

## The Heavens 821

Chapter 821: Yiyun, Yishen

Compared to the Northern Sea Mystic Sect which had 4 other allies supporting it, the Changbai Holy Land and the Heavenly Star Palace entered the Celestial Remains a lot later than the rest. In fact, they came even later than several wandering cultivators.

By the time they tried to enter, the barrier around the entrance had already weakened considerably. They didn't have to expend much effort to enter. The moment they entered, Shen Baisong released his divine will and his expression changed slightly. "The void within the Celestial Remains has become paper thin. It's no wonder the various factions are going all out. It seems as though the Celestial Remains are about to crumble..."

The Heavenly Star Palace was led by a middle aged expert who had a skinny face, huge ears, and sported a black beard. It was the first time he was entering the Celestial Remains and he extended his divine will the moment he entered.

After hearing what Shen Baisong said, the middle aged expert chuckled, "Martial Nephew Shen, are old friends Luo and Xu really feeling so assured to send you and several juniors?"

Shen Baisong glanced at Yi Jingzi who stood behind the middle aged expert and chuckled, "Martial Uncle Jingxu, Ancestor Xu once informed me that I was only here to expand my horizons. There will be no need for me to go all out and fight. As for the Origin Holy Artifact... He told me that I shouldn't bother going for it."

Yi Jingxu nodded slowly. "Brother Luo thought far ahead indeed. All of us are really far from comparable. Our Heavenly Star Palace has a task we need to complete here and if you have nothing much, why don't you help us out?"

"Is your Heavenly Star Palace aiming for the Origin Holy Artifact?" Shen Baisong's expression changed slightly and he asked.

Yi Jingxu chuckled softly in response. "The 4 Elysiums sent out more than 10 Martial Dipper Realm experts for this. With the other alliances of various factions, a good number of people have their eyes on the Origin Holy Artifact. Even though I'm not as smart as Brother Luo, I'm not willing to be dragged into that mess. Our Heavenly Star Palace is aiming for something else."

Only then did Shen Baisong heave a sigh of relief. A smile returned to his face. "The Heavenly Star Palace has always maintained a great relationship with my Changbai Sect. Since Martial Uncle Jingxu made the request, I find no reason to reject it."

Yi Jingxu was overjoyed with his answer. "With Martial Nephew Shen and the disciples of the Changbai Sect, my Heavenly Star Palace will possess a good chance to obtain what we set out to do. I would like to express my thanks and my Heavenly Star Palace will owe your Changbai Sect one after this."

Shen Baisong was slightly moved, and he replied in haste, "Martial Uncle Jingxu, you're too kind. With yourself and Junior Sister Jingzi present, you don't need additional help. I should be the one thanking you instead for bringing me alone..."

Yu Jingxu waved his hand and grunted, "Sigh... Martial Nephew Shen, there's no need to act so formally..."

Yi Jingzi finally interrupted, "If you two continue to act humbly and thank each other, the others are going to get all the benefits here!"

Yi Jingxu roared with laughter. "It's alright. They will be attracted to the Origin Holy Artifact and even if there are some who think like us, they won't be able to match the alliance of our Heavenly Star Palace and the Changbai Sect!"

Shen Baisong finally moved the topic back to the main question and he asked, "Martial Uncle Jingxu, can you tell me what we're aiming for this time?"

Yi Jingxu's expression turned solemn and he eventually muttered, "It's the Star Observatory!"

"Star Observatory?" Shen Baisong mumbled to himself. He seemed to discover the connection between the Star Observatory and the Heavenly Star Palace and his eyes widened in shock. "Could it be..."

Yi Jingxu didn't need to say anything as Yi Jingzi started speaking in his stead. "Let's talk along the way. Even though we feel like no one will set their sights on the Star Observatory, we can't stay here the entire time and chitchat. The earlier we find it, the better. Moreover, there should be others attempting to enter..."

"Relax... So what if the other factions find the Star Observatory? Without a Stargazer inheritance, they won't know what the observatory is used for anyway!" Yi Jingxu chuckled.

He might be trying to reassure them, but all of them started to hurry in a certain direction under Yi Jingzi's persuasion.

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Shang Xia had long since familiarized himself with the Celestial Remains. It was a shame the void was too weak. Many traps and dangerous regions appeared as he made his way along and affected his speed even further.

He needed to avoid the experts of other factions while he was at it to prevent being dragged into the chaotic battles that were bound to happen. He had to slow down even further. Without mentioning the fact that he had to take massive detours sometimes, he would have to pay attention to how he concealed himself. He also had to ensure no one could catch his trail.

Of course, things never went as planned. Someone still managed to discover his presence as he made his way over.

Actually, they didn't discover who he was exactly. Instead, they managed to learn that there was someone sneaking around with their special treasure. The person who discovered him was Yiyun of the Eternal Palace.

"Who's there?! Why are you acting so sneakily?!" Yiyun roared and she tossed a bell in Shang Xia's direction.

Ding, ding, ding...

Clear ringing sounds sent soundwaves through the region and caused the space around them to tremble. It revealed the presence of a five colored ball.

“Oh? Hall Master Shang of the Tongyou Institution. I wonder what brings you here?”

Everyone in the Azure Ascension World knew that a five colored light was Shang Xia’s signature. Yiyun determined his identity the moment the ball of light was revealed.

Knowing that he wasn’t going to weasel his way out of it, he decided to reveal himself. After all, trying to sneak away at that point would definitely raise some suspicions. He cupped his fists at Yiyun and the disciples of the Eternal Palace and laughed, “Apologies... I was only planning to pass through the area and I mean no harm. I am sorry for alerting all of you. I shall take my leave now, goodbye!”

He turned around and transformed into a streak of light to leave.

Who would have thought that Yiyun would take several steps and shrink the distance between herself and Shang Xia? With a soft chuckle, he continued, “Since Hall Master Shang Xia is here, is there a need to leave so quickly? Actually, I have several questions I’ve been meaning to ask and I wonder if you’re willing to enlighten me on some matters...”

Unwilling to clash directly with the Eternal Palace, Shang Xia glanced at Yiyun and the Martial Extermination Realm members behind him before speaking in a low voice, “I wonder what Elder Yiyun wishes to ask?”

Seeing as Shang Xia wasn’t running, Yiyun no longer pushed closer. She maintained a suitable distance and asked, “Hall Master Shang, since you’re not here for my Eternal Palace, can I ask where you wish to go?”

Shooting them a deep gaze, Shang Xia maintained his indifferent expression. “I was running around aimlessly to find opportunities.”

The corners of Yiyun’s lips curled upwards and she revealed a mocking smile. “Hall Master Shang, do you really think I’ll believe that?”

“Well, believe whatever you want. Why do I have to prove what I’m saying?” Shang Xia spoke calmly.

To that, Yiyun snorted, “Right. Where are the Martial Extermination Realm experts who came with you into the Celestial Remains? Why have you left them behind to act alone? Aren’t you afraid that they will be completely wiped out without the protection of a Martial Dipper Realm expert?”

A frown formed on Shang Xia’s face and he mumbled, “Every faction is responsible for their actions. We don’t need others to teach us what to do. Elder Yiyun, you seem to have overstepped your boundaries. If you are going to ask pointless questions like this, I won’t be entertaining you any longer.”

The light beneath his feet flashed as he attempted to pull away from Yiyun.

Yiyun clearly wasn’t planning to let Shang Xia leave so easily. Taking another step, the space beneath him shrank as he closed in on Shang Xia.

With a cold sneer, Shang Xia started to act in order to get rid of Yiyun's pursuit.

Who would have thought that the Martial Extermination Realm experts who were standing behind Yiyun earlier to rush him the next moment?

"Oh no!" Shang Xia's expression sank. The Five Element Ring that had been beneath his feet earlier turned into a spatula gate and he tumbled into it, disappearing from sight.

The second he disappeared, an expert who wore an indifferent expression, appeared. He stood directly in Shang Xia's supposed escape route.

"Huh?" Yiyun gasped and he rang the bell in his hands again. With the chimes of the bell, layers of space started to fluctuate violently around him before spreading out rapidly.

Countless miles away, a faint spatial ripple appeared. A five colored light emerged, and a spatial gate soon formed. Shang Xia's sorry figure tumbled through it.

As the five colored light emerged, the spatial disturbance around was quelled. Yiyun's expression flickered slightly.

Shooting Yiyun a glance, Shang Xia eventually turned to look at the expert who appeared at the last second. He asked, "How should I address you?"

Even though the expert who appeared seemed to be in the Martial Extermination Realm, he cupped his fists in Shang Xia's direction and muttered, "I am Yishen of the Eternal Palace!"

Chapter 822: Yiyun, Yi Shen Pt.2

Yiyun of the Eternal Palace was a second element Martial Dipper Realm expert.

Yishen of the Eternal Palace was also a second element Martial Dipper Realm expert.

Perhaps due to the lesson they learned during the battle against the Spirit Abundance World back then, the Martial Dipper Realm experts sent by the Elysiums were in the second element Martial Dipper Realm at the very least.

The only difference between Yiyun and Yishen was that one of Yishen's Fate Dipper Clones was destroyed back then. He hadn't restored his cultivation ever since the battle.

From that fact alone, one could see that even in the Elysiums, Origin Dippers wasn't something one could obtain anytime they liked. Especially those that suited them. To go one step further, it would be even more difficult to find one that could reduce the chance of one's fate dippers from going out of control.

He might be at the second layer of the Martial Dipper Realm, but Yishen was an expert with experience as a third layer Martial Dipper Realm expert. His cultivation realm might have dropped, but he still possessed formidable combat prowess.

Unfortunately, they failed to ambush Shang Xia earlier. Instead of retreating immediately, Shang Xia stared at them from a distance.

“Are you 2 really going to make things difficult for me?” Shang Xia’s gaze shifted from Yishen to Yiyun and his tone became chilly. “Fellow cultivators, I believe you know the best chance for you to stop me has passed. Also, even if you work together, you won’t be able to keep me here.”

Yiyun’s eyes spun around slightly, but she soon broke out in laughter., “Hall Master Shang, you seem to be extremely confident. Martial Uncle Yishen and I aren’t willing to force the situation into a stalemate and make things awkward. As long as you answer one of my questions, you can leave. How about it?”

Shang Xia sneered in response, “If Elder Yishen successfully ambushed me earlier, I’m afraid you won’t be saying this right now...”

“Heh...” Yiyun laughed and didn’t deny what he said. Instead, she asked another question. “Hall Master Shang, you seem to be in a rush. Where are you going? Could Kou Chongxue be hiding in the Celestial Remains? Are you in a rush to meet up with him?”

Shang Xia’s expression changed slightly and he gasped, “So... Both of you are still playing for time.”

As soon as the words left his lips, Yiyun and Yishen made their move at the same time.

“Hehe... Looks like Hall Master Shang figured it out. It’s a shame it’s too late!”

As soon as the bell that was thrown by Yiyun flew over, loud chimes filled the air. It could not only affect one’s divine will, but the sound waves also affected the space around them, causing strong spatial fluctuations to crash into Shang Xia.

At the same time, Yishen rushed over at a frightening speed. He avoided the spatial fluctuations from time to time by stopping abruptly. Even so, he still closed in on Shang Xia at a frightening pace.

Their cooperation was impeccable, and they attacked Shang Xia with a frightening intent to kill.

“I heard that Hall Master Shang’s control over space is truly extraordinary. I wonder if you can escape from us?” Amidst the chaotic ringing of the bell, Elder Yiyun’s voice transmitted into Shang Xia’s ears without the slightest disturbance.

The bell continued to ring and the soundwaves continued to cause the space to fold and rush at Shang Xia. The sound seemed to possess the power to weaken his opponent’s combat abilities.

All their methods were pretty amazing, but against Shang Xia, they were completely useless.

It was especially the case for the soundwaves that were supposed to weaken him. With Shang Xia’s Five Element Origin that was perfectly balanced, its foundation was incomparably solid.

Actually, Shang Xia’s inner qi was stirred slightly when Yiyun tossed her bell earlier. However, the instability was quickly quashed by his Five Element Dipper Qi.

Of course, Shang Xia didn’t show how casually he could deal with it. He gritted his teeth and acted as though he was having a hard time resisting the sound waves. He even made his Fate Dipper

Protection Barrier tremble slightly. He seemed extremely 'unstable' as Yiyun's sinister chuckle filled the air. The barrier around him would grow stronger and weaker from time to time, and to others, Shang Xia seemed completely out of it. He looked like he was forcing himself to withstand the spatial fluctuations around him.

While he was resisting the pressure, Yishen was still pressing closer. He raised his hand and pushed his palm forward. A figure of a palm appeared in mid air and slammed into the protection barrier around Shang Xia.

With a soft sizzling sound, the flickering Fate Dipper Protection Barrier around Shang Xia started to corrode slightly. The palm strike seemed extremely effective when wearing down one's protection barrier and Shang Xia revealed an expression like he was struggling. From the looks of it, the protection barrier around him would shatter with a second palm.

A semi-frozen smile appeared on Yishen's face. His figure flashed across the air and he appeared in a completely different direction. At the same time, he pulled even closer to Shang Xia.

No one who entered the Celestial Remains was foolish. They were basically sure Kou Chongxue was the person who barged into the Celestial Remains back then. Now that the Origin Holy Artifact made an appearance, anyone with half a brain would realize that Kou Chongxue was the largest suspect.

Since that was the case, Yiyun and Yishen wouldn't let Shang Xia get his way easily now that they caught him alone before he met up with Kou Chongxue.

Seeing as Yishen's second palm was about to arrive, the dim Fate Dipper Protection Barrier around Shang Xia released rays of brilliant light. Not only did the spatial fluctuations no longer affect him, but the chaos around him was forcefully suppressed.

Fuck! This brat was faking it!

Elder Yishen couldn't care less about the flabbergasted Yiyun as his rich battle experience told him that danger was approaching.

He didn't care about unleashing the Dipper Breaking Palm which was a special skill created by the Eternal Palace to shatter their opponent's Fate Dipper Protection Barrier as he turned around to run.

It was a shame Shang Xia wasn't going to let her go easily after baiting his opponent over.

With his Five Element Dipper Qi rushing through his body, Shang Xia formed a seal with his hands. "Trap!"

Earth Element Dipper Qi descended and Yishen felt as though a mountain had descended on him. He found it hard to fly an extra inch.

Yiyun also realized something was wrong and she exclaimed loudly while trying to restrain Shang Xia's divine will.

The bell that had been chiming the whole time no longer rang normally. It split into 3 different bells and one of them released a loud blast. Space shattered because of trembling and Shang Xia's second Five Element Seal was shattered. The second bell flew straight at him and arrived above his head. The third bell flew over to Yishen to protect him.

To that, Shang Xia revealed a sneer.

You're busy protecting your companion, but who's going to protect you?!

The energy flowing through Shang Xia stagnated, but it started to flow in reverse the next second.

A needle made from Five Element Dipper Qi shot at Elder Yiyun at a frightening speed.

A five colored light ring appeared above Shang Xia's head and stalled the second bell. In fact, it also stopped the powerful soundwave from the first bell.

"Watch out!" Elder Yishen, who managed to escape with the help of the third bell, yelled. Before he caught his breath, Shang Xia made his move. He only had time to yell a warning.

However, how could his yell be faster than Shang Xia's Five Element Divine Needle?

Yiyun was clearly unable to retrieve her bell in time, but she was still confident he would be able to block it.

His Fate Dipper Protection Barrier appeared instinctively, and he roused his dipper qi and pushed them into his fingers. Facing the incoming needle, his fingers shot out one by one, in an attempt to stop it.

A Martial Dipper Realm expert who came from an Elysium with rich heritage like the Eternal Palace had all sorts of inheritances. Their foundations were strong, and they weren't lacking in rank five techniques.

Yishen trained in the Dipper Breaking Palm, and Yiyun practiced the Buddha's Melody.

The flying needle was battered by the soundwaves that were created and melodious chimes rang through the air.

Unfortunately, the needle barely dimmed. However, the speed of the needle wasn't affected in the slightest.

Yiyun was no longer as confident as before when she saw how ineffective her ability was against Shang Xia. He wanted to unleash Buddha's Melody again, the needle pierced a hole through her Fate Dipper Protection Barrier and sank into her shoulder.

Grunting softly, she eventually destroyed the needle in her body. However, a strange dipper qi started to spread through her body. She tried to suppress it with her dipper qi, but her attempts were futile.

In the next second, she felt her upper half turning numb and the feeling spread across the half of her body.

Fortunately, she was a Martial Dipper Realm expert at the end of the day. She recalled her bells earlier when she felt danger. She felt the dipper qi in her body being obstructed, but after causing half her body to go numb, it lost the rest of its power.

Yishen made a large loop around to arrive beside Yiyun, and a trace of wariness appeared in his eyes when he looked at Shang Xia again.

Shang Xia merely snorted softly while staring at the void behind them.

The next second, the Five Element Ring above him started to spin rapidly. The space around the 3 of them started to solidify and it turned into a stable spatial tunnel. A spatial gate was created and after Shang Xia stepped into it, he disappeared.

He might have left, but Yishen wasn't feeling relaxed in the slightest. He turned around and stared at the void behind him and yelled, "Who...?!"

A figure was revealed tens of miles away and to prevent any misunderstandings, the figure didn't approach the 2.

"Jiu Qi? Why are you here?" Yishen felt a trace of annoyance rising in his heart when he saw the expert from the Divine Capital Sect. "Why are you here?!"

Jiu Qi's glance didn't move away from Yiyun who revealed a pained look and he snorted, "It's nothing much. I felt a familiar aura here and I decided to head over to take a look. I hope you don't misunderstand."

Yishen sneered, "Are you here to watch us make a fool of ourselves?"

Jiu Qi's expression didn't change and he shook his head and sighed, "I wasn't able to help Elder Yiyun when I arrived. I apologize."

However, a soft chortle left his lips and he didn't say anymore.

Whether or not he was able to arrive in time to help wasn't something they could determine. However, it wasn't time for them to care about things like that at the moment.

"So, why are you here?" Yishen growled.

Sweeping his gaze across Yishen and Yiyun, Jiu Qi muttered, "Elder Yiyun isn't exactly in the best of shape right now and I wonder if you need my help?"

"No, we don't." Yishen rejected immediately. However, he realized he shouldn't act so rudely to an expert of the Divine Capital Sect and he added, "Many thanks for your good intentions..."

Nodding, Jiu Qi muttered, "Since that's the case, I'll take my leave now. Please take care of yourself."

When he was done, his gaze lingered on the spot where Shang Xia disappeared earlier before he left. He vanished the next moment.

After Yishen could no longer feel Jiu Qi's aura, he finally relaxed. However, he tensed up again and felt a little worried after seeing the pain Yiyun was in. He asked softly, "How are you?"

Struggling to keep her eyes open, Yiyun muttered, "I'm not doing great. Martial Uncle, I'm afraid I'm going to be a burden now..."

Yishen's expression changed and he asked, "What if you separated a Fate Dipper Clone?"

One's cultivation realm would drop after separating a Fate Dipper Clone, and their combat strength would be greatly diminished. However, it would allow one to transfer all their injuries to the clone and restore themselves to their peak state.

Yiyun forced a smile. "No... it won't work. Unless I sever my shoulder, this won't go away."



“How can this be?!” Yishen gasped.

“Looks like we kicked an iron board this time...” Yiyun groaned while enduring the pain she felt. The constant clash of her dipper qi and the strange energy in her body left behind by Shang Xia. Her expression turned sinister and she sneered, “His dipper qi is extremely scary, and I can tell that he’s walking down a unique path of cultivation in the Aure Ascension World. He definitely hiding something!”

Chapter 823: Weakening Space

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“Haha! It looks like I really am the first one to arrive!”

The Lightning Bird quickly found the Ruined Observatory with Kou Chongxue’s clone leading the way.

Even though Shang Xia’s group entered the Celestial Remains after the Divine Capital Sect, Eternal Palace, and Yuanchen Sect, it was obvious those superpowers didn’t care much about the observatory with the lure of the Origin Holy Artifact.

Thanks to the rank five Lightning Bird’s superior speed, Kou Chongxue’s clone could see the Ruined Observatory appearing in the distance.

When they finally arrived, they discovered that the Ruined Observatory was surrounded by countless layers of restrictions.

Landing softly on the ruins, the Lightning Bird flapped its wings and swept up a cloud of dust while emitting high pitched cries.

A rank four spiritual beast would already develop intelligence and spirituality. Now that the Lightning Bird entered the fifth rank, its consciousness developed to a whole new level. It could clearly see the dangers the Celestial Remains posed.

When the Yuanchen Sect and Kou Chongxue forced their way into the Celestial Remains back then, the experts of the Azure Origin World followed behind. They discovered the Starry Tree and the Star Essence Liquid that accumulated on the Ruined Observatory. In anticipation for the Starry Tree to bear the Starry Fruit that would assist one in breaking through to the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm, the Martial Dipper Realm experts who were there laid down countless restrictions and sealed the place off completely.

The Lightning Bird barely broke through to the fifth rank, and Kou Chongxue’s clone was nothing more than a hired thug with combat abilities at the Martial Dipper Realm. There was no way they would be able to break through the restrictions to enter the Ruined Observatory without prior preparations.

“There’s no need to worry! I naturally left something behind back then!” Kou Chongxue’s clone obviously sensed the Lightning Bird’s displeasure and he quickly explained, “Even if we run into danger, aren’t you forgetting the trump card the little brat gave us?”

No longer flapping its wings, the Lightning Bird tilted its head slightly and stared at the ball of light. It seemed to be saying something to the clone.

Oh yeah?! You're so smart huh? Why don't you do something about this then? Go ahead!

"Hehe..." Kou Chongxue's clone chuckled. "Please, follow me!"

The clone finally took shape and started to lead the way. Streaks of silver lightning flashed along the Lightning Bird's wings, and it leaped into the air slightly. It circled in the air above the clone and it shrunk itself down even more. Its body was less than 1 foot tall, and its entire wingspan shortened to slightly under 2 feet. It landed on the shoulder of the clone.

As the clone started to make his way forward, every step he took seemed to shrink the ground beneath him. Every step he took allowed him to travel a massive distance.

It didn't take too long before the clone brought the Lightning Bird to the Ruined Observatory. Raising their heads to take a look, it was no different from a mass of shattered rocks.

"Chirp, chirp. Chirp, chirp!"

The Lightning Bird pecked at Kou Chongxue's clone's scalp as though it was trying to hurry him up. There were also traces of confusion while it was crying out earlier.

Waves after waves of numbing lightning flowed across his body from the locations the bird pecked at and Kou Chongxue's clone shivered involuntarily.

"Hey, enough! Stop it! Stop chirping and pecking! I'll bring you in right now!"

As he spoke, he tried to avoid getting pecked by the bird. At the same time, he didn't forget to grumble, "Damn it! You're a Lightning Bird, not a woodpecker. Why the hell are you acting like one? Even if you are a Mutated Woodpecker, my head isn't made of wood..."

As he spoke, he brought the bird around the pile of rocks, and after locating something, he grinned, "I found it!"

Stepping onto the Ruined Observatory and walking ever closer to the scary stack of restrictions, his body started to emit light. He seemed to leap left and right while changing angles from time to time. Eventually, his gaze landed on a certain spot.

When he finally saw a location through the twisted space, his body froze and he didn't move in the slightest. The Lightning Bird nearly fell from his shoulders and hit the ground when he stopped moving.

"It's here!" Kou Chongxue's clone maintained a strange posture as he crashed directly into the location he stared at. The Lightning Bird on his shoulder released several cries as though it was doubting him.

The next second, the man and bird duo disappeared after slamming into one of the restrictions.

As they made their way through, Kou Chongxue's clone's voice rang in the Lightning Bird's mind. "Little bird ancestor, you cannot move! You better not move! Remain where you are quietly!"

The Lightning Bird could sense danger all around and it quickly retracted its wings as it rolled its eyes from side to side to observe the situation.

The layers upon layers of restriction that were preventing anyone from passing through seemed to possess a tiny gap enough for someone to carefully make their way through. The gap was actually forced apart carefully and there were several runes flashing on both sides. It seemed as though they could still restore themselves once they returned to their original position. The tiny gap was like a heavenly rift that temporarily separated the runes on both sides.

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When Kou Chongxue's clone led the Lightning Bird to the Ruined Observatory, the Heavenly Star Palace and the Changbai Sect who were making their way over ran into some trouble.

Shen Baisong's face was filled with dust and smoke as he dragged 2 Martial Extermination Realm experts from the Changbai Sect behind him. They traveled several miles and after tossing the both of them into the distance, he slashed the air before him with his wooden ruler. A spatial barrier was formed in an instant.

However, the spatial barrier showed signs of cracking the moment it appeared as a formless shockwave crashed into it.

Shen Baisong's expression changed as he poured his dipper qi into the barrier he created. He forcefully maintained the barrier and prevented the 2 members of the Changbai Sect from being killed by the formless energy.

Fortunately, Shen Baisong managed to avoid the initial collapse of space. The shockwave that struck them was already greatly weakened.

The spatial barrier seemed like it would shatter at any moment, but Shen Baisong managed to maintain it eventually. After some time, the fluctuating space around him started to calm down.

By the time he got rid of the spatial barrier, he turned around to stare at the Martial Extermination Realm experts of his sect. He could see that they were completely dumbfounded by what happened.

When Shen Baisong entered the Celestial Remains, he only brought 3 Martial Extermination Realm experts along with him. Everything happened too quickly earlier and even Yi Jingxu didn't detect any abnormality before the space collapsed. In a hurry, Shen Baisong could only drag 2 of them out. The person left behind was probably dead...

It was then that he discovered several people closing in rapidly. Ignoring the consumption of his dipper qi, he pushed the Martial Extermination Realm experts of his sect away.

"Martial Nephew Shen, there's no need to panic! It's me!" Yi Jingxu's voice came from the void. Even though the spatial fluctuations were starting to die, it still formed some sort of obstruction for voice transmissions. However, experts at their level were able to bypass it and transmit their voices to each other. After hearing who it was, Shen Baisong finally relaxed.

Soon after, he saw Yi Jingxu bringing 2 members of the Heavenly Star Palace over.

Glancing all around, Shen Baisong frowned. "Where's Junior Sister Jingzi? Why isn't she with you?"

“Everything happened too quickly and we scattered due to the collapsing space. I only had time to bring both of them away. However, with Jingzi’s adaptability, she shouldn’t face too many problems. It’s just... Sigh... I don’t know how many disciples managed to stay alive...” Yi Jingxu sighed.

Shen Baisong fell silent after hearing what he said.

Actually, both of them knew that without the protection of Martial Dipper Realm experts, the constant bombardment of strong spatial fluctuations like that would definitely kill a Martial Extermination Realm cultivator.

Shen Baisong brought 3 Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Changbai Sect with him, and Yi Jingxu brought 5 Martial Extermination Realm experts of the Heavenly Star Palace...

After a short moment when the region of space finally calmed down, Yi Jingzi reappeared with another member of the Heavenly Star Palace who she managed to protect in time.

“The space here has turned extremely weak. More and more battles are breaking out and I’m afraid this place will be destroyed before long!” Yi Jingzi seemed worried when she regrouped with the rest. She was afraid that they wouldn’t get much time after they arrived at the Ruined Observatory.

After a short moment of silence, Yi Jingxu mumbled, “No matter what, we need to head over there. It’s where the Stargazer inheritance is most likely to be held!” He turned to Shen Baisong and muttered, “Martial Nephew Shen, if...”

“Martial Uncle Jingxu, please rest assured. No matter where we go, we’ll probably be in the same amount of danger. Since that’s the case, I would rather continue working with you. At the very least, there are 3 of us. We should be able to react accordingly if we run into any trouble.” Shen Baisong chuckled.

Yi Jingxu was a lot more assured after hearing his response. He laughed, “Martial Nephew Shen, there’s no need to worry. If the observatory is still there and we manage to obtain the inheritance, we’ll share it with each other!”

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In the deserted spot Shang Xia left the members of the Tongyou Institution, Chu Jia handed jade plates to the others and said seriously, “Protect the plates well. If you run into danger, I will be able to use our formation to assist you as long as you’re within 5 miles of me. Even if you run into a Martial Dipper Realm expert, I should be able to hold off for some time!”

“Of course... It would be for the best if you don’t draw a Martial Dipper Realm expert over. If you run into danger, just rip the rank four Evasion Talisman Shang Xia gave you. However, you must not use the rank four Teleportation Talisman. You have to keep the talisman for truly critical situations. I believe that with the rank four Teleportation Talisman, you will be able to escape from a Martial Dipper Realm expert.” Chu Jia added.

Seeing everyone nodding, she still wasn't reassured. She couldn't help but remind them again, "You have to remember. Do not use the Teleportation Talisman in the Celestial Remains unless you have no other choice. Also, the range of your movements cannot exceed 800 miles from this place!"

After Dou Zhong, Yan Ming, Sun Haiwei, and Tian Mengzi left, Liu Qinglan sighed helplessly, "Did Little Shang expect this to happen?"

Chu Jia didn't respond directly. Instead, she asked a question of her own. "Aren't you going to head out there to take a look and try your luck?"

Shaking her head, Liu Qinglan mumbled, "I have already refined 4 extermination origins. All that's left is for me to find a chance to comprehend my martial intent and try to push for the grand completion stage of the Martial Extermination Realm. There's not much I can do with physical treasures. I should stay here with you."

Chuckling softly, Chu Jia looked at the streaks of light disappearing into the distance. "All of them are proud cultivators whose blood is boiling with a sense of adventure. How can they be satisfied staying in this valley and being protected by others?"

Chapter 824: Halo Mirror

An unsteady ring of five colored light appeared from the void and formed a spatial gate. Shang Xia tumbled out from it the next second and his pale face revealed his lingering fear.

The five colored light ring started to fade as the Five Element Ring fell to the ground below with a loud clang. It was no longer shining as brilliantly as before.

The space in the Celestial Remains was truly too frail.

Even though he managed to injure Yiyun during the battle earlier, he exhausted a huge amount of energy during the short exchange.

After realizing that there were other Martial Dipper Realm experts in the area, Shang Xia chose to leave immediately. He didn't expect to run into a region of chaotic space. If he hadn't used an Abyssal Emptiness Talisman earlier, he might have been lost in the void forever.

By the time he emerged, the Five Element Ring was nearly damaged from the ordeal he went through. Because of that, he understood that he would have to avoid escaping through the void even if he met other enemies in the future.

Fortunately, he had his Five Element Movement Art. Even though it wouldn't allow him to jump through the void, it was a much safer alternative.

Examining his surroundings and ensuring that there was no one around, Shang Xia hastily grabbed 2 mid-grade essence crystals to replenish his energy.

Faint spatial fluctuations continued to brush against him while he was recovering. He could tell that those fluctuations originated from many directions, and he could also hear loud blasts in the distance. It was obvious that there were many battles taking place.

The Celestial Remains was getting more chaotic by the second.

Shang Xia couldn't help but feel a sense of urgency overwhelming him. As the number of experts in the Celestial Remains increased, more and more battles would break out. The already weak space would be further depleted, and it was possible that the entire region would crumble the next second!

His most important task was to locate the Stellar Cauldron before the Celestial Remains crumbled. That was because the moment the Celestial Remains collapsed, the Stellar Cauldron would definitely be exposed. When that happened, there would be no need to care whether Kou Chongxue's plan would work as the 4 Sixth Order existences would probably make their move immediately to secure the cauldron.

After thinking about it, Shang Xia no longer cared about restoring himself to his peak state. He threw that thought out of the window and he knew that he would have to rush over to the region where the Stellar Cauldron was before anything else.

As he charged towards the forbidden region, he had a feeling someone was watching him. Even though his expression didn't change, his heart sank.

Extending his divine will, he couldn't find anyone in his surroundings.

Shang Xia was extremely confident in his divine will. Even third element Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors couldn't compare to him in that regard. Even those in the fourth element wouldn't be able to avoid detection if they were observing him.

There was no way the person observing him was a fifth element Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor...

Other than Kou Chongxue, was there another existence at that level in the Azure Ascension World?

Shang Xia remained suspicious, but he didn't reveal any trace of it on his face.

After fighting Yishen and Yiyun of the Eternal Palace, Shang Xia understood that the superpowers of Azure Ascension World who had long histories had many amazing techniques. They might be observing him with something else other than divine will.

...

When Shang Xia was feeling a sense of unease, 8 Martial Dipper Realm experts had gathered in a certain spot in the Celestial Remains. There were 14 Martial Extermination Realm experts with them.

Among the 8 Martial Dipper Realm experts, the person in the lead was someone with a somewhat withering beard and hair. However, his appearance was anything but old. He looked like a kid with a rosy complexion.

A giant mirror that was the size of a basin hovered before him as he observed a somewhat blurry figure.

"That's him, that's him!" A skinny-looking young cultivator with thin lips and a faint eyebrow. He pointed at the figure in the mirror and yelled, "I didn't think that Martial Uncle would be able to find him even though you were merely looking for battles taking place in our surroundings!"

"Pingzi, stay calm. There's no need to yell!" The old expert said softly to the young cultivator by his side.

The gaze that landed on the young cultivator brought along with it boundless pressure. The young man who was acting a little pompous earlier quickly restrained himself. He spoke again in a respectful tone. "Yes, Martial Ancestor!"

The young cultivator turned out to be Qing Pingzi of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect, someone Shang Xia met back when he was patrolling the sea of stars.

The old expert grunted once as though he was pleased with Qing Pingzi's performance and he mumbled, "Is he the disciple of Kou Chongxue from the Tongyou Institution?"

"Martial Ancestor, he's called Shang Xia and he's the grandson of Shang Bo of the Tongyou Institution. According to his seniority, he can be considered Kou Chongxue's third-generation disciple. However, the Tongyou Institution doesn't use master and disciple terms. They consider themselves teachers and students. Shang Xia is currently the hall master of the Talisman Hall and he has also taken on a post as a teacher. According to the seniority of the Tongyou Institution, he's a senior capable of teaching others. No one would be able to suppress him based on seniority alone." Qing Pingzi explained.

A snort left the old expert's lips. "Hmph, they can't even get their seniorities right and they have no system when passing down their inheritances. A master doesn't seem like a master and a student doesn't act like one. There is bound to be chaos in their faction!"

Qing Pingzi responded quickly, "Martial Ancestor, you're right!"

"It's not easy to keep using the Halo Mirror. It's the first time any of us from the Azure Spiritual World has entered the Celestial Remains and we won't be more familiar with the place than those from the Azure Origin World. It's especially so for the Eternal Palace, Divine Capital Sect, and the Yuanchen Sect. I'm afraid their attention should be placed on the Origin Holy Artifact by now... Pingzi, why do you want me to keep watching this guy?" The old expert sighed.

Even though he sounded calm and gentle, a formless pressure was placed on Qing Pingzi the moment he spoke. It was as though his Martial Ancestor would no longer listen to his suggestion and would be disappointed in him if he failed to give a suitable reason.

Swallowing a mouthful of saliva, Qing Pingzi tried to maintain his cool as he replied, "Martial Ancestor, Shang Xia brought 6 Martial Extermination Realm experts with him into the Celestial Remains, but he tossed them aside and started to move alone. From how quickly he's moving and how sure he is of where to go, I'm afraid he isn't running around like a headless chicken. He should have a clear goal in mind."

Qing Pingzi saw that the old expert wasn't fully convinced and he quickly continued, "Back when I was patrolling the sea of stars, I learned about something unintentionally. Ever since the battle against the Spirit Abundance World, Kou Chongxue has been in seclusion in the Tongyou Paradise. However, news of his disappearance came soon after and there were rumors that he left for the sea of stars. Could he... Could he actually be hiding in the Celestial Remains?"

Finally grunting once, the old expert mumbled, "Keep talking."

A trace of joy filled Qing Pingzi's heart. "For Shang Xia to be in such a rush, could he be trying to meet up with Kou Chongxue? Moreover, if Kou Chongxue had been hiding here the whole time, would he be related to the sudden appearance of the Origin Holy Artifact? He might even be the one

who caused it! If that is truly the case, all we need to do is to track Shang Xia and we'll be able to find Kou Chongxue. When that happens, we'll be able to locate the Origin Holy Artifact!"

The old expert nodded subconsciously. "That makes sense... Interesting... Alright. I will use the secret art and leave a strand of my qi in there. No matter where he goes in the Celestial Remains, he won't be able to avoid detection."

Another trace of joy rushed through Qing Pingzi, and he quickly added, "Martial Ancestor, Shang Xia is extremely crafty. Moreover, his strength is nothing to scoff at either. He managed to kill an expert in the same cultivation realm who was extremely good at running away... Martial Ancestor, your secret art might be amazing, but if you unleash it from a distance, wouldn't he be able to detect it?"

The old expert didn't seem to care at all and he snorted, "Normally, people would eventually notice when I use the Halo Mirror to observe them for some time. However, it's been so long and this brat hasn't felt a thing. His abilities should be greatly exaggerated. Moreover, he entered the Martial Dipper Realm almost the same time as you. He should still be in the first element... HUH?!"

He tried to retrieve a trace of Shang Xia's aura through the Halo Mirror as he spoke, but just as he completed his secret art, the figure in the mirror blurred before disappearing.

"Where... Where is he?" Qing Pingzi gasped involuntarily before raising his head to look at the old expert. "Martial Ancestor.."

The old expert was similarly confused. The Halo Mirror was a mystical treasure and it was adept at capturing traces of spatial fluctuations. If it was used to spy on someone, it could predict its target path and the general direction they were talking.

When Shang Xia was first discovered, it was because the exchange between himself and the experts of the Eternal Palace caused massive spatial fluctuations. When he left, the Halo Mirror was still able to track him down.

Under such circumstances, Shang Xia shouldn't be able to escape from the Halo Mirror as he continued to fly through the Celestial Remains.

No matter how quickly he moved, it shouldn't be possible to evade the Halo Mirror!

Even if he had some sort of method to evade the mirror, it should be somewhat like what the experts of the other Elysiums would do. They would conceal their aura and cover the space they were in before unleashing a way to fill the screen with fog or mist before escaping.

Unlike what the experts of the other Elysiums would do, there wasn't any mist or way to hide him. Everything in his surroundings, including the ruins and earth below, the messy grass and tiny trees in the distance... Even the clouds he flew through were clearly reflected in the mirror! The only thing that was no longer there was Shang Xia himself!

It was as though he was never there in the first place!

None of them could wrap their heads around what had happened.

Even the old expert who had been using the Halo Mirror for close to 100 years was starting to question himself. He was supposed to have complete control over the divine weapon, and never once has he lost his target that way.



How did he do it?!

The old expert was no longer as relaxed as before. A heavy pressure descended and the other Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors around him didn't dare to breathe heavily.

He felt as though the prestige he had accumulated for close to 100 years was being challenged by a mere Shang Xia!

Chapter 825: Before the Forbidden Region

Back when Shang Xia fought with Yiyun and Yishen of the Eternal Palace, he discovered someone spying on him.

Originally, he thought that it was a helper Yishen and Yiyun had called, and he noticed Jiu Qi appearing after he left. He thought that it was the end of the matter, but even after running far away, he still felt like someone was staring at him. Using his divine will to sweep the region around him, he concluded that the person was spying on him with some special method and not their divine will.

The secret art that could do something like that was too frightening. Shang Xia knew that if it could track him through the void, it would be extremely difficult for him to shake them off with ordinary methods.

As such, he didn't try anything else after scanning the region with his divine will. He didn't wish to alert the enemy that he was onto them, and he wanted to get them to lower their guards as much as possible.

He might have been acting like he didn't detect them, but he maintained his vigilance while thinking of ways to prevent them from spying on him.

For them to be able to track him even though he passed through a spatial tunnel, Shang Xia knew that he wouldn't be able to get rid of them just by flying. It should be ineffective for him to use his Five Element Dipper Qi to conceal his presence too.

It was a pity he couldn't create a true separate secret region with his Five Element Ring. He could only use it to seal off a region of space at the moment. If he was truly able to achieve the next level, he might actually be able to avoid their detection by using the Five Element Ring.

Oh... Actually, he would also be able to avoid their detection by using a formation. Unfortunately, Chu Jia wasn't present at the moment. He didn't know much about formations, and even if he managed to lay one down, it wouldn't be able to move along with him. His enemy would know exactly where he was anyway.

As ideas ran through his mind, he felt his heart trembling slightly as though something terrifying was about to happen.

Shang Xia had been storing up his energy for some time now and a trace of inspiration flashed through his mind. *Formation? Or should I use my movement art?*

He thought back to his time in the Tongyou Paradise. His movement art was able to easily bypass the restrictions Kou Chongxue and Chu Jia made.

If he used his Five Element Movement Art, he wondered if he would be able to avoid their strange spying methods.

With that thought in mind, Shang Xia decided to give it a shot. He had a feeling their spying art had a way of tracking different types of movement based on the movement and evasion arts of those in the Azure Ascension World. However, his Five Element Movement Art was something he created recently, and the other party might not know the principles behind it and how to track him.

The more he thought about it, the more he felt as though his idea would work. At the same time, the sense of unease he felt grew ever stronger and Shang Xia decisively unleashed his Five Element Earth Movement Art with the help of the dust storm blown over by the wind.

A rank three Earth Movement Art required the user to use earth as a medium in order to unleash it. A rank four Earth Movement Art would require one to use Earth Element Qi. For someone at Shang Xia's level, his rank five Earth Movement Art could be activated with ease. The moment it was used, he seemed to have transformed into dust that was blown along with the wind.

It could be said that there were traces left behind if one unleashed a rank three or rank four Earth Movement Art, but the moment Shang Xia used his rank five Earth Movement Art, he disappeared completely.

One could basically ignore the fact that the person currently tracking him was far away. Even if they were nearby, they might not be able to discover the intricacies behind his movement art.

That was how terrifying the Five Element Movement Art was.

As Shang Xia was carefully inspecting the effects of his rank five Earth Movement Art, he tried to examine every single dust particle in the air. The vast expanse of the earth could be clearly felt by him. It felt like only by encompassing everything would he be able to feel the true marvel of the Earth Movement Art.

When he was enjoying the feeling rushing through his body, he suddenly felt a chill running down his spine. Alarm bells rang in his mind and his sense of reasoning told him that he had to snap out of that state. He couldn't allow himself to be fully immersed in that feeling. Otherwise, he might truly 'become one with the earth' and disappear forever.

When his powerful consciousness forced himself to snap out of that state of mind, He immediately stopped unleashing his Earth Movement Art. He stumbled through the air and arrived at a completely foreign location.

Spreading his powerful divine will again, Shang Xia observed his surroundings. He felt that the strange sensation of being spied on had disappeared and heaved a sigh of relief. Without the threat looming over his head, he continued to restore his energy by using mid-grade essence crystals. At the same time, he tried to locate himself in the Celestial Remains.

It was then when he had a faint feeling that he turned into the greatest clue of Kou Chongxue's whereabouts. No one would leave him alone as long as they discovered him.

Feeling a sense of apprehension, he realized that he had to pay attention to his surroundings as he traveled through the Celestial Remains. He shouldn't expose himself easily.

Fortunately, he was pretty familiar with where he was. He seemed as though he wasn't far from the forbidden region that contained the Stellar Cauldron.

Once again ensuring that there were no dangers around him, he tossed out several essence crystals and created a crude Five Element Qi Gathering Formation that was much better than what he came up with in the past before trying to restore his energy.

He understood clearly that there wasn't just a single forbidden region in the Celestial Remains. However, the Stellar Cauldron was in one of them and the 3 Elysiums definitely had their suspicions on where it was. They would definitely gather their strength and focus on exploring the area they thought the cauldron was.

Thinking about how he should venture deeper into the forbidden region, Shang Xia was afraid that he would first have to face the attacks of those aiming for the same thing.

...

The Lightning Bird stood motionless on Kou Chongxue's clone's shoulder. With its keen senses, it could tell that the moment it moved, it would probably be torn to shreds by the countless restrictions in the area.

What it found strange was the fact that the sense of danger wasn't coming from the flashing runes around it. Instead, it came from the tiny path the clone carved out!

How could the danger be because of this path?!

Why is he able to travel through it while remaining completely alright?

The Lightning Bird would turn its head slightly from side to side as it focused its attention on Kou Chongxue's clone. It was as though the bird was trying to uncover the secrets the man was hiding.

As they traveled closer and closer to the top of the observatory, the Lightning Bird saw tiny specks appearing in the distance.

Oh?! Is that the sea of stars?

...

After Lu Wuzi lost track of Shang Xia in the Halo Mirror, he stood quietly in his place as he fell into deep contemplation.

The experts of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect and the other factions who followed him stood silently behind him. However, most of their gazes weren't as droopy as before. Instead, many thoughts seemed to be spouting in their minds.

Chen Pingzi took several steps back and hid behind other experts after seeing his Martial Ancestor, Lu Wuzi, falling into thought.

Finally, another Martial Dipper Realm expert from the Northern Sea Mystic Sect couldn't hold it in any longer. He took a step forward and spoke, "Martial Uncle, what should we do next? Please advise us..."

Grunting once, Lu Wuzi seemed to finally snap out of it. "I heard that there's a Star Observatory here. Let's head over there for a look!"

"Star Observatory?" The person who spoke earlier mumbled to himself. He seemed to have thought of something and he asked, "Martial Uncle, I heard that the region has been sealed by many Martial Dipper Realm experts of the Azure Origin World. I'm

afraid we'll need a lot of time to break through those restrictions and we might also alert the other experts in the Celestial Remains?"

With his pupils trembling slightly, Lu Wuzi stared at the person who spoke with disdain. "Yun Ling, since you've thought of everything, why don't you make the decisions in my stead?"

Yun Ling felt his heart pounding rapidly as he took a step back. "I wouldn't dare! Martial Uncle, I'll listen to what you say!"

Qing Pingzi, who was standing behind the both of them, glanced at Yun Ling. A trace of mockery flashed through his eyes, but he quickly suppressed it.

It was then that Lu Wuzi glanced at the members of the Desert Gate, Hengling Sect, Great Winter Palace, and the Triple Frost Palace and muttered, "What do you guys plan to do?"

The Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors replied in unison, "We will follow the Northern Sea Mystic Sect to the Star Observatory!"

Roaring with laughter, Lu Wuzi replied, "My Northern Sea Mystic Sect appreciates your goodwill. However, there are many opportunities here and we can't possibly stop all of you from obtaining the benefits strewn all around..."

The Martial Dipper Realm Ancestors glanced at each other before responding in unison again. "All of us are more than willing to follow..."

"Haha, there's no need!" They were interrupted before they could finish their sentence. "The Star Observatory has been sealed off by the various factions of the Azure Origin World. However, it's nothing much for my Northern Sea Mystic Sect to destroy them all. We won't need your help for this. All of you should go ahead and look for your own opportunities!"

He wasn't hiding his intentions any longer by putting it so obviously. He was basically telling them to fuck off as the Northern Sea Mystic Sect had their own plans for the Star Observatory and didn't want them to get in his way.

The experts of the other factions were no fools. Since they already expressed their loyalty earlier but were rejected by the other party, there was no need for them to insist any longer. Since the Northern Sea Mystic Sect wasn't willing to bring them along to have fun, they would run away as possible so as to avoid being annoying.

The Martial Dipper Realm experts of the 4 factions remained silent for a moment before responding in unison once again. "Many thanks! We shall take our leave now!"

Watching the experts of the 4 factions disappearing into the distance, A frosty light flashed in his eyes and it was accompanied by a sneer. "The 4 of them actually reached a point where they are moving together while singing the same tune... Indeed... They're filthy backstabbers who can't be content with what they have..."

Yun Ling already learned how to shut his mouth and he did the same thing as Qing Pingzi by keeping silent.

Who would have thought that a female cultivator of the Northern Sea Mystic Sect in the Martial Dipper Realm would step up the next moment to ask, “Martial Uncle, why don’t you use them to break the restrictions? Wouldn’t that speed up the process?”

Perhaps it has something to do with her status, but Lu Wuzi was a little gentler when speaking to her. However, he still wasn’t willing to reveal too much and he simply spat out a few words. “The Star Observatory is extremely important to us!”

...

A sudden region of spatial collapse disrupted Shang Xia’s recovery and even though he wasn’t affected, the essence crystals he used were lost.

This time, the spatial collapse happened so suddenly that there weren’t any prior warnings. It wasn’t caused by any external factors either. Instead, it was because the Celestial Remains was actually crumbling.

Shang Xia felt another trace of impatience, but fortunately, he wasn’t too far away from the forbidden region.

“This region belongs to my Yuanchen Sect! Everyone else, hurry up and leave!” A voice rang through the air, causing Shang Xia to freeze.

A formless sword intent descended all of a sudden and covered the space he was in. Shang Xia’s expression turned unsightly the next moment.

“Huang Jinghan of the Yuanchen Sect...!”

Chapter 826: Barging In

The sword that arrived seemed massive, but it didn’t contain too much energy. It seemed as though it was merely used to establish his prestige and was used as a warning.

“Huang Jinghan of the Yuanchen Sect...!” Shang Xia’s expression sank. He actually expected the Yuanchen Sect to do something like that.

Back when Kou Chongxue forced his way into the Celestial Remains with Shang Xia, the Yuanchen Sect did the same. Their purpose was to allow their Xiangyang Holy Land to ascend to an Elysium and Kou Chongxue’s clone even interacted with them.

Even though Kou Chongxue didn’t reveal his tracks, that didn’t mean that the members of the Yuanchen Sect couldn’t somehow deduce the location of the forbidden region that contained the Stellar Cauldron.

Shang Xia obtained many pointers from Kou Chongxue and it wasn’t his first time watching the patriarch unleash his sword qi. Huang Jinghan’s sword skills might be great, but from the sword strike he unleashed to chase Shang Xia away, he knew that Huang Jinghan was far from being able to match Kou Chongxue.

Even though he knew that Huang Jinghan wasn’t the only one stationed around the forbidden region and he would have to clash with the Yuanchen Sect if he wished to enter, Shang Xia had no other choice.

If he chose to retreat, entering the forbidden region would only become more difficult.

He acted decisively. Without taking a single step back, the Five Element Ring rose into the air above him. His five colored dipper qi emerged as it slammed into the tyrannical sword qi. Both sides were locked in a stalemate.

Clang!

As the divine weapons clashed in mid air, both weapons flew away.

Shang Xia caught on to the opportunity to barge into the forbidden region that was right before him.

“Hmph, you little runt, you don’t know what’s good for you!” Huang Jinghan grunted. He clearly gave a lot of leeway earlier when he released his sword qi. He didn’t think that the other party would try to take advantage of the situation and attempt to force his way in.

Huang Jinghan’s divine weapon, the Yuanchen Heavy Sword, hovered in the air before him and a myriad of sword qi gathered around. With a single gesture of the sword, sword qi filled the air and shot in Shang Xia’s direction.

Shang Xia’s goal was to enter the forbidden region, and not to clash with Huang Jinghan. As he watched the sword qi raining down on him, he couldn’t help but feel his heart trembling slightly under the might of one of the strongest swordsmen in the Azure Ascension World.

Huang Jinghan’s Yuanchen Sword Art places great emphasis on raw power!

That was the evaluation Kou Chongxue had when he spoke about the famous swordsmen in the Azure Ascension World.

Power... He couldn’t block it head-on!

Fortunately, he wasn’t planning to do so. He wouldn’t dare to block it directly even if he didn’t receive the warning. However, with his goal in mind, there was no need for him to block! Facing the Yuanchen Sect, Shang Xia realized that there was nothing for him to worry about and he could basically do whatever he wished!

The Five Element Ring reappeared before him and started to spin rapidly. As it emitted brilliant rays of light, it transformed into a massive spatial gate. It seemed like it would swallow the vast sword qi in the air.

Obviously, Shang Xia wouldn’t be able to deal with Huang Jinghan’s sword qi with such ease, but Huang Jinghan would dare to shatter the spatial gate with his sword qi either. That was because the space in the Celestial Remains was already extremely weak. A massive collision like that would definitely cause a large-scale collapse in space.

As the distance between Shang Xia and the forbidden region wasn’t too large, the shockwaves of the battle might transmit over and cause a chain reaction in there.

Also, the more crucial part of the matter was that most of the members of the Yuanchen Sect had entered the forbidden region. The moment chaos broke out, they would be the first to be affected.

That was why Shang Xia could act as though he didn’t give half a shit about Huang Jinghan. That was because he was sure Huang Jinghan wouldn’t dare to go all out!

As the sword qi closed in on the spatial gate and was about to smash into it, Huang Jinghan managed to pull his sword back with a beautiful move. He basically gave up at the last second.

Taking the opportunity to rush in, Shang Xia closed in on the forbidden region. He made 5 consecutive hand seals and unleashed his Five Word Sealing Art. Trap, Bind, Bind, Incinerate, Impale!

He tried to cause as much trouble for Huang Jinghan as he could to prevent him from obstructing the way.

Shang Xia's self-created Five Word Sealing Art might be enough to kill Feng Yezi and Jiu Qi's clone, but it was clearly not too useful against Huang Jinghan.

Huang Jinghan didn't even move as he swung his sword 5 times against the incoming attack.

No matter how special and amazing his Five Word Sealing Art was, it was nothing against absolute power! However, he was so close to the forbidden region and he had no choice but to throw everything he had!

When he finally arrived at the border of the forbidden region, a figure emerged from within.

"Huh? Brother Shang, why are you here?" Pang Jingyun gasped. Even though he was surprised, his movements didn't slow down as he started to circulate his inner qi to attack. His job was to stop anyone from entering the forbidden region, regardless of who they were!

Even though he was surprised by Shang Xia's sudden appearance, he was still a mighty Martial Dipper Realm Ancestor of the Yuanchen Sect. He wouldn't show mercy just because the person who arrived was someone he knew.

The forbidden region was said to contain the Origin Holy Artifact, and it could only belong to the Yuanchen Sect!

His Cloud Water Whip flicked towards Shang Xia and if he took another step, he would be bound by Pang Jingyun's whip.

Behind Shang Xia, Huang Jinghan shattered his Five Word Sealing Art and took a single step to arrive behind him. It was clear Huang Jinghan wanted to prevent Shang Xia from escaping.

Shang Xia fell into an inescapable trap and it seemed as though it was Huang Jinghan's plan all along.

Without any intention to sit still and accept his fate, the Five Element Ring started to shine again. A clear blue stream of dipper qi appeared before him and started to flow into the void. It forcefully carved out a peaceful spatial tunnel through the void.

Shang Xia took a step and tried to enter, but Pang Jingyun's whip arrived and forced him to pause slightly.

"Brother Shang, your appearance here is really making things difficult for me..." Pang Jingyun's voice rang in his ears.

A cold snort left Shang Xia's lips. "Oh really? From your actions, you don't seem to be in too difficult of a position?"

The void was torn open as his whip passed, but the spatial fluctuations were forcefully suppressed. It showed how great Pang Jingyun's control over his technique was and it also proved how far he was going to go to prevent the spatial fluctuations from affecting the forbidden region.

"Hahaha. Now that you arrived, it seems as though what we're looking for is really within the forbidden region. Am I right, Brother Shang?" Pang Jingyun asked again.

"What are you talking about? I don't understand..." Shang Xia continued to fly forward and he seemed to ignore the spatial cracks in his way that were caused by the whip. His Five Element Dipper Qi poured out from his body and sealed off those cracks.

Both sides were conducting a verbal spar as they made their moves, and it seemed as though quite some time had passed during their exchange. However, everything happened in a split second.

Huang Jinghan continued to press closer as his sword rose. He actually revealed a hint of killing intent and he was ready to slay the young Martial Dipper Realm expert!

#### Chapter 827: I'm In Baby

Pang Jingyun appeared to stop Shang Xia from entering the forbidden region, and Huang Jinghan actually felt a desire to kill Shang Xia as he approached from behind.

In that short amount of time, Shang Xia seemed to have fallen into a desperate situation where he would be pincerred from the front and back.

Obviously, Shang Xia was no fool. He knew what he had gotten himself into. With him being inferior to the experts of the Yuanchen Sect with Huang Jinghan present, Shang Xia had no other choice...

"Brother Shang, why don't you just give up and leave?" Pang Jingyun asked.

Shang Xia's expression didn't even change and he basically ignored what Pang Jingyun said.

Behind him, Huang Jinghan has basically stored up enough energy in his sword and a sword qi that was filled with killing intent emerged.

Doing the same thing as before, a five colored light ring emerged as his Five Element Dipper Qi poured into it. A massive spatial gate that was larger than what he created before opened. It seemed like an endless abyss that would swallow Huang Jinghan's boundless sword qi completely.

Perhaps it was because the spatial gate he summoned this time was larger, it looked a lot more illusory...

Facing Shang Xia's 'final attempt' at protecting himself, Huang Jinghan displayed his perfect control over his sword qi. Right before the sword qi could enter the spatial gate Shang Xia made, it split into 2 as it blew past the gate and swallowed Shang Xia directly.



*“Huang Jinghan’s Yuanchen Sword focuses on power and you shouldn’t block it head-on! Anyone who tried was erased from the world completely and not even their bones remained!”*

“What a pity...” Pang Jingyun sighed regretfully. The look on his face wasn’t an act and he truly found it a shame that Shang Xia was killed. After all, they had been through a lot together and they could be said to be fellow comrades. Alas, they hailed from different factions and had their own concerns.

The matter with the Origin Holy Artifact was far too important and the Yuanchen Sect wouldn’t allow anyone to jeopardize their plan, no matter who it was!

After the sea of sword qi dissipated, Pang Jingyun could see the serious look on Huang Jinghan’s face. He couldn’t understand why Huang Jinghan would put on a face like that.

“Martial Uncle?” Pang Jingyun asked curiously.

“He didn’t die! Find him!” Huang Jinghan growled in a low voice.

“How is that possible?” Pang Jingyun couldn’t believe what he heard, but he didn’t dally. He whipped his Cloud Water Whip around as a giant cloud of mist covered the area. It didn’t take long before it filled the border of the forbidden region.

No matter who it was, they would be detected by Pang Jingyun if they tried to pass through the mist.

Indeed... As soon as the mist covered the area, Pang Jingyun quickly discovered a region of abnormality.

He might be shocked by the fact that Shang Xia managed to avoid Huang Jinghan’s sword qi, he clearly couldn’t be bothered with it at the moment. The whip in his hand trembled and the mist that filled the area started to condense. It turned into an awl that shot straight at the region with the same fluctuation. At the same time, he pointed out the location to Huang Jinghan.

When the awl flew through the air, Pang Jingyun discovered an additional strand of vapor around it and the next second, the awl stabbed through the void at nothing.

The next second, Huang Jinghan’s sword qi arrived. It fell like rain and covered basically the entire region. Unfortunately, it didn’t land on his target.

Turning to stare at Pang Jingyun, both of them saw the look of shock in each other’s eyes. They felt their hearts sinking as they released their attacks in a reckless manner in all directions. They didn’t miss a single inch as they tried to flush Shang Xia out. There were no intricacies or special considerations behind what they were doing. They were relying on brute force to force Shang Xia out of hiding.

“Behind you!” Huang Jinghan grunted once, but his tone revealed the frustration he was feeling.

Pang Jingyun was shocked as he had no idea how Shang Xia would be able to appear behind him without any signs.

If Shang Xia attacked me from behind right now...

However, the first thought Pang Jingyun had wasn't to protect himself. Instead, he swung his whip towards his back in an attempt to prevent Shang Xia from entering the forbidden region even if he had to suffer grievous injuries because of it.

Who would have thought that the expected sneak attack didn't come? However, his whip also struck into the void without hitting anyone.

Snap...

Oh... Actually, it didn't land on nothing. Instead, it shattered a region of space within the forbidden region.

Huang Jinghan's expression changed and Pang Jingyun also realized he fucked up as he turned his head to look at the damage he caused.

"Retreat! Hurry up and run!" Huang Jinghan's voice came from behind him as a curtain of sword qi appeared before Pang Jingyun to protect him from whatever was coming.

Taking a step back subconsciously, Pang Jingyun saw that the region of space he shattered earlier caused a massive chain reaction in the forbidden region.

A small change in a single part affected the entire system!

The remnant restrictions in the area started to activate, and it caused a chain reaction that encompassed a certain area. It nearly swallowed Pang Jingyun into it.

...

When that happened, Shang Xia's figure appeared beside a thin mist within the forbidden region and he turned back to look at the border region where Pang Jingyun and Huang Jinghan were.

He might not be able to see what happened clearly, but he could clearly feel what happened.

Despite the powerful fluctuations caused by the multiple restrictions that were activated due to the collapsed space, it shouldn't pose a threat to Pang Jingyun's life. Moreover, Huang Jinghan was there. Pang Jingyun might suffer a little, but that was about it.

A smile appeared on Shang Xia's face. The most important thing was that he managed to break through the obstruction when Huang Jinghan and Pang Jingyun joined hands to stop him from entering the forbidden region. Now that he was in, fear finally started to set in. The exchange earlier was actually far more terrifying than it was made out to be.

Earlier, when Shang Xia faced Huang Jinghan's first stream of sword qi that split in 2, it wasn't as though he would be completely helpless if he gave it his all and resisted the strike. After all, the sword qi wasn't at full power. However, in order to find a chance to enter the forbidden region, Shang Xia couldn't help but create a region of Five Element Space to avoid the attack and confuse his enemy. At the same time, he endured the heartache and used a Substitution Talisman, and pretended to 'die' under the stream of sword qi.

Huang Jinghan's sword qi was tyrannical and extremely powerful. No one was able to detect the use of the Substitution Talisman when Shang Xia used it.

However, Huang Jinghan quickly realized that Shang Xia was still alive. He could even feel the hostility Shang Xia had through his sword qi and detected his presence the next second. Fortunately, Shang Xia used his Water Movement Art to escape from them and he even ignored the spatial cracks as he ran deeper into the forbidden region.

The short exchange earlier allowed Shang Xia to experience the strength of a true peak-tier existence of the Azure Ascension World!

Huang Jinghan, a fourth element Martial Dipper Realm expert, wielded his divine weapon, the Yuanchen Sword. He wasn't an existence Shang Xia could dream of dealing with at his current level.

He was only able to escape earlier due to his newly created movement art that no one had seen before.

He might have refined his fifth set of fate dipper essences, a total of 50 of them, and based on sheer quantity alone, they were equivalent to 5 fate dippers. However, what Huang Jinghan had refined were actual fate dippers, not fate dipper essences.

Without a complete fate dipper, a cultivator wouldn't be able to experience a true transformation in their combat abilities.

Shang Xia was in no way weak at the moment, but that was because he had his Five Element Arts supplement his cultivation level.

Whatever it was, being able to escape from Huang Jinghan proved Shang Xia's strength to a certain extent.

#### Chapter 828: Stuck in a Difficult Situation

It wasn't Shang Xia's first time in the forbidden region.

Back then, Shang Xia hadn't entered the Martial Dipper Realm and was already able to travel deep into the region. Now that he had his Five Element Movement Art, entering the depths of the forbidden region couldn't be easier.

As he made his way deeper into the region, the chain reaction that happened at the border where Pang Jingyun and Huang Jinghan were gradually died down.

Pang Jingyun was in a sorry state as he followed behind Huang Jinghan into the forbidden region. He looked at the remnant restrictions that were a little different from what they were earlier due to the region of shattered space and the chain reaction he caused and he muttered worriedly, "Martial Uncle, he managed to force his way into the forbidden region. Earlier, the violent spatial fluctuations didn't seem to be able to affect him. What should we do?"

Huang Jinghan's originally solemn expression remained on his face, and from the frown on his face, anyone could tell that he was pretty pissed off. However, he maintained his calm and growled, "There's no need to rush. Xinlan entered the forbidden region quite some time ago and she should have traveled pretty far. Moreover, our sect prepared a lot of things for her and we should hold the advantage."

Even though Pang Jingyun still felt a slight sense of worry after watching Shang Xia's special movement art earlier, he couldn't quite understand what happened. After all, he never heard of any movement art that could break through restrictions and pass through regions of shattered space.

Finally calming himself down, Pang Jingyun muttered, "Martial Uncle, there's something I don't quite understand..."

Huang Jinghan, who was staring into the forbidden region, felt his thoughts trembling slightly as he turned to look at Pang Jingyun before retracting his gaze. He muttered softly, "What do you not understand? Go ahead and ask..."

"Why did you choose Junior Sister Xinlan? Why her?" Pang Jingyun asked.

Without even turning his head, Huang Jinghan continued, "Is that it? What else do you wish to know?"

"Truth be told, if we're purely considering cultivation realm, Junior Sister Xinlan barely entered the Martial Dipper Realm. Her combat abilities are far from mine, and if we're talking about her understanding of restrictions, she only started looking into them after reaching her current cultivation realm. She can't compare to Martial Uncle Kuai who has already dabbled in the arts of restrictions for more than a hundred years. Even if we only care about her ability to break restrictions, you have the Yuanchen Sword and you have a great chance to enter the depths of the forbidden region. No matter what aspect we're looking at, Junior Sister Xinlan isn't the most suitable..."

Pang Jingyun quickly listed out several factors he was confused with.

Without a change in expression, Huang Jinghan continued in an even tone, "Is there anything else?"

"Isn't she someone our sect abandoned..." Gritting his teeth, Pang Jingyun continued.

"Anything else?"

Pang Jingyun was slightly taken aback, but he shook his head and sighed, "That's it."

Only then did Huang Jinghan turn to face him. He stared at Pang Jingyun and mumbled, "I thought you would say that you were in love with her and would start fighting for the indignations she had to suffer..."

Pang Jingyun's expression crumbled instantly and an awkward expression formed on his face. He felt extremely uncomfortable under Huang Jinghan's gaze.

Finally shifting his piercing gaze away, he stared back into the depths of the forbidden region and muttered, "When do you think she entered our sect?"

"Wasn't it after she entered the Martial Dipper Realm?" Pang Jingyun was slightly taken aback by the question.

"You're wrong. Back when her family was killed, we took her in. It was then that she became a direct disciple of our sect. It was just that nobody knew... Even she wasn't very sure of what happened."

With his jaws dropping at the frightening revelation, Pang Jingyun gasped, “W-What?! What do you even mean?”

Huang Jinghan didn't reply directly. Instead, he asked another question that seemed completely unrelated. “Do you know how Kou Chongxue experienced an explosive rise back then?”

...

In a certain safe spot in the forbidden region, Shang Xia stopped to take a short break. When he discovered Pang Jingyun and Huang Jinghan weren't chasing him, he heaved a sigh of relief. However, he couldn't hide his confusion.

Could they have given up? Or were they planning something in secret?

There was no way Shang Xia would believe that they had given up.

The attraction of the Origin Holy Artifact was godly, and it was evident from how many experts had entered the Celestial Remains.

For the Yuanchen Sect to bring so many experts and cause such a huge ruckus, there was no way they would give up so easily and give others a chance to obtain the treasure!

That was an Origin Holy Artifact they were talking about!

Moreover, even if they gave up chasing him into the forbidden region, they should be trying to disturb the space within to cause him as much trouble as possible! They should only be satisfied after he was dead!

However, neither Huang Jinghan nor Pang Jingyun seemed to be doing anything!

This is a little strange... Unless...

Shang Xia thought back to what happened outside the Celestial Remains and recalled how he felt Gong Xinlan's aura back then. However, when the Yuanchen Sect entered the Celestial Remains, he didn't notice her. In fact, it seemed as though the Yuanchen Sect only brought 2 Martial Dipper Realm experts into the Celestial Remains.

Even though they had several Martial Extermination Realm experts, since the matter concerned the Origin Holy Artifact, it didn't make sense for them to send Martial Extermination Realm experts into the forbidden region while using the Martial Dipper Realm powerhouses like Huang Jinghan as a mere guard...

There was only 1 possibility left! There was probably another Martial Dipper Realm expert from the Yuanchen Sect in the forbidden region, and it was most likely Gong Xinlan! Even though Shang Xia was curious how she managed to get together with the Yuanchen Sect. From the looks of it, the Yuanchen sect trusted her quite a lot for them to leave the matter of the Origin Holy Artifact to her...

From how Shang Xia didn't run into anyone from the time he entered, he reached a simple conclusion. He stared at the depths of the forbidden region. *She's definitely much further in!*

Clearly, Gong Xinlan's ability to break restrictions was impressive as she made it pretty far into the forbidden region.

A sense of urgency started to overwhelm Shang Xia. *She couldn't have broken all the restrictions and reached the Stellar Cauldron already, right?!*

He couldn't sit still any longer. He turned into a streak of light as he flew through the forbidden region. He charged deeper with a speed that would leave experts of the same level tongue-tied.

It didn't take long before he reappeared in another tiny safe spot. He stared in a certain direction with a solemn gaze.

There seemed to be a twisted figure progressing carefully. The figure might be extremely blurry, and Shang Xia knew that what he was seeing probably wasn't where she actually was, but he was sure the person was Gong Xinlan.

He couldn't help but feel a dilemma. He didn't know if he should move against her and deal with her right there and then, or if he should fly past her and locate the Origin Holy Artifact.

If he chose to make a move, he wasn't 100 percent sure he would be able to subdue her even with a sneak attack. From the looks of it, she was stacked with protection from the Yuanchen Sect. She definitely had a lot of ways to protect herself.

The moment he failed to ambush her, the forbidden region would definitely experience large-scale spatial collapse from the battle that would happen. When that happens, they might not just be injuring each other. They might both lose their lives there.

If he passed her... he was actually pretty confident he would be able to find the Stellar Cauldron.

However, that didn't mean that all would be well. According to Kou Chongxue's calculations, he needed to spend a lot of time around the cauldron. If Gong Xinlan also manages to locate the cauldron, a massive battle would break out and Kou Chongxue's plan might fall through...

Because of the many considerations, Shang Xia understood that he was stuck in a difficult situation

Chapter 829: Seeing the Stellar Cauldron Again?

...

In the Ruined Observatory in the Celestial Remains...

With the exception of Kou Chongxue's Clone and the Lightning Bird, there were several experts from other factions who closed in on the observatory.

Resplendent light fell from the sea of stars above the clone and Lightning Bird duo, and both of them felt a little strange from the starlight.

The feeling originated from the rank five Starry Tree that was on the platform in the observatory. As starlight from the sea of stars fell onto the tree, they would gather on the leaves. Those leaves would shine with a soft glow and eventually, the entire tree would look like it had been bathed in starlight.

Beneath the tree was the Star Essence Liquid. It reflected the stars above and just by looking at it, one would think that a second curtain of stars had appeared.

From the looks of it, the Star Essence Liquid managed to restore itself by quite a bit since Shang Xia took away a portion back then.

Kou Chongxue's clone didn't care too much about those treasures at the moment as his attention was placed on the central point of the observatory. To be more exact, it was placed on the copper sword that had been stabbed into the platform.

It was Kou Chongxue's divine weapon, the Hidden Frost Sword!

It was the weapon that accompanied his rise to fame and it was his symbol! No one would expect it to be left there!

“What the hell? My true body really went crazy! He’s really willing to part with his treasures... His confidence really overwhelmed him back then. Wasn’t he afraid that someone else might come here before me?!” The clone mumbled to himself before arriving beside the Hidden Frost Sword. Even though he arrived, he didn’t try pulling the sword out. In fact, he didn’t even try to touch it.

As for the Lightning Bird, it seemed to have regained its confidence to move around as it flew off the clone’s shoulder as he was making his way towards the sword earlier and landed on a branch of the Starry Tree.

The starlight that gathered on the tree earlier started to swarm around the Lightning Bird and it seemed as though it would become one with the light.

The next moment, a soft chuckle rang through the air as the clone couldn’t help but laugh at the absurdity of the coincidence. “Hehe, I didn’t think that the kid would really find a semi-complete Stargazer inheritance. Even though it’s not complete, it clearly states the way to become one. Now, it’s time to verify its contents with this observatory. I might even be able to fill in the missing information within and turn it into a complete inheritance!”

...

“Do you know how Kou Chongxue experienced an explosive rise back then?” Huang Jinghan asked suddenly. Pang Jingyun was greatly taken aback and he didn’t know how to respond. It wasn’t because he had no idea what happened. Instead, he knew exactly what happened. There were too many details and he didn’t know where to start.

The matter concerning Kou Chongxue’s meteoric rise didn’t just affect those of the Azure Origin World. Even those from the Azure Spiritual World back then tried to dig up everything related to Kou Chongxue.

One could even say that ever since the collision of the Azure Origin World and Azure Ascension World to the point they fused and became the Azure Ascension World, Kou Chongxue could be said to be the greatest legend both worlds had seen.

There was no way anyone could describe his story in a short amount of time.

Fortunately, Huang Jinghan didn’t actually want Pang Jingyun to answer his question. Instead, he took a deep breath and sighed. “More than three-quarters of the You Continent was destroyed back then and two-thirds of their population lost their lives. Those who remained tried to escape from the You Continent but when everything was happening, a massive Origin Tide arrived. Right after that, Kou Chongxue entered the Martial Dipper Realm and became the first existence of that level in the You Continent in hundreds of years.”

Pang Jingyun had no idea what he was driving at, but seeing as Huang Jinghan hadn’t continued, he tried to ask, “Martial Uncle, is Kou Chongxue’s rise related to the Origin Tide?”

Huang Jinghan shook his head and continued, “No. What I’m saying is that he’s the first Martial Dipper Realm expert the You Continent has produced in hundreds of years!”

“Martial Uncle, do you mean he rose to power so quickly because he was the first Martial Dipper Realm expert produced after hundreds of years? This...” Pang Jingyun was still stuck in a state of confusion.

Huang Jinghan lowered his voice and he added, “Xinlan is also the first and only Martial Dipper Realm expert of the Jiao Continent!”

Finally, Pang Jingyun seemed to get what Huang Jinghan was saying. He was stunned. However, he soon snapped back to reality. “This isn’t right. Martial Uncle, the Martial Dipper Realm experts in the Jiao Continent don’t just consist of Junior Sister Xinlan! From what I know...”

“None of the others are native cultivators of the Jiao Continent!” Huang Jinghan seemed to know what he was going to ask and he interrupted Pang Jingyun. “Those people ran over to the Jiao Continent to hide, or they might have migrated over from other places. Regardless, none of them are cultivators of the Jiao Continent.”

The Jiao Continent’s environment was extremely sinister. There were fierce beasts and poisonous insects. Not many people would gather there if they could help it. In fact, before the fusion of the worlds, the Jiao Continent couldn’t even compare to the barren border regions like the You, Bing, and Liang Continents... Their harsh conditions made it such that not many clans or families there had complete inheritances.

Even today, not many places in the Jiao Continent have been explored. In fact, there were even places the great factions knew nothing about. Their nasty conditions were exactly why many cultivators who were being hunted down by their enemies chose to remain in the Jiao Continent. It was like a safe haven where no one could touch them. As such, even though the Jiao Continent’s development wasn’t great, there were lots of experts there.

What Pang Jingyun didn’t know was that Gong Xinlan was the only native Martial Dipper Realm expert produced!

He quickly voiced his doubts again. “Martial Uncle, the Jiao Continent is massive. Due to the bad conditions, there are many unexplored regions. How can our sect be sure that no other Martial Dipper Realm experts were produced?”

Huang Jinghan sneered, “What does a youngster like you know? Our sect has been plotting against the Jiao Continent for close to 200 years. The Jiao Continent doesn’t have their own Holy Land, and they definitely doesn’t possess an Elysium. If a Martial Dipper Realm expert was born, they wouldn’t be able to conceal the heavenly phenomenon that would be produced. They won’t be able to avoid our detection. Moreover, with your Martial Uncle Liu’s ascension to the Sixth Order of the Primary Realm, no one in the Azure Ascension World will be able to hide unless they hide in their Holy Lands.”

No one knew what, but Pang Jingyun felt his hair standing on end after hearing the later part of Huang Jinghan’s sentence.



Forcing himself to calm down, he thought for a second before he continued to speak, “Martial Uncle, do you mean that as the only native Martial Dipper Realm expert of the Jiao Continent, Junior Sister Xinlan will be able to experience the same rise as Kou Chongxue?”

He felt that he finally understood why their sect chose to accept Gong Xinlan and their true motives for doing so. He continued, “Even though the Celestial Remains is in the Beyond Heavens Pavilion, it’s above the Jiao Continent. Our sect probably wants to make use of Junior Sister Xinlan to locate the Origin Holy Artifact! Could this have something to do with her identity as a native cultivator of the Jiao Continent?”

Huang Jinghan chuckled to himself. “Reality has proven that she’s doing a pretty good job. Even if I tried, I wouldn’t be able to venture as deep as her as quickly as she did...”

Nodding his head subconsciously, Pang Jingyun seemed to think of something else and his expression changed slightly. “Wait a second... Junior Sister Xinlan might be the only Martial Dipper Realm cultivator from the Jiao Continent, but there are many spiritual beasts in the Jiao Continent! There are many rank five spiritual beasts... Even though they’re beasts, wouldn’t they...”

Huang Jinghan shook his head calmly. No one knew if he meant that they wouldn’t affect the fact that Gong Xinlan was the only Martial Dipper Realm expert from the Jiao Continent, or if he was expressing that he didn’t know either...

Chapter 830: Seeing the Starry Cauldron Again Pt.2

Shang Xia eventually decided to fly past her approach the Stellar Cauldron.

Also, when he discovered Gong Xinlan earlier, he specially stopped for some time to watch the speed at which she was shattering the restrictions. He discovered that even though she seemed to possess many ways to do so, she also had many treasures that had the ability to weaken and shave away at the restrictions before she began. She also had many protective treasures on her that would ensure she remained safe during the process.

All the treasures she used were probably the reason she was able to push so deep into the forbidden region.

Of course, the deeper she got, the more complicated the restrictions. Her surroundings also became increasingly dangerous. Her level of mastery in breaking formations wasn’t exactly useful at that point and she was relying on the treasures provided by the Yuanchen Sect.

From Shang Xia’s observation, he also realized that the other reason that allowed her to venture so deep into the forbidden region was because of her luck!

Shang Xia once saw her heaving a sigh of relief after destroying one of the restrictions before her. She then took half a step back for a short break.

Even though she didn’t notice the spatial crack that formed after she shattered the restriction before her, she managed to avoid any injuries she might sustain because of the small step backwards. Only after she retreated slightly did she discover the small region of spatial collapse and she couldn’t help but feel a sense of lingering fear.

It was then that Gong Xinlan realized she had taken a trip back to hell and back. A look of shock and fear filled her heart.

If everything earlier could be chalked up to a coincidence, Shang Xia couldn't understand how she managed to push all the way into the forbidden region. *Did she avoid everything by luck?*

That would mean that her luck was at a truly frightening level...

Shang Xia managed to gain a deep understanding of the power of space because of his Five Element Movement Art and the research he did with Chu Jia for the Five Element Teleportation Formation. He was able to easily navigate the forbidden region around him, and he quickly passed Gong Xinlan without being discovered.

It was then that Shang Xia felt that he should leave behind a trap or two that would activate when Gong Xinlan ventured deeper. However, he quickly reevaluated his choice after thinking about her heaven-defying luck. If he was a little careless, he would cause a massive fluctuation that might affect him. In the end, he decided to fly deeper without messing with anything around him.

Shang Xia even suspected that Gong Xinlan's luck was in play when he made the decision to not leave anything behind...

Whatever it was, he couldn't dwell on the point any longer. He turned his attention back to the forbidden region and he quickly passed through whatever region there was. He arrived beside the platform where the Stellar Cauldron was, and he noticed the somewhat damaged treasure.

A powerful wave of world origin slammed into him, and he couldn't help but take a deep breath. He sucked in the world origin hundreds of feet around him while circulating his Five Element Arts. He quickly restored a good portion of the energy he used up when passing through the forbidden region.

Even so, he couldn't help but reveal a look of regret.

That was because the world origin that was accumulated around the Stellar Cauldron for several years was extremely pure when compared to the world origin in the surroundings, but the Crimson Soul Tablet wasn't stirred in the slightest when he absorbed it.

Back when he entered the Five Element Realm after obtaining his advancement medicine that was produced by the cauldron, the Crimson Soul Tablet absorbed a large amount of world origin to restore itself. However, the cracks weren't fully repaired. After what happened, the Crimson Soul Tablet seemed to have reached an impasse. No matter how he tried to pour world origin into the tablet, it refused to absorb the slightest amount!

It was as though the Crimson Soul Tablet had lost all interest in world origin!

Other than world origin, it wasn't as though Shang Xia hadn't thought of anything else. However, nothing else worked.

A shadow was cast in Shang Xia's heart because of what happened.

Ever since he stepped onto the martial path, everything seemed to be going his way. He even came up with a whole new cultivation path. However, every change and transformation stemmed from the help of the Crimson Soul Tablet.

Now that it no longer restored itself, Shang Xia didn't know if it would still deduce his next martial intent as his cultivation rose and if it would be able to complete his rank six advancement formula.

More importantly, Shang Xia had a lot of experience with the tablet. He knew that during the deduction process, the tablet would suffer a lot of damage. The higher his cultivation level became, the greater the damage!

The surface of the tablet seemed to be completely healed, but the core of the Crimson Soul Tablet was still damaged!

Even if it managed to deduce his martial intent in the Five Element Realm and his rank six advancement formula, the tablet was bound to suffer catastrophic damage if it couldn't absorb world origin to restore itself.

Shang Xia's instincts also told him that the tablet was fused with his soul. The moment the tablet shattered, his soul would go with it.

After he took some time to properly adjust his emotions, Shang Xia arrived under the cauldron and carefully reached out to touch it.

As he was about to reach over, a blazing flame emerged, along with another wave of pure world origin.

Shang Xia was shocked, and he hastily took several steps back. Only after some time did he manage to calm down again.

"Can this be Patriarch Kou..." Shang Xia stared at the ball of flame and revealed a look of confusion.

The ball of flames started to swell again as it slowly rose above the cauldron. Eventually, a figure that seemed to be on fire was revealed.

When the fire around the body finally faded, a figure who had similar features to Kou Chongxue made his appearance. His gaze seemed hazy as he examined Shang Xia carefully. Only after some time did he break out in laughter. "Oh, kid, you're finally here."

Kou Chongxue's Fire Dipper Clone drifted down slowly and stretched his back while releasing a loud grunt. Eventually, a wide smile appeared on his face as he addressed Shang Xia, "Hahahaha, you truly didn't disappoint me. You came at the perfect time! Otherwise, I would have to appear personally to make a move... Not bad, not bad at all! Hahahaha!"

The personality of the clone before Shang Xia was clearly different from the other...

Shang Xia couldn't help but ask, "Patriarch Kou, how many clones did you leave behind? Did you leave another over at the observatory to prevent any accidents from happening?"

"Ahahaha... Nope! I didn't leave one there!" The clone seemed to be accustomed to laughing before he spoke, and he wasn't laughing in a very cultured way either...

Shang Xia nodded slightly in response. However, he quickly heard the clone adding, "There isn't a clone there, but it's where my true body hid the Hidden Frost Sword..."

Greatly taken aback, Shang Xia gasped, "Wouldn't that mean that you separated 2 clones while leaving your weapon behind before venturing out? Are you going to fight barehanded or something?"

“Hehehe... Damn brat, are you really looking down on my true body?!” Kou Chongxue’s Fire Dipper Clone sneered while staring at Shang Xia with a look of amusement.

“Of course not! I was just worried for you...” Shang Xia replied with haste.

Roaring with laughter again, the clone continued, “Hehehehe... Do you really think that anyone under the Sixth Order can deal with me even if my true body only has a cultivation level of the third element of the Martial Dipper Realm and will be missing the Hidden Frost Sword?”