuckled softly after noticing it. "Alright. I understand. Just do your best."

Shang Xia bowed before leaving the hall. He left in the direction of the Talisman Hall.

When he was about to arrive, Kou Chongxue's clone's voice rang beside his ears again. "You shouldn't have hesitated earlier. Yun Jing probably already discovered something..."

Shang Xia's expression didn't change as he mumbled while walking, "It's normal for them to suspect something. Moreover, getting them to be a little more careful isn't a bad thing."

The clone sank back into silence.

Pausing slightly when stepping through the entrance of the Talisman Hall, he turned around and headed for the Formation Hall after realizing something.

"Damn brat, are you thinking about bringing Little Chu over too?" A mocking voice rang in his mind. "Wouldn't that just add on to your burden?"

Without the slightest hesitation and change in expression, Shang Xia replied, “There will definitely be many places where a Formation Grandmaster will come in handy...”

“Fine. Whatever it is, I’ll be there to help. We have 2 Martial Dipper Realm experts on our side and it’s not too bad.” Kou Chongxue’s clone muttered.

Pressing his lips together, Shang Xia nearly released a sigh. After losing contact with his true body for so long, Shang Xia needed to supply his clone with energy for it to maintain fighting strength at the Martial Dipper Realm.

Everything progressed smoothly when he arrived at the Formation Hall. After hearing that Shang Xia was getting ready to enter the Celestial Remains, Chu Jia immediately promised to tag along. She even seemed really excited. Her excitement had nothing to do with exploring the Celestial Remains. Instead, it was because Shang Xia remembered to bring her along.

When he returned to the Talisman Hall, Shang Xia didn't just take away all the rank four and five talismans he made. He even took away a majority of the resources accumulated in the Talisman Hall.

It seemed as though the high-level talismans the institution was known for wouldn't be showing up during the trade fair on the Three Unity Island.

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The next day, everyone gathered before the hall they were in the day before. Chu Jia arrived with Shang Xia, and after asking several questions, Yun Jing didn't stop her from going with them. As such, the original party of 6 increased to 7. Naturally, that didn't include the Fate Dipper Clone that was going with them.

Shang Xia handed over several rank four talismans. He took special care to ensure that everyone had one rank four Teleportation Talismans and rank four Five Element Evasion Talismans each.

Many people heard about the rank four talismans from the Talisman Hall and many of them also saw what had been produced.

However, it was their first time seeing the Five Element Evasion Talisman and after hearing Shang Xia introduce its use, they couldn't help but gasp in fright. They hated the fact that they couldn't test out the talismans on the spot.

However, all of them understood that the talismans were life saving treasures Shang Xia was giving them. They couldn't use it unless the situation was critical.

With their preparations done, everyone left for the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. They bid farewell to Deputy Patriarch Yun Jing and Deputy Patriarch Ji Wenlong before flying towards the Beyond Heavens Pavilion above the Jiao Continent.

If they left for the Jiao Continent in the Azure Ascension World, they would have to pass through tens of thousands of miles. Even if all of them were in the second layer Martial Extermination Realm and above, they would waste several days.

That was naturally not the case if they left from above the Beyond Heavens Pavilion. They could shorten the time required by more than 10 times and they would barely need to travel several thousand miles to arrive. In several short hours, they would be able to arrive at their destination.

Who would have thought that they would need to stop after flying for less than 1 hour?

Currently, those who were headed for the Celestial Remains were of the same generation as Shang Xia. Liu Qinglan was the only senior among them.

Yun Jing specifically sent her along because of several considerations she had.

Now that Shang Xia had stopped, no one understood what was going on. Liu Qinglan was the first to ask, "What's the matter? Did something happen?"

A strange look appeared on Shang Xia's face. He looked at those behind him and mumbled, "I'm afraid we'll have to add someone else to our party..."

Slightly taken aback, Liu Qinglan asked, "Who is it?"

Chapter 814: Breaking Through

Shang Xia paused somewhere along their way while leading everyone towards the Jiao Continent.

According to the distance difference between space and the ground below, they barely traveled several tens of thousands miles south.

When everyone had no idea what was going on, Shang Xia said, "There's a rare opportunity for all of us to witness something interesting. I hope we can delay our journey by a few hours..."

Before they could react, Shang Xia made a seal with his hand and a ring of five colored light expanded beneath his feet. It slowly transformed into a spatial gate leading into the Azure Ascension World.

Because he needed to maintain the stability of the spatial gate, he couldn't enter first. He turned to those behind him and chuckled, "Who's going first?"

"You're just pretending to be mysterious here..." Chu Jia giggled softly and snorted softly before leaping into the spatial gate.

Liu Qinglan stood by the gate after Chu Jia entered and muttered, "this won't take up too much time, right? What if they manage to force their way into the Celestial Remains?"

"Relax. It won't delay us by much." Shang Xia laughed.

Grunting softly, Liu Qinglan entered the spatial gate after Chu Jia.

The others quickly followed and the experts of the institution disappeared into it. When Shang Xia stepped through it, the spatial gate closed.

When they emerged, they arrived at a region filled with powerful winds and torrential rain. Dark clouds could be seen everywhere, and along with flashes of lightning, the region looked like it was experiencing a massive storm.

"Huh? This place is..." Tian Mengzi was the first to speak as it hadn't been long since he left the place they just appeared in.

Turning to look at Shang Xia in shock, Tian Mengzi mumbled, "Hall Master Shang..."

Shang Xia interrupted him immediately. "Brother Tian, it's too formal for you to address me as such..."

Tian Mengzi wasn't someone who was too hard on the rules and he quickly changed his way of speaking. "Junior Brother Shang, isn't this where you killed Feng Yezi? Why did you bring us here?"

Everyone also realized where they were and they quickly became curious.

Among those present, only Liu Qinglan and Tian Mengzi had been in the region. Liu Qinglan brought several other experts of the institution over, but they weren't part of the group.

Dou Zhong and Yan Ming had always been stationed in the eastern region and the islands east of the You Continent. Sun Haiwei's cultivation was second only to Liu Qinglan in the group and her foundations were solid. There wasn't much use for her to enter the chaotic region to try to find insights.

As for Chu Jia... There was no need for her to go all the way over to experience the remnant dipper qi Shang Xia used. She could just look for him if she wanted to get a taste of it.

"Please, follow me. There's no need to rush." Shang Xia chuckled.

After he spoke, a five colored light emerged from his body and shrouded everyone. It formed a screen around them and covered their tracks completely.

Compared to the heavenly phenomenon where rain, wind, and lightning filled the area, they seemed more interested in the five colored screen around them.

"Is this Five Element Dipper Qi?" Sun Haiwei was the first to ask. She reached out and touched it slightly, but she discovered that the strange screen of light miraculously swirled around her fingers.

It was basically monkey see monkey do in the barrier. Everyone reached out to touch it for a chance to come into contact with Shang Xia's dipper qi. For many of them, it would be the only time they could touch it.

Shang Xia ignored their questions and he brought them all to the center of the region.

All 7 of them quickly entered the depths of the clouds. Deep rumbling could be heard around them and a huge bolt of lightning snaked around the barrier. It successfully shifted their attention from the five colored barrier.

At that moment, the lightning that was flashing outside the barrier could injure the Martial Extermination Realm experts present.

If not for Shang Xia bringing them into the region, it would be extremely difficult for them to venture so far with their strength alone. Even if they joined hands, it was going to be an arduous task.

"The exchange between Martial Dipper Realm experts is truly terrifying! Moreover, it happened 2 years ago but the region is still filled with the horrifying aftermath of their remnant dipper qi..." Tian Mengzi couldn't help but sigh.

Shang Xia, who was leading the way, chuckled. "Actually, the battle between myself and Feng Yezi isn't the root cause of this. After Feng Yezi died, Jiu Qi of the Divine Capital Sect and Yuwen

Changqing of the Yanmen Institution barged into this region at the same time in an attempt to catch me off guard. Because of the energies they released, it caused the world origin here to transform...”

“Transformation of world origin?” Sun Haiwei caught onto the words Shang Xia had used.

“That, or what it means by the phenomenon transformation doesn’t just refer to the outward appearance of what happened. An exchange between Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors will severely impact the world origin in the area. You can even say that it affects the world origin in the Azure Ascension World.” Shang Xia explained. They fell into deep thought after hearing what he said.

It was then that Liu Qinglan laughed and asked a question. “In the past, it was obvious that this was caused by the interaction between your remnant dipper qis. However, in the past year, there haven't been signs of things returning to normal. There has to be another reason behind the change!”

Shang Xia paused intentionally after hearing her question

Chu Jia, who was right beside him at the moment, smacked him on the shoulder and snapped, “Stop with the suspense! Hurry up and tell us!”

The dark clouds in front of the group disappeared as soon as she spoke. They were immediately greeted with powerful flashes of lightning and they were caught by surprise. They instinctively closed their eyes out of fear.

When the intense light died, everyone noticed that there was an independent space outside the barrier around them.

They could see a lightning cocoon that was the size of a man surrounded by lightning bolts that were as thick as a grown man’s arm. They flashed occasionally and would fly into the surrounding clouds.

“Is there something different about the clouds here and out there? The lightning in this region also seems to be different...” Sun Haiwei didn’t know how she should describe what she was looking at, or the feeling she got from it.

Meng Tianzi, who was beside her, laughed, “Junior Sister Sun, you’re still as discerning as before. I thought that everyone would place their attention on the cocoon over there.”

Their conversation quickly reminded everyone that the surroundings were also a source of concern.

When they finally shifted their attention from the cocoon, they could tell that the lightning around it was something special. From the looks of it, they seemed indestructible as they continued to expand.

Chu Jia gasped in fright, “If this place is really different from outside, how are these thick lightning chains different from what was produced from your Five Element Dipper Qi?”

After hearing Sun Haiwei’s question earlier, Shang Xia couldn’t help but praise her insight. At the same time, he saw Dou Zhong falling into contemplation as he nodded slightly. It was clear he had also thought of it. He didn’t respond immediately.

Seeing as he was keeping silent, Chu Jia felt a trace of annoyance filling her heart as she felt that she was avoiding the question on purpose. She wanted to reach out to smack him again, but he quickly started speaking. "It's coming out. Just watch carefully."

"Who?!" Chu Jia asked, but before she could say anything else, she was interrupted by a loud cry.

When everyone in the barrier turned to stare at the source of the voice, they saw 5 massive chains of lightning wrapping themselves around the cocoon. Dense lightning filled the area and started to spread all around. It swallowed the sealed space and created a sea of lightning.

"This..."

Their eyes widened as they watched what was happening. Facing the fierce wave of lightning pouncing at them, everyone other than Shang Xia instinctively took a step back in an attempt to avoid it even though they were protected by the five colored barrier.

They quickly realized that the power of the lightning was far from able to breach the barrier. They didn't feel the slightest impact as they were swallowed into the sea of lightning.

When they finally turned to look at the source of it, they discovered a pair of wings condensed from lightning emerging. Soon after, the head, body, and limbs...

When the giant bird finally formed, it released a loud cry and the sea of lightning started to churn. Countless bolts fell on it and turned into a massive lightning web.

"This... This is a rank five spiritual beast! No! It's a spiritual bird that just completed its advancement!" Liu Qinglan muttered to herself after watching everything unfold before her eyes.

Staring at Shang Xia who was watching everything without the slightest moment, Sun Haiwei asked softly, "Did you just discover the spiritual bird's advancement? Or did you arrange this..."

Sun Haiwei's senses were still as sharp.

It was then that Chu Jia also understood what was happening. She yelled, "I know! This is your Lightning Bird! Right?"

Shang Xia broke out into laughter and he sounded really carefree at the moment.

Even without him saying anything, those present knew that the newly advanced rank five spiritual bird would listen to him.

With Chu Jia's reminder, everyone thought back to the Mutated Rain Swallow flock the Tongyou Institution controlled. They recalled that Shang Xia was the one who tamed them to begin with, and the leader of the flock was a Lightning Bird.

However... Did the Lightning Bird already advance to the fifth rank?

When everyone was feeling waves battering against their hearts, the sea of lightning disappeared. A pair of wings opened up fully and a giant bird that was 3 feet tall appeared in their sights for real.

With a flap of its wings, the bird disappeared from their sight. When it reappeared, they discovered that it had already shrunk back to its original size of slightly less than 1 feet and it was standing obediently on Shang Xia's shoulders.

Chapter 815: Going Too Far

Returning to the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, everyone approached the land of ruins outside the Celestial Remains above the Jiao Continent. The 6 Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Tongyou Institution couldn't keep their eyes off the silver winged Lightning Bird on Shang Xia's shoulders.

After advancing into the fifth rank, the Lightning Bird grew much bigger. However, it was able to control its size however it wished.

When it emerged from the lightning cocoon back then, the powerful lightning bolts around it seemed unable to be controlled and it could only use the lightning energy Shang Xia summoned to suppress it forcefully.

As all of them made their way over to the Celestial Remains earlier, the Lightning Bird started to refine its control over the tyrannical lightning. A good portion of their journey passed and it was already able to control its aura without Shang Xia's help. By the time they arrived at the land of ruins, it even managed to tap onto Shang Xia's aura to conceal itself. No matter who it was, they wouldn't be able to tell that the bird on his shoulder was a rank five spiritual bird unless they knew it beforehand!

"How are you able to hide its aura so well?" Chu Jia asked curiously.

The meaning of a rank five spiritual beast could easily be seen from the Yuanchen Sect. The disturbance caused by their revelation of their rank five Cloud Roc was evident of that.

Now, the Lightning Bird stepped through the same bottleneck. Martial Extermination Realm experts or Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors weren't able to tell anything by looking at it even though they ran into many people along their way.

Shang Xia chuckled at Chu Jia's question. "That's because it's Lightning Fate Dipper came from me!"

Among those who followed him on his journey, Chu Jia would have to take the top spot if they were discussing who was the most familiar with Shang Xia and his cultivation.

She quickly made the connection. "Is it also walking down the path you created? Is it also training in the five elements? But... But... It's just a Lightning Bird! When it advanced, it absorbed all the lightning back there..."

Liu Qinglan turned to look at Shang Xia in unison. No one would be uninterested in his path of cultivation.

Shang Xia didn't try hiding anything from them and he responded honestly, "The path of the five elements consists of everything. The dao of lightning can also be considered to be in the path of the five elements."

What he said caused those standing around him to sink into deep contemplation.

Kou Chongxue's Fate Dipper Clone's voice rang beside Shang Xia's ears. "So... This is how you managed to hide me and prevent Wenlong and Fourth Brother from finding me?"

Shang Xia didn't reply directly, but his silence basically confirmed it.

The clone asked again, "Right. You said that the dao of lightning is also a part of the path of the five elements. What's the difference between your Five Element Origin and the Lightning Bird's?"

Shang Xia revealed a faint smile before replying with a voice transmission. "My Five Element Origin has the potential to encompass everything, but the Lightning Bird's Five Element Origin will only contain the power of lightning."

Even though it could only potentially encompass everything, Kou Chongxue's clone knew the true meaning behind how terrifying it was.

All of a sudden, Chu Jia spoke again. "Do you still need me to lay down a Guidance Formation here in case anything goes wrong?"

Shang Xia felt the weak spatial energy around him and stared at the ruins with a look of contemplation. It seemed as though the experts of the various factions were unable to hide their movements within the ruins any longer and he muttered, "If you wish to do it, go ahead. However, it might not be of much use to us."

In the past, the various factions would keep their safe routes to get to the entrance of the Celestial Remains through the ruins a secret. However, with everything that was happening, they didn't seem to care any longer. It was as though all of them were sure the Celestial Remains was on its last legs and it would be their last time there.

After thinking about it, Shang Xia's gaze landed on the entrance of the Celestial Remains. He noticed that the space there was fluctuating slightly, and he could faintly see the situation within. It was as though the barrier stopping everyone from entering would pop like a bubble.

It was then that another voice rang in Shang Xia's ears. "Brother Shang, I didn't think that the institution would send you over personally!"

Turning to look at the person who spoke, Shang Xia noticed a familiar face waving at him from a collapsed pillar several miles away.

A smile appeared on his face the next second. "Brother Pang, it's you. Looks like we came really early..."

Pang Jingyun shook his head in response. "The Jing Continent and the Bing Continent are close by. Our faction only managed to come so early because of that. Moreover, Martial Uncle Huang led the main forces. I only came over to join in the fun."

Obviously, he was talking about Huang Jinghan. He was a swordsman who shared the same fame as Kou Chongxue back in the days and he was extremely famous in the Azure Ascension World.

For the Yuanchen Sect to send Huang Jinghan over only showed how seriously they were treating the matter. It seemed as though they were hell-bent on obtaining the cauldron.

Shang Xia's expression didn't change and he chuckled, "So Senior Huang personally led the forces. It's a shame it's not convenient for me to head over to greet him today."

“We have lots of time! Brother Shang, you’re not doing too bad yourself these few years! You managed to make a name for yourself!” Pang Jingyun laughed.

Shang Xia muttered softly, “It’s nothing too special. I must have embarrassed myself in front of Brother Pang.”

“Brother Shang, why are you acting so humble all of a sudden? Feng Yezi isn’t an easy target to kill. When Martial Uncle Huang heard that he met his demise in your hands, he exclaimed that Kou Chongxue finally found a successor!” Pang Jingyun added.

Shang Xia quickly replied. “Senior Huang is too kind...”

From where he was, Pang Jingyun’s gaze landed on the little bird on Shang Xia’s shoulder and his eyes lit up. “Did you borrow the power of the spiritual bird on your shoulder in order to hunt down Feng Yezi back then?”

Shang Xia maintained his expression but let out a mirthless chuckle. “Exactly. As it turns out, my little friend here has already made a name for itself! Here I was thinking that no one knew what happened.”

Pang Jingyun praised, “Even I know a spiritual bird that can do something like that is a special existence... Brother Shang, you’re really lucky!”

“Brother Pang, you’re exaggerating. However, all it can do is fly a little faster than ordinary birds. At the end of the day, Feng Yezi was too careless.” Shang Xia hastily added.

Nodding, Pang Jingyun finally concluded, “Brother Shang, after the opening of the Celestial Remains, I hope we have a chance to work together again.”

“Of course!”

After their conversation, Shang Xua turned around and wore a serious expression on his face.

Liu Qinglan asked, “Was he testing you?”

Shang Xia nodded slightly and he quickly relayed what they spoke about earlier.

A frown formed on Liu Qinglan’s face. “Huang Jinghan... Pang Jingyun... I didn’t think that the Yuanchen Sect would send the 2 of them. In the past, Huang Jinghan rose to fame earlier than Patriarch Kou and he’s one of the strongest Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor in the Azure Ascension World. You told us about Pang Jingyun back then too, and he’s an expert in the second element of the Martial Dipper Realm. We cannot underestimate him at all!”

Shang Xia’s nods slowed down slightly and he eventually started shaking his head. “No. The Yuanchen Sect didn’t just send the 2 of them. They sent 3!”

“Who else is there?” Chu Jia asked cautiously. However, she gasped after processing what he said. “Are you able to feel their presence?”

Even though the area the experts of the Tongyou Institution were located was several miles away from the Yuanchen Sect, things weren’t as simple as it seemed. Shang Xia and Pang Jingyun looked

like they had a conversation easily, but their divine wills had to pass through countless regions of shattered space and spatial cracks. Their divine wills were also greatly suppressed. Moreover, the Yuanchen Sect definitely had methods of concealing their aura and Shang Xia was still able to sense the third Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor under such circumstances. That was a shocking feat. Chu Jia wasn't the only one who was surprised. The others were equally as taken aback. Even Yan Ming and Dou Zhong who had been keeping quiet the whole time turned to look at Shang Xia with a strange gaze.

Shang Xia turned to look at the collapsed pillar where Pang Jingyun was and he mumbled, "It's Gong Xinlan... Looks like she's really close to the Yuanchen Sect..."

The others might not know anything and were still feeling curious, but they didn't try to interrupt his train of thought when they saw that he had sunk into silence.

With none of them knowing what to do, Chu Jia called the others to help her construct a hidden Guidance Formation. Then again, looking at the lineup of Martial Extermination Realm experts from the institution, with the exception of Liu Qinglan, the others could be considered her students.

From how many experts had appeared, one could easily see how great the impact of the phenomenon above the Celestial Remains was.

The Tongyou Institution didn't arrive too early. By the time they got there, many other factions were present. Those who came had great cultivation levels and combat strength.

Of course, the arrival of the Tongyou Institution wasn't something people would overlook. All of them knew that Shang Xia killed Feng Yezi and he could be considered a powerhouse in the institution among the Martial Dipper Realm experts.

However... When they saw that Shang Xia came alone with several Martial Extermination Realm experts with varying cultivation bases in tow, many people no longer paid much attention to them.

Shang Xia didn't think too much about it as he communicated with Kou Chongxue's clone in secret.

"Even Huang Jinghan came over! Who knows which other famous expert is going to come next? Damn old man! You're going overboard! Can you even hold on?" Shang Xia grumbled as he felt waves battering against his heart.

After staying silent for a moment, Kou Chongxue's clone mumbled, "I think that the phantom of the Stellar Cauldron would appear..."

Still annoyed, Shang Xia growled, "Are you sure your true body didn't cook this up?"

"I... I... I don't know anymore... But from what I think, he doesn't have anything to do with this." The clone replied.

Sighing in disappointment, Shang Xia continued, "If push comes to shove, can you hold out against Huang Jinghan?"

Kou Chongxue's clone heard the meaning he was trying to convey and he quickly promised, "Relax. When the time comes, none of them will be able to do a thing. All you have to do now is to think of what to do after you enter the Celestial Remains. If the Yuanchen Sect can discover the matter of the Lightning Bird, they will also know that you broke into my cultivation grounds. Well..."

If the Yuanchen Sect knows, the Divine Capital Sect and the Eternal Palace definitely know too. There will be a lot of people who will have their eyes on you!”

Shang Xia wanted to say something, but he heard Sun Haiwei’s voice. “There are experts from the Azure Spiritual World coming over too...”

Even though the new world was born and it called itself the Azure Ascension World, cultivators of both sides hadn’t changed the way they addressed each other.

Shang Xia raised his head to look at the ruins in the distance again. Rather than looking for the experts of the Azure Spiritual World, he started to look for the members of the Five Mountains Alliance. The person leading the way was their alliance leader, Yin Wanxiang, and Shang Pei was among those who came.

Liu Qinglan mumbled in a low voice, “Should we tell them to come over here?”

“It’s too late. I’m afraid there are some who can’t wait any longer and will force their way in soon.” Shang Xia’s gaze landed in another direction and he sighed.

When they turned to look in the same direction, they saw 3 Martial Dipper Realm experts from the Yuanchen Sect, Divine Capital Sect, and Eternal Palace standing before the entrance.

Chapter 816: Opening the Celestial Remains

The phenomenon that appeared above the Celestial Remains attracted a lot of Martial Dipper Realm experts, and Yin Wanxiang was only one of the many who also arrived.

Shang Pei might be Shang Xia’s aunt, but she had made her identity as a member of the Five Mountains Alliance clear. The Tongyou Institution might have established a safe path to the entrance of the Celestial Remains, but they had no reason to tell other factions.

As such, after greeting Yin Wanxiang, Shang Xia realized that his aunt didn’t have any intentions of asking them for help. He didn’t call them over either.

The members of the Five Mountains Alliance thought the same way and they didn’t request for the Tongyou Institution to help them. All of them followed obediently behind Yin Wanxiang.

Even though the barrier separating the Celestial Remains hasn’t weakened completely, the arrival of experts from the Azure Spiritual World placed huge pressure on the experts originally from the Azure Origin World.

They might have come late and needed to find a safe path to the Celestial Remains, those from the Azure Origin World were obviously not going to wait for them to arrive before making a move.

Shang Xia’s gaze landed on those from the Five Mountains Alliance before turning away. He found the members of the Changbai Sect at the most outskirts of the ruins. He saw Shen Baisong who was leading the way, and members from the Heavenly Star Palace of the Yi Continent. Yi Jingzi wasn’t the Martial Dipper Realm expert leading the members of the Heavenly Star Palace. Instead, another expert was in charge of that.

Huang Jinghan of the Yuanchen Sect, Palace Elder Jiu Du from the Divine Capital Sect, and Yifeng from the Eternal Palace were 3 of the 4 mighty swordsmen of the Azure Origin World of the past. For all of them to be present, it showed how highly the Elysiums were treating the Celestial

Remains. It also displayed their determination to obtain the Origin Holy Artifact that would appear. Also, the appearance of the 3 of them at the same time was clearly no coincidence.

“Why do I feel like they’re targeting you? Did the Yuanchen Sect, Divine Capital Sect, and Eternal Palace discover what happened?” Shang Xia communicated with Kou Chongxue’s clone.

During the battle against the Spirit Abundance World 30000 miles away from the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, Kou Chongxue’s tyrannical sword art that killed and injured multiple peak-tier experts from the Spirit Abundance World could be said to have turned the battle around. It gave Liu Jingsheng enough time to break through and shift the tides of battle in their favor.

Back then, Kou Chongxue forcefully broke out of the Celestial Remains in order to appear. His cultivation base at the fifth element of the Martial Dipper Realm couldn’t be hidden from the experts from the great factions.

Not to mention the fact that right before the opening of the Celestial Remains, news of Kou Chongxue’s death or disappearance started to spread. The latter news seemed to directly relate him to the Celestial Remains.

Seeing as Kou Chongxue’s clone wasn’t responding, Shang Xia continued, “Why will they send the 3 of them anyway? Do the 3 Elysiums not have any strong experts?”

Finally annoyed by Shang Xia’s incessant chatter, Kou Chongxue’s clone growled in a solemn voice, “That’s because the 3 of them possess the strongest combat ability in their respective factions...”

“How strong are they compared to your true body?” Shang Xia’s interest was immediately piqued.

In response, the clone snorted in contempt, “Brat, shouldn’t you be worrying that the 3 of them would be targeting you?”

Shang Xia revealed a look of ‘shock’ and gasped, “Looks like even your true body isn’t a match for them if you’re so afraid to answer the question... If they join hands, I’m afraid we won’t be able to succeed so easily.”

“Fuck you, you little brat. Do you really think your attempt to agitate me is going to work? The 3 of them are nothing but useless little shits who are a waste of nutrients... Back when I only refined my second fate dipper essence, I was already able to stand on the same level as them. Now that I have reached the large completion stage of the Martial Dipper Realm, the 3 of them might not be my opponent even if they joined hands.”

Shang Xia nodded slightly as he seemed to gain a better understanding of their combat strength.

Liu Qinglan’s voice rang through the air the next second. “They’re going to make their move.”

When Shang Xia raised his head, he saw the 3 swordsmen striking one after another. Huang Jinghan’s method was the most direct and he sent a tyrannical swing at the protection barrier around the entrance.

Jiu Du from the Divine Capital Sect formed a complicated hand seal and a strand of energy descended from the void. The phantom of a massive tower seemed to appear behind him after the strand of energy condensed as it attempted to force the entrance open while creating a spatial tunnel into the Celestial Remains.

The tower wasn't some random useless treasure. It was the inheritance treasure of the Divine Capital Sect called the Divine Capital Tower.

Following with, Ancestor Yifeng of the Eternal Palace pointed his sword at the entrance and yelled, "Stabilize!"

The spatial tunnel that had been forcefully carved out started to stabilize and with Yifeng and Jiu Du working together, a stable passage into the Celestial Remains was created.

Yifeng roared, "Members of the 3 Elysiums, hurry up and get in!"

"The other 3, watch our backs!" Jiu Du roared.

The 3 Elysiums sent 2 Martial Dipper Realm experts each and close to 20 Martial Extermination Realm experts. Every one of those Martial Extermination Realm experts was in the third layer or above.

After hearing Yifeng and Jiu Du, they rushed through the tunnel according to plan. Pang Jingyun of the Yuanchen Sect, Yiyun from the Eternal Palace, and Chang Qing from the Divine Capital Sect remained at the back to prevent the other factions from taking advantage of the situation to stab them from the back.

Shang Xia could tell that there were many experts who were tempted to make a move when Huang Jinghan and the others created the spatial tunnel into the Celestial Remains. However, they managed to control themselves in the end. No one was willing to offend the 3 Elysiums so easily.

Very quickly, the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the 3 Elysiums entered the spatial tunnel and Pang Jingyun and the Martial Dipper Realm experts not responsible for opening the tunnel followed closely behind. Yifeng and Jiu Du who remained outside rushed into the tunnel one after another and they wanted to shatter it behind them.

It was then that at least 3 figures emerged from the ruins and ran for the opening. They wanted to prevent the spatial tunnel from closing fully or to rush in behind the members of the 3 Elysiums.

Unfortunately, they severely overestimated themselves and underestimated what the 3 Elysiums were willing to do.

Yifeng and the others not only didn't leave them any chance to enter the Celestial Remains, but they shattered the tunnel decisively and reinforced the barrier.

Even though the barrier separating the outside world from the Celestial Remains would weaken soon, the members of the 3 Elysiums would have gotten a big enough head start.

As the members of the Tongyou Institution approached the entrance, Sun Haiwei noticed several other figures who arrived. "It looks like other than the 3 Elysiums, we cannot take the other factions lightly..."

She turned to look at Shang Xia and continued to ask, "Seems like entering the Celestial Remains isn't going to be easy. When do you think we should enter?"

Shang Xia's attention wasn't on those around them or her question. Instead, he felt that something was off. "Why don't I see Gong Xinlan?"

When Pang Jingyun was chatting with Shang Xia, he clearly felt Gong Xinlan's aura.

With his reminder, the members of the Tongyou Institution were taken aback. It was obvious they forgot about the matter and now that they were recalling it, they didn't see Gong Xinlan among the members of the Elysiums who rushed in earlier.

Since Gong Xinlan arrived along with the Yuanchen Sect, there was no reason for her not to enter the Celestial Remains with them.

Liu Qinglan revealed a solemn expression and she muttered, "Since the Yuanchen Sect can conceal a Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor on their side, the Divine Capital Sect and Eternal Palace will naturally be able to do the same. We need to be on our toes at all times..."

The Martial Extermination Realm experts of the institution nodded, but they turned to look at Shang Xia's shoulder instinctively.

Who would expect that a little bird, several inches tall, that was standing obediently on Shang Xia's shoulder, would be a rank five spiritual beast?!

Then again, it was a good thing. The various factions might think that the Tongyou Institution only sent a single Martial Dipper Realm expert, Shang Xia, but they actually have 2 powerhouses at that level!

Sun Haiwei wondered out loud, "Should we enter the Celestial Remains a little later?"

"Nope. We're going in now." Shang Xia shook his head and laughed.

"Now?!"

Sun Haiwei wasn't the only one who was surprised. Dou Zhong, Yan Ming, and the others stared at him with a gaze that revealed their shock and seriousness.

"Wouldn't it be too dangerous to go in now? The spatial fluctuations around the entrance haven't even calmed down yet!" Liu Qinglan asked. As the only member of the senior generation of the Tongyou Institution present, she had to take into account their safety.

"We can't wait any longer. We have to go now." Shang Xia said before turning to Chu Jia. "After I open the spatial tunnel, help me to stabilize it."

Chu Jia chuckled in amusement. "We practiced it more than once. However, it's still our first time sending so many people through at once."

Shang Xia followed up and addressed the rest. "Hold on to the rank four Teleportation Talisman I gave you. If you run into a region of collapsed space, activate it immediately. It can save your life."

With how he was acting, everyone was basically sure that Shang Xia was up to something.

However, they didn't know if he was acting alone or if the deputy patriarchs told him to carry out his plan.

Under such circumstances, they didn't know if they should dig deeper into the matter. However, Shang Xia wouldn't give them the chance to do so.

His figure blurred and it appeared right before the barrier. He attracted the gazes of many experts around him.

Liu Qinglan and the others could only steel their hearts and follow closely behind.

Shang Xia ignored those who had their sights on them and nodded at Chu Jia. The next second, his Five Element Ring appeared in front of his chest and dense Five Element Dipper Qi emerged from it. It quickly formed a spatial gate leading into the Celestial Remains.

...

"Is that a divine weapon?"

"Is the little fella crazy or does he really think he can do it? The spatial fluctuations there are intense and even if he tries to force his way in now, why would he bring so many Martial Extermination Realm cultivators with him? Is he tired of living?"

"Did you forget that it's possible that they were the ones who forced their way in the previous time?"

"Kou Chongxue..."

A name that contained some sort of divine strength rang through the air and the moment it was said, silence descended on the lands.

...

When the spatial gate took shape, Shang Xia tapped the Five Element Ring before him lightly.

"Clang..."

A deep sound resounded through space and it pushed deep into the barrier. The Reversal Five Element Ring was left behind to maintain the spatial gate as a solid spatial tunnel was formed. Under the shocked gazes of those in the distance, he successfully created a path into the Celestial Remains!

"I'll head in first!" Chu Jia yelled. In order to stabilize the spatial tunnel, Chu Jia had to be the first to enter so she could act on the other side.

Before she could move, a figure that was way faster than her shot into the spatial tunnel. There was only 1 creature capable of that feat at the moment and it was none other than the Lightning Bird on Shang Xia's shoulders.

With its presence to reassure her, Chu Jia no longer hesitated and she stepped into the spatial gate.

Chapter 817: Oh Ho Ho, Free Extermination Origin

The members of the Tongyou Institution moved quickly. Before anyone could react, they created the spatial tunnel and Chu Jia rushed into it. Sun Haiwei, Tian Mengzi, Dou Zhong, and Yan Ming followed behind her.

Everyone knew that entering the spatial tunnel in front of so many people posed great risks. There might be someone trying to interrupt them in the dark which would cause the spatial tunnel to collapse. As such, all of them knew to enter the Celestial Remains as quickly as possible.

Seeing as the Martial Extermination Realm experts of the institution had entered, Liu Qinglan entered before Shang Xia. She didn't forget to leave behind a reminder. "You need to be careful..."

Actually, when Chu Jia entered the spatial tunnel earlier, people had already started communicating through voice transmissions. Fellow cultivator Shang, can we reach an agreement..."

"I am willing to pay mid and high-grade essence crystals..."

"Why are you so unreasonable? You should know that as long as we wish to make it happen, we can destroy the spatial tunnel you created..."

"..."

Shang Xia maintained the spatial tunnel to the best of his abilities as he ignored the voice transmissions.

Those people weren't willing to offend the 3 Elysiums, but they were more than happy to threaten a mere Shang Xia.

"Hmph, you don't know what's good for you!"

"Then again, do you know what he's using to stabilize the space around him?"

"Heh, since he doesn't care, he can't blame us for..."

"Hey, remember Kou Chongxue's disappearance? Do you think he's hiding in there?"

"..."

A single guess destroyed any thought they had to sabotage Shang Xia. Those who were throwing threats around quickly quietened down and no one dared to speak further.

Shang Xia noticed that Liu Qinglan had entered the spatial tunnel, and he followed behind her.

After he disappeared into the spatial gate, the five colored light that formed the gate started to shrink. It eventually disappeared completely.

Only then did a divine will sweep through the region. A growl rang in the ears of those present. "Who said that? Who brought up Kou Chongxue earlier?"

It came as no surprise that he received no answer.

Everyone seemed to have their guesses, and they also had an answer in their mind. However, no one was willing to say it out loud.

Rather than blaming the person who spoke and scared them all from taking action, they had to admit something more important. All of them were truly afraid of Kou Chongxue!

The voice came again. "Everyone, come and take a look! The spatial fluctuations at the entrance had already calmed down!"

“How is this possible? 2 groups forced their way in...”

“Huh?! This... This... It actually calmed down!”

“How did he do that?!”

The person they were referring to this time was even more obvious. They were clearly questioning how Shang Xia achieved something like that.

“Young Ancestor Shang from the Tongyou Institution truly has a wondrous control over space...”

“Hey! Looks like entering the Celestial Remains will become a lot easier now!”

“We’re really indebted to him, haha!”

“What are you all still standing there for?! The members of the Azure Spiritual World are going to arrive soon!”

“...”

...

It was Shang Xia’s second time stepping into the Celestial Remains. The scene he was staring at experienced a massive change. He spread his divine will immediately and he discovered that a good majority of the regions of space around him were twisted and shattered.

Shang Xia’s expression sank and he retracted his divine will to remain hundreds of feet around himself.

When Chu Jia and the rest arrived, they discovered that the Lightning Bird was nowhere to be seen.

“I didn’t see the Lightning Bird!” Chu Jia exclaimed the moment she saw Shang Xia. “It left before I arrived...”

Shang Xia waved his hand and snorted, “Just ignore it for now. We have to leave this place right now!”

After he spoke, he flew forward, leaving behind a trail of five colored light. The rest followed behind without hesitation.

He brought everyone and they flew in a strange pattern as they made several twists and turns. Even though their destination was straight ahead, he would make several turns before finally getting there.

Initially, everyone didn’t know what he was doing. After a short reminder from Shang Xia, they discovered that there were many spatial cracks that existed between where they were and their destination. If they flew straight ahead at full speed, the consequences would be dire.

Liu Qinglan and the others placed themselves in Shang Xia’s shoes and realized that if they were responsible for leading the way, they would be traveling as slow as a snail’s crawl. There was no way they would be traveling as quickly as they were. Even though it looked like they had taken a long roundabout route, they weren’t moving slowly at all!

Along their way, they would discover some of the dangers they would have faced if they had rushed head first and they felt their heart running cold.

One had to know that those dangers were those they could discover as an expert in the Martial Extermination Realm. With the speed Shang Xia was leading them, they might have passed certain areas without feeling anything wrong with it...

“Where are we going right now? What other plans do you have? Are you planning to bring us around to explore the Celestial Remains or are you planning to leave us in a safer spot before sending us off to search for our own opportunities?” Liu Qinglan asked after they finally stopped under a collapsed cliff face floating in mid air.

Shang Xia didn't reply to her question directly. Instead, he pointed at the broken cliff face above him and muttered, “There seems to be some sort of opportunity up there. You can bring everyone over to take a look.”

Liu Qinglan was taken aback as she raised her head to stare at the broken cliff face above. Unfortunately, she couldn't discover anything special about it.

However, Shang Xia said there was, and she had no reason to suspect otherwise. She brought Chu Jia, Sun Haiwei, and the others up.

Of the 6 Martial Extermination Realm cultivators who entered the Celestial Remains, other than Liu Qinglan who reached the large completion stage, Chu Jia, Sun Haiwei, and Dou Zhong had refined 4 extermination origins each. Tian Mengzi and Yan Ming were slightly lacking and had yet to refine their third. A soft yelp came from above and everyone quickly rushed over to the source of the voice. They discovered a faint illusory long snake coiled around Yan Ming.

Liu Qinglan's eyes lit up and she gasped, “Extermination origin? Not bad, you're really lucky!”

The others congratulated her after discovering the extermination origin. After she refined the illusory snake-like extermination origin around her, she would step into the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm and become a true high-level expert.

Shang Xia was also shocked when he heard that Yan Ming managed to find an extermination origin. He merely felt a faint trace of extermination qi coming from above earlier and thought that there it could be produced in the broken cliff face. He didn't think that a complete extermination origin would exist.

Who would have known that the extermination origin in the broken cliff face possessed its own spirituality and was able to conceal its aura.

It seemed as though the extermination origin would also choose the cultivator who was the most compatible with itself and it was probably attracted to Yan Ming.

Refining an extermination origin with spirituality like that would definitely be much easier since it 'chose' her. As soon as she fused it with her body and the rest of her extermination origins, she would complete the refinement process. The Tongyou Institution would also gain another third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert when that happened.

Naturally, being able to be quickly refined wasn't the only positive side of her obtaining the extermination origin. However, she would have to discover the rest for herself after completing the process.

Because Yan Ming managed to benefit so easily, everyone couldn't help but search through the broken cliff face once again in case they missed anything. They even thought of blowing up the entire structure to see if there was anything hidden within.

Shang Xia wouldn't give them the chance to do something so silly. Once Yan Ming absorbed the extermination origin and quickly entered the third layer of the Martial Extermination Realm, he brought them away from the region.

"Why do I feel like you're in a rush to do something? You already seem to have a destination in mind..." Liu Qinglan shot a glance at Chu Jia and Chu Jia couldn't help but ask.

Grunting once, Shang Xia looked at those behind him before speaking, "The Celestial Remains is experiencing a mass breakdown of space and the damage is only getting worse as time passes. I'm afraid it won't be long before this entire place crumbles!"

"What do you mean by that?!" Chu Jia exclaimed.

"When that happens, everything will be gone!" Shang Xia explained without turning his head. Even though it was supposed to be an explanation, no one knew what he was referring to.

"So, is that why you're in such a rush? Where are we going now?" Chu Jia's expression changed slightly, but she continued to ask.

Shang Xia replied, "Back when I entered the Celestial Remains, I found a great opportunity and I hid a Ten Thousand Needle Pine that was between the fourth and fifth rank. I had no idea how to bring it out and Patriarch Kou told me to hide it in a secure location."

He stopped abruptly after completing his explanation.

"Is there another opportunity?" Chu Jia's eyes lit up and she asked.

"It's the members of the Divine Capital Sect! Get ready for a battle!" Shang Xia yelled before disappearing completely.

"What?! Hey! How can we clash against the Divine Capital Sect?! That... That's an Elysium we're talking about!" By the time Chu Jia reacted, he was already gone. Even though Shang Xia disappeared, they didn't see any traces of those from the Divine Capital Sect.

Instructor Liu?" Chu Jia turned to ask.

A serious look could be seen on her face as she mumbled, "Since Little Xia made his move, there should be no grounds for negotiation. I believe he has his reasons to do so!"

As soon as the words left her lips, dense extermination light surrounded Liu Qinglan's body and she rushed in a certain direction.

Sun Haiwei, Tian Mengzi, Dou Zhong, and Yan Ming followed closely behind.”

“Did I say I wasn't going to make my move?!” Chu Jia snorted once before rousing her extermination qi to follow behind the rest. As she flew over, she couldn't help but mutter under her breath, “That annoying fellow is definitely hiding something from us. Hmph! I have to get to the bottom of this... However, if there really is a rank five Ten Thousand Needle Pine...”

Chapter 818: Without Any Sign

With several strong fluctuations from the entrance of the Celestial Remains, the experts of the Zhongxuan Sect from the Yan Continent, the Great Observation Sect of the Yu Continent, the Zhengyang Gate of the Xu Continent, the Lushan Sect of the Yang Continent, the White Deer Paradise of the Ji Continent emerged.

The entire area seemed a lot more crowded with tens of cultivators appearing.

Ancestor Cao Xinyang of the Zhenyang Gate sighed, “The Northern Sea Mystic Sect is tyrannical indeed. They sent 3 Martial Dipper Realm experts over and worked together with the Desert Gate, Triple Frost Palace, Hengling Sect, and the 4 families of the Great Winter Palace to force their way over.

Ancestor Xuan Chang from the Zongxuan Gate added, “I have long heard that the Northern Sea Mystic Sect is the strongest existence in the Azure Spiritual World of the past, and the other factions are their followers. Now that I've seen what happened, it seems like the rumors were true...”

Ancestor Xuan Chang's voice grew softer as he spoke. But he didn't fully conclude his statement.

Ancestor Xun Yingsheng from the Lushan Sect muttered, “The Northern Sea Mystic Sect is frighteningly powerful. From the looks of it, they seem determined to obtain the Origin Holy Artifact. I wonder if the Divine Capital Sect, Eternal Palace, and Yuanchen Sect will be able to stop them...”

Xuan Lu of the White Deer Paradise spoke next, “If the 3 Elysiums joined hands like what they did when forcing their way into the Celestial Remains, there would be no need for them to fear the Northern Sea Mystic Sect. However... Heh! There is only a single Origin Holy Artifact!”

Ever since he suffered injuries during the battle against the Spirit Abundance World back then, Xuan Lu lost his speaking rights in the White Deer Paradise. His cultivation also seemed to remain stagnant the whole time. Whatever the case, he was an experienced Martial Dipper Realm expert. Even without the Divine Deer Staff, no one would dare to look down on him with his cultivation base at the second element of the Martial Dipper Realm.

No matter how much Hua Lu and Yun Lu tried to make things difficult for him in the White Deer Paradise, they weren't able to forcefully keep him in their holy land. Unless they were planning not to take part in the final expedition of the Celestial Remains, they needed Xuan Lu to lead the troops!

At the end of the day, everything boiled down to one's cultivation and the way they advanced. Xuan Lu didn't break through with the help of the White Deer Paradise and he wasn't stuck in there like Hua Lu and Yun Lu. No matter what happened, it was destined that he would rise again.

Ancestor Hao Yun from the Great Observation Sect looked at the Martial Extermination Realm cultivators who entered with them and noticed that most of them had recovered from the dizzy feeling they had when passing through a layer of space. He immediately instructed, "We cannot stay in this place for long. There's no point for us to wait for the members of the Azure Spiritual World to force their way in either. Our best choice is to leave here at once."

Even though his words displayed his weakness, no one would care about it at that moment. The pressure the Northern Sea Mystic Sect and its alliance brought was far too great.

Ancestor Xuan Lu chuckled, "Then again, the only advantage we have over them is the fact that we're more familiar with the Celestial Remains. Now that the region is even more dangerous than before, they will suffer a bunch!"

Ancestor Xun Yingsheng also responded, "Alright. Then we'll split up here and everyone should take care of themselves. I hope you find a chance to grow stronger!"

The ancestors of the various factions responded positively and they scattered.

The cultivators of the Zhenyang Gate flew in a certain direction under Cao Xinyang's guidance.

Li Yuchen wondered at the side, "Martial Uncle, since the Northern Sea Mystic Sect formed an alliance with so many factions, shouldn't we work together? At the very least, we wouldn't have to be afraid of the 4 Elysiums if we worked together here."

Cao Xinyang replied without even turning his head. "If the Northern Sea Mystic Sect or anyone in their alliance obtains the Origin Holy Artifact, who will it belong to?"

"Obviously, it will belong to the Northern Sea Mystic Sect." Li Yuchen replied without even thinking.

"Alright. If we form an alliance and obtain the Origin Holy Artifact, who's going to get it?" Cao Xinyang asked.

"Of course..." Li Yuchen's expression froze and he didn't finish his sentence.

Seemingly able to see his expression without turning his head, Cao Xinyang replied while leading them away from the dangerous regions of shattered space and spatial cracks. "Do you understand now? We might have 5 factions here, but all of us are comparable in terms of strength. No one is able to lead the others and the other factions wouldn't follow anyone who gave the order anyway. We might even break out into fights among ourselves before accomplishing anything. Rather than letting that happen, we should just split up and look for opportunities ourselves."

Li Yuchen heard the meaning behind Cao Xinyang's words but still seemed a little reluctant to accept it. "What if..."

Cao Xinyang interrupted him before he could finish. "Don't bother dreaming of the Origin Holy Artifact. Unless you have a way to conceal yourself so well that no one will be able to detect your

presence after you obtain it, there's no point. Do I need to remind you what will happen if you offend so many terrifyingly strong powers?"

"What about the Divine Capital Sect, Eternal Palace, and Yuanchen Sect..." Li Yuchen mumbled.

"There's even less chance for them to work together. Their plan might be to find the Origin Holy Artifact before the Northern Sea Mystic Sect and find a way to contact the Sixth Order existence on their side. Whatever it is, they won't be able to resist the Northern Sea Mystic Sect in a head-on battle." Cao Xinyang spoke. After he finished his sentence, he seemed to be afraid that the confidence of the Martial Extermination Realm experts on his side would suffer a blow and he added, "There's no need for us to bite off more than we can chew. Our Zhenyang Gate's task is mainly to improve ourselves. Martial Nephew Li Yuchen, you're barely a step away from the Martial Dipper Realm. The most important thing we have to do here is to find a suitable Origin Dipper for you."

He finally sighed after speaking up to that point. "Without a cultivation realm at the Martial Dipper Realm, you won't be qualified to fight for the Origin Holy Artifact in the first place."

Li Yuchen's expression trembled. No one knew why, but he suddenly thought of Shang Xia from the Tongyou Institution after hearing what Cao Xinyang said.

In the past, there was once when they fought. Back then, he might not have lost terribly against Shang Xia, but he did lose quite a bit. Even so, he felt that Shang Xia didn't get too much of an advantage because of what he did after. [1]

In just several short years, Shang Xia became a Martial Dipper Realm expert. He killed Feng Yezi with his own abilities and shocked the Azure Ascension World. Li Yuchen had been standing at the edge of the Martial Dipper Realm for some time now and the distance between them was only growing larger.

Li Yuchen couldn't help but ask, "Martial Uncle Cao, do you think the Tongyou Institution has been eyeing the Origin Holy Artifact in the dark?"

With his expression sinking slightly, Cao Xinyang couldn't say for certain.

Li Yuchen quickly followed up, "Earlier, Shang Xia used a strange but amazing method to enter the Celestial Remains and it seems like he was prepared. Moreover, Kou Chongxue seems to have forced his way into the Celestial Remains in the past and news of his disappearance came not too long ago. Do you think..."

Cao Xinyang sighed softly. "What you're saying makes sense. Kou Chongxue is an invincible existence under the Sixth Order and the Celestial Remains is somewhere the Sixth Order existences of the 4 Elysiums wouldn't be able to touch. Right now, he's an unbeatable existence here. He might be able to obtain the Origin Holy Artifact. But even so, he wouldn't be able to take it out of here with the Sixth Order existences of the Elysiums keeping an eye on everything that is happening outside."

After thinking about it for a short while, Li Yuchen muttered, “What if Kou Chongxue also entered the Sixth Order...?”

Cao Xinyang forced a laugh before sighing, “Our Azure Ascension World cannot support the growth of another Elysium and another Sixth Order expert. One has to say that Liu Jingsheng truly advanced at the best possible time...”

A look of doubt flashed across Li Yuchen’s face but before he could continue asking, he was interrupted by Cao Xinyang. “There are some things you don’t have the qualifications to know about. After you refine your fate dipper and step into the Martial Dipper Realm, the secrets of our Zhenyang Gate will be revealed to you. Right now, there’s no need to think too much about it!”

Li Yuchen could only follow behind Cao Xinyang as a strange light flashed in his eyes. No one knew what he was thinking about.

...

In a certain spot in the Celestial Remains, Shang Xia decisively charged straight into battle after they ran into the members of the Divine Capital Sect.

Liu Qinglan and the others didn’t know why Shang Xia was rushing into battle, but since he made his move, they could only prepare to meet the Martial Extermination Realm experts in battle.

Who would have thought that they would run into 2 Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Divine Capital Sect who seemed to be caught off guard when they arrived?

The 6 Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Tongyou Institution rushed up at once and Liu Qinglan didn’t hold back. Her Nine Segmented Whip flew out at full force and wrapped around one of them.

Sun Haiwei summoned her Ice Extermination Origin and assisted Liu Qinglan in taking down her opponent.

Tian Mengzi’s cultivation might have lagged behind a little, but the coordination he had with Sun Haiwei was great as usual. He made his move and ripped his opponent’s extermination origin protection barrier apart.

Following which, an ice sword created from Sun Haiwei’s Ice Extermination Origin pierced through his belly. Their opponent was turned into a block of ice instantly.

When that happened, Tian Mengzi already retreated and ran to the other side to provide assistance. Surprisingly, he discovered there was nothing he could do!

That was because the other expert from the Divine Capital Sect had fallen into a strange maze formation and was thoroughly suppressed by Dou Zhong and Yan Ming who rushed in to fight him. It was a matter of time before he was killed.

What shocked everyone else was the fact that there wasn’t the slightest bit of disturbance outside the formation.

The time it took Liu Qinglan and the others to kill their opponent might be short, but there was no doubt it caused a pretty large commotion.

Speaking of large commotions... Liu Qinglan and the others recalled that Shang Xia went off to fight the Divine Capital Sect’s Martial Dipper Realm expert...

Why... Why aren't there any signs of a fight?!

Sun Haiwei tugged Liu Qinglan's sleeves before indicating for her to look at something.

As soon as she turned her head, she saw a massive pillar of light piercing through the skies. They could also see lights of other colors flashing around it. Strangely enough, not a single sound or spatial fluctuation could be felt.

Exchanging a glance they could see the shock in each other's eyes.

"Instructor Chu is truly an amazing Formation Grandmaster... Her achievements in the way of Formations are truly unparalleled. Oh? Instructor Liu, Junior Sister Sun, what are you looking at?" Tian Mengzi returned and gasped after he saw how Liu Qinglan and Sun Haiwei were staring into the void with their jaws agape.

His words barely left his lips when he caught sight of a five colored light flashing in the corner of his eye. Before he could react, Shang Xia's figure reappeared before all of them.

"Did you take care of it?" Shang Xia asked.

Tian Mengzi's figure turned sluggish as his expression froze. He seemed to have realized why Liu Qinglan and Sun Haiwei were so surprised.

1. telling the world that Shang Xia stole his Imperial Star Fate Dipper ?

Chapter 819: Eye of Essence Qi

"The Martial Dipper Realm expert from the Divine Capital Sect..." Liu Qinglan asked.

"Oh." Shang Xia mumbled casually. "It was just a Fate Dipper Clone. I destroyed it."

Opening his palm, a faint grayish green crystal could be seen on his palm. Liu Qinglan and the rest could clearly feel the dipper qi it contained.

However, Shang Xia didn't seem like he was done. He grumbled, "It's a pity his fate dipper was damaged when the clone was destroyed. I tried my best to collect them all, but I was only able to retain a portion of its energy. The Fate Dipper Fragment should contain 7 fate dipper essences..."

Tian Mengzi finally snapped out of it and exclaimed, "No... Wait... You killed a Fate Dipper Clone?!"

Shang Xia nodded his head in confusion as though he couldn't understand why Tian Mengzi was asking something like that.

"A Fate Dipper Clone should possess combat abilities at the Martial Dipper Realm too, right?!" Tian Mengzi asked.

Shang Xia chuckled in response, "Senior Brother Tian, what are you getting at?"

Taking a deep breath, Tian Mengzi stabilized his emotions before speaking again. "Since you killed a Fate Dipper Clone, how did we not feel any spatial fluctuations or shockwaves from the battle? Did the clone just... Die?"

"What's dead?" Chu Jia arrived and heard what Tian Mengzi was saying at the end.

The other Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Divine Capital Sect was slain, and Chu Jia scattered the formation. Even though they hid the phenomenon that was produced after his death, there was still a storm of energy that swept outwards when the formation disappeared.

Tian Mengzi felt the energy around him before glancing at Dou Zhong and Yan Ming in confusion. "Hall Master Shang killed a Fate Dipper Clone... Did any of you feel what happened during their battle?"

Dou Zhong and Yan Ming looked at each other and when they finally processed what Tian Mengzi said, they turned to stare at Shang Xia in shock. A look of amazement could be seen in their eyes.

Chu Jia was even more direct. She turned to Shang Xia and asked, "How did you do it?"

Shang Xia understood why they were acting like that, and he quickly explained, "My Five Element Dipper Origin is able to create a region of sealed space. It can fully conceal the battle. It was the same when I fought Feng Yezi back then... Haven't you heard about it?"

Sun Haiwei chuckled softly. "Back when Feng Yezi died, the disturbance swept across multiple continents! Even though the clone isn't as strong as Feng Yezi, it doesn't make sense for it to be so quiet!"

Without a doubt, Shang Xia's abilities grew stronger yet again after killing Feng Yezi 2 years ago.

Shang Xia chortled in response, "Even though there isn't much sign of a battle, the death of a Fate Dipper Clone will definitely alert the true body. It's not time for us to fight them head-on yet. We should leave..."

Liu Qinglan and the others glanced at each other before following Shang Xia to leave the region.

When they were gone, a formless Five Element Dipper Qi swept across the region again and wiped away all signs of them.

...

When Shang Xia destroyed the Fate Dipper Clone, Jiu Qi grunted heavily once in a certain region of the Celestial Remains and his eyes snapped open.

"Martial Ancestor, you..." Changqing exclaimed when he saw the state Jiu Qi was in.

Not too far away, Jiu Du turned to look at Jiu Qi.

The Divine Capital Sect also brought 3 Martial Dipper Realm experts with them during their expedition to the Celestial Remains. Jiu Qi was hidden among the rest and entered without the other factions discovering his presence.

"One of my Fate Dipper Clones was destroyed!" Jiu Qi growled. A sinister light flashed in his eyes and he looked like he wanted nothing more than to eat the culprit alive.

Changqing yelped in fright. "Who is it?! Was it the Yuanchen Sect or the Eternal Palace? Did the Northern Sea Mystic Sect already enter?"

Jiu Qi's furious expression turned a little sluggish and he muttered, "I... I don't know!"

"What?!" Changqing was greatly taken aback. "How is that possible? Did the culprits hide themselves? Or..."

A nasty expression remained on Jiu Qi's face. Other than knowing his Fate Dipper Clone had been eliminated, he didn't receive any news from it.

That could only mean one thing. The clone might have been destroyed instantly and made it such that it couldn't send any transmissions back to him.

For that to happen, the culprit had to possess combat abilities comparable to him in his peak state.

Jiu Du spoke all of a sudden. "Hurry up and recall those who left earlier!"

Changqing jumped in fright. "Oh right! Martial Ancestor's Fate Dipper Clone left with Martial Uncle Chen Wu and Junior Brother Changming. We can learn what happened once we call them back."

Seeing as Changqing hadn't understood Ancestor Jiu Du's meaning, Jiu Qi sighed, "Changqing, call everyone back. Chen Wu and Changming probably won't be able to return. The other party might be doing this intentionally to shave off our strength..."

Changqing's eyes widened in shock and killing intent started to build in his eyes. He nodded obediently and released the summons to call everyone back.

"I'll head over to where your clone died. Stay here and wait for the rest before coming over to find me." Jiu Du muttered.

After he spoke, he disappeared from where he stood.

...

"Why are we moving against those from the Divine Capital Sect?" Liu Qinglan asked after they got sufficiently far away.

Shang Xia laughed, "When I killed Feng Yezi, the Divine Capital Sect was clearly involved. It's obvious they treat us as their enemies and since that's the case, why don't we use the chance to get rid of as many experts on their side as possible?"

Liu Qinglan was at a loss for words. However, she didn't feel too affected. Before they made their move, they didn't think everything would go so smoothly. Even the Fate Dipper Clone couldn't do a thing against Shang Xia.

"So... Are we still targeting the Divine Capital Sect?" Liu Qinglan asked.

"I'm afraid they won't give us a chance to do so any longer. I didn't think that they would split up in the first place! Now that I killed a Fate Dipper Clone, they will probably stick together..." Shang Xia replied.

Shaking her head, Liu Qinglan didn't continue to speak about the matter. It was obvious why the members of the Divine Capital Sect split up in the Celestial Remains, and it was obvious to look for as many resources as possible.

Actually, that was Liu Qinglan's plan before she came in. However, after Shang Xia brought them over to eliminate a team from the Divine Capital Sect, she no longer had any plans to split up.

Chu Jia quipped at the side, "Oh right. Whose clone did you destroy anyway?"

A smile appeared on Shang Xia's face. "It belonged to Jiu Qi... Hehe, why do you think I decided to make a move the moment I discovered them anyway?"

In the past, Jiu Qi tried to interfere in the battle between himself and Feng Yezi. As such, Shang Xia was familiar with his aura even though it was just a clone.

Chu Jia couldn't help but pout, "Heh, you definitely had no plans to attack the Divine Capital Sect before this. You only thought of it after you saw Jiu Qi..."

Shang Xia chuckled and didn't respond.

It was Tian Mengzi who spoke next. "Aren't you curious why the members of the Divine Capital Sect would appear there in the first place?"

"When I killed the third layer Martial Extermination Realm expert from the Divine Capital Sect earlier with Dou Zhong and Yan Ming, he destroyed everything of value on himself... He was really decisive..." Chu Jia muttered.

Tian Mengzi took out a piece of shattered rock that was close to a foot or so and grinned, "This was what they found there!"

Chu Jia was curious when she saw how Tian Mengzi took out a piece of rock. She quickly inspected it and her eyes slowly widened in shock. "Eye of Essence Qi?! It's actually an Eye of Essence Qi!"

"Instructor Chu has really seen it all... You identified with a single glance! If not for Instructor Liu's reminder, I would have missed this..." Tian Mengzi mentioned.

Chu Jia glanced at the rock several more times before she spoke again. "The Eye of Essence Qi is a special treasure. It can be a piece of rock, but it can also be a spirit spring. It can even be a piece of wood or metal. It can even be produced directly in the void. An Eye of Essence Qi is enough to establish a suitable spiritual land and with 3 or more, one will be able to lay the foundations of a Mysterious World. It was said that when Patriarch Kou founded the institution, he used 3 pieces of Eye of Essence Qi for our foundation and we turned it into a Mysterious World after..."

Liu Qinglan added, "Actually, the Institution was built with a single Eye of Essence Qi. It's still preserved in the institution. In order to create the Tongyou Mysterious World back then, we had to obtain Eye of Essence Qi from other sources."

Currently, Liu Qinglan could be said to have taken over Shang Bo's job as the head of the Teaching Division. However, she still started as a student of the Tongyou Institution, and as a member of the founding batch of students, she could recall everything that happened to the institution in detail.

Tian Mengzi handed the Eye of Essence Qi to Chu Jia and laughed, "From the looks of it, Teacher Chu is most suited to keep this."

It didn't matter if they were using it to create a spiritual land or to lay down a formation. The Eye of Essence Qi would only display its full use in Chu Jia's hands.

Sun Haiwei also chimed in. "We also obtained a high-grade weapon after killing our opponent. Should we see who's the most suited for it?"

Everyone shook their heads after looking at it. All of them present were important experts of the institution and none of them lacked weapons suited for themselves. They might not be wielding

high-grade weapons, but it was what they were the most comfortable with. Swapping to a new weapon would undoubtedly affect their combat prowess and they didn't wish for that to happen in the middle of an expedition.

A look of regret flashed through Liu Qinglan's eyes. "Unfortunately, after they died, their extermination origins returned to the heavens and earth. If we had a way to obtain them, we would have gained a lot more..."

Liu Qinglan's 'discontent' was a clear shift in the mood. The pressure they felt had gradually dwindled.

Under Shang Xia's lead, they made many twists and turns in the Celestial Remains and they had no idea where they were.

However, they were clear about one thing. Shang Xia was leading them away from dangerous regions and he was also hiding their tracks so that the members of the Divine Capital Sect wouldn't be able to find them.

No one knew how long had passed when Shang Xia declared, "We're here!"

They looked at where they were and noticed 2 barren hills not too far away.

When they approached, they discovered that there was a tiny crack between the hills which led to a secret valley. From far away, no one would be able to notice anything.

With the concealment restrictions Kou Chongxue's Clone and Shang Xia laid down in the past, it wouldn't be easy for anyone to discover it.

When they finally opened up the restriction, the half rank five and half rank four Ten Thousand Needle Pine was revealed. It was the first time they had seen anything like it.

Yan Ming, who didn't say much the entire way, gasped, "How... How are we supposed to bring this out?!"

Chapter 820: Transplant Art

"How are we supposed to bring the spiritual plant out?" Yan Ming stared at the tree that was about 100 feet tall and its crown that spread hundreds of feet wide while muttering to herself.

Shang Xia and the others couldn't bring around a tree that big while running around. Not to mention the fact that the giant tree was a super precious spiritual treasure.

The Tongyou Institution's ability to refine Spatial Pouches has been growing better as the years pass. With the upgraded Mutated Rain Swallow Flock, they were able to increase the space the pouches contained. However, it was far from being able to contain a massive tree.

Liu Qinglan knew that Shang Xia definitely had his preparations now that he brought them there. She asked, "What is your plan?"

Shang Xia took out a palm-sized talisman from his sleeves and he laughed, "This is a special Transplant Talisman we obtained from the Heavenly Star Palace on the Three Unity Island and it can shrink an object before allowing it to be placed in a small case that is one feet long. It can last up to half a year like that."

“Heavenly Star Palace? That’s a holy land from the Yi Continent of the old Azure Spiritual World. It’s said that their inheritance is related to the power of the stars and they’re great at reading the constellations and gathering Star Essence. Oh. Did you get closer to them when you were trying to fix your weapon with Star Essence?” Liu Qinglan asked.

“Nope. I met an expert from the Heavenly Star Palace because Shen Baisong of the Changbai Holy Land brought her into our team.” Shang Xia explained.

Obviously, he was talking about Yi Jingzi.

As he was speaking, he sent a trace of his Earth Element Dipper Qi into the ground. The earth below trembled before forming a cocoon around the Ten Thousand Needle Pine.

Shang Xia pushed the Transplant Talisman forward and as it landed, the entire cocoon started to shrink and the tree shrank with it. It turned into a tiny seedling that was one foot tall and he kept it in his specialized transplant case.

Even though the tree and ball of earth shrank, the talisman didn’t do the same. Instead, it maintained its original shape and wrapped around the item. If anyone wanted to restore the treasure to its original shape before the talisman lost its effect, all they had to do was to rip the talisman apart.

Looking at the empty spot in the ground, Chu Jia slowly turned to look at Shang Xia who had kept the case. She couldn’t help but ask, “Is that it? The Transplant Talisman is pretty interesting! Didn’t you think of replicating it?”

“The Transplant Talisman isn’t an ordinary talisman. It contains a special Transplant Art that is a secret art that belongs solely to the Heavenly Star Palace. One has to learn the Transplant Art before they will be able to craft the talisman...” Shang Xia replied.

“Now that you successfully kept the spiritual tree, what are we going to do next?” Sun Haiwei asked all of a sudden with a smile that didn’t really seem like a smile. There seemed to be some sort of hidden meaning in her words.

Falling silent for a second, Shang Xia muttered, “I hope that all of you can remain hidden here for some time...”

It was surprising to him, but the members of the institution didn’t react as explosively as he had thought they would.

“What do you really plan to do next?” Liu Qinglan asked while staring at Shang Xia. “I’m afraid even the deputy patriarchs have no idea what you’re up to, right?”

Chu Jia added, “I heard you talk about it before... Other than the Ten Thousand Needle Pine, you discovered a Space Observatory, and a Starry Tree is located there. Why don’t we head over to take a look?”

Sun Haiwei chuckled, “There’s the matter with the Lightning Bird too. It disappeared the moment we entered the Celestial Remains.”

Everyone raised their doubts and stared at Shang Xia, awaiting a response.

Staying silent for some time, Shang Xia eventually reached into his sleeves and handed several talismans out. "This place contains the restrictions Patriarch Kou and I deployed. As long as you don't leave this place, it will be difficult for anyone to find you. As for the talismans I just gave out... I hope you will keep them well. In case any accidents happen, you can use the talisman in your hands to locate each other and gather together."

"Accident? What's going to happen?" Chu Jia could guess that Shang Xia's plan wasn't as simple as it seemed and she asked hastily.

She wasn't just worried about herself. She was actually a little afraid that Shang Xia would be the one running into danger.

Sun Haiwei asked, "Since this place has restrictions laid down by the both of you... Is this matter related to Patriarch Kou?"

She shook her head the next second and mumbled, "No... Something isn't right. This should be related to Patriarch Kou. Instead, he should be the one cooking up something with you. You managed to contact the patriarch long ago! Did he not disappear? Is he in the Celestial Remains?"

Sun Haiwei's deduction was met with different responses. However, there was one thing that was the same among them. They turned to Shang Xia and awaited his explanation.

Despite having shown off his combat skills many times, Kou Chongxue's place in the institution would never be replaced. No matter what, everyone wanted to get to the bottom of what was going on.

Facing their questions, Shang Xia forced a smile and refused to reply directly. "It would be for the best if all of you don't split up for the time being."

After he spoke, he nodded slightly before disappearing.

Chu Jia couldn't help but be annoyed at what he did. "What's there to hide?! Is there a need to act mysterious? Hasn't he just entered the Martial Dipper Realm before us? What's so great about that..."

Sun Haiwei laughed in response, "Entering the Martial Dipper Realm is naturally a great achievement. He's even more amazing. Otherwise, why would Patriarch Kou join hands with him and avoid telling the deputy patriarchs about his plan?"

Chu Jia felt a little reluctant to be left out like that. One had to know that if they were to consider the qualifications in the institution, she was second only to Liu Qinglan. She couldn't help but grumble, "How can you be sure the deputy patriarchs don't know what he's doing?"

Sun Haiwei clearly understood Chu Jia's personality and attitude and she wasn't offended after hearing Chu Jia's tone. Instead, a laugh left her lips. "It's simple. If the deputy patriarchs knew about it, Instructor Liu wouldn't be as clueless as all of us."

Liu Qinglan could only shake her head powerlessly when she saw everyone staring at her. She acknowledged that Sun Haiwei was right. She truly had no idea what was going on.

Even though she was the most senior member of the institution, if they took into account future potential, everyone there was basically the same.

They maintained their respect for her because she was their instructor, but Liu Qinglan wouldn't put on airs in front of them.

Chu Jia didn't seem to put the matter behind her. She snarled, "He knows what's going on, but he doesn't seem to be working directly with Patriarch Kou. He's just doing whatever he wants! Hmph... At best, he can be considered someone who knows what is going on."

Chu Jia might be a little unruly and stubborn at times, but she was smart. She pretty much guessed what happened with the little clues she got.

Liu Qinglan sighed, "That would mean that he discovered something when breaking into Patriarch Kou's cultivation grounds. However, he didn't share anything with the clothes. The deputy patriarchs didn't find anything amiss either..."

When Shang Xia was present, Dou Zhong kept pretty much silent. However, Shang Xia was no longer there and he spoke up, "What should we do next? Are we really going to stay here and not do anything?"

...

When Shang Xia led the members of the institution to the Ten Thousand Needles Pine, a silver streak flew through another region of the Celestial Remains. Even though it seemed to be traveling at a frightening speed, it was able to detect the dangers around it and dodge them before anything happened.

The silver streak was clearly confident in its abilities. Either that or it was really familiar with the Celestial Remains. Of course, there was a possibility it was both.

Lightning flashed around its wings and it flew across the Celestial Remains at a speed that would leave Martial Dipper Realm experts in the dust. Currently, there was a strange ball of yellow light hovering above its wings.

"Be careful, hey, watch out! I remember a hidden spatial crack up ahead, don't crash into it! Oh, be careful of..." In the critical moment, the Lightning Bird made a beautiful arc through the skies and avoided a spatial crack that was barely visible.

"Chirp!" A loud cry escaped its lips and even the ball of yellow light could hear how pleased it was with itself.

"Alright, alright, you're really amazing... Can you be more careful in case you send me flying?!" Kou Chongxue's clone grumbled. When the Lightning Bird twisted violently earlier, he nearly made a move in order to prevent himself from getting flung away.

"Chirp..." Another clear cry rang through the air and the Lightning Bird didn't bother hiding its disdain for the clone.

Unfortunately, not everyone was Shang Xia and could understand its thoughts.

I didn't think that the little fellow was so capable to the point he could easily open up a path into the Celestial Remains... Looks like his Five Element Origin is truly extraordinary... I was even able to borrow the power of the Lightning Bird to fly through the Celestial Remains and I will be able to arrive at the Ruined Observatory before the members of the Divine Capital Sect, Eternal Palace, and

Yuanchen Sect... No, wait... They might not even care about the Ruined Observatory at all... They should be headed straight for the Stellar Cauldron. According to the plan, the little brat was supposed to head over to look for the cauldron... Wait a second... He has to settle the disciples down before doing anything... Will he actually run into the experts of the other factions? Crap, will he think that I'm messing with him on purpose? Whatever. Even if he runs into trouble, he can go ahead and yell at my true body. This granddaddy has nothing to do with it!

After thinking about it, Kou Chongxue's clone yelled, "Little birdy, hurry up! I know that you can fly faster..."

The Lightning Bird released an annoyed cry, clearly blaming Kou Chongxue's clone for mooching off it by asking it to fly faster all the time...

...

After leaving them in a safe place, Shang Xia started to proceed to the position where the Stellar Cauldron was located.

Before he got far, he felt an intense fluctuation in the distance followed by a loud blast.

Staring in that direction, he noticed a strange phenomenon appearing in a region of twisted space.

One had to know that the Celestial Remains had multiple regions of twisted space. As such, Shang Xia couldn't determine if the person who died was in the Martial Extermination Realm or the Martial Dipper Realm. He also couldn't tell how many people died.

Whatever it was, he knew that the phenomenon signaled the start of the chaos that would break out in the Celestial Remains.

Wait...

No, actually, the chaos started when he killed Jiu Qi's clone earlier!